



The Granite Slate

The Official Newsletter for the
New Hampshire Chapter of The Military Officers Association of America



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Changing of the Gavel: Nov 14th
Outgoing President: John Graham
Incoming President: Joan Huber

NH MOAA Officers and Directors

Congratulations and thanks to the slate of officers and directors elected at the Nov annual meeting

Officers

President: CAPT Joan Huber, NC, USN (Ret)
Vice-Pres: LTC Gary Terhune, USA (Ret)
Secretary: Col Mary Moran, NC, USAF (Ret)
Treasurer Col Dyer Lennox, USMC (Ret)

Board of Directors (3 Year Term)

Col R. Bancroft McKittrick, USMC (Ret.)
Col Dyer T. Lennox, USMC (Ret.)
BG Stephen J. Curry, USA (Ret.)
CDR Stephen M. Levine, USCG (Ret.)

Coming Events

2007

Jan 20 Executive Court Conference Center, Manchester; *Speaker: CAPT W. G. "Bud" Schneeweis, USCG (Ret)*
Director, Benefits Information, MOAA

Mar 24 Great Bay Gallery, Somersworth; *Speaker: CAPT Terry Pudas, USN (Ret), Director, Office of Force Transformation (DoD)*

May 19 Indian Head Resort, Lincoln *Speaker: Gary De Gasta, Director, VAMC, White River Junction, Vermont*

Aug 4 Clambake, PNSY

Sep 22 Brass Heart Inn, Chocorua *Speaker: Dan Meehan, Legends and stories of the history of the Chocorua area*

Nov 10 Manchester C. C., Bedford *Speaker: RADM Joyce Johnson, USPHS (Ret)*

Chapter Officers

President CAPT Joan M. Huber, NC, USN, (Ret) 863-5731, joanhuber@aol.com
Vice President LTC Gary S. Terhune, USA (Ret) schoonergst@yahoo.com
Secretary Col Mary E. Moran, USAF, NC (Ret) 528-5744, moran@metrocast.net
Treasurer Col Dyer T. Lennox, USMC (Ret), (603) 523-7479, dyersherri@aol.com

Visit the Chapter's website at: <http://moaa-nh.home.comcast.net/>



President's Corner

By Joan Huber

Where has 2006 gone? Wow! It seems like we just started the year and it is already a memory, with 2007 on the horizon and coming fast. This has been an exciting and rewarding year for our chapter. We were recognized by MOAA national as a 5-Star Chapter for the fourth consecutive year, the only large chapter (900 plus members) in the nation to achieve this goal. But, this is not by accident. It is the consequence of lots of hard work by volunteers in the chapter.. Our scholarship loan program is a great example.

We supported 26 students with interest free loans during 2006. We were able to support a larger number of students and give each a more generous loan this year because of you, the members, who have donated throughout the year. Thank you, thank you, thank you! The annual clambake raised more than \$3600 for scholarships. (Isn't that a fun way to raise money for scholarships?) We also benefited from the very generous donation of 10% of a member's estate. As you well know, a college education is very expensive, but incredibly valuable and any amount of support is important. Please consider making a tax-free donation before the end of the year and keeping the chapter in mind in you r estate planning.

CDR Michael McLean, USN (Ret), our diligent Program Director, organizes the superb luncheon programs. Meetings are held in a variety of interesting locations around the state, and Michael has an exciting slate of speakers scheduled for 2007. Take advantage of the opportunity to see different parts of New Hampshire, hear a variety of fascinating speakers, and enjoy the social contact with a great group of people! Bring your friends and neighbors to share in the fun.

As is common in many military and veterans' organizations, membership is a significant challenge. We are experiencing a steep decline in membership as fewer and fewer new members join the organization while the venerable members move on to warmer climes or experience the limitations of declining health. Please be on the alert for friends, neighbors, or colleagues who are eligible to join the chapter. Remember that if someone joins the NH chapter of MOAA, they will receive a complimentary year of membership in the MOAA national organization.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for the honor of my selection to serve as your president. I am humbled by the confidence that you have placed in me. We have enjoyed dynamic leadership in this chapter and I look to my predecessors for their advice and guidance in order to keep the chapter moving in the right direction. I anticipate working with the Board of Directors, the chapter officers and all of our great volunteers in the coming year to continue to make this a vibrant, exciting chapter. I am extremely grateful for the time and energy that our members have volunteered to make this such a vital organization.

I wish for each of you a very happy, healthy and safe holiday season. I hope to see you at one of the luncheon meetings in 2007. I am sure 2007 will be another memorable year!

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

By Herb Follansbee

After over 20 years as Membership Chairman, I have finally decided to step aside and turn over the duties to Michael McLean. The official mailing address for the chapter and membership matters will remain the same at P.O. Box 712, Dover, NH 03821 or you can email to moaa-nh@comcast.net. For those who are concerned, Michael will be continuing as Program Chairman until November 2008 as well. I appreciate all the support you have given me and hope that you will give Michael the same.

New Chapter Members Welcome Aboard !

Lt Col Joseph D. Kenney
USMC (Active Duty)
Spouse: Asha
PO Box 201
Union, NH 03887
603-473-2569

CDR Kathleen Sherman
NC, USNR (Ret)
87 Smith Rd F 102
Bedford, NH 03110
603-472-3726

LT Claudine Shadowens
NC, USN (Former)
Spouse: George
900 Goose Pond Rd
Canaan, NH 03741
603-632-7512

Looking forward to meet-
ing you at an upcoming
MOAA function

The following issues are MOAA's major legislative goals for 2007
Contact your Representative or one of our Senators with your views

Health Care Issues

- Fully fund the Defense Health Program
- Protect against health benefit cuts and avoid disproportional cost-shifting to beneficiaries
- Upgrade TRICARE to attract more providers and improve TRICARE Standard (expedite claims, reduce administrative burdens for providers and beneficiaries)
- Fix Medicare/TRICARE payment rate formula to promote provider participation
- Ensure a broad TRICARE pharmacy formulary
- Improve seamless transition between the Defense and VA health care / benefits systems
- Provide full funding for veterans enrolled in the VA health care system

Retirement/Survivor Issues

- Preserve full-inflation cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs)
- Eliminate the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) deduction from SBP
- Authorize full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation, to include medical retirees with less than 20 years' service
- Accelerate effective date (currently 10/1/08) for 30-year paid-up SBP coverage
- Restore VA survivor annuities for qualifying widows who remarry after age 55
- Oppose changes in military retirement benefits that are inconsistent with service career sacrifices
- Expand permanent ID card eligibility for elderly / disabled beneficiaries
- Reform the Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA)
- Authorize full-month final retired pay to survivors

Active / Reserve Force Issues

- Increase active duty, Guard and Reserve force sizes (end strength) to match mission
- Restore full military pay comparability with private sector
- Upgrade Guard/Reserve retirement and compensation to reflect increased service-imposed sacrifices
- Strengthen financial, legal, reemployment protections for mobilized Guard-Reserve force
- Protect funding for commissary, dependent schools and other military benefits
- Raise relocation reimbursements to cover members' costs for government-directed moves
- Protect members against travel credit card interest/credit risks for late government payments
- Upgrade GI Bill benefits to cover 4-year public college costs
- Restore equitable Guard - Reserve GI Bill benefits and authorize equal post-service eligibility

Veterans, Family, Other Issues

- Improve quality, efficiency, and timeliness of VA claims-processing system
- Authorize pre-tax payment of health, dental and long-term care premiums
- Authorize equal treatment of currently serving families for pre-tax health / dependent care programs
- Provide incentives for civilian and government employers and contractors to hire military spouses.
- Authorize long-term mental counseling and support services for survivors and families of severely injured
- Win congressional approval of Flag anti-desecration amendment
- Repeal taxability of up to 85% of Social Security annuity
- Reduce Social Security penalties for certain civil service and state retirees/survivors
- Protect against disproportional Social Security/Medicare penalties for any population segment

ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS

For all of you that go south for the winter (or at any other time), we need your help. To keep our mailing list current, we need to know your alternate address where you go (other than in NH). Please help us out by providing your other mailing address to include street, city, state, ZIP +4, phone number (if available) and the approximate dates that you are out of NH so you can continue to receive important information about your chapter. Please provide the information to MOAA-NH at PO Box 712, Dover, NH 03821-0712 or email to moaa-nh@comcast.net. Thank you for your assistance.

The NH Chapter of MOAA
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***Next Meeting
January 20th—
See you there ; and
more importantly
invite a new member
to join and attend—
The more the merrier***

CHAPTER DUES REMINDER

There are still a number of chapter members who have not renewed their annual dues for 2006. Please check your address label on this newsletter. If you see a “2005” on the line above your last name, you still owe your dues for 2006. Please send your check **NOW** for **\$15.00** for members or **\$10.00** for surviving spouses to MOAA-NH at P.O. Box 712, Dover, NH 03821-0712. The life of the chapter depends on its members’ dues. Thank you!