

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA
New Hampshire Chapter Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
12 May 2022

Call to Order: President Jim Lefebvre called the meeting to order at 1830 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Larry Miller and recited by those assembled followed by the invocation delivered by Gary Terhune.

Attending: Balcom, Boyle, Breuder, Burdett, Coulter, DuVall, Erickson, Fasoli, LeFebvre, Luti, McLean, Miller, Sevigny, Terhune. A quorum of members was present.

President's Opening Remarks: President LeFebvre thanked everyone for coming tonight. He also said that we have a personnel issue with trying to fill vacancies and a decreasing membership base. For example, the Granite Slate editor is emphatic that she will no longer be the editor after the September edition. We need another member or spouse to assume these duties as soon as possible. We are also looking for someone to fill the PAO position and possibly combine it with the Granite Slate editor position. We also need someone to take over recruiting to replace Jim Spotts. Jim also mentioned that we have achieved another Five-Star Award for the Chapter web site chiefly due to the outstanding efforts of Michael McLean.

Immediate Past President Remarks: Bob Jaffin was absent and there were no comments.

Vice President Remarks: Larry mentioned that a friend living in VA went to the hospital with his wife and followed her in a different car as he didn't know which route, she was going to take. He mentioned to the doctor that he had followed his wife to the hospital, and a few days later, he received a letter from the DMV stating that he was unfit operate his vehicle. Apparently, this doctor assumed that he followed his wife because he couldn't find it on his own. Drew made some comments that the doctor should have spoken to this man and/or his wife to obtain additional information before making any reports to DMV. Drew mentioned that he used to have a book in his old office at the VA Medical Center that details the medical standards for obtaining a routine driver's license in any state (see [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, "Medical Review Practices for Driver Licensing: Volume 3: Guidelines and Processes in the US", DOT HS 812 402](#)) that details the medical standards required by state. In NH, there is no state requirement for medical providers to report potentially unsafe drivers to the DMV, and there is no personal liability for making such a report. Before making such a report, the medical practitioner should have obtained a sufficient medical history and completed a thorough examination.

Secretary's Report: Michael did not receive any comments or corrections to the March minutes. A motion to accept the meeting was made by Jim and seconded by Larry and was approved unanimously.

Finance/Treasurer's Report: Dee Fasoli said the transition is almost complete and she has access to almost all the accounts now including Vanguard this past week. Financially this month

we're reflecting what's going on in the nation. Investments are down about 4% over last month, and down about 7% compared to last year. Scholarship money appears to be coming in as expected. Membership dues appear to be coming in about the same as last year also. Overall, things look pretty good. This leads into the question about the Community Salutes event on 2 June at the FisherCats event. The AUSA is lead for this event in the recognition of HS students being inducted into the military. Peter mentioned that we donated to this event last year. Do we want to do this again this year? Last year we donated \$180 to defray the cost for veteran tickets to the game which paid for 20 people (\$9/person). That was the first year that event was at the Delta Dental Stadium due to Covid issues. It went so well last year that this year they also plan to have a buffet for all the enlistees and their families. The cost for these individuals is now \$36, and for veterans is \$10. The discounted price for the buffet is \$25 which includes the game ticket. We can afford to make another donation, but it is not listed as a line item in our budget. Last year, the funds came from recruiting and marketing. Do we want to make this a recurring donation, and have it reflected in our budget? Peter recommended that we increase our donation to \$250 for 10 veterans for both the buffet and game ticket. Dee believes that our donation goes to AUSA who then disburses it to the vendors. Dee asked if we obtained any more MOAA members because of this donation? Probably not, but there were a lot of positive comments made because of this donation from enlistee parents. Peter made a motion to donate \$250 this year which was seconded and approved.

Trustee of the Trust Fund: Dee covered most of the important financial changes and we've had six weeks of losses in the Dow Jones Industrials which is now only about 500 points over its 52-week low. Between March and April, our investments have declined about \$21K. Gary Terhune also mentioned that he had an organization resolution tonight that needed to be signed by several members before the end of the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

April 23 Luncheon-Common Man Plymouth: The April 23rd luncheon at the Common Man in Plymouth had 60 attendees with one medical emergency during the meal. Fortunately, the lady is doing well. Otherwise, the event went very well due to the efforts of Gerry Boyle as event coordinator. This was the first luncheon in a while in which we made a substantial income of \$588.67.

June 4 Luncheon – White Mountain Hotel, Conway: Jim LeFebvre has deposited 59 meal checks with three more pending from this evening. Since Jim has been traveling recently and has not been home yet, he expects that there may be more reservations waiting for him. All five rooms that were held for reservations have been taken for the luncheon and the hotel was very pleased about this. Jim must speak with the White Mountain staff on the 16th, but the 22nd will be the drop-dead date for final reservations.

Advocacy in Action: Peter began by speaking about Camp Resilience's Quarterly Report. Peter met Matt Dubois, a former P-3 Navy pilot, who also just finished a tour in DOD as the transition guru and worked in the ESGR. He is now the Executive Director of Camp Resilience based out of

Gilford, NH and may be associated with the military transition campus in Franklin that Easter Seals received an award of \$23M from the NH Executive Council to fix up this property. The building renovations could potentially accommodate between 40-50 individuals for housing and training during their transition process. This program would also tap into such programs as the VA VASH program and other housing assistance programs to cover the funding of operations. Peter passed around a folder containing information about Camp Resilience.

In respect to the Advocacy in Action (AIA), Bob, Peter, and others had been able to contact all the Congressionals except Senator Jeanne Sheehan who was on a Baltic trip in the middle of the time available for these meetings. There is a tentative meeting set up with both her Washington and NH staffers, and possibly her, in the future. All the Congressionals have been very receptive of the issues and items we previously discussed, but we've added other issues such as having a Commissary and/or Exchange facility at Pease. This would free up space at PNSY for a new warehouse. This would reduce traffic on the shipyard, aid the NH Guard, as well as the 146 active-duty personnel associated with the KC-46A program. If Pease were not selected, Peter suggested using some of the other under-used state facilities like Foxwood Mall or Steeple Gate Mall in Concord. Please keep these alternative suggestions private for now. Peter has spoken to Senator Sheehan's staff about this at a recent SVAC committee meeting. Bill Luti wanted to know what the Congressionals are going to do about this and how are we going to hold them to account for this. Peter said that he would like to pursue speaking with the various base commanders more about these suggestions. Peter didn't think that speaking with the various Navy/AAFES Exchange Headquarters would move these suggestions along faster. MOAA National may also be of some assistance with these suggestions. Bill wanted to create a paper trail asking for specific responses to these suggestions with follow-up actions. It was mentioned that Senator Sheehan is on the Senate Armed Services Committee and should have a lot of clout.

Other Old Business: Wayne Balcolm said we currently have 34 students/graduates in the scholarship program. We currently have 10 students getting scholarships after the change to a pure scholarship format with four applications received over the last two weeks. He was looking to determine how much money would be disbursed this year to each student. Drew thought that there had been discussion in the March meeting minutes regarding this. Wayne anticipated that we would need to disburse funds by June 15th. Three of the current ten scholarship recipients will be graduating this year. Drew mentioned that at the recent Detachment 475 AFROTC Dining-Out, there were several scholarship awards given to students that ranged from a low of \$1,000 to at least three at \$3,300. Wayne said we were previously awarding \$2,000 scholarships averaging \$12-14,000/student over their college career. Jim asked the Scholarship Committee to come up with a recommendation ASAP.

NEW BUSINESS: The President said he talked with Ken Lull recently regarding the upcoming Clambake. Tom Flanagan, who will be the meat and fish provider, hopes he will be able to keep the food prices close to what was billed last year. It was recommended that a Zoom meeting be established in June to only discuss the preparations for the clambake. This would allow time to

resolve any issues that might arise prior to the event. A motion was made and seconded to set this up on 8 June at 1830 hours.

The meeting adjourned for dinner from 1905 – 1930 hours.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Relations: There were two SVAC meetings since our last meeting. One was on the 5th of April and the other on the 3rd of May. This marks the 20th year that the SVAC has been meeting after being reconstituted in 2002. There may be a summer picnic to celebrate this milestone. Senate candidate, BG (Ret) Don Bolduc spoke at the April meeting regarding the issue of veteran suicide. Another person, Brian Hanson, who spoke about the NH Worker Bee Fund, a group of individuals who do repairs, at no cost, to veteran homes who are in a lower income bracket. There were normal updates from the Manchester and White River Junction VAMC's as well as the Department of Military Affairs and Veteran Services. Regarding the VA, there is a program reviewing the current size and suitability of current VA facilities (much like the military BRAC's) nationwide. The data for this review is coming from 2018. Peter contends that this data is too far out of date at this point, especially because of changes from the pandemic. There has been local Congressional delegation push-back regarding possible closures of CBOC's in Conway. Drew mentioned that a similar review was conducted while he was the Chief of Staff at the Manchester VAMC around 2014 looking both at the local of current CBOC's and clinical services at the main facility. At that time, the conclusion was that the CBOC's were appropriately located, and the main facility only lacked a few specific specialty services which we were already aware of any trying to rectify. Drew thought that at least VT and NH should be okay but wasn't sure about the other facilities in VISN 1. The Manchester Women's Health Clinic is re-locating into the former Urgent Care Clinic which has re-located into the newly constructed addition. The NH Veteran's Home in Tilton currently has 124 residents and does have a waiting list. The waiting list appears to be mainly due to staffing issues. They are now trying to do "Red Shirt" Fridays inviting various attendees to provide more social interaction with the veterans. There is also a new program to develop new LNA's (licensed nursing assistants) who are being paid to go through this training program. This is a work-study program which will benefit the Veteran's Home. Peter asked if everyone has all the Covid test kits you need? They are still available for distribution through the US Postal Service (second offering). There was also some discussion about the VA's Care Givers program and whether it would continue and at what level for the stipend. Drew mentioned that this started sometime around 2010 or 2011 and was intended provide care in the home of certain veterans, a family member in the home could be compensated a certain amount to provide this care on a monthly basis. There had been a recent 90% cut in this program which resulted in a great deal of push-back from veteran care givers. Peter also encouraged Kim McKay, the new Commandant, to get on the show with Jack Heath and talk more about the Veteran's Home. Peter also spoke to the Commander of the NH Recruiting District, Dietrick Bisson (?). If anyone you meet is considering an Army career, Peter has the contact phone number for this person. Peter also mentioned that there are some revisions coming in the DD214 for the National Guard to make it more like the active-duty version and calling it a DD214 instead of some other designation. Peter also

attended a meeting of the NH Leadership Team but that covered many of the same topics already mentioned. The final issue was burial equity at the state veteran's cemetery. The state is now covering the difference in costs to allow previously ineligible reserve component members and their spouses to be buried in Boscawen. Pets cannot be buried with you. There was a question regarding sending VA doctors, nurses, and other staff to the Mexican border. There was no response to this question from Congressman's Pappas office. Another question involved issues with military recruiters having difficulty getting into NH high schools. Bill Luti said the schools are making up excuses to avoid having recruiters in the high schools such as lack of time or resources to support this. The Governor has indicated that he would like to see more recruiters in NH schools, and this will be discussed with Frank Edelblut, the state Director of Education. Bill Luti said he believes that the only way this will change is if Governor Sununu takes some recruiters with him and visits various high schools unannounced. This probably should be an SVAC issue. Larry Miller mentioned that this hasn't changed since 1973 when his wife worked for Senator Smith, especially for recruiting candidates for the military academies.

Personal Affairs/Recruiting: Jim said that both these positions are still vacant and needed to be filled. The Minnesota MOAA Chapter has a booklet they publish that tells members where to go about Social Security issues and will be mentioned in the next issue of the Granite Slate. Maybe NH should adopt this booklet for use here.

Membership: Since the March meeting, we had one new member, five deceased members, plus two with spouses, and dropped twenty-two members for a current total of 567 current members. There are forty members who have not paid their 2021-chapter dues and Michael will be sending out reminders again next month. Michael mailed out eight recruiting letters in April and May, but no one has joined.

Programs: Gerry Boyle said the next luncheon is on June 4th in Conway. The Clambake is on for August and there is a potential September luncheon. The annual meeting will again be in November and the speaker will be the new commander of the USS Constitution, the first female commander of that vessel. As a side note, there were some derogatory comments made about fans of the New York Yankees. The President then discussed the possibility of conducting a Board of Directors meeting at the NH Veteran's Home, possibly tied to one of the major national holidays, as had been done many years ago. This would give members an opportunity to tour the facility, speak to residents, and provide some support to those less fortunate than us. Jim asked members to consider this and provide him with comments.

Website: There were only three "hits" in March, and seven "hits" in April. Michael again mentioned that he has been the webmaster for 23 years and would really like to turn this job over to someone else. If anyone wishes to take this on, he has a thumb drive with all the files for the webpage. All anyone would then need is a program to manage the website.

Travel Program: There was no report for this program.

Scholarship Loan Program: See the earlier discussion on this program.

Granite State Warriors Award: No report.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nominations – Directors: Michael mentioned that there are some problems because Sharon Day has pointed out that we have five vacancies for directors that we are going to have to fill this November. Sharon can go into this in more detail at the next meeting in July.

Nominations – Officers: No additional comments.

Granite Slate Newsletter: The next edition is going to go to six pages due to more material including a report on the UNH AFROTC Det. 475 Dining-Out on April 15th. There will be an additional cost of about \$32. Drew also had a few comments about the Dining-Out in that the student who was to receive the plaque was not present, and that he was notified only a few days before the event that he was to be the “guest speaker”. This worked out well in the end as we will most likely receive some significant publicity for our participation. One of the students who attended the function had previously received a \$5,000 scholarship from Flight #53 of the Order of Daedalians. I had sent a copy of my draft article in for publication in the Granite Slate and a copy to Flight #53. As a result, their PAO, Peter Lennon, revised that draft and submitted an article to the Manchester Union Leader for publication in the “Veterans” page in an upcoming Thursday edition as well as submitting it also to the Daedalians Headquarters at Randolph AFB in Texas for publication in their publications.

Web Communications: No report.

SUD/JMTF Committee: There have been no meetings or communications since our last meeting.

Blast Email: No report.

LIAISONS

ESGR: Peter Burdett said that there is not much to report other than they will be having a meeting on 21 June for training. There are no changes to the potential for “Space Available” flying soon at Pease. There will be a small office location change for ESGR at the reservation in Concord, but the distance is only about 50 feet.

Transition Assistance: Jim LeFebvre said that there was nothing to report other than an opportunity to work with the San Antonio Chapter.

Manchester VAMC: Bernie Satterfield sent in an email report with the following information. The VA has scheduled the first Memorial Day program in two years with persons attending to be held at the VA on 30 May. Same day access for mental health care is increasing. A new

medical trial sponsor for in-home foster care. Expanded PT to the Somersworth Clinic has started. For construction updates: The Dental clinic renovation is estimated to be complete by April 2022, and the “Mountain Entrance” project is projected for the summer of 2022.

Martin’s Point Liaison: Bob Jaffin sent an email stating that they will be meeting for the first time in almost two years on Wednesday, 18 June. He will send a follow-up email to the board afterwards.

Auxiliary: Gwen sent an email stating that she recorded nine deaths since the last meeting.

Next Board Meeting: Scheduled for a “Zoom” meeting on 8 June 2022. Michael will send out the contact information. The next “in-person” meeting will be at the Red Blazer on 14 July.

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

Respectfully submitted

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