

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA
NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
11 May 2023

Call to Order: President Jim Lefebvre called the Zoom meeting to order at 1857 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled followed by the invocation delivered by Warren Coulter.

Attending: Boyle, Coulter, J. Day, S. Day, Erickson, Goff, Hulse, LeFebvre, Lovgren, McLean, Miller, Terhune. A quorum of members was not present at 1841 when the meeting started but Larry Miller finally arrived at 1857 hours and a quorum was now present.

Opening Remarks: President LeFebvre mentioned that the meeting almost didn't take place due to the unexpected admission of Michael McLean to the hospital yesterday due to a collapse at home and unable to get up or contact 911 for almost 30 minutes due to an issue with his cellphone. The problem may have resulted from an adverse reaction to a Covid booster he received the day before, but he is doing better now and set up the Zoom meeting from his hospital bedroom. He expects to be discharged home in the morning. Jim asked if there were any positive or negative feedback from the last BOD meeting in Dover. This relates to the next face-to-face meeting on 8 June and to decide on a location for that meeting. One comment was the time required for one member to drive to Dover, but the food was fine. Both T-Bones in Concord and Rodgers in Dover are restricted to luncheon meetings. Sharon mentioned that there was some difficulty for everyone to hear comments at Rodgers, and this was echoed by Michael. Rodgers does have a meeting room on the third floor, but this imposes some limitations due to the stairs. One consideration would be an outdoors meeting but that is dependent upon weather conditions. "Three Chimneys Inn" in Durham, but they don't open until 1700 hours. The decision is to have the June BOD meeting at Rodgers at 1200 hours on 8 June. Michael will confirm this date with the restaurant. The President again mentioned that we don't have back-ups or incumbents for many of our key chapter positions. For example, the Treasurer position is still technically vacant. Another key position that needs help is the Secretary's position and its related duties including membership, webpage, etc. Tom Goff is trying to recruit a member who might be very helpful in logistical matters and finance. Jim is the Commander of the American Legion Post 95 in Conway which has 125 members on the books but rarely gets more than six members to a meeting.

Immediate Past President Remarks: Bob Jaffin was not present. Hopefully everyone has seen his report on the Advocacy in Action visit.

Vice President Remarks: The VP had no comments at this time.

Secretary's Report: For the April minutes, Michael received one comment about the spelling of one name but couldn't remember whose it was. There was one other correction, but it wasn't specified. A motion to approve the April minutes was made, seconded, and approved by all present.

Finance/Treasurer's Report: Roby had nothing to add to the April report which was distributed electronically. A motion to approve the April financial report was made, seconded, and approved by all present.

Trustee of the Trust Fund: Drew mentioned that all of our investments increased slightly for the month of April. However, the Dow has been down for the first few days of May, and this has probably wiped out any of April's gains. So, we're probably in a relatively stable situation. Also of note is that the CPI has slowly been coming down and is around a 5% annual rate now. Jim asked if I had any feel for what might happen if the federal government goes into a default situation. I did not but noted that it has never happened so far.

OLD BUSINESS:

Advocacy in Action Update: Bob Jaffe was not present and there was no report.

Common Man Luncheon final report: See the report sent out separately by Roby. The cash flow remainder was \$568.84.

Clambake Discussion: Gary Terhune was not present tonight but has been trying to contact Ken Lull to get from him the SOP for the bake master. Larry requested that there be a special meeting to contact Gary for an update and not to wait until the June meeting. Jim said he would try to contact Gary tomorrow and set up the meeting.

SWAM Plaque: Larry has made to final changes to the plaque for the Taub's, and it has been ordered. Once we have the plaque, the question was how to get it to the Taub's. Drew mentioned that they will be attending the function at Delta Dental stadium on 2 June, so since Jim will also be attending, he will make a presentation at that time.

Granite Slate Update: Drew has the basis of an article for the April luncheon in his head. He and Bob Jaffin went to the Manchester VAMC to review the status of the repairs to the main building after the most recent flooding incident. Though I had to leave after the initial presentation, Bob said he would put together a summary of the review which I can include in the newsletter. Joe DiChario gave an update on the status of the awards and presentations for the JROTC and ROTC detachments in the state, and I could put a summary of the AIA report as well depending on the available space. I will begin working on some of this during the rest of this month, but I will be away in LA attending graduations for two grandchildren from 6-14 June, so the final draft may not be available until the end of that month.

MOAA Northeast Session Update: Larry, Wayne, Michael, and Bob will be attending this event at the Hilton in Providence, RI. The chapter will provide \$100/person for the three individuals who will be doing the driving (Bob, Wayne, and Larry). Michael will be traveling with Bob. This is based on a \$0.62/mile reimbursement rate.

NEW BUSINESS:

June 17th Event Update: Gary Lovgren said we currently have 20 reservations for this event, with two people being their first event with MOAA. Normally, most of the reservations come in during the two to three weeks prior to the actual event. So far, there are no children or families coming. Drew mentioned that he will be sending in his reservation for seven, including two children, shortly. The president asked for an email update by the 27th and will determine if Geoff Corson should send out a blast email.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT/Vets Count): Peter Burdett was not present and there is no report.

Membership: There were no new members, zero deceased, plus one with a spouse, dropped two members, for a new total of 542. Fifty members have not yet paid their dues for this year and will receive a reminder letter in June.

Personal Affairs: Jim said that this is where we try to assist members with physical or mental health issues. This is similar to the program that the American Legion uses. You find out that a member is having a problem, please let Jim know so he can reach out to them. Sharon has been in a conversation with Beverley Wilber whose husband had died. Sharon will send her a condolence card.

Recruiting: Tom Goff is actively trying to recruit people. Many of the people he has contacted have been disgruntled about their departure from the military. He is a little discouraged with this because he is having little progress at this time. Sharon asked if they indicated the reasons for why these former officers feel that way? Tom seemed to think it depended on the type of retirement they received. One former special operations officer he knew worked at the Pentagon who was called into his two-star boss's office and was told that he wasn't needed anymore, and he was escorted out the back door of the Pentagon after 26 years of service. Sharon mentioned that she also was forced out in 1992, but it was all related to the general post cold war drawdown. The above officer that Tom mentioned also left in 1992 and has had nothing to do with veteran organizations since then. Some ways to encourage such people to join MOAA were discussed. Tom continues to work the one-on-one approach. Jim has also noted that several people he has spoken to would not even consider recommending the military to those in the primary age (18-24) for recruitment. These individuals are markedly bitter during the last couple of administrations and have no desire to consider lending their support. He has run into a similar situation as Commander of the American Legion in Conway and people don't want to be reminded of their time on active duty. Most of those that express those feelings were in the post-cold war drawdown era as well as those departing post Desert Shield/Storm, Iraq, and Afghanistan eras. Many of them don't want to be known as ex-military, especially Navy Chief Petty Officers in NH. Diane Hulse mentioned that people ask her why she doesn't have veteran license plates on her car and she said because sometimes the people love

us, and at other times they don't and she doesn't want her car to be targeted. However, if she were ever asked to return to active duty, she would return immediately. Larry mentioned that we are retirees and not active military any longer and hopes that these people would at least give us a chance to talk to them. Tom had previously spent time in Recruiting Command, and they said that if you don't ask it's a missed opportunity. It's the old hockey adage of "you miss all the shots you don't take".

Programs: Gerry Boyle mentioned that the next program is June 17th, followed by the August clambake and the annual meeting in November.

Website: Michael said that there were 182 hits in April, down from 300 hits in March. Popular pages in April were Chapter News (17), Group travel (14), Program notes (9), Odds and Ends (4), Membership (4), Newsletter (4), Hot items (3), GSWA (2), TRICARE (1), Transition Assistance (1), unknown (1), General (102). This all appears to be the result of reloading the software to track webpage hits. The larger number of hits in March might be due to MOAA National going in and checking websites in review for the communications award.

Travel Program: Tony Burdo sent a report and stated that all of our 2024 contracts with Collette have been approved and signed. We have confirmed prices and dates for all of the trips. He will be sending blast email requests to Geoff throughout the year highlighting our various trips. The next Granite Slate will reflect all of our 2024 trips and a couple of remaining 2023 trips.

Scholarship Loan Program: No updates.

Granite State Warrior's Award: Larry will begin looking at the process for the next year. Michael said that Ray D'Amante had a potential nominee for next year but wasn't specific as to who he had in mind. Jim will try and touch base with Ray in the near future.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nominations – Directors/Officers: Sharon said that she had no response to the article in the Granite Slate, but she has some people in mind whom she is going to contact. The Day's are currently experiencing some computer system issues. We will need a replacement for the VP position. Jim has not had the opportunity to talk to Bill Luti but will talk with him this next week.

Granite Slate: No additional comments. Larry asked if the next edition will be six pages again. Drew said it will depend on the amount of material he ultimately receives as he tries to assemble everything. There was again a brief discussion of four pages versus six pages. The Hanscom RAO office sends out periodic information, but many times the information will be dated/over before the next edition of the newsletter.

Web Communications: No report.

Blast Email: No report.

LIAISONS

ESGR: Peter Burdett said that there was nothing new to report.

Transition Assistance: Jim LeFebvre is working several people but none of them are former officers. He is continuing to work with the San Antonio chapter. Larry asked about the situation with the Vermont chapter. Jim has heard nothing from MOAA National. He talked to Frank Michael some time ago, and he said they were still kicking this issue around. It appears that National wants that chapter to resurrect themselves. From what Jim heard from Lt. Col. Hancock, USSF at Norwich University, the chapter appears to be defunct. This situation has existed for at least four months. Jim will try to call National one more time. If that chapter doesn't show up at the Northeast conference, Jim will try to buttonhole Frank Michael to get National to decide and that the NH Chapter is willing to step in take over from Vermont. Larry wanted to know why this has been going on for so long, and Jim thinks National has other issues to deal with. Tom Goff said that he had served in the Vermont National Guard and that if there is anything he can do to assist, he would be willing to help.

Manchester VAMC: No report.

Martin's Point Liaison: No report from Bob Jaffin.

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Since the last board meeting, I have recorded two deaths, sent out one condolence card, and one condolence letter.

Next Board Meeting: This is scheduled as a face-to-face meeting for Thursday, 8 June 2023 beginning at 1200 hours at Rodgers in Dover, NH.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1942 hours which was seconded and accepted by all members present.

Respectfully submitted

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