



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

November 2020

Volume 27 Number 6

• From the President's Desk:

We are certainly looking at a very different holiday season this year. The continuing COVID-19 pandemic coupled with the advent of winter flu season will affect the ability to gather socially for some time. Hopefully continued emphasis on prevention measures of frequent hand washing and using face coverings along with efforts to protect the most vulnerable may help reduce the spreading of a seasonal flu virus.



Shelton

As previously noted, Dan Horting, our Social Chair, has begun to coordinate prospective dates for 2021 membership meetings. However, it seems unlikely that we will be able to effectively support in-person social membership meetings before mid-year. Consensus of the medical community seems to indicate it will likely be that long until approved vaccines are widely available and people begin to feel more comfortable with larger gatherings. Should the situation improve significantly before then, the pre-planning will allow us to move ahead as soon as we can.

I will rate our first attempt at a virtual membership meeting a qualified success. Although lightly attended, it effectively demonstrated the usefulness of video conferencing technology to conduct necessary business and maintain membership contact. We successfully completed the election of officers and directors for 2021 and approved adoption of a by-laws change to exempt surviving spouse members from annual chapter dues payments. In addition, the hoped for attendance by members who are not normally available or able to attend our social in-person membership meetings did materialize, and it was good to visit with a number of folks we have not seen for some time.

• From the President's Desk (cont'd):

Although virtual, the online meeting also provided an opportunity to formally present the chapter's 2019 awards from MOAA. It is certainly worth noting again our appreciation for the hard work and dedication of Tom Bender as instrumental to receiving a Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications 4 Star Award for our newsletter and a 5 Star Award for our website. We also greatly appreciate the hard work and dedication of John Gareis in leading the chapter as president in 2019 and preparing our award submission to finally achieve a 5 Star Level of Excellence Award.

With congratulations to our newly elected board members Edwin Hurston and Dennis Monroe, we also need to recognize the contributions of departing board members John Burke and George Resh. John is completing six years as a member of the board. Although our bylaws limit elected positions to six consecutive years, we hope to continue to gain from his guidance and work as Co-Membership Chair - Recruiting for years to come. George Resh is completing a partial term as he stepped in to fill an un-projected vacancy. George has been a guiding presence not only with multiple terms on the board, but also several terms as chapter president, as treasurer and recently as Scholarship Chair. Clearly his support of the chapter over many years has been exemplary, and I was proud to present the Military Officers Association of America Leadership Award and lapel pin to George in recognition of his dedication in continuing to serve.

Cancellation of our usual December membership meeting creates significant difficulty in our normal collection of gifts for distribution at the Lebanon VA Medical Center. Although the possibility of



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

setting up alternate collection points was considered, the logistics involved become problematic with COVID-19 restrictions. In addition, it's not clear what additional restrictions may be in place for the VA's acceptance of outside gift items during a combined COVID-19 and winter flu season. Discussion with the medical center's Voluntary Service Office suggests our members consider monetary donations to their Christmas Project Fund. This fund essentially achieves the same goal by providing books, gifts and refreshments to hospitalized veterans over the holidays. Details for donations to the Lebanon VA Medical Center are provided below in this newsletter and will also be on our website

As we prepare for the holiday season I ask that we also remember those less fortunate with our additional generosity. We are all looking forward to the time in 2021 when we can get together socially as the pandemic subsides. I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy new year ahead. Please stay safe!

- **VA Christmas Donations:**

Cancellation of our December meeting also affects our normal annual collection of gifts for hospitalized veterans. In continuing to support the Lebanon VA Medical Center, members may wish to contribute to their Christmas Project fund managed by the Voluntary Service Office.

Christmas Project funds are used to purchase books, gifts, gift bags and refreshments for hospitalized veterans during the Christmas holidays. In addition to specified Christmas and General Purpose funds, this office manages a number of other accounts that allow donors to direct their gifts as desired. A complete list of accounts and donation information will be available on our chapter website.

Check donations should be made payable to "Lebanon VAMC" and the intended fund name, or fund number, noted on the memo line. The Christmas Project fund account number is 8107.

- **VA Christmas Donations (cont'd):**

Members may also want to consider General Purpose fund number 8101 which is used for diversional activities and purchase of much needed high need personal items among other things. Checks should be mailed to: Lebanon VA Medical Center, Voluntary Svc. (10V), 1700 South Lincoln Ave., Lebanon PA 17402.

- **2021 Officers and Directors Approved:**

The following officers and directors were approved by membership vote at the October 22, 2020, membership zoom meeting:

Officers:

President: David Shelton, Lt Col, USAF (RET)

Vice Pres: Bill Confer Sr, LTC, USA (RET)

Imm PP: 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)

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 Cerase, MAJ, USA (RET) 2 year term

Tom Bender, CAPT, USN (Ret) 1 year term

Kim Bade, CDR, USN (RET) 1 year term

- **Surviving Spouse Changes to Bylaws Approved by Membership:**

Members present at the Oct 22, 2020, membership zoom meeting voted to approve the following by-laws changes indicated by italicized text:

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.



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

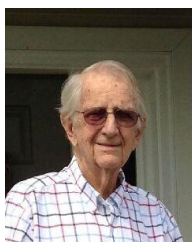
- b. Multiyear term – A reduced rate will be offered for a term longer than one year.
- c. Complimentary term– Annual dues payments are waived for a limited period of time based on certain criteria.
- d. Life term – Annual dues will not be required from such members.

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

So, our surviving spouses will no longer pay annual dues to the chapter starting with the calendar year of the death of their spouse. Additional information can be found on our website front page by clicking on the Surviving Spouses tab at lower left side.

- **We honor the memory of :**

CPT William J Van Pelt, USA (FMR) 97, who passed away on Monday, Sept 28, 2020. He is survived by his wife Sally. They were married for 72 years. He was an active 14 yr MOAA chapter member since Jan 2006. He served with the Army Corps of Engineers, leaving the service in 1946. He worked in Armstrong World Industries as a research chemist and later in human resources retiring in 1986 as general manager of salaried personnel services. A memorial service is planned for 1 PM, Nov 14, 2020 at First Presbyterian Church, 140 E Orange Street, Lancaster, 17602. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Bill's memory to the First Presbyterian Church or the Homestead Village Endowment Fund at Homestead Village, Inc, The Office of President, 1800 Village Circle, Lancaster, PA 17603.



Van Pelt

- **Proposed 2021 Membership Gatherings:**

These are proposed meeting dates. A decision on resuming membership meetings will be made by the BOD based on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thursday, Mar 4 (luncheon)

Thursday, April 22

Thursday, June 24

Saturday, Aug 28 (picnic)

Thursday, Oct 21

Sunday, Dec 5 (Christmas luncheon)

Next Newsletter Release:

Jan 1, 2021

Chapter Contacts:

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Recording Secretary:

Barry Schmitt 717-877-1810

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Dan Horting 717-285-7320


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