

# NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES 12 July 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.

**Attending:** Avery, Balcom, Boyle, Burdett, Corson, Coulter, Day, DiChiaro, Ikstrums, Jaffin, LeFebvre, Lull, McKittrick, McLean, Register, Spotts. A quorum was present for the meeting.

**Opening Remarks:** Warren Coulter began by commenting that we are in need of new flag stands. Our current ones are falling apart. Warren said that we need new ones and discussed several options he found online. He recommended that we invest in the more expensive one as he believes it will last for a long time. Motion made and seconded to buy two of them. Motion passed. Warren then mentioned an upcoming event this Saturday called Swim With a Mission which will take place at Wilmington State Park on Newfound Lake. The event will be highlighted by demonstrations from Navy SEALs. Warren went to the event last year and was very impressed. The money raised was donated to various veterans organizations. Warren turned the meeting over to Ken Lull to discuss the status of the Clambake because Ken had to leave early

**Clambake:** Ken Lull began by thanking everyone who has said they will volunteer. He believes that is under control. He then said that the biggest issue we have now is storage of the equipment that had been kept by Cal Hosmer at his house in York, ME. The equipment involves propane bottles, burners, trash cans and other items. Ken put out an email asking for anyone who could take on the storage of the equipment. Bernie Satterfield said he could build a lean-to, but he lives across the state and not very convenient. Ken has a large pickup truck but it is full with all the kitchen items needed for the Clambake. Ken said we need to find a place to store everything; possibly on base or at a storage unit, that would cost money. Joe DiChiaro pointed out the problem with storing the propane tanks in a storage unit. It was decided to try to contact CAPT Hunt, the Shipyard Commander, to see if he could help. There was discussion about the lack of space on the Shipyard. Sharon Day suggested that we put out a blast email asking for members to come forward if they have space to store everything. An article in the *Granite Slate* was also suggested. Sharon further suggested that if we can not find any place to store the equipment, that every member of the Board takes one trash can home with them! Warren then asked if Ken had everything else covered. Ken said he did. Michael McLean asked about the color guard. Ken said he needed to talk to "Chad" Chadwick who had arranged for it in the past.

**Immediate Past President Remarks:** Peter Burdett began by saying we are all recruiters. He said he tells parents that it is harder for their children to get into the military than it is to get into college. He went on to relate several stories. Joe DiChiaro said that the National Guard was also having problems recruiting qualified people.

**Secretary's Report:** Michael McLean reported that he received several comments on the June minutes. One from Joe DiChiaro concerned the proposal by Bruce Avery to investigate a new management tool. If no one had any other comments, Michael asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the June minutes. Motion passed and minutes accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Roby Day asked if anyone had any questions about the June report. Roby wanted to take a few minutes to talk about the June luncheon. He began by referencing the chapter activity guide. He asked if everyone knew about it. Some did, most did not. He went on to say that it needs to be updated from the original version in 2013. The document outlines who is supposed to do and when concerning planning for the luncheons. He said the Eagle Mountain House luncheon was an example of how not to do one. We ended up in the hole \$130.00. We charged less for the meals than the break even amount. He then went into some detail about what was covered in the event guide. His main concern was the initial negotiations and then determination of the prices. In the case of the June luncheon, no one present saw a contract with the Eagle Mountain House. It was asked how to know how much a luncheon would cost before we know how many will attend. Roby answered that we determine the per plate amount to include tax and service. Roby went back to discussing the event guide. He pointed out Tab A that lists the three geographic teams within the state. We need to update that list. Roby went on to point out that the Clambake attendee number as of today was 103. He then listed several Clambake expenses that have gone up this year. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

**Trustees of the Trust Fund:** Andrew Breuder not present. He submitted the following comment:

For the Trust Funds, everything looks stable. Still generally growing but at a slower rate overall.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT/Vets Count):** Peter Burdett reported that the SVAC is on its summer break. The state legislature is not in session. He suggested that people stop by to visit with their Congressional representative when they are home in August. Peter then mentioned a couple of items concerning his role as CASA.

## **BREAK FOR DINNER**

### **Reconvened Meeting at 1946**

**Personal Affairs:** Russ Register began his report on this month's Personal Affairs blast email. Michael McLean spoke up that he had not received it. There was a short discussion on the difference in format in the last blast email. Geoff Corson (*who is now in charge of blast emails*) said he had received no training in formatting the emails. Russ said there were two blast emails recently – one on the upcoming TRICARE Retiree Dental program changes and the second was a reminder about the June luncheon. Russ went on to cover the TRICARE subject in more detail. Peter Burdett brought up about a post card people should be receiving shortly concerning

the dental program issue. He made the point that people should first check to see which plans their dentist will accept. Russ went on to cover a request from MOAA for people to contact their Congressional representatives to ask them to act to stop any increases in TRICARE fees. Russ pointed out that when you enter your personal data in the formatted email online, you can not use a PO Box; you must use a physical address. **(see attached)**

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

- New members - 5 (includes one rejoin - Jackson Gaylord)
- Deceased members - 5 (Plus 1 w/ spouse)
- Dropped members - 2
- Current total membership – 690

I have received eleven dues checks so far in response to my 58 follow-up dues letters.

**Recruiting:** Jim Spotts began by pointing out several members present’s recruiting efforts. He then introduced a proposal **(see attached)** to establish a LinkedIn (LI) group to assist in recruiting new members for the chapter. He went into detail on the proposal. Peter Burdett made a motion to approve Jim Spott’s proposal to start a LI group online. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

**Programs:** Gerry Boyle reported that the next event is the Clambake and after that is the Fall luncheon on September 22<sup>nd</sup> in Grantham.

**Web Page:** Michael McLean reported there were 336 hits in June, up from 234 in May.

Popular Pages in May:

<u>Hits</u>	<u>Page</u>
42	Program Notes
26	Membership
20	Chapter News
19	Group Travel
9	Odds and Ends
9	Transition Assistance
6	Tricare
5	Newsletter
2	UNK
1	Virtual Store
187	General

**Travel Programs:** Tony Burdo not present. Janis Ikstrums presented the following report:  
No change from June report.

Six passengers booked for 2018, zero for 2019 to date and ten passengers for 2020.

**Scholarship Loan Program:** Joe DiChiaro reported that we have nine students given loans again this year. He went on to break down the mix of students. He further commented on the costs of colleges these days. Wayne Balcom asked if the letters had gone out yet, and Joe replied that they had. Joe then brought up the issue of how the loan amounts are distributed. He, and the Scholarship Committee, recommends 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. Joe went into further detail on the reasons for his recommendation. Motion made and seconded to accept Joe's recommendation. Motion passed.

**Strategic Initiatives (SIC):** Bruce Avery reported that we are continuing to vet My Grove. Warren Coulter brought up the fact that several people have questions/issues with the My Grove proposal and perhaps we ought to bring them up now. Sharon Day said that one of her concerns is with an outside group doing our admin work. She is especially concerned with the handling of luncheon reservations. There are always some members who mess up their luncheon responses. She listed a number of scenarios where attention is required of Roby Day or someone in the chapter. Bruce commented that people don't have to use this system if they don't want to. He said it was like the new system of paying chapter dues online. Sharon said she is not sure the dues system is working that well either. Peter Burdett brought up that he believes the people we are trying to interest are those who don't want to write a check. There was further discussion on how the money gets to Roby. Bruce said it doesn't cost us anything to try this system. If it doesn't work, we can walk away. Roby Day said his concern is that he believes that the Board of Directors collectively seems to be shying away from getting involved (by giving these functions to the group in Brooklyn for example) so he wonders why we even have a Board of Directors. This created further discussion. Joe DiChiaro brought up the issue of the proposed advertisements on this new web site. He is concerned about personal information being compromised. There was again the question as how we get the money. Bruce replied by direct deposit. The discussion continued. It was brought up whether we could use this system for dues payments to replace the MOAA national program. Bruce wasn't sure whether we could. The question of a motion concerning this plan was brought up. Warren Coulter pointed out that we did vote on it at the last Board meeting but there was just barely a quorum so he felt we should vote again this evening. A motion was made and seconded to go forward with the program. Warren asked for a raise of hands for those in favor. He then asked for those against. There were two voices abstaining. (*The Secretary was not able to count the hands.*) Warren announced that the motion carried.

**Granite State Warriors Award:** Bruce Avery asked for recommendations for the 2018 GSWA. He said that the committee will start reviewing the list next month.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Awards:** Joe DiChiaro reported that they are finished for the year except for a couple of ROTC awards in December.

**NH Veterans Home:** Joe DiChiaro reported that he contacted the Commandant of the home concerning a luncheon there. She said she would get back concerning the price. The home is having their classic car cruise night on August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6 to 8 PM. They need volunteers to help out. Jim LeFebvre brought up that he also had contacted the Commandant concerning holding a Board meeting there. Jim booked May 9, 2019 for a Board meeting there, with sandwiches, etc. for dinner. Jim said that he would be the POC for the meeting.

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

**PAO:** Kent Whitman not present. He submitted the following report:

Geoff and I drafted the attached press release (*not attached*) covering the summer luncheon up at the Eagle Mountain House on June 23, 2018. I sent it out to the following NH papers for release.

Conway Daily Sun  
Union Leader  
Keene Sentinel  
Portsmouth Herald  
Foster's Daily Democrat  
Exeter News-Letter  
Hampton Union  
The Citizen of Laconia

**Granite Slate:** Marie Chipola not present.

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

**SUD (Substance Use Disorders) Committee:** Andrew Breuder not present. He submitted the following report:

For the SUD military sub-committee, nothing to report other than I attended the full Governor's Commission meeting in Concord the day after our last sub-committee meeting. Location of the Governor's Commission meetings has changed. Next military sub-committee meeting will be in August.

**Blast Email:** Geoff Corson is still learning the "ropes" concerning blast emails. He is concerned why some people are not getting the emails.

## **LIAISONS:**

**ESGR:** Sandy Way not present. Peter Burdett said that he had some cards on the Employment Support Program (ESP) put out by the ESGR. He also mentioned that the ESGR was still doing lifts on both the KC-135's and the Blackhawks.

**Transition Liaison:** Jim LeFebvre reported that he is still working with a Naval Officer in Hawaii who plans to retire in New Hampshire. Jim is also working on keeping his library of reference material up to date. Jim said he worked with the local newspaper in Conway to publish a story about our June luncheon that came out the day of our luncheon. His point was that if we know someone at the local newspaper where we have our luncheon, try to get an article published that day. Peter Burdett pointed out that we should also keep MOAA national in mind for any press releases we send out.

**VAMC Manchester:** Bernie Satterfield not present. Joe DiChiaro pointed out that he also attends the volunteers' meetings. Joe went over what was covered at the last meeting.

**Martins Point:** Bob Jaffin had nothing to report on Martins Point.

**Auxiliary:** Gwen Devoe not present.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**New TRICARE Retiree Dental and Vision Plan:** Warren Coulter reiterated the importance of getting the information out concerning this program.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Clambake:** Already discussed.

**Applications:** Warren reminded everyone to carry application forms with them.

**Other New Business:** Michael McLean brought up that he had received an email from Pat Jacobsmeyer asking what she could do with Jake's old uniforms. There were several ideas but no concrete suggestions.

Several other miscellaneous items were brought up.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will begin at 1830 on Thursday, 9 August 2018 at the Red Blazer in Concord, NH.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2057 hours.

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

(ATTACHMENTS: 2)

## TRICARE RETIREE DENTAL PROGRAM (TDRP) UPDATE

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TDRP) will end on December 31, 2018. TDRP eligible retirees and their families will be eligible for the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Program (FEDVIP) dental coverage effective January 1, 2019. However, retirees will not be automatically enrolled in a FEDVIP dental plan. They must act to enroll in the FEDVIP program during the Federal Benefits Open Season November 12 through December 10, 2018. In the meantime, retirees can visit the BENEFEDS webpage on this subject to view more details including a comparison of current 2018 plans and rates at: <https://tricare.benefeds.com/InfoPortal/containerPage?EventName=retirees&ctoken=>.

MOAA National is asking members to send their elected Congressional Officials a MOAA suggested message titled, "Stop Another year of TRICARE Fee Increases". The reason is that the Senate version of the FY2019 NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act) includes a provision that could significantly impact health care costs for military retirees. Members can access the MOAA National webpage and select "Legislative Action Center" from the "Take Action" drop down menu. And, then click on "Stop another year of TRICARE increases" to initiate the MOAA suggested message generation process. NOTE: Do not enter a P.O. Box Number in the address boxes as it will cause a software malfunction. Use a physical home or office address only.

## **PROPOSAL - MOAA NH LINKED IN GROUP**

Recommend MOAA NH establish a private LinkedIn (LI) group for the purpose of recruiting new members, assist chapter members find employment, and facilitate MOAA-NH connecting with other groups that assist veterans find employment in the area. The value of the MOAA-NH LI page should be determined after the first year with the metrics listed below.

Background. LI is a business and employment-oriented service that operates via websites and mobile apps. It is mainly used for professional networking, including employers posting jobs and job seekers posting their CVs. LI provides members the ability to create “Groups” that can be private (members can invite other members) or unlisted (not visible...only owners, managers and moderators can invite new members). Other professional associations for former military members have established LI groups and use them in a manner similar to what is proposed below.

The MOAA-NH LI Group would be used for:

- Posting general MOAA-NH information.
- Posting career-related information (e.g. job openings, career fairs, etc.).
- MOAA-NH job seekers posting information on their career intentions.
- Inviting non-MOAA-NH to join through the Group.
- Connecting to recruiters that could be interested in MOAA-NH members (e.g. BAE HR).
- Connecting with other Groups with similar missions for members (e.g. AUSA).

If approved to go forward, below is proposed timeline after approval:

- +10 days: Draft page created and available for review
- +20 days: Revisions made, start inviting MOAA-NH member on LI. Add language to recruiting and membership materials about the page.
- +40 days: Invite recruiters from local companies that would be interested in former military officers.
- +50 days: Begin inviting non-MOAA-NH members (e.g. MOAA National, iSARBD, AUSA) on LI.
- +75 days: Start evaluation using metrics below.

Metrics. If the MOAA-NH LI Group does not meet the minimums below after the first year it should be disestablished.

- Number of members. Minimum 100
- Recruiters that are members. Minimum 10
- Number of job leads that lead to successful employment (normally member to recruiter, or member to member that resulted in a referral). Minimum 5
- New MOAA-NH members that joined the chapter through the LI Group: Minimum 5
- Average time between posts. 48 hours (for months seven through 12 only)

I would be glad to start the page and designate both Jim and Jon as owners / managers to assist with managing content.

Jim Spotts

Litchfield, New Hampshire

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