



# MOAA LANCASTER PA CHAPTER

## NEWSLETTER

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National MOAA's website: [moaa.org](http://moaa.org)

March 2018

MOAA (Military Officers Association of America) Lancaster Chapter  
P O Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606

Volume 25 Number 2

◇ **Meadia Golf Club Meeting: Dan Horting**

The Meadia Golf Club is the site for our **April 26, 2018** dinner and meeting. We are looking forward to socializing and enjoying a dinner at one of Lancaster's popular meeting venues. In addition we will be dining in their recently remodeled ballroom.

The gathering will begin at 5:00 p.m. with a social hour. The meeting will be called to order at 6:00 p.m. with introductory remarks by our president, John Gareis. Dinner will follow at 6:15 p.m. The meal will be an Italian buffet consisting of the following choices.



Garden Salad with a choice of Ranch, Citrus Italian, or Balsamic Vinaigrette

Baked Ziti

Baked penne pasta tossed with marinara and pieces of meatballs. Topped with mozzarella cheese

Beef Braciolo

Thinly sliced beef rolled with prosciutto, spinach, mozzarella and parmesan cheeses.



Risotto stuffed chicken breast

Sliced chicken breasts stuffed with creamy risotto and finished with a roasted red pepper sauce.

Roasted Red Potatoes

Green Beans

Assorted cannoli and Tiramisu

Coffee, hot tea, and lemonade

The cost of the meal will be \$35.00 per person. The cash bar will be open at 5:00 p.m. As always your check is your reservation and should be made out to Lancaster Chapter MOAA and mailed to Lancaster Chapter MOAA, ATTN: Meeting Reservations, P.O. Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606-5031. Be sure to write the names of your

guests on your check for name tag purposes.

The deadline for receipt of all checks is Thursday, April 19th. Cancellations may be made by calling Jim Cunningham prior to April 19th. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Cunningham, 581-5299.

Driving Instructions: 402 Golf Road, Lancaster, PA. Take Prince Street to 222 South towards Willow Valley, the entrance to the Golf Club will be on the left after the Lancaster bridge. If coming from Willow Valley Retirement Community, the entrance will be on the right.

◇ **Speaker: Dina Cerase**

Bryan Stinchfield is an Associate Professor of Organizational Studies at Franklin & Marshall College. After earning his undergraduate degree at the University of Pittsburgh, he was commissioned in the United States Army, served as a Medevac pilot, and was stationed in Korea, TX, GA, and AL. After four years on active duty, he worked for several for-profit corporations and earned his MBA at Pitt along the way. Prior to earning his Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University, he worked for the U.S. intelligence community. Bryan has been married to Tracy, his college sweetheart, for 23 years and they have two children.



Prof. Stinchfield will be sharing with us one of his manuscript entitled: "Small groups of investors and their private armies: The ascendance of private equity firms and their control over private military companies."

⇒ **2018 Dues Reminder-Tom Bender**

For those members who have not yet paid 2018 dues, please take a moment now and write your check for



either \$15 annual or \$40 for three years. Make check payable to MOAA Lancaster Chapter and send to MOAA Lancaster Chapter, PO Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606-5031. If not sure of your dues status, check the mailing label on your US Mail delivered chapter newsletter or go to our web site at:

[www.moaalancasterchapt.org](http://www.moaalancasterchapt.org) and click on the MBR Roster tab and then click on the Member Names Roster. If the number after your name is 17, it means you are paid through 2017, so you need to pay your 2018 dues. Contact Tom Bender at 717 471-6817 or [mot2017@ptd.net](mailto:mot2017@ptd.net) with any questions.

#### ◇ **From the President's desk :**

January and February went by very quickly but there was lots of activity behind the scenes at Lancaster MOAA and a lot was accomplished. In January two of our members attended the Pennsylvania Council of Chapters, MOAA, to get a legislative update and timely information about the organization. Also in January, our Roster for Officers and the General Membership was sent to MOAA and we applied for the MOAA Communications Award. In addition, an Audit of our financial books was completed and two Adopt a Kid/Adopt a Vet programs were organized for March and April. In February, a Board of three officers reviewed Millersville ROTC candidates for our Scholarship award. All of this activity is thanks to our outstanding board and officers who are dedicated in their service to this organization. Many thanks!

John W. Gareis, MD  
President

#### ◇ **ROTC Board: Dina Cerase**

On 23 March 2018, at 1400 hours, LTG Benchhoff, MAJ Enedina Cerase, CW3 Antonio Cerase conducted an ROTC Board for the Millersville ROTC cadets. They were joined by CPT Jose Salas, the Millersville ROTC Officer in Charge & Associate Professor of Military Science. The board was conducted to select the cadet who will receive the \$500 Scholarship presented every year by our Chapter. The 2018 selectee is CDT Whitney Singhas; a pre-med student planning to be a member of the Army Medical Corp.

#### ◇ **Welcome The New Member: John Burke**

CDR Kim Alder Bade	Spouse: Dr. Steve Bade
USN, 717-228-1543	Sponsor: newspaper
1103 Cottonwood Drive	
Lebanon, PA 17042	

#### ◇ **Surviving Spouse Liaison Position**

*Our chapter is still looking for an advocate willing to fill this position on our board. National MOAA is still fighting the 'widow tax' at Capitol Hill and having this position filled will provide one more voice to this very important legislation. It can be anyone wanting to get involved with this issue to help our surviving spouses. If you are interested, please, contact Dina Cerase, 717-299-7177. We look forward to hearing from you.*



#### ◇ **Treasurer's Report: Dennis Benchhoff**

The chapter's board of directors approved the submission of an application to the IRS for tax exemption under the provisions of section 501(c) (19), a tax exemption for veterans' organizations comparable to a 501(c) (3) tax exemption for other charities. If approved by the IRS, chapter dues and donations to our scholarship fund would be deductible for federal tax purposes. The chapter is already exempt from paying state sales taxes.

To be eligible for this federal tax exemption under 501(c) (19), the chapter must know the periods of military service either enlisted, warrant, and/or commissioned of every chapter member except members who are widows of former members. This information will be added to our membership data base. Specifically, we need the beginning and ending dates of each member's active, reserve and/or national guard service. If there is a break in service, two or more sets of dates need to be provided.

Please look for a future email message or letter asking for this critical information and respond as soon as possible. We need your wholehearted support if this project is to be successful.

#### ⇒ **Legislative Update: Dennis Benchhoff**

More females than ever are joining the ranks of our nation's armed forces. As of April 2017, 15% of active duty military personnel were women – a 4% increase from 1990. Despite this trend, services to support female veterans at home are still woefully inadequate. Suicide statistics for female veterans are harrowing and surging with Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities under-equipped to treat the unique mental and physical needs of female veterans.

More than 7,000 veterans take their own lives each year, which means nearly 20 veterans' lives are lost each day. Female veterans account for a dispropor-



tionate number of these tragedies. According to the latest VA statistics, male veterans were 19% more likely to take their own lives than their civilian counterparts. For women, that rate is an astonishing 250% higher! These rising suicide numbers are one tragic result of inadequate mental health services. Many veterans, both men and women, experience mental health issues upon returning from overseas deployments. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) – which impacts an estimated 20% of all veterans – is the number one complaint of women treated at VA facilities. Depression and hypertension rank closely behind.

The likelihood of experiencing sexual trauma while service exacerbates these problems for women. According to the latest VA screening, one of every 100 males experienced sexual trauma, but for women that number is one in four. Unfortunately, VA facilities are unable to offer the specialized care that women require. In some states female veterans can expect to wait an average of 26 days to see a mental health professional. Just as surprising, many VA facilities do not offer services unique to women's needs such as pre-natal care or mammograms.

If you would like to assist, please call your elected officials to express your concern about this situation. You can reach Senator Casey at 717-231-7540; Senator Toomey at 717-782-3951; Rep. Smucker at 717-393-0667 and Rep. Meehan at 610-690-7327. Your calls are sure to help.

◇ **Adopt a Kid/Adopt a Vet Program: John Gareis**

This spring we will visit two schools, starting with Mountville Elementary March 22 and 23 at 1:30 p.m., both days. We will be speaking with fifth and sixth graders. This will be followed with a student assembly on 3 May at 9:00 a.m. We will also visit Martin Elementary on April 25 and 26 at 10:30 a.m. and the student assembly will follow on May 18, 10:00 a.m.

These events are fully subscribed; I want to thank all the members who volunteered.

◆ **With Deepest Sympathy We Honor the Memory of:**

++ **CAPT James W. Foster, USN**, who died 20 December 2017. He joined our chapter in September 2003 and was an avid supporter of AaK/AaV; the children loved to see him come into the classroom with his submarine. Memorial contributions can be sent to: Ephrata Area Social Services, Meals on Wheels Program, 227 North State Street, Ephrata, PA 17522.

++ **LCDR Edward H. Bonekemper, III, USCG**, who died 9 December 2017. He joined our chapter in November 2005. Memorial contributions can be sent to: Hospice & Community Care, 685 Good Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601.

++ **Mrs. Barbara B. Blakinger** who died on January 8, 2018, at Willow Valley. She was the wife of one of our long chapter member, 17 years, 1st Lt Richard (Dick) J. Blakinger, USAF. Dick and Barbara were married for 73 years. Memorial contributions can be sent to: Water Street Ministries, 210 South Prince Street, Lancaster, 17604, or, the Lancaster Public Library, 125 North Duke Street, Lancaster, 17602.

++ **LTJG David M Huber, USN**, who died on Monday, January 29, 2018. He had been a chapter member since February 2004. He was married for 63 years to Kathleen Huber. Memorial contributions can be sent to: Harvest Presbyterian Church, 517 Beaver Valley Pike, Lancaster, PA 17602.

◇ **Military Dates to Commemorate:**

March 3rd - Navy Reserve B-day  
April 14th - Air Force Reserve B-day  
April 23rd - Army Reserve B-day

◆ **Next Newsletter Release:**

May 5, 2018

◇ **Chapter Contacts:**

**President:**

John Gareis 872-8005

**Vice President:**

Dave Shelton 285-5971

**Immediate Past President:**

Tony Cerase 299-7177

**Treasurer & Member Assistance**

Dennis Benchoff 560-1260

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Jim Cunningham 581-5299

**Recording Secretary:**

Dave Hartmann 568-8166

**Chaplain:**

William McElroy 228-2071

**Membership Co-Chairs:**

John Burke 627-6968

Tom Bender 471-6817

**Director:**

John Burke 627-6968

**Director:**

Kathleen Knapp 556-8451

**Director:**

Dan Cooper 464-6688

**Director & Memorials:**

Tom Bender 471-6817

**Director:**

Tony Castle 394-8648

**Director:**

Ken Knapp 556-8451

**Programs, ROTC Liaison & Newsletter Editor:**

Dina Cerase 299-7177

**Social Chair:**

Dan Horting 285-7320

**Scholarship Chair:**

George Resh 397-1906

**Nominations:**

George Knapp 581-1221

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## MOAA Lancaster Chapter

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