



The Granite Slate

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



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2009 NH MOAA CLAM BAKE

Another in a long line of successful events

Jeff Olson's finely tuned orchestration of another outstanding Clam Bake included feeding 395 people, overseeing the multitude of volunteers, and ensuring it was held on a day which promised fine weather. Not surprisingly, all three came to fruition. Because of the long time success of this event, it may seem as routine...but that is only because of the effort leading up to and during the event. Thanks also to those who donated to the MOAA Scholarship Event. The young men and women benefiting from that program are listed on the back cover of this newsletter

Upcoming Programs for 2009

Sep 26th Grand Summit Resort, Bartlett
Phil Dyer-presenting on Retirement Financial Issues

Nov 7th Annual Meeting, Bedford NH
Carol Shea-Porter, US Congressional Representative

Save the Dates for 2010

Jan 23 Manchester March 27 Seacoast May 15 Lakes Region
Aug 7 Clambake Sep 25 Hanover/Lebanon



Chapter Officers

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Visit the Chapter's website at: www.moaa-nh.org

Official Travel of the Chapter



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
Cliffs of Moher • 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 more information on these exciting vacations,
call Bruce Avery at 603.626.2854 or email bruceavery@tds.net



President's Corner

Gary Terhune

Wow, what a difference a quarter makes. As optimistic as I was at the beginning of summer, I believe we have just had one of the worst summer seasons in many a year! It was anything but delightful. One thing that I can honestly say was good this summer was this year's edition of the Clambake, as usual. The weather was superb, which we have come to expect, just as the job all of the volunteers did. Jeff Olson, our bakemaster, did his usual stellar job. We can all hope for a great fall season can't we? Speaking of the Clambake, you may have noticed that we passed out a survey for you to give us some input for our program chairman and VP, Jim LeFebvre to consider. If you did not get one you will have another opportunity at the next luncheon in Sep. Please fill one out as we very much want your opinion. We feel we have a great chapter now but we are always open to making it better. We have a new recruiting coordinator in the person of Bob Jaffin who will be looking for ideas and ways to increase our diminishing numbers.

On 20 August we celebrated Military Night at the old ballpark in Manchester coordinated by Pete Burdett. Yours truly and several other representatives of Veterans groups threw out first balls. Bob Jaffin and Jim LeFebvre manned the recruiting table and a few of our members and guests attended the game. We raised a small amount of money for the chapter as \$4.00 of every ticket purchased by our members was returned to the chapter. Maybe next year we can take better advantage!

Our fall activities look to be exciting as we will have Phil Dyer from National with us to speak about things financial which we are all interested in, especially in a down economy like we are in. We will be assembling up in the beautiful North Country at the Grand Summit Hotel in Bartlett on 26 September. Then, our annual meeting is scheduled for 7 November at the Manchester Country Club where we will feature a special guest speaker and roll out our brand new Travel program with a representative from Collette Vacations speaking at our spouses program. He will wet our appetites about our two exciting trips for 2010, Canyon Country and Shades of Ireland. You won't want to miss this folks! Enjoy the rest of the summer and we'll see you up in Bartlett at the end of September.

New Chapter Members Welcome Aboard !

Col Arthur B. Coyne
USAF-ret
Spouse: Mary Jo
53 Stratham Green
Stratham, NH 03885
603-772-7465

LT Wayne Keup
USN-former
Spouse: Paula
PO Box 892
Grantham, NH 03753
603-863-6363



First pitch at Fisher Cats Military Night —this one being thrown by MOAA President Gary Terhune. Not sure if there is truth to the rumor Gary is looking for a free agent contract.

MOAA Seeks Federal Charter

Issue: MOAA Seeks a federal charter to recognize our members' service to the nation and to the community.

MOAA Position: MOAA is the nation's largest, most respected professional association for officers and the fourth largest veterans' group. MOAA is regularly one of the top four or five organizations invited to consult with the President of the United States on military and veterans' issues, and is invited frequently to consult with House and Senate leaders. As an acknowledged leader among military and veterans associations, MOAA's state leaders should not be barred from the opportunity to serve on state-level veteran advisory commissions or panels for lack of a federal charter.

Bills/Status: Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-MD 8th) have introduced S. 832, and H.R. 2017. Both bills would grant a federal charter to MOAA

Below are just three of the many key issues on which MOAA has taken a position and is actively engaging to enact positive reform. For additional issues and more on these visit the Legislative Action Center at <http://www.moaa.org/lac/default.htm>

Sustain Defense Budget to Fund Both People and Weapons Needs

Issue: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, asserts that military manpower requirements and accelerated wear/aging of weapons/equipment over many years of war will necessitate sustaining defense budgets of at least 4% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the foreseeable future

MOAA Position: Seven years of war have left military people and weapons vastly overstressed. The world's richest nation can and must fund both its military people and weapons needs.

- We must grow significantly larger forces, whether we stay in Iraq or not, to be better prepared for the next unexpected contingency than we were for this one
- Any drawdown of forces in Iraq will be offset by increased deployments to Afghanistan, so cutbacks in planned force growth would only worsen the expected pace of deployments.
- Aging weapons with useful lives further shortened by war must be replaced and upgraded
- Very large personnel and weapons regeneration budgets will be required to rebuild future readiness, regardless of progress in Iraq
- At about 4% of GDP, the defense budget is a historic low share of the national economy, and projected to decline further -- vs. the peacetime-year average 5.7% since WWII (see reverse)
- Cutting one essential readiness component (personnel) to fund another -- in wartime -- would consciously increase the already intolerable burdens imposed on military families.
- Such insensitivity to their sacrifices would only further undermine retention and readiness

Mismatch of Force Structure versus Mission

Issue: The grinding pace of operations to support today's global war on terrorism continues to stress armed forces that were already overworked before 9/11. Significant force increases are required to forestall considerable long-term retention and readiness problems.

MOAA Position: MOAA supports sustaining at least the planned increase to Army end strength (with associated resource increases for recruiting and training) to meet mission requirements, and that failure to do so poses unacceptable risks to national security. The defense budget should fully fund both manpower and weapons requirements.

MOAA also supports increases for the USMC, and Army National Guard, but we are concerned that planned Navy and AF reductions are driven by budget rather than requirements and strongly supports restoration of funds to preclude the Air Force cut.

TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Standard Improvements

Issue: Action is urgently needed to attract more providers to participate in TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Standard to meet beneficiary access needs.

MOAA Position: Priority efforts -- including increased payment authority -- must be pursued to incentivize greater TRICARE participation by mental health providers, an essential requirement for meeting the growth in demand by returning warriors and their families. MOAA supports improved portability and beneficiary education, and application of Medicare-based standards and codes to reduce TRICARE-unique administrative burdens for providers.

A particular need is to simplify TRICARE claims processing and restore coverage equity for beneficiaries who have other health insurance. TRICARE should be a true second-payer to other insurance, as it was before 1993 and as it is now for Medicare - paying whatever the other insurance does not, up to the amount TRICARE would have paid if there were no other insurance. Currently, TRICARE often pays nothing when there is other insurance, and claims delays frustrate beneficiaries and deter provider participation.

Most important for the long term, the statutory formula that prescribes payment levels for Medicare and TRICARE providers must be reformed to address the actual cost of providing care. Without such reform, the number of providers willing to accept TRICARE patients will continue to decline.

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Sep 2009 Taps

LT Delancey Nicoll, USNR (Ret.)	Scarborough, ME
Mrs. Betty J Stiles	Greenfield, PA
Mrs. Emma E. Doleac	Concord
Mrs. Mildred E. Monahan	Twin Mountain
Mrs. Lucille S. Zatowski	Huntsville, AL
CW4 Forrest S. Evarts USA (Ret)	Manchester
Mrs. Jean Noyes	Charlotte, VT
LTC Norman R. Demers, USA (Ret.)	Manchester
Mrs. Ann T. Melkonian	Hampton
CDR Charles W. Clark, Jr., USN (Ret.)	New Castle
Mrs. Virginia M. O'Connor	Eliot, ME
CDR William M. Golding, USN (Ret.)	Manchester
1LT William J. Dearborn, USA (Ret.)	Dunbarton
MG Robert S. Holmes, USA (Ret)	Stratham

MOAA Scholarship 2009 Graduates

These four graduates received MOAA Scholarship Awards during their undergraduate studies
Maria Crossman, Univ of New Hampshire
Jessica Hodgeman, Plymouth State Univ
Micaela Olson, University of Nebraska
Sara Pulit, Columbia University

2009 NH MOAA Scholarship Awards

Anne M. Kasper, daughter of Capt. Rob Kasper, USNR (Ret)., is a Senior at Washington & Lee University.

Troy R. French, grandson of Col. David Penniman, USAF(Ret) is a Junior at Springfield College.

Luke T. Kyle, son of LTC Tom Kyle, USAF(Ret) is a Senior at the University of New Hampshire.

Mary M. Levine, daughter of Cmdr. Stephen Levine, USCG(Ret) is a Freshman at Rivier College.

Christina C. Kasper, daughter of Capt. Rob Kasper, USNR(Ret) is a Freshman at Vanderbilt University.