

# NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES 12 April 2018

**Call to Order:** President Warren Coulter called the meeting to order at 1832 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled followed by the invocation delivered by Joe DiChiaro, as always very timely.

**Attending:** Avery, Breuder, Burdett, Burdo, Coulter, D'Amante, Day, Devoe, DiChiaro, Ikstrums, LeFebvre, Luti, McLean, Register, Satterfield, Spotts, Terhune. Although not specifically announced, a quorum was present for the meeting.

**Opening Remarks:** Warren Coulter welcomed everyone.

**Immediate Past President Remarks:** Peter Burdett deferred his remarks until his Government Relations report later in the meeting.

**Secretary's Report:** Michael McLean reported that there was no March meeting due to the weather. He said he received no corrections or clarifications to the February minutes. If no one had any comments, Michael asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the February minutes. Motion passed and minutes accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Roby Day asked if there were any questions on the January, February and March reports. He said he sent out another copy of the GSWA Luncheon summary which stated that we lost \$90 on the luncheon. He commented that it was not a big deal in the grand scheme of things. He went on to say that the nose count for the next luncheon is 90 at the moment, which is good. Roby raised the question about the 50/50 Raffle. Warren Coulter said that Terry Bobseine has been our person to do the raffle but she has not signed up for the luncheon. He said we have two choices – postpone the raffle or have someone step up to volunteer to do it. He said since it was Jim LeFebvre's idea to begin with, perhaps he would volunteer. Jim reluctantly agreed to do it. Roby went on to acknowledge that Bancroft McKittrick was back with us. Roby finished up on the subject of the April luncheon with a question of who was going to wear a kilt to the April luncheon. Michael McLean said he could not fit into his nor had he for a number of years! Ray D'Amante indicated he was going to wear his. Michael McLean brought up that we neglected to observe Tartan Day which was on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Roby brought the IRS Form 990 that needs to be signed by Warren. Roby went on to provide a brief description of what the 990 was about. Roby continued by saying that we still have \$631.00 in the veterans account. Bruce Avery spoke up to say that, so that the April luncheon will be a financial success, he presented Roby with a check for \$300.00 from MOAA on behalf of USAA, which was announced as sponsoring the luncheon on the flyer. Roby had nothing further. Motion made to accept the Treasurer's Report and seconded. Motion passed.

**Trustees of the Trust Fund:** Andrew Breuder reported that, looking at the Treasurer's Balance Sheet, it appears that with all the ups and downs in the stock market, our investments are fairly flat.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT/Vets Count):** Peter Burdett launched his report with an overview of the commissioning of the USS Manchester (LCS-14) on May 26<sup>th</sup> in Portsmouth. Tickets are free. Peter then reported on his CASA visit to West Point from 4 through 8 March. He went into some depth about the great chain at West Point. He then reported in some detail concerning his time at West Point and the cadets that impressed him. Peter then reported on the Army-Navy baseball game that is coming up on April 20<sup>th</sup> at Fenway Park. Peter then went on to talk about high school graduates joining the military, from an article he read and passed around at the meeting. Peter then reported on the latest SVAC meeting he attended. Michael McLean mentioned that “Chad” Chadwick had hoped that there might be some official representation by the chapter at the USS Manchester commissioning. Michael wondered whether we would gain anything with “face” time at the ceremony. Nothing was decided. Peter finished up by saying that he is driving down to Washington, DC for the annual Storming the Hill. Bruce Avery brought up the new TRICARE copay for prescriptions and hopes that MOAA and Peter will bring it up with our Congressional delegation. Michael McLean commented that he understood that MOAA agreed to it as a means for paying for the repeal of the DIC offset for widows. Further discussion continued. Joe DiChiaro brought up the issue of the 325,000 undeployable personnel that Congress won’t do anything about to get rid of them.

**Personal Affairs:** Russ Register covered the contents of the monthly Personal Affairs blast email to include the increase in TRICARE pharmacy costs, the results of MOAA’s recent TRICARE health care survey, MOAA’s new pet care insurance plans and MOAA addressing TRICARE shortfalls. (**See attached**).

**Membership:** Michael McLean presented the following membership numbers for both March and April:

	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>
New members -	1	0
Deceased members -	3 (Plus 1 w/ spouse)	5 (Plus 1 w/ spouse)
Dropped members -	1	12
Current total membership –	711	694

Michael reported that of the 299 dues letters he sent out in January, he has received 219 payments so far for 73.2%. He commented that he had dropped 11 members at the end of March for non dues payment. Michael finished by saying that he is waiting for MOAA’s annual recruiting dump of potential members. He went into what he does with the list once he receives it. He said he will work with Jim Spotts to try to call people as it is better than broadcast letters. Bruce Avery asked whether emails are provided. Michael said that some do, but the individuals have to agree to release their email addresses. Michael added that MOAA has a new system whereby he can access MOAA’s database to add and delete people from our chapter listing. Hopefully it will make our life easier.

**Recruiting:** Jim Spotts reported that he is working on recruiting two new members for the chapter – one USA and one USMC. Jim said that once he gets the new potential names from Michael he hopes to get volunteers to help make phone calls. He asked people to see him after the meeting. Jim said he is looking at a potential group of service academy resource boards.

Each service academy has one primarily for business and networking. He mentioned that the AUSA is having their annual dinner coming up so if anyone is planning on attending, make sure you have chapter brochures with you. He also mentioned an event coming up on the Seacoast that might be a source.

**Programs:** Gerry Boyle not present.

**Web Page:** Michael McLean reported there were 372 hits in February and 311 hits in March.

Popular Pages in February:		Popular Pages in March:	
<u>Hits</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Hits</u>	<u>Page</u>
28	Program Notes	42	Program Notes
23	Membership	20	Chapter News
23	Newsletter	18	Odds and Ends
21	Group Travel	11	Group Travel
17	Odds and Ends	11	Membership
15	Chapter News	10	Newsletter
12	Transition Assistance	7	Transition Assistance
11	Virtual Store	4	Virtual Store
152	General	3	UNK
		163	General

Michael said that he ran an online “dead link checker” program to check the links on our web site. It checked 1173 URL’s and found 1101 were okay – 72 failed. He is in the process of investigating and correcting those bad links

**Travel Programs:** Tony Burdo presented the following report:

Six passengers booked for the Classical Spain and Portugal trip in October 2018.

Ten passengers booked for 2020 trips which include the passion play.

No bookings to date for our 2019 program...but it’s early.

Bruce has agreed to send out blast emails on our travel program. My intent is to advertise two trips per month. To date, I only have one brochure from Collette for our 2019 program and that is for the Iceland’s Magical Northern Lights tour scheduled for March 2019.

I was asked to look into Mississippi River tours. I contacted American Cruise Lines. They provide river cruises throughout the United States. Here are a couple of examples of their offerings:

(Round trip cruise): New Orleans to New Orleans

8 days – 7 nights

Cost ranges from \$4,000 to \$7,000

Price includes:

All meals, land excursions (some tours are extra), wine and beer at lunch and dinner, cocktail hour daily, tea hour daily, breakfast room service, free hotel room in New Orleans the night prior to the cruise.

(One way cruise): New Orleans to Memphis

8 days – 7 nights

Cost ranges from \$4500 - 7500

Same benefits as round trip

The cruise line will not give us a commission. If we purchase five or more rooms, we may get a discount price.

There were several questions concerning the Mississippi River cruises. Tony said people could go to their web site, American Cruise Lines.com, for more information. Warren Coulter asked if people were interested in having Tony pursue these cruises. Tony said there are a number of cruises offered; so he has to know what people want before he looks into them. He suggested people go the web site to see what they are interested in. Gary Terhune asked if Collette had any cruises like that. Tony didn't think so but he would check.

**Scholarship Loan Program:** Joe DiChiaro presented the following report::

Applications for the coming school year 2018-2019 are available for both new applicants and returning students. I have mailed applications to those currently in school and to 3 new applicants. Of the current students, 2 are graduating this year and 2 will be entering their senior year. Completed applications must be mailed to me to arrive by June 11, 2018. The letter accompanying the application form provides further details.

Once again I would recommend that we restrict the first and second year students to \$2000 per year and increase the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year to \$3000 with the option of \$4000. This will keep out total allocation per student to not more than \$12000 but will make the repayment burden lighter for the first 2 years of repayment. Repayment begins 6 months after graduation with 1/50<sup>th</sup> of the 1<sup>st</sup> loan for 12 months and each succeeding 12 months increased by 1/50<sup>th</sup> of the next loan. The final increase will be the ongoing payment until the loan is paid in full.

Warren Coulter said he read an article recently about students who attend technical schools and who make very good salaries after graduation. Joe said we could start including those schools.

## **BREAK FOR DINNER**

### **Reconvened Meeting at 1946**

**Strategic Initiatives (SIC):** Bruce Avery had no report. Michael McLean asked if the SIC had looked into the issue of moving the Board meetings to lunchtime in the winter months when it gets dark earlier. Bruce replied that they are still looking into it.

**Granite State Warriors Award:** Bruce Avery had no report.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Awards:** Joe DiChiaro presented the following report of the schedule of upcoming awards presentations:

We are now in the JROTC/ROTC awards cycle with the following scheduled ceremonies:

Saturday 7 April Fall Mountain Regional HS Army JROTC having been completed with the presentation by Bernie. (*There were several positive comments on Bernie being in uniform.*)

Friday 27 April is the UNH Army ROTC ceremony at 1000.

Friday 4 May is Nashua High School AFJROTC at Nashua North at 1900.

Sunday 6 May is UNH AFROTC at 0930.

Wednesday 16 May is Dover HS Navy JROTC at 1800.

Saturday 19 May is White Mountain Regional HS Army JROTC at 1200 (noon).

Sunday 20 May is Spaulding HS AFJROTC at 1100 at American Legion Post 7 in Rochester. Bob Jaffin will be the presenter.

Tuesday 22 May is Pinkerton Academy AFJROTC at 1800. I will be the presenter

Wednesday 23 May is Winnicunnet HS Marine Corps JROTC. Carol Moore will be the presenter

Thursday 24 May is Manchester West HS Navy JROTC at 0800. Pete Burdett is the presenter

Thursday 24 May is Salem HS AFJROTC at 1715. I will be the presenter

Monday 28 May is Alvirne HS AFJROTC following the Memorial Day parade. I will present.

If you would like to be a presenter I like to match presenters with the service organization of the JROTC or ROTC unit. If you are a UNH ROTC graduate and especially from either the Army or AF unit that would make it special for the cadets.

We will have commissioning ceremonies for both UNH ROTC units with 24 Army and 8 Air Force new 2 LTs. Those dates have not yet been released

Joe then went on to decry the prices that MOAA is charging for the various items it provides for the awards we present!

**NH Veterans Home:** Joe DiChiaro presented the following report:

In response to Bruce Avery's questioning whether we should contribute anything to the NH Veterans Home until we find out how they spend the money, to say that I was outraged is putting it mildly! I was not at that meeting and we did not meet last month so as the saying goes "Time heals all wounds" but does not wound all heels! From someone who beat the bushes to select as a third Granite State Award recipient a new organization which reportedly has aided 10 veterans his question was put graciously-inane! The Veterans Home has been in existence since 1890 as explained in a handout I am making available to each of you. Perhaps some of you were misled by the error in Roby's e-mail that referred to the NH Vets Home "Recreation" Fund which is in fact the "Residents" Fund which I corrected in a responsive e-mail. That fund is available to pay for personal items that are not provided by either State or Federal funding such as adult diapers and other personal care needs. To even suggest that our contribution is somehow subject to waste and abuse is an insult to the brave residents who bear the scars of war and age, some of whom have no family members available to meet those needs.

You may meet some of these residents at the Memorial Day service at the Veterans Cemetery, or for those who cannot make that trip, the Home has their own observance the day before at the Home. They love to have visitors join them.

**Nominations (Directors & Officers):** Nothing new.

**PAO:** Still looking for one. Sharon Day suggested that the article, that was in the latest *Granite Slate* asking for volunteers to be PAO, be printed on a separate sheet of paper and copies put on the tables at the April luncheon. Warren Coulter thought it was a good idea and he will bring it up at the luncheon.

**Granite Slate:** Marie Chipola not present. Michael McLean brought up the idea of doing another six page newsletter, perhaps in September. He got a quote from the new printers that Roby Day thinks is reasonable. Roby was concerned about the possible additional work involved in filling the two extra pages and getting more “war stories” to put in. Michael contacted Marie and she said she would be happy to work on two extra pages, hoping she does get some stories from chapter members. Michael asked if Warren Coulter could talk up the idea of members sending stories to Marie at the April luncheon. The sense of the Board was to go ahead with the six page issue, that way she can put in more, **larger** pictures of the Clambake.

**Web Communications - FB:** Jon VanGuilder not present.

**SUD (Substance Use Disorders) Committee:** Andrew Breuder reported that the next meeting is next Thursday. He has not received an agenda or minutes from the last meeting. Andrew commented that they have been struggling with the loss of members. There then was a brief discussion of the change in leadership at the national VA.

**Blast Email:** Bruce Avery said he sure would like someone to take it over.

## **LIAISONS:**

**ESGR:** Sandy Way not present. Peter Burdett gave a brief summary of the ESGRs ongoing efforts.

**Transition Liaison:** Jim LeFebvre reported that he and Bancroft McKittrick have decided that Jim will continue as Transition Liaison and Bancroft will serve in some other capacity.

**VAMC Manchester:** Bernie Satterfield related a story concerning a young Army Lieutenant and Bernie’s Regimental Crest. Bernie went on to report that the governor has signed an Executive Order extending his earlier one allowing doctors and PAs at VAMC Manchester to practice at any medical facility in NH. Joe DiChiaro added his comments in support of this initiative.

**Martins Point:** Bob Jaffin not present (Absent due to knee surgery).

**Auxiliary:** Gwen Devoe reported that since January we have had thirteen chapter members’ deaths. She made two phone calls to surviving spouses leaving messages. She brought up the fact that MOAA gives a free one-year membership to surviving spouses but the chapter does not. She wondered whether we might consider that for our chapter. Michael McLean responded that he does not have a feeling one way or the other. Warren Coulter supported this idea. Motion made and seconded to provide a one-year free membership for annual surviving spouses. Motion passed.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**April 21 luncheon:** Warren Coulter said we still have a few items we need to clear up concerning the luncheon. First, we have decided to present the speaker with a MOAA-NH briefcase. Centerpieces are covered. Jim has agreed to do the raffle. Warren brought up the subject as to whether we should present Challenge Coins to these folks (referring to the JROTC and ROTC individuals we present with certificates). No decision was made.

**Still need PAO:** Already talked about.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**New TRICARE Retiree Dental and Vision Plan:** Warren Coulter said that he had sent out a survey to Board members to look over. Warren said there is a new TRICARE Dental and Vision Plan that will be coming into affect this year. People on Delta Dental will have a choice this fall plus a vision plan. COL [Hunt] Kerrigan, who works for the company (Long Term Care (LTC)) involved with the transition, has asked if he could pass out the survey at the April luncheon. Warren thought that the Board should decide whether to allow the survey at the luncheon. Peter Burdett provided a brief background on who Hunt Kerrigan is and some further information on LTC and the various choices available with this new plan. A question was asked as to why this whole transition was necessary. Peter passed around a paper which explains MOAA position on the subject. Warren said there will be a web site that will explain everything. Warren went on to say that people will have to do something because Delta Dental will go away. There was discussion as to whether this survey would be done after the speaker because some luncheons have dragged on due to different people wanting to speak. Warren said we should announce the survey at the beginning so people can fill them out during the luncheon. Further discussion ensued.

**Other New Business:** Joe DiChiaro brought up the subject of the GSWA. He asked whether only one award each year might provide better media coverage. Bruce Avery replied that he would be happy if someone wanted to take it over. Warren Coulter commented that we can discuss the whole concept of the GSWA. Tony Burdo asked if we have a speaker for the spouses' meeting in November. Michael McLean said we are working on it but it will not be Collette!

Michael McLean reported that he submitted our 5 Star LOE input to MOAA in February and received acknowledgement for it. Peter Burdett asked if we submitted an input for MOAA's Communication Award. Michael replied that he did.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will begin at 1830 on Thursday, 10 May 2018 at the Red Blazer in Concord, NH.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2031 hours.

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

(ATTACHMENT)



## **Personal Affairs Report**

### **April 2018**

1. As some members may have noticed, all TRICARE beneficiaries, except Active Duty Service members, now have higher pharmacy copayments as of this past February 1st. You can view the new copayments chart at: <https://tricare.mil/About/Changes/Pharmacy>. There is still no copay for all formulary drugs at military pharmacies.
2. This past December, MOAA conducted a TRICARE health care survey. Here are some high level observations taken from the survey: a) In the last 12 months, 67% of the respondents used TRICARE For Life, 15% used TRICARE Prime, and 12.4% used TRICARE Standard. b) 67.5% received all of their health care through military hospitals, clinics, or some form of TRICARE. c) 59.2% said primary care visits were either always or often available within 7 days. d) 93.9% of respondents indicated they had never postponed a doctor visit due to cost concerns in the past 12 months. e) Respondents were overwhelmingly satisfied with the quality of their health care. Read more about the survey at: <https://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Currently-Serving/Findings-from-MOAA-s-TRICARE-Survey.aspx>.
3. MOAA now offers pet insurance plans to help you afford the best medical care for your family's cat or dog. You can get reimbursed up to 90% on veterinary bills. Read more about this at: <https://www.moainsurance.com/personal-insurance/Pet-Insurance>.
4. As TRICARE Fees increase, MOAA is calling on Leaders to address shortfalls. MOAA is targeting six areas of concern: Customer Service, Referrals and Authorizations, Adequate provider networks, Claims processing, Technology and data support, and Enrollment. Read more at: <https://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Currently-Serving/MOAA-Calls-on-TRICARE-Leaders-to-Address-Shortfalls-After-Massive-Changes.aspx>