

NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES 10 January 2019

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 Gary Terhune.

Attending: Avery, Balcom, Boyle, Corson, Coulter, D'Amante, J. Day, S. Day, Jaffin, LeFebvre, Luti, McLean, Register, Satterfield, Spotts, Terhune, Whitman. A quorum was present for the meeting.

Opening Remarks: Warren Coulter welcomed everyone and said that as Peter Burdett was not present, we would go directly to the Secretary's report.

Immediate Past President Remarks: Peter Burdett not present.

Secretary's Report: Michael McLean said that, before he begins his report, he wants to let everyone know that his wife, Faith, had fallen and broken four bones in her right ankle. She is rotating between the hospital and rehab centers and had surgery last Monday. He reported that he received no corrections to the November Board 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 November minutes. Motion passed and minutes accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Roby Day reported that we have two months to talk about – November and December. We ended the year in very good shape. He said this coming year there will be a couple of large expenditures, but we are in a good position to deal with them. The first is the Directory that will be in the neighborhood of \$3,000.00. The other item is the storage trailer for which we are in good shape. Roby reminded everyone that we have the Life Membership dues that we haven't touched in years as a possible source of funds. He then went on to mention that the November luncheon at the Nashua C. C. was a success in every sense. He pointed out that Michael McLean did a superb job organizing the luncheon. He also said that our point of contact at the Club is retiring. Michael McLean commented that we will deal with her boss in the future. Roby said he would not speak at length to the GSWA Luncheon in January as Gary Terhune is taking the reservations and Bruce Avery is doing much of the organizing. Roby said the last item is the IRS Form 990 that is due on May 15th. It usually takes us a couple of months to put it together. Someone asked what the 990 was. Roby explained. Motion made to accept the Treasurer's Report and seconded. Motion passed, report accepted.

Trustees of the Trust Fund: Andrew Breuder not present. Gary Terhune reported that most of our funds are in bonds that were only down about 7%. If we had all stocks, we would be down about 12 to 13%. He went on to detail the numbers involved with the funds. He thought we had probably gained back some of the losses in the first two weeks in January.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

January 26 Luncheon: Gary Terhune reported that as of today, we have 56 signed up. He said he heard from Maggie Hassan's office that she is coming (with a caveat). He also heard from Norman Langlois' [*one of the award recipients*] daughter that he had surgery for broken bones and may be in a wheelchair. Bob Jaffin added that he had spoken to the daughter concerning guests who will be attending and that the daughter would speak for her father. Bob thought they would have close to a full table. Bruce Avery has been talking with HALO Maritime Defense Systems [*the other award recipient*] about how many people they will be bringing and whether they want to display anything. Bruce Avery brought up a related subject that we have discussed in the past about military/veterans organizations having a display table at our luncheons. He mentioned an article in today's *Union Leader* about "Operation Hat Trick" about a woman at UNH who has been involved with children who are terrified of their parents who have been badly wounded, especially in the head. She started a company to provide ball caps to the individuals. According to the article, her company is valued at 20 million dollars. They have relationships with every sports organization. Bruce asked for permission to call this lady and ask if she would like a display table at our luncheon. Bruce emphasized that this was a person from New Hampshire that no one has heard of. Bruce plans to include her name in next year's list of potential nominees for the GSWA. There was discussion on when to invite her. Motion made to have Bruce contact this lady. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

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 1st. 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 – fees or no fees?: Bill Luti said that he talked with MOAA national about reports that the CBO is considering charging premiums for Tricare For Life (TFL) as a way for DoD to cut costs and save money. MOAA said that the DoD is trying to "offload" all retired benefits to the civilian side of the federal government. The first step in this process was the Tricare Dental program switch to FEDVIP. The new program is a mixed bag of increased premiums and decreased coverages. Bill said that MOAA believes the next step will be to charge premiums for TFL and ultimately move TFL to the civilian side of government. Bill believes that the chapter should come up with a strategy to deal with this at the state level by trying to get our Congressional delegation on the record in writing that they don't support the approach mentioned above. Bill brought this up so we can think over the next few months how we can get our Congressional delegation onboard. Bill went on to say that DoD is constantly saying that personnel and retirement cost are eating them alive. This is not true. MOAA has compiled numbers using DoD figures that show that personnel costs have declined since 2011. He said that MOAA will continue to press DoD and the Congress not to balance the budget on the backs of our retired community. He continued to talk about the issue of paying for the all volunteer force. Bill then opened it up for discussion. Roby Day asked what we can do as a chapter. He pointed out that MOAA sends us preprinted letters to send to our Congressional delegation. Bill

recommends that we draft a letter from the chapter to each of our delegation outlining what he had been talking about. Bill offered to draft such a letter. He emphasized that we want a written response from the delegation. We keep sending letters to them every month or so. Jim LeFebvre brought up that perhaps we should corner Senator Hassan at the January luncheon with several talking points. Bob Jaffin brought up that every member of the Board should write a handwritten letter to the delegation to be delivered during Storming the Hill in April. Warren Coulter mentioned that Peter Burdett has volunteered to attend. Warren said he would discuss the idea of the letters with Peter. Bruce Avery brought up writing letters to the editors of the NH newspapers when the Congressional delegation comes back with “wishy-washy” responses. Bill brought up that, unlike most other veterans organizations, MOAA’s charter is to actively fight for the active military and retirees. Roby Day asked what time frame are we looking at? Bill said it wasn’t immediate but we should get a letter approved by the Board in the next month or two. Ray D’Amante concurred that we need to be active and recommended that we invite all of our Congressional delegation to a meeting. There was discussion that the delegation would probably only send staff members. Warren broke off discussion for dinner. To be continued.

BREAK FOR DINNER

Reconvened Meeting at 1938

Warren continued by announcing that there should be a couple of action items. One is that Bill Luti has agreed to write a letter and to make a presentation at the next Board meeting. Bob Jaffin reminded everyone that he had brought up, at an earlier Board meeting, formalizing twice a year meeting between our Congressional delegation and our chapter, and allowing other veterans groups to join in to force the issue. Bill Luti countered that rather calling the Congressional representatives to appear in front of our group to answer questions, we invite them to make a short, 20 minute, presentation, then question them. There was then a discussion concerning the details of such meetings - a weekday breakfast meeting or at a regular chapter luncheon.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT): Peter Burdett not present. Joe DiChiaro submitted the following report:

In Peter’s absence I served as alternate last night. The Manchester VA report was the same as Al gave Bernie and me at the monthly VSO meeting so Bernie will cover that. The only other action was a vote to not recommend changing the starting time of the Veterans Day ceremony at the Cemetery. Some had raised the issue at the last meeting that the 11 AM start conflicts with local community ceremonies limiting choices in attendance. Only 4 LSRs affecting veterans currently had language attached House Bills 128 and 130 deal with property tax exemptions for totally and permanently disabled veterans. HB 128 would extend the exemption to the surviving spouse. HB 130 was explained by Rep. Reed Panasiti, the sponsor, as conforming the definition to the federal definition in 35CFR. HCR 2 Is a resolution requesting Congress, DOD and VA to

investigate whether opioids, benzodiazepines and Agent Orange contribute to a higher rate of suicides by veterans and member of the armed forces. HB 225 requests and annual appropriation to be determined by the General Court be awarded to the National Guard Scholarship Fund. It is expected to pass. Five other LSRs do not have language or been assigned yet.

Personal Affairs: Russ Register reported that the monthly blast email covered three topics on this month's Personal Affairs report. The first covered Government Shutdown Facts. The second concerned two requests from MOAA about contacting your member of Congress on certain issues, and the third was about some small MEDICARE payment changes. He then went into detail on each of the items. **(Read the attached email)** Bill Luti added that MOAA has a tab on their web site where you can click on the link to find out where any member of Congress stands on any military legislation and how they voted. Michael McLean added that that link is also on our web site.

Membership: Michael McLean presented the following membership numbers for December, the end of 2018 and January:

	<u>December</u>	<u>12/31/18</u>	<u>January</u>
New members -	3	4	1
Deceased members -	0	1	1
Dropped members -	0	0	0
Current total membership – 704		707	707

Michael reported that tomorrow he is planning on mailing out 296 dues letters for 2019. The total is broken down as follows:

277 Regular [26 – 2017/251 -2018]

19 Auxiliary [5 – 2017/14 – 2018]

Of note is that 31 members have a dues year of 2017 so this is their last chance to pay their dues. If not, they will be dropped at the end of March 2019. Michael continued with the membership summary for 2018 as follows - 44 Joined, 30 Died, 22 Dropped. He then passed out an End of Year Summary sheets for 2018. The final item Michael wanted to bring up is the issue of those people who join the chapter online via MOAA at the end of the year versus people who send checks in the mail. If someone joins online in the second half of the year, MOAA only charges them \$9.50 which is good to the end of the year. So if someone joins on the 31st of December 2018, they are eligible for dues of \$19.00 the next day in January 2019. However, currently, if someone joins the chapter after the Clambake and mails in their check, we give them credit for the next year's dues. Michael believes that if someone joins online during the month of December, they should be given credit for the next year. The Board agreed with Michael. Michael added that the chapter directory is coming along and he hopes to send it to the printer by the end of the month.

Recruiting: Jim Spotts reported that Bancroft McKittrick was "MOAA-NH's Recruiter of the Quarter" for Q4 of 2018. He then summarized the recruiting numbers for 2018. He said he has 66 to 69 people he considers as primary targets for recruiting. Jim said he got no response from the newsletter or blast email when he asked for help in recruiting, so it is pretty much up to the

Board. He then went into detail about the recruiting efforts of those who have volunteered to help recruit people. Michael McLean added that he was passing around a list of those people who did join the chapter in 2018. He commented that it appears from the list that we now have Public Health person again. Jim added that he had a couple of leads on trailers but they didn't pan out. He asked if anyone has a trailer hitch to contact him. Wayne Balcom said he might have a lead on a trailer.

Programs: Gerry Boyle reported On the next couple of upcoming luncheons. He said that the TAG is willing to speak at either the April or November luncheons. Jo Moncher has also agreed to speak at either the April or November luncheons. He said that he also has General Dave Perkins lined up for June. Warren Coulter asked if we have any further information on the June luncheon at the Red Jacket. Jim LeFebvre said that the Red Jacket has not been very cooperative so he is looking elsewhere. A discussion followed on various venues up in the area.

Web Page: Michael McLean reported that there were 410 hits in November and 298 hits in December.

Popular Pages in November:		Popular Pages in December:	
<u>Hits</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Hits</u>	<u>Page</u>
51	Program Notes	37	Program Notes
43	Tricare	29	Chapter News
27	Chapter News	19	Membership
18	Transition Assistance	17	Newsletter
15	Membership	8	Group Travel
12	Odds and Ends	8	Tricare
11	Newsletter	7	Odds and Ends
8	Group Travel	4	Transition Assistance
5	Virtual Store	4	Virtual Store
195	General	147	General

Michael said that he will submit the chapter's web site for MOAA's Communications Award competition.

Travel Programs: Tony Burdo not present. He submitted the following report:

To date, we have no passengers booked for 2019.

I am coordinating with our district manager for our 2020 travel program. Currently, we have two river cruises contracted and six individual trips which includes the Passion Play for 2020.

I am planning an additional six trips within North America and Europe for 2020 which do not include the Passion Play. Upon completion, we will have a total of 14 trips to choose from in 2020.

Scholarship Loan Program: Joe DiChiaro not present. He submitted the following report: Scholarship loans are in the continuing repayment phase with no new action on loans until May-July timeframe. If anyone has a child or grandchild who will be applying for the first time or need to reapply for the next school year, please contact me for an

application no later than March 15th so they will have time to gather all the information needed.

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

Granite State Warriors Award: No report.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

We had 5 new 2Lts commissioned in December. Bernie did the honors at UNH Army ROTC for the three there and provided both a picture and the program for inclusion in our newsletter. One will be in the NH National Guard so is a recruiting prospect. I had 2 at Air Force ROTC both going active duty. We had a delay in the ceremony as one had not received Secretary of the AF approval and the other had a last-minute medical waiver pending at Hanscom. The one USAF 2 Lt is assigned to Tyndal the base that was wiped out in the recent hurricane so his start will be interesting.

For Roby's records we used 3 sets of Army Velcro Gold Bars and our last sets of AF real metal Gold Bars. We are expecting 30-32 Army in the Spring and 8 USAF. I have already contacted the Exchange to order the quantity we will need.

NH Veterans Home: Joe DiChiaro not present. Veterans Home nothing to report this month as his first Tuesday visit was preempted by New Year's Day.

Nominations (Directors & Officers): Nothing new.

PAO: Kent Whitman had no report. Subsequent to the meeting, he submitted the following revised report:

A press release was issued covering the annual meeting on November 10th which was, I believe, reported on in part by the UnionLeader. The PR was sent to the 11 papers across the state. I plan to attend the luncheon on the 26th and will release a PR after that event.

Granite Slate: Marie Chipola not present. Michael McLean commented that the December issue was another excellent one. Several people agreed wholeheartedly.

Web Communications - FB: Jon VanGuilder not present.

SUD (Substance Use Disorders) Committee: Andrew Breuder not present. He sent a detailed report. (**See attachment**)

Blast Email: Geoff Corson 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. Of those who are subscribed, less than 50% open the e-mails. 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;
- if there are additional errors in content;
- if there are other comments/suggestions as warranted

BLAST E-MAIL SUBJECT	DATE SENT	NUMBER SENT TO	NUMBER OPENED % (# opened)	BOUNCES/ UNSUBSCRIBES	MANNER OF OPENINGS: BY COMPUTER	MANNER OF OPENINGS: BY SMART PHONE	MANNER OF OPENINGS: BY TABLET
January 2019 Personal Affairs Report	1/7	304	40.8% (124)	2 BOUNCES/0 UNSUBSCRIBES	50%(62)	24%(30)	26%(32)
MOAA-NH Travel Trips 2019 Program	11/20	305	39.3%(120)	2 BOUNCES/0 UNSUBSCRIBES	36%(42)	30%(36)	35%(42)
MOAA-NH Annual Meeting	11/20	304	48.7%(148)	3 BOUNCES/0 UNSUBSCRIBES	43%(65)	34%(50)	22%(33)
Recruiting for MOAA-NH	11/12	305	47.2%(144)	1 BOUNCE/O UNSUBSCRIBES	46%(66)	36%(52)	18%(26)
Request for Clambake Gear Storage Trailer	11/12	306	44.4%(136)	1 BOUNCE/O UNSUBSCRIBES	49%(67)	31%(42)	20%(27)

There was a brief discussion on how Geoff knows how many people open the emails. He thought he could update his list of email addresses once the new directory came out, but Michael McLean said that the published directory will not have email addresses, because they change so often.

LIAISONS:

ESGR: Sandy Way not present.

Transition Liaison: Jim LeFebvre reported that he is working with some non-coms and asked whether he should count them in his reports. Warren Coulter said yes.

VAMC Manchester: Bernie Satterfield presented a number of facts concerning the VAMC:

New Veterans increases 1.4% to 27K. 100+ employee hire.

15.8 days for new Veteran wait for appointment with primary care.

VAMC to go wireless soon.

TF 2025 update at 6-month mark. I will provide slide presentation later with notes.

There is a total of 3,750 Veterans that are 100% Permanent & Total disable (P&T).

There are two new bills introduced in the State Legislature (HB 128 and HB 130). Some of the bill(s) have to do with verbiage from current bill.

Last year RSA 72:28 increased Veteran's property tax exemption from up to \$500 to up to \$750. Everyone here is eligible. And RSA 72:35 is increased from \$2000 up to \$4000 for 100% disabled (P & T). [*There was discussion on this item*]

Manchester VAMC Integrative Health Program Schedule.

Manchester Town Hall January 29, 2019 1730.

Martins Point: Bob Jaffin had nothing to report. The next meeting is in April.

Auxiliary: Gwen Devoe not present.

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

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2030 hours.

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

Attachments: 2



JANUARY 2019 PERSONAL AFFAIRS REPORT

Government Shutdown Facts. MOAA has posted a very helpful discussion on "What Servicemembers, Retirees, and Survivors Need to Know" about the current government shutdown. Highlights include: DoD is fully funded for the next fiscal year so Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine members remain on duty and will be paid during the shutdown. DFAS is funded through 30 September 2019 so military retirees will be paid during the shutdown. The Department of Homeland Security is not fully funded so Coast Guard members will likely not be paid after 31 December 2018 during the shutdown. Coast Guard members will be able to apply for emergency financial aid from their service's relief agency. The Veterans Administration is fully funded. And, all TRICARE Prime, Select, and TRICARE for Life claims will continue to be paid without interruption. You can read the entire article at:

<https://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/News-Articles/2018-News-Articles/Shutdown-Facts--What-Servicemembers,-Retirees,-and-Survivors-Need-to-Know.aspx>.

MOAA is requesting members to contact their members of Congress regarding two issues: First, is "Don't Hold Coast Guard, NOAA Corps Hostage During Shutdown". For details go to:

<https://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/News-Articles/2019-News-Articles/Advocacy/Don-t-Hold-Coast-Guard,-NOAA-Corps-Hostage-During-Shutdown.aspx>.

Second is "Tell Congress Not to Shrink the Deficit by Shorting Troops and Veterans". For example, one Congressional Budget Office option to reduce the deficit is to introduce enrollment fees under TRICARE FOR LIFE. For details, see:

<https://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/News-Articles/2019-News-Articles/Advocacy/Tell-Congress-Not-to-Shrink-the-Deficit-by-Shorting-Troops-and-Veterans.aspx>.

Members can go to each of the two weblinks, read the article, and then click on the message sending link to send a message to their members in Congress to ask for their support. Note: After you enter your contact information and click "submit", the MOAA recommended message will appear and you can again click "submit" to send the message. (If your representative's name is absent, consider checking back in a few days to try again.)

According to an article in the December AARP Bulletin, there are some small MEDICARE payment changes effective 1 January, 2019. The Part B standard monthly premium for doctor and outpatient visits rises from \$134 to \$135.50. The average monthly Medicare Advantage premium is expected to dip from \$29.81 to about \$28. The average Part D prescription drug plan premium should fall from about \$33.59 to \$32.50. Actual figures may vary by plan, medicines, deductibles, and copays. Part A deductibles for hospital stays will go up \$24 to \$1,364 per benefit period. Part B deductibles will rise by \$2 from \$183 to \$185.

SUD Commission Joint Military Task Force Meeting of 20 December 2018

The fifth and final meeting of this sub-committee for 2018 was held on the above date. Formal meeting minutes from October were distributed at the meeting and were available electronically.

1. There were sixteen attendees present at this meeting plus one conference call attendee. Gen. Mikolaities was not able to attend most of the meeting due to prior commitments, but I ran into him in the parking lot, as I had to leave early to teach my final class to the students at Nashua airport. I noticed that he has now pinned on his second star, but don't know when the effective date of the promotion was. He was only stopping by to wish the attendees a happy holiday.
2. The letter drafted by the committee to DHA was finalized at the last meeting and was forwarded to the Governor's Office for review and signature. At this time, we do not have a status on whether this letter has been signed or not.
3. There was significant discussion among the attendees regarding the TAG's previous recommendation regarding the addition of First Responders, such as Police and EMT's, to this committee. A key point of discussion is that these responders have a separate funding stream for medical/mental health services that military personnel do not, and this may make it more difficult to incorporate them into the committee. Also, if the TAG really wants to proceed in this direction, it would ultimately need to be approved by the Governor's Commission and new Mission, Vision, and Goals/Objectives would need to be developed. There is no guarantee that the Commission would approve this change. It was also suggested that perhaps the First Responders could be rolled into a separate sub-committee. Committee members were asked to forward any additional comments/suggestions/concerns to the co-chairs for presentation to the TAG.
4. There was a discussion regarding the development of future goals and objectives for the sub-committee that can be tracked and actioned. These could include prevention or protective factors, methods for increasing resiliency, and a hub & spoke model for the "Ask the Question" and "Cultural Training" programs.
5. There was an "Open House" regarding the Executive Order for the TAG's assumption and take over of DHHS duties for "Fort NH" on 19 December. Apparently there was a very small turnout for this event.
6. Attendees were asked if they wished to become permanent members of this sub-committee. If so, they were to contact SSGT Frost within 14 days as the names must be submitted to the Governor's Commission for permanent appointment.
7. Next scheduled meeting will be on 21 February 2019.

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Col (Ret), USAF, MC, CFS