

**MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA**  
**NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**13 April 2023**

**Call to Order:** President Jim Lefebvre called the meeting to order at 1223 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled followed by the invocation delivered by Gary Terhune.

**Attending:** Balcom, Burdett, Coulter, J. Day, S. Day, DuVall, Erickson, LeFebvre, Lovgren, Luti, McLean, Miller, Terhune. A quorum of members was not present until Gary Lovgren arrived later after the meeting began.

**Opening Remarks:** President LeFebvre thanked everyone for coming. On Tuesday, Jim was at Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont for the ROTC awards ceremony, which included forty-one different awards, with several students receiving multiple awards. They had a first-class operations coordinator. We also had an opportunity to recruit new members with three individuals expressing some interest including Lt. Col. Charles Hancock, USSF, who is the current AFROTC Detachment commander. The second person was a Lt. Wainwright, USN, who is currently pregnant with her second child. Finally, Lt. Col. Conway, USMC, who is in his final assignment at Norwich.

**Immediate Past President Remarks:** Bob Jaffin was not present.

**Vice President Remarks:** Larry and Jim are going to the National Guard Association of NH 7<sup>th</sup> Annual combined officer and enlisted associations state conference on Saturday, 15 April, at the Puritan Conference & Event Center in Manchester from 1000 – 1500 hours. Speakers include the TAG from the Cincinnati Adjutant General, Congressional representatives, and National Guard Board of Directors, and a briefing on National Guard Federal and State topics. Peter mentioned that he will also be speaking. He also mentioned that Senator Shaheen will be there herself. Also coming up is the MOAA Northeast Regional Council Leadership Conference in Rhode Island on 1-2 June. If anyone wishes to attend, please contact Jim Lefebvre. There are some chapter funds to defray some of the travel costs of attending this meeting. This will be a workshop covering membership, legislative affairs among other issues. This workshop includes chapters as far away as West Virginia. Peter has previously attended one of these conferences and having spouses attend is also encouraged. It's an opportunity to network with the DC leadership and for them to get to know us. Jim specifically wants to bring up the status of the Vermont chapter. If they are indeed defunct, we might be able to pick up members from their Zip Codes. Larry said that there might be some competition from New York for those members as well. Jim disagreed because they called him to do the award ceremony at Norwich before asking New York. Jim said it appears that National doesn't know which direction they are going to go with this issue. They are debating whether to let Vermont try to resurrect themselves or to deactivate the chapter. If no decision has been made by the end of May, then Larry should pursue this issue at the June conference.

**Secretary's Report:** Michael received one spelling correction to the March minutes. A motion to accept the corrected minutes of the March meeting was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

**Finance/Treasurer's Report:** Roby had previously sent out the end of March reports including the luncheon results. Alex Ray has again been very good to us. After the results of the April luncheon, Roby computed our retained earnings to date and it's a little more than \$1,300 which seemed a bit low. He looked at membership dues revenues back to 2017 when we had \$4,500 paid in dues. As of today, we only had \$3,200, a steady decline reflecting the drop in chapter membership. This reduces our ability to do a variety of things without dipping into encumbered funds. If we reach a point where our retained earnings are zero or less, then he suggested that we start drawing down our life membership investments. Based on current life memberships, Michael calculated that we could withdraw about \$1989 per year. An issue is the continuing increase in costs to do things like publishing flyers, newsletters, etc. Larry mentioned that he is still trying to get the award we promised for the Taub's as the Granite State Warrior awardee. Michael had previously asked Allegra for a cost estimate for a similar plaque and they said it would be \$250. The old price for these Lucite awards was around \$87. Gary has another possible supplier to see what kind of deal we can get. Peter asked about the total donation for Ukraine which came to \$930. Jim thanked everyone who donated to the Alex Ray fund raiser for Ukraine. A question was asked about sending out the newsletter electronically instead of mailing them. Michael responded that this issue had previously been discussed and is not worth the effort as we only have a very limited number of email addresses and even with the blast emails, we still have a number of "bounced" emails due to address errors. A motion was made to accept the financial report. This is seconded and approved by all present.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 1252 hours and reconvened at 1313 hours.

**Trustee of the Trust Fund:** As Drew was teaching and not available, please see the financial report.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Common Man Luncheon final report:** See the report sent out separately by Roby. The cash flow remainder was \$568.84.

**Norwich University Award Program:** Jim remarked that when you see an entire corps of cadets, it was one of the most impressive things he has seen. It was a "blast" and everyone had a good time. Jim encouraged everyone to attend one of these ceremonies in the future if possible. Joe DiChiaro also asked if Jim could discuss the upcoming presentations at various high schools and colleges. Jim volunteered to cover the North Country. Joe received information for the ROTC units at UNH and has ordered the plaque for each outstanding Senior and has the medals and certificates for the Juniors. He needs a volunteer to present for the Army on Friday, 28 April at 0900 in the Paul Center for the Arts in the Johnson Theater. Rick Erickson has volunteered for this event. Joe will present for the AFROTC on 3 May. There are five JROTC units scheduled and

has partial responses from four leaving just the Marine unit at Winnicunnet to be settled. The Army JROTC at White Mountain Regional HS for Saturday, 13 May at 1300 hours and the award materials are ordered. Gary will cover that event. The unit at Fall Mountain Regional HS has no senior this year and he doesn't have a date or name of the Junior yet. Last year no one stepped up for these northern units, but our joint member with AUSA did double duty. Manchester West HS JROTC is at 1600 on 4 May in the cafeteria and this will be covered by Drew who is also presenting an award from the Order of Daedalians. Last year's presenter for Dover was a true blessing since he was an alumni of the school and recent retiree who hopefully will do the honors again. AFJROTC's have the following scheduled:

Spaulding 18 May at 1300 at the school.

Pinkerton 31 May and will be covered by Joe

Alvirne, Nashua North, and Salem have responded, but have not finalized dates, times, or recipients.

**Advocacy in Action Update:** Bob Jaffe was not present and there was no report.

**Clambake Discussion:** Jim was asked if the clambake is "on". Yes, we are doing it. Gary Terhune said we still have not found someone to take over the bake meister position. Ken Lull will send his SOP manual to us but has not done so yet. So now, both Gary and Chad Chadwick are the co-chairs for the function. Jim Spotts had previously agreed to assist but would not run the clambake. Wayne Balcolm has also volunteered. Bernie Satterfield will take care of drinks. Proposed cost will be \$35/person. This will be confirmed prior to sending out the flyers and once we have a better estimate of anticipated costs. It should be remembered that last year's event had significant subsidies given by various members. These details will be discussed further at each future BOD meeting. The site is reserved for the first Saturday in August (the 5<sup>th</sup>). One additional comment. Jim received a call from National stating that the chapter was due for a visit. Jim responded that they were just here last August at the Clambake, and were told, "never mind". Jim has already invited several DV's to the Clambake again.

**Granite Slate Update:** Drew was unable to be present. He is currently gathering material for the June edition.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**NG State Conference:** See discussion under VP's remarks.

**MOAA Northeast Session Update:** See discussion under the VP's remarks.

**June 17<sup>th</sup> Event Update:** Gary Lovgren said this is planned as a family event rather than the usual luncheon. Tin Mountain has a beautiful conference center just south of Conway. It's a natural history/education center with many stuffed animal exhibits, beautiful gardens, many trails that are handicap accessible. Naturalists will provide the kids with easy nature walks and hiking trails, the adults will be at the luncheon, and after that, participants are free to do whatever they want. Our speakers will be from the search and rescue teams that operate the

helicopters as well as the Director of the Tin Mountain Conservation Center to introduce it to us. The event will be catered by Sweet Maple Café in Conway and will be picnic style (fried chicken, pulled pork, potato salad, etc.) as a buffet. Michael commented that we had previously tried a buffet before, but because we are an older group, there was some difficulty with people being able to walk and carry food at the same time. Table mates should be expected to assist those with these issues. Because it is a catered event, there is no regular bar service. Wine and beer will be available for \$5. We can bring our own spirits. Cost will be \$100/immediate family. The Marriott at Cranmore is available for overnight stays for about \$116-130/night, well below the normal \$270 government rate. This rate normally expires at the end of May, so see the flyer for reservation details. The normal luncheon hours will be in effect (1100-1400 hours). New condominiums being built in this area are costing \$750K-\$1.9M. Ten of the sixty-two planned units are already sold. Peter suggested bringing some flyers to the National Guard Conference as well on the 15<sup>th</sup>. We are paying a room fee of \$380 and estimate we need 65 attendees to break even. A discussion on handling receipts will occur after today's meeting.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT/Vets Count):** Peter Burdett said the AUSA dinner is coming up at the Puritan on 4 May and Pete has one extra flyer on this event for anyone who wants one. Peter and Jim intend to be there. Peter is also scheduled to be a speaker at the 15 April National Guard conference. "Our Community Salutes" will be on 1 June at the Fischer Cats stadium with a baseball game, fireworks, and enlistment ceremonies on the field. The "Soldier for Life", Lt. Col. Regional (sp?) is also planning to go to speak to all the parents. The SVAC was well attended with over 50 people present. The next meeting is on 2 May and will be taking nominations for Vice Chair and Treasurer. Rumor has it that Bob Jaffin has some interest in the Vice Chair position. There were some really great speakers including one from the Red Cross discussing their various programs. Another was Laura Gillman from Mobius Mobility. They have an iBot mobility wheelchair for any veteran in need of such a device with a doctor's prescription. The iBot has the ability to stand and was designed prior to the Segway units and also has the ability to climb stairs. These are free to those who are diagnosed, treated, and prescribed from the VA. Normal cost of these units is between \$35K-\$45K. Dr. Laura Landerman was also doing holiday Easter cards for veterans. She is looking for volunteers, but Peter didn't pick up one of her business cards. She can be found by going to "Holiday Cards Challenge" and works out of Hollis, NH. She has moved 280,000 cards so far in her career. Peter explained that the VA has three separate funding groups: the medical centers (VHA), the benefits center (VBA) for education, mortgages, etc., and the vet centers. **NOTE: Peter forgot the National Cemetery Administration (NCA).** The briefing was from the VBA. Kevin Forest, the VAMC Director, is going to a medical recruiting conference at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio during the third week of May. He will have an opportunity to do a parachute jump with the Golden Knights. Amy Cook is retiring from the military leadership team. Her replacement will have a salary between \$77-82K/year as an assistant to the Deputy TAG. Warren Perry, the Deputy TAG, is really looking for a good replacement for Amy. The position is mainly located in the Concord area. Peter's term as NH Aide to the Secretary of the Army ends 17 July, and Peter has information for anyone interested in that position. Peter will be

attending the annual conference during 8-12 May at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. [NOTE: Maj. General Leonard Wood was a physician, Chief of Staff of the US Army, Governor of Cuba, Governor-General of the Philippines, Medal of Honor recipient, and commanded the Rough Riders with Theodore Roosevelt as his second-in-command. He was born in Winchester, NH and received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School.](#) If you have messages for Secretary Christine Wormuth, please contact Pete. Of note, the NH Veteran's Home is out of the Covid status and can handle small groups of visitors for morning coffee. Currently the home has 128 residents, 117 men and 11 women with an average age of 83 (down from 84). Their goal is to increase bed capacity to 131 but this hinges on obtaining sufficient staffing and funding. Peter wished to speak about the military leadership team which is used to provide high level guidance to the TAG, the state of NH, and the Governor on military issues. They recently had a talk by Ben Forrest, NH Housing Authority Deputy Director. They can offer some tax credits for investors who want to put together buildings/housing for homelessness in NH. Housing is the number one issue in NH which is contributing to homelessness in the state. Median rent for a two-bedroom apartment is \$1584/month, a 26% increase over the last five years. It is higher in the North Country. In Carroll County/North Conway, 48% of the homes there are second residences. The current housing gap is 23,670 units and the vacancy rate is less than 1%. An acceptable rate would be around 5%. By 2040, the housing director thinks we will be 90,000 units short. Yesterday's Union Leader had a report suggesting it might actually be closer to 150,000 units. This affects the state's ability to attract needed workers. This includes physicians and nurses. Many businesses now are getting back into the building of housing for their employees and an outfit building "tiny homes" in Durham. Turbocam is also considering constructing employee housing. They had a talk with a young lady who will be the Army Reserve Ambassador for NH and MA, and Ginger Munson is leading the charge for the campus in Franklin and will be speaking at the next opportunity. In addition, the VA has confirmed that the Tilton CBOC will move to that new campus. MOAA National recently sent out an article about "means testing" for veteran disability payments. Please check out that article. There is also a potential crisis in the volunteer military and could this lead to the reinstitution of a draft? Peter Duffy, the current head of the Selective Service for NH is stepping away from his position and has asked Peter if he could take on that responsibility. He thinks he could if no longer the civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army. Less than 20% of the current military aged population could actually join the active-duty services. The Army is taking those who can't pass the ASVAB to Ft. Benning for remedial classes or fitness training. Our new CEO of MOAA National is Lt. Gen. Bryan T. Kelly, USAF (Ret) who retired in 2022 was responding to budget writers about the increasing cost of disabilities and asked why they were surprised since we've been at war for the last 20 years.

**Personal Affairs:** Nothing to report.

**Recruiting:** Jim will try to do so recruiting at the NG meeting Saturday.

**Membership:** There are three new members, two deceased, plus one with a spouse, dropped 14 members, for a new total of 544. The dropped members were due to failure to pay dues for

the last two years. Fifty members have not yet paid their dues for this year and will receive a reminder letter in June.

**Programs:** No updates from Gerry Boyle.

**Website:** Michael re-installed his web counter application and last year we had 162 hits, but this month we had 300 hits. Michael is still looking for a replacement webmaster.

**Travel Program:** Tony Burdo stated that all of our 2024 contracts with Collette have been approved and signed. We will be offering four contracted trips and we are suggesting numerous World Connect trips. There are four 2024 contracted trips and World Connect suggested trips ([see the attachment to these minutes for details](#)).

**Scholarship Loan Program:** Wayne Balcom is healthy and well. He has had some difficulty in finding the announcement in Chapter news regarding the applications for the scholarships. He has received several phone calls saying, “where is the scholarship application”? Michael will move the information to the “Home page”. Applications will be due by the 16<sup>th</sup> of June and Michael said he put that in the flyer for June. Gerry said that we have not touched the investments yet, and we’re still working off the approximately \$14-15K in that account. Roby said there are also encumbered funds in the TD account as well. So now, we have sufficient funds to cover all scholarships. Michael said he received an inquiry from Carolyn Lockhart regarding a \$100 donation to the fund from her IRA and had not received an acknowledgment yet. Michael thought that we only did that for donations of \$250 or more. Most of our donations have been small dollar amounts and it would not be practical to acknowledge every one of those. Peter asked if any wanted to know about “QCD’s”, qualified charitable distribution amount form an IRA is? Peter will stick around after the meeting if anyone is interested in a further discussion. The proof is supposed to come from the financial advisor and reflected in the distributions.

**Granite State Warrior’s Award:** There were no updates.

#### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Nominations – Directors/Officers:** Sharon said that we have up to five vacancies and have received two nominations as of yesterday. They are Capt. Jim Dunn, USN (Ret) from Waterville Valley, and Dr. Richard Siemens, CDR, USN (Ret), MC from Deerfield. Dr. Siemens was previously on the Board and was the Acting COS at Manchester VA after Drew retired. Jim has a nomination for Vice President, Wayne Balcolm. Another option would be to see if a former officer/President would be willing to fill this position temporarily or other potential options. We need to replace Larry Miller at the annual meeting in November. This will be an “OPEN” item for the May BOD meeting.

**Granite Slate:** Drew was absent and is currently accumulating material for the June issue.

**Web Communications:** No report.

**Blast Email:** No report.

## **LIAISONS**

**ESGR:** Peter Burdett said that there was nothing new to report.

**Transition Assistance:** Jim LeFebvre is working some issues with the chapter in San Antonio, TX.

**Manchester VAMC:** [See Bernie Satterfield's notes in the attachment.](#)

**Martin's Point Liaison:** No report from Bob Jaffin.

**Surviving Spouse Liaison:** Since the last board meeting, I have recorded three deaths, sent out one condolence card, and one condolence letter.

**Next Board Meeting:** This is scheduled as a Zoom meeting for Thursday, 11 May 2023 beginning at 1830 hours. Peter will be unable to attend as he will be at Ft. Leonard Wood.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1410 hours which was seconded and accepted by all members present.

Respectfully submitted

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

## MOAA-NH 2024 "GROUP TRAVEL" PROGRAM

SPOTLIGHT ON THE FRENCH RIVIERA, 9 Days, 11 Meals, \$3649 w/ air from Logan, 18-26 Apr 2024, \$50.00 discount, price and dates are only valid until 19 November 2023

AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS AND DENVER: 14 Days, 20 Meals, Estimate w/air \$4999  
September 2024 (Exact price and dates not yet available)

SPOTLIGHT ON SOUTH DAKOTA, 7 Days, 9 Meals, Estimate with air \$2899, May 2024  
(Exact dates and price not yet available)

MEMORIALS OF WAR – NORMANDY, October 2024 (Exact price and dates not yet available)

### "WORLD CONNECT" SUGGESTIONS: (Contact Tony or Tom with any inquiries)

Select your vacation trip below or any trip on website [www.gocollette.com](http://www.gocollette.com) and then contact Tony, 603-391-7106, email: [tonyajjb@gmail.com](mailto:tonyajjb@gmail.com) or Tom, 603-686-2663, email: [tkyleh@yahoo.com](mailto:tkyleh@yahoo.com). Tony or Tom will guide you through the reservation process and you will receive MOAA-NH discounts. When making reservations with Collette, you must use our World Connect\_ID # 8219-135 and you must say "dash" when giving our ID# or our membership will not appear; i.e., 8219dash135.

CLASSIC DANUBE

SPOTLIGHT ON SAVANNAH

TUSCANY AND THE ITALIAN RIVIERA

WESTERN CANADA'S ROCKIES, LAKES AND WINE COUNTRY

LONDON AND PARIS

BLUE GRASS COUNTRY AND THE SMOKEY MOUNTAINS

GERMANY'S CULTURAL CITIES AND THE ROMANTIC ROAD

ICONIC ISRAEL

GREECE ISLAND HOPPER

NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM AND FRANCE (NEW TOUR)

JAPAN: PAST AND PRESENT (NEW TOUR)

THE PLAINS OF AFRICA

THE COMPLETE SOUTH PACIFIC

ICELANDIC ADVENTURE

SPOTLIGHT ON SAN ANTONIO HOLIDAY

NASHVILLE AND THE SMOKEY MOUNTAINS HOLIDAY

ESSENCE OF THAILAND (NEW TOUR)

SOUTHERN CHARM

ITALY: AMALFI COAST TO PUGLIA

JOURNEY THROUGH SCOTLAND AND ENGLAND

EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS MARKETS, Estimate \$2999 w/air from Logan, 9 Days, 11 Meals

**(GREAT OFFER, NEW TOUR)**



## Manchester VAMC Town Hall Notes

- Infrastructure/facility updates
  - Mountain entrance construction: Opening in May; both entrances Eagle and Mountain open through June; Eagle entrance closing in July and reopening in October (pending no delays)
  - Women's Health Clinic: Estimated construction completion in Fiscal Year 2025
  - Loop Road: Estimated construction completion in Fiscal Year 2026
  - Specialty Services Building for Audiology and Optometry: Estimated construction completion in Fiscal Year 2026
- VA Whole Health System
  - Whole Health is an approach to health care that empowers and equips people to take charge of their health and well-being and live life to the fullest.
  - Phone Number: (603) 624-4366 ext. 5046
- PACT Act
  - The Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act or PACT Act expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures.
  - The PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions that we assume (or presume) are caused by exposure to these substances.
  - Every enrolled Veteran will receive an initial toxic exposure screening and a follow-up screening every 5 years.
  - Veterans who are not enrolled but who are eligible to enroll will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.
  - You can learn more about the PACT Act and apply by visiting [www.va.gov/PACT](http://www.va.gov/PACT) or calling 1-800-MY-VA-411
  - **The VBA Executive Director, Ena Lima attended the Town Hall meeting. She proposed to veterans with unique concerns with the PACT Act could contact her directly at 617.303.4250 or email at [Ena.Lima@va.gov](mailto:Ena.Lima@va.gov)**
- SERVICE Act
  - If you are a Veteran who served in an area where you may have had toxic exposures such as open burn pits, you are eligible for a breast cancer risk assessment to determine if a mammogram is right for you.
- COMPACT Act
  - Effective January 17, Veterans in suicidal crisis can go to any health care facility, at VA or in the community, for free emergency health care – including transportation costs – and receive inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days, and outpatient care for up to 90 days, including social work.
- Veteran Crisis Line
  - Dial 988 then Press 1, effective July 16, 2022
  - No changes to the Veterans Crisis Line chat and text options will remain available.
  - Chat: [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)
  - Text: 838255
- My HealtheVet Account

- Contact Louis Ruiz (603) 624-4366 ext. 2291 to register or upgrade your account to a FREE premium status in-person or via VA video conference.
- VISN1 Clinical Contact Center
  - Toll-Free Number 1-833-933-1106
  - Veterans can continue to be routed to VISN 1 Clinical Contact Center through existing VAMC, CBOC, and outpatient clinic phone numbers.
- Women Veteran Call Center
  - Call or text at 855-VA-WOMEN (855-829-6636) or use the online chat feature.
  - Available weekdays 8 a.m.-10 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m.- 6:30 p.m.
  - All calls are answered by women.
- Manchester VAMC Patient Advocates
  - (603) 624-4366 ext. 6491
  - <https://www.va.gov/manchester-health-care/health-services/patient-advocates/>
- Access and Quality in VA Health Care
  - Website: [www.accesstocare.va.gov](http://www.accesstocare.va.gov)
  - Includes updates on Veteran experience information, timeliness within health care subspecialties, and ability to view relevant medical center information more easily.
- Caregiver Support Program.
  - Here is the website link for the Manchester VAMC Caregiver Support: <https://www.va.gov/manchester-health-care/health-services/caregiver-support/> You can also call them at 603-624-4366 ext. 6895 with any questions you may have regarding the program.