



The Granite Slate

The Official Newsletter for the
New Hampshire Chapter of The Military Officers Association of America



March 2010

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Meet the Board of Directors and Chapter Officers

In this and upcoming issues of the newsletters, two members elected to the Board of Directors and as Officers of the New Hampshire Military Officers Association of America will be highlighted, so you can put a face with a name, provide your input, and say thanks to those who are serving.

Gary Lovgren, CAPT, USN (Ret) -Elected to 3 Year Term on the Board of Directors, Nov 2009



Last Assignment: Chief Reserve Programs, Naval Supply Systems Command, Mechanicsburg, PA

Currently: Director New Hampshire Troops to Teachers Program

Avocations: Skiing (instructor at Cranmore Ski Resort), Golf, Tennis, Travel and active member of Jackson community Church

Kenneth L. Weyler, Col, USAFR (Ret) -Elected to 3 Year Term on the Board of Directors, Nov 2009



Last Military Assignment: Emergency Preparedness Officer, FEMA Region One

Most Recent Civilian Occupation: Airline Pilot (ret) Currently: NH State Representative

Avocations: Gardening, Grandchildren, and Travel

Programs for 2010

March 27

Col Don McElhinney,
USAR (ret);

NH State FEMA Liaison Officer
Portsmouth Country Club,
Greenland NH

June 5th White Mountain Hotel, North Conway
CDR Tim Cooper, CO, USS Constitution


Aug 7 Clambake **Sep 18** Grantham

November 13 Annual Meeting-Bedford
Guest Speaker-Kelly Ayotte
Former NH State Attorney General

Chapter Officers

President	LTC Gary S. Terhune, USA (Ret), (603) 570-4885, schoonergst@yahoo.com
Vice President	CPT Jim LeFebvre, USAR (603) 356-7296, lefebvrej@att.net
Secretary	MAJ Patricia A. Graham, USA (Ret), (603) 644-1630, smowcy@comcast.net
Treasurer	CAPT Joan M. Huber, NC,USN, (Ret) (603) 863-5731, joanhuber@aol.com
<i>Visit the Chapter's website at: www.moaa-nh.org</i>	

New Dates Offer Choice



NH Chapter of MOAA presents...

Vacations of a Lifetime

Where will the road take you?

Also included: Enjoy the services of a professional tour manager who accompanies you throughout the trip and takes care of every detail - so you can just sit back, relax and explore!



Shades of Ireland

September 28 - October 7, 2010 10 Days • 13 Meals

Dublin • Irish Evening • Kilkenny • Waterford Crystal • Blarney Castle
Jaunting Car Ride • Ring of Kerry • Kilarney • Farm Visit • Limerick
Gifts of Mohar • Galway • Castle Stay



CANYON COUNTRY

May 13 - 21, 2010 9 Days • 12 Meals

Scottsdale • Oak Creek Canyon • Kaibab National Forest
Grand Canyon • Lake Powell • Monument Valley
Bryce Canyon National Park • Zion National Park • Las Vegas

For information: Bruce Avery (603)526-2854 or bruceavery@tds.net



President's Corner

Gary Terhune

Wow! It has been quite a year since Pres Obama took office. We still have a long way to go to get our economy back on track and Washington has to go some to gain back the trust of the American people. Winter is more than half over and spring is on the horizon. We began 2010 with a luncheon at Promises To Keep in Derry learning all about the NH National Guard from our speaker MG Ken Clark, the former Adjutant General of N H. What a different story from a few years ago when a foot of snow fell prior to and during the luncheon. This year we had a beautiful day with temps in the 40s and blue skies! The Spring luncheon on 27 March will again be held at the Portsmouth Country Club in Greenland, and promises to be very interesting as we welcome COL Dan McElhinney, USAR (Ret), FEMA's NH state liaison officer to speak. Don't miss it.

One of the priorities of our Chapter this year is to increase our membership. Some of you may not be aware of this, to be a member of this chapter you need to be a member of the National organization. I will be sending out letters to our members that do not belong to National. The reason is pretty simple. We are an extension of National and we support what they do for our military, including active, reserve, retired and veterans issues. When you get your letter please read and heed. Another opportunity exists that you may not know about and that is Life Memberships at both National and New Hampshire Chapter level. So if you don't want to be bothered with never ending dues notices, please consider converting your membership to Life status. You can check this out by calling National at 800-234-6622 or our membership chair Michael McLean at 603-692-4648. Becoming a life member has tremendous value and our chapter gets a monetary reward if you do. Please consider this win-win situation.

Upcoming events include The Chapter and Council Presidents Seminar and Stormin' the Hill in Washington, DC at the end of April. The Chapter's VP, Jim LeFevbre, will be attending with Bancroft McKittrick, a member of the National Board of Directors. They will be visiting with our Congressional delegation to promote the MOAA legislative agenda. Our summer luncheon is to be at The White Mountain Resort in North Conway and we are delighted to have the Commander of the USS Constitution as our speaker. Save the date-Jun 5th, you do not want to miss this one.

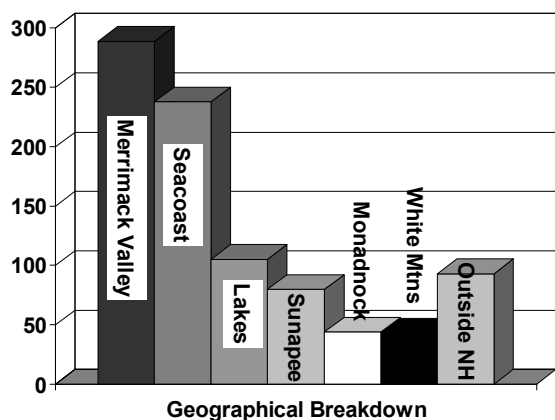
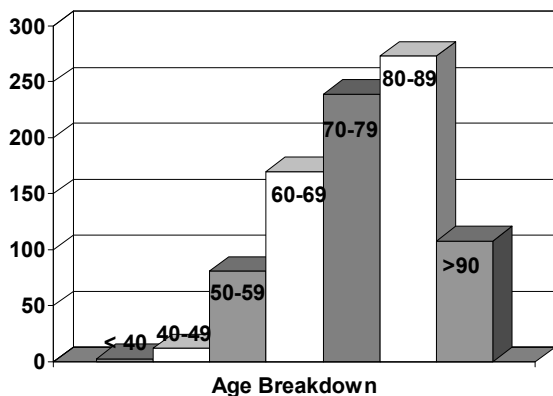
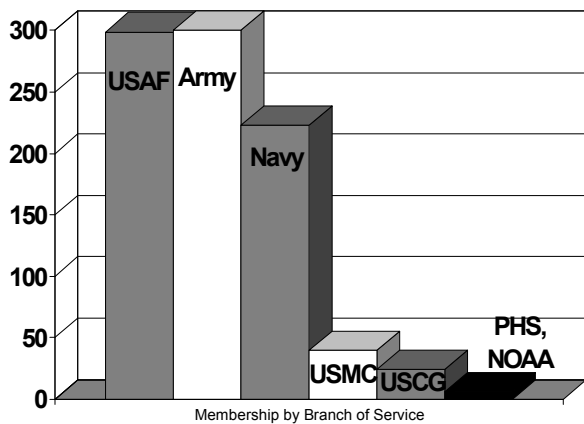
Finally, we are looking for volunteers to join Bruce and Shirley Avery on the Travel Committee as they begin planning 2011. Contact Bruce at 603-526-2854 if you are interested. The Shades of Ireland trip this fall promises to be very exciting. See the Newsletter ad for more information.

Enjoy the rest of winter everyone and we will see you at the Spring luncheon.

New Chapter Members Welcome Aboard !

Maj Jason A Climer USMC (act) Spouse Aileen 29 N Amherst Rd, Bedford 603-488-5623	CPT Daniel J. Crowley USAR (ret) 76 W Shore Rd, Bristol 603-744-3870
CW4 Michael J. Demers ARNG (active) Spouse: Ann 28 Freedom Acres Dr, Concord, 603-731-3492	CAPT Charles Gerhan, Jr USN (ret) Spouse: Patricia 12 Pleasant View Ave Concord, 603-226-0658
Capt Donna M. Horan USAF (ret) 142 Campbell Rd, Bedford 603-471-2571	COL Patricia L. Huber USA (ret) 39 Carriage Lane, Hanover 617-686-0830
Lt Col Kenneth L. Kash USAF (ret) Spouse: Lucia 18 King Rd, Bedford 603-488-5251	LTC Kevin B. Keenan USA (act) Spouse: Carolyn 16 Bela View Dr, Bow 603-219-0068
COL Norman A. Lavigne USA (ret) 53 Aster Ct, Nashua 603-889-4567	LTC Richard M. Lewis USA (ret) Spouse: Barbara 63 Walker St, Laconia 603-528-6529
LTC Norman S. Long ARNG (active) Spouse: Patti 36 Marie Ave, Nashua 603-594-9738	LTC John K. Lyons USA (ret) PO Box 219, Intervale 603-498-8406
Lt Col Jeffrey D. Magaw ANG (ret) Spouse: Patty 11 Bennington Rd, Nashua 603-966-8842	LCDR Thomas G. Marshall USN (ret) Spouse: Elaine 57 Willow St., Littleton 603-828-6200
Col Shannon E. Mills USAF (ret) Spouse: Anne 28 Merrimack St, Concord 603-715-2302	Lt Col Archie S. Mobley, Jr USAFR (ret) Spouse: Susan 11 Quaker Rd, Nashua 603-883-3514
Lt Col Kathleen Nelson USAF (ret) Spouse: John B. 764 Northline Rd, Center Tuftonboro 603 569-9579	LCDR Steward Richardson USCGR (ret) Sp: Barbara 4 Rena Ave, Salem 603-893-9810
LTC William R Roth USA (ret) Spouse: Pilat-Roth 9 Bartemus Tri- 303, Nashua 603-889-5302	Joan W. Snively, Civilian USN 223 Sutton Rd, New London 603-526-9453
LT Joseph P. Stafford USCG (ret) Sp: Elizabeth 4 Surrey Lane, Salem 603-893-6003	Lt Col James S. Umberger USAF (ret) Spouse: Karen PO Box 186, Kearsage 603-356-6881
Col David F. Wall USMC (ret) Spouse: Gerry 87 Panorama Lane, Hebron 603-774-9661	Col Dana A. Whitehouse USMC (ret) PO Box 425, Marlborough 603-876-4237
Maj Wendell Woodward USAF (ret) PO Box 176, Colebrook 603-237-8313	Look forward to welcoming you in person at an upcoming MOAA event

NH MOAA Membership Breakdown Total Membership: 892



FY2011 VA Budget Details

The total VA budget would increase from \$114 billion to \$125 billion, including \$64.7 billion for disability, survivors and educational claims and \$60.3 billion in discretionary spending.

The VA is asking Congress for \$2.15 billion (a 27% increase) in FY2011 to process a huge surge in claims in all areas. Secretary Shinseki and the Administration are calling 2011 “the Year of the Backlog.” The VA plans to hire 4000 workers to handle the workload increase. Many of these will be charged with processing new Agent Orange ‘presumptive conditions’ claims. Last October, the VA added three conditions to the Agent Orange presumptive list -- Ischemic Heart Disease, Parkinson’s disease, and B-Cell leukemia. That means that these diseases will be presumed to be service-caused for any vets who served in Vietnam. This change is expected to generate tens of thousands of new claims from Vietnam vets on top of the million claims previously projected for 2010.

The VA budget request also proposes two years of health funding: \$48.1 billion for FY2011 and \$50.6 billion for FY2012. The idea is to ensure no degradation of funding from one year to the next in the event that Congress fails to approve the VA’s annual appropriation by the start of the new fiscal year.

The medical budget also will allow VA health care enrollment for up to 500,000 more “Category 8” veterans over the next few years. These are non-disabled vets whose incomes exceed the VA’s normal eligibility standard.

The FY2011 budget also includes funding upgrades for a number of high-interest programs, including:

- Care for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans: \$6.8 billion (\$859 million increase)
- Mental health care programs: \$5.2 billion (\$410 million increase)
- Women veterans’ health: \$219 million (\$19 million increase)
- Rural veteran care access: \$25 million
- Reduce veteran homelessness: \$799 million

Source: www.moaa.org

Northeast Region Changes TRICARE contractor

TRICARE has announced that Aetna Government Health Plans will replace Health Net Federal Services in the North region (basically from Virginia to the northeast). The new contractors will begin transitioning operations soon, with the final turnover to occur by April 1, 2010. Here are answers to the questions we anticipate MOAA members may have.

Will I have to do any paperwork?

No, this should be seamless and all enrollment and claims data should be transferred to the new contractors without any action from the beneficiaries.

Will I have to change doctors?

Based on the experience of the last contract change, the vast majority of people shouldn’t have to deal with that, but some may. The new contractors will set up their own networks of physicians. In the past, new contractors have made special efforts to recruit participation of those who were in the previous contractor’s network.

Will I be able to stay in TRICARE Prime?

If you live near a Military Treatment Facility and Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) site, the answer should be “yes” in most cases. But Prime will be discontinued in some other areas, so some number of beneficiaries will need to switch to TRICARE Standard or TRICARE Extra. The affected beneficiaries will be notified by the new contractors.

(additional information at www.moaa.org)

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THE CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP LOAN PROGRAM NEEDS MORE STUDENTS!!

The scholarship committee will meet in June to consider granting loans to eligible students. The trouble is, they won't have much to consider because, so far this year, only three requests for application forms have been received.

The scholarship loan program is open to children and grandchildren of chapter members. Students who are pursuing an undergraduate degree and are approved by the committee receive interest-free loans that can be repaid at the rate of 1/50th of the loan per month, beginning 6 months after the student finishes school.

This year four students have received loans of \$3000.00, and three of them will likely re-apply for another loan next year. Starting in 1985 with one student receiving \$500.00, the program has since granted loans to 65 students. Thirty-five students have repaid their loans, 19 are in the process of repaying, and 11 have received loans and are in school (some have gone on to graduate school, thus repayment has been deferred until completion). No one has defaulted on a loan!

If you know of a student who could qualify this loan program, please insure that they are aware of this. These students are our future, and they need our help!! Application forms can be obtained from: Col. Cal Hosmer, P.O. Box 175, York, Maine 03909, (207) 363-2396, or email: hosmerIII@aol.com



LTC Leslie P. Mason, Jr., USA (Ret.) Brookline, NH



Chapter President Gary Terhune thanks January's guest speaker Maj Gen Ken Clark (USAFR-ret)