



The Granite Slate

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



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MOAA Hosts Two Memorable, Successful Events in One!



Event 1: 453 people attend the annual clambake held at the Portsmouth Shipyard.
Event 2: \$3279 raised for the Scholarship program.
See pg 3 for this year's recipients.

Pres. Joan Huber welcomed US Senator John Sununu. Both NH congressional representatives, Paul Hodes and Carol Shea-Porter, stopped by as well.

Upcoming Programs for 2008-9

- Sept 27 **Bistro Nouveau Restaurant, the Center at Eastman, Grantham NH**
Speaker: COL Christopher O'Connell, USA, Chief Nurse (Director of Nursing), 325th Combat Support Hospital, Speicher Tikrit Iraq (Sep 07-Jun 08)
- Nov 8 **Manchester Country Club-Annual Meeting**
Invited Guest Speaker: Admiral Thad W. Allen; Commandant of the US Coast Guard Spouse Program: Judy Franseen, Marketing Director, The Huntington at Nashua on retirement and long-term care options.
- Jan 17 **Proposed Location-Nashua, NH**

Chapter Officers

President	CAPT Joan M. Huber, NC, USN, (Ret) (603) 863-5731, joanhuber@aol.com
Vice President	LTC Gary S. Terhune, USA (Ret), 570-4885, schoonergst@yahoo.com
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President's Corner

Wow! Here we are with the summer behind us and the fall bearing down on us. Where does the time go? It's election season... again!

As you may already know, the chapter has been selected as one of the winners of the 5-Star Level of Excellence Award as a MOAA chapter for 2007. We have been lucky enough to earn this recognition for the last few years, but it is important that we not take it for granted. It is quite the challenge to qualify. Many thanks to all of the many members of the chapter who contributed to this achievement – all of the committee chairs, directors, volunteers, and participants who make all of the chapter functions and events so successful. As in previous years, our weakest function is recruiting. We have exhausted the traditional sources of new members and need everyone's help to identify eligible neighbors and friends who may be interested in joining us.

The 2008 "World Famous Clambake" was a great success. The weather wasn't gorgeous, but the rains held off and more than 400 people enjoyed the friendship and food. It was wonderful. We are looking forward to the autumn meeting at the end of September. Our speaker, Colonel Christopher O'Connell has recently returned from Iraq and those who have heard him tell me he is a dynamic and engaging presenter. Come and bring a friend!

The Board of Directors is busy planning for the annual meeting in November and preparing the budget and documents necessary to meet our obligations as an organization. Please come to the meeting and participate in decisions for the next year. Then we will eat!

At the annual meeting in Manchester I will step down as the chapter President. Boy, those two years just flew by! It has been a real honor. My heartfelt thanks go to the directors, the officers, the committee chairs, and the many members of the chapter who made my job so interesting and satisfying. Thanks for all that you do.

Enjoy the breathtaking beauty of the autumn season in New Hampshire. We are so lucky to live in this beautiful state! Be safe. Be sure to vote!

Joan

The F-4 Gourmet Visits MOAA Lobster Bake and Submits this Review

(For the non-aviators, the F-4 is the Phantom)

Part of my obligation as the F-4 Gourmet is to visit the highly reputable culinary establishments in New Hampshire, and that gave me the opportunity to attend the world famous MOAA Lobster Bake. Upon arrival, I checked in with the very friendly people at the registration desk, and was pleased to see my reservation was in proper order. Normally, one pays upon leaving a dining establishment, but I guess the organizers weren't sure about those in attendance so paying up front was the only option. My associate chose the lobster and not being one to go with the status quo, I selected the steak-pleased to see we had a choice on the preparation. Since I was intentionally early, I took time to wander through the kitchen and preparation areas. The professionalism and dedication of kitchen crew, and especially Chef Jeff Olson, who was orchestrating the activities was impressive. Someone said something about being comparable to herding cats, but the operation was humming along with military efficiency (any coincidence?). Corn husking, vegetable preparation, and setting up multiple vats for cooking every thing were well underway.

Great to be able to have a beverage while waiting for the appointed hour. At the proper time the announcement of clam chowder being available created a stir-properly so. Nothing like clam chowder on an overcast day.

At noon, the buffet line servers took their positions behind their appointed stations, much to the delight of the line already forming. So we took our places eagerly awaiting our turn. In short order, a lovely young woman came by asking about those who ordered steak, and took my Popsicle stick with "medium rare." I learned she had just graduated from college and was responsible for ensuring the three other adults cooking steaks did their job. She succeeded as my steak was perfectly done.

Upon arrival at the buffet line, my associate was greeted with a smile and a perfectly done lobster, and we both filled our plates with corn, sausage, onions, and watermelon. Quite the delight, and every person was so friendly.

I was pleased to purchase and partake in a bonus dessert from a person introduced to me as the "Cookie Lady," I learned in her other life she is Mary Moran. The pleasure was double as the proceeds went to the scholarship fund.

I highly recommend this epicurean event, but unfortunately I learned you will have to wait until Aug 09 to experience these delights. So if you were there you know of which I speak, if you weren't, plan 2009 around attending. If a US Senator and two US Reps knew this was the center of the universe on that day, it must have been the place to be.

While it was obvious the success would not have been possible without so many people pitching in, the person at the top is certainly the most influential in the outcome...this outcome was superb—my compliments to the Chef! Jeff Olson that is.

New Chapter Members Welcome Aboard !

LTC Roger L. Bergevin
US Army (ret)
5 Beth Dr
Concord, NH 03303
603-334-6480

Col Robert W. Fortnam
US Air Force (ret)
Spouse: Janet
25 Sherwood Meadows
Pembroke, NH 03275
603-485-5174

The MOAA Scholarship Program 2008-9

The Scholarship Committee selected five deserving students for this years NH MOAA Chapter loans:

Maria Crossman, Senior, UNH Durham

Michaela Olson, Senior, Univ of Nebraska

Sara Pulit, Senior, Columbia Univ.

Anne Kasper, Junior, Washington and Lee Univ

Troy French, Sophomore, Springfield College

Status of 2008 MOAA Priorities in Congress

With only a few weeks left on the planned legislative agenda, it's worth taking stock of where we stand on the legislative goals we established at the first of the year.

TRICARE/Medicare Payments to Doctors: Goal Achieved. Congress reversed the planned 10% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments that had been scheduled for July 1, 2008, and implemented a 1% increase for 2009.

GI Bill: Goal Achieved. Congress passed a major new program that will take effect Aug. 1, 2009. Members serving 36 months on active duty after 9/11/01 will be eligible for full tuition at any state school, plus allowances for housing and books. In the interim, Montgomery GI Bill rates are raised 20%. DoD is preparing regulations that will let members who commit to extended service transfer their new GI Bill benefits to a spouse or children, but details won't be known until we see the regulations.

Military Pay Raise: Initial Goal Achieved. The House and the Senate Armed Services Committees have both agreed with MOAA's recommendation to increase the military pay raise to 3.9% for 2009, vs. the 3.4% proposed by the Pentagon. The House went a step further to plus up the pay raise by an extra one-half percent each year for the next five years. We hope to win Senate consideration of a similar plan when they return in September.

Concurrent Receipt: Goal in Progress. The House didn't address the issue this year, but Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), will offer two amendments when the Senate considers its version of the Defense Authorization Bill next month. One would eliminate the offset for all with 20+ years of service; the other would cover non-combat disabled medical retirees with 15+ years of service.

TRICARE Fees: Goal in Progress. The House version of the annual defense bill contains language barring any increases in TRICARE fees through the end of September 2009. Senators Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Chuck Hagel (R-NE) will offer an amendment to the Senate defense bill that would establish permanent principles in law that military health care is provided to offset arduous service conditions, that military people pay large up-front premiums of service and sacrifice in addition to their cash fees, and that the percentage fee increase in any year shouldn't exceed the percentage increase in military pay.

SBP-DIC Offset: Goal in Progress. The House defense bill would extend the modest survivor indemnity allowance to survivors of members who died on active duty. Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) will offer an amendment to the Senate defense bill to end the offset Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities by the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

Guard and Reserve Retirement: Goal in Progress. Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) will offer an amendment to the Senate defense bill that would provide retroactive credit for each 90 days of active duty service since 9/11/01 towards an early Guard or Reserve retirement. Last year's improvement only provided credit for active duty service after Jan. 28, 2008.

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MOAA Career Fairs
Walter E. Washington Convention Center
(Formerly, Washington, D.C. Convention Center)
September 16, 2008, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Pre-Career Fair Transition Seminars beginning at 8 a.m.:

“Marketing Yourself For Your Dream Job”
“Networking Your Way Into Your Target Company”
“Military to Federal Resume Writing Workshop”
“How to Work a Job Fair”
“It’s Your Talent- Becoming an Independent Consultant”

Link: www.moaa.org/serv/serv_career/serv_career_fair.htm

National MOAA Rep Visit

Periodically, representatives from the National Office visit chapters and conduct seminars on a variety of topics. Information can be found for all events at: moaa.org/comm/comm_events_search.htm

Next New England Visit:

Cape Cod Chapter

Speaker: Col Lee Lange II, USMC (Ret)

Date: Oct 2, 2008

Event Location: Bourne, MA

Contact Person: Richard Bowen

Contact : (508) 548-5526

Bow106@comcast.net



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