

NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES 13 April 2017

Call to Order: President Peter Burdett called the meeting to order at 1830 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the assembly present followed by the invocation delivered by Joe DiChiaro.

Attending: Avery, Breuder, Burdett, Burdo, Coulter, Day, DiChiaro, Jaffin, Luti, McLean, Register, Smith, Wall, Way. We welcomed Gwen Devoe to the meeting

Opening Remarks: Peter Burdett began by welcoming everyone. Peter called upon Sharon Day to introduce a new face at the Board meeting. Sharon introduced Gwen Devoe by providing a short history of Gwen's involvement with our chapter. Sharon said that Gwen is being considered to become the Auxiliary Liaison for the chapter. She said that Gwen would be pleased to accept the position and had some ideas on how she could contribute. Peter continued his opening remarks by starting with mentioning "Children of Fallen Patriots" Foundation. He attended a meeting last Saturday in Portsmouth where the Foundation and what it does was discussed. This Foundation identifies the children of active duty service members killed in action and pays for all of their college education. They have covered about 700 so far, but there are thousands out there who are eligible. Their problem is identifying eligible children. If anyone knows of any children that might be eligible, let Peter know. He mentioned that there is a video that covers what they do. (Google "Children of Fallen Patriots".) Peter then moved on to discuss his participation in MOAA's "Storming the Hill". He said one of the items covered was that we do not want a Continuing Resolution (CR) on the Defense budget. He went on to talk about an exchange during a Congressional hearing where the Chief of Staff of the Army called CR "professional malpractice". Peter went on to cover some of the other issues – Sequestration, SBP/DIC offset and TRICARE fees. Peter then briefly mentioned recruiting issues. He stated that as little as 25% to 30% of young people are even eligible to join the military due to a number of factors. Peter listed a number of the factors. A brief discussion ensued on the various reasons why recruiting is having problems. Finally, Peter mentioned that April 21 it is **Purple Up** for military kids. They are asking people to wear purple to recognize military children. Sandy Way pointed out that April 21 is also Military Retiree Appreciation Day at Hanscom AFB, MA. At this point, Peter made a presentation to Michael McLean (Chapter Webmaster) for the chapter's website being awarded a 5 Star rating in MOAA's annual Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards Contest for the second year in a row.

Immediate Past Chair [sic] Remarks: "Chad" Chadwick not present.

Secretary's Report: Michael McLean reported that he received no corrections to the March Board meeting minutes. Motion made and seconded to accept the March minutes. Motion passed and minutes accepted. . *[Secretary's Note: Although not stated, a quorum was present for the meeting – Secretary's oversight.]*

Treasurer's Report: Roby Day reported that we are soluble [sic]. He said we have had a slight drop in our net worth. That is attributable to the ups and downs of our expenses and revenues. Our investments have been pretty flat. He then discussed the operations investment management issue. Roby moved on to mention that with seven days to go to the [response] deadline, we have only 72 signed up for the April Luncheon. Roby said that last year at the same place and the same time, we had 111 attendees. It was mentioned that a blast email reminder for the luncheon did go out. Roby pointed out that not every one has email. Bruce Avery commented that the current email address list is 318 people. The last item is that the IRS now has our 990. Peter called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion made and seconded. Motion passed.

Trustees of the Trust Fund: Andrew Breuder reported that Roby had pretty well covered the important points concerning our funds. Andrew believes we are in reasonable shape. Peter Burdett added several comments on the status of the market. Tony Burdo asked if the chapter realizes any financial benefit from the Trust Funds profits. Roby Day explained the Life Membership and Scholarship Trust Funds are fenced; however the Operating investments' dividends are reflected on our monthly Income Statement. It was decided that there was no need to have a vote on the Trustees report.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT): Peter Burdett reported that he did not attend this month's meeting of the SVAC as he was in DC Storming the Hill; however, he felt he knew what they had talked about – the list of current bills before the legislature and in particular, HB 636. That bill will make a major change in the way the state of New Hampshire deals with veterans and serving military members by starting a Department of Veterans and Military Affairs. This department will have a Commissioner who will be on an equal status as other current state departments. Peter continued to go into further detail concerning the aspects of the bill. Peter said he had sent the Board a copy of draft #3 and asked everyone to take a look to see if they could find any problems with it. Peter said he had a couple of concerns in the bill. His concern is finding a way to raise money through grants and other means to fund this new department. There will be a meeting tomorrow (4/14) to discuss the bill. There was a question about how the SVAC would fit into this new department. Peter said that was an issue he will bring up at the meeting tomorrow. Roby Day brought up who is going to pay for any new hires for this department. Peter reiterated that they hope grants will pay for them. Bruce Avery commented that a number of functions of this new department are currently covered by other existing state departments, and he hopes that these people will be transferred to this new department rather than duplicate their efforts. Peter Burdett then went back to talking about Storming the Hill. He said he met with Annie Kuster who is engaged with veteran affairs. He also mentioned a presentation he attended made by the new Secretary of the VA. Peter was very impressed with him. Peter's main concern was with Veterans Choice "2.0". Discussion ensued. Sandy Way asked who Peter did see from our Congressional delegation. Peter responded that he saw Kuster and Hassan. Sheehan was supposedly in a closed door meeting and Shea-Porter, Peter felt had no excuse not to see him. Peter did meet with her assistant Sue Mayer.

Personal Affairs: Russ Register reported that this month we have three important items from MOAA that were sent out to our membership in a blast email. The first is the repeal of sequestration. He pointed out that there were preprinted post cards, addressed to our Congressional delegation, attached to the latest issue of *Military Officer*, urging support for repealing Sequestration. He also commented on two items from the MOAA website – an article on feedback from a survey on TRICARE Pharmacy Benefit with Express Scripts and the second was MOAA’s testimony before a joint session on extending the VA Choice Program. (*Read the blast email attached.*)

BREAK FOR DINNER

Reconvened Meeting at 1940

Membership: Michael McLean reported that it was not a good month. He presented the following membership numbers:

New members — 1

Deceased members — 4 (plus 4 w/ spouses)

Dropped members — 28 (Those who did not pay their chapter dues.)

Current total membership — 750

Michael said that he discovered 3 of the 4 “w/ spouses” from a roster he received from MOAA. He pointed out one of the deaths was someone people might be aware of as he was a regular attendee at luncheons – Al Despres. Presently there are 51 members who have not paid their 2017 dues yet. Unless some pay their dues in the near future, they will get reminder letters this June. Michael said that he had just received a chapter roster from MOAA and on his initial review, it seems to track with what we have on our database, other than the people we just dropped. Peter Burdett said that he has a list of those we had just dropped and passed it around, asking people if they recognized a name, to contact them to pay up. Michael pointed out that everyone on the Board had received the list by email.

Recruiting: Peter Burdett asked if Dave Wall had any comments. Dave reiterated that we need to make every effort to recruit national members wherever we come across them. Peter talked about inviting MOAA’s President up to address a New England regional conference. Peter made it clear that he was not suggesting a formal NE Council! Tony Burdo suggested that if other chapters in NE don’t have their own Travel Program, perhaps we could tie them into ours. Peter thought that was a great idea!

Programs: Sandy Way talked about the next luncheon on the 29th of April. He mentioned that there is a substitute for the speaker – it is now the Vice Wing Commander. He then summarized the remaining events for the rest of the year. He called on anyone who had an idea for a speaker to give him the name. Michael McLean asked who was going to do the flyer for the June Luncheon. Michael said that “Chad” Chadwick was supposed to do it but he is in Europe. The flyer has to go to the printer next Friday (4/21). Peter Burdett asked who “Chad’s” backup was. There was further discussion as to who would do the flyer.

Web Page: There were 211 hits in March, up from 157 in February. Tony Burdo asked if there was any way to determine which pages within our website people were going to, Travel for

example. Michael gave a brief explanation of how the web counter works. He was not sure about individual pages, but he would look into it.

Travel Programs: Tony Burdo reported that we have six passengers leaving next Thursday for the Tulip River Cruise. Tony received an invoice from Collette for \$2,659.40. He said he expects that check after the Tulip Cruise. He said that brings our total commission from Collette to about \$19,500. Tony said he tried to contact John Powell from Military History [sic] Tours (MHT); however, he is on a tour in the Orient. Tony will continue to make contact with John to coordinate the 2018 program with our Travel Programs. Dave Wall repeated his information on MHT.

Scholarship Loan Program: Joe DiChiaro did not have anything to report.

Strategic Initiatives: Bruce Avery had no report.

Granite State Warriors Award: Bruce Avery had no report.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Awards: Joe DiChiaro reported that he had sent the schedule of awards to Michael McLean. Joe then mentioned the ROTC commissionings. He went on to discuss the confusion there has been for some time with the old Vermont Chapter, now with another name, who also present awards to JROTC units in northern New Hampshire. Joe then went into repeating the issue of Gold Bars and whether they are worth the expense.

NH Veterans Home: Joe DiChiaro's report was not clear on the recorder.

Nominations (Directors & Officers): No Reports.

PAO: Peter Burdett reported that we still don't have one.

Granite Slate: Peter Dawson not present. The newsletter is in the mail. Peter Burdett brought up that if people have stories to tell, submit them to Peter Dawson for inclusion in the *Granite Slate*. Michael McLean brought up an email he received from Peter Dawson about advertising in the newsletter. Peter Burdett said he did not believe he got the email. Michael gave him a copy. There was discussion about Mercer (an insurance company approved by MOAA) who will pay \$100 for a one off advertisement. In the newsletter.

Web Communications - FB: Jon VanGuilder not present.

SUD (Substance Use Disorders) Committee: Andrew Breuder reported that not much is going on since the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 20. Peter Burdett pointed out that the SUD Committee could be wrapped up with this new Department under HB 636.

LIAISONS:

ESGR: Sandy Way reported that the ESGR is planning for their annual awards presentations on May 13th, given to people who support ESGR. They are also starting to plan for their "Boss Lifts" for this summer (May through October). They do lifts on the refueling tankers at Pease and Blackhawk helicopters from Concord.

Transition Liaison: Bancroft McKittrick not present. Dave Wall commented that he had referred two people to Bancroft to help find jobs. They were both very complimentary of Bancroft's efforts in helping them.

VAMC Manchester: Bernie Satterfield not present. Peter Burdett reported that Bernie has been sending out reports regularly on the VAMC. Joe Dichiario commented that the volunteer group wants a letter certifying that Bernie is a representative of the chapter.

Martins Point: Bob Jaffin reported on the last meeting of Martins Point that he attended. He covered the highlights and will forward the minutes once he receives them. (**Attached**).

Auxiliary: Peter Burdett appointed Gwen Devoe as the chapter Auxiliary Liaison. Peter said that MOAA is very heavily into auxiliaries.

OLD BUSINESS:

Goals and Objectives 2017 Committee: Tony Burdo reported that he believes that the recruiting group, consisting of Jon VanGuilder and Dave Wall, could be included in Goal 1 as members of that committee. Tony also suggested that perhaps the Auxiliary Liaison could be included as well. Tony added that he feels that the Goals and Objectives are in place; now we have to execute them.

Speaker Gift: Peter Burdett said he believes we are set for April with a book signed by Dr. James Wright. Peter asked Dave Wall if it was on track. Dave was not really aware that he was in charge of it, but he will contact Dr. Wright. Peter said he will send Dave an email with the exact wording.

Need PAO: We still need one. Sharon Day asked if the PAO had to be a chapter member. Peter Burdett said it could be anyone. Sharon suggested that an article be put in the *Granite Slate* advertising for a PAO.

Gold Bar Program: Already covered.

NEW BUSINESS:

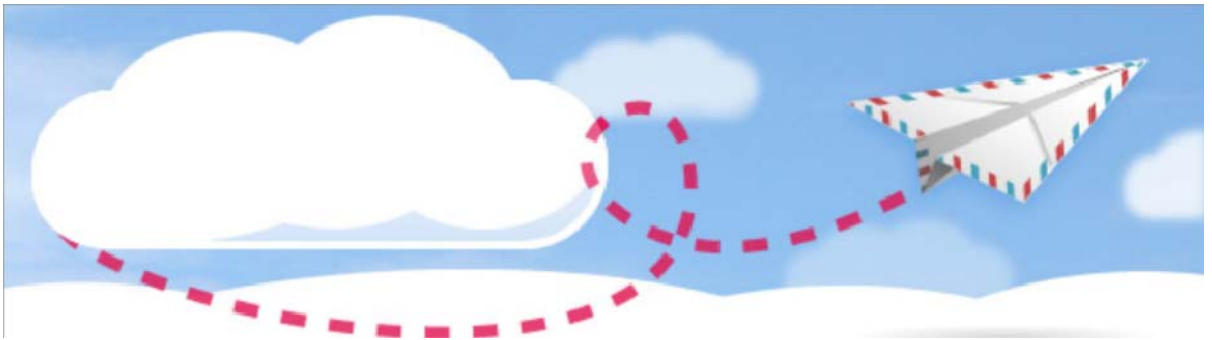
Company Grade Officer of the Year: Joe Dichiario brought up that the Guard has asked the chapter to come up with the criteria for selecting the Company Grade Officer of the Year. Sandy Way and Andrew Breuder agreed to assist Joe in developing the criteria.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will begin at 1830 on Thursday, 11 May 2017 at the Red Blazer in Concord, NH.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2025 hours.

Michael A. McLean
CDR, USN (Ret.)
Secretary
New Hampshire Chapter

ATTACHMENTS: 2



In the April issue of "Military Officer", MOAA asked each of us to please sign, stamp, and mail the cards on the back cover. The cards are addressed to our congressional legislators and contain a message regarding an end to sequestration via a repeal of the Budget Control Act of 2011. Please take a moment to lend your help in this important matter.

This past January, MOAA asked for customer feedback regarding their Tricare Pharmacy Benefit with Express Scripts. Over 300 positive and negative responses were sent in to retired Navy Capt. Kathryn Beasley

She then met with Express Scripts officials to share information and concerns. You can read more about this at: <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Retirees/Your-Thoughts-on-TRICARE-s-Pharmacy-Benefit.aspx>.

On March 22nd, MOAA testified before the Joint Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees on Health Care. MOAA asked the committees to act to extend the VA Choice Program which will end on 7 Aug 2017. Veterans use this program to obtain medical care from local providers when unable to obtain appointments at their VA medical center. You can read more about this at: <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Former-Officers/MOAA-Testifies-Before-Joint-Senate-and-House-Veterans-Affairs-Committees-on-Health-Care.aspx>.

New Hampshire Chapter





Military Advisory Council – Portland
Meeting Minutes 4/11/17

Martin's Point Update (Bill Hall)

1. Of the seven Healthcare Centers Martin's Point owns and operates, three have moved into new facilities over the past two years – Gorham, Biddeford, and most recently, Scarborough.
2. Health Plan ratings
 - a. Our Medicare Advantage plan – Generations Advantage – currently has a 4.5 star rating from Medicare (5 star is the highest possible). The plan is the highest rated and largest Medicare Advantage plan in Maine.
 - b. The USFHP received a 5 star rating for our plan in Maine from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).
 - c. The Plan received a 4.5 star rating for the remaining states in our service area
 - d. The reason for the difference in ratings is that it is more difficult to collect data outside of Maine regarding the level of care we provide our members.
 - e. The John's Hopkins USFHP also received a 5 star rating.

TRICARE Update (Bill Hall):

1. There is currently little action regarding implementing the 2017 NDAA. Congress has directed the DoD to report back to them on how they expect to roll out and execute the changes agreed upon in the NDAA. Highlights to the bill include:
 - a. Steps to get more beneficiaries back to obtaining their care from Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) and away from civilian care
 - b. Increasing costs of services for those who join the military after 1/1/18
 - c. Restructuring TRICARE to replace TRICARE Standard and Extra with TRICARE Select, which would require enrolling in Select. Currently, there is no enrollment necessary for those using Standard and Extra
 - d. Going to an annual open enrollment period for all TRICARE to replace the current year round enrollment
2. The NDAA also mandated the Defense Health Agency (DHA) to take oversight of all MTFs

3. The regional contractor change combining the North and South regions will take place on 1/1/18. Humana will be responsible for the new East Region while HealthNet Federal Services will take over administration of the West Region. These contract changes will not affect USFHP members.

US Family Health Plan Updates (Bill Hall)

1. Our membership has recently topped 46,000 members
2. Membership grew about 1,000 in 2016
3. The forecast for 2017 is for minimal growth

Member Services Update (Leslie Chadbourne)

1. Member Services is currently hiring 3 new representatives
2. Member Seminars
 - a. We continue to hold member seminars around our service area. The purpose of these seminars is to help our members understand how to better utilize the healthcare benefit they have earned. Seminars currently scheduled for the first half of this year are:
 - i. Lewiston ME (April 18-19)
 - ii. Laconia, NH (May 16-17)
 - iii. North Conway, NH (May 17-18)
 - iv. Liverpool, NY (June 14)
 - v. New Hartford, NY (June 15)
 - b. Seminars require RSVPs so we can ensure everyone wanting to attend can be accommodated

Pharmacy Updates (Brian Wells)

1. The DoD is in the process of streamlining their inventory by doing class reviews and determining which medications are the most cost effective. Some class examples are birth control, acne and ADHD medications
2. There is some change coming regarding Proton Pump Inhibitors; for example, Nexium, Prilosec, and Protonix.
 - a. Nexium will be non-formulary at the end of June since the manufacturer did not renew the DoD contract
 - b. Nexium will require prior authorization at the end of June and it will move to a tier 3 drug and cost \$49 for a 90-day supply
 - c. The prior authorization will require a trial of omeprazole, pantoprazole or aciphex

- d. There will be letters that will go out to members and providers so that everyone will be aware of the change in advance
 - e. There are currently about 2,000 members on Nexium that will be affected
 - f. These changes are directed by DoD and will affect all TRICARE eligible beneficiaries, not just our members
3. The Mail Order Pharmacy (MOP)
- a. Currently has a turnaround time of 7 days; their goal is 5 days. Winter weather and illnesses put them behind a little bit
 - b. They have recently created 2 new positions due to the volume of prescriptions they handle; the additions should help them get back to where they want to be
4. They are currently reaching out to manufacturers to get exclusive specialty medications at DoD pricing instead of retail pricing. They recently had success with an anti-cancer medication that has saved \$400,000.

Network Management Update (Bill Hall)

- 1. Our provider network continues to be robust; we have over 5,000 PCPs and over 13,000 specialists in our network
- 2. We also have a great network of in-network hospitals across our service area. We have been working on adding some smaller community hospitals in New York.
- 3. A couple gaps we are working on are:
 - a. Guthrie Hospital covering southern New York – they have been reluctant in the past to join our network, but we will try again this year
 - b. Hospital in the Jamestown, NY area

Next Meeting: October 17th