



4 Star E-Newsletter

MOAA LANCASTER CHAPTER

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

NEWSLETTER

Visit our 4 Star Web Site at www.moalancasterchapt.org

March 2023

Editor: Tom Bender

Volume 30 Number 2

• Luncheon at Lancaster Country Club:

Our first membership meeting for 2023 is a luncheon on Thursday, March 2, 2023, at the Lancaster Country Club. Brian Roach is our guest speaker.

• Our next Membership Meeting:

We meet again on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at Meadia Heights Golf Club, 402 Golf Road, Lancaster, PA 17602. The gathering will begin with a cash bar and social hour from 5 to 6 p.m. The meeting will be called to order at 6 p.m. by our President, Bill Confer. Dinner will quickly follow with a menu that includes:

Salad:

Garden Salad with choice of Ranch and Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressing on the side.

Entrée:

Choice of Seared Flat Iron Steak with Bourbon Reduction, OR Herbed Seared Salmon.

Sides:

Herb Roasted Red Potatoes and Green Beans.

Beverages:

Coffee, Hot and Iced Tea, Water and Lemonade.

Dessert:

Chocolate Mousse with Berries

The cost of the meal will be \$37. As always, your check is your reservation and should be made out 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 and provide your Entrée Choices. By request, a vegetarian meal will be available as a substitute for the above selections.

The deadline for receipt of all checks is Friday, March 31st. Cancellations and any questions should be directed to Bill Zaird prior to Friday, March 31st, at 626-0232.

Directions to Meadia Heights Golf Club: Take North Prince Street south through Lancaster City merging with Willow Street Pike (Rte 222 & 272).

Directions: (cont'd) Travel a short distance and turn left onto Golf Road. The Meadia Heights Golf Club will be on the right..

Our Guest Speaker will be Colonel Weaver, USA, who will provide a brief historical overview of how the Russia-Ukraine War situation evolved, then focus on the current conflict and US actions supporting Ukraine and our allies, He will close with a discussion of the potential future of the conflict and US/NATO options.

Colonel Weaver was commissioned as an Artillery Officer through the Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1998. He is a graduate of the Artillery Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, The Electronic Warfare Qualification Course, Command and General Staff College, and Airborne School.

Colonel Weaver is currently a student at the Carlisle Army War College. Before he arrived at Carlisle Barracks, he was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, where he served as the Division Cyber-Electronic Warfare Officer. Previous non-command assignments include service as an Artillery Platoon Leader, Company and Battalion Fire Direction Officer, Fire Support Officer, and Support Platoon Leader in the 1st Infantry Division and 10th Mountain Division; Information Operations Targeting Officer with III Corps Fire Support Element; Assistant Brigade Fire Support Observer Controller; Cyber-Electronic Warfare Officer, V Corps, USAREUR and USARCENT.

His command assignments include: 12 months as Commander, D Battery, 1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Sill Oklahoma

Colonel Weaver holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the State University of New York at Oswego. His awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with 3 OLC, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with 3 OLC, the OIF and OEF Campaign Medals, and the Parachutist Badge.



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

Our chapter has recently received requests to support two new Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) programs at local high schools. There is a new Army JROTC program starting at Lebanon High School and we just learned of another new Navy JROTC program beginning at Elizabethtown High School. Both after we have just been finalizing our commitment to work with the Air Force JROTC program at Muhlenberg High School near Reading. MSgt. Beaver, who was the senior NCO Military Instructor with the McCaskey High School AFJROTC program, moved to Muhlenberg High School after the McCaskey program phased out and had asked for our support.



Bill Confer Sr

For this year we have committed to funding a scholarship year for a selected Muhlenberg AFJROTC cadet to attend a summer STEAM Academy at St. Francis University as a trial of that educational opportunity. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. The St Francis STEAM academy is reserved for students who will be entering their junior or senior year of high school and are interested in pursuing a career in engineering, computer science, health sciences, biology or chemistry. The tuition for their summer courses is \$550 per student.

With the additional JROTC programs now in the area, we are also looking at changing from our annual high school scholarship award and designating those funds toward additional STEAM Academy scholarships for JROTC cadets or even others from local Civil Air Patrol and Young Marines programs. Although our high school scholarship effort has been helpful to veteran family members there is no commitment or direct relation to studies leading to military service. It seems educational support for JROTC students may be a more direct effort to promote development of future military leaders.

In view of recent interest rate increases, the Board of Directors established a committee to explore Certificate of Deposit (CD) investment opportunities. This committee is composed of the treasurer and three board members. With the intent being to increase funds available for scholarship support, we expect to make an initial investment of

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

a portion of the chapter's reserve funds in 12 - 18 month CDs. This will generate a much better return than leaving the funds in our operating checking account that earns very little interest. Remaining reserve funds will more than adequately cover several year's chapter expenses.

Our February Board meeting also included a presentation by the Building Bridges Foundation on their equine assisted therapy program for veterans. They are located at Anderson Farms in Conestoga and are continuing to expand their outreach throughout Lancaster County. They are also promoting their Vet's Cafe program. The Vet's Café at the farm has free coffee every Thursday from 8-12 a.m. and is open to all veterans.

Finally, I'd like to bring to your attention several links that provide useful information to our membership. The first link is found in the Surviving Spouse Corner on the last page. It introduces the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter. The next link is to our own website (www.moalancasterchapt.org) where you can see all the information about our chapter. And lastly, this link:

(www.buildingbridgesfoundation.com) concerns Building Bridges which is a valuable resource to help veterans with PTSD. It is looking for veteran mentors from MOAA to visit the farm's Veterans Coffee Café on a Thursday morning, 8-12 a.m.

I encourage you all to visit these sites, especially the Building Bridges Site. Dave Anderson has dedicated his farm to veterans due to his brother's suicide from PTSD. He initially funded the farm but now the community helps fund it. Mostly what it needs is mentors from our own veterans in MOAA to go down there and just talk to other veterans.

When you get this newsletter, our Lancaster Country Club luncheon will be finished and I hope you have signed up and gone. I can tell you it will be/was a very interesting luncheon.

Our leadership is made up of all volunteers and is in need to fill some key positions for 2024. If you can help us, please see me or any of the officers at one of our events or email us and we will find the right position for you.

Bill Confer, Sr



- **Say Hello to our Newest Member:**

Col Norm S. Ashworth, USMC (RET)

2001 Harrisburg Pike, Apt ML 19

Lancaster PA 17601

Spouse: deceased

Email: nashworth4@comcast.net

Joined: 2/4/2023

- **2023 Membership Mtgs & Venues:**

Please put these dates in your calendars and plan on joining us for good food and fellowship in 2023:

Thursday, Jun 8, 5 p.m., The Hamilton Club

Saturday, Aug 26, 11 a.m., Waltz Vineyard picnic

Thursday, Oct 12, 5 p.m., Bent Creek CC

Sunday, Dec 3, 1 p.m., Millersville University

- **Breakfast Gatherings:**

Our breakfasts gatherings will continue in 2023 on the third Thursday of each month where there is no membership meeting. For 2023, our remaining Breakfast Gatherings will be on the following dates:

Thursday May 18

Thursday, Jul 20

Thursday, Sep 21

Thursday, Nov 16.

As usual, the venue is Oregon Dairy at 2900 Oregon Pike, Lititz 17543, starting at 8 a.m. These gatherings remain informal. All members and guests are welcome. Contact Dan Horting with questions at k4sbuilder@comcast.net or 717 285-7320.

- **2023 Chapter Dues Reminder:**

Our annual dues are due by check on the 1st of January each year. Dues continue to be \$15 per year or \$40 for three years. These newsletter reminders serve as our dues voucher. All dues checks should be made out to MOAA Lancaster Chapter and sent to: MOAA Lancaster Chapter, P.O. Box 5031, Lancaster, PA 17606-5031. Contact our Treasurer, Dennis Benchoff, with any dues questions at 717 560-1260 or dlbenchoff2@comcast.net. Surviving Spouses pay no Chapter dues.

- **Surviving Spouse Corner:**

This email address (mvccvco2@gmail.com) is the email address used to send your interest in joining the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter. Micki Costello runs the Virtual Chapter on line and she can hook you up to the Virtual Chapter on receipt of your email. The Virtual Chapter has a wealth of useful information targeted to surviving spouses and can help you get support quickly.

Hurston/Schmitt

Next Newsletter Release: May 1, 2023

Chapter Contacts:

President:

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Diane Stackhouse Maj, USAF (RET)

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Peter Cardinal COL, USA (RET)

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Kim Bade

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Diane Stackhouse

Member Assistance:

Dennis Benchoff

***Membership Recruiting/Introductions/
Nominations/Publicity:***

David Shelton

Mbr Records/Memorials/

Webmaster/Nwsltr Editor/Photos:

Tom Bender

President's Surviving Spouse Liaison:

Susan Collins

ROTC Liaison:

Peter Cardinal

Scholarship Chair:

Ed Hurston

Social/Programs Chair:

Dan Horting

The MOAA Lancaster PA Chapter Newsletter is published by the Lancaster Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are nonpartisan.



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