

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA
NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
13 March 2025

Call to Order: The BOD meeting at Alan's Restaurant was called to order by President Larry Miller at 1203 hours. Since Gary Terhune was not present, Larry provided a brief opening prayer. All members present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attending: Balcolm, Boyle, Breuder, Burdett, Jaffin, Luti, McLean, Miller (Larry & Pat), Moody. Excused members included LeFebvre, Goff, S. Day, Rowan, and Terhune. A quorum of members was not present.

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

1. For the Advocacy-in-Action, 7-10 April, MOAA wanted the chapters to promote the following three items:
 - a. Military Spouse Hiring Act
 - b. Ending the wait for Toxic Exposed Vets
 - c. Caregiver Support Improvements. This would provide ongoing payments to the caregivers and establish some sort of retirement system for them.
2. 27 February there was a MOAA Round Table to discuss the following:
 - a. CM/NRT Reintroduction (near real time reports/Michael McLean & Larry Miller). This is for the statistics and database of the Chapter.
 - b. Also discussed the need for MOAA Liability Insurance, which has run about \$550/year. We obtained ours for \$408/year. This was paid for by Peter using an ACH transfer for free. Michael has the policy in a file that he gave Peter.
3. There is an Eastern Workshop planned for 14-15 November, originally in Hershey, PA but has been switched to Pittsburgh.
4. There was a day long Leadership Round Table on 5 March which included breakout sessions in the afternoon.
5. The NGAUS Annual meeting will be on 29 March at the Puritan Backroom. Governor Ayotte will attend.

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

VP Remarks: Bob spoke briefly about the following upcoming events:

1. Southern Maine Charity Golf Tourney is on 23 July. Only one member (Moe Demers) interested so far.
2. There were no replies to the Sunday March Brunch.
3. Need a location for the 4 July 25 event. He would like to get this issue settled by the next face-to-face meeting. Bob said he was told that we could use any NH Guard base to hold this event.
4. We have reserved Jamaica Island at PNSY for the 4 July 26 250th Birthday celebration. He is looking to expand this event out to other organizations such as the Navy League. Pat mentioned that she knows a new member who is very involved in activities at the PNSY and will give that information to Bob. He is looking for other suggestions for organizations that we can partner with for this event.
5. The 10 May 25 Dinner Train has only 19 reservations so far and we need 30 to have our own separate car.
6. The GSWA luncheon is already scheduled, and flyers are out.

7. Bob has already secured a speaker for the November annual meeting. He is a Commodore stationed at the PNSY. Also, our Color Guard this year will be from the Sea Cadets. We will be looking for corporate sponsors to provide meals for them at the event. We would like to sponsor additional Sea Cadets if possible. He would also like to see some of our membership becoming mentors for this cadets. **ACTION #1:** (ALL). Continue this discussion at future meetings.
8. Bob said that probably less than 10% of our membership attended the last annual meeting, and he feels that it is inappropriate for such a small group of members to be making decisions for the entire chapter. He suggested that questions for voting at the meeting should be sent out to the entire chapter either by email or online voting using something like "SurveyMonkey". The biggest reason for non-attendance at the annual meeting is the travel time involved. Peter and Drew seconded Bob's suggestion. Peter suggested we contact MOAA National to see if they are exploring this option and whether there might be any grants to support such activity.
9. He also mentioned that Kevin Forest, the Manchester VAMC Director, is still on detail to VA Boston.
10. Finally, Jason Moody has already done a lot of work behind the scenes for the August Clambake. They are meeting with Chad and Gary tomorrow to discuss obtaining propane and tools in advance.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 1223 and resumed at 1240.

Secretary's Report: Michael received no corrections to the January minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was seconded and approved by all present.

Bookkeeper's Report: Peter said the Chapter is solvent. The checking account is about \$2,400 higher than January. There was one bounced check from a woman who has now done this twice. The NH Secretary of State has completed the five-year review, and the Form 990 has been filed for 2024. The fund for the granite bench at the NH Veteran's Cemetery currently totals \$2,796.00.

Peter also mentioned the CAPT Lynne Blankenbeker, USN (Ret), NC has returned from Pago Pago and again lives in Concord. Peter had a brief telecon with her.

CheddarUP is working well for membership dues. Pat asked how to distinguish "Life Members" that are Chapter versus National members. Michael said that life members that are listed belong to the local chapter, but you cannot tell who life members are for national.

Trustee of the Trust Fund: Drew stated that since Trump's inauguration, the stock market has been on a tear, and we probably should not make any changes in our portfolio until things settle down.

Surviving Spouse Liaison report:

1. Attended SSL Virtual Meeting 1/25/25. Frank Michael was the speaker. ID cards in newsletters reminding everyone that they need to update by January 2026. Need to stress the importance of PACT ACT and remind members to go to VA and sign up. Also mentioned the importance of MOAA website.
2. Attended SSL Virtual meeting 2/5/25. Spoke of the importance of EVERPLANS. MOAA has two charities: Scholarship and Foundation.
3. Attended March SVAC.

4. Attended MOAA National virtual meeting open to all leaders and Board members. I attended the breakout session for SSL. Gail Joyce gave a briefing on the role of SSL. "The role of SSL is the primary contact for benefits, assist at time of loss, encourage and educate Surviving Spouse. Promote advocacy, membership, chapter support, engage recourses. Special interest for health care, housing improvements, and caregivers."
5. There are 46,000 surviving spouses that are members of MOAA, the majority over 70 years old.
6. Caregivers may receive payment for personal care. MOAA.org/caregivers or VA.gov for more information.
7. Donated \$25.00 to the following:
 - a. Old York Historical Society's Memorial Fund in memory of Calvin Hosmerill
 - b. Community Hospice House, Merrimack, in memory of Kenneth Goodsell
 - c. Wounded Warrior Project in memory of Veronica Hewitt
 - d. MOAA-NH Bench for VA Cemetery in memory of Capt. Robert Garneau (Family wish anyone to donate to their charity of choice and since he is buried at the NH VA Cemetery, it seemed fitting).
8. Also sent sympathy cards to Margaret Goodsell, Cynthia Hosmerill, and Carol Garneau.
9. Drew mentioned that if you have a new military ID card with an "Indefinite" expiration date, it will not be accepted by TSA for getting through security. All ID cards need a definite date of expiration. Old military ID's may be confiscated at military base gates even though the transition date is next January. It was recommended that we relay this information to our Congressional delegations as these new ID cards were billed as "TSA/REAL ID Compliant".

OLD BUSINESS:

Veterans Cemetery Project: See previous comments in the "Bookkeepers" report.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT/Vets Count): Peter will not be present for the April meeting but will attend the May meeting. There were meetings on 4 Feb and 4 Mar, and both were well attended.

Allen Aldenberg, the former Chief of Police in Manchester and a Colonel in the NH ARNG has been named the Easter Seals/Veterans Count Franklin Veteran's Center campus Director. There will be 29 apartments available in early June. The new Retreat Center will have another 22 rooms for another 50 people and would be available for conferences. There would be a fee, and we could hold one of our meetings there if we wanted. There is a kitchen available for catering. Phase 2 will add a swimming pool, equine center, dogs, and hopefully move the Tilton VA clinic into new space at the Franklin center. About \$23 million of private capital needs to be raised for Phase 2 and Phil Taub (Swim with a Mission) will be responsible for raising most of that amount. Bill Luti mentioned that the challenges will be how to sustain a stream of income to keep the center operating. They can't count on ongoing federal/state funding, and this was brought up at the SVAC. It appeared that Aldenberg was more interested in running the facility than in fund raising. Peter suggested that the pool, athletic, and other facilities be rented out as one way to produce income. Phase 3 might include additional housing. Bob suggested that we get a copy of the presentation and post it on our website. A wood fired boiler that currently occupies the site of the proposed pool is being purchased by

someone for \$1 and donated to the city. The housing should be mainly supported by VA VASH and other program funds.

This year Phil Taub is doing a VA Summit and all of the state VSO's will probably attend. This year the summit will be in Franklin.

The DMAB group, the veterans group for the state of NH led by the TAG, is still working on the "Ask the Question" campaign, Part 2.

Personal Affairs: Position is vacant.

Membership: Michael said that there two new members including one from Vermont, three deceased members, four with spouses, and two dropped members, so the total membership is now at 523.

Michael sent out 200 dues letters, received 127 responses (a 63.5% return rate). Of the responses, only 22 paid online using CheddarUP. He was not able to send out any recruiting letters because of MOAA taking down the NRT (near real time) reports. National is gradually phasing back in the people who can access the Community Module (CM) and NRT reports into three groups. The NH Chapter is not in the first group.

Michael also passed out a snapshot summary of the Chapter Membership for the end of the year, 2024.

Recruiting: No updates. Tom Goff was excused.

Programs: Gerry Boyle said the next event is the GSWA at the Common Man in Plymouth on 26 April. Larry asked Gerry if the restaurant can provide some large napkins to cover the three awards prior to the presentation. Michael said he has received only 13 reservations for this event. Only three used CheddarUP for their reservations.

Web page: Michael said that there were 570 hits in February versus 655 hits in January.

Travel Program: Tom Kyle and I met with our Business Development Manager from Collette to discuss our 2026 travel program. We are going to offer six group trips and numerous Collette World Connect trips. Once all of the details are gathered from Collette, I will announce them in the Granite Slate and a blast email.

Our business manager also agreed to develop a slide show for the 2026 trips that can be shown at our events in lieu of paper displays.

We currently have six travelers for 2025.

In an attempt to increase our customer base, I plan to send letters to a few American Legion posts in NH and ask if they would like to participate in our travel program.

Submitted by Tony Burdo.

Scholarship Grant Program: Wayne said that there are currently six students receiving scholarships. The TD bank account has \$17,456.22.

2024 Granite State Warrior Award: Larry said there are three awards to be presented.

Nominations – Directors: Sharon was not present. Sharon had a question about the new ByLaws regarding the number of Directors. The recently approved changes allow the BOD to decide whether to reduce the number of Directors to match the decline in membership. Such a proposal would need to be submitted to the membership at the annual meeting for approval before this can be implemented. Sharon needed to know whether this might change in the future so that she knew whether to recruit more or fewer volunteers to be Directors. She reported the following information for November of 2025:

1. Peter Burdett will be completing a second term.
2. Gerry Boyle and Chuck Frost will be completing their first term of three years.
3. Jason Moody will be completing his term of one year which was the remainder of Diane Hulsesey's three-year term.

If we didn't fill all of our approved Director positions (currently 12), our quorum would still be based on the number of approved positions, not the number of filled positions.

JROTC Awards/NH Veterans Home: Jim Dunn said that there were three items to be addressed in the future, and that he was attaching a file containing a status of the ROTC and JROTC Awards effort.

1. Fall Mountain Regional High School requested MOAA-NH to initiate a scholarship program for JROTC units. They asked the Board to consider initiating a small future scholarship program, about \$200/annually, if feasible. The program would have to define the criteria for making the award and whether it would be competitive selection among all nine schools or one scholarship for each school. I would like to get back to the Fall Mountain JROTC Unit as to whether the BOD is willing to consider this suggestion and respond at a future date.
2. The investigation into whether MOAA-NH could add the University of Vermont to our ROTC Award Program continues. UVM has a USA and USAF ROTC units. The USAF unit has a "cross town" agreement with Norwich University whereby any full time UVM student who is in the UVM USAF ROTC program, takes classes at UVM but does ROTC training with the Norwich unit every week. These UVM students are already being considered when Norwich selects the award recipients. The UVM Army ROTC program does not have the same agreement with Norwich. I contacted the UVM Army ROTC office and was told they already do an award through a "local member" in VT. The person I spoke with did not have the specifics but promised to call back.
3. The tables in the attached file lists the ROTC and JROTC Units in the Award program that MOAA-NH has to cover in 2025. I need the members to review and let me know which ones they will be willing to fill.

Granite Slate Newsletter: Drew submitted a color copy of the current March GSNL which has gone to the printers for printing and mailing.

Web Communications: No updates. Jennifer was excused.

Blast Emails: This position is now vacant.

NH State Legislation: There are three major bills that both MOAA and the SVAC support. One is on hiring preferences for military members and spouses. There are two or three bills extending tax credits for veterans. The SVAC neither supports nor opposes those bills.

The other three bills in the Legislature that are troubling include two sponsored by Representative Tom Mannion or other state reps that are former veterans. The first bill is about the Selective Service Registration, Awareness, and Compliance Act. Last year they tried to place several constraint's on the Selective Service Registration Act including the numbers of deaths in recent campaigns and limitations on high school recruiting. This year, he tried to repeal the act, but the committee didn't agree. However, the act had three penalties for non-compliance. Mannion convinced the Veterans Committee to remove two of the three penalties: those who fail to register at age 18 would now be able to register at a state university and to receive a loan, grant, or scholarship. They would only be ineligible for state employment. Bill believes this will not survive Senate review. Also, the Governor would probably veto the bill. Also of note, Mannion managed to get the Speaker of the House to appoint him to the SVAC as one of the two House members.

The second bill is the Save the Guard bill which is a cut-and-paste from a bill by a group called "Bring our troops home". This bill would require a Congressional declaration of war before allowing state National Guards to be activated or deployed to a combat zone. This bill passed in the House last year but was defeated in the Senate. This would be unconstitutional and would need to be resolved by the US Congress, not the States. The Committee Chair decided to have this bill "retained in committee" so that it wouldn't be voted on now but MUST be voted on next January. Again, this bill is unlikely to pass the Senate or would be vetoed by the Governor.

The last bill is the Assisted Suicide bill which passed in the committee 10 to 7. It has not been brought up on the House floor for the past two sessions. The veteran community already has a very high suicide rate, and we don't need another excuse to encourage further deaths. Because there are 20 new Republicans in the House and the Senate Republican majority also increased, Bill thinks that this bill may not make it to the House floor again. The bill did pass in the House by two votes last year before being defeated in the Senate. Bill said that in Canada, the second highest cause of death is physician assisted suicide.

Larry mentioned another bill about banning law firms from assisting veterans in filing VA claims. MOAA National opposes this bill and Bill said that it would be unconstitutional to do this. If veterans want to hire and pay a firm for this assistance, they have the right to do that. These firms just cannot take unfair advantage of veterans who want to do this. Firms or companies that provide that service for a fee cannot attach any future benefits, but they may be able to attach retroactive benefits. This is governed by federal law.

LIAISON REPORTS:

ESGR: Peter said the Veterans Count will have their "Seacoast on the Tarmac" at Pease ANGB from 5-7 September during the airshow with the Blue Angels. Also, on 7 May, they will be working with Jack Keith for a Veterans Count radiothon, 0600-1800 on channel 107.7 MHz. Finally, the Army/Navy game will be on 13 December in Baltimore.

Manchester VAMC: Bernie sent the following information.

1. The new lab will be completed on the 3rd floor along with dermatology.
2. More Specialty care programs moving to the CBOC's. More information soon.
3. Acute pain management now on the 5th floor.
4. Manchester VA has a new call center, and the phone extension is now 6 digits.
5. June 7th this year is the Manchester VA's 75th anniversary.
6. As of this date, VA is exempt from a hiring freeze.
7. Future upcoming events include:
 - a. Town Hall, Manchester VA Solarium, 25 April, 1700-1800.
 - b. Town Hall, Conway VA clinic, 71 Hobbs Street, 3rd Floor, 24 Jun, 1700-1800
 - c. Town Hall, Manchester VA Solarium, 9 Sep, 1700-1800
8. The RAO Hanscom Newsletter is attached.

Next Board Meeting: The next BOD meeting be on the 8th of May, location TBD.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1348 hours which was seconded and accepted by all present.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Attachment: JROTC / NROTC / SEA CADET / CAP ACTIVITIES

JROTC / NROTC / SEA CADET / CAP ACTIVITIES

The following presents a status for the MOAA-NH Awards effort.

For Board at the March 13, 2025 meeting, three items should be addressed.

1. A Fall Mountain Regional High School request for MOAA-NH to initiate a scholarship program for JROTC Units. Request the Board consider initiating a future small scholarship program (\$~\$200.00 annually) if financially feasible. The program would have to define the criteria for making the award and whether it would be a competitive selection among all nine schools or one scholarship for each school. I would like to get back to the Fall Mountain JROTC Unit as to whether MOAA-NH is willing to consider to consider this suggestion and respond at a future date.

2. The investigation into whether MOAA-NH could add University of Vermont to our ROTC Award Program continues. UVM has USA and USAF ROTC Units. The USAF unit has a “cross town” agreement with Norwich University whereby any full time UVM student who is in the UVM USAF ROTC program, takes classes at UVM but does ROTC training with the Norwich unit every week at Norwich. These UVM students are already being considered when Norwich selects the award recipients. The UVM Army ROTC program does not have “cross town” agreement with Norwich. I contacted the UVM Army ROTC office and was told they already do an award through a “local member in VT. The person I spoke with did not have the specifics but promised a call back.

3. The tables below lists the ROTC and JROTC Units in the Award program that MOAA-NH has to cover in 2025. I need the members to review and let me know which ones they will be willing to fill.

ROTC Program Status

There are three universities in the program, and we are investigating the addition of the University of Vermont’s ARMY ROTC program. UVM’s USAF program is already covered by our award made at Norwich University. The current focus is on completing the development of the awards schedule, identifying recipients and identifying the MOAA-NH members who will make the awards.

ROTC Programs					
Service	School	2024 Presentor	2025 Award Date	Recipients Identified?	2025 Presentor
Army	UNH-Army	LTC Gary Gary Terhune USA (Ret)	April 25, 2025 Time 10:00AM	Yes (2)	Col Chuck Frost USAR (Ret.)
Air Force	UNH- Air Force	Col Andrew Breuder USAF (Ret.)	April 30 Time TBD (Late Afternoon)	No	
Army, Air Force, Navy / Marine	Norwich University	Cpt Jim LeFebvre USAR	April 9, 2025 1330-1500	Yes (3)	
USAF	University of Vermont	N/A	Not Required.	Not Required	
Army	University of Vermont	N/A	To be determined	No	

JROTC Program Status

Nine high schools are in the program. Seven of the nine have provided or are in the process of providing their Award dates and recipient names. Manchester High School West and Winnacunnet High Schools have not responded to multiple requests for the information. Fall Mountain Regional High School has requested that MOAA-NH’s Board

consider initiating a scholarship program for JROTC Units (on the order of \$200.00). The current focus is on completing the development of the awards schedule, identifying recipients and identifying the MOAA-NH members who will make the awards. The following table shows the current status.

New Hampshire JROTC Programs					
Service	School	2024 Presenter	2025 Award Date	Recipients Identified?	2025 Presenter
Army	Fall Mountain Regional High School	Association of the US Army (AUSA)	5/09/25 @6:00PM	Yes (2)	CAPT Jim Dunn USN (Ret.) (tentative)
Army	White Mountain Regional High School	Association of the US Army (AUSA)	April or May 2025 but not scheduled	No	
Army	Alvirne High School	Col Joe DiChiaro (USAF (Ret))	Schedule to be provided by 3/15/25	No	
USAF	Nashua North High School		No program since COVID		
Army	Pinkerton Academy	Recently Retired Foundation Senior Instructor	5/13/25 @ 6:00 PM	No	
Army	Salem High School	Col Joe DiChiaro (USAF (Ret.))	5/05/25 @ 6:00 PM	No	
Army	Spaulding Academy	Lt Col Larry Miller USAFR (Ret.)	5/15/25 @ 1:00PM	No	
Navy	Dover High School	CAPT Jim Dunn USN (Ret.)	5/13/25 Time "Evening"	No	CAPT Jim Dunn USN (Ret.) (tentative)
Navy	Manchester High School West	Col Andrew Breuder USAF (Ret.)	No response to inquiries		
USMC	Winnacunnet High School	Maj Carol Moore USMC	No response to inquiries		

US Naval Sea Cadet Program

There are three Sea Cadet Divisions in New Hampshire

Harlan R. Dickson Division

Several MOAA-NH members attended the 9th Annual Sea Cadet Ball on February 1, 2025 sponsored by LCDR John Murphy the CO of the unit . LtCol Larry Miller USAFR (Ret.) presented the MOAA Sea Cadet Award at the unit’s weekly meeting on February 20, 2025.

Monadnock Division

The CO, Monadnock Division (LT Debra Harling) declined to participate in the MOAA Sea Cadet Award program citing current low enrollment. She expressed interested in participation in the future if the size of the group increased.

Newport News Division

The CO of the unit did not respond to invitations to participate in the program

Civil Air Patrol

Working through Bill Moran, NH CAP initially expressed interest in participating in the MOAA-NH Award Program but wanted the award to be made to a single NH Cadet of the year. However, on January 15 2025, he informed me that he could not get the CAP POC to confirm the arrangement. Bill said we should forget doing this in 2025.