



The Granite Slate

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



December 2007

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Barry Conway, Commandant of the NH Veteran's Home (left), accepts a \$350 check from LTC John Graham, USA (Ret.) to be used to purchase gifts for the residents. The money was raised from the Chapter's Annual Meeting Luncheon in November.

Election Results for NH Chapter Reelected for another term

President: CAPT Joan Huber
Vice-President: LTC Gary Terhune
Secretary: Col Mary Moran
Treasurer: Col Dyer Lennox

Board of Directors

2 -Year Term (unexpired terms)

LTC Jesse Trow CPT James LeFebvre

3-Year Term

CW5 Glen E. Crowell CDR Peter S. Burdett
CWO4 Robert D. Jaffin LtCol Thomas H. Kyle

Board Members whose terms expired:

Thanks for your service!

Capt John Cebrowski CW5 Glen Crowell
Col Mary Moran CDR Jeff Olson

Coming Events

2008

February 9 Thomas Betro, Director, Naval
Criminal Investigative Service
Holiday Inn, Concord

April 12 The Oaks, Somersworth

June 7 Diamonds Edge North Restaurant,
Waterville Valley

August 2 Clambake, PNSY

Sept TBD TBD

Nov 8 Manchester Country Club

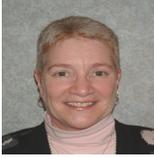
Chapter Officers

President CAPT Joan M. Huber, NC, USN, (Ret) (603) 863-5731, joanhuber@aol.com
Vice President LTC Gary S. Terhune, USA (Ret) schoonergst@yahoo.com
Secretary Col Mary E. Moran, USAF, NC (Ret) (603) 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



Here we are, looking back on 2007 already! How did that happen? This has been an exciting and rewarding year for our chapter. We were recognized by MOAA national as a 5-Star Chapter of Excellence for the fifth 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.

Through our scholarship loan program we are supporting over 20 students with interest free loans. Thank you for your generosity which makes that possible. The annual clambake raises money for scholarships and we hit an all-time high this year. As you well know, a college education is very expensive, but incredibly valuable. Any amount of support is helpful and important. Please consider making a donation before the end of the year and keeping the chapter in mind in your estate planning. Recent changes in IRS regulations require us to separate the scholarship accounting from the chapter accounting in order to protect our tax-deductible status. We are in the process of setting up a separate structure and entity for the scholarship program and will be submitting our application to the state in the next few months.

We need your help with recruiting. Please be on the alert for friends, neighbors, or colleagues who are eligible to join the chapter. As is common in many military and veterans' organizations, we are experiencing a steep decline in membership as fewer and fewer new members join the organization while the venerable members move on. We regularly contact and work to recruit active duty, Guard and Reserve, and retired officers in the state, but we do not have a method of identifying former officers who served in the military and returned to New Hampshire after serving to resume their civilian lives. That's where we need you to be our eyes and ears. You know your neighbors and friends; you know who served their "hitch" in the service and got out. Invite them to check us out. Bring them to a luncheon. Send them to the chapter website to sign up. If you would rather, give John Graham, the chapter's Recruiting Chairman, the information and we will contact them. Without your help, we will gradually dwindle away. Remember that if someone joins the NH chapter of MOAA, they will receive a complimentary year of membership in the MOAA national organization.

Many thanks to the Board members who stepped down in November: John Cebrowski, Glenn Crowell, Jeff Olson and Mary Beth Moran. We are most grateful for the considerable effort they have put in over the last three years as well as their leadership and guidance in the chapter. Welcome to the new directors who were installed at the annual meeting: Peter Burdett, Glen Crowell, Robert Jaffin, Thomas Kyle, Jim LeFebvre and Jesse Trow.

Please join me in thanking Michael McLean who is stepping down as our Program Chairman. Michael and his wife, Faith, have coordinated the programs for a number of years and set an amazing standard of excellence from which we all benefit. We

New Chapter Members

Welcome Aboard !

Capt William Davis
USAF (ret)
Spouse: Nancy
118 Spinnaker Way
Portsmouth NH 03801
603-433-2742

CDR Mark Howard
USNR
PO Box 600
Mirror Lake, NH 03853
603-491-9488

LTC Judith A. Joy-Clark
USA (ret)
186 E. Mountain Rd
Newport, NH 03773
603-863-1284

LT Dudley Luce, Jr
USNR (former)
Spouse: Nancy
PO Box 1304
Grantham, NH 03753

LT Maureen M Sowa
USN (former)
Spouse: LCDR Edward
PO Box 332
Danbury, NH 03230
603-768-3272

Welcome aboard and
hope to see you at the
February Meeting!

have enjoyed a variety of fascinating speakers at some of the most interesting locations throughout the state. Great job, Michael and Faith! Thanks!! We are lucky that Michael isn't going anywhere, but he has taken on other duties in the chapter. Michael and Faith are relieved by Ed and Judy Hannigan. They are anxious to hear your ideas for locations or speakers. Please give them your continued support.

As you are well aware, this is an election year and the focus that New Hampshire receives as the home of the "First in the Nation Primary" draws additional interest to the issues. The Board of Directors closely monitors the progress of proposed legislation as bills move through the respective legislative bodies for action and we request your support and attention as you interact in your communities and with your elected representatives. Please continue to contact them and express your opinions concerning legislation that affects veterans' benefits. The chapter website and the newsletter have information on current issues, as well as the MOAA publications you receive in the mail. Send in those postcards! Please stay informed and engaged.

Finally, I am extremely grateful for the time and energy that our members have volunteered to make this such a vital organization. Thanks, too, to all the members of the chapter as you continue to serve your country – through the chapter and in your communities. It is a privilege to represent you and I salute you!

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 2008. Let's work together to make 2008 another memorable year!

Mismatch of Force Structure versus Mission

Issue: The grinding pace of operations to support today's global war on terrorism continues to stress armed forces that were already overworked before 9/11. Significant force increases are required to forestall considerable long-term retention and readiness problems.

Background: Years of budget cuts and strength reductions have cut military manpower by one-third since 1986, while deployments to support the global war on terrorism and other contingency, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations have dramatically increased.

More deployments spread among fewer people have sharply increased frequency and length of family separations. Service leaders testified to Congress before 9/11 that troops were overstressed. Now, our forces must meet vastly more long-term deployments in Afghanistan and Iraq, with many making repeated deployments to these combat zones.

Compensation gains of recent years addressed one aspect of the retention equation. But service members now are working far longer hours for their compensation, and enduring considerably more family separation. Congressional leaders are pressing the Administration to increase end strength to ease this stress and avoid a retention and readiness backlash. But until late 2006, the Administration's top civilian leaders opposed any increases, preferring to plan for internal "transformation" of existing forces, and relying on optimistic scenarios that envisioned significant troop cuts in Iraq in the relatively near term.

Force rotation shortfalls continue to compel Army reliance on "stop-loss" policies that keep soldiers beyond their original service commitments and excessive reliance on Guard and Reserve forces.

The FY07 National Defense Authorization Act increased the Army budget by 30,000 and the USMC budget by 1,000. These increases were above the presidents requests. Both the Senate and House concurred with the Presidents request for an increase in National Guard by 17,000 and a reduction in the Navy by 12,000 and AF by 23,200.

MOAA Position: *MOAA believes the pace of operations is not likely to decline in the foreseeable future, and that it is imprudent to base the Nation's military readiness posture on optimistic scenarios. Significant force transformation will take several years, but rotational forces continue to need relief in the short term. MOAA supports a significant increase to Army end strength (with associated resource increases for recruiting and training) to meet mission requirements, and that failure to do so poses unacceptable risks to national security. MOAA support increases for Army, USMC, and Army National Guard, but we are concerned that Navy and AF reductions are driven by budget rather than requirements and bear close scrutiny.*

Key Bills/Status: The House and Senate versions of the 2008 Defense bill include end strength increases of 13,000 for the Army and 9,000 for the Marines; however, they also include end strength decreases of 12,000 for the Navy and 5,000 for the Air Force.

Medicare/TRICARE Payment Fix On Tap?

Democratic leaders want a two-year fix. Republican leaders want a one-year fix. A one-year fix is cheaper and doesn't require as many painful budget trade-offs. But it also means we'd be back again with the same problem at the end of next year. Unfortunately, however a deal is worked out - assuming one is worked out - it probably won't come until shortly before Christmas. That's because the continuing appropriations arguments between Congress and the Administration have delayed almost all of the year's most important funding decisions until the very end of the year.

The Defense Appropriations Act has been signed into law, but the appropriations bills for all other federal departments are wrapped up in budgetary wrangling and veto threats. And Congress won't even return from the Thanksgiving recess until December 3. In all likelihood, most of the appropriations bills will have to be wrapped into some kind of year-end omnibus appropriations bill that would also include the Medicare/TRICARE payment fix. But the president also has threatened to veto any such omnibus package. One option now being considered by congressional leaders is to simply split the difference with the president on all of the various disputed funding levels. In the end, government leaders of both parties and both branches of government have an obligation to get past the politics and get the nation's business done - on the various appropriations bills and the crucial Medicare/TRICARE payment issue.

MOAA would prefer a longer-term fix on the doctor payments, but the only truly essential thing at this eleventh hour is to get something done to reverse the cuts before the year's end. Older Americans and military beneficiaries deserve better than this annual threat of budget-driven cuts that would deter more doctors from seeing them.

The NH Chapter of MOAA
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Benefits of Membership in Military Officer's Association

Each month in this section benefits to being an active member in MOAA will be highlighted. These will be by no means all the ways joining MOAA benefits you. Details on this and many others can be found on the national website (www.moaa.org).

MOAA Career Fairs

Next one is April 17, 2008 at the Wash DC Convention Center—*Why Attend?*

1. **You could land a job**
2. **Employers want to meet you.** 200 companies and organizations come to the career fair
3. **You gain experience.** The more employers you meet and interact with, the sharper your interviewing skills will become.
4. **You could be interviewed.** Employers are prepared to conduct on-the-spot interviews.
5. **Your resume will be provided to many employers.** You can leave a copy of your resume at the registration table, which will become part of the resume CD used by many employers. .

Advertising Policy for the Newsletter

The newsletter may make available limited space each edition for paid advertisements. The number of ads is at the discretion of the editor and the MOAA officers. Information on rates and advertising can be found on the website listed on the cover. Ads in their final file format which can be inserted directly into the newsletter should be emailed to the editor at cpmacp@verizon.net. The newsletter is published quarterly (Mar, Jun, Sep and Dec). Requests for consideration should be received NLT the last day of the month preceding publication. Restrictions on advertising content include but are not limited to: Travel, insurance/financial products, credit cards, and content not consistent with the goals of the NH Chapter of the MOAA

FOR SALE

1948 DeSoto Custom sedan. 58000+ miles. Fun to drive. Passed last NH state inspection. \$6,900. Call Craig Worchester (Nashua) @ (603) 557-7215

