



5 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

March 2022

Volume 29 Number 2

• Our Next Meeting is at Strasburg Fireside Inn:

On Thursday, April 21st, the Chapter will meet at the ballroom, Strasburg Fireside Inn, 1500 Historic Drive, Strasburg, PA 17579. The ballroom at the Fireside provides a great setting for us to gather and socialize. The dinner gathering will begin in the ballroom with a social hour cash bar starting at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be called to order at 6:00 p.m. with introductory remarks by our president, Bill Confer. Dinner will quickly follow with a menu that includes:

Salad:

Garden Salad with choice of Ranch or Vinaigrette Dressing and Dinner Rolls

Entrée:

Breaded Chicken Cordon Bleu (stuffed chicken breast with ham and Swiss cheese, breaded and served with a supreme sauce)

Chef's choice of potato and vegetable

Dessert:

Raspberry Cheesecake

Beverages:

Coffee, Iced Tea and Lemonade

The cost of the meal will be \$35.00 per person. As always your check is your reservation and should be made out to MOAA Lancaster Chapter and mailed to MOAA Lancaster Chapter, 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 Friday, April 15th. Cancellations may be made by calling Jim Cunningham at 717 581-5299 prior to February 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Cunningham.

The location of the ballroom is located behind the restaurant. There is a parking lot behind the restaurant that can be used by guests attending functions at the ballroom. If you enter at the restaurant, you are at the wrong entrance.

Our speaker will be Mr. Christopher Vera. Mr. Vera is President/Director of the Columbia Historic Preservation Society. He is a tour guide and lecturer providing presentations on numerous historic topics in the Columbia area. He will speak to us about the history of the Underground Railroad in the local area.

• From the President's Desk:

I would like to congratulate everyone for having made it this far thru the COVID pandemic. It shows that those of us who made it are somewhat healthy and are schooled in the art of a risk assessment. Those of us who have been in the military for some time (36 years for me) have learned how to assess the threat/risk to ourselves and act accordingly. We all know that there is a certain amount of risk just travelling down the road, we have to assess that with the need to travel down that road. It is great to see so many of you made the right decision to get shots and evaluate the risk and have lived through one very threatening time. Me, I have the three shots so I feel that even with a few health challenges my risk is lower than before and I have been venturing out even more. You all know your own risk and have the skills to evaluate it with your Doctor and I congratulate you for making it thru this challenging time.



Me, I have faith in God and believe I will meet my maker when the time is of his choosing. When I was in Vietnam, my mother prayed the rosary almost every day for me and I feel strongly that when I had a midair collision with another helicopter at 1200 feet that her praying got me thru that accident along with my willingness to survive and prepare for such an accident.

When your time is right, based on your assessment please venture out to one of our great dinners or luncheons or plan to come to the picnic in August.



• From the President's Desk (cont'd):

When you decide to come to one of our meetings please consider bringing a neighbor or a friend who is a Surviving Spouse along or just reminding them of our meeting. They were an integral part of a soldiers/sailors/airman's life and were the reason for him staying in the service as long as he did. We all know what it's like to be gone for a long time with our spouse holding down the homestead, please support them as best you can.

As we move thru this year with our MOAA Team, please consider bringing in new members and maybe volunteering for one of our offices. Since this is a volunteer organization we depend on willing people stepping forward to help our great organization, please consider it.

As a reminder, the third Thursday of each month in which we do not have a membership meeting, we have a breakfast at the Oregon Dairy Restaurant and it's very informal and just a fun get together and its a great time. So if you have time and are an early Bird, we start at 8AM and plan the next breakfast for the 19th of May. Our February meeting had six people and we had a great discussion about retirement and where the best PA wines are located. Our discussions are enlightening and helpful and have no formal agenda.



• President's Notes from PACOC:

Our New President of the Pennsylvania Council of Chapters (PACOC), Bob Heister (CAPT, USN (Ret)) held his first council meeting in February at the Army Heritage Center in Carlisle, PA, which I attended. My notes follow:

- PA Governor Wolf set aside two more holidays for veterans-Mar 6th (Persian Gulf Veterans Day) and Oct 7th (Global War on Terrorism).
- There has been no movement on the Property Tax exemption for Veterans to date.
- President Bob would like all MOAA members to involve the VFW and Legion and others in some of our events to get our story wider dissemination to recruit additional members.
- President Bob's three priorities are:
 1. Get involved with Favorable Legislation for military goals.

• PACOC Notes (cont'd):

2. Chapters should look at other areas that may be outside our normal Zip Codes and search for unrepresented areas to join our MOAA Chapter.

3. Build Membership.

• Our Remaining 2022 Membership Meetings:

Please put these four dates in your calendars and plan on joining us for good food and camaraderie:

Thu, Jun 16, 5 p.m. dinner-Hamilton Club

Sat Aug 27, 11 a.m. picnic-Waltz Vineyards

Thu Oct 20, 5 p.m. dinner-Bent Creek CC

Sun Dec 4, 1 p.m. luncheon-Millersville Univ.

• Breakfast Gatherings:

Our next Breakfast Gathering will be on Thursday, May 19th at 8 am. As usual, the venue is Oregon Dairy, 2900 Oregon Pike, Lititz, 17543. As temperatures begin to warm in the spring, it is hoped that we can meet outside on the patio. These gatherings are very informal, have no agenda and are open to all members and guests. Come and enjoy the camaraderie! If you have any questions, please contact Dan Horting at k4sbuild-er@comcast.net or 717 285-7320.

• Say Hello to our Newest Members:

Capt Benjamin (Ben) Otterbein, USAF (Act-ANG)

123 N. 8th Street
Columbia, PA 17512
(717) 818-7384
Spouse: Katelyn
Joined: 02/09/2022

Maj Michael (Woody) Wood, USAF (Ret)

1162 S. Bristol Drive
Lititz, PA 17543
(717) 341-4940
Spouse: Jessica
Joined: 02/22/2022

• We Honor the Memory of...

Maj John J. Corcoran, USAF (Ret), MD, who passed away at his home on February 1. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Madolyn (Mickey) Corcoran. He was an active member of the Chapter for over 7 years. He served in the Air Force from 1962 thru 1970 as a general medical officer culminating on military retirement as Chairman of the Department of OB/GYN at Andrews AFB, Maryland. As a Fellow in the American College of OB/GYN, he served for many years and retired as Chairman of the Department of OB/GYN at both Lancaster General and St. Joseph's Hospital in Lancaster. He was interred on Monday, February 14, 2022 at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery.



• **We Honor the Memory of (cont'd)...**

LTC (Rev Dr) Bill Forman, USA (Ret), who passed away at the Court Yards of Brethren Village on February 15. Bill was an active member of the chapter for over 17 yrs. He served as our chapter chaplain for several years. His wife, Elaine passed away last year on Nov 11, 2021. A memorial service in his honor will be scheduled for later in the spring. More information will be forth coming when his bio is published.

• **2022 Friendly Dues Notice:**

Our 2022 dues were due on Jan 1st. Dues continue to be \$15 per year or \$40 for three years. If you haven't paid your 2022 dues, now is the time to get your check book out and write a check to MOAA Lancaster Chapter and send it to: MOAA Lancaster Chapter, P.O. Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606-5031. Contact our Treasurer, Dennis Benchhoff, with any dues questions at 717 560-1260 or dlbencho@hacc.edu.

• **Surviving Spouse Corner:**

Our president has suggested that our surviving spouses check out these links that go to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) website for information concerning retirement pay and Surviving Benefit Plan (SBP) issues:

<https://www.dfas.mil/sbp2023childoptrev> (SBP)—DIC Offset Phased Elimination News

<https://www.dfas.mil/sbp2023childoptrev>-Optional Dependent Annuity Elimination/Reversion to Surviving Spouses

• **Chapter Photos:**



Nancy & O'Rean



Dinner at Bent Creek



Check-in & Name Tags—Dan & Nancy
Thank you!

Next Newsletter Release: May 1, 2022

Chapter Contacts:

President:

Bill Confer Sr 712-3849

Vice President:

Dan Horting 285-7320

Immediate Past President:

David Shelton 285-5971

Treasurer:

Dennis Benchhoff 560-1260

Corresponding Secretary:

Jim Cunningham 581-5299

Recording Secretary:

Barry Schmitt 877-1810

Board of Directors:

Kim Bade	CDR, USN (RET)
Tom Bender	CAPT, USN (RET)
Peter Cardinal	COL, USA (RET)
Dina Cerase	MAJ, USA (RET)
Tony Cerase	CW3, USA (RET)
Ed Hurston	Col, USAF (RET)

Adopt a Kid/Adopt a Vet:

John Gareis

Chaplain:

Kim Bade

Mbr Asst & Legislative Affairs:

Dennis Benchhoff

Membership Recruiting:

David Shelton

Mbr Records/Memorials/

Webmaster/Nwsltr Editor:

Tom Bender

Nominations:

Tony Cerase

ROTC Liaison:

Peter Cardinal

Scholarship Chair:

Ed Hurston

Social & Programs Chair:

Dan Horting

Surviving Spouse Liaison:

Bill Confer Sr

MOAA Lancaster Chapter
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