

NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES 8 February 2018

Call to Order: President Warren Coulter called the meeting to order at 1826 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled followed by the invocation delivered by Michael McLean, who read a grace from a book, *Prayers At Sea*, which was given to him by his father when Michael was commissioned an Ensign. It was well received by all present.

Attending: Avery, Balcom, Boyle, Breuder, Burdett (arrived late), Coulter, Ikstrums, Jaffin, LeFebvre, Luti, McLean, Register. A quorum was present for the meeting.

Opening Remarks: Warren Coulter welcomed everyone and announced that we did have a quorum. Prior to beginning the meeting, he read a note from Camp Resilience thanking the chapter for receiving their Granite State Warriors Award at the January luncheon.

Immediate Past President Remarks: Peter Burdett not present at that time.

Secretary's Report: Michael McLean reported that he received several corrections/clarifications to the January minutes from Joe DiChiaro. Michael explained that he tried to accurately record Joe's remarks, but unfortunately Joe speaks so quietly that Michael did not transcribe Joe's comments as correctly as Joe wished. Joe's corrections are as follows:

The \$10 payment for ROTC new LT was for one commissioned Dec.2016. National is a little slow as you know so we won't see any of the 2017s for awhile.

The incident that gave rise to removing SVAC liaison to VAMC was he called the Governor's representative a liar when she reported that the City of Manchester had responded to the Governor's query as to the need for shelter for homeless during the cold spell. Howie had reported that Rochester had opened the Armory and questioned why the Governor did not make all armories available. Protocol requires the individual communities to make the request if they cannot meet the need.

As to the Scholarship report I suggested that since some colleges and universities are now going to increase tuition for Junior and Senior years for those in STEM majors recognizing that they will have greater earning power out of the gate, that we consider lowering the loans for the first 2 years and increasing for the last 2. This also would ease the repayment burden initially for the graduates.

If no one had any further comments, Michael asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the January minutes. Motion passed and minutes accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Roby Day not present. Warren Coulter commented that Roby was still working on the report for the January luncheon. Bruce Avery added that Roby does not have the bill for the plaques yet. There was a question of a \$75.00 credit. Michael McLean thought that it

was a deposit from MOAA, perhaps for membership payments. Michael believes Roby is still sorting that out. Bruce Avery brought up that USAA is offering to subsidize a luncheon or event again this year. We need to pick a luncheon and submit a request to MOAA for the money. Bruce recommended we choose the next luncheon in April and he will submit the form to MOAA. Michael reminded everyone that we said we were going to do a 50/50 raffle at the April luncheon. He added that he believes that Terry Bobseine is planning on attending and would be in charge of the raffle. Warren said that, as we don't have a Treasurer's Report, we don't have anything to approve.

Trustees of the Trust Fund: Andrew Breuder reported that he has nothing to report as he has not seen the Treasurer's Report as well. However, with the current "correction" in the stock market, he was hesitant to guess how our investments have fared. Warren Coulter opined that when the market goes down dramatically, it usually rebounds just as dramatically.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Personal Affairs: Russ Register covered the contents of the monthly Personal Affairs blast email to include the AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) Bulletin webpage which has some articles concerning scams which target veterans. Here are two articles of interest. The first article is titled "8 Scams That Take Aim at veterans"

<https://blog.aarp.org/2015/11/06/veteransdayscams/>

The second article is titled "Scams Targeting Veterans"

https://action.aarp.org/site/SPageNavigator/FWN_OperationProtectVeterans.html?CMP=RD RCT-CSN-FRAUD-091117.

Membership: Michael McLean presented the following membership numbers:

New members - 1

Deceased members - 3

Dropped members - 2

Current total membership – 714

Bruce Avery asked if the Sig Sauer rep at the January luncheon had joined. Michael replied that he had not. Michael reported that of the 299 dues letters he sent out in January, he has received 144 payments so far for 48.2%. That includes 20 who paid online at MOAA.

Recruiting: Jim Spotts not present. Michael McLean had a comment on recruiting. Jim talked with Michael at the January luncheon and asked if we had any reciprocal agreements with other veteran organizations in the state to exchange membership information with the idea of recruiting from those organizations. I said we don't now and don't know if there are any legal impediments. The consensus of the Board was that it is not a good idea.

Programs: Gerry Boyle reported that the January luncheon went very well and congratulated those in charge of running it. He mentioned the next luncheon in April.

Web Page: Michael McLean reported that there were 468 hits in January, up dramatically from 158 in December. Popular Pages in January:

<u>Hits</u>	<u>Page</u>
86	Program Notes
38	Membership
34	Odds and Ends
14	Chapter News
13	Group Travel
6	Newsletter
3	Transition Assistance
1	Virtual Store
1	UNK
238	General

Travel Programs: Tony Burdo not present. Janis Ikstrums presented the following report on behalf of Tony:

Eight passengers booked for the Danube River Cruise & passion play in 2020.

Two passengers booked for the Discover Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria & the passion play in 2020.

Six additional people showed interest in trips with the passion play in 2020 but have not reserved to date.

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

I met with our Collette Regional Manager and developed our 2019 travel program. They include Iceland Fire and Ice on 21 March 2019, Canyon Country in October, London and Paris in May, Magical Christmas Markets in Germany and Austria in early December, Alaska Discovery Land and Cruise in July and Magnificent Cities of Central and Eastern Europe in late August or early September.

Except for Iceland, specific dates and brochures will not be available until this June.

Our travel website has been brought up to date thanks to the help of Michael.

In coordination with Bruce Avery, blast email messages will be sent to members with email addresses. They will feature two or three of our program trips per month.

For our 2019 program, our Regional Manager, Matt, also suggested sending post cards to members without email addresses. Collette will split the cost of postage with us. If the board is interested, I will get all the details from Matt and present it to the board for approval. (I would like the board's position tonight). Even though we advertise our trips on our web site, we do not get many hits each month.

When and if the board agrees, our Regional Manager has agreed to present our 2019 and 2020 travel programs to the spouses and guests at our annual meeting.

There was discussion concerning sending out the post cards. Jim LeFebvre asked how many members don't have emails. Bruce Avery said, of the 714 current members, the last "blast email" was sent to 303. Bob Jaffin injected a comment into the discussion that he had heard a fair

amount of interest in a Mississippi River cruise. He asked if someone could approach Collette to see if there are any cruises offered. Janis said he would bring it up with Tony. He also commented that there are Columbia River cruises as well. There was further discussion on various upcoming trips. Getting back to the issue of the post cards, Warren Coulter said we need more information so would Janis get back to Tony for more details.

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

I have suggested reapportioning the Scholarships from offering \$2000 or \$3000 (although some years we had so many we only offered the \$2000) to only offer the \$2000 for the first 2 years and offer as much as \$4000 for the final 2 years which would add up to the same \$12000 maximum but lighten the repayment burden for the first 2 years when many are having difficulty getting started earning money. I have 2 new applicants for the coming school year that we will be considering.

Michael McLean brought up the chapter by-laws that say that the Board of Directors determines the amount of the loans. The Scholarship Loan Committee determines how the money is distributed. Discussion followed. It was decided to table the proposal until Joe is present. It was asked when the deadline for applications is. Michael responded that he believes the deadline is in June with the selection meeting in late June or July.

Strategic Initiatives (SIC): Bruce Avery brought up the question, raised by Jim LeFebvre, of doing away with the November Board meeting around the Annual meeting Board meeting. Bruce said that the SIC looked at the question and found there is nothing in the by-laws that requires a meeting. Bruce opined that attendance at the November annual meeting Board meeting has been marginal and attendance at the December Board meeting has not been great. Bruce recommended we give the idea a try on a trial basis. Warren Coulter brought up that the weather in January is marginal so it could be three months without a Board meeting. Michael McLean brought up that, except for the Board meeting after the Annual meeting which is only to elect the officers, the other Board meetings cover additional subjects beyond that. Michael said he is not opposed to doing away with the December Board meeting. Jim LeFebvre brought up the reason for his recommendation was that some people have to travel a distance to attend the chapter meetings and having to travel to two meetings within a week can be a hardship. Jim went on to suggest that the January Board meeting could be held an hour before the January luncheon. Michael McLean brought up the idea of moving the Board meetings to lunchtime - that way there is less a problem with people having to drive at night. He suggested that this was something for the SIC to look at.

Granite State Warriors Award: Bruce Avery said that he thought the luncheon went very well. The three recipients were very appreciative. Bruce received an email from Morrissey [Camp Resilience] asking whether they could put an insert in our next newsletter to give more visibility to Camp Resilience. Bruce pointed out to him the problems involved in putting an insert in our newsletter. Bruce thought perhaps they could pass out something at a luncheon like the Clambake or address the Board at a meeting. Jim LeFebvre brought up the subject of the Retiree Days held throughout New England. Bob Jaffin pointed out that these Retiree Days are held in different states (ME, VT & NH). A discussion of what goes on at these events followed. Hanscom's Retiree event was brought up. Warren Coulter recommended that we get

Jim Spotts involved in this discussion of Retiree Days as it is a recruiting function. Bruce said he still needs to get back to Morrissey with an answer. Bruce recommended that he invite Morrissey to a Board meeting to present his case.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Awards: Joe DiChiaro not present. His inputs were the corrections to the January Board meeting minutes.

NH Veterans Home: Joe DiChiaro not present. He reported in an email that the Veterans Home was in lock-down for two weeks due to a flu outbreak so his usual visits have been cancelled.

Nominations (Directors & Officers): Nothing new.

PAO: Still looking for one. Michael McLean commented that we should hire whoever did the Sig Sauer article in the *Portsmouth Herald*. Bruce Avery added that they have a New York advertizing firm that does their public affairs. Bruce went on to say the lack of media coverage of the luncheon really annoyed him. He had reached out to several media. Bob Jaffin asked if we have ever reached out to media companies in New Hampshire to see if they would do any pro bono work. Bob said he is willing to pursue this avenue.

Granite Slate: Marie Chipola not present.

Web Communications - FB: Jon VanGuilder not present.

SUD (Substance Use Disorders) Committee: Andrew Breuder gave a brief overview of what SUD does.

Blast Email: Bruce Avery said it gets tougher every month. He said he needs help. Michael McLean said he got a email survey from Allegra [Printing] in which he checked the box concerning interest is email marketing. Michael said he could contact them to get more information. Bruce said the issue would be cost – they aren't going to do it for free.

BREAK FOR DINNER

Peter Burdett arrived.

Reconvened Meeting at 1940

Immediate Past President Remarks (Revisited): Peter apologized for being late. He said he was at a Veterans Count event.

Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT/Vets Count)(Revisited): Peter Burdett reported that he had been traveling but made it home in time to attend the SVAC meeting on Tuesday. He provided a detailed summary of the meeting. Among the topics he covered were the disruption at the January meeting, a speech by Bill Gaudreau, head of the State

Office of Veteran Services in Manchester, the election/appointment of a Treasurer for the SVAC, the Director of the VAMC Manchester briefing on the status of the VAMC, the status HB 636 (Bill Luti added that he said the Governor wants a Commissioner.), the status of other legislative bills pending. The next meeting of the SVAC will be at the Veterans Home. Peter Burdett then discussed the lunch he had with Fred Bavante (sp?) who is advocating for ED² (Educational Driven Economic Development) to provide 10,000 mentors to help high school students end up in employable positions. Peter went into the subject at great length to include discussion of his role as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army.

LIAISONS:

ESGR: Sandy Way not present.

Transition Liaison: Jim LeFebvre reported that he is working on getting authorization to update some of the information on our web site.

VAMC Manchester: Bernie Satterfield not present. Warren Coulter complimented Bernie on the emails that Bernie sends out, almost daily. Warren feels that he is up to speed on the VAMC based on Bernie' emails. Peter Burdett brought up that the SVAC is looking for a liaison to the SVAC on VA items. He has not discussed it with Bernie but Peter feels that Bernie would make an excellent liaison. Peter will call Bernie.

Martins Point: Bob Jaffin had nothing to report as they haven't had a meeting in a while.

Auxiliary: Gwen Devoe not present.

OLD BUSINESS:

Meeting scheduling: Warren Coulter said we have already talked about it.

Veterans organization contributions for 2018: Warren Coulter said we have about \$600 available for contributions from the 50/50 raffles. Warren said we gave money to two or three organizations last year, and asked what we should do this year. Warren proposed that we split the money between two of this year's GSWA recipients – DV Farm and Camp Resilience. Faith McLean asked about Liberty House. It was brought up that we had given them clothing and food items in the past. Bob Jaffin brought up that we have given money to the Veterans Home in years past. Jim LeFebvre added that he didn't think we should stop doing it either. Jim went on to suggest that when we do the 50/50 raffle, we specify where the money will go. Bob suggested that we give a percentage each year to the Veterans Home and a percentage to the GSWA non-profit recipients. Bruce Avery brought up that before we devote money to the Veteran Home, we are clear what the money will be used for. A short discussion ensued. A motion was made to table discussion until the May Board meeting. Motion made and seconded. Motion passed.

National Planning for regional convention: Peter Burdett said that he has not received any positive response from MOAA national. Peter said he will bring it up when he is down there

in April. He does not think anything will happen this year, perhaps next year. Bob Jaffin said he is still willing to push national for a commitment.

Still need PAO: Nothing new.

NEW BUSINESS:

Storming the Hill in April: Warren Coulter said that Peter Burdett will be our rep.

5-Star LOE inputs: Michael McLean asked Peter Burdett if he would call national to find out why they have restricted the space available for our input. Michael wondered if the space restriction was because national didn't want to read lengthy inputs. Michael went on to comment that they even specify the font size of the inputs. Michael asked if there is any flexibility from national.

Other New Business: Warren Coulter commented that the next meeting on 8 March is his Birthday. Peter Burdett added that he will be driving home from the CASA Conference and will not be in attendance.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will begin at 1830 on Thursday, 8 March 2018 at the Red Blazer in Concord, NH.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2023 hours.

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