

NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES 10 October 2019

Call to Order: Secretary Michael McLean called the meeting to order at 1830 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled followed by a short invocation delivered by Michael McLean.

Attending: Avery, Balcom, Breuder, Burdett, Burdo, D'Amante, J. Day, S. Day, Ikstrums, McLean, Register.

Opening Remarks: In accordance with the chapter by-laws, in the absence of President Warren Coulter and Vice President Bob Jaffin, your humble Secretary Michael McLean presided over the meeting. Michael announced that we have a quorum (just barely!).

Immediate Past President Remarks: Peter Burdett began by announcing that the last drive-through clinic is October 15th. He repeated how quick and easy it was to get his flu shot. He added that there are additional walk-in clinics on October 21st, 22nd and 23rd. Peter then mentioned that the COLA increase for next year is only 1.6%, down from the increase of 2.8% last year. He added that we will have a little bit over the amount of increase for Medicare. Peter went on to say that the Army Museum at Fort Belvoir will open in June of 2020. He then said that Medicare bill will go up next year. Peter went on to talk about the VAMC, mentioning that the director, Al Montoya, is departing to go to Connecticut. Kevin Forest will be the interim director. Peter then mentioned that the 238 Medivac Unit is departing on deployment to the Middle East. The NH Veterans Cemetery is having its Veterans Day ceremony on November 11th at 11 AM. Peter finally gave a run down on his upcoming trip to Florida. Tony Burdo asked if Peter had any information on the proposed merger or the commissaries with the exchanges. Peter did not. Peter did mention that people, with an honorable discharge, can order from the exchange system online.

Secretary's Report: Michael McLean reported that he had received one comment on the September 2019 minutes from Roby Day who commented on the report concerning a back-up Treasurer. He repeated that we do barely have a quorum. Michael went on to review the inputs he has not yet received for the annual meeting reports. If no one had any other comments, Michael asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the September minutes. Motion passed and minutes accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Roby Day said that everyone should have received the September Report. He said that with the information Roby got from Bruce Avery, the September Luncheon was a financial success. Roby announced that we are still solvent! Michael McLean commented that the September Report did not reflect the September Luncheon income and expenses. Roby said the next Treasurer's Report will reflect those numbers. A comment was made about the number of no shows at the September Luncheon -10. Bruce Avery remarked that he always gives a lower number to the establishment to account for no shows. Roby commented that he did not see any mention of the veteran's drive on the November Luncheon flyer. Michael

McLean replied that there was mention of it on the back of the flyer. The question is who is going to do the 50/50 Raffle. Wayne Balcom and Drew Breuder volunteered to do it. If no one had any other comments, Michael asked for a motion to approve the September Treasurer's Report. He pointed out that we also have to approve the August Treasurer's Report. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Reports for the two months. Motion passed and the report accepted.

Trustees of the Trust Fund: Andrew Breuder reported that the market has been "squirrely" the past two weeks. However, for the year, the investments are up.

OLD BUSINESS:

Status of Annual Reports (due today): Already covered.

Chapter Secretary back-up: Michael McLean said he is planning on asking Bob Jaffin to bring up the various vacancies at the annual meeting. He went through the list of vacancies. He also mentioned that the vacancies do not necessarily have to be filled by Board members. Roby Day brought up the by-laws procedures for nominations for Directors and Officers. Michael commented that the by-laws say that the President shall appoint Committee Chairman but does not say how they are selected. There was a brief discussion concerning the appointment process.

Treasurer back-up: As above.

NEW BUSINESS:

November Lunch preparations: Michael McLean mentioned that up to tonight, we have only received thirteen responses. He repeated that we are planning to have mementos on the tables and a ceremonial anniversary cake. Michael then brought up that he was thinking about changing the service march music played at the November Luncheon. He wanted to get the feel of the Board about the new suggestions, especially the "The Gangs All Here" at the end. He said he will play them during dinner. Sharon brought up the email from Geoff Corson concerning the PAO position, saying that Geoff indicated that he was interested in the position. Michael said he will send Geoff an email accepting his volunteering. Roby Day suggested that he hand out some of the party favors/mementos to the Board members present.

Other New Business: Tony Burdo asked if there was a committee to pick the locations where the luncheons are held, with the possibility of choosing different places. Michael McLean replied that was the responsibility of Gerry Boyle, the Program Chairman. Bruce Avery added that Gerry is leaving it up to the various "luncheon managers". Michael said it is something to bring up to Gerry. There was discussion on the locations of the various events/luncheons.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT): Peter reported that the SVAC met on October 1st. He said they covered a number of topics. Congressman Chris Pappas was present and made a few remarks about his serving on the VA Committee. The SVAC now

Annual Report will be a month late in publishing. Peter reported that the SVAC had the Director of the UNH Veterans Service Center who briefed on all the things they do. Peter pointed out that SNHU has many more veterans enrolled than does UNH. Peter continued by saying that on October 25th, a new VA Community Center will open in Somersworth. The next meeting of the SVAC will be on November 12th. Peter reminded everyone that the new Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services began operations on September 17th.

Personal Affairs: Russ Register reported that this month's Personal Affairs Report two issues. The first is the **TRICARE Pharmacy Fee Increases**. The second topic is **Veterans Benefits Cost of Living Increase**. His monthly blast email is **attached**.

Membership: Michael McLean provided the following membership numbers:

New members - 2
Deceased members - 3
Dropped members - 0
Current total membership – 690

Michael has posted the new combined membership application form on our web site for anyone to download and he has copies with him for anyone who wants them.

Recruiting: Jim Spotts not present. Michael McLean reported that MOAA's "Near Real Time Notification" NRT report for October included 7 names of possible recruits. He sent out 6 letters (1 had been sent a recruiting letter in the past so he did not include him.) For the three months since MOAA has started the NRT reports, they have sent us 4 names in August, 14 names in September and 7 names in October. To date none of them have joined the chapter. MOAA's "do not contact" list of names of people who do not want communication from chapters is 685 this month. The 56 names that are chapter members are still listed.

Programs: Gerry Boyle not present. Michael McLean had already covered the November Luncheon.

Web Page: Michael McLean reported that there were 408 hits in September, down from 415 hits in August.

Popular Pages in September:

Hits Page

38	Tricare
26	Program Notes
25	Membership
20	Chapter News
20	Odds and Ends
10	Group Travel
8	Newsletter
5	Hot Items
5	Virtual Store
3	UNK
2	Transition Assistance
1	GSWA
219	General

Bruce Avery commented that it seems that the hits are double what they were last year. Michael thought they were about half again as many. Michael backed up to Membership to report that one of the new members filled out the new Membership Application form and went online to pay his membership via MOAA. Michael said that the system worked this time.

Travel Programs: Tony Burdo reported that not much has changed from last month's report. He estimates that our commission for 2019 will be approximately \$644.00. However, in 2020, to date our commission could be in excess of \$4,000.00. Tony said that we really need member support in obtaining a community organization such as the Kiwanis, the Elks, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, a religious organization and so on. Just furnish Tony with a name and phone number of a point of contact and he will proceed with the coordination process. Tony went on to mention that he received an email from chapter member, David Howell, who wants to open up his travel programs to us. Tony said we aren't interested unless there is a commission for us. He said they will get together to work out details. There followed a discussion of ways to increase participation by other MOAA chapters.

Scholarship Loan Program: Joe DiChiaro not present.

Strategic Initiatives (SIC): Bruce Avery recommended that this committee be abolished. It could be reconstituted in the future.

Granite State Warriors Award: Bruce Avery said that the Committee recommended Long Term Care (LTC) as one recipient. The other possibility was an outfit that offered free snowplowing to any family of a deployed service member. Bruce needs to determine whether they still exist. Bruce reminded everyone that the Board needs to look seriously for a replacement for him. Michael McLean said we should vote on Bruce's recommendation of LTC and the snowplower (if he still exists). Motion made and seconded. Motion approved.

BREAK FOR DINNER

Reconvened Meeting at 2000

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Awards: Joe DiChiaro not present.

NH Veterans Home: Joe DiChiaro not present.

Nominations (Directors): Covered last month.

Nominations (Officers): Peter Covered last month.

PAO: Kent Whitman resigned. Michael McLean said he would contact Geoff Corson about taking on the PAO function.

Granite Slate: Marie Chipola not present.

Web Communications - FB: Jon VanGuilder not present.

Joint Military Task Force (SUD committee): Andrew Breuder reported that the TAG had

a pre-meeting on the 25th of September to discuss changes in personnel. The next meeting will be on the 17th of October. He said they are considering cutting down on the number of meetings per year.

Blast Email: Geoff Corson not present. **His report is attached.** Bruce Avery brought up that, if Geoff takes over as PAO, he continues as the Blast Email person.

LIAISONS:

ESGR: Sandy Way not present. Peter Burdett reported that the new KC-46A tankers are not cleared to carry passengers or cargo. Peter said there will be a ceremony in the spring to officially welcome the aircraft.

Transition Liaison: Jim LeFebvre not present. He submitted the following report:

Jim LeFebvre stopped by the Fort Hood Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Center for a program update. He obtained quite a bit of useful information on program changes since 2017.

- **VAMC Manchester:** Bernie Satterfield not present. Peter Burdett had already covered several items.

Martins Point: Bob Jaffin not present.

Auxiliary: Gwen Devoe not present.

Last Minute Items: Peter Burdett mentioned that he had talked with Bob Jaffin about whether to hold a November Board meeting on the 14th. Michael McLean disagreed with that idea. He said a Board meeting is different from the annual meeting. Michael recommended that we have a November Board meeting but perhaps not a December one, given the uncertain weather and holiday parties that month. Roby Day brought up his concern about the planning for the January Luncheon if we cancel the December meeting. Michael proposed that we hold the November meeting and cancel the December one. Motion made and seconded. Motion passed. Michael said he will notify the Red Blazer. Michael asked Ray D'Amante if he had anymore information on the Dean Kamen event. Ray gave a brief run down.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will begin at 1830 on Thursday, 14 November 2019 at the Red Blazer in Concord, NH.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2010 hours.

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

Attachments: 2



PERSONAL AFFAIRS REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2019

TRICARE Pharmacy Fee Increases. TRICARE pharmacy fees are set to increase on 1 January, 2020. For example, the fee for a mail order 90 day supply generic drug will go up from the previous \$7.00 to \$10.00. And, the fee for a mail order 90 day supply brand name drug will go up from the previous \$24.00 to \$29.00. Members can read more about these fee increases at:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2019-news-articles/advocacy/tricare-pharmacy-fees-set-to-increase-in-2020/>.

Veterans Benefits Cost of Living Increase. Veterans will see a cost of living increase in their benefits later this year. Covered benefits include disability compensation, dependents compensation, clothing allowances, and dependency and indemnity compensation. The increase is expected to be something less than last year's 2.8% increase. Members can read more at:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2019-news-articles/veterans-benefits-will-see-a-cost-of-living-bump-this-year,-but-how-much/>.

OCT 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS INPUT

BLAST E-MAIL

Below is latest recipient report as extracted from iCONTACT. We are averaging 3 blast e-mails per month, reaching approximately 50% of members. Note iCONTACT explanation of their category of "NO INFO" which may indicate a higher rate of "OPENS" than what is reflected.

Please let me know:

- if there are additional e-mails that you want released on a regular basis;
- if there are members who are not being reached who want to be reached;
- if there are errors in content;
- if there are other comments/suggestions as warranted;
- if there are members who have declined future membership, moved out of the area or died.

I continue to reconcile new/bad/changed e-mail addresses in the iCONTACT database and those who have left the chapter or passed away.

Respectfully submitted,
 G.A. Corson (Geoff)
 Blast e-mail POC
GCo9589119@aol.com
 757-672-0208

BLAST E-MAIL SUBJECT	DATE SENT	NUMBER SENT TO	NUMBER OPENED % (# opened)	NO INFO * % (# NO INFO)	BOUNCES/ UNSUBSCRIBES	MANNER OF OPENINGS: BY COMPUTER	MANNER OF OPENINGS: BY SMART PHONE	MANNER OF OPENINGS: BY TABLET
MOAA-NH PERSONAL AFFAIRS REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2019	10/7	298	21% (61)	80% (237)	1 BOUNCE/1 UNSUBSCRIBE	45% (27)	34% (21)	21% (13)
TRICARE for Life Seminar	10/4	298	41% (121)	59% (176)	2 BOUNCES/0 UNSUBSCRIBE	33% (40)	39% (47)	28% (34)
MOAA-NH TRAVEL TRIP OF THE MONTH 2020 PROGRAM	10/3	298	35% (105)	65% (193)	1 BOUNCE/0 UNSUBSCRIBE	40% (42)	33% (35)	26% (27)
MOAA-NH Annual Fall Meeting September 2019	9/24	298	43% (127)	57% (170)	2 BOUNCES/0 UNSUBSCRIBE	38% (48)	39% (49)	22% (28)

* **NO INFO**: The number of contacts who neither registered a "Bounce" nor an "Open." Note: Some of these contacts might have opened your e-mail, however, they will appear as "No Info" instead of "Opens" if they have images disabled in their email client or have not clicked a link in the HTML version of the email.