



The Granite Slate

The official newsletter published quarterly for the
New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America
P. O. Box 712, Dover, NH 03821



December, 2021

Autumn News & Events

Volume 43, No. 4



MOAA-NH Chapter's Mission

- To promote the aims of the MOAA stated in the By-Laws of that Association
- To further legislative goals and objectives of MOAA
- To encourage and facilitate camaraderie among our membership
- To provide useful services for and to protect the interests of members, their dependents, and survivors

MOAA-NH Holds Its 2021 Annual Meeting

It was a sunny but chilly day (frost on the windshield) in November when the Chapter held its Annual Meeting and Luncheon at the Nashua Country Club on November 6, 2021. The business meeting was attended by 25 Chapter members. There was more socializing this year as people felt more relaxed even though the pandemic is far from over.

A total of 78 members and guests who signed up enjoyed a delicious meal excellently prepared by the staff of the club. As always, the staff of the country club was extremely helpful, led by Scott Hobden, Clubhouse Manager who was always there to assist with every eventuality. Prior to the luncheon, chapter members Andrew Breuder, Warren Coulter, and Wayne Balcom raised \$180 to support veteran organizations in New Hampshire.

Before the meal, those present participated in the traditional playing of all the service marches, including the new Space Force march. Unfortunately, again this year no one was present from NOAA or USPHS to stand up for their marches. Chapter president CWO4 Robert D. Jaffin, USN (Ret.) announced the chapter's 19th consecutive year being recognized as a 5-Star Level of Excellence Chapter by MOAA. Our guest of honor,



Andrew P. Snowdon, presided over the installation of this year's officers and Board of Directors for the chapter. The results of the annual elections can be found on the "Chapter News" page of the website.

Following the installation, the turnover of the office of President took place from CWO4 Robert D. Jaffin, USN (Ret) to CPT James R. LeFebvre, USAR.



Once again, we acknowledged the passing of chapter members who passed away since the last annual meeting. In particular, we recognized the passing of two members who were influential in the chapter: CDR Raymond Helgemoe, USN (Ret) and CDR Bruce Avery, USN (Ret). TAPS was played for them.



We were honored to have as our guest speaker, Special Agent Andrew P. Snowdon, Executive Assistant Director for Atlantic Operations for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). He gave a very interesting and amusing talk about the REAL NCIS. He was presented with a Chapter Certificate of Appreciation, a Chapter Challenge Coin, and an offer of a free meal in the future. We were joined by two first-time attendees: Thomas and Pamela Goff of Wilton.

CDR Michael A. McLean, USN (Ret)
MOAA-NH Secretary



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Visit the chapter's website at www.moaa-nh.org

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President's Corner

CPT James R. LeFebvre, USAR



By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will have come and gone; and I trust that everyone enjoyed that most traditional of our holidays with family and friends. I wish to take a few moments of your reading time to thank Bob Jaffin for his two years at the helm of the chapter. Bob did a commendable job under most difficult circumstances, and he should be thanked and praised by all of us. Kudos for a job well done, Sir.

As we approach 2022, our chapter is in good shape, although we face many challenges in the years to come. Let me take a few minutes to recap some of those challenges for folks who were unable to attend the Annual November 2021 Meeting in Nashua. Possibly our most significant challenge is demographic, as in approximately 11 years, our chapter has lost approximately 600 members, falling from approximately 1,200 to 600 today. As Pete Burdett routinely reminds us, "We are All Recruiters" for the chapter; and I am confident that we can reverse this trend. Most of us know people who served some time as Commissioned Officers, even if they did not retire from their respective services. Ask them to consider joining the chapter and be able to sell the benefits of membership to them.

Another challenge we face is maintaining essential chapter staff positions at full strength. Recently, we recruited two members to fill Roby Day's Treasurer's slot. Roby has done a masterful job and will work with Dee Fasoli and Wayne Balcom to successfully transition responsibilities and continue to assist as requested and necessary. We have also been successful in recruiting a recording secretary to reduce Michael McLean's workload. Michael's work for the chapter is often not seen by the membership, as he focuses on keeping us Five-Star eligible, often working behind the scenes. In my opinion (shared by the Board of Directors), Michael is a key element in our year in/year out success as a chapter.

Unfortunately, we have not been successful in recruiting a Public Affairs Officer or a new editor for the Granite Slate. The PAO slot has been vacant for a period; and our Granite Slate editor, Marie Chipola, will be leaving the position after the first edition of 2022. If anyone is even remotely interested in either position, please feel free to contact me or Marie for more information.

Our Events Calendar is starting to fill up. Due to circumstances beyond our control, the "Granite State Warriors Award" luncheon, normally held in late January, has been cancelled for this year. Nominations for the 2022 award cycle can be provided to Ray D'Amante, the new head of the search process for the "Warriors" award. We will be scheduling a date for an April Luncheon at the Common Man in Plymouth, NH shortly after the holiday season.

The June event will bring us back to North Conway, the home of the outlets. July's event will be a baseball

game at the home of the Manchester NH Fisher Cats. The world-famous Clambake will return to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in August. More information will be provided in the future.

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to thank all members of the BOD, and all the rest of the chapter for what you do for the organization – Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Jim LeFebvre

Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad Trip

MOAA NH was lucky enough to have President Bob Jaffin organize and connect with the Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad Company (once dubbed the "HOB0" railroad) for a lakes region foliage tour on October 23, 2021. We were joined by over 50 MOAA-NH members and guests and provided with our own private rail car for the trip.



The train traveled a little over an hour from the Meredith, NH station through Ashland and Bridgewater before reaching the Plymouth Railroad Station (next to the Common Man Restaurant). At the Common Man, we enjoyed a delicious dinner

buffet of roast turkey with all the fixings, lasagna, beverages, and dessert. During the trip, we watched colorful foliage enhanced by bright sunshine, a farm full of Christmas trees, and a field with hundreds of deer. We also journeyed along the shoreline of Lake Waukegan. This lake provides drinking water for the entire city of Laconia, thus very few boats are allowed.

The Common Man Restaurant was familiar to many MOAA members as we've attended events there several times during past years. On the return trip, we toured the Ashland Railroad Station Museum with members of the Ashland Historical Society greeting us in period attire.



The scenic railroad has a unique history using the NH track systems, as several owners including the State of NH joined together forming the now Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad a number of years ago. The railroad holds the passenger rights to the entire state of New Hampshire-owned track network running from Lochmere to Lincoln, a total of 54 miles.

These rails have some of the most diverse and scenic fall foliage trains in New England, and our chapter was very fortunate to have such a wonderful day to enjoy them.

We very much appreciate President Jaffin's time spent in organizing this outing.

LCDR Peter Dawson, USNR (Ret)



2022 Event Planning

Many of you have asked me to continue putting events together. Before I do that, I ask that you answer the following questions:

1. Would you be interested in out-of-state events, such as the USS Constitution in Boston or any number of activities in Maine such as Island cruises, whale watching, or perhaps one of the two Maritime Academies?
2. Would you be interested in either evening or weekday events? If so, which or both?
3. Would you like events (beyond the regular luncheons) with or without meals?
4. What events would be your top three event choices for 2022?

Please send me your answers via any avenue you choose from my contact information below:

Bob Jaffin
25Cherry Blossom Ln
Sanford ME

Email: robertdjaffin@gmail.com

Cell: 603-833-3211 (You can message me with short answers that way.)

We have a few suggestions that we did not get to last year, such as a ride on the Cog Railway, the dinner train trip, the Ice Palace, Cathedral in the Pines, a winery trip, the Independence Museum in Exeter, smaller regional luncheons, and a cookout/chili/BBQ contest as a fundraiser.

We will probably do a train ride again, because many could not make either date. If we do a train ride next October, it will probably be the Saturday following Columbus Day.

We do have a couple of bison farms in New Hampshire; and if there is interest, I am willing to work with the folks at Martin's Point to see if we can get a dietitian and/or nutritionist to join us on a visit with a meal, a discussion on good eating, and a shopping opportunity.

Along the same lines, there are number of MOAA webinars that might be available on topics as diverse as TRI-CARE, retirement planning, spousal preparation for end-of-life, and MOAA-sponsored travel.

Please take the time to send me your answers to the questions above. I am happy to start planning events for 2022.

CWO4 Robert D. Jaffin, USN (Ret)



Is travelling on your bucket list? Maybe this list will help . . .



2022 MOAA Travel Program: All our 2022 trips are posted on the MOAA-NH website under Group Travel. We will also be advertising our program through our "Trip of the Month" email blast messages and the Granite Slate.

Mackinac Island Tulip Time Festival: Nine days, 6-14 May 2022; 12 meals; \$3,395 with air from Boston; double occupancy.

Croatia and its Islands: 7-night Adriatic cruise. Private ship cruise with only 22 cabins; 23 Aug – 3 Sep 2022; 12 days; 19 meals; \$4,999 with air from Boston (this is a deep discount).

Tropical Costa Rica: 12-22 February 2022; nine days, \$2,198 per person double occupancy with air; 14 meals; (this offer is also a deep discount).

Classic Danube Passion Play Danube River & Land Cruise: (limited time, only one cabin available); 28 August – 6 September 2022; \$6,499 per person double occupancy with air, 22 meals. This trip includes a six-night Danube River cruise and a four-day land journey including Munich, Passau, Vienna, Bratislava & Budapest.

The following 2022 trips, **that include the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany**, are also available through our World Connect Program. If you are interested in any of the following trips, contact Tony or Tom at the contact information shown below. Various dates are available for the following trips:

- Classic Danube River and Land Tour, 10 days
- Exploring the Alpine countries, 13 days
- Austrian Delight, 10 days
- Discover Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria, 10 days
- Imperial Cities, 11 days
- Germany's Cultural Cities & the Romantic Roads, 13 days

If you, a family member or friend desire a trip anywhere in the world, contact Tony or Tom and they will make arrangements under our World Connect Program. We want to take advantage of the World Connect Program, and we will emphasize this program throughout the year.

For additional information and reservations, contact Tony at 603-391-7106 or email tonyajjb@gmail.com or Tom at 603-686-2663 or email tkyleh@yahoo.com.

Tom and I will be meeting with our Collette Regional Manager in January to develop our 2023 group travel program. We plan to schedule four trips and emphasize our World Connect Program for any other worldwide desired trips.

Please feel free to send this article to relatives and friends. They may be interested in our travel program.

We continue to seek partnership with a community organization. Contact Tony or Tom with a point of contact, and we will complete the coordination process.

~Tony B.

2021 Annual Clambake

The morning of September 18, 2021 began foggy with a hint of mist. It continued to be overcast and chilly (jacket weather) for the rest of the morning. Just as people were closing up their belongings, the sun came out and it became warm! This was the first clambake in two years (last year's was cancelled because of the pandemic), and it was the first clambake that was jointly hosted by the New Hampshire Chapter and the Southern Maine Chapter of MOAA. The weather did not deter the 188 members (of both chapters), family, and guests who had signed up from enjoying good fellowship and our traditional feast of clam chowder, lobster or steak, mussels, corn-on-the-cob, potatoes, onions, rolls, and watermelon.

Unfortunately, the attendance was down again this year as the overall chapter membership is down and some were still weary of COVID19. We were joined again this year by Col James O'Brien, USAF (Ret), MOAA's COO and honored to have a US Navy color guard from the Shipyard Clinic again this year.



Once again, our Chapter Bakemaster, COL Ken Lull, USA (Ret), ably assisted by his second-in-command, Lt Col Joe Daley, USAF (Ret), and Drinksmaster, CW5 Bernie Satterfield, USA (Ret), succeeded in putting on



an outstanding clambake. We were disappointed that former US Senator Kelly Ayotte, wife of Chapter member Joe Daley, was not present to work on the serving line. US Representative Chris Pappas stopped by and was put to work on the serving line. We welcomed Dennis Kost for his first MOAA-NH event.

The main benefit of the clambake, other than to enjoy a great homecooked clambake, is to support the Chapter's Scholarship Loan Fund. This locally run program helps children and grandchildren of the New Hampshire Chapter members with college expenses by awarding interest-free loans of \$2,000 and \$3,000 per academic year. This year *eleven* students will receive loans, and this year the clambake raised \$3,720. Thank you to all who contributed!!

In addition to the money raised for our Chapter's Scholarship Loan fund, Chapter members donated a substantial amount of canned goods helping to support the Manchester VAMC veterans.



Finally, a special Bravo Zulu to all those who made this event such a success. It could not have been done without all the hard work of the chapter volunteers!!

CDR Michael A. McLean, USN (Ret)
MOAA-NH Secretary



>> CHAPTER DIRECTORY <<

The Chapter is planning to issue a new member directory at the beginning of next year. In order for it to be as accurate as possible, we need correct, up-to-date information before it is printed.

Please look over your address label. It has all the data that will be included in your entry in the directory (except your telephone number). Check that your name, rank, service, status [(RET), (FRM), (CIV), etc.], spouse, address, and zip code are all current. If you can still find your old directory (it has a blue cover), check that your telephone number is correct; or, if you can't find it, have changed your phone number, or joined the chapter in the last three years, please provide us with your current number.

Any changes/corrections should be mailed to MOAA-NH at PO Box 712, Dover, NH 03820-0712 or emailed to moaa-nh@comcast.net. Please ensure that your changes are received by the end of this year to be included in the directory.

As they say in computer speak, *garbage in – garbage out!*

CDR Michael A. McLean, USN (Ret)
MOAA-NH Secretary

Are you up for a new challenge?

MOAA-NH communicates with its membership primarily through its Public Affairs Officer (PAO) and its quarterly newsletter, *The Granite Slate*. Currently, the PAO position is vacant; and the newsletter editor's last publication is the March 2022 issue. Without these two means of communication in full force, MOAA-NH's efforts to work within the community and with its membership would be severely restricted.

Therefore, the Board of Directors is seeking a PAO and editor for *The Granite Slate*. Please consider taking on one of these positions to help your MOAA-NH with its beneficial programs.

The Granite Slate Editor: MOAA-NH publishes a quarterly newsletter (March, June, September, December).

MOAA-NH is seeking another editor for their newsletter, *The Granite Slate*, as the current editor will publish her last edition in December 2021.

Responsibilities include securing articles from MOAA-NH president, the list of deceased members and list of new members from the Chapter secretary, travel information, and gathering information and photos from recent Chapter events, and any current, highly pertinent information. Draft of newsletter must be reviewed and approved by the Chapter Secretary and President prior to publishing.

The editor reports to the Secretary and President. If you are interested in becoming a part of the MOAA-NH team, please contact Michael McLean at mamclean@comcast.net

No One Left Behind

Our organization had an opportunity presented to it a few weeks back. A trend that will continue as we progress into the future. Our age gives us wisdom, but it also gives us challenges. Some, we cannot face alone.

So, when a call came in from a member's widow, a group of our members jumped at the task. She was alone and desperate for help. Her issue is not so different from most, if not all of us at our age; *i.e.*, too much stuff. Stuff that, although useful at one time, is now a burden. Valuables at one time, have become so much clutter. Desperation in her voice indicated an urgency.

A small team of our members joined up to help her. What we found was shock and awe. A beautiful home, occupied by a lone woman surrounded by mounds of battery operated hand tools, a massive model train layout, yard tractors, Hum Vees, and leftover building materials, on three house levels. Truly, a daunting undertaking. Over the upcoming weekends we helped organize, as best we could, the volume of tools and model trains in preparation for auction. But, one must remember, at times like these the predators are coming in. And they did. In an effort to purge these items, one must compromise their true value. Slowly, the mounds of goods were whittled down; but, there is still much for her to process.

So what, you say. A fact of life we all must face. Some of us face it earlier than others. Some prepare for the inevitable. But others choose to ignore the reality in their faces for many years. And then? Then, desperation.

This is where an organization like MOAA-NH comes in. We are a band of brothers and sisters — we few, we happy few. No, we are not the cavalry (apologize to our Army brethren) but we can assist in donation of our time. This lady needed help on many levels from financial, emotional, and organizational. MOAA-NH can only contribute so much. At this time, we only provided some immediate emotional assistance and some physical rearranging of material. This situation has underscored a MOAA-NH neo-goal, *i.e.*, aid and assistance.

We, as an organization, need to come together and address this new and pressing need. We will need to go beyond our current social and legislative advocacy. If MOAA-NH wants to be known as part of the greater NH community, it is situations like this that will project us into the arena.

So, as I started. I ask, Is this a one off? I don't believe so. We will need to step up again, and it

may be sooner than later. This time we were able to assist in this section of the state, because members were close by. That will change at some point, and the challenge will be even greater. Therefore, MOAA-NH needs to frame its involvement in preparation and anticipation of the next "aid and assistance." No one left behind.

Lt Col Laurance M. Miller, USAFR (Ret)

MOAA-NH Supports the Manchester West High School NJROTC

Editor's Note: This article was inadvertently omitted from the September 2021 issue of The Granite Slate.

This past Memorial Day, 31 May, the Manchester West High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) celebrated its 50th anniversary. This historic milestone was featured on the front page of the "NH Sunday News" on 30 May.

The mission of the NJROTC is to prepare its cadets for life though not necessarily a military one. The program is "about citizenship and leadership" says CAPT Arthur Stauff, USN (Ret), the Senior Naval Science Instructor for the unit for the last seven years. CAPT Stauff went on to explain the unit was founded in 1971 to instill in cadets "the value of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment." The program feels more like a "family than school."

MOAA-NH annually presents two awards at the ceremony: outstanding Senior Award and Outstanding Junior Award. This year these awards were presented by CDR James R. Day, USN (Ret) and CDR Sharon P. Day, USN (Ret) at the Masonic Community Center. It was an honor and a pleasure to recognize Senior Mackenzie Maloney and Junior Ella Hanson for their hard work and dedication to the unit and its cadets.



[Left] CDR James R. Day, USN (Ret), congratulates Outstanding Senior awardee Mackenzie Maloney



[Right] CDR Sharon P. Day, USN (Ret), stands with Ella Hanson, Outstanding Junior awardee.

*Article co-written by
CDR James R. Day, Jr., USN (Ret)
and CDR Sharon P. Day, USN (Ret)*

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WHY MOAA?
YouTube video

Welcome to Our New 2021 Chapter Members!

Capt James P. Dunn, Jr., USN (Ret) —
Waterville Valley, NH
LTC Thomas C. Fiser, USA (Ret) — Wolfeboro, NH
CW3 Scott MacDonald, USA (Ret) — Seabrook, NH
LTC Erik Parker, USA (Ret) — Sanbornton, NH



December 2021 *Taps*



1st Lt John L. Balcom, USMC (Ret)
CAPT Wilmot S. Draper, USN (Ret)
LTC Richard Bruce Elliott, USA (Ret)
Capt Howard H. Gaskill, Jr., USMC (Ret)
CDR Raymond A. Helgemoe, USN (Ret)
Lt Col Robert E. Introne, Jr., USAF (Ret)
Mrs. Luetta M. Kaminski
Mrs. Audrey T. Loika
Maj Richard E. Meyers, Jr., USAF (Ret)
Mrs. Mildred G. Schappals
Mrs. Doree C. Townsend
LCDR Edward S. Webber, USN (Ret)

Merrimack
Dover
Henniker
Hooksett
Bow
Londonderry
Nashua
Kennebunk, ME
Merrimack
Bedford
Madbury
East Kingston



CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK

Did you know that MOAA-NH has a Facebook page? We do . . . at <https://www.facebook.com/MOAA-NH-403462326493407/> Check out all the latest pictures and information about the chapter. While you're there, be sure to "like" us.

Cut and paste or type the link below into your browser. It will take you directly to National MOAA's "Take Action" tab. There you can learn about current legislative issues and voice your opinions about their efforts.

<http://www.moaa.org/takeaction>

FOR LINKED-IN USERS

MOAA-NH members: We have established a group on LinkedIn for the purpose of helping members find employment in the New Hampshire area. If you have a LinkedIn account, please request to join the "New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA-NH)" group. If you are seeking employment or know a prospective member who will be, create a post for the group with a link to the member's profile. We also ask that recruiters and human resource professionals from companies around New Hampshire who are interested in hiring former officers to join the group. If you have suggestions for the LinkedIn Group, please contact Jim Spotts at jim.spotts@hotmail.com.