



4 Star E-Newsletter

LANCASTER CHAPTER MOAA

P.O. Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606-5031

NEWSLETTER

Visit our 5 Star Web Site at www.moaalancasterchapt.org

September 2020

Volume 27 Number 5

- **2020 Membership Meeting Status:** Our October and December meetings have been cancelled by the Board of Directors. However, an online Zoom program is being scheduled for October 22 to approve officers and directors for 2021 and a proposed change to our Bylaws as discussed by the President below.

- **From the President's Desk:**

As much as I dislike repeating the somewhat somber tone of July's newsletter, it seems there has been little to no improvement in the COVID-19 pandemic situation. Many businesses have reopened; however, operating restrictions and social distancing requirements continue to make larger social gatherings highly problematic. Also considering that a majority who normally attend our membership meetings are in age categories of higher risk, the officers and board of directors have decided to cancel our planned October and December social gatherings.

Although news of developing therapies and immunizations is promising, it would seem that widespread availability and confirmation of effectiveness will be necessary before we are comfortable moving ahead with future in-person member events. Being optimistic, the plan for 2021 will be to move ahead with planning for our usual meeting dates beginning in March.

Depending on progress in controlling the pandemic our early events may be in jeopardy, but hopefully we can at least be back to full swing by next summer.

There are two things we want to accomplish this year, however. First is our annual election of



Shelton

- **From the President's Desk (cont'd):**

officers and new directors to serve on the board of directors. While the social and program portions of our October membership meeting are cancelled, we plan to still conduct the business portion of the meeting via video conference using the online Zoom program. In addition to our election, the board of directors is recommending the membership approve a change to chapter bylaws to exempt surviving spouses from payment of annual dues. Please see the nominating chair report, proposed bylaws change information and other meeting details presented elsewhere in this newsletter

For those who may not have internet access, Zoom meetings are also accessible by phone. Any member who would like to comment, or make a presentation at this meeting, should let me know in advance so I can include it on the agenda.

The second item is our usual collection of gifts and donations for distribution at the Lebanon VA Hospital. At this time it is uncertain if there may be special sanitization requirements or even limitations on gifts or on certain types of gifts. We would also need to set up a drop off location, or several locations, to receive donated items. As we work on sorting out these issues over the next two months, details will be provided in the November newsletter.

For this newsletter I decided to save the good news for last. As most of you are aware, the Lancaster Chapter has consistently been awarded a Four Star Level of Excellence by the national organization for our memberships' efforts in supporting MOAA programs and the local community. A constant effort by past commanders, particularly Immediate Past President John Gareis who has managed our award application efforts for the past several years, has finally been rewarded with selection of the chapter



- **From the President's Desk (cont'd):**

to receive a Five Star Level of Excellence Award for 2019 as one of the very best MOAA chapters. Congratulations to John and all chapter officers, committee chairs and members who have successfully supported this effort.

- **October Membership Zoom Meeting:**

The October membership meeting will be held as an online video conference via Zoom beginning at 7 PM Thursday, 22 October. Members with an email address on file will receive a direct invitation link via email prior to the meeting. The meeting will also be accessible by phone for those without internet access. The meeting agenda will include the nomination and election of officers for 2021, a proposed change to the chapter bylaws regarding surviving spouse membership dues and presentation of the Five Star Level of Excellence Award. Other proposed member comments or presentations should be forwarded to the chapter president prior to 15 October to be included on the agenda. Meeting invitation details will follow later but will be similar to following:

Topic: Lancaster Chapter MOAA
 Time: Oct 22, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
 Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85803459340?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85803459340?pwd=WE12Y2cxL05ob2hEcjcvZWdyT202QT09)
 pwd=WE12Y2cxL05ob2hEcjcvZWdyT202QT09
 Meeting ID: 858 0345 9340
 Passcode: 425087
 Phone access: 1-646-558-8656

- **2021 Nominating Committee Submissions:**

The Nominating Committee proposes the following Chapter Officers:

President: David Shelton, Lt Col, USAF (RET)
 Vice Pres: Bill Confer Sr, LTC, USA (RET)
 Imm PPres: Dr. John Gareis, MAJ, USA (RET)
 Corres Sec Jim Cunningham, Lt Col, USAF (RET)
 Rec Sec: Barry Schmitt, Lt Col, USAF (RET)
 Treasurer: Dennis Benchoff, LTG, USA (RET)

- **2021 Nominating Comm (cont'd):**

The Nominating Committee proposes the following Directors:

Edwin Hurston, Col USAF (Ret)	3 year term
Dennis Monroe, COL USA (Ret)	3 year term
Antonio Cerase, CW3, USA (RET)	2 year term
Enedina Casablanca-Cerase, MAJ, USA (RET)	2 year term
Tom Bender, CAPT, USN (Ret)	1 year term
Kim Bade, CDR, USN (RET)	1 year term

Submitted by Antonio Cerase, Nominating Committee Chair

- **Proposed Bylaws Change:**

The board of directors has recommended the Lancaster Chapter Bylaws be revised to provide an exemption from annual dues for surviving spouse members. In so far as spouses have supported the military member's service, a dues exemption for surviving spouses of chapter members is considered as fitting recognition of their own service should they wish to continue chapter membership. The second sentence of Section 1, Article V shall be revised to read "There will be five categories of membership dues." and a new paragraph added to read "e. Dues exemption – Surviving spouse members shall be exempt from annual dues."

Revised Bylaws reference:

Article V – Dues

Section 1. The operations of the chapter will rely on dues paid by the members. *There will be five categories of dues available to each member.* The specific amounts and other criteria shall be established by the Board of Directors and presented to the membership for approval.

a. Annual term– Dues are paid once a year as specified in Section 3.

b. Multiyear term – A reduced rate will be offered for a term longer than one year.



- **Proposed Bylaws Change (cont'd):**

c. Complimentary term– Annual dues payments are waived for a limited period of time based on certain criteria.

d. Life term – Annual dues will not be required from such members.

e. Dues exemption - surviving spouse members shall be exempted from annual dues.

- **We honor the memory of :**

Helen “Lynne” Besecker, 86, who passed away on Tuesday, August 4, 2020. She was the surviving spouse of Dr. Joe Besecker, LCDR, USN who passed away in Aug 2019. They were active Chapter members since Jan 2000. Her memorial and visitation service was Aug 28, at the The Emerald Foundation, 2120 Oregon Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Helen’s memory to Fulton Theater, 12 N. Prince Street, Lancaster, PA 17610 or Ephrata Performing Arts Center, 320 Cocalico St., Ephrata, PA 17522 or the Emerald Foundation.

- **MOAA Organization is Non-Partisan:**

Keith Beebe, President of our Pennsylvania Council of Chapters, received information from MOAA National concerning MOAA and its affiliates non-partisan status and was asked to send to members for guidance:

MOAA and its affiliates, such as our Council and its Chapter members, must take care to avoid engaging in partisan political activities. Under IRS rules, we are prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office when acting as a member of MOAA .

As individuals, members and leaders of MOAA and MOAA’s affiliates are not prohibited from engaging in partisan political activities so long as they do so in way that makes it clear they are acting for themselves and do not appear to be speaking on behalf of MOAA or its affiliates. For example, it is permissible for an individual to express his or her personal preference in support of or in opposition to a candidate or political party. And they may do so publicly. However, when expressing their personal opinions or preferences, they may not make reference to their MOAA position, use MOAA communications channels, use MOAA letterhead or newsletters, identify themselves as MOAA leaders, or imply that MOAA or its members share their beliefs.

Next Newsletter Release:

Nov 1, 2020

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