

# NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES 14 February 2019

**Call to Order:** President Warren Coulter called the meeting to order at 1830 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled followed by the invocation delivered by Bancroft McKittrick.

**Attending:** Avery, Balcom, Boyle, Breuder, Burdett, Burdo, Coulter, J. Day, S. Day, Ikstrums, LeFebvre, Luti, McKittrick, McLean, Register, Spotts, Whitman. A quorum was present for the meeting.

**Opening Remarks:** Warren Coulter welcomed everyone and commented that we are only missing one Board member this evening. He then called on Peter Burdett.

**Immediate Past President Remarks:** Peter Burdett rose to make his remarks. He began by announcing that the Paul Revere Chapter in MA has invited us to attend their luncheon on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March where the speaker is a staff person from MOAA. Peter then mentioned that “Storming the Hill” is April 10<sup>th</sup> this year so if anyone has anything they want to say to our Congressional delegation, let Peter know. He continued with a handout that he passed out from USAA on “10 Reasons To Hire A Veteran”. He then asked if anyone knows when the (USN) Admiral’s selection Board is because CAPT Hunt (PNSY Commander) is up for selection. Peter announced that he has been voted to be the Vice Chair of the Executive Committee for Easter Seals Veterans Count. He then mentioned that Community Base Military Programs is now putting out a highlights page. He said there are a series of briefings around the state on the new Executive Order that makes the TAG overall in charge of veterans affairs. Peter continued his remarks by talking about the upcoming Monarch’s hockey game to honor approximately 100 new enlistees. He then went on to comment that recruiters should be at the various high schools pointing out the large financial benefits of enlisting in the military.

**Secretary’s Report:** Michael McLean reaffirmed that we do have a quorum. He said he received a spelling correction to the January minutes. If no one has any further comments, he 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 asked if people wanted the long version or the short version. There was a cry of “short version”. He said we are still solvent. Roby went on to say that we ended up in the negative for the January luncheon. This could be attributed to paying for four guest meals vice the normal two and that the Portsmouth C. C. charged us for desert. Roby said the last item is the IRS Form 990 that is ready for signature. Motion made to accept the Treasurer’s Report and seconded. Motion passed, report accepted.

**Trustees of the Trust Fund:** Andrew Breuder reported that the downturn from last month has turned around.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**January Luncheon Critique:** Bruce Avery had a few remarks (not positive) to make about Sen. Hassan. Roby Day pointed out that the winner of the free luncheon drawing was the CEO of HALO Maritime. Michael McLean asked why the GSWA plaque was acrylic rather than the wooden ones in the past. Bruce replied that he was tired of fighting with the bureaucracy at the state prison. Sharon asked about presenting the award to Langlois who could not be at the luncheon. Warren said that Gary Terhune was working on presenting the award to him at the rehab facility where he resides in Dover on March 6th.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Other New Business?:** Michael McLean brought up that it is time to start thinking about the 5 Star Level of Excellence (LOE) Award submission. He doesn't know when the deadline is but last year was May 1<sup>st</sup>. Once Michael finds out if they have changed the format, etc., he plans on sending out last year's submission to look over and make an input. He hopes to get inputs by the Board meeting in February.

**Tricare for Life – letter?:** Warren Coulter said that Bill Luti has put together a letter on the subject. Warren has read it and likes it. Bill has run the letter by national and they like it. Bill Luti explained the purpose of the letter. He said that we need to be more proactive in lobbying our Congressional delegation. He had passed out a letter he received from Rep. Kuster indicating that it was just “boilerplate”, but at least she responded. Bill said the idea of the letter is to have all the Board members sign a sheet with their name, rank and where they live to demonstrate that we are spread out throughout the state. He went on to read the email he received from MOAA national concerning the letter – it contained high praise for the work of our chapter. He then went through several slides he got from MOAA to show the data he used in the letter. That led to a discussion of the information he presented. Bill said we want to get a commitment from our delegation to support our position on Tricare for Life (TFL), but we will have to see what kind of response we get. He said we may have to send a follow-up letter and perhaps consider writing letters to the editors of newspapers calling out our delegation. Peter Burdett said that he is attending “Storming the Hill” on April 10<sup>th</sup> and can carry copies of the letter to present in person to our delegation. Bill went on to talk about the DoD and Congress trying to save money however they can and especially on the backs of veterans.

**MOAA Recruiting Award - \$410:** Warren Coulter answered an earlier question from Bancroft McKittrick by saying that we received \$410 for recruiting as well as \$100 for Independent Chapter Award. He thanked Jim Spotts and his recruiting team for their hard work.

Warren Coulter then pointed out that most positions have a back-up; however we do not have a back-up for Michael McLean as Recording Secretary. With Michael's personal concerns for his wife, Warren said we need a back-up in case Michael doesn't show up for a meeting. Sharon Day brought up the point whether the back-up needs to be a chapter member or could that person be

a spouse. Michael replied that he did not see any restriction to a spouse filling in as back-up. Roby Day suggested that perhaps we should run an advert in the newsletter for a back-up.

Warren Coulter mentioned scams on the internet. Warren said that Peter Burdett received an email asking for money. There was a short discussion on the subject with Warren cautioning everyone to be careful.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT):** Peter Burdett began his report by mentioning the “Blue Water” issue which is a Navy thing about Agent Orange in the waters around Viet Nam. Peter then mentioned that a week ago he went to a New England CASA meeting to discuss upcoming Army events. Boston Marathon Week has been designated as Army Week in Boston. Peter brought up at the meeting the subject of the New Hampshire Community Veterans Engagement Board of which he had no knowledge before. It consists of a “bunch” of individuals who get together to engage the VA with the community. Peter volunteered to be part of that. This board is in all fifty states. Peter then went on to mention a center for veterans at North Eastern University in Boston among other subjects. He finally mentioned the SVAC and the meeting on 5 February. He touched on various bills in the New Hampshire legislature. He went on to cover several additional topics including the status of Annie Kuster’s committee assignment and a conversation with Chris Pappas.

## **BREAK FOR DINNER**

### **Reconvened Meeting at 2012**

Before we continued with the Committee Reports, Warren Coulter gave the floor to Jim LeFebvre to talk about the June Luncheon. Jim began by saying he was prepared to sign a contract with the White Mountain Hotel pending the Boards approval of the contract. He went on to discuss the items on the contract. The price is \$25.00 all inclusive. Jim recommended that we charge \$30.00 to make some profit to cover other luncheons in the year. He said that this is the best option as the other venues in the area are not viable. Roby Day asked whether they will set aside rooms for us for that weekend. Jim replied that they have five rooms set aside for Friday night. The deadline for reserving rooms is May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Roby recommended charging \$29.00 as \$30.00 is too high psychologically. Jim pointed out that the maximum capacity of the dinning room is 100. He then mentioned the deadline dates. Michael McLean pointed out to Jim that he would have to do the flyer for the luncheon. Jim replied that he had no flyers available. Michael said he would send Jim a sample to work with. There was further discussion on some of the details concerning the luncheon. Warren Coulter told Jim to go ahead.

**Personal Affairs:** Russ Register reported that the monthly blast email covered three topics on this month’s Personal Affairs report – Tax Seasons Scams, Changes to TRICARE Pharmacy Benefits, and Advocacy Support. He then went into detail on each of the items. **(Read the attached email)** There was further discussion on the costs of Prescription drugs these days.

**Membership:** Michael McLean presented the following membership numbers:

New members - 2  
Deceased members - 2 (plus 1 w/ spouse)  
Dropped members - 1  
Current total membership – 706

Of 296 dues letters sent, received 188 payments so far for 63.5%, including 13 on line payments. Michael passed out sheets with statistical information about the membership as 12 Dec 18.

**Recruiting:** Jim Spotts reported that so far we have a tie for recruiter of the quarter between Bancroft McKittrick and Russ Register. Jim said we have one prospective for the next luncheon. Jim went on to say that he is working with Joe Daley to try to find a trailer for the Clambake equipment. Jim commented that we are a bit up on LinkedIn.

**Programs:** Gerry Boyle reported On the next couple of upcoming luncheons. He said that the TAG will speak at the April luncheon. He said that he also has General Dave Perkins lined up for June.

**Web Page:** Michael McLean reported that there were 532 hits in January, up from 298 hits in December.

Popular Pages in January:

**Hits Page**

69	Program Notes
57	Membership
33	Odds and Ends
25	Chapter News
20	Tricare
14	GSWA
11	Transition Assistance
10	Newsletter
5	Group Travel
5	Virtual Store
4	UNK
112	General

Michael said that he submitted the chapter's web site for MOAA's Communications Award competition. He went on to say that he has still not yet received the format or filing requirements for the 5-Star LOE submission.

**Travel Programs:** Tony Burdo reported that we have six new 2020 trips scheduled and six for 2019 in effect. He is trying to split them up among regions. Tony asked if anyone knew of another organization, such as military or church group that could partner with us to get more interest in our programs. Tony submitted the following written report:

The 2020 travel program has been finalized with Collette. The following trips are planned:  
Memorials of World War II, 15-24 April, 2020, 10 days, \$4349 with air from Logan  
Spotlight on the French Riviera, 18-26 April, 2020, 9 days, \$3399 with air from Logan  
Classic Danube River Cruise with Oberammergau Passion Play, 7-16 June 2020, or  
30 August – 13 September, 2020, 10 days, 22 meals, \$6499 with air

- \* Treasures of Europe, September 2020, 12 days, approximate cost \$4499 with air
- \* Mackinac Island, August 2020, 8 days, approximate cost \$3399 with air
- \* Heritage of America, October 2020, 10 days, approximate cost \$3600 with air
- \* Maritimes Coastal Wonders (Canada), 11 days, approximate cost \$3999 with air
- \* Spotlight on the French Riviera, 7 days, approximate cost \$3399 with air
- \* Brochures not yet received

The following trips are available that include the Passion Play. Contact me if anyone is interested:

- Exploring the Alpine Countries, Austria-Germany-Switzerland
- Imperial Cities
- Germany's Cultural Cities and the Romantic Road
- Discover Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria

To date, we have no reservations for 2019 but we do have 10 reservations for 2020.

**Scholarship Loan Program:** Joe DiChiaro not present. He reported that there is nothing happening on the scholarship front.

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

**Granite State Warriors Award:** Bruce Avery reported that they are in the process of "cleaning up" the list of prospective candidates. Bruce repeated his request that if people hear of a worthy organization or individual to let him know.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Awards:** Joe DiChiaro not present. He reported that our first JROTC awards ceremony will be April 6th at Fall Mountain Regional High School.

**NH Veterans Home:** Joe DiChiaro not present. He reported that the Veterans Home is again shut down for visitors and volunteers until at least the 24th due to flu. He was lucky enough to be able to do the 1st Tuesday service and visit before the latest shutdown.

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

**PAO:** Kent Whitman thanked Geoff Corson for sending out the press release on the January luncheon as Kent was under the weather. Kent said he is planning on contacting the people he sends the press releases to in order to establish a rapport.

**Granite Slate:** Marie Chipola not present. Michael McLean commented that she is starting to work on the March issue.

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

**SUD (Substance Use Disorders) Committee:** Andrew Breuder reported that nothing has happened since his last report last month. The next meeting is scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup>. There was discussion about reports that the VA was closing down to move some functions elsewhere. Andrew replied that it was just some admin functions.

**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, 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

With the help of Michael, I continue to reconcile new/bad/changed e-mail addresses in the iCONTACT database.

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
February 2019 Personal Affairs Report	2/8	305	47.2% (144)	52.1% (159)*	2 BOUNCES/0 UNSUBSCRIBES	48% (70)	30% (44)	21% (30)
Annual Granite State Warriors Award Luncheon	1/29	306	46.1% (141)	52.9% (162)*	3 BOUNCES/1 UNSUBSCRIBES	59% (83)	29% (41)	12% (17)
CBO suggests raising Tricare fees, cutting Vet Benefits to slash deficit	1/23	308	46.8% (144)	52.3% (161)*	3 BOUNCES/1 UNSUBSCRIBES	50% (72)	29% (42)	21% (30)
MOAA-NH Travel Trips of the Month	1/9	309	38.5% (119)	60.8% (189)*	2 BOUNCES/0 UNSUBSCRIBES	40% (47)	30% (36)	30% (36)

\***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 said they are out there trying to find ways to connect veterans to jobs.

**Transition Liaison:** Jim LeFebvre reported that he has established contact with the general manager at a public channel in North Conway and they are going to start a program call “Veterans Corner” once a month starting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March. Jim will bring in a veterans rep from the veterans center in Berlin. Jim also commented on the age numbers on the handout Michael McLean had passed out – we are getting older.

**VAMC Manchester:** Bernie Satterfield not present. He presented the following report:

1. VAMC occupation space in the Brady Sullivan Building (BSB).

Primary space will be used for non Veteran care: Administrative staff is being relocated from the medical center to further expand clinical space. These services include: Human Resources; Fiscal Department; Call Center; Home Based Primary Care; Sections of the Business Office and System Redesign. Additionally Veteran's care for the BSB will include: Homeless Team, (Substance Abuse Disorder) SUD, Veteran Service Organizations, Veterans Justice Program, Yoga Therapy and a Veterans Gym.

2. Also to report is the VAMC will be leasing an off campus parking lot to start some time the end of February. Shuttle service be will provided to and from the medical center. Just relocating the VAMC staff employees will improve the parking strain at the medical center.

Sharon Day brought up the email Bernie sent out concerning a blurb in the April Luncheon flyer about people bringing can goods to donate to the VAMC food bank. Roby Day brought up the question of whether there will be a 50/50 Raffle at the luncheon. Warren Coulter mentioned that he had talked with Terry Bobseine who said she would be willing to do it. There followed a brief discussion about the raffle in general.

**Martins Point:** Bob Jaffin not present. Peter Burdett said that he spoke with Bob who said that new chapter member Brenda Pennels from Martins Points is planning to speak at the April Luncheon. Peter then went on to say that Bob has arranged for a HAZMAT train to pull into the PNSY to conduct training from 7 to 13 July.

**Auxiliary:** Gwen Devoe not present.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will begin at 1830 on Thursday, 14 March 2019 at the Red Blazer in Concord, NH.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2055 hours.

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

Attachment



## February 2019 Personal Affairs Report

**Beware of Tax Season Scams.** Here are three common tax season scams:

- 1) Telephone calls from IRS impersonators. The IRS does not telephone our citizens.
- 2) Emails supposedly from the IRS. The IRS does not email our citizens.
- 3) Fake charities. If the name of a charity only looks or sounds familiar, look into it; do not contribute in response to a phone call or email.

For additional details, see page 28 of the February issue of the "Military Officer" Magazine.

**Changes Coming to TRICARE's Pharmacy Benefit.** TRICARE is planning to add a fourth tier of drugs to its present three tiers of drugs. Tier 1 is generic drugs, Tier 2 is brand name drugs, and Tier 3 is non-formulary generic and brand name drugs. Tiers 1, 2, and 3 drugs are covered by TRICARE. The new fourth Tier drugs will not be covered by TRICARE so beneficiaries will pay the full cost of the drug. Specific criteria for placing a drug in the fourth Tier will focus on the drug's efficacy, safety, and outcome characteristics. The review process for Tier 4 candidate drugs begins this month and can take up to six months before implementation. MOAA National will remain vigilant and closely examine the drugs recommended for Tier 4. For additional details and information go to:

<https://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/News-Articles/2019-News-Articles/Advocacy/Changes-Coming-to-TRICARE-s-Pharmacy-Benefit.aspx>

**MOAA Request for Advocacy Support.** MOAA asks members to contact their members of Congress to ask that they "***Do Not Raise TRICARE Fees***". MOAA-NH members can go to the MOAA Legislative Action Center webpage at:

<http://takeaction.moaa.org/?4>

and then scroll down under the "***Take Action***" major heading to click on "***Do Not Raise TRICARE Fees***" and follow the prompts to send a MOAA prepared message to their members of Congress.