

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA
NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
19 March 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, Burdo, Dunn, Frosts (Chuck & Annette), McLean, Miller (Larry & Pat), Novoletsky, Rosa, 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 submitted an updated design for a new chapter Challenge coin. We are currently running low on the current coin. The coin included service coats-of-arms for all eight branches on the back surrounding the MOAA seal while the NH Seal on the front was surrounded by the NH motto. Bob Jaffin will still try to get the approvals to use the service seals. We are still awaiting the pricing for the coins.
2. Sea Cadets Ball was attended on 7 February.
3. The Awards event was attended on 5 February.
4. Jim will discuss the awards program later in the meeting.
5. Larry wanted to discuss criteria for the 2026 GSWA next year. For the individual award, he wants us to look at an "unsung hero": someone who is not well known, works in the background, but is vital to the operation/completion of our tasks. As an example, the VAMC engineers awarded last year. Larry wanted someone even less well known. Bob Jaffin suggested John Barrett, a VFW service officer for many years or one of the American Legion VSO's.

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

VP Remarks: Last weekend, Peter and Bob attended the NGAUS (National Guard Association of the US) conference. As a result, at the GSWA luncheon, we had both Maggie Hassan and Maggie Goodlander present. As a result of the comments made by the TurboCam executives and Jack Heath, we are planning to sponsor an event on 8 May, two days before Mother's Day, at the NH Veterans Cemetery. This date is a Presidentially declared military spouses appreciation day. Bob has a "letter of interest" from the Governor as the key speaker. We would have two speakers and give a rose for each spouse.

We recently got some guidance from National regarding sponsorships, and USAA will be sponsoring us in the future.

Bernie Satterfield informed Bob that 2-3 years from now, he will no longer be able to the drinks for the annual clambake. We need to find him a replacement! It would be great to have someone nominated before this year's event for training and Wayne's name was suggested.

MOAA National does a regional leadership conference every year, but they don't go to every location annually. The last two were to Rhode Island and Hershey, PA this past year. Bob has requested that they consider NH and Maine as being the sponsor chapters for two days prior to the annual clambake

in 2027. This would be an opportunity for MOAA National staff to see what we're doing. He noted that there were over 100 people at Hershey this last year. These conferences include 13 states including Maryland and Pennsylvania.

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

Bookkeeper's Report: Peter said that for the GSWA luncheon, including the recent deposit made by Bob, we are just barely in the black. We are up to date with the credit card. We've had several deposits from CheddarUP related to the GSWA luncheon. There are a couple of donations for the scholarship funds and these will be moved into the appropriate accounts. The SCU checking accounts has \$5,980. We had \$4.03 of interest on the money market account and has a balance of \$4,810.72. MOAA was supposed to be sending us money, about \$300 for one item and another \$2,000 for a second item. We had previously received \$180 to support Zoom use. We have received the first amount but not the second.

A motion to accept Peter's report was made by Pat, seconded by Wayne, and approved by all present.

Trustee of the Trust Fund: Drew stated, "Don't look at your investments for now".

Surviving Spouse Liaison report:

1. Attended SVAC meeting January 21, 2026.
2. In January, sent get well cards to LCDR John Murphy III because of his illness and he could not make the Sea Cadet Ball.
3. Toured Easter Seals Veteran campus, 2 February. Spoke to and was escorted by Ana McKenna, Interim Program Director.
4. Attended US Naval Sea Cadet Corps Harlan R Dickson Division Cadet Ball on 7 February. Spoke to Gov. Kelly Ayotte regarding the Service Academies.
5. Spoke to Judith Hutson who sent a note saying she wants to stay involved with MOAA.
6. Spoke to Gerry Wall regarding a Mass for her husband, David's second year anniversary.
7. Spoke to Margaret Garneau to check on her since she didn't make the luncheon in February but had a ticket.
8. Attended a SSL Virtual Zoom meeting. There was discussion on VSO's who were not helping some spouses. Recommendation was made to find another but NOT to start over, just give all information and go from there. Kelly Arska is point-person on this issue.
9. I pointed out the need for new military IDs at Granite State Warriors Award luncheon. It is amazing that some folks asked me if their old one was any good. Also at that luncheon, Carolyn Schroeder asked me to send some information to her and her husband about "Preparing for the loss of a spouse" from MOAA. I sent it the next day.
10. Sent a sympathy note to Elizabeth Tilton as Michael received an email that Col. Franklin Tilton had died in October 2023.
11. On 3/17/26, attended an SSL virtual meeting. Maj. Gen. April Vogel was the speaker. She spoke about AiA. She was adamant that The Richard Starr Act was extremely important and that we stress this since we have asked for it to be passed for several years.
12. The Shut Down Fairness Act will ensure the armed forces will get paid.

13. The Guard VA Act is all about companies charging veterans high dollars to help them get their disability and taking a percentage of it. VSO's protect vets from these claim sharks. I mentioned that NH's Congressman Chris Pappas is very active in getting this passed. Gen. Vogel said that they speak to him often.
14. Military Care Act will help caregivers of service members get help, financial, mental health and re-employment and incentives to rehire caregivers' money that is not taxable.
15. Work Opportunity Act helps spouses find jobs when they move by giving the business a tax credit for hiring military spouses.
16. The Caregiver Act has passed but not enacted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Veterans Cemetery Project: Bob has previously discussed this item above. The event will be on 8 May 26 at 1700 hours.

NEW BUSINESS:

Honorary Member: John Murphy recently had a heart attack and will be out of work for 3-4 months. Dave Kenney is filling in for him in the interim. Larry wanted to induct him as an Honorary member. Michael says that we currently have five honorary members. For the Sea Cadets, he wears the rank of a LCDR but was a retired NCO. Bob Jaffin had no problem with making him a member of some kind but was concerned about him being an honorary member, perhaps as an associate member as the surviving spouses were in the past. He was also concerned about the duration of that membership. Bob felt that "honorary" would be appropriate for people without any military background. Michael read the definition of "honorary member" according to the chapter by-laws, Article V, Section 3. An honorary member has no voting rights and pays no chapter dues unless they were voting members of the Chapter at the time of becoming honorary members. Technically, there are no other categories of membership other than regular members or honorary members. Other categories were eliminated during the last revision of this section. Kevin, the head of the Navy League, is also an honorary member and prior enlisted. Bob agreed to proceed with this recommendation for now but will recommend changes to membership in the By-Laws before the next annual meeting.

A motion to make John Murphy III, in his role as Commander of the Sea Cadet Corps Harlan R. Dickson Division, an honorary member was made, seconded, and approved by all present.

Clambake: Larry completed the travel request, but MOAA National asked if they wanted us to send out a blast email about the event. If yes, then they wanted to know the cost of the event. Larry wanted to know what to put in the blast email. After much discussion, it was recommended that we say \$35/per person given concerns for inflation.

There was a short discussion regarding why the FD personnel at PNSY wouldn't take any of the meals that we had offered them. It was reported to Kevin Galeaz that those personnel felt they shouldn't be taking food from government employees. Bob said that one of the Command Master Chiefs was not pushing this and the JAG at the base informed the Fire Chief that they could not accept the meals from MOAA-NH as it would violate gratuity limits (\$25) for federal employees. Bob was informed by some other organizations that there some ways to get around those limitations.

Finally, there was a brief discussion regarding whether the chapter should pursue advertising to support operations and that this needs to be discussed by the BOD in the future. The additional costs for expanding the size of the Granite Slate Newsletter and who would handle the paid advertising would also need discussion. Bob wants to remain focused on sponsors like USAA, SCU, and M&T Bank.

The meeting was adjourned at 1240 for lunch and reconvened at 1310.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT/Vets Count): Peter said that the last SVAC meeting was cancelled due to snow. The last prior meeting was 3 February. The VA has a site with QR codes where you can learn more about specific services such as the Welcoming Kit, Receiving Crisis Support, and other services you might be interested in.

NH State Legislature: Bill Luti was absent. Peter said that the LSR update for 3 March had way too many bills to report on. If you have any questions about a specific bill, Peter has a chart. The bills have also not been transferred to the Senate as it is prior to the cross-over date.

Public Affairs: Annette said that she will invest more time working with the Manchester Union Leader. The first article published was from the annual meeting last year. In the future, she will report of the status of any submissions to the Union Leader or the MOAA National magazine. She will also try the Telegraph in Concord. The clambake article was the first one published by MOAA National, but they didn't include any photos. Of note, the article "A Place for Calm Reflection" on our memorial at the NH Veterans Cemetery just appeared in the Chapter Spotlight of "Military Officer", April 2026. An article on the Sea Cadet Ball was submitted and she also submitted an article on the recent GSWA on 4 March to both MOAA and the Union Leader.

Larry discussed the issues with SB 66, which will be reintroduced by Senator Riccardi from Bedford, regarding the "claim sharks" bill and attorneys assisting veterans with disability claims for a percentage of the claim. Pappas has HB 1732, which MOAA has adopted, and will be promoted at the April AiA event. The attorneys would be paid after the veteran received his disability payments, which would be \$12,500. However, they can query the VA and get additional payments if the veteran's benefits have increased. Larry has submitted another review sheet on the bills.

Membership: Michael said that since January there were eleven new members, no deceased members, none with spouses, so the total membership is now at 514. This was the result of the MOAA provided blast email of about 1700 names from a scrubbed MOAA database and those individuals were willing to have contact with the chapter. After removing those who were already chapter members, those who had previously been contacted left about 1148 names, but only 700+ had email addresses and 418 didn't. Those without email addresses required Michael to send out letters and brochures. He just took those to the Post Office yesterday, so it will be a while before we see any responses. Two of the new members were general officers, one Army (Perkins) and one USAF (Peksens). Peter said that General Perkins was under some pressure to join the chapter as he was a MOAA Board member and there was a requirement that he also belong to the local chapter.

However, there are eighteen members who are past due on their dues and may be dropped (list has been distributed to the BOD). These members have already received three reminders over this past year. Michael will send one final reminder.

Recruiting/Transition: No report.

Programs: Gerry was not present. Dr. Edmund Russo, Jr., Acting Director of the USA Cold Region Research and Engineering Laboratories in Hanover, NH will be the speaker at the April luncheon. It was also mentioned that Gerry Boyle had been nominated to administer the YDC funds payouts (approved by the Executive Council on 25 March 26).

It looks like the annual meeting might be at the Portsmouth Country club in November. The cost would be about \$38 if for a function, but after adding in all the extras, the final cost would be about \$53/person.

Michael has also contacted several hotels including the Courtyard in Nashua is a possibility. The hotel Concord seemed nice but wanted \$1,000 for a function room for a full day or \$500 for a half day and they don't do plated lunches. Also, Murphy's Taproom in Bedford wanted a room rental of \$750 (half of their usual rate!) with a \$2,000 food and beverage minimum. The entrée's, not including tax or service, ranged from \$49-\$55/person.

Drew asked if he had checked the Manchester Country Club?

Web page: Michael said that there were 159 hits in February. The web counter he uses says that about 26% of our "hits" are from web bots.

Travel Program: Tony Burdo met with our business travel manager from Collette and signed contracts for 2027 for five group travel tours and six retail/World Connect tours. To date, we have 4 travelers for 2026. He sent out some letters to American Legion and VFW posts to see if they were interested with partnering with us. So far, he has received no responses. He also has a second home in South Carolina and there is an American Legion post with over 1,000 members. Collette was agreeable with them partnering with us, so he will contact them the next time he travels to his other home. There is also a large VFW there too. Bob asked if Tony had ever presented our travel program to the SVAC, and Tony said "No". Peter doesn't know if the SVAC By-Laws covers sales pitches.

Every 10 years, Germany puts on the Passion Play in Oberammergau. The next time it will be done is in 2030. Collette wants to start advertising this trip next year because there are very few spaces available to them. This will be an expensive trip.

Finally, Tony mentioned that Collette gives us a 10% rebate on certain line items for trips we book. If he can get another organization to partner with us, would it be reasonable to offer them 3%? Everyone seemed to think that this was a reasonable option.

Scholarship Grant Program: Wayne Balcolm said that there are currently five recipients for scholarship program. Available funds are \$4,771.22. The deadline for submission of applications will be mid-June. Larry wants applicants to write a short essay on some topic. Children and grandchildren of active military or retirees/veterans are all eligible.

Nominations – Directors: Sharon was absent but submitted the following report:

There is a new MOAA-NH member, CDR Mary McGarry, USPHS. She expressed in an email to Michael McLean an interest in helping the organization. She specifically mentioned personal affairs and recruiting.

I then contacted her by email and sent her the MOAA-NH Operations Handbook and By-Laws. I also sent her information about our upcoming Board meeting. Mary responded saying she could not make the upcoming meeting due to work commitments but would review the materials I sent.

I told her I hoped to meet her at the April luncheon in Plymouth.

Michael mentioned that she joined the chapter as a Life Member. Also, Andrew Rankin joined last year and has attended every function. However, he's 91!

J/ROTC AWARDS: Jim Dunn submitted an extensive report (see **Attachment #1**). There are 17 presentations to be done with the newest one for the CAP in April. The other new award is to the Sea Cadet Dan Healy Division in Kittery, ME. He needs volunteers to support the dates listed on the upcoming award presentations. Larry also felt that there should be a printed MOAA award form for both the Sea Cadets and CAP. Jim stated that MOAA deleted that software, but that he still has access to it on his one computer. **ACTION #1 (ALL):** BOD members should contact Jim to volunteer for making award presentations as listed on the attachment.

Granite State Newsletter: Drew said that he just finished the lead article and has very little remaining space. He plans to have the draft ready for review by Monday, which he did. There were a few comments and corrections which were made, and he submitted the final draft to Michael late on Monday afternoon, 23 March.

Web Communications: No updates. Jennifer was excused.

Blast Emails: Michael sent out some information from the SVAC recently about an individual trying to write a book on any war. Using Cheddar Up it's easy to send our blast emails. He's currently working on one to encourage members to sign up for MOAA Legislative Action link because it's going to be an "extra credit" for us for the LOE next year. He is still needing some additional information from MOAA National before he does this. MOAA had sent out an "end of December" summary saying that the total registered advocates were 191, then said 82, or 43%, were from chapter members. The numbers don't make any sense. Bob said that advocates are those in NH who signed up and they don't necessarily have to be from the chapter. Michael that if we get more than a 10% increase next year, we get extra credit on the LOE.

LIAISON REPORTS:

ESGR: Peter said that there was nothing to report. He recommended this section be deleted in the future and added as necessary. He noted that the 157th ARW with their KC-46A aircraft are all deployed.

Peter has filed the IRS Form 990-N postcard to the IRS.

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

Miscellaneous items: Pat suggested that at all future luncheons we have chocolates instead of flowers on the tables and reserve flowers on the tables for the annual meeting? Flowers are more expensive than chocolates. It seems that many times, the flowers are being left behind. For the last meeting, flowers cost about \$50. Another option might be a box of small American flags that could be placed on the table centers. Michael asked about deleting the tent cards with names on them, but several members stated that they felt these would still be necessary.

Bob mentioned that the two chapters in Maine have combined into one chapter, and they just changed their By-Laws to include as members adult children of current members. Many of their senior members have children who want to participate.

19 March BOD meeting: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1412 hours which was seconded and accepted by all present.

Next BOD Meeting: May 2026 with date TBD at the Backyard Restaurant/Brewery in Manchester.

Respectfully submitted,

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