

The Conway Daily Sun

56°
Fair

Military officers to meet Saturday at Eagle Mountain House

Lloyd Jones Jun 22, 2018 Updated Jun 22, 2018



Capt. David S. Hunt will be guest speaker at the New Hampshire Chapter of Military Officers Association of America summer gathering at Eagle Mountain House in Jackson on Saturday. (COURTESY PHOTO)

CONWAY — The New Hampshire Chapter of Military Officers Association of America will hold its summer meeting at the Eagle Mountain House in Jackson on Saturday.

Capt. David S. Hunt, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard commander, is scheduled to be the keynote speaker.

MOAA is a professional association of military officers. Headquartered in Alexandria, Va. and founded in 1929, it has 380,000 members. The organization's motto is "One Powerful Voice."

Jim Lefebvre of Conway, a retired Army captain, sits on the New Hampshire board of directors and is a past vice president of the chapter, which currently has 690 members.

Among them are fellow local residents George Howard, a retired Air Force colonel of Jackson; Marine Maj. Frank McCarthy of Conway; and Karen and Jim Umberger, both retired Air Force colonels, of North Conway.

Hunt assumed command of the naval shipyard in 2016 after serving as military deputy for shipyard operations at Naval Sea Systems Command in Washington. He had been stationed at the shipyard from 2010-13 as as an engineering and planning officer and then as an operations officer.

Hunt's personal decorations include the Meritorious Service medal (four awards), the Navy Commendation medal (two awards), the Navy Achievement medal (three awards), the National Defense Service medal and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service medals, according to information supplied by Lefebvre.

Lefebvre said today's event kicks off with a cash bar at 11 a.m., followed by a luncheon at noon and then guest speaker Hunt at roughly 1:15 p.m.

It is the first of four such events planned during the year across the Granite State.

"We try to touch all of the regions and the seasons," Lefebvre said Wednesday. There will be a clambake at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on Aug. 4; a dinner at Bistro Nouveau in Grantham on Sept. 22; and their annual meeting at the Nashua Country Club on Nov. 10.

Ninety-six member of Granite State chapter are expected to attend Saturday's festivities.

Membership in the association, according to Wikipedia, "is open to active duty, retired and former commissioned officers and warrant officers from the uniformed services of the United States."

The seven uniformed services are the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Surviving spouses of deceased officers are eligible for auxiliary membership.

The purposes of the N.H. chapter, according to Lefebvre, are to promote the aims of the MOAA stated in the bylaws; to further its legislative goals and objectives; to encourage and facilitate camaraderie among the membership; to provide useful services for and to protect the interests of members, their dependents and survivors; and to encourage participation in community services deemed to be in the chapter's best interest.

"We try to help veterans out," Lefebvre explained. "I like to help people out. If you're not doing that, then why are you here?"