

NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
6 May 2021

Call to Order: President Bob Jaffin called the meeting to order at 1832 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled followed by a moment of silence (led by Bob Jaffin) for those past and future who have sacrificed.

Attending: Balcom, Boyle, Breuder, Burdett, Coulter, Jaffin, LeFebvre, Lull, Luti, McLean, Miller, Spotts, Wright.

Opening Remarks: President Bob Jaffin commented that he has to be gone by eight o'clock so Jim LeFebvre will have to take over. Bob asked if anyone knew why we start the meetings at 6:30. No one knew why. Other than that, he had no opening remarks.

Immediate Past President Remarks: Warren Coulter had no remarks.

Secretary's Report: Michael McLean reported that we do have a quorum. He said he had received several comments on the minutes of the March Board meeting. They included the phrasing of the remarks on the item concerning whether the chapter would pay for membership for new members. There were a number of comments that evolved from the sending out the "Event Guide" to all concerned. Michael said that unless anyone had any corrections, he asked for a motion to approve the March 2021 minutes. Motion made and seconded. Motion passed, minutes accepted.

Financial status: There was no Treasurer's report. Bob Jaffin said we will survive. Bob went on to comment on the recent MOAA Virtual Northeast Region Council and Chapter Workshop that he attended. He said he got a lot out of it. He asked if anyone wanted to attend one of the Regional Workshops to let him know.

Trustees of the Trust Fund: Andrew Breuder said that, based on what Roby reported in March, we are in good shape.

OLD BUSINESS:

Scholarship update: Ken Lull began by saying that the Strategic Initiatives Committee (SIC) brought three questions for the Board. Ken asked MOAA national that if we transferred our Scholarship money (About \$350,000) to national, would we be able to use that money just for children of NH chapter members. The answer was yes. Ken then went into the issue of loan versus grant. He went into a bit of history of the MOAA national Scholarship program. Over the years, MOAA had given 13% Of money as grants and 87% as loans. Now it is up to 32% as grants and 68% as loans. Ken then went into the 501.c(3) versus 501.c(19) issue. MOAA national's Scholarship Program is a c(3) so people can deduct contributions. Ken then listed a number of restrictions imposed by national on who is eligible, to include all military members (including Enlisted) but NO grandchildren. Ken summarized by saying that MOAA would take over the hassle of managing the program, contributions would be tax deductible but no grandchildren. Wayne Balcom pointed out that the five students currently in school are grandchildren. Andrew Breuder suggested that we could

gradually phase out the grandchildren currently in the program and then turn the program over to national. Wayne Balcom brought up the point about opening up applications from new students. Andrew Breuder said the sooner we start moving toward national takeover the better. Michael McLean said he thought we should open up our scholarships to new students. He pointed out that the Board does not need to approve the number of students in the program. The Board only needs to approve the amount of loans given to the students. Bob Jaffin said that the Board was incorrect in restricting the number of students, and the Scholarship Committee can approve as many as they wish. Peter Burdett asked what do we do with those people who are repaying their loans. Jim Spotts replied that they are still working on that issue.

NEW BUSINESS:

2021 Event planning: Bob Jaffin began by talking about events in general, and who we should invite outside of our membership. Jim Spotts said that if we aren't losing money on an event, we should open them up to MOAA national members and members of SVAC who are eligible to join. Jim went on to say that chapters in California are opening up to all veterans and if they are not officers, then they are honorary members. He did say that we ought to open up the Clambake to advertise on social media. There was discussion as to how many can we accommodate. The consensus was between 300 and 400. Bob Jaffin brought up cruises on the MS Mount Washington. He said they do Brunch Cruises. Bob said he would like to encourage events between now and October. Bob asked how many people present would attend a cruise. There were a number of hands up. Bob also brought up a fall leaf peeping dinner train. Bob asked for feedback.

Bob went on after the Scholarship Update (above) to talk about the Clambake. He said that Brenda Pennels from the Southern Maine Chapter is here tonight. The Clambake will be a Maine/NH joint event. He has been told that there will be a ceremony commemorating 9/11 as part of the air show at Pease. If it is streaming, perhaps we could find someone to sponsor a jumbotron to view the ceremony at the Clambake. There was discussion as to when the ceremony would take place. Ken Lull brought up that he has some issues with the Clambake. Brenda Pennels said that she thought there would only be about fifty people from her chapter. Ken said no problem. Ken is concerned that Bernie Satterfield, the "drinks" person, will not be there that day. Ken wants to invite all the members of the NH National Guard, but it was pointed out that they will be involved with the air show. Michael McLean pointed out that we have invited members from several MOAA chapters in Massachusetts. Michael continued to say that MOAA national can send out emails to all non chapter members in NH inviting them to an event. They say they need sixty plus days notice. Ken Lull reiterated that he can not handle over 400 people. There was a discussion about the price to charge people and the availability of lobsters. Bob Jaffin then went on to talk about other options for luncheons to include educational subjects or briefings from the VA or other veteran service organizations, such as the AL or VFW.

BREAK FOR DINNER

Reconvened Meeting at 1947

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT/Vets Count): Peter Burdett had a number of items to cover. The SVAC met in April and May. Some of the topics covered were you can get Covid vaccines at the CBOCs. They are planning an Army Air Corps monument at the Veterans Cemetery once the Army monument is repaired. He then mentioned the upcoming Our Community Salutes at a Fisher Cats game later this month (5/20). SVAC is looking for a Vice Chair. The WRJ VA is looking for landlords to put veterans into houses. The NH Veterans Home is doing well. Peter mentioned two bills that have passed the legislature and are going to the Governor for signature.

Personal Affairs: Vacant. Jim LeFebvre made a plea for volunteers to come forward to fill the numerous vacancies on the Board.

Membership: Michael McLean reported that our current membership is 629:

New members -	0
Deceased members -	6 (Plus 1 w/ spouse)
Dropped members -	0
Current total membership –	629

199 people have paid their annual dues so far out of 274. Michael will be sending out dues reminder letters in June to the 48 members who still have not paid their dues for this year. He has held off dropping the 24 people he was planning to drop at the end of March because he didn't want to fall below 600 members in case MOAA might redesignate our status.

Recruiting: Jim Spotts reported that recruiting has not been going well. A number of the phone numbers don't work. He said we need to change the way we do business. Michael McLean added that he sent out eight recruiting letters in April and May.

Programs: Gerry Boyle reported that we have the GSWA luncheon coming up at the Common Man in Plymouth.

Web Page: Michael McLean reported the following information:

21 hits in March

38 hits in April

Popular Pages in April:

Hits Page

5 Odds and Ends

4 Hot Items

3 Contacts

3 Membership

3 Transition Assistance

3 TRICARE

2 Program Notes

1 Group Travel

7 General

We received a 5 Star rating again this year (Fifth year) from MOAA in their Communications Contest.

Travel Programs: Tony Burdo not present.

Scholarship Loan Program: Already covered.

Granite State Warriors Award: No report.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Awards & NH Veterans Home: Joe DiChiaro submitted an email covering the awards he has been able to present in light of the pandemic.

Nominations: Sharon Day not present. Michael McLean commented that Bob Jaffin told him that David Frye had resigned from the Board due to health reasons.

PAO: VACANT.

Granite Slate: Michael McLean said that Marie Chipola is asking whether we are going to do a June newsletter.

Web Communications - FB: Jennifer Wright asked if anyone had anything to send it to her and she will put it on our Facebook page.

Joint Military Task Force (SUD committee): Andrew Breuder reported that at a meeting of the Governor's Commission (GC) Chairs on 23 April, there was a discussion of adding another task force (Stimulants TF???) to consider the increasing problem of methamphetamine in NH. A briefing on this subject was discussed, and the TAG has requested that the Joint Military Task Force request a full presentation on this subject at its next meeting in September when the speaker is available. This new task force may also seek representatives from law enforcement and safety.

It was also decided that any additional requests for funding from the GC should be delayed until August. In part, this is due to the time requirements needed to get RFP's for potential contracts written.

Andrew also added that they did a presentation of a Purple Star award to Londonderry HS. The Purple Star Initiative provides services for kids of military dependents in various high schools.

Blast Email: Geoff Corson not present.

LIAISONS:

ESGR: Sandy Way not present.

Transition Liaison: Jim LeFebvre reported that the information on our web site is obsolete. Jim has sat through a number of MOAA meetings online and it will take a large amount of work to fix our information. Perhaps we should put a caveat about the information being out of date until we can update the page.

VAMC Manchester: Bernie Satterfield not present. Michael McLean pointed out that everyone should have gotten two emails sent by Bernie that covered the VAMC Manchester.

Martins Point: Bob Jaffin had no report.

Auxiliary: Gwen Devoe not present. She submitted the following report:

I have recorded ten deaths during this period of time. I sent out two condolence cards, and made one telephone call to Capt. Kenneth A. Smith, Jr. He was not home so I left a message. He telephoned me back a few days later. We had a nice conversation. Hopefully he will attend the luncheon in Plymouth this month.

Last Minute Items: Jim Spotts provided a brief update on the Strategic Initiative Committee (SIC). They have had three [ZOOM] meetings so far. They discussed why we're here (Advocacy, Scholarship, Fellowship), what we do, and how we do it. They want to keep the group small at this point. Jim went on to mention that a chapter in California has opened their chapter to all veterans who come in as honorary members but who have all rights of membership. There was then a discussion of how we need to increase our membership. Peter Burdett pointed out that MOAA is the number one organization for the advocacy of veterans. Michael McLean commented that he submitted our LOE input to MOAA on March 30th. Peter Burdett brought up that at the Our Community Salutes Night at the Fisher Cats game, they want the recruits and families not to have to pay for their tickets. They are asking organizations to buy the \$9.00 tickets for these people. A motion was made to purchase 20 tickets for \$180. Motion seconded and passed. Peter Burdett will send Roby Day the information necessary.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 8 July, 2021 at **1800** (change of time) at the Red Blazer in Concord, NH.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2018 hours.

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