

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA
NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
16 January 2025

Call to Order: The BOD meeting was called to order by President Larry Miller at 1905 hours for a Zoom meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled. There was no Opening Prayer due to the absence of Gary Terhune.

Attending: Balcolm, Boyle, Breuder, A. Buford-Frost, Dunn, C. Frost, Jaffin, McLean, Miller (Larry & Pat), Moody, Siemens. A quorum of members was present.

President's Opening Remarks: Larry stated that he received a "thank you" note from the NH State Veteran's Home for our \$500 donation. Jim Lefebvre called Larry saying that he had received a "scam" supposedly from Larry. There have been several of these very sophisticated scams being sent out over the last several months. Please be careful not to fall for them.

Larry also sent a copy of some changes that will occur to the MOAA Newsletter. He also made some remarks related to the additional comments listed on the bottom of V3 of the BOD Agenda. These include the following comments:

1. The AiA will be from 7-10 April 25. He and Pat will attend.
2. There will be another Zoom meeting with MOAA on 23 Jan 25 to discuss AiA.
3. Larry attended a MOAA Chapter meeting on 14 Jan 25:
 - a. Foundation Community Outreach Grants
 - b. Liability insurance through MOAA for spending grant funds
 - c. Awaiting \$180 funding for Zoom meetings due in February.
 - d. Awaiting \$1400 funding for travel. We are a "Council" equivalent.
4. We do not participate in food or gift card delivery.
5. MOAA has some community events scheduled. See agenda.
6. Eastern Area training in Hersey, PA from 14-15 Nov.
7. Virtual training 5 Mar (New leaders); 13 Aug (experienced leaders)
8. Committee Module meeting 27 Feb.
9. AiA issues:
 - a. SOAPBOX will make targeted CODEL meetings bases on Congressional Committee assignments.
 - b. We can also target other CODEL meetings in addition to assigned ones.
10. There was a 15 Jan 25 Networkers meeting for transition coordinators. See agenda for list of seminars and webinars available.

Immediate Past President Remarks: Jim was absent and has moved to Texas.

VP Remarks: Bob sent an email to Peter and Larry about trying to get at least two more formal meetings with the state Congressional leaders in NH each year.

Secretary's Report: Michael sent out the final version of the LOE input for final review. The only comment was to change our input regarding the NH CAP and not being able to get them involved in our awards program for 2025. However, we will be involved with the Sea Cadets. There were some areas where we exceeded the 500-word limit, and the excess was consolidated in a single page addendum.

Micheal is also sending out our nomination of Pat Miller for the Surviving Spouse award at National.

He is also preparing the Communications Award for our webpage. He still needs to add the URL links to the specific questions asked in the application.

He is also working on the dues letter which has been delayed due to issues with the CHEDDAR UP program. Also, the new membership directory is being finalized. The cover will be pink this year.

Bookkeeper's Report: Peter was excused. Larry mentioned that for the CHEDDAR UP program, there will be a QR code that can be scanned that will take members directly to our webpage to pay their dues. Michael still needs to obtain the authentication code from Peter to finish setting up the process. However, the system is not able to handle life membership dues, and these will still need to be paid by check due to the sliding scale.

Peter doesn't plan to submit detailed treasurer reports like Roby did.

Trustee of the Trust Fund: Drew stated that the stock market trend continues to rise. No changes to the current portfolio are planned.

Surviving Spouse Liaison report:

1. Created for the first time ever a Surviving Spouse Table at our Annual Luncheon.
2. Sent Sympathy card to Col Edward Kirby for the passing of his wife, Mary.
3. Extended Christmas greetings to surviving spouses through mail, email, or personal call
4. Since I have been recovering with a bacterial infection for the last two months after my total knee replacement this is the extent of my report.

DISCUSSION

Schedule of Upcoming Events: Bob Jaffin hasn't gotten much of a response on the dinner train for May at this time. He is still looking for a southern location for the GSWA luncheon. So far, he has not had any luck. Fratello's needs to be notified of a booking much earlier due to wedding schedules they have on Saturdays. March and April were already booked solidly. There is still a brunch in early February primarily for seacoast members. What he had seen from the survey responses isn't resulting in actual reservations for the programs.

We still need to determine the location for the 4 Jul 25 picnic. Larry thought that we may be preempted by other organizations activities in the state due to the 250th national anniversary.

OLD BUSINESS:

Veterans Cemetery Project: Larry says that we have approximately \$1,500 towards this project. There are other funds that have not yet been included in the project.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vermont Chapter Roster: Larry was going to send out an email to all of the Vermont chapter members. However, the list he has doesn't have any email addresses on them. MOAA also has

problems with their data and is trying to get places like Vermont to become “virtual/satellite” chapters and eventually becoming “geographic” chapters (need a minimum of five members to fill the officers positions). **ACTION #1 (Open/Larry)**: Larry will continue to try to obtain these members email addresses.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT/Vets Count): Peter was excused from the meeting. Larry attended the recent meeting and there are between 12-15 bills that are veteran related. Bill Luti recently sent out a pro/proposed response to the “Veteran End of Life” bill and was looking for members to sign it.

There is another bill regarding divorce proceedings in the state and the division of the assets of the couple. They are looking for volunteers to help to write the contents of this procedure in the bill.

Personal Affairs: Position is vacant.

Membership: Michael said that there no new, deceased, or dropped members, so the total membership remains at 526 (plus 5 honorary members).

In the near future, he will be sending out 200 dues letters. Because of the minimum mailing requirement for bulk mail, he had to include 15 life members (Balcom, Breuder, Jaffin, McLean, Miller, and Siemens) who are current in their dues. Please do not be surprised if you receive one of these letters. In the future, dues letters may need to go out split between email and snail mail. Of the current mailing, 170 have email addresses on file. This may reduce our 1st class mailing costs in the future. Of the 531 members above, 376 have listed email addresses (70.8%). We don’t know if all of the email addresses are valid.

Recruiting: No updates.

Programs: Gerry Boyle was joined the meeting late. No updates.

Web page: Michael said that there were 655 hits in January.

Travel Program: No updates.

Scholarship Grant Program: Wayne said that there was good news in that the one student who was delinquent accepted our offer to settle the debt for \$4,000. There is \$17,456.22 in the TD Bank Scholarship account.

MOAA National is concerned about their scholarship program in that it has very few enlisted members children involved. They want to increase that participation rate. The NH Chapter has not made any specific attempt to target scholarships towards enlisted families. We currently have six students on the program of whom four should be graduating in May. **ACTION #2 (Open/Wayne & Drew)**: The availability of the scholarship program to all ranks should be advertised more aggressively in the future including future issues of the Granite Slate Newsletter.

2024 Granite State Warrior Award: Larry said he is putting together the two awards. He spoke to Crown Trophy today and asked about engraving or a metal plaque. Neither appear to be too expensive. They have a wood outline of the state which they can engrave or add a metal plaque. He is thinking of a black background, silver trim, and gold letters. He already has the information about the award winners. When finalized, it will take about a week to produce.

The actual luncheon will probably be the third Saturday in April (19th) at the Common Man in Plymouth. This date was previously locked in last year.

Nominations – Directors: Sharon sent an email and mentioned that Jason Moody still needs to be sworn in. **ACTION #3 (Open/Larry):** Jason Moody needs to be sworn in at the beginning of the next BOD meeting.

JROTC Awards/NH Veterans Home: Jim Dunn received an email from Bill Moran about the CAP participation in the Awards program. He still hasn't been able to get approval from the Wing leadership in Concord. There are ten squadrons in NH and our original proposal was to make one award to each squadron. The Wing leadership only wants to do the top cadet among the ten squadrons, and they would select that individual. As a result, they will probably defer this to next year.

There is a Sea Cadets ball coming up on 1 Feb at the DoubleTree Hotel on Elm Street in Manchester. The deadline for reservations is 17 January. Our original recommendation was to contribute \$300 to support the attendance of 10 cadets at the ball. Jim had contacted the Commander of Division 1, LCDR John Murphy, but has not been able to get any feedback from the commanders of Division 2 or 3. Larry had proposed a motion to give \$300 to the cadets for this ball, but Bob Jaffin was against this and would prefer ten of our members attend the ball and sponsor one person each. Individual reservations cost \$60. He felt that direct involvement was a better approach. A discussion of this event was also included in the recent SVAC meeting along with an invitation. Peter, Larry and Pat, and Bob already are planning to attend. The Frosts and Gerry Boyle would consider going as well once the specifics are determined. There was no formal resolution to the proposed motion, and it appeared that several members would attend based on confirmation of the exact date of the ball.

Granite Slate Newsletter: Drew said the December issue was published on-time. He received a response from one woman whose father was a member and had died and asked to have his name deleted from the newsletter distribution list. This was about the third time I have received such a request. Those names were forwarded to Michael.

Regarding the March newsletter, he was unable to attend the Christmas celebration and will not be able to attend the early February luncheon, so he will need someone who has attended those events to provide a short write-up and, if possible, photos.

Web Communications: No updates.

Blast Emails: This position is now vacant. Bob has been playing with blast emails but hasn't been able to figure everything out yet. There seems to be two different lists and the numbers don't match. There are roughly 100 email addresses that came out of the directory that are not yet in iContact list. This may explain the issue with the newsletters going to deceased members. **ACTION #4**

(CLOSED/Drew): Drew will forward names of previous cancellation requests to Bob Jaffin (completed 22 Jan 25).

NH State Legislation: No updates. See SVAC discussion above regarding HB 254 Veteran End of Life issues above.

LIAISONS

ESGR: Peter was excused. No updates.

Transition Assistance: Larry attended the MOAA transition Zoom meeting a few days ago. Information mostly focused on recent, younger members transitioning to civilian life. Information is free on MOAA website. Question of how to get this information to people? **ACTION #5 (OPEN):** Can President include some information in his next President's report for the March GSNL?

Manchester VAMC: Bernie sent Larry a short message stating that the Manchester VAMC will begin holding Town Hall meetings across the state during 2025. The first meeting will be at the VA on 24 Feb 25 from 1700-1800 hours in the Solarium.

Next Board Meeting: The next BOD meeting be on the 13th of February.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2013 hours which was seconded and accepted by all present.

Respectfully submitted,

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