
Lancaster Chapter News

Lancaster, PA Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
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Chapter web site: www.moalancasterchapt.org

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Reminder of our March 3 luncheon meeting

For those who are attending, we offer this reminder of the date. All details appeared in our January newsletter. Or call Jim Cunningham at 581-5299 for more information. Our member, VADM Dan Cooper, will be the speaker.

After March 3, we meet on April 28 for dinner at Meadia Heights Golf Club

The April gathering will begin at 5:00 p.m. with a social hour and cash bar. At 6:00 p.m. the meeting will be called to order, with introductory remarks by our president, Tony Cerase. This fine dinner will follow at 6:15 p.m.:

Salad

Choice of one of the following entrees

Sliced top round of beef w/mushroom demi glaze

OR

Polenta Crusted Salmon w/tomato coulis

Both entrees served with whipped roasted garlic potatoes and green beans almandine

Rolls and butter

White chocolate mousse w/raspberries

Coffee, decaf and regular

Our speaker will be Ms. Patricia Farnsworth, who is a member of national MOAA's Surviving Spouse's Advisory Committee. She will speak on the work of the committee whose main purpose is to fight for the benefits of those spouses.

The cost of the meal will be \$29.00 per person. 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, and be sure to indicate your entree choice when sending your payment.

The deadline for receipt of all checks is Monday, April 25th. Cancellations may be made by calling Jim Cunningham prior to Monday, April 25th. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Cunningham at 581-5299.

We have the honor of hosting the biennial convention of the PA Council of Chapters

This coming 16th and 17th of September will see the arrival of some 40 to 50 delegates from the 15 MOAA chapters state-wide. Dennis Benchoff has accepted the responsibility to plan and conduct this event, but would like some assistance.

The venue will be the Heritage Hotel on Centerville Road west of the city. There will be a reception for the delegates Friday evening, September 16th with a full day of conference activities on Saturday. There will be a spouses' program, which is being planned by Dina Cerase. Anyone who would like to help her should let her know by a message to tonydina@epix.net.

Dennis needs help with conference planning, reception planning, the Saturday luncheon planning, advertising and publicity planning, liaison with the other chapters, and some other details. Each activity will be limited in scope and shouldn't require too much time or effort. If you can assist, please let Dennis know by calling him at 560-1260 or sending a message to dibencho@hacc.edu. Our chapter thanks you in advance for your help. For more information on the convention, check our web site's Chapter Announcements tab.

A gentle reminder about dues

The annual \$15 dues for this year were payable as of January 1. So, if the "Paid thru" date next to your name in this newsletter's address is earlier than 2016, please write us a check while you're thinking of it. And remember that we have a discounted rate of \$40 for three years.

Our officers and directors for 2016

President	Tony Cerase
Vice president	John Gareis
Corresponding secretary	Jim Cunningham
Recording secretary	Cliff Mingle
Treasurer	Barry Hitchcock
Director for 3 years	Harry Mann
Director for 3 years	Richard Smith
Director for 2 years	John Burke
Director for 2 years	Dina Cerase
Director for 1 year	Dan Cooper
Director for 1 year	Dan Horting

Say hello to our new member

LT Henry K. Wolfe (Hank)
USN 717-464-1730
650 Willow Valley Apt. K-507
Lancaster, PA 17602
Spouse: Marjorie (Meg)
Joined: December 31, 2015
Sponsor: Bob Wilcox

Our president tells of proposed changes to our bylaws

As addressed in a previous newsletter, the board has been working on changing our organization's designation from 501(c)(4) to a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. In order to be able to apply to the IRS for this category, the current bylaws, Article II, need to be reworked to show our charitable contributions; those being the Scholarship, the ROTC Award, and the donation to a designated charity of a deceased member family, which is our policy. Our organization's current category allows for some legislative action; however, our organization has limited direct interaction with those actions through our parent organization – MOAA National. As a 501(c)(3), the IRS would permit very limited legislative activity and no lobbying; however, this action would allow our membership to deduct any direct donations to our scholarship

fund. With that in mind, please review the following changes for discussion and voting at the April meeting.

Article II – Purposes

Section 1. Addition to end of second line of our Bylaws: To promote the aims of the Military Officers Association of America, as stated in the preamble to the Bylaws of that organization **in so far as is consistent with these Bylaws.**

Section 2. To further the legislative and other objectives of the Military Officers Association of America. **Replace with: To provide educational assistance in the form of a scholarship to students within the community with current or former members of the Armed Services connections.**

Article VI – Meetings

Section 1. First line: "The next to the last meeting of the year" should read: **"The meeting prior to the last meeting of the year".**

Our members made news

Three of our member were quoted in LNP in a piece that looked forward to 2016:

Josh Parsons, Clerk of Courts, Lancaster County, said, "I love Lancaster County and am excited to take office as a county commissioner."

Joe Pitts, U.S. Rep., said, "I will continue to focus on improving our health care system, and speaking out for human rights around the world."

Craig Stedman, Lancaster County district attorney, said, "I will be focused on working with the Pennsylvania Sentencing Commission to enact significant reforms and restructuring of our sentencing guidelines."

Ryan Aument, State Sen. was quoted in LNP as saying about the state's budget impasse, "Putting the citizens of Pennsylvania in the middle of this crisis in an attempt to force one side or the other to blink first is wrong."

Ryan later was quoted in LNP as saying about the governor's budget address, "It wasn't a

budget address. This was more of a lecture than anything.”

Frank Fryburg wrote LNP to say, “As of Jan. 1, all General Electric/RCA retirees have been forced to find new medical and prescription drug insurance” since the company is dropping that coverage. He added that this is one more of the many negative effects caused by the passage of Obamacare.

Gene Moore placed in a tie for second place in The Scribbler’s annual Lancaster Liars Contest, according to LNP, when his entry was in the form of this limerick:

A Marticville man named McCune
Decided he’d play the bassoon
He was such a yokel
He swallowed the bocal*
His surgery’s this afternoon.

*A note from The Scribbler made clear that a bocal is “a curved metal tube used on woodwind instruments.”

Joe Pitts wrote an article for LNP that explained why he will be working hard to counter Islamic State’s use of the Internet.

Joe was quoted in LNP as saying that he is pushing to close a loophole that allows big lottery winners to stay on Medicare, an effort that he said would save taxpayers \$400 million over a decade.

Neal Rice was the subject of a front-page article in LNP that headlined his getting 59% of his party’s votes in his race for the Republican Party’s “coveted endorsement for state Senate.” He was quoted as saying, “It really has been humbling, because frankly we started out on this process not really knowing what to expect and facing competitors who are longtime party insiders. But what has happened is our message has connected with people.” He said he had focused on his “real-world” private sector experience, his desire to “protect families and the unborn” and get government to stop “stifling” the creation of new jobs.

Paul Ripple wrote LNP about the 40 young people who were awarded Keystone Degrees, “the highest honor awarded by our statewide FFA.” He wrote, “These are future farmers in our rich Lancaster County farmland. We should all feel proud of them. I thought farming was mostly a male occupation and was greatly

surprised that there were 25 girls and 15 boys receiving this degree. Congratulations, girls.”

Craig Stedman made the front page of LNP in a story in which he said that he has assigned a prosecutor to look into possible Sunshine Law violations by the Manheim Township School Board.

Craig commented on the front page of LNP on the impact of the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling that juvenile killers must have their sentences revisited. He said that returning the convicted killers to the county courts makes the best of a bad situation and that “we would prefer to have it handled by our county judges rather than turning it over to the state parole boards.”

George Vurdelja wrote LNP to question a previous letter writer. George said, “What zany thought (on gun control) says more regulation is required? The naysayers don’t know that all automatic weapons were outlawed a long time ago. Every legal weapon is at most semi-automatic, including the hated AK-47 and AR-15. Laws are built around the constitution, not in contradiction of it.”

Ed Wickenheiser, retired WGAL news director, was quoted in LNP in a remembrance of pioneering WGAL-TV personality Marijane Landis. He said he believes she was the first woman to work full-time at the station. And he remembers that, “She had a way of speaking to the camera, straight to the people, a gift not everyone has.”

News of our Adopt-a-Kid program

John Gareis is the new leader of this wonderfully successful program, and he has these words for us:

Thanks to all of you who participated in the past Adopt-a-Kid/Adopt-a-Vet programs. This year we will return to Landis Run Intermediate School. As many of you know, this school serves all the fifth and sixth graders in Manheim Township.

Last year we spoke to all of the fifth-grade students which totaled 18 classes. We had two veterans talk with each class, and we were very well received. This year we will talk to a new group of fifth-graders again in 18 separate classes, so we need many volunteers who can share their military experiences.

Our overall theme will again be, "Freedom is not free, and to maintain it requires sacrifice". Veterans are uniquely qualified to deliver this message, and these young students are very receptive. Many of them have never had contact with a veteran or service member, and this is our opportunity to tell them about our military service and explain to them what it has meant to us.

The program will be held at Landis Run Intermediate School in Manheim Township near Neffsville on the morning of May 2nd and 3rd. We will talk with 10 classes on Monday, May 2nd and 8 classes on Tuesday, May 3rd. I hope that many of you will be able to participate in this program either on one or both of these days. We will meet each day in the school lobby at 8:15 a.m. for assignments of 2 veterans to each classroom to talk to about 12 children each. The sessions on each day will last about one hour, and you will be finished each day before 10:00 a.m. There will be a follow-up assembly with all of the students on Thursday morning, 8:30 am, May 19 during which the veterans that can attend will receive notes of appreciation from each of the children that they met with. If you can participate on Monday, May 2nd or Tuesday, May 3rd, or even on both days, or if you have any questions, please call me at 872-8005 or 940-3132.

Thank you very much for your consideration.
MAJ John W. Gareis, MD, USA
Vice President, MOAA. Lancaster Chapter

We man Millersville University ROTC Board

In February, we served on the Board that interviewed four cadets and awarded the ROTC Scholastic Award to CDT Travis Kurtz. The board was presided over by MAJ Enedina Cerase and included MAJ John Gareis and CW3 Antonio Cerase. The university's Award Ceremony has been scheduled for 21 April 2016. The MOAA Leadership Award Medal will be nominated in March by the ROTC cadre.

We honor the memory of...

Joseph Accardo, who died December 24. He was an F-15 jet fighter pilot and F-15 instructor pilot who retired from the Air Force as a Major in August 1994. Later, he traveled to Nellis AFB, where he had an early chance to see the F-22 up close and personal. He called it a marvel of technology. In civilian life, he was president of International Drilling Accessories, Inc. He

was a skilled golfer, boater, and orator. In addition to his wife Suzanne, he is survived by two boys. Joe had been a member of our chapter since July 1996.

Wilson Bucher, who died February 4. He joined the Army in 1942 after graduation from Franklin and Marshall. He graduated from Officers Candidate School in 1943. Active duty took him to England in 1944, then to France and Germany until the war's end in 1945, serving on the staff of General Paul R. Hawley, Chief Surgeon, Hq ETOUSA. Wilson left the Army in 1946 as a captain. He earned a University of Pennsylvania law degree in 1948, was admitted to the Lancaster County Bar in 1950. He practiced law in Columbia until 1971. From 1960 to 1964, he served as Lancaster County Assistant District Attorney and as District Attorney from 1964 to 1968. In 1972 he was elected Judge of the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas and in 1982 was appointed Senior Judge, serving until 2000. He was elected president of the Lancaster Bar Association in 1986. He was deeply involved in the affairs of his community, being active in an astonishing number of organizations. Recognizing that degree of service, F&M awarded him the Alumni Medal for "Reflecting Honor on F&M." He is survived by 2 daughters and 6 grandchildren. Wilson had been a member of our chapter since July 1995.

Elouie Snyder, who died January 14. She was the wife of William Snyder, to whom she had been married for 63 years. She was known as Lou to friends and GaGa to grandchildren. She earned a BA in elementary education from the University of Vermont in 1951. After her marriage in 1952, she taught first and second graders in 11 different states as Bill moved among various Army assignments. After moving to Willow Valley Retirement Community, she volunteered at Hans Herr Elementary school. In addition to her husband, she is survived by three boys and eight grandchildren. Elouie had been part of our chapter family since March 2001.

John L. Strube, who died February 14. He was the husband of Janet Lois Myers Strube, to whom he was married for 64 years. He received his AB from Gettysburg College in 1948, his Master of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in 1951, and was ordained a Lutheran Pastor. He promptly enlisted in the Army and served as Chaplain of the 30th Infantry Regiment, which became the first major combat command in the U.S. to be racially integrated. In 1952 he served in Korea

where he received a battlefield promotion to captain. He returned to the U.S. and retired from active duty, remaining in the Army Reserve until 1979. He served as pastor in many Lutheran churches and was active in every community where he served. Surviving besides his wife is a daughter and 7 sons, 15 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. John had been a member of our chapter since February 1996.

John Waltman, who died on December 30. He served in the U.S Air Force for 22 years in the Auditing Department of the Space & Missile Systems Organization. He had earned his BS degree in accounting from Indiana University and his MS in Business Administration from California State University. He worked for 22 years for Bertz, Hess, and Co., where he was a CPA and partner in the firm. In addition to his wife Carol, he is survived by a son, a daughter, two step-sons, a step-daughter, 3 grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. John was the third most senior member of our chapter, having been a member since January 1982.

We salute our most senior members

Our chapter was founded on January 12, 1975. It was discontinued in the late 70s and re-established in 1982. So in 2016, we enter the 34th year of our re-established chapter. Which leads us to recognize these 34 members who have enjoyed the longest continuous membership in our chapter. Those with the asterisk were Charter Members in 1975.

Bob Porter	12/4/81
John Schuppert	12/9/81*
Carol Waltman	1/8/82
Harry Mann	2/1/82
June Welk	2/5/82
Pat Anderson	2/6/82
Bud Mearig	3/5/82*
Rosemary Snyder	3/30/82
Jim Cunningham	5/23/86
Bob Wilcox	1/5/88
Hank Kadel	1/29/88
Victor Bove	1/1/89
Lloyd Henry	7/3/89
Biddle Whigham	8/1/89
Dick Nissley	7/5/90
Joann McOmber	8/29/90
Dick Evans	2/2/91
Craig Stearn	5/27/91
Dick Shaefer	6/29/92
Jean Spangler	3/8/93
Preston Kline	1/3/94
John Zimmerman	7/17/94

Don Smith	8/13/94
Barry Hitchcock	12/26/94
Bill Raines	12/31/94
Tom Bender	2/1/95
Clifford Bergeron	2/4/95
John Bowman,	5/15/95
Orville Schwanger	5/24/95
David Ferruzza	6/11/95
George Nickel	7/14/95
Joann Moore,	7/19/95
Neil Gardner	8/16/95
Jewell (Joe) Horning	10/3/95

It's all in the family...



Chas Alecxih plays for the Carolina Panthers

Chas is the grandson of **Pete and Sally Alecxih**, and when he was a college walk-on at Pittsburgh, very few ever imagined that he would one day be part of a Super Bowl squad...which he was at this year's Super Bowl 50. An LNP article explains:

“As a member of the scout team, Alecxith helps prepare Carolina QB Cam Newton and the first-team offense for game day by mimicking the opposition’s set, schemes, and strategies. The Panthers’ practice squad has been playing so well Carolina has blitzed opposing offenses all season, scoring 500 points and 80 in two playoff games thus far.”

Although Carolina didn’t win the Super Bowl, it’s a tremendous accomplishment for Chas to be part of the next-to-best football squad in the entire universe.

You heard, of course...

of what would have happened if the famous Polish pianist, Wanda Landowska, had married Howard Hughes, then, after his death, married Henry Kissinger?

She’d be Wanda Hughes Kissinger now.