

# **NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES 14 September 2017**

**Call to Order:** President Peter Burdett called the meeting to order at 1833 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the assembly present followed by the invocation delivered by Joe DiChiaro.

**Attending:** Avery, Breuder, Burdett, Coulter, Devoe, DiChiaro, Jaffin, Luti, McLean, Register, Satterfield, Terhune, Way. We welcomed Wayne Balcom and Jim Spotts to the meeting.

**Opening Remarks:** Peter Burdett began by recognizing two future Board members who were in attendance Wayne Balcom and Jim Spotts. Peter went on to comment that he attended an event over the weekend at the Boscawen NH Veterans Home (Cemetery?) to honor the 100<sup>th</sup> night of remembrance for September 11th. It was run in part by the American Legion, who was out in numbers because their national Commander was there, a woman by the name of Denise Rohan. Peter went on to talk about his conversation with her. Peter then went on to talk about an event he attended last Friday put on by the Sitier (sp?) Group. This group helps entry level students with their studies who would otherwise be disadvantaged with their learning, primarily in Manchester. Peter related his encounter with the governor's wife, Valerie Sununu. Peter was very impressed with the presentation given by Valerie Sununu. Peter thought she might be a possible speaker for a chapter spouses program. Michael McLean pointed out that we have a speaker for this year's spouses program. Peter said perhaps next year if her husband is still in office. Peter then commented that the new TAG's appointment might be held up. Joe DiChiaro inputed that there is some question on cost overruns on a project that the proposed TAG was involved in. Peter then mentioned the upcoming PBS program of Ken Burns' series "The Vietnam War". Peter repeated his earlier concerns, at the last Board meeting, that pictures might "trigger" reactions in people who served in Vietnam. Bernie Satterfield inputed that the VA will be having "drop in" group sessions to discuss the series. Peter thinks the Vet Centers are gearing up for possible effects of the series. Bruce Avery brought up that he thought this would be a good subject for a Blast Email to our members. Peter passed around a list of Vietnam veterans that someone is looking for photos of for a photo wall. If anyone recognizes anyone, contact the name on the sheet. Peter commented that he had exhausted his remarks.

**Immediate Past President Remarks:** "Chad" Chadwick not present.

**Secretary's Report:** Michael McLean reported that we have a quorum. He said that he received no corrections to the August minutes. Michael reminded everyone that people need to start thinking about their inputs for their Annual Meeting reports. Motion made and seconded to accept the August minutes. Motion passed and minutes accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Roby Day not present (in Scotland). Peter Burdett reported that Roby had distributed the Treasurer's Report and asked if anyone had any questions on the August report. Hearing none, Peter called for a motion to file the report as presented. Motion made and seconded. Motion passed.

**Trustees of the Trust Fund:** Andrew Breuder reported that everything looks good and do not need to make any changes in our distribution of funds. Gary Terhune added his comments that things do look good.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT):** Peter Burdett once again took the floor to begin his report. The SVAC met in September. Peter said it was a very good meeting with the main emphasis on the veterans leadership structure in the state. He went on to say that the meeting was so well attended that they are going to have to move to the brand new Army National Guard training facility in Pembroke. Peter said they had a guest at the meeting – the President of Granite State College. The President is part of a program called “65 in 25” where the goal is for 65% of the workforce in New Hampshire with some sort of degree beyond high school by 2025. Peter thought the current percentage was 51%. Peter went on to say that the governor said this morning that there are 30,000 jobs that need to be filled in the state. Peter then mentioned that one person at the meeting asked if there could be a veterans cemetery in the North Country (perhaps Stark). Peter brought up the ongoing issue of new veteran license plates. Peter then launched into a detailed discussion of the veterans leadership issue. He brought up the three options being considered by the SVAC (**Summary of the three options attached.**). Peter expressed his preference for option #3. A lengthy discussion of that option ensued. Joe DiChiaro spoke up in opposition to option #3. He believed it would just create another government bureaucracy. He favored elevating the director of the Veterans Service Office to commissioner status. Bob Jaffin spoke up in favor of option #2 and against the commissioner position. Bob believed that the most important point was to have a person in the governor’s office. After a lively debate, Peter asked for an indication of how the Board felt on the three options by each member holding up a finger to indicate their choice. The result was seven “three fingers”, no “two fingers” three “one finger” and one fist. Peter commented that he felt that he had worn out his time!

**Personal Affairs:** Russ Register reported that last Monday he sent out a blast email containing his report for September. He went on to summarize the two issues – TRICARE costs and sequestration. **The report is attached.**

**Membership:** Michael McLean presented the following membership numbers:

New members -	4
Deceased members -	3 (Plus 2 w/ spouses)
Dropped members -	0
Current total membership –	724

Michael passed out a spreadsheet that he had created, which broke down chapter regular members by service, rank and city. The members present thought it was an interesting list. Peter asked what the median age of the chapter was now. Michael thought it was the upper 70’s. Peter said that was down from before. Michael replied that it was due in large part to Gwen Devoe’s efforts in identifying those older members who had died. Joe DiChiaro brought up that he has not seen very many NH members listed on the TAPS page in the MOAA magazine. Michael commented that his wife, Faith, goes through the TAPS listing every month as well as reading the obituaries in the *Portsmouth Herald* every day looking for chapter members’ names.

Michael went on to say that MOAA won't accept a request for a TAPS listing unless it comes from a family member, not him. Michael commented that he thought that Marie Chipola, the new newsletter editor, did an excellent job of listing the TAPS members in the September newsletter.

**Recruiting:** Jon VanGuilder not present. Michael McLean reported that he sent out recruiting letters to the 25 names he identified in the August minutes. So far one person has joined.

**Programs:** Sandy Way reported that we have 127 people signed up for the luncheon this Saturday in Wolfeboro. He mentioned the remaining luncheon in November. Michael McLean pointed out that the flyer will go to the printer tomorrow. Sandy then passed out a draft of the luncheon schedule for 2018 and went over the various events scheduled.

## **BREAK FOR DINNER**

### **Reconvened Meeting at 1959**

Peter Burdett held up the book, by Dr. James Wright, that will be given to the speaker, on behalf of the Wright Museum (no connection), at the luncheon on Saturday, noting the bookplate written by Dr. Wright. Peter went on to say that he is looking over the speakers scheduled for next year to see who might be worthwhile to receive more books by Dr. Wright.

**Web Page:** Michael McLean reported that there were 501 hits in August, up from 378 in July. Michael has no idea why the number of hits was so high this month. Popular Pages in August:

<b><u>Hits</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
103	Program Notes
27	Chapter News
27	Newsletter
22	Odds and Ends
15	Membership
6	Group Travel
2	Transition Assistance
3	UNK
257	General

**Travel Programs:** Tony Burdo not present. He submitted the following report:

I received confirmation on our 7<sup>th</sup> and final trip for our 2018 program - that being "Historic Hotels". Awaiting brochures from Collette. The Van Nordens will be departing for their trip this Sunday. I am expecting another commission check within the next month in the amount of \$627.80. That will bring our total for 2017 to \$3,287.20

Coordination with the Bay State Council of MOAA continues. Their President, Al Pacquin, will return from Europe on 21 October at which time we will work out the terms and processes. My initial thoughts are that (1) Include them in the development of our annual travel program, (2) Provide them with brochures for our trips, (3) monitor their participation (4) Give them 5% of the base price of the trip (no air, etc). Comments?

I have not received MHT's 2018 travel program. John Powell agreed to send me a copy of their 2018 program and a Letter of Understanding listing their discounts and their services back in May. I am still not convinced we will receive 10% commission,

regardless of numbers. If we do not receive a commission, do we want to continue coordination with MHT? Comments?

**Scholarship Loan Program:** Joe DiChiaro reported that he will be meeting with Cal Hosmer at the end of the month to complete the turnover. Joe went on to relate a story about one of the Scholarship recipients.

**Strategic Initiatives:** Bruce Avery reported that everyone should have received an email on the status of the (Queensboro) store. They will be coming up with specials for us once or twice a month. Bruce said that our contract with iContact expires at the end of this month and Bruce does not feel we should renew it. He believes that whoever takes over the blast emails should decide what vendor they want to use. Peter Burdett asked if anyone would step forward to volunteer to take over the blast emails. No one stood up. Peter thought maybe he should mention it at the luncheon on Saturday. Bruce did mention that iContact does provide some analytical information that might be useful to determine who is opening the blast emails.

**Granite State Warriors Award:** Bruce Avery said we are finalizing the list. He listed the companies and individuals that have been added this year. Bruce said that the final choices will be presented to the Board for a vote at the October Board meeting.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Awards:** Joe DiChiaro reported that he found out there are 40 NH ROTC grads that will require the “gold bars” to be purchased. He does not think it is cost effective to purchase the MOAA medals for the JROTC individuals. He said we will stick with the plaques that are presented to the high schools.

**NH Veterans Home:** Joe DiChiaro reported that there are always things going on at the Home. He repeated that the Home is always looking for volunteers.

**Nominations (Directors & Officers):** Peter Burdett directed everyone to cross out Peter Dawson’s name on their Agenda and write in Sharon Day for “Nominations – Directors”. Michael McLean submitted, on behalf of Sharon Day, the Board of Directors Nominating Committee report of the slate of nominees for approval by the Board of Directors. The names will be voted on at the annual meeting in November. **Her report is attached.** Bruce Avery raised a concern that Ray D’Amante would attend the Board meetings. Peter Burdett assured him that he would. The motion to approve the slate was made and seconded. Motion passed. “Chad” Chadwick not present. Peter Burdett said we are still looking for a VP nominee.

**PAO:** Still looking for one.

**Granite Slate:** Marie Chipola not present. Michael McLean said that he thought her first newsletter was an excellent job.

**Web Communications - FB:** Jon VanGuilder not present.

**SUD (Substance Use Disorders) Committee:** Andrew Breuder reported that the attendees at the last meeting were getting thin – there were only seven people attending. He summarized the contents of the meeting. The next meeting is the middle of next month.

## **LIAISONS:**

**ESGR:** Sandy reported that they have done two KC-135 “Boss Lifts”. The next lift is September 22nd and the last one is October 27<sup>th</sup>. They have also done two Blackhawk helicopters lifts from Concord on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Sandy again went into the procedure for requesting a lift. Peter Burdett advised that either he or Sandy be info on any email request. Sandy mentioned that he and Peter attended an ESGR outreach seminar this morning at the new regional training center in Pembroke. They are trying to educate the employers as to what to expect when their employees are called up or deployed.

**Transition Liaison:** Jim LeFebvre not present. Peter Burdett mentioned again that Bancroft McKittrick will be out of the country for the next year and Jim LeFebvre will be his stand in for the year.

**VAMC Manchester:** Bernie Satterfield began by pointing out the Flu shot schedule at the VAMC. He went to cover some of the events happening at the VAMC. He commented that it was interesting that \$30 million has shown up for projects and new hiring at the VAMC. Bernie reported that after the regular meeting and the staff left, the task force asked a number of questions of the attendees. The one that stood out to Bernie was what people thought of whether there should be a full service hospital in the state. NH is the only state without a full service VA hospital. Bernie’s opinion was it would be better to rely on the local hospitals rather than have doctors treating only a few patients at the VA hospital. Joe DiChiaro added comments about why veterans can’t use local hospitals. He said that Veterans Choice was designed to help with this, but it has not been implemented well. There was further discussion on the Veteran Choice program. Peter Burdett brought up that the VA works on numbers so the more veterans that are registered with the VA, the more money they will receive. Peter advised everyone should register with the VA whether you use the VAMC or not.

**Martins Point:** Bob Jaffin reported that the next meeting is in October. Bob covered some of the more important points about recent developments with Martins Point. Judy Terhune said she received an email reminder for an appointment from the “Portsmouth Health Center” not Martins Point. She asked if Bob knew anything about that. He replied that he believes Martins Point is setting various “Health Centers” in their area of coverage.

**Auxiliary:** Gwen Devoe reported that she had sent out a number of condolence cards and notes and tried several phone calls (not successfully). Gwen said she is still going through the chapter directory looking for deceased members.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**National Planning for regional convention:** Peter Burdett said that he is still working with CAPT Hunt, PSNY Commander, on a MOAA regional convention to be held at the Portsmouth Shipyard in conjunction with next year’s Clambake.

**Speaker Gift:** Already covered.

**PAO:** Already covered.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Warren C of C in Nov 17:** Warren Coulter said he was ready to be President, but the issue of who will be the VP is still open.

**Awareness:** Peter Burdett asked that all members show awareness to getting new members. He brought up that Michael McLean will be having a half-off sale of MOAA-NN items at the November luncheon.

**Annual Reports:** Peter Burdett mentioned the email sent out by Michael McLean assigning responsibilities for the various reports.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will begin at 1830 on Thursday, 12 October 2017 at the Red Blazer in Concord, NH.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2048 hours.

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

ATTACHMENTS: 3

## NH Veterans - Recommendation to Gov on Leadership Structure

Situation changed – dated 12 September 2017

**Option #1:** Enhancement of the NH State Office of Veterans Services - Policy direction of veterans' services and benefits shall be under a permanent commission made up of 11 members and the administrative and executive direction would be under an Executive Director. – This is not Commissioner level, however, we do like the permanent 11 person commission. Let us NOT lose the connection we gain by having a retired/former/civilian advisory board/commission to provide an assistance to the Director from other stakeholders and re-naming of the Military Leadership Team (MLT). The commission does NOT have to be formal.

**Option #2:** Director in an existing Department, the TAG, is the FASTEST (easiest) to put in place and provides comfort for those that have served by dealing with uniforms. However, now that the “new TAG” is selected, is he ready to accept this expanded role in all of the detail at a Commissioner level? Again, let us continue the connection we gain by having a retired/former/civilian advisory board/commission to provide an assistance to the TAG from other stakeholders and the re-naming of the MLT. The commission does NOT have to be formal.

**Option #3:** Commissioner - Administrative and executive direction of the Department of Military and Veterans' Services under the direction of a Commissioner of Military and Veterans' Services. Leaves no doubt about who gets the call about Veteran issues. Span of control tighter. Key element is the two Veteran Resource Specialists who among other duties would help with data collection and analysis leading to writing grant applications and measuring the veteran department effectiveness in combination with a Business Administrator for budget controls. Would be able to work with authority to get things done on State and Federal levels. We can still retain the Commission level advisory board as the MLT/SVAC can continue to work.

Finally, (all options) location is key to efficient operations, Concord for the part that works on legislation and analysis and the NH State Office of Veterans Services part, home base can be in Manchester, but out in the field is best for Veteran Service Officers. Go to the veterans where they are....work out of existing veteran gathering places statewide.

### Benefits of action:

- a. Establish a well-defined, well-coordinated government leadership structure for coordinating, defining, and providing sustainable funding for effective programs and services for NH Service Members, Veterans and their Families (SMVF);
- b. Improve access to needed services and supports through greater sharing of resources, communication and service coordination;
- c. Promote the welfare of military service members, veterans and their families;
- d. Enhance, coordinate and oversee the benefits and services offered by organizations within the State of New Hampshire;
- e. Direct veterans to appropriate benefits and services offered by such organizations;
- f. Serve as a clearinghouse for research, data, and analysis;
- g. Initiate and support public education and awareness campaigns; and
- h. Provide guidance and training regarding military and veterans issues to civilian organizations.



## Personal Affairs Report for September 2017

This month, MOAA is calling attention to legislative proposals to increase the cost to beneficiaries of military health care.

The Senate, unlike the House, has proposed legislation to raise all TRICARE beneficiaries' health care fees and intends to use the funds to pay for other legislative fixes, such as the continuation of the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance.

The practice of finding offsets by taxing beneficiaries to subsidize other budgetary items has become a familiar behavior by Congress. For example, a provision in the FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) raised TRICARE pharmacy copayments to fund lump-sum retirement payments for future entrants under the military's new retirement system.

Increasing the retail generic copayment for military beneficiaries to \$10 results in beneficiaries paying more than twice as much as civilians without health insurance pay for generic drugs at Walmart.

What does all this mean for beneficiaries? The Senate Armed Services Committee's draft bill telegraphs its intentions to continue to extract more money from you. This money would come directly through the repeal of the grandfathering of TRICARE fees for currently serving troops and through exorbitant increases in pharmacy fees.

Historically, DoD and some in Congress continue to assert TRICARE fee increases are needed based on concerns about potential health care cost growth and a desire to shift a greater share of DoD health care costs to beneficiaries.

MOAA believes the FY 2018 budget-proposed reversal of the TRICARE fee grandfathering and the additional pharmacy increase provisions in the FY 2018 NDAA are inappropriate for many reasons.

***One of the main reasons is DoD health costs are declining, not rising.*** The Pentagon's own data from its annual reports to Congress show health care cost areas of the DoD budget continue to decline from past levels. Both TRICARE For Life and purchased care costs continue to decline.

The FY2018 national defense authorization bill negotiations are underway. Please go to <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=78126646> and send your legislators the MOAA suggested message to prevent these hefty fee increases from negatively impacting service members and their families.

MOAA continues to encourage members to send their Congressional delegation a message urging them to support the repeal of sequestration. Members can easily send an electronic message by going to the following website and entering the requested information: <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=74607626>.





# MEMORANDUM

**Date:** September 14, 2017

**To:** Secretary, New Hampshire Chapter MOAA

**From:** Chairman, Board of Directors Nominating Committee

**RE:** Board of Directors Nominating Committee Report

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In accordance with Annex C of the Chapter By-Laws, the Board of Directors Nominating Committee proposes the following four (4) officers for a full 3-year term (until 2020) on the Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association *of* America.

CAPT William Luti, USN (Ret.)  
CAPT James P. Spotts, USCG (Ret.)  
CPT James R. LeFebvre, USAR  
Capt Raymond P. D'Amante, USAF

Furthermore, the following officer is proposed for a 1-year term (until 2018) to fill the vacancy of the unexpired term of Col R. Bancroft McKittrick, USMC (Ret.).

Lt Col Wayne E. Balcom, USAF (Ret.)

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon P. Day  
CDR, USN (Ret.)  
Chairman  
Board of Directors Nominating Committee