

# **NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES 11 April 2019**

**Call to Order:** President Warren Coulter called the meeting to order at 1831 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled followed by the invocation delivered by Warren Coulter.

**Attending:** Avery, Balcom, Breuder, Coulter, J. Day, S. Day, Devoe, Ikstrums, Jaffin, Luti, McLean, Register.

**Opening Remarks:** Warren Coulter welcomed everyone. He commented that we are shy of a number of people who are away at various places. He did say we have a quorum but not by much.

**Immediate Past President Remarks:** Peter Burdett not present. [He is in DC, Storming the Hill with MOAA.]

**Secretary's Report:** Michael McLean began by thanking Doc Breuder for his excellent work in filling in for him last month. Andrew Breuder commented that he did not realize how much work was involved in putting out the minutes! Michael said that he had not received any comments on the March minutes. If no one has any comments, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the March minutes. Motion passed and minutes accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Roby Day said we are still solvent. Roby went on to say that he had been "poking" around the old Treasurer's reports back to 1993. He said that different Treasurers presented the information in different ways and most were fairly sophisticated. He asked if anyone had any Treasury information presented in a different format. Roby went on to say that the nose count for the Common Man Luncheon before this evening was 90. He then said that he and Sharon would not be around for the September Luncheon. Finally Roby said that he was recruited to be the Treasurer in 2012. He looked at past Treasurers and the average tenure was five years. Roby said he has done the job for seven years and after next year he wants to step down. Therefore the Board needs to start looking for a replacement for him. Michael McLean piped up, "What about a Membership Chairman too?" There was some more discussion about the Common Man Luncheon. Warren Coulter asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion made. Motion passed, report accepted.

**Trustees of the Trust Fund:** Andrew Breuder reported that all the investments are starting to come back up after the earlier downturn at the end of last year and the beginning of this year.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**NHNG Conference recruiting table:** Warren Coulter said that Bob Jaffin and Jim Spotts attended the conference on 30 March. He called on Bob to give a report of what went on.

He and Jim had a table but it was only manned during the lunch time. There were only four tables present. They got no business so it was a waste of time. There was further questions and discussion about the Guard and the new KC-46 tanker. Bob added that three of the four Congressional delegations sent a representative. The one that did not was Maggie Hassan.

**Chapter Secretary back up:** Andrew Breuder volunteered to do it as he is now aware of what to expect. Warren Coulter said he believes it will be on an as needed basis. Sharon Day added that she and Michael McLean are working on a flyer about the back-up position that will be put on each table at the April Luncheon.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**27 April luncheon – final details:** Warren Coulter said that as far as he knows everything seems to be on track. Various people went over several details. Bernie Satterfield brought up sending a blast email alerting people to bring can goods for the VAMC food bank.

**Social at Bedford Village Inn:** Bob Jaffin brought up the subject again. He is tentatively looking at December 7<sup>th</sup>, a Saturday night, at the Bedford Village Inn for a cost of \$150/couple. He will bring it up at the April luncheon to determine if there is enough interest.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT):** Peter Burdett not present.

**Personal Affairs:** Russ Register reported that this month's blast email was a bit shorter and only covered two topics on the Personal Affairs report. The two topics covered were **TRICARE Fee Increases** and the **President's FY2020 Budget**. Included in the second topic was a planned reduction in uniformed medical personnel. Andrew Breuder provided further insight into this issue. For further details see the **attached email**.

**Membership:** Prior to his report, Michael McLean gave a brief update on the status of his wife's recovery from her fractured ankle. He then provided the following membership numbers:

New members -	4
Deceased members -	0 (plus 1 w/ spouse)
Dropped members -	22
Current total membership –	688

Of 296 dues letters sent, received 227 payments so far for 76.7%, including 24 on line payments. He dropped 22 people at the end of March. Michael went on to report that he submitted our 2018 LOE input last month and received acknowledgement from MOAA. There was a bit of confusion concerning how MOAA counted total characters – they included spaces; so half of our items were over the limit. However, Michael sorted it out with MOAA.

**Recruiting:** Jim Spotts not present. Michael McLean reported that we had received our annual dump from MOAA last month of people who are members of national in New Hampshire

but not members of the chapter. From the total of 1997 names, he came up with 116 new names, to whom he sent recruiting letters. So far two people have joined the chapter.

**Programs:** Gerry Boyle not present.

**Web Page:** Michael McLean reported that there were 425 hits in March, up from 259 hits in February.

Popular Pages in March:

<u>Hits</u>	<u>Page</u>
28	Membership
27	Odds and Ends
25	Program Notes
22	Hot Items
20	Chapter News
20	Tricare
18	Newsletter
16	Group Travel
4	GSWA
3	Transition Assistance
3	Virtual Store
198	General

Michael mentioned that the article in Fosters about the GSWA presentation to Norman Langlois was posted on the web site. There was a brief discussion about the reporter who wrote the article being interested in doing an article on our chapter.

**Travel Programs:** Tony Burdo not present. Janis Ikstrums presented the following report from Tony:

Four trips for 2020, that do not include the Passion Play, have been negotiated with Collette and can be found on our website.

Three contracts are pending with Collette for 2020.

Currently, we have two reservations for 2019 and ten reservations for 2020.

**Scholarship Loan Program:** Joe DiChiaro not present. He submitted the following report:

I contacted each of the current recipients to let me know if they would be applying for 2019-2020 and have replies from all but one. Also contacted the two who are seniors this year to let me know the graduation date, final GPA for determining whether they will receive a discount for high GPA in any years. Also the graduation date triggers the start of repayment 6 months thereafter unless they will be starting Graduate school which will allow the payments to be deferred until that is completed.

I have one new request for a grandchild and checked to determine the age of the sponsor - 80. Recall my concern mentioned last month that grandparents who co-sign may not be able to actually pay if the student defaults. More than half of our current payments are being made by either parents or grandparents. With the large student debt that prevails, our interest free loan does not have a high priority for the student and rightly so the interest laden loans will be paid first. I will prepare a proposal for the next annual meeting and run it by our committee and the Board beforehand. I am thinking it is time

to shift to an actual "Scholarship" rather than "scholarship loan" and actually consider qualification for renewal based upon grades rather than longevity.

**Strategic Initiatives (SIC):** Bruce Avery had nothing to report.

**Granite State Warriors Award:** Bruce Avery had nothing to report.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Awards:** Joe DiChiaro not present. He submitted the following report:

This is my big priority right now. I have the following dates for Awards for JROTC and both Awards and Commissioning for UNH ROTC units. Bernie did a magnificent job representing MOAA-NH at Fall Mountain Regional HS Army JROTC and provided pictures which will go well for publicity for the program. I try to match the presenter with the branch of the JROTC or ROTC unit. We have 2 Army JROTC units the next one is White Mountain Regional HS but Bernie cannot make that my wife and will go but would like to have an Army type along to experience the protocol so as to be able to go solo when Bernie is not available. There are 2 Navy units Dover and Manchester West. The remaining 6 are all AFJROTC.

Here is the schedule:

April 17 Dover HS NJROTC at 1800 at the school

May 3 UNH Army ROTC Awards 1000

Nashua AFJROTC 1900 at Nashua North HS

May 4 UNH AFROTC Awards 1000

May 10 UNH Army ROTC commissioning at satellite campus U.of So. ME

May 16 UNH Army ROTC commissioning

May 17 UNH AFROTC commissioining at Pease ANG Base 1000

Salem AFJROTC 1715 social hour 1800 Awards

May 18 White Mountain Regional HS Army JROTC noon

May 19 Spaulding HS AFJROTC at the new HS Auditorium ( don't have the time yet)

May 22 Winnacunnet HS Marine Corps JROTC 1800 (Carol Moore usually does this if available)

May 23 Manchester West NJROTC 0830

May 27? Alvirne HS AFJROTC usually after town Memorial Day parade but may change

May 28 Pinkerton Academy AFJROTC 1800 (this is my home town unit with a program that lasts 3 hours -I do it.)

Bernie Satterfield commented about his experience presenting at Fall Mountain Regional HS Army JROTC ceremony. He had forwarded a few photos from the event and several people present complimented him on his uniform. Andrew Breuder mentioned that he has volunteered to cover two of the upcoming presentations.

**NH Veterans Home:** Joe DiChiaro not present. He submitted the following report:

We are back on schedule after multiple shut downs for the Flu. Did the Chapel Service today and interestingly one of the ladies who is in the Alzheimer unit asked me after the service if I preached in Manchester. She remembered my voice from radio!

**Nominations (Directors & Officers):** Sharon reported that Tony Burdo can not serve another term (he is on his second) but that he has agreed to continue as the Travel Programs coordinator. She then went on to mention the other people who are available to continue as Directors. Warren Coulter mentioned that Bob Jaffin will be standing for President and Jim LeFebvre will stand for Vice President.

**PAO:** Kent Whitman was not present. Michael McLean said he submitted a no report and said that he plans to attend the April Luncheon.

**Granite Slate:** Marie Chipola not present. Warren Coulter said he is planning on asking the members for “war stories” at the April Luncheon.

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

**Joint Military Task Force (SUD committee):** Andrew Breuder reported that the next meeting is on April 18<sup>th</sup>. He mentioned the letter he had discussed last month and said that it had finally been signed by Mr. Patrick Tufts, the chairman of the Governor’s commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Prevention and Treatment. Andrew also mentioned that there a function on Saturday for the NH National Guard, a service member and family support symposium to be held at the Holiday Inn in Portsmouth. Andrew will attend the meeting as a representative of MOAA.

**Blast Email:** Geoff Corson not present. He submitted the following report:

Below is latest recipient report as extracted from iCONTACT. We are averaging 3 blast e-mails per month (this month is below average), reaching approximately 50% of members. Note iCONTACT explanation of their category of “NO INFO” which may indicate a higher rate of “OPENS” than what is reflected.

Please let me know:

- if there are additional e-mails that you want released on a regular basis;
- if there are still subscribers who are not being reached who want to be reached;
- if there are additional errors in content;
- if there are other comments/suggestions as warranted
- if there are members who have declined future membership, moved out of the area or died.

I continue to reconcile new/bad/changed e-mail addresses in the iCONTACT database and those who have left the chapter or passed away.

BLAST E-MAIL SUBJECT	DATE SENT	NUMBER SENT TO	NUMBER OPENED % (# opened)	NO INFO * % (# NO INFO)	BOUNCES/ UNSUBSCRIBES	MANNER OF OPENINGS: BY COMPUTER	MANNER OF OPENINGS: BY SMART PHONE	MANNER OF OPENINGS: BY TABLET

April 2019 Personal Affairs Report	4/4	312	40.7% (127)	59% (184)	1 BOUNCE/0 UNSUBSCRIBE	47% (60)	34% (43)	19% (24)
MOAA-NH Spring Meeting 27 April 2019	3/28	314	50.6% (159)	48.7% (153)	2 BOUNCES/1 UNSUBSCRIBE	54% (86)	27% (43)	19% (30)

\***NO INFO**: The number of contacts who neither registered a “Bounce” nor an “Open.”  
 Note: Some of these contacts might have opened your email. However, they will appear as “No Info” instead of “Opens” if they have images disabled in their email client or have not clicked a link in the HTML version of the email.

## **LIAISONS:**

**ESGR:** Sandy Way not present. Peter Burdett not present.

**Transition Liaison:** Jim LeFebvre not present.

**VAMC Manchester:** Bernie Satterfield submitted the following report:

- Wait time for appointments: New primary care 14 days, current Veteran 8 days. All other clinics under 30 days with mental health at 20 days.
- Parking: Shorting term temp parking start mid-APR at McIntyre Ski Area. Long term parking to start in JUL both with shuttle service. Allow for appointment times. Manchester VAMC is 4th on the VA's list of parking garage projects. Expect approval with this high ranking with 350 parking spaces.
- WiFi: Start end of APR.
- Free coffee is available in the Primary Care waiting area.
- Monthly Whole Health Program(s): Open to family members. Most programs do not require service connected rating. Info and calendar found at: [https://www.manchester.va.gov/services/Whole\\_Health\\_Center.asp](https://www.manchester.va.gov/services/Whole_Health_Center.asp)
- Nuclear medicine update: Received new SPECT/CT.
- VA SECDEF visiting end of APR.
- 13 APR 1000 VAMC Easter Egg Hunt.
- 22 APR VAMC Earth Day: community trash pickup.
- 19 MAY 0730 VAMC sponsored Honor Flight at MHT.
- 15 MAY 1130 VA2K walk & roll.
- 27 MAY Memorial Day observed at VAMC.

## **BREAK FOR DINNER**

### **Reconvened Meeting at 1946**

**Martins Point:** Bob Jaffin had nothing to report. He said that there was a meeting coming up in the next few weeks.

**Auxiliary:** Gwen Devoe reported that since the last meeting, she has been notified of one death. She had tried to call several people without success.

**Last Minute Items:** Bill Luti asked if anyone had received any responses from our Congressional delegation to the letter we sent out concerning TRICARE fee increases. Bill said he knew of only one from Sen. Hassan and that was an embarrassment. Bill asked whether we respond to her asking for a commitment in writing concerning no TRICARE For Life (TFL) and/or write to the other delegation saying that we are disappointed that they did not respond to our letter and ask for a commitment in writing. According to MOAA, the 2020 Defense Health Agency (DHA) budget does not have any further TRICARE increases. Bill recommends that he check with MOAA to see if they think Congress might bring up the increases. He said at least we should send letters to the three that did not reply expressing our disappointment. There was further discussion on this subject.

Betty Breuder reminded everyone about a dinner at the Executive Court Banquet Court facility in Manchester on 1 May 2019 to benefit a new shelter home for homeless pregnant women called St. Gianna's Place, which will open in Hudson, NH in a few months.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will begin at 1830 on Thursday, 9 May 2019 at the Red Blazer in Concord, NH.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1957 hours.

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

Attachment



## APRIL 2019 PERSONAL AFFAIRS REPORT

**TRICARE Fee Increases.** National defense bills in fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2015 increased TRICARE fees by 16 percent. In addition to these fee increases, in 2018 DoD unilaterally changed the TRICARE fee structure. Unexpected increases in TRICARE fees spanned almost every beneficiary category with retirees under age 65 affected the most. Please support MOAA National's request that you mail in the pre-printed post cards on the back cover of your Military Officer Magazine to your Legislators in Congress.

**President's FY2020 Budget.** The president's annual budget submission plans reductions in military medical positions. The good news is there will be no new changes to the existing TRICARE fee structure. However, the disturbing news is a planned, significant reduction in uniformed medical personnel. The 22 percent personnel reductions would happen starting 1 October 2019. For further information go to:

<https://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/News-Articles/2019-News-Articles/Advocacy/President-s-Budget-Confirms-Plans-for-Drastic-Reduction-in-Military-Medical-Positions.aspx>.