

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA
NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
9 May 2024

Call to Order: The BOD meeting was called to order by President Larry Miller at 1200 hours at Rogers Pizza in Dover, NH. The Opening Prayer was led by Gary Terhune, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Larry Miller and recited by those assembled.

Attending: Balcolm, Breuder, Dunn, DuVall, Jaffin, Luti, McLean, Miller (Larry & Pat), Terhune. A quorum of members was officially present.

President's Opening Remarks: Embedded as needed in other places of the meeting.

Immediate Past President Remarks: No comments, absent from this meeting.

VP Remarks: No comments, absent from this meeting.

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

Bookkeeper's Report: Roby sent out the treasury reports the day after the meeting and we're solvent. He and Sharon were not able to attend the meeting and have been having internet issues lately.

Trustee of the Trust Fund: Drew was unable to provide an accurate accounting at the time of the meeting due to a lack of information. However, with the report arriving the following day, our investments were down about \$15K in April overall compared to March. However, the Life Membership account is still up \$2,165 (+2.2%) from December, the Vanguard Scholarship accounts are up \$5,498 (+2.5%), and the Capital Group American Funds are up \$345 (+1.9%). Overall, total investments are up \$15,397 (+4.1%) since December 23.

Surviving Spouse Liaison report: Attended ADVOCACY IN ACTION in Washington, D.C., April 15-19, 2024. Met with Congressman Pappas; Staff, Joe Gookin, from Senator Hassan's office; and Abigail Kane, Defense Policy Advisor and Madeline Sears, Legislative Correspondent in Senator Shaheen's office. They escorted us to the Capital to meet with Senator Jeanne Shaheen, who came out of chambers to meet with us. We discussed the Richard Star Act, Basic Allowance for Housing Reform, and Protect TRICARE For Life.

MOAA National is recommends looking on MOAA web site to learn more about "EVER PLANS", which will help everyone to place all important documents in one secure place.

Attended a Surviving Spouse Liaison virtual meeting. There are 46,000 SSL belong to National.

Received a thank you from Building Dreams for Marines for MOAA-NH donation in memory of Col. David Wall.

Received a note from Diane Hurlsey thanking the BOD for the well wishes.

HB 1354 (veteran license plate bill) has made it out of Senate Transportation Committee and off to the full Senate, as of last night.

DISCUSSION

Clambake Discussion: Bob Jaffin deferred to Gary Terhune for the update. He stated that an email went out introducing Bob and Jason Mooney. They are in the process of getting the SOP's transferred and is cleaning up the documentation to make it easier for the transition. Larry mentioned that during the recent AIA event in DC, many people were coming up to him asking about attending the clambake from Massachusetts. He said that MOAA National has a "blast email" process to send out notifications about this event. Michael clarified that this would go out only to people in our catchment area. Larry is aiming for about 200 attendees this year, and Gary mentioned that we had 165 last year. He also mentioned that this event should be used as a recruiting tool for the Chapter. He also wanted to make sure that we had a number of VIP's in attendance. He asked that Larry, Bob Jaffin, and anyone else involved, develop a good list, and expand it beyond the ones that were typically invited in the past. This would include the PNSY Commanders, the TAG, Pease ANGB Commanders, ROTC Commanders, and possibly some of the Congressionals in southern Maine. Someone suggested having a tour of the shipyard, but after some discussion it was felt that this should not be a formal part of our activities due to time and personnel constraints. It was suggested that if this person wanted to conduct a tour, they should contact the base Public Affairs office. We are still aiming to keep the cost to \$30/person. The price of lobsters should be at a lower cost near the time of the event, but we will need to settle on a final price prior to the flyer being sent out about six weeks before the event. There will be no June BOD meeting, so this needs to be established in the near future. This can be accomplished either by email or a short Zoom meeting. Michael also mentioned adding a comment on the flyer about the purpose of the clambake was to support the scholarship program. The June luncheon will be priced at \$35/person and is being subsidized by the chapter because Michael and Roby didn't think we would get any takers at a projected \$39/person cost. Michael also mentioned that the clambake meal cost doesn't include any donations for the scholarship program. Donations can be made on the flyer form and included with the cost for the meal, but Roby then deducts from any checks that include it in their payments. The difference is then added to the scholarship accounts. Gary felt that almost 80% of the reservations includes money for the scholarship program, either as a separate check or included in one check. Wayne didn't think that this breakout was occurring and felt he wasn't seeing this in the TD Bank account. Since Roby wasn't present, this issue couldn't be resolved at this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

By-Laws: This item is complete.

Chapter Operations Handbook 2015: This item is complete.

Veteran Cemetery Project: Pat and Larry went out to the Veterans Cemetery on Monday. All we need is a design drawing. The contractor wants an additional 10% above the cost of construction to cover future maintenance of the site. We cannot put individual names on these markers, only the organizational name, logo, and related items. Pat showed some pictures of benches that they saw at the cemetery. Pat mentioned that if we give them the cement for the foundation, they will put the base in. Larry felt we need a back to the bench, not just a horizontal bench. We also need to decide which of the available spaces around the circle we want. Larry wanted to know how we "fence" money for any donations to this project? Michael said Roby would set up a set line-item for this

project. Larry wants to add some information in the next edition of the Granite Slate about this project.

NH HB 1283, End of Life Options: Bill Luti said that the two bills they were following, the defend the Guard bill passed in the House by about three votes, but just barely failed in the Senate sub-committee as they decided to do an interim study which effectively killed the bill for this term. It has not been presented to the full Senate. Bill said that there is a lot of support in the House for this bill. The State Rep who sponsored the bill has managed to galvanize the House and had 30 proponents for the bill show up at the hearing versus the four opponents, including the TAG, from the SVAC. This Representative attended the last SVAC meeting, and when Kevin Grady mentioned that this bill would likely come back next year, he grumbled that it would. Bill felt that if the SVAC doesn't organize to defeat this bill, it will probably pass next year. Bill recommended that the chapter simply support the SVAC in recommending against this bill. The only argument that the SVAC had against the bill was that NH would lose about \$400M in funding if it became law. This is being driven by "Free staters" who have moved into the state in order to set up a government to secede from the US. Another bill would require high schools and recruiting stations to place posters listing the number of service members killed or wounded in Iraq, etc. That bill was roundly defeated. A third bill from this group involved changes to the Selective Service Act that would prevent 18-year-old males from registering for Selective Service. This has some traction in the House as 60 of the House's members belong to this group. The "Free Staters" and Libertarians are the ones mainly in favor of this bill. As for HB 1283, it was defeated in the Senate HHS committee and involved another interim study recommendation. In the full Senate, the vote will likely be along party lines. In addition, Paul Roy, the SVAC chairman, stated that this disgruntled representative had wanted to join the SVAC, but can't because the SVAC is limited to 20 VSO's with various other requirements, such as being a chartered VSO and have been in operation for at least 10 years, that would prevent him from becoming a member. However, he may introduce legislation to change/remove these restrictions so as to become a member of the SVAC in the future.

Outings: Bob Jaffin said he had a surprising number of people respond to the online survey. He hasn't done a full analysis of the responses, but he feels he has enough votes to set up 3-4 events/year for the next 2-3 years. The two things that got the most votes, which he addressed to Roby and Michael specifically, were the dinner train, the most expensive of the options, and Mt. Washington cruise (There was background noise during Bob's report). Out of the 75 responses, only 10 indicated no preferences. He got positive responses on almost everything he listed. He hasn't spoken to Gerry yet, but he is aiming to do one of these trips this September, which may include a meal. These events may help to make up some of what we've lost in the reduction in the number of luncheons. Michael thought that Gerry hadn't been able to schedule any events for September, so that may indeed be an open month for other events. Bob said that any of these events that includes a meal will probably cost \$65-70/person. Gary asked about how many members are on the email list and Michael thought that it was about 300, so with 75 responses to the survey, he got about a 25% response rate.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT/Vets Count): Peter was absent. No report.

Personal Affairs: No report.

Membership: Since April, there were no new members, one deceased spouse who lived in Florida, and 1 dropped member for a total of 531.

Recruiting: Tom Goff was not present. Michael usually sends out letters to people that are on MOAA's near real time list of people who have moved into the area or joined MOAA. With the changeover to their new database system, he hasn't been able to log on to the website for the last 10 days. Therefore, he hasn't been able to send out any letters. Bob Jaffin mentioned that he had an idea a while ago about designating some events as specifically for recruiting. Mainly, we should turn the clambake into a recruiting event focusing specifically on all the eligible young men and women in foster homes and state homes, who are being left by society, and introducing them to recruiters and guardians. He needs to sketch this out in more detail. Michael asked if this would be for joining the military, and Bob said "Yes", but not necessarily for becoming officers. He wants to increase the number of attendees at the clambake and it's something we probably should be doing anyway to help build the all-volunteer force. Bob mentioned three reasons for including these people (but could not make out the reasons due to background noise). Larry said that someone at the AIA meeting said that MOAA is an organization of officers, but we're not an organization about officers. This will help us expand our recognition among other organizations that aren't familiar with us.

Programs: Gerry Boyle was absent. Wayne mentioned that he wanted to help with recruiting but hadn't been contacted by anyone. Larry said he would take care of that. Michael stated that the idea was that Wayne would concentrate on the Nashua/Southern NH area.

Web page: In April we had 816 hits up from 722 in March. Larry asked if Michael had put the newsletters behind a password protection. Drew mentioned that if we do this, no one outside of the chapter will be able to access this material. Larry was again concerned about the copyright material issues, but the only pictures we are using are either those the Drew or Michael takes. Any material taken from outside sources, such as newspaper articles, are credited to that source in the newsletter. Larry mentioned that one chapter had been fined \$3,000 for copyright infringement.

Travel Program: There was no report on travel from Tony.

Scholarship Loan Program: Wayne said we had \$17,296.22 left in the TD Bank account. There are eight students receiving scholarships. One of the students who just graduated two years ago was in the Carol King play at the Palace Theater. Michael asked if any of the students currently enrolled still receiving loans, or are they all grants at this point? Wayne that there are still students in both categories. The grants started two years ago, so students prior to that are still in a loan program. We still have students who have graduated and paying back on their loans.

2024 Granite State Warrior Award: Larry said that someone at the SVAC program spoke about a program for veterans that include bike tours of various distances, the longest being 43 miles. He thinks that this program could be a candidate for the Granite State Warrior program. They are headquartered in Holderness. Larry is also considering a new type of award for next year with a granite platform and a statue of the Greek warrior Leonidas.

Nominations – Directors: Sharon was absent and had no report.

Awards/NH Veterans Home: Joe was not present. Drew presented one award to an AFROTC student at UNH on 1 May. The second award had been withdrawn prior to my arrival. Drew was also

presenting two MOAA awards at the West HS JNROTC program later in the afternoon. Drew thought that Joe had all of the other ceremonies covered.

Granite Slate Newsletter: Drew is going to be traveling extensively around the country beginning next Tuesday and won't return until late on 12 June. Therefore, the publication of the June issue will probably be delayed until late June.

Web Communications: Jennifer wasn't present and there is no report. Larry asked if having a Facebook page helps our LOE score. Michael said the LOE form only asks if we are using social media without further details. It is simply a "Yes/No" question. There are no quantitative numbers required.

Blast Emails: No report. Geoff Corson is asking for someone to take over this duty.

LIAISONS

ESGR: Peter was not present. No report.

Transition Assistance: Jim was not present. No report.

Martin's Point Liaison: No report

Manchester VAMC: Bernie Satterfield was not present. No report.

Next Board Meeting: There will be no BOD meeting in June due to the proximity of the North Conway luncheon.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1247 hours which was seconded and accepted by all present.

Respectfully submitted,

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