

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA
NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES
20 January 2022

Call to Order: President Jim Lefebvre called the meeting to order at 1834 hours during a Zoom meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled followed by the invocation delivered by Gary Terhune.

Attending: Balcom, Boyle, Breuder, Burdett, Coulter, J. Day, S. Day, D'Amante, Erickson, Fasoli, Goff, Jaffin, LeFebvre, Lovgren, McLean, Miller, Sevigny, Terhune, Wright. A quorum of members was present.

Opening Remarks: President LeFebvre hoped that everyone had had a merry Christmas and New Year's. Due to the number of topics that needed to be covered, Jim wanted to move forward without any further comments.

Immediate Past President Remarks: Bob Jaffin had no comments at this time.

Vice President Remarks: Larry had no comments at this time.

Secretary's Report: Michael took a few minutes to mention his trip to Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on his wife, Faith's, burial. It was a very good ceremony with Navy pall bearers and Chaplain, and his oldest son played "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes. However, on the trip down at Washington National airport, he had an accident on the rolling walkway and ended up in the ER for seven hours resulting in eight stiches above his left eyebrow. After he his return home, he has now moved into an assisted living facility in Durham, NH.

Regarding the minutes of the last meeting, there were no comments or corrections to the draft November minutes. A motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting was accepted and approved by all present.

Finance/Treasurer's Report: Roby discussed the situation with filling the IRS 990 report. Since 2015, we have not been required to submit an IRS 990-EZ form, although we had submitted this form for many years previously. A "Gross Receipts" calculation is required to determine which form must be filed with the IRS. In 2019, the IRS required all non-profit organizations to file this form electronically. To do this now would require us to spend additional funds well beyond the postage stamp price we had previously paid. Roby investigated the IRS's electronic post-card which can be submitted on-line with no cost to the user. Because the only requirement is based on the "gross income", we have been able to successfully submit our Form 990-EZ using the electronic post card. Interestingly, if you are late in submitting this form, there is no penalty for up to three years if you qualify for the ePostCard. However, you could lose your tax exemption qualification if you fail to submit this form. If at some time in the future our gross receipts exceed \$50,000, then we will need to have someone submit the appropriate IRS Form 990 for us which will cost us money.

Jim LeFebvre asked Roby to discuss, along with Wayne Balcom, how the transition to Dee Fasoli is progressing. Roby said that things are moving along slowly because of increased security requirements at our financial institutions. Right now, 1 February 22 appears to be a reasonable “hand-off” time. The American Funds and the TD bank account are now in her name, but Roby will be kept on the account until we feel that the transition is complete. Wayne Balcom is on these accounts as well. We are down to the handoff of the paperwork and checks and deciding how we will mechanize this process. Wayne didn’t have any further comments. He is currently out-of-state but will be home by 15 February.

Roby continued that this Form 990 question has not gone away, but for now we have just found a way around the issue. If, at some point in the future, our gross receipts exceed \$50,000, we will be right back in the same place again. Jim asked if Roby had ever gotten a response back from Captain Day at MOAA National, and Roby responded that she never contacted him. He felt that MOAA National had been particularly unsupportive of this issue. If we do exceed the \$50K limit in the future, there are no requirements for retroactive filings. Pete Burdett asked if there were any limits on total assets that would require us to change our filing status, and Roby responded that the only criteria is based on “gross receipts”. Roby found this a bit surprising. Peter speculated that most of the other chapters are also filing the Form 990 post card form as well. Roby again responded that he was disappointed in the lack of a response from MOAA National to this question. Peter suggested that on our next visit to Washington, DC, we should make a point of visiting Captain Stone or their General Counsel, Lynch, or whoever else will listen to us. Roby said that Erin promised a response to his question on the following Monday, and that was a month ago. Jim expressed that we would have gotten better responses from MOAA National because we are probably not the only chapter asking this same question. Drew asked if we’d ever hit this \$50K limit in the future based on our revenues over the last several years. Roby said that we were over \$50K in 2015 and over \$100K in 2014. Revenues dropped off dramatically beginning in 2016 and have been below that cut-off ever since. Our total net worth is slightly under \$500K currently. Roby again mentioned that the requirement is based totally upon gross receipts and has nothing to do with investments or investment income.

Dee Fasoli mentioned that she is also part of the MOAA Nurses Virtual Chapter as well and that in a conversation today they mentioned that at one of their leaders served as treasurer of their group and Dee thought that she would reach out and ask them what they have experienced regarding this issue.

Wayne asked whether we should follow up on this issue with a “letter of concern” and Jim said he would open the question up to the board for any feedback. He would have no problem with drafting a “letter of concern”, but would it be worth the effort? Should we do this just as a matter of record or would it bring more attention to this chapter? Peter mentioned that in the past, our chapter has been the “squeaky wheel” about several things. Peter, when he was President, would “rattle the cages” when he went down to DC on several times. An example was regarding the need to make digital bank payments for dues but was told that their bank agreement wasn’t allowing them to make those changes.

Jim thanked everyone, including Bob Jaffin, who had input into this issue.

A motion to accept the emailed financial reports was made and approved by all present.

At the end of the discussion on the “Virtual Store” below, Gary Terhune came back on-line and mentioned that he needed to have some paperwork signed regarding the Vanguard investments by Jim and Michael and all signers of the checks, meaning a total of five people who need to sign these documents (Dee, Gary, and Roby). It was recommended that these documents be sent out to all involved by US Postal Service immediately to be ready by the next board of directors meeting. The Organization Resolution does not require any signatures other than the Secretary and the President. This should technically be done whenever these officer’s change. These signatures cannot be accomplished electronically. Gary will send the required documents to each member previously identified.

Trustee of the Trust Fund: Most of the information regarding the trust funds were covered by the treasurer’s report. All investments are continuing to grow along with the general increase in market values. Peter mentioned that January may show a downturn in the markets. Hopefully by the end of the year, things will have stabilized.

OLD BUSINESS:

MOAA-NH Virtual Store Update: Michael McLean had previously sent out an email asking if someone could take custody of the remaining items in our virtual store. He no longer has room to store these items in his new apartment. The visors and hats have the older logo for MOAA, and none of these have been sold in the last two years. The Challenge Coins and the golf balls can still be used. He also has a projector that has only been used once that the chapter had purchased. Michael had made the podium as his contribution to the chapter. Michael suggested that we write-off the hats and the visors, as they are taking up most of the room. Gary had mentioned taking a dozen golf balls, and possibly the challenge coins and the projector, then that would help to clear out his house of any MOAA items. Michael asked Roby how we would write off the hats and visors or simply dispose of them. Someone suggested that we keep these items until our next event and hand them out as door prizes. Michael estimated he had 40-50 of the hats and visors. Peter suggested we use them as center pieces at the tables for people to take home. Peter suggested that Gerry Boyle take possession of those items in the interim. This transfer could possibly be arranged at the next meeting in March. This would include the challenge coins, golf balls, and the projector. Bob Jaffin volunteered to pick up these items sometime in the next two weeks. Michael will take the virtual store off the webpage.

Granite Slate Update: Marie has agreed to do the next edition of the Granite Slate. Jim Lefebvre’s wife has agreed to do the two remaining editions for 2022. She will be unable to continue doing this after the last issue this year. Jim suggested again doing a blast email to include spouses in trying to find someone to pick up this task in the future. Sharon agreed that spouses would be a great resource for accomplishing this. A question was asked about the time involvement to do this, but Marie was not present at this meeting. Jim will try to call her and

obtain that information. Sharon said that Marie has asked for stories and articles in the past but has not received very many. The President could assign some assignments to members if needed. Drew volunteered to send Marie his recently published article from the Union Leader for consideration. Michael also mentioned that national sends out criteria for submitting news articles for the annual communications award. There is a list of certain things we are supposed to include in our newsletters to be considered for a "Five Star" newsletter. It was asked if we could use some of the material from the national magazine, but Michael that that much of that material is outdated and not necessarily relevant to our members.

Other BOD Vacancies: Ric Erikson and Sharon were present. Currently, we have no vacancies. Ric will fill the only vacancy until November 2022. The President then administered the oath of office to Ric.

Blast E-mail (Granite Slate): Geoff Corson was not present at this meeting.

2022 Events Discussion (Plymouth et al): The next event will be a luncheon at the Common Man Inn in Plymouth in April. We have the option of the 23rd or 30th of April. Of the three meal options, Gerry suggested that we go with the haddock, chicken, and a vegetarian meal and includes a salad, drink, and dessert. There will be a \$350 room charge and \$18 for the meal. Gerry suggested charging about \$25/meal. There is one speaker who has been "locked in" to come at some point, and that is the NH Drug Czar, Dave Mara, former Manchester Police Chief, before becoming the Governor's drug czar about three years ago. He would speak about the NH drug crisis, which isn't often discussed, but the situation is worse than ever. However, Gerry is also trying to get General Joe Dunford to come to the April meeting. General Dunford is the most recent retired Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and who lives in Quincy, MA. He has agreed to come up here to one of our events, and Gerry is trying to see if he'll come to the April meeting. Although he would make an excellent speaker for the annual meeting, due to his calendar, it would be better to have him sooner than later. Hopefully the Covid situation will have eased by then and he would be a big draw for this event. Gerry wanted to nail down the actual date of the April luncheon and other possible events for this year. Jim wanted to do something in the North Conway area in June or July at the White Mountain hotel. This could be combined with an overnight stay and a golfing event which has been done in the past. Roby mentioned that we also are committed with the Portsmouth NSY for the 1st week in August for the clambake. After some further discussion, it was agreed to proceed with April 23rd for the next luncheon. Gerry reminded everyone that dates in June might interfere with local graduations, sporting events, playoffs, etc. It was further decided to look at 11 June for another event given these considerations. Jim also mentioned that he is still working with the Fisher Cats for another event, but this hasn't progressed very far due to a current baseball strike. We also need to lock in a date for September or early October, which we usually hold in the western part of the state. Michael again recommended that we should be shooting for the early part of September due to the annual meeting being on 5 November. Peter asked Gerry to avoid the 24th of September as this was the 25th anniversary of the NH Veterans Cemetery and there will be a ceremony on that date at 1000 hours. Roby mentioned that in a September in the past, we held

an event in Claremont at the Common Man. This could be further discussed at the March meeting. Everyone concurred.

Pete Burdette and Ray D'Amante also mentioned that Dean Kamen would be an excellent candidate for the next Granite State Warrior award next January. Everyone agreed that this would be an excellent suggestion due to the work he has done for the military regarding artificial limbs, wheelchairs, obtaining PPE for the state, etc. Ray mentioned that he had been sponsoring the charity event at this house for the last 20 years. Peter mentioned that the Veterans Count program had purchased six robot wheelchairs, of which one has already been promised to a disabled veteran. Peter asked that if anyone knew of someone who would benefit from one of these chairs (a \$30-40K value), please let us know. Ray will try to make a connection with Dean for this award.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT/Vets Count): Peter Burdett said that the last SVAC meeting was on the 7th of December and the 4th of January but there wasn't much of significance to report. There was a discussion of homeless veterans and were informed that the new head of NH Housing Committee is an Army veteran, Robert Dapice. Michael can check if he is a member, but he was a Dartmouth College graduate and served in Iraq. If not a member, we should get him to join and consider him for a speaker in the future.

There have been a lot of bills filed that have been reviewed. Some can be supported, others not. Peter can go over the details of the listed bills on a separate phone call if necessary.

Jim LeFebvre mentioned that he had a conversation on the phone with Bill Luti about attending the SVAC meetings. Bill might be an excellent candidate to eventually replace Peter on this committee at some point in the future. Michael will send Jim some letterhead stationery to make a formal recommendation of Bill to the Chair of the SVAC to become a secondary member to Peter. There is no formal limit to the SVAC meeting attendance. Jim asked if there were any volunteers for becoming a third member. There were no volunteers.

The next meeting of the SVAC will be 1 February 22 at the NH NG Pembroke Military Training reservation, both in-person and on-line.

Personal Affairs: This position is still vacant. Jim continues to work this issue.

Membership: Since the November meeting, we have had three new members, one deceased member, plus one with spouse, and zero dropped members for a current total of 593 current members. Michael mailed out 247 dues letters last week of which 24 were for 2020 which means this was their last chance to become paid-up. There were 223 letters for this year's dues.

Michael is already getting some responses from members who want to pay their dues online and he gets an email that confirms when they have paid online.

Recruiting: This position is currently vacant due to the resignation of Jim Spotts. Michael mentioned that he had sent out 10 recruiting letters in December and January and we had one new member join.

Programs: Gerry had no additional information on programs.

Website: The web page has still gotten very few “hits” for the last several months. There were only seven “hits” in November, and two “hits” in December. Michael did submit our website for MOAA’s Communications award on 15 January. He doesn’t expect any results back for 2-3 months.

Travel Program: Neither Tony Burdo nor Tom Kyle was able to attend this meeting. Michael did not get anything in the mail on this program.

Scholarship Loan Program: Wayne Balcom reminded the membership that at the November meeting it was decided to do away with the Loan program and convert it into a scholarship program. There was about \$47-48,000 available for distribution from payments and investments plus about \$17,000 in the checking account. There are currently ten students receiving funds, and we disbursed \$16,000 for this last semester. There are currently nineteen paying back their loans. Wayne went back with Joe DiChiaro, Pete Burdette, and Larry Miller to determine how these funds should be disbursed in the future. The original recommendation was to give each applicant \$2000 to each of the nineteen students, but Joe recommended giving more money to those with larger loan amounts. The President stated that his preference would be for the scholarship committee make a formal proposal to the BOD on how to disburse these funds. Wayne replied that the recommendation from November was for the \$2000/student across the board. This was easier than trying to arrive at a unique value for each student. Since Joe DiChiaro has essentially dropped off the committee, only three members remain. Wayne inquired if anyone else wished to join the committee. Jim again requested that a final recommendation be submitted to the entire BOD at the next meeting for a vote.

Granite State Warriors Award: Ray D’Amante was asked if there were any other nominees other than Dean Kamen for this award at this time. The only issue will be his time commitments and he has canceled the events at his house for the last 2-3 years. Ray asked that if there were any other potential candidates, please let him know. Ray also mentioned that it would be nice if he were selected for him to bring one of his robotic wheelchairs to the luncheon for a demonstration.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nominations – Directors: There are no nominations required at this time.

Nominations – Officers: No nominations currently required.

Granite Slate Newsletter: See previous discussion earlier in the minutes.

Web Communications: Jennifer didn't have anything new to add.

SUD/JMTF Committee: There have been no meetings of the Task Forces or the Chairs meeting in December and nothing is currently planned for 2022. On 30 December, Drew was on a 90-minute Zoom meeting with SFC Rick Frost and Amy Cook to discuss revisions of the JMTF goals for this year including updates to the one-page flyer. Drew was tasked to find out what the current number of veterans were enrolled in each of the VA Medical Centers in Vermont and NH. There are currently 29,148 veterans enrolled at the Manchester VAMC, an increase of 8.46% over FY 20 and the highest enrollment since 2014. The White River Junction VA in Vermont serves the four western counties in NH and has 27,454 veterans enrolled.

Blast Email: No report from Geoff Corson.

LIAISONS

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

Transition Assistance: Jim LeFebvre had nothing to report.

Manchester VAMC: Bernie Satterfield was not present but submitted an extensive email with minutes of the meeting and two editorials from newspapers.

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

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Gwen sent an email that she had only one death to report this reporting period.

Miscellaneous Item: The president mentioned that Michael McLean sent out a memo to the Chapter leadership team for 2021-2022 listing everyone and when their term expires, email, and their collateral duties. If you want a copy, please contact Michael directly. There may be some differences of opinion between Michael and Sharon that will need to be resolved at some time in the future.

Next Board Meeting: Tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 10 March 2022. This will be a face-to-face meeting. Jim will also check with the Red Blazer regarding the possibility of meeting there again but realizing that at some point we would need to pay a room charge. Jim mentioned that he had tried the Common Man in Concord which would waive the room charge once per year, but their meal charges were very high. There was some dissatisfaction with the Golden Corral in Manchester. Michael mentioned that the Red Blazer had previously been very good to the Chapter prior to Covid, but since the pandemic began, it appeared that they have been trying to

cover their losses. Drew Breuder also mentioned the issues with setting up annual events at the Executive Court in Manchester for organizations such as NH Right to Life and the Majestic Theater group. Meal and cleaning costs have skyrocketed at this venue. Wayne Balcom said that he is involved with a local baseball group, and they use the Common Man in Concord and felt their prices seemed reasonable for the twenty-two people that attended. This is quite different than the prices previously quoted to Jim the last time he inquired. He might try again to approach that facility and see if things have changed. There were no other suggestions for locations in the Concord, Tilton, or Manchester areas.

On a separate note, Peter Burdette mentioned that today the civilian aides to the Secretary of the Army, across the US and overseas, met with Christine Wormuth. She spoke for about an hour. Peter was impressed with her presentation, command of the facts, and details of what was going on in the Army today. She also introduced her Undersecretary, Marlow Diaz, who will be engaging more closely with the civilian aides in the future on topics that need solving. This was a suggestion that Peter has made in the past. They may establish focus groups in the future.

A comment was made about members helping Helen Meyers move out of her house. Her house has been sold, so she is anxious to get out as soon as possible. There was a question about Bob Jaffin and others going back there soon. Also, the "Reach Across America" program in Merrimack is picking up materials to take to the dump, but because of low temperatures, many things are frozen in the ground.

Jim asked if we had any success in reaching the American Legion in the Manchester area but had no response. Jim said this was something he would bring up at the district and state level in the future talking about how we help with things we're supposed to do.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting which was seconded and accepted by all members present except for one member who voted "Nay" again. (Guess who).

Respectfully submitted

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