

NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES 11 May 2017

Call to Order: President Peter Burdett called the meeting to order at 1830 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the assembly present followed by the invocation delivered by Gary Terhune.

Attending: Avery, Boyle, Burdett, Chadwick, Coulter, Day, Jaffin, Lull, Luti, McKittrick, McLean, Register, Satterfield, Smith, Terhune, Way. We welcomed Jim LeFebvre to the meeting. A quorum was present for the meeting.

Opening Remarks: Peter Burdett began by welcoming everyone. Peter noted the presence of the Clambake Bakemaster, Ken Lull. Peter began by mentioning that the Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home that was postponed due to the snowstorm has been rescheduled for June 17th. He provided details for the event (location, time etc.). This is the last Welcome Home event – the fifth one. Peter continued by mentioning that DFAS has changed their mailing address. The new addresses will be posted on our web site. Several people pointed out that the new addresses have been in emails and in the *Military Officer* magazine. Peter next covered the changes that the new VA Secretary is implementing. Peter went on to summarize some of the changes. Peter said that he will be attending the commissioning ceremony (both Army and Air Force) at UNH on May 19th. Jim LeFebvre asked if there was any move to get rid of the “dead wood” at the VA. Peter replied that there is legislation pending to not only get rid of the “dead wood” but to be able to hire more quickly. “Chad” Chadwick brought up that many people complain that the VA is so slow in seeing people. He pointed out that there are six regional VA advocates whose job it is to help veterans through the red tape at the VA. They are state employees. Peter pointed out that there are a number of organizations who are trained to help veterans through the various “wickets”. Peter forgot to mention that there is a reception tomorrow in Manchester put on by the “Children of Fallen Patriots” Foundation. He reminded everyone what this Foundation does. They identify the children of active duty service members killed in action and pay for all of their college education. Their problem is identifying eligible children. If anyone knows of any children that might be eligible, let Peter know. He also mentioned that the Governor will be issuing a proclamation tomorrow at the State House at 3 PM.

Immediate Past Chair [sic] Remarks: “Chad” Chadwick commented on issues concerning the VA.

Secretary’s Report: Michael McLean reported that he received one input from eagle-eyed Peter Burdett with corrections to the April Board meeting minutes. Peter asked if anyone had anything to add. Motion made and seconded to accept the April minutes. Motion passed and minutes accepted. As a side bar, Michael sadly pointed out, for those who live near the Seacoast, that the Coat of Arms British Pub is closing after 22 years on the May 27th.

Treasurer’s Report: Roby Day reported that as of the end of April, we were solvent and as of today, we are wallowing in cash! He went into some detail concerning our net worth and the

balance sheet. He commented that the last Luncheon [April] was a resounding success. We ended up \$335.02 ahead. The Common Man establishment wrote off the service charge and gratuity. The consensus of those present was that it was a great place to have a luncheon! Roby continued by saying that we have 42 reservations so far for the June luncheon with three weeks to the deadline. Roby said that he needs information on the guest speaker as far as meal choice and whether he will bring a guest. Roby reported that the chapter received \$ 50.00 for Michael McLean submitting our roster on time. Roby wanted to give Tony Burdo a pat on the head because we received \$2,659.40 from a trip that they went on. Roby said that he has made several suggestions to Tony Burdo with regard to the Goals and Objectives item of maintaining financial stability. In specific, Roby said we need to add an objective of finding a relief for Warren Coulter as the 50/50 Raffle person once he becomes chapter president. Roby then went on to discuss the issue of who will be a check signer. "Chad" Chadwick had been the one but his schedule will not allow him to continue as a signer. Roby needs someone to be able to sign checks for the September luncheon as Roby will not be present. He commented that TDBank only allows two signees. Bruce Avery pointed out that he had volunteered to be the assistant treasurer, but, at the moment, can not sign the checks. Roby pointed out that a problem with TDBank is that there is not a TDBank anywhere near where Bruce lives (in New London). The problem is arranging a time when Roby and Bruce can get together at a TDBank to sign the forms. Peter called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion made and seconded. Motion passed.

Trustees of the Trust Fund: Peter Burdett reiterated that he felt that there was not a need to vote on the Trustees report and that as Andrew Breuder was not present, and that as Roby Day had already reported that our accounts are in good shape, that we do not need anything further. Gary Terhune commented that he did not feel that we needed to reallocate any funds.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT): Peter Burdett reported that the SVAC met on May 2nd and was a "dynamic meeting". He listed a number of organizations and individuals who attended the meeting. The VA reported that "things are going fine". The VA is going to hold a number of town hall meetings in the future. Peter reported that there were two new members voted on to the SVAC – the AUSA (Association of the US Army) and the New Hampshire Veterans Association (NHVA). The NHVA is the oldest veterans' service organization in the state, founded just after the Civil War. Peter said that it was voted that the SVAC chair send a letter to our Congressional delegation asking that funding for the Choice Program be continued after it is scheduled to run out in the near future. The SVAC voted to approve the biannual report (posted on our website). Peter went on to cover several other items from the SVAC meeting. He then discussed the fact that there are ten mental health facilities across the state and until just recently had never asked anyone if they had served in the military. Once they started asking, they discovered that between 15 and 20 percent of people who enter those facilities are veterans. Peter said that the next meeting of the SVAC is June 6th and all are welcome to attend.

Input to Governor's Report: Peter began a discussion of HB 636 that is a bill to establish a department of veteran affairs in New Hampshire. It is currently retained until next January so that it can be refined and costed. Peter said that we do not have a single person who can speak for all the veterans groups in the state. He went on at some length outlining his views on the subject.

BREAK FOR DINNER

Reconvened Meeting at 1933

Continued discussion of HB 636: Peter asked what do we want the bill to say. It is our chance to influence the future of veteran affairs within the state. He planned to ask around the table for people's ideas. He began by asking Bancroft McKittrick. Bancroft had two thoughts – how do we enhance military civilian partnership and we have to have a single focal point to coordinate all the veterans' efforts. Peter then asked Gerard Boyle for his thoughts. Gerard said we have to get the Governor onboard – he has to be committed to this. It was pointed out that this new department has to have a budget. Peter went into further detail on this aspect. Peter said that, as far as he knows, if you want to spend \$1 million, you have to have \$1.3 million coming in from grants, etc. "Chad" Chadwick commented that in order to build something, you have to take something "down" or consolidate. He continued by saying there are a number of veteran related organizations within the state who now ask for money. Will they be reduced? Sandy Way (?) asked if this is intended to be an organization similar to other commission in that state. The answer is yes. Sandy said, in that case, all the current veterans groups should be combined, with their budgets, into this new department. Further discussion continued. Peter said he would welcome any further comments/thoughts via email.

Personal Affairs: Russ Register reported that this month we have three important items from MOAA that were sent out to our membership in a blast email. The first is the new address for DFAS that was mentioned earlier. The second item is concerning the TRICARE Dental Program having a new contractor. The third is a reference to a MOAA article concerning the new military blended retirement system. For more details, see the ***attached blast email***. There was further discussion on this subject.

Membership: Michael McLean presented the following membership numbers:

New members — 0

Deceased members — 1

Dropped members — 0

Current total membership — 749

At the moment, there are 44 members who have not paid their 2017 dues and will receive a reminder letter in June. This figure is lower than in many other years, but then we have less total membership than before.

Recruiting: Peter Burdett reported that he received an email from Jon VanGuilder who said he was "calling the list" and will have a further report from his "team" at a later time. Bruce Avery spoke up that he had attended a luncheon today at another organization where he became a new member and received a pen with the organizations name and website. He recommended

that we take a look at doing something similar for our chapter. Peter asked if Bruce was making a motion to look into the feasibility of doing the same for our chapter. Motion made and seconded to start a gift pen program for new members up to a price to be determined. Motion passed. Michael McLean reported on the annual “dump” list of potential members from MOAA of people who live in NH and are members of MOAA but not members of our chapter. This year there are 1998 names. After much time and effort, he broke down the list as follows:

93 people who have been dropped from our chapter in the past

22 people who are current members of our chapter

1730 people who have been contacted in the past to join our chapter

That leaves 153 new names to try to recruit. A problem with that number is that we need at least 200 names to be able to take advantage of bulk mailing rates at the post office. Michael went into what we would have to do to get 200 names. Alternatively we could weed out the lapsed, etc. names from the 153 and come up with 94 reasonably valid names to try to recruit. However, that is not a very large base to choose from. Peter Burdett suggested that we look at the Guard and Reserve whom we had sent letters to in the past. Michael was able to come up with 54 names that would bring us over the 200 minimum for bulk mail. Jim LeFebvre asked what has been our success rate for past mass mailings. Michael replied that last year we had a 4% success rate. Overall for the past number of years, it has been between 9 and 2 percent. It was conceded that these figures are good for mass mailings. The consensus of the Board was to send out 207 letters. Michael said we need a differently worded letter to send to the Guard and Reserve acknowledging that we had contacted them in the past. Peter said he would help with that.

Programs: Peter Burdett began by saying that he thought the April Luncheon at the Common Man in Plymouth was well done. Everyone Peter spoke with thought it was great. He thanked Bruce Avery and Sandy Way for their efforts. Sandy said that the next luncheon is June 10th at the White Mountain Resort in North Conway. He did say that there is a problem with the leadership who will not be attending. He is concerned that we are covered. Michael McLean interjected that he will not be there, so presumably there will be no pictures or web page write-up. Sandy asked that if anyone is interested in helping out to contact Sandy. Sandy went on to cover the remaining luncheons for this year. He is still looking for speakers for next year’s luncheons. He plans to start working on 2018 luncheons this August. Roby Day asked if we were going to do the same this June luncheon as we did last year where we had the luncheon in one space and had the speaker in another. Sandy said that “Chad” Chadwick is going up a few days before the luncheon and will sort it all out.

Web Page: There were 237 hits in April, up from 211 in March. Michael McLean said that Tony Burdo had asked at the last Board meeting if there was any way to determine which pages within our website people were going to, Travel for example. Michael did look into this and found a way to track individual pages within our web site. He gave examples of several pages of how many hits there were on those pages. Michael said that he can report in the future on hits on several of the pages. He did point out that his capability to do this is limited because the program he uses is free (he won’t spend money on it) and is not very dynamic.

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

Six passengers completed their Springtime Tulip River Cruise. Outstanding trip.

Two passengers scheduled for a fall trip.

A check for \$2,659.40 has been received from Collette Travel and forwarded to Roby Day. The remainder of our 2018 travel brochures is expected this month from Collette.

He received a response to a number of questions he sent to John Powell at Military History Tours. Tony is awaiting their 2018 travel program and a Letter of Understanding (LOU) which will outline our contractual agreements. He recently sent an email to Dave Wall requesting their 2018 program and the LOU.

Scholarship Loan Program: Joe DiChiaro not present. He submitted the following report: Deadline for submissions for the coming academic year is June 10th. Cal [Hosmer] will still be the recipient and provider of the forms this year. Loan payments accounting which Joe assumed in January are doing well. He just had to email two required to pay, one recent graduate and one who paid in large increments to make the next payment.

Strategic Initiatives: Bruce Avery reported that we should receive a check for \$100.00 from national for Mercer to place an ad in our newsletter. Bruce has the copy to insert in to the newsletter once we see the money.

Granite State Warriors Award: Bruce Avery had no report.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

All award ceremonies have been scheduled and are covered by presenters. Joe completed the required purchases necessitated by MOAA National changing policy of providing medals, certificate folders and gold bars. He shopped the gold bars but due to the quantity required by UNH Army ROTC, he had to pay retail to the supplier for AAFES since Ft. Devens military sales could not guarantee delivery by the date we needed them since they don't keep that many on hand. Joe will be able to order through Ft Devens next year and pay wholesale and avoid sales tax which was charged by the RI supplier. We did go over our budget due to this MOAA change of course but considering the monies received for our successful Gold Bar program last year we probably balanced out. Joe did unravel the mystery of the competitive MOAA award distributor. Gene Hicks appears on MOAA National records as a member of 3 chapters - Central VT, North Country Green Mountain Chapter VT and Military Officers of the Adirondacks in Whitehall NY (his home state). The awards he sent to UNH AFROTC were designated as coming from MOAA North Country USA - and a new designee, not on MOAA National list -Northwoods MOA Satellite, the latter produced the medal and certificate. Joe presented all of these along with our Plaque to the Senior who served as Cadet Commander this year and was one of 2 Distinguished ROTC graduates ranking in the top 10% of all AFROTC seniors nationally this year. Since Gene has now decided to expand from his book award to a 2nd year cadet to providing the medal to the Junior he has spared us from this expense in the future.

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

The Veterans Home will hold its Memorial Day observance at 11 AM on Wednesday the 31st as to not conflict with the Veterans Cemetery observance on the 30th. Joe will represent MOAA at the Vets Home.

Nominations (Directors & Officers): No Reports.

PAO: Peter Burdett reported that we still don't have one.

Granite Slate: Peter Dawson not present. Peter Burdett asked when the deadline is for the June Newsletter. Michael McLean thought it was the first weekend in June. Peter again reiterated that people must have war stories they could submit for inclusion in the *Granite Slate*.

Web Communications - FB: Jon VanGuilder not present. He notified Peter Burdett that the Facebook page has been updated through the June Lunch flyer so check it out.

SUD (Substance Use Disorders) Committee: Andrew Breuder not present.

LIAISONS:

ESGR: Sandy Way repeated that the ESGR is planning for their annual awards presentations this Saturday [5/13], given to people who support ESGR. They are also starting their "Boss Lifts" on May 19th for this summer (one a month through October). They do lifts on the refueling tankers at Pease and Blackhawk helicopters from Concord. The New Hampshire ESGR is in the process of getting a new chair.

Transition Liaison: Bancroft McKittrick reported that he had worked with two people courtesy of Dave Wall.

VAMC Manchester: Bernie Satterfield not present. Joe DiChiaro submitted the following report:

Joe attended their meetings as representative of 40&8 so he will coordinate with Bernie on both the regular April meeting and a New England Regional meeting held on May 3rd. The congressional input was the same as Peter Burdett will report as given at SVAC.

Martins Point: Bob Jaffin had no report. However, Joe DiChiaro did submit the following report:

Joe filled in for Bob Jaffin at the Martins Point meeting on April 20th and will share those minutes with Bob when they are received. It was informational and described their method of operation which instead of being fee based actually collects a per enrollee fee to finance all services while being an alternative to Tricare. They also covered the changes in Tricare which affect non-retirees.

Auxiliary: Gwen Devoe not present. Peter Burdett commented that she is busy getting everything in order and working with Michael McLean.

OLD BUSINESS:

Goals and Objectives 2017 Committee: Tony Burdo not present. He submitted the following report:

He received revised goals and objectives from Roby Day. Upon his return home, Tony will review them, incorporate them into our G&O program and furnish copies to the board at our next meeting.

Speaker Gift (Books): Peter Burdett said that Warren [Coulter] has the book and he will coordinate having the book plate added with the inscription by Dr. James Wright. That will be the second of three books purchased and signed by Dr. Wright.

Need PAO: We still need one.

NEW BUSINESS:

Clambake: Peter began by announcing that there will be no cookies this year. Mary [Beth Moran] has had issues with doing it in her commercial kitchen with code issues. Peter went on to say that he has had conversations with members of MOAA national staff concerning their desire to attend our “famous” Clambake especially MOAA President Lt Gen Atkins. The issue of who will write the invitation letters for the VIPS/guests came up. Ken Lull emphatically stated that he was in charge of the Clambake and he will prepare the letters. Peter continued by saying one reason the group from MOAA might come is to get the lay of the land in preparation for a possible New England conference of MOAA chapters the day before the Clambake in 2018. Peter then turned the floor over to Ken Lull. Ken began by saying that he would dedicate himself to be the Clambake Bakemaster for five years and this is year three. Ken said that he received word from PNSY that people with Maine drivers licenses can not get on the Shipyard unless they had a military ID. No one knew why that was. Ken went on to say the biggest challenge is lining up all the volunteers to help out. He needs steak cookers and people to work the kitchen. Peter suggested that Ken send out an email with the blank positions he needs filling. Peter said that he was going to ask Terry Bobseine to do the 50/50 Raffle. Michael McLean had several questions concerning the Clambake flyer – are we having an opening ceremony at 1045? It was decided that Michael would bring his laptop to play the national anthem. Ken needs to coordinate with the PNSY PAO for a color guard, speaker system, etc. The question of clams vs. mussels was brought up. Stick with what we said last year. It was decided to keep the price the same as last year - \$20.00. Michael said that he is planning on sending the Clambake flyer to the printer on June 7th. The printer has said they will print the flyer free for us again this year. Peter asked that Michel send him the flyer so he can forward it to MOAA.

Next Meeting: The June Board meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will begin at 1830 on Thursday, 13 July 2017 at the Red Blazer in Concord, NH.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2041 hours.

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

ATTACHMENT



Personal Affairs Report May 2017

On page 14 of the MOAA "Military Officer" magazine, there is an article regarding new DFAS addresses for retirees and annuitants. Retired pay matters correspondence should be sent to: Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Pay, 8899 E. 56th St., Indianapolis, IN 46249. Annuitant pay matters correspondence should be sent to Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Annuitant Pay, 8899 E. 56th St., Indianapolis, IN 46249. See the article for additional details.

The TRICARE Dental Program, which covers eligible families for active duty as well as the guard and Reserve members, changed to a new contractor, United Concordia, on May 1st. Reports of complaints from beneficiaries are surfacing, suggesting existing dentists will not be joining the new network due to lower reimbursement rates. MOAA has expressed concerns to the Defense Health Agency, who oversees the TRICARE Program, and to congressional staff members of the Armed Services Committees on Capitol Hill. Read more about this at: <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Currently-Serving/TRICARE-Dental-Contractor-Change-Up.aspx>.

By law, those entering the military on or after 1 January 2018 will be under the new military blended retirement system. Those who entered or signed their contract to enter service before 1 January 2006 are grandfathered into the pre-2018 retirement system and cannot opt into the new one. During calendar year 2018, those who entered service between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2017 will have the option to enroll in the new retirement system or remain with their current retirement system. The new, blended retirement combines elements of a pension benefit and a Thrift Savings Program benefit. If you are a senior or retired service member, you may be asked for your counsel on this subject. You can read much more about this topic at:

<http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/On-Watch/DoD-s-New-Retirement-System---A-Blended-Reality.aspx>.