

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA
New Hampshire Chapter Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
12 January 2023

NOTE: Due to a technical error in Michael's tape recorder, there may be some gaps in information in the minutes below. Please provide the recording secretary with any corrections or missing material for the final report.

Call to Order: President Jim Lefebvre called the meeting to order at 1146 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Warren Coulter and recited by those assembled followed by the invocation delivered by Gary Terhune. This was a scheduled face-to-face meeting at the T-Bones restaurant in Concord, NH.

Attending: Burdett, Burdo, Coulter, R. Day, S. Day, DuVall, Erickson, Hulsey, LeFebvre, Luti, McLean, Miller, Terhune, J. Wright. A quorum of members was present.

President's Opening Remarks: President LeFebvre stated he was glad that everyone was able to attend this luncheon and first meeting of the year. One small issue was that we were supposed to let T-Bones know who was attending with their meal request ahead of time. If this doesn't happen, it causes issues with getting the meals out. What used to be called "Storming the Hill" is now called "Advocacy in Action" and will take place at the annual April meeting. Historically, during the second year, the VP instead of the President usually attends. However, Larry has a potential conflict this April relating to the Southwest Airlines fiasco over Christmas. So, we'll need to decide who will be attending this event and Jim will send out an email later about this. We have already sent in the Communications Award application thanks to Michael McLean. Jim has placed a phone call into Erin Stone at National MOAA about several outstanding issues the Chapter has with National regarding the transmission of the LOE for last year. Unfortunately, she is on the road, and she hasn't gotten back to Jim. He was hoping to have some good news for everyone today. Hopefully, he'll be able to do that in February.

Immediate Past President Remarks: Bob Jaffin was unable to attend due to work conflicts.

Vice President Remarks: Larry had an email from Bob Jaffin looking for a vice-president, a task he's going through right now.

Finance Report: Roby assumes that everyone got the end-of-year report, income statement, and balance sheet reports. Since then, there are two things: We have donated a total of \$700 to the NH Veterans Home and the Manchester West NJROTC competition. It's time to think about our annual IRS submission. Last year we were able to use an ePostCard submission because our total revenues for the year were less than \$50K for that year. The 2022 revenue amounts to about \$27K and we can again submit an ePostCard to the IRS. If the revenue exceeded \$50K, then a full IRS form 990 is required which would necessitate hiring a full CPA to complete the form. We still have an issue with Erin Stone, et. al. at National over this same issue because National is not telling us how to deal with an unfunded mandate from the IRS. The issue is we asked MOAA National about getting relief for non-profits and being forced to hire CPA's for things that we can do ourselves. There has been no response to this question. Roby said he could submit the ePostCard at virtually any time now (we have up to three years to submit this). Larry asked about a \$100K loss. This is due to a loss in the value of our investments over the last year. Roby referenced the December Balance Sheet for the Vanguard Life Membership

account (down \$12,500 over the last year). The Vanguard Scholarship account is down nearly \$51,000. A motion to approve the financial report was moved, seconded, and approved by all members present.

Secretary's Report: Michael said that we did have a quorum and there were two comments on the December's meeting minutes from Peter Burdett correcting spelling of the Taubs(?) last name and the other about Amy Cook's move to NAMI (National Association of Mental Institutions). A motion was made and seconded to accept the December meeting minutes as amended above. The motion to approve the December minutes with the above corrections was made, seconded, and approved by all present.

Trustee of the Trust Fund: Gary Terhune read the report submitted by Drew which was as follows: "The Dow Jones has been fluctuating between the high 32,000's and low to mid 33,000's for the last couple of weeks. All investments are down somewhat from November 22 and down significantly from one year ago, but the stock market seems to have stabilized somewhat. We will continue to monitor the situation for any significant changes". Gary said that we had considered many some changes in our allocations in stocks versus bonds, but now bond prices are up and would be more expensive buy. To the time being, we'll leave things as they are now. The last few weeks the stock market has been up somewhat.

OLD BUSINESS

Granite Slate Update: Draft of newsletter sent to Michael on 3 Jan 23. One article was accidentally duplicated and replaced by Michael with another one. Michael was sending newsletter for printing. I've decided that the only way to get this newsletter done efficiently is to use the publishing software I have available on my laptop. The other applications are fine for making small corrections to the final pdf format, but not for creating the actual newsletter itself. Hopefully, this will speed up the process for the next edition in March. I have requested chapter members provide the BOD with some feedback on whether they prefer a four-page or six-page format. Assuming we get any responses, then BOD can decide if the additional two pages are worth the additional postage (printing) cost. Michael stated that the issue was mailed out on 10 Jan 23.

Granite State Warrior's Award: Gary stated that the outlook for conducting future events on the seacoast will be difficult without a significant increase in the operational costs. The cheapest venue would be \$40/person at the Ashworth-by-the-sea in Hampton. We have used that location several times in the past. He will continue to look, but the prospects are not great for keeping the costs down. He also looked in Raymond, Epping, and the Holy Grail (\$55/person) plus a room charge. The Nashua Country Club price of \$31 is unrealistically low for any other location around the seacoast. Michael said we could try to look more inland, but the idea was to rotate the luncheons around the state to allow greater attendance. Gary has already received ten reservations for this year's event. The flyer has already gone in the mail. Hopefully we would like to get at least 70 reservations for the luncheon/presentation. Michael asked Gary if he had received the meal choices from the guests-of-honor yet, and their organizational front person asked if they could bring two guests to the luncheon. We have not received the meal choices yet, nor do we know who the guests will be. In addition, Michael mentioned that the Chapter is covering the additional costs for the luncheon such as the centerpieces, from chapter funds.

2023 Events Discussion Update: This discussion is postponed due to the absence of Gerry Boyle.

NEW BUSINESS: Michael got a call from Gene Philbrick who lives in Salem, who works with the Retiree Affairs Office at Hanscom AFB. In the past, they used to send out a periodic newsletter but discontinued it due to lack of funding but are trying to re-institute it electronically. They wanted to send it to our membership, but we would have to provide them with our members email addresses. Michael wanted to know if the BOD wanted to provide this information to Hanscom? Jennifer suggested that they send the newsletter to our blast email coordinator for further transmission. Michael didn't know if Geoff Corson would be up to doing this. Michael suggested putting a note or article in the March Granite Slate about this and having each member contact the Hanscom Retiree office individually. The President suggested that the later method would probably be preferable. Michael will relay that suggestion to Gene and ask him to provide us with something to place in the March Granite Slate. Jennifer suggested repeating that article in more than one newsletter. Michael also asked if anyone was interested in a list of the chapter leadership, collateral duties, or emails. He passed out the few copies he had and can send anyone else a copy electronically. Please correct any errors or omissions if you notice any and report them to Michael. For the first BOD of every year, Michael does a summary of the chapter membership and passed out a few copies to the attendees. Michael has also received inputs for all the sections of the LOE and will be distributing them electronically soon. He needs all BOD members to review the draft inputs and vote or modify the inputs as necessary and return your remarks to him. There is again a limit on the number of characters per section that we can submit for each question (2000 characters, including spaces). We have some sections that tend to exceed 2000, but don't let that stop anyone from making a submission as Michael has a way of getting around that requirement. This year's deadline for submission is 1 May 2023. Larry asked if we wanted quality or quantity and have, we ever had a submission rejected because the submission was over the 2000-character limit. Michael said we were looking for both quantity and quality and have not had any submissions rejected because they were submitted as attachments. These submissions are all web-based.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch at 1224 hours and reconvened at 1320 hours.

Bill Luti started talking about MOAA National's item on the 16 Jan 23 weekly newsletter about TRICARE for LIFE benefit threatened by Congress. There is a proposal to institute fees for all veterans enrolled in this program. He recommended members send the pre-written letter on the link in the newsletter to our Congressional delegation. He also suggested that Geoff Corson send out that link in a blast-email to our group ASAP. Secondly, he suggested that we also need to discuss this with our Congressional delegation staffers as well. He's concerned that this proposal would be included in a future omnibus bill and our delegation would feel obligated to approve the omnibus bill with these proposals included. Pete Burdette also mentioned that you can personalize these responses somewhat when it pops up on your screen.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Relations: Peter said that the SVAC met on 3 Jan 23. The SVAC has two state senators and house members. **Note: The rest of this discussion was lost due to recorder equipment issue.**

Personal Affairs/Recruiting: Jim discussed his job of speaking to anyone who needs assistance, and this is his personal project. He can provide any information to anyone else who wishes to become involved.

Membership: Michael reported that since the December meeting, we had no new members, two deceased members plus three that had surviving spouses, and one dropped member for a current total of 559 current members. He will be sending out the annual dues letters in the middle of January. He estimates that 234 letters will go out. If we fall below 200, we will no longer be able to send out these letters using bulk mail rates. Jim mentioned that if anyone has seen the flyer Michael put in the age demographics of the Chapter. The vast majority of the Chapter are in their 70's, 80's or older, and fourteen members are over 100. Jim is currently 69 and fast approaching the 70's group.

Recruiting: Tom Goff reported as follows: Recruiting is a singularly critical aspect of any organization, ours is not an exception. While our numbers are down, we have yet to up resource recruiting commiserate with its importance. We have entered a critical time and the board is keenly aware of the issue. I propose that we energize our membership to help solve the problem. Let's present to our members the need and then ask for their support...what can they do? Let's each take the responsibility and recruit one new member! A small individual effort with a major impact if completed. Perhaps the Board could sweeten the effort by presenting a recruiting coin and a small reduction in the membership fee to every member who steps up to our challenge! A 25% increase in our roles should be a reasonable goal. Recruiting is best done by our members as it is grass roots, and we also tend to get people we know and who would be a good fit for MOAA-NH. A letter from the board to the members could kick off the effort perhaps in January with follow up notes on progress as well as a reminder of the need. Hope this is helpful, and I look forward to a successful campaign.

Programs: Gerry Boyle was not present. No report.

Next In-Person BOD: Jennifer is going to send out a three question Google survey regarding today's meeting & venue. This will be to see if this is a reasonable option for future BOD meetings especially the time of day and type of meeting. If we do this again at this location, they need the menu selections at least 24 hours in advance. The meal choices count towards the overall room charge (\$500). Once we exceed that value, then there is no room charge. There has been an increase in our Facebook activity. If you have anything you want posted, please send that to her.

Website: There were four hits in December.

Travel Program: We are meeting with Collette's Business Development Manager on 18 January to discuss our draft 2024 travel program. There are four group travel trips on our draft 2024 program. Since I plan to emphasize our "World Connect" program, we are going to list four recommended trips in our program for 2024. I am developing a procedure letter for group travel and the "World Connect" program. Once developed, I will request distribution through blast email, include them in the Granite Slate and distribute them at our luncheons. For 2022, our commission from Collette amounted to \$2,647.00. To date we have no travel reservations for 2023. Since I took over the program, our membership has decreased at least 50% to 564. Of that, approximately 44% or 284 are in their 80s, 90s or hundreds. Members in that category may be unable to travel due to physical disabilities or

financial concerns and that reduces our market considerably. We need to increase our market for by partnering with organizations such as The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Kiwanis, Elks, religious etc. If anyone has a point of contact in any of these organizations that may be interested in partnering with us, contact me with a name and phone number or email address. I don't want to see our program abolished. We have taken in commissions the in tens of thousands of dollars over the years. So, if you have any suggestions, please email me, or give me a call. Anthony J Burdo, Colonel, USA (Ret)
Travel Director

Scholarship Loan Program: No report.

Granite State Warriors Award: No updates.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nominations – Directors/Officers: Two BoD members are in their second term and they are Ray D'Amante and Bill Luti. Larry Miller and Ric Erickson are still in their first term and could legally serve another term. The odd-one-out is because after the annual meeting, Roger Sevigny, pulled his nomination which would have been for a three-year term, and Warren Coulter agreed to serve one year of that term. That leaves us with a vacancy to fill for two years.

Web Communications: Jennifer has already discussed web communications.

Blast Email: Geoff Corson was absent and there is no report. The blast email he sent out regarding the West HS NJROTC team funding request was excellent. One person has already responded and said that they will pay for the team's airfare. The Chapter has given about \$350 and an additional \$350 to the Tilton Veteran's Home. Those will be the normal donations for this year. Sharon said that Joe DiChario started the ball rolling because of his involvement in the awards to JROTC units, but anybody could contact Geoff Corson and have a blast email sent out about these events. Anyone on the BOD could write something up and send it to Geoff who is happy to send out that information. Jim mentioned that the OIC of Manchester West HS is NOT a member of this Chapter and suggested that someone should contact them about becoming a member. Jim will contact Joe DiChario and see if he can accomplish this.

LIAISONS:

ESGR: Peter has nothing new to report.

Transition Assistance: Jim had nothing to report.

Manchester VAMC: Situation updates and information:

Manchester VAMC's main building is partially closed after experiencing a pipe leak on Saturday, November 26th resulting in water damage. The water damage has caused floors 2, 3 and 4 to be closed until further notice. Other areas may have limited access.

VA Medical Center staff will be contacting Veterans whose appointments are directly affected by the damage. Medical appointments may be delayed or canceled due to the damage, please call the Clinical Contact Center at 1-833-933-1106 before arriving so we can verify your appointment status. We want to ensure we reschedule all missed appointments during that

call. The Urgent Care area did not sustain damage, but the blood testing lab located in the main building was affected and is closed. Blood tests that are being drawn in Urgent Care. Note that the situation changes are day-to-day. Calling ahead before an appointment is recommended. Voluntary services located at the main entrance are available to assist with directions and current updates during visits.

Clinical services currently unable to see patients are the following (services will change with the conditions):

- Acupuncture
- Allergy
- Chiropractic
- CPAP
- Endocrinology
- Infectious Disease
- Laboratory Services (excluding Phlebotomy/blood draw)
- Lung Nodule
- Operating Room
- Ophthalmology
- Optometry
- Pain
- Podiatry
- Podiatry Nail clinic
- Pulmonary Function Test
- Rheumatology
- Sleep
- Transplant Coordinator

Martin's Point Liaison: Bob had nothing new to report.

Auxiliary: Gwen reported that since our last board meeting, I have recorded six deaths, sent out three condolence cards, and two letters. I have made three telephone calls to see how the widow/widower was doing. Everyone that I talked to appreciated my calls.

Final Comments: Jim will put out information on the next meeting which will probably be a Zoom meeting in February. He encouraged everyone to provide Jennifer with feedback on today's meeting and he appreciated all the work that she did setting up this meeting.

Next Board Meeting: The meeting adjourned at 1359 hours.

Respectfully submitted

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