

**NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
20 January 2021**

***[Secretary's Note: These minutes are not as complete as they should be because the recording of the ZOOM meeting was not provided by Joe DiChiaro.]***

**Call to Order:** President Bob Jaffin called the meeting to order at 1905 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled.

**Attending:** Boyle, Breuder, Coulter, Frye, Jaffin, LeFebvre, McLean, Miller, Spotts.

**Opening Remarks:** President Bob Jaffin welcomed everyone. Bob confirmed with Michael McLean that we have a quorum. He wanted to get the meeting going so he had no remarks.

**Immediate Past President Remarks:** Warren Coulter had no comment.

**Secretary's Report:** Michael McLean reported that the last regular Board meeting was in October 2020. He said he had received no corrections to those minutes. He said that, unless any one could remember back that far or had any corrections, he asked for a motion to approve the October 2020 minutes. Motion made and seconded. Motion passed, minutes accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** As we do not have a Treasurer presently, Roby Day submitted a "Bookkeeper" Report. It indicated that we are in the hole for the year. The report listed the categories of fixed expenses going into 2021 and stated that we should have enough "unencumbered" funds to cover those expenses. The report also mentioned that the IRS is behind in publishing the IRS Form 990-EZ. Michael McLean asked if there were any questions. If not, he asked for a motion to approve the "Bookkeepers" Report. Motion made and seconded. Motion passed and report approved.

**Trustees of the Trust Fund:** Andrew Breuder reported that we are in good shape and our investments are doing very well. Several people commented that they wished their investments were doing as well!

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Strategic Review Committee:** Bob Jaffin reported that he is working on the formation of the committee. He said that Bruce Avery had agreed to head the committee although Bob had not spoken with Bruce in a while. Bob hopes to have enough organized to hold a ZOOM meeting of the committee members on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Operations Committee:** Jim LeFebvre reported that he had five out of the seven hopeful members of the committee confirmed and was working to find the last two. Jim commented that he has not had an overwhelming response to his article in the December *Granite Slate* asking for suggestions for future chapter events. He is hoping for more replies. He hopes to have enough information to have a ZOOM meeting also on February 11<sup>th</sup> along with Bob's mtg.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**2021 Tentative program:** Bob Jaffin said we can not plan anything for this year until we see how the pandemic plays out. He did say that the first event, perhaps in April, will be the GSWA luncheon. We have a recipient; we just need a venue. Michael McLean brought up whether we are still planning an in person Board meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Red Blazer. Bob said yes so Michael will confirm with the Red Blazer.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT/Vets Count):** Peter Burdett not present.

**Personal Affairs:** Vacant.

**Membership:** Michael McLean reported the following information since the October 2020 Board meeting:

New members -	5
Deceased members -	7 (Plus 4 w/ spouses)
Dropped members -	0
Current total membership –	648

Michael mailed out 274 dues letters this week – 36 for 2019 dues year (last chance) and 238 for 2020 dues year.

FYI, the Hunts' have moved to VA and Terry Bobseine has moved to FL (she is planning on returning to NH this summer).

**Recruiting:** Jim Spotts said he is back doing recruiting. He commented that he thought that our web site was not optimized for search engines like Google. He said he would look into it. Michael McLean added that he had sent out twenty seven recruiting letters since October. Four new members joined as a result of the letters.

**Programs:** Gerry Boyle had no input at the moment due to the pandemic. He has several speakers available and can get more when needed.

**Web Page:** Michael McLean reported the following information since the October 2020 Board meeting:

61 hits in October
78 hits in November
29 hits in December
Popular Pages in December:
<b>Hits Page</b>
6 Hot Items
3 Chapter News
3 Contacts
3 Membership
3 Odds and Ends
3 Transition Assistance
2 Group Travel
5 General

Michael submitted our web site for MOAA's Communications Award contest on January 14th.

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

No travelers for 2020 or 2021.

One couple registered for the Passion Play River Cruise in 2022. Total travelers for 2022 to date are six.

Tom Kyle and I will be meeting with the Collette District Manager, Matt Vaccola, on 28 January to finalize our 2022 travel program. I provided Matt with tentative trips, mostly in North America and two for Europe. I am only going to schedule four or five trips for 2022 rather than the norm of seven or eight.

**Scholarship Loan Program:** Wayne Balcom not present.

**Granite State Warriors Award:** No report.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Awards & NH Veterans Home:** Michael MacLean reported that Joe DiChiaro sent him an email saying not much is going on with either.

**Nominations:** No report.

**PAO:** VACANT.

**Granite Slate:** No report.

**Web Communications - FB:** Jennifer Wright not present. She reported that she is creating a new FB account for us based on previously mentioned issues that have not been resolved or responded to by FB support. She will have it up shortly and will start populating it with all things MOAA.

**Joint Military Task Force (SUD committee):** Andrew Breuder submitted the **attached report**.

**Blast Email:** Bob Jaffin reported that Geoff Corson is still doing it even though he wants a relief.

## **LIAISONS:**

**ESGR:** Sandy Way not present.

**Transition Liaison:** Jim LeFebvre reported that MOAA has Transition meetings online regularly.

**VAMC Manchester:** Bernie Satterfield not present. He submitted the **attached report**.

**Martins Point:** Bob Jaffin had no report.

**Auxiliary:** Gwen Devoe not present and had no report.

**Last Minute Items:** Jim Spotts brought up a program he is involved in called “[Innovative Readiness Training](#)”. He suggested that people Google it and read what it is about. He thought it might be a project that MOAA-NH might want to get involved with. Bob Jaffin commented that this is just the thing that he has been talking about, about community projects and increasing MOAA-NH’s exposure.

Michael McLean brought up that we need to start thinking about our 5 Star LOE inputs for this year. MOAA has not released the requirements or format yet. As soon as they do, he will send out the pertinent parts.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 11 March, 2021 at the Red Blazer in Concord, NH.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1947 hours.

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

## Joint Military Task Force/Task Force Chairs Meeting of 18 Dec 2020/15 Jan 21

The final meeting of this sub-committee for 2020 was held on the above date. Formal meeting minutes from September 2020 were distributed at the meeting and were available electronically.

1. The latest version of the JMTF one page brief was updated for 2021 and presented to the committee. There were seven goals divided among service members, families, and veterans that the committee plans to target with specific activities relating to each of these goals. These are unchanged from 2020.
2. SSgt Frost has again taken over the co-chair position formerly held by Lt. Col Samon. Rick presented some information he obtained from attending some meetings of the Prevention Task Force as well as providing an update on the Purple Star and "Ask The Question" initiatives.
3. Paul Kiernan was going to update the list of current members and initiatives and prepare an Excel spreadsheet for members.
4. The TAG was interested in developing additional funding recommendations, primarily looking at wellness initiatives.
5. There have been no responses to the TriCare/Humana letter, and this issue has been tabled.
6. The next meeting of the JMTF will be on 18 March 2021.

There was a Task Force Chairs Meeting held by Zoom meeting on 15 Jan 21.

1. Amy Daniels gave an update on the planning for the Governor's Commission Strategic Planning 2022-2025. They will be looking at the Commission's internal structure and reviewing the mission and vision statements. The next update will include the gathering of information from non-members for the "lived experience" tasking and a update template will be sent out to Task Force Chairs with a due date of 19 Feb 21.
2. Dr. Seddon Savage gave a presentation which talked about a potential change in focus of the Opioid Task Force from opioids to "critical drugs" such as methamphetamine. During the pandemic, the use of these other "critical drugs" has increased while opioid use has declined.
3. Finally, there was a brief discussion about reviewing the current Commission funding requests and Mr. Tufts is looking for Task Force Chairs to determine which requests should be renewed.

Andrew J Breuder, MD, MPH, FACPM, CPE  
Col (Ret), USAF, MC, CFS



# JOINT MILITARY TASK FORCE

## Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs

Chair:  
Major General David J. Mikolaities

Co-Vice Chair:  
Dr. Andrew Breuder

Co-Vice Chair:  
Staff Sgt. Rick Frost

**THE JOINT MILITARY TASK FORCE** was established on December 15, 2015 per approval by the Chair of the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Prevention, Treatment and Recovery. The Task Force reflects a 'joint' partnership between the Governor's Commission and the multiple sub-task forces that encompass the Governor's Commission's work. The Joint Military Task Force serves as one of the task forces that has evolved from the membership and work of the Military & Civilian Alcohol and Drug Committee (MCAD) established in 2010.

### MISSION

The mission of the Joint Military Task Force is to enhance awareness and advocacy as well as improve access to affordable, relevant alcohol and other drug services for service members, their families, and military veterans through education and collaboration.

### PROBLEM STATEMENTS

In recent years, a number of studies have shown that there is a direct correlation between the prevalence of certain protective factors in individuals and tendencies towards substance abuse. A lack of a focus on physical and mental wellness puts individuals at risk when faced with adversity.

National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2015

Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (YRBS) indicates that NH youth with military family members reported significantly higher rates of alcohol and drug misuse than youth with non-military family members.

NH Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2013-2015

Approximately only 30,000 of the 110,000 veterans living in NH access care from the Veterans Administration, creating the need for a better understanding of the military population from the civilian sector. As with many populations, substance abuse is a pervasive concern, requiring civilian providers to have a better understanding of military service and its impact on substance abuse.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - VA Medical Center, NH



**SEVEN**  
out of ten

veterans receive their care from a civilian provider

### NH MILITARY YOUTH ARE

# 15%

**MORE LIKELY TO SHOW RISKY BEHAVIORS INCLUDING SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

### SERVICE MEMBERS

1. Increase the availability of Wellness programs and services available to servicemembers state-wide to include all dimensions of wellness.
2. Promote and advocate for services that are designed to address the unique wellness needs of New Hampshire's military, their families, and our veterans.

### FAMILIES

1. Promote, advocate for, and support community services that provide protective factors for youth impacted by military service in their families.
2. Provide support and services for military spouses or partners during times of need such as deployments, training periods, etc.

### VETERANS

1. Increase and improve the implementation of military culture trainings for civilian practitioners providing services to the veterans of NH.
2. Increase promotion efforts and utilization of the "Ask The Question" campaign to ensure appropriate services are being offered to our state's veteran population.
3. Integrate Joint Military Task Force members into the other task forces, eliminating silos, and increasing collaboration on behalf of NH's veteran community.

2021 GOALS  
by target population

Chair: Major General David Mikolaities, Adjutant General, New Hampshire National Guard  
Vice Chairs: Dr. Andrew Breuder, Staff Sgt. Rick Frost

The Joint Military Task Force meets on the third Thursday, every 3 months, from 9 -11 am in Room 222 of the Edward Cross Training Center, Pembroke, NH. For upcoming meeting dates, please visit <http://nhcenterforexcellence.org/governors-commission/military-task-force>

## JAN 2021 Manchester VA Medical Center

### COVID-19 vaccines update:

Who will get a COVID-19 vaccine first?

Latest NH update for COVID-19 vaccines:

<https://www.ledgertranscript.com/federal-guidance-vaccine-distribution-38328735>

Manchester VAMC is now offering vaccines to these 2 groups:

- Veterans living in our long-term care facilities, and
- VA health care personnel. (Vaccinating VA health care personnel will help to continue providing care for Veterans)

After these first 2 groups, they'll begin to offer vaccines to more Veterans who are at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

If you're eligible to get a vaccine, the VA health care team will contact you. You don't need to reserve a vaccine, or come to a VA facility to request or receive a vaccine until you are contacted. Staff will only provide vaccines to Veterans who are currently eligible for one based on VA and CDC risk criteria.

Sign up below to help us understand your interest in getting a vaccine. We'll send you updates on how we're providing vaccines across the country and when you can get your vaccine if you want one.

<https://www.va.gov/health.../covid-19-vaccine/stay-informed>

**Limited services and hours:** (Visit the [website](#) to learn more about hours and services.)

718 Smyth Road

Manchester, NH 03104-7007

Main number: [603-624-4366](tel:603-624-4366)

Mental health: [603-624-4366](tel:603-624-4366) x3199

Manchester VAMC: [Website](#)

[Get directionsto Manchester VA Medical Center](#)

Planning to visit? Please call first as this information may change.

## **Appointments Wait Times:**

Current as of January 4, 2021

### **New patient wait times:**

The average number of days a Veteran who hasn't been to this location has to wait for a non-urgent appointment

- Primary care: 18 days
- Specialty care:
  - Audiology: 11 days
  - Cardiology: 13 days
  - Dermatology: 31 days
  - Gastroenterology: 3 days
  - Gynecology: 11 days
  - Mental health care: 2 days
  - Ophthalmology: 3 days
  - Optometry: 16 days
  - Orthopedics: 14 days
  - Specialty care: 14 days
  - Urology: 10 days
  - Womens health: 12 days

### **Existing patient wait times:**

The average number of days a patient who has already been to this location has to wait for a non-urgent appointment.

- Primary care: 12 days
- Specialty care:
  - Audiology: 11 days
  - Cardiology: 13 days
  - Dermatology: 31 days
  - Gastroenterology: 3 days
  - Gynecology: 11 days
  - Mental health care: 2 days
  - Ophthalmology: 3 days
  - Optometry: 16 days
  - Orthopedics: 14 days
  - Specialty care: 14 days
  - Urology: 10 days
  - Womens health: 12 days