

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA
NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
16 July 2026

Call to Order: The BOD meeting at the Backyard Brewery was called to order by President Larry Miller at 1200 hours. Gary Terhune provided the opening prayer. All members present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attending: Balcolm, Breuder, Burdett, Frost (Chuck and Annette), McLean, Miller (Larry & Pat), Novoletsky, Siemens, and Terhune. A quorum of members was present.

President's Opening Remarks: Larry had several topics to discuss including the following:

1. MOAA-NH Coin: Larry handed out new Chapter coins to all members present. We purchased 500 of the coins. The only issue Larry noted was that the date and "Live Free or Die" on the back side should have been highlighted in black instead of being all gold. Larry discussed some of the symbolism of the items on the coin.
2. Easter Seals is having a VSO event on the campus on 4 August.
3. The VA Cemetery is having a Korean War Memorial 31 July but this conflicts with our pre-Clambake MOAA National meeting.
4. Larry mentioned that we were awarded a 2025 device for our Five Star designation for both our website and newsletter. We also received a Five Star LOE award.
5. There was a President's message sent out on 15 July.
 - a. Victoria has been replaced by Teagan O'Bar as their new Program Manager effective this month.
 - b. Also voting on the new MOAA Board of Directors begins 1 August. Larry completed and sent in the MOAA Activities survey.
 - c. There is also a roundtable on 23 July on recruiting and retention.
 - d. There is a new State Legislation Exchange form to facilitate state-level advocacy to help Councils and Chapters coordinate advocacy across states. If the SVAC has a bill of particular interest, it can be uploaded to this site so that other Councils and Chapters can see what we are working on.
 - e. Larry referred Michael to the information on the new Electronic Support Message Program. Michael thinks this just might be a renaming of an already existing system. We still must send our input to them for distribution. Peter thought that this requires us to use our Cheddar system for local messages, but to send it to MOAA National if we want wider distribution to other Zip Codes with a 45-day deadline prior to the event to use this system. Michael explained that we still have the issue of these "blast emails" only going to NH's "03XXX" Zip Codes; they don't go to VT, MA, or ME. We still need to see if we can get VT codes placed into our catchment area.
 - f. Chuck Frost mentioned that he just received an email from the American Legion stating that yesterday many Veterans organizations are supporting the "Take Care of American Veterans Act". It expands benefits for combat injured veterans, VA disabilities, the Major Richard Star act, and combines several pieces of legislation into one bill. It also includes changes to surviving spouse benefits for those who remarry before age 55 allowing them to retain their benefits. However, it removes VA benefits for tinnitus and sleep apnea for those with future claims, not those currently receiving those benefits.

Immediate Past President Remarks: Jim was excused from the meeting.

Peter mentioned that he attended an event at the WWII Museum in Wolfeboro where the 688th Central Postal Directory Battalion was honored, especially Major Charity Adams who led the unit.

Between 9-12 September, there will be a celebration of 9/11. Some special lights from Washington DC will be set up on top of Mt. Washington and should be visible to the International Space Station.

Peter also mentioned that he had assistance from Governor Ayotte's security guard, who was not in uniform, in placing the new trailer registration sticker on that license plate.

VP Remarks: Bob was not present, but he will be leading activities/meeting with MOAA National members the day prior to the Clambake.

Secretary's Report: Michael received no corrections or comments to the May minutes. A motion to approve the May BOD minutes was made, seconded, and approved by all present.

Bookkeeper's Report: Peter said the Chapter is solvent. Our SCU Business Money Market account, which earns interest, has \$7,003.49; the checking account contains \$9,598.50; there are \$1250 in deposits pending, and our standard Saving Account has \$5 (required for all SCU accounts). The TD checking account has \$6,948; the credit card has \$3,794.98 on account. \$5,000 has been removed from the TD Checking account and transferred to the Scholarship account to cover the upcoming payments for this academic year. On 1 July, there was also a \$1,000 deposit by Bob Jaffin to cover some expenses for the Clambake.

For the Common Man Spring luncheon, the cost was \$1,581.25 and the income was \$2,211.00 for a net gain of \$629.75.

Peter also noted that our TD credit cards also earn points and currently there are 72,165 point available (2500 points = \$25). Peter recommended cashing in most of these points.

A motion to accept the Bookkeeper's report was made, seconded, and approved by all present.

Trustee of the Trust Fund: Drew stated that the investments appear to be doing well despite the current issues in Iran.

Surviving Spouse Liaison report:

I spoke to Gwen Devoe, who had a total knee surgery on June 14, 2026, and I am happy to report that she is in physical therapy and doing well. She is not, however, able to make it to the Clambake.

I attended a virtual Surviving Spouse Meeting June 16, 26. I spoke about Military Spouse Appreciation Day, which always takes place the Friday before Mother's Day. No one on the call had ever heard of it and they were very interested in our presentation.

Our speaker was Kelly Ruskia, who spoke about Caregivers and Survivor Assistance at the VA.

On July 2, 26 I received an email from Lt. Col. Steve Young, ROA, Director of the Military Activities Office on Buckley SFB in Denver. They provide assistance very similar to Surviving Spouse Liaisons. He is a MOAA Life member, and his research saw that I was presented with the Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award by MOAA for 2025. He also felt a connection to NH because he and his wife graduated from UNH. He was interested in whether MOAA maintained a list of SSLs in the chapters, if we received any training, material, etc. I did answer, but spoke to Gail Joyce, MOAA Board Member and Chair of the Surviving Spouse Advocacy Council, who would know more about MOAA in general. Gail will be retiring in October 2026.

I sent a condolence card to Carolyn Dennis regarding the death of her husband, Richard Dennis, who died February 12, 2026. MOAA-NH sent \$25 to MOAA-NH scholarship fund in memory of Col. Richard Dennis. Michael mentioned that Dennis was a long-time member of the Chapter and the Treasurer in the past.

Larry mentioned that there are Retiree Activities Offices (RAO) across the US including at Hanscom AFB, the PNSY, and at Pease ANGB.

The meeting was adjourned at 1247 for lunch and reconvened at 1306.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bench Dedication: Our memorial bench at the NH Veterans Cemetery will be on 12 September. There may be a BOD meeting at Alan's after the dedication.

Clambake: Blast email previously discussed. Gary mentioned that the lobsters will be slightly more expensive this year. The last two years they were \$7.50/lb., but this year it will be closer to \$10.99/lb. this year, although our cost might be slightly lower. We will get them at near dealer cost.

Larry reminded everyone that Bob wants chapter members to get active on the Legislative Action website since this will be a grading item on next year's LOE.

Reservations as of 15 July were 91. Michael said that there were still many chapter members or MOAA National members who have not yet signed up for this event.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT/Vets Count): Peter said the SVAC is on summer break. The next meeting will be 6 October. Peter felt that the session was successful overall. Everyone is invited to attend these meetings at the NH ARNG Training Center in Pembroke.

NH State Legislature: No report. Bill Luti was absent.

Public Affairs: Annette submitted the last article to MOAA National on June 12th dealing with our Chapter Award presentation activities. Submissions are done about three months prior to publication. She doesn't know if our submission will be accepted. Her last published article appeared in April 2026, "A Place for Calm Reflection", regarding our NH Veteran Cemetery bench.

Membership: Michael said that since the last meeting, there were four new members, no deceased members, one member with spouse, two dropped members, for a total membership count of 505. There were 37 who got dues reminders in June of which seven had already paid their dues.

Recruiting/Transition: No report. Position vacant.

Programs: Gerry was not present, but has Lt Gen Sims, the recently retired #3 on the JCS, as a speaker locked in for 7 November.

Web page: Michael said that there were 210 hits in June. The web counter he uses says that about 26% of our "hits" are from web bots.

Travel Program: Tony Burdo sent an email regarding his concern that we have no takers for 2027 trips and that this lack of reservations might place our agreement with Collette in jeopardy. Drew suggested sending out either a blast email on this topic or putting something in the next newsletter, but that won't come out until September. Michael agreed to sending out a blast email.

Scholarship Grant Program: Wayne Balcolm said that we have six applications for the scholarships this year. As previously mentioned, \$5,000 has been transferred to the scholarship account to fund this year's requirements. Checks will be disbursed on 1 August. He also mentioned that the MOAA National scholarship are only for dependents of active-duty personnel. Our scholarships don't have that constraint, but the MOAA National scholarships are much larger (up to \$10,000). Our funds are disbursed directly to the college/university, not the student. We received two thank you notes from recent graduates for our financial support during their college education.

Nominations – Directors: Sharon was not present but submitted an updated proposed slate for Board of Director nominations for November. A motion to accept the proposed slate was made, seconded and approved by all present. See **Attachment #1**.

J/ROTC AWARDS: Jim Dunn was absent. There was no report.

Granite State Newsletter: Drew said the newsletter went out the end of June. He received a comment from Major Carol Moore about her picture in the June issue. I apparently listed her branch of service as US Army instead of USMC. I will publish a correction in the next issue of the newsletter.

Web Communications: No updates. Jennifer was excused.

Blast Emails: Michael will send out a blast email regarding the travel program issues identified by Tony Burdo.

LIAISON REPORTS:

ESGR: Peter said there was nothing to report.

Manchester VAMC: Bernie sent a report. See **Attachment #2** for specific details.

July BOD meeting: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1313 hours which was seconded and accepted by all present.

Next BOD Meeting: 17 September 2026 at the Backyard Restaurant/Brewery in Manchester.

Respectfully submitted,

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

15 July 2026

Board of Directors Nominating Committee Report

The following officers are put forth for approval by the MOAA-NH Board of Directors to be on the Directors slate at the annual meeting on 7 November 2026 for a full three-year term.

CAPT Lynne F. Blankenbeker, USNR (Ret.)

LtCol Wayne E. Balcom, USAF (Ret.)

MAJ Paul T. Lipari, Jr., USAF (Ret.)

LtCol Larry M. Miller, USAFR (Ret.)

Furthermore, the following officer is proposed for a two-year term until 2028.

CAPT James P. Dunn, Jr., USN (Ret.)

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon P. Day

CDR, USN (Ret.)

Board of Directors Nominating Committee

Advance Care Planning Workshop for Veterans and Caregivers
Mark your calendar for July 22. Come on out to the Manchester VA Medical Center for an Advance Care Planning Workshop. If you have questions or need to register, please contact Julie at (603) 203-6850.



VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Manchester Healthcare System

Advance Care Planning Workshop for Veterans and Caregivers

Meet with VA Social Workers and your peers to share experiences related to the process of planning for future health care needs, known as "advance care planning."

**Wednesday
July 22, 2026**

10 a.m. to Noon

**Manchester VA Medical Center
718 Smyth Road
Manchester, NH
First Floor
Training & Education Room (N129)**

Discussion includes:

- How to complete a living will
- Identify people you trust to make health care decisions for you if you cannot communicate them yourself
- Goals and next steps toward completing an advance directive form

Join us!

Registration is required.
Please call
Julie McCabe, LICSW,
at 603-203-6850

Veterans Free Farmers Market
Thu. Aug 6, 2026, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET
Manchester VA Medical Center
718 Smyth Road
Manchester, NH



VA Manchester Healthcare System

Veterans Free Farmers Market

— Outside of Mountain Entrance

**Thursday, August 6
&
Sept. 10, 2026**

The Farmers Market opens at 11 a.m. and closes when the produce & vegetables are gone.

- Open to all Veterans
- Locally sourced
- Healthy recipes to enjoy
- Help improve your health by including fresh produce in your meal planning

**MANCHESTER VA MEDICAL CENTER
718 SMYTH ROAD
MANCHESTER, NH 03104**

**Contact Robyn Romaniak,
Voluntary Services, at
(603) 624-4366 ext. 201852
for more information and/or to
donate to this event.**

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Manchester Healthcare System

Got coffee? ☕ The VA Police at the Manchester VA Medical Center will have some to share with Veterans at the Mountain Entrance of the main campus on Thursday, July 16, 2026, from 9-11 a.m. If you are on your way to your appointment, or want to stop by, come share a 'Coffee with a Cop.'

The event gives our VA Police team an opportunity to connect with, and thank Veterans for their service.



VA  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Manchester Healthcare System

Join us for
**Coffee
with a
Cop**

July 16, 2026
9 to 11 a.m.
Mountain Entrance

Take some time to get to know
your VA Police and let us know how
we can support you.



Manchester VA Medical Center
718 Smyth Road
Manchester, NH 03104