



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



June 2022

Winter News & Events

Volume 44, No. 2



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 April 2022 Luncheon Plymouth Common Man

The spring MOAA-NH luncheon at the Plymouth Common Man was attended by 60 members, family, and friends. I want to take this opportunity to thank all who participated, and we were fortunate to have excellent spring weather for those folks who had to travel a long way.



The Common Man's staff is well known for their willingness to go the distance in providing an excellent venue, superior food, and taking care of the details that separate a first-class operation from their competitors, and this event served to confirm, yet again, that reputation. Truly, our members received superior value, and I heard many compliments on the location. Special thanks to our event coordinator, Gerard Boyle, and the Common Man's Mr. Alex Ray for his outstanding support of the chapter over many years.



David Mara, the New Hampshire Drug Czar, accompanied by his wife Jackie, provided a highly educational speech on the challenges faced by the state concerning drug abuse and illegal usage. He highlighted the challenges that this abuse poses to our citizens and the future of law enforcement and the state. If we wish to maintain the "New Hampshire Advantage" we must deal with this challenge efficiently and effectively.

I hope that the chapter's members have the same positive experience at our upcoming events in June at the White Mountain Hotel and Resort, North Conway, and of course, our "world famous clambake" at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in August.

CPT James R. LeFebvre, USAR

Do You Know a Veteran who Would Benefit from an iBOT Wheelchair?

Veterans Count is looking for help in identifying disabled veterans who could benefit from an exciting, potentially life-changing wheelchair, the iBOT.

Veterans Count is working with Mobius Mobility to distribute donated iBOT® Personal Mobility Devices (iBOT® PMDs). It is a next-level powered wheelchair that offers users superior maneuverability, control, and accessibility. It opens up possibilities for exploring all kinds of outdoor terrain, climbing up and down curbs and stairs, and experiencing life at a standing height.

The first iBOT® PMD recipient is Air Force veteran Mike, who has used a manual wheelchair for 14 years. Veterans Count is thrilled to help the sports and outdoor enthusiast get back to doing some of his favorite things.

Veterans Count is not only giving away these devices, which retail for over \$30,000, but assisting those who qualify with the process of securing the prescription-only device. If you know any veterans who, like Mike, would benefit from the iBOT® PMD's technology and features to enhance their quality of life, please contact Kathy Flynn, Senior Director of Development, Veterans Count, 555 Auburn Street, Manchester, NH 03103, 603-621-3413, kaflynn@eastersealsnh.org as soon as possible. Alternatively, feel free to share her email and contact information with them. She would be happy to connect with them to learn more and pursue the next steps around eligibility.

CDR Peter Burdett, USN (Ret)

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

CPT James R. LeFebvre, USAR, 603-356-7296, lefebvrej@att.net

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

TEMPORARY NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Cindy LeFebvre, 603-356-7296; CJL53@outlook.com

Granite Slate Editor Needed!

The Board of Directors is seeking an editor for *The Granite Slate*. The temporary editor will publish her last edition in September 2022. **If a newsletter editor is not found, MOAA-NH is in danger of not being able to maintain its 5 Star status.** Keep in mind that spouses are eligible to fill this position.

The Granite Slate is one of MOAA-NH's primary means of communication with its membership. Without this means of communication in full force, MOAA-NH's efforts to work within the community and with its membership would be severely restricted

The Granite Slate is published quarterly (March, June, September, December). 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.

Mailing Address Change for VA Forms

The Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration (NCA) changed its mailing address for submitting the following claim forms:

- VA Form 40-1330, *Claim for Standard Government Headstone or Marker*
- VA Form 40-1330M, *Claim for Government Medallion for Placement in a Private Cemetery*
- VA Form 40-0247, *Presidential Memorial Certificate Request Form*
- VA Form 27-2008, *Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes*

Please mail your claim form & supporting documents to:

**NCA FP Evidence Intake Center
PO Box 5237
Janesville, WI 53547**

For **faster and more secure processing** of your claim, please submit your claim and supporting documents electronically by using **Direct Upload at access.va.gov**. You will be instructed to register during your first sign-on attempt. You can submit multiple claims electronically via Direct Upload.



President's Corner

CPT James R. LeFebvre, USAR

This piece was written in early May, after our April 23rd luncheon at the Common Man in Plymouth, and before the June 4th luncheon at the White Mountain Hotel and Resort. The enthusiasm of our membership at the Common Man was evident, and a good indicator for future face to face luncheons and meetings.

Bob Jaffin and Pete Burdett, both former chapter Presidents, ran with the Advocacy in Action (AIA, formerly called Storming the Hill) annual tasker this year. Please take a few minutes to read Bob's piece. Thanks to both for your work on behalf of the chapter and MOAA national and a job well done.

Personnel is Policy. We are still engaged in searches for persons to fill the PAO slot, step up to be the "long term" Granite Slate editor, and work as the primary chapter Recruiter. **Cindy LeFebvre** will be leaving the position as temporary Granite Slate editor after the September edition. Anyone (spouses included) is eligible to replace her, but we need someone soon. If anyone is interested in any of these opportunities to aid the chapter, please contact me, or any member of the BOD.

"Chapter Award" - The chapter's website was recently awarded MOAA's 5-Star Harris Communications Award. This is yet another area of chapter operations that Michael McLean has managed for many years. I am sure that all join me in thanking Michael for his dedicated and effective chapter service.

Our annual "World Famous Clambake" is just around the corner, on August 6th at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Our bake master (Ken Lull) will be activating his team soon and can always use more help. We anticipate a visit from a MOAA national VIP.

We need both a venue and event coordinator for the September luncheon. We would like to do this event in the western region – Lebanon/Hanover area. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Gerry Boyle, gjboyle@courts.state.nh.us or me at lefebvrej@att.net.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for the Nashua Country Club on November 6th. We have a very special guest speaker already confirmed for this event. More details soon.

I hope you all enjoy the beauty of New Hampshire's summer.

Jim LeFebvre

AFROTC Det. 475 Dining-Out

On Friday, 15 April, AFROTC Det. 475 at UNH held their first official formal function in over two years because of the pandemic. Colonel (Ret) Joe DiChiaro had asked me several weeks ago if I would be willing to fill in for him at this event to present one of the cadets an award from the NH Chapter of MOAA. Joe explained that the event was formal and required wearing a mess dress, and that he no longer felt he could fit into his and thought that I probably could still get into mine. I readily accepted the invitation for my wife and I to attend and was placed in contact with Cadet Captain Megan Gallagher who was handling invitations. On the Monday before the event, Cadet Gallagher sent me another email updating the status of the Dining-Out and asking me what I intended to speak about on Friday. She said that Joe had told her of my unique background and thought that I would make an excellent speaker. I hadn't realized when I accepted Joe's invitation that this was part of the deal, but I informed Cadet Gallagher that I would indeed be honored to speak to the cadets.



The Dining-Out was held at the "Red Barn" in Berwick, Maine, and Betty and I arrived shortly after the social hour began. We were met by Lt. Col. Knothe, the detachment commander, his cadre and their wives and staff, and several cadets and their dates. As dinner approached, the head table members were formed up and proceeded to their places. The cadet Honor Guard

entered and presented the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The invocation was performed by the UNH Chaplain, a former F-16 pilot, and the cadet Master of Ceremony then seated the "mess" and briefly presented a short history of the formal Dining-In. Shortly after, several cadets were asked to assemble and add ingredients to the mess "grog" bowl, each cadet explaining the reason for adding each ingredient to the bowl. "Mr Vice" then assumed the Master of Ceremonies position and began to explain the significance of the empty seating arrangement in front of the podium. Mr. Vice then proceeded to roast a variety of the cadets and instructors in the audience, but he did so with great wit and charm.

Not having been to a formal Dining-In or Out in many years, I had apparently forgotten several of the formal protocols of the mess, and Lt. Col. Knothe called a point-of-order to Mr. Vice regarding at least one violation whereby members had brought their cocktails into the mess without permission. He then asked Mr. Vice to send all members of the mess who had violated this protocol to the "grog" bowl. I, along with many cadets and some cadre, then proceeded to partake of the "grog", the first of many such trips that evening!

The dinner and camaraderie were outstanding, and it appeared that all the cadets, their dates, and guests thoroughly enjoyed the evening. After the intermission, individual cadet awards were presented including several college scholarships that ranged from \$1,000 to \$3,300. Unfortunately, the cadet to whom I was to present the Chapter award was not present. After the award presentations, I was introduced and began my speech which mainly covered my academic and military background, and the number of positions that I've held after retirement, both from the military and the Department of Veteran Affairs. This was all leading up to what I really wanted to say to the cadets, especially those who would soon be commissioned into the Air Force, and some recommendations for how they should conduct themselves, especially in the early years of their careers. My speaking points were as follows:

AFROTC Det. 475 Dining-Out (continued)

1. Career plans never stay the same. Learn to be flexible and adapt to new situations. Remember that the best laid war plans never survive first contact with the enemy.
2. Take care of your subordinates and listen to what they have to say.
3. Your word is your bond. Be truthful in everything you say or do. Once trust is lost, it is extremely hard to regain.
4. Whatever you do, become the local "expert" in your respective field of endeavor.
5. Find a mentor: Be a mentor.
6. Never act on your first impulses unless it's a matter of life or limb. Get the facts first!
7. Spend quality time with your friends and family.
8. Don't chase rank. Do the best you can at the job you're given.
9. Stay active both mentally and physically all your life.

After my speech, the Honor Guard retired the Colors and the mess was formally adjourned for further refreshments and dancing. Having enjoyed ourselves and the company for the evening, Betty and I departed Maine for the journey home. Later that night, I posted a short comment on Facebook congratulating all the cadets and staff of the unit for the outstanding way they conducted themselves and carried out this formal military function. It was a pleasure to have been invited to attend such a well-orchestrated event and see so many cadets receive recognition for their accomplishments this past year.



(The cadet standing next to me in the group photo, Cadet Katherine P. McGowan, recently received a \$5000 scholarship from the Granite State Flight #53, Order of Daedalians.

Andrew J Breuder, MD, MPH, FACPM, FAsMA, CPE

National MOAA Announces the 2021 Communications Award Winners



For the *seventh* consecutive year, MOAA-NH Chapter's website (www.moaa-nh.org) received a 5-Star Award in the Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award Contest.

MOAA renamed the award in 2011 after Colonel Marvin J. Harris, USAF (Ret), Director of Public Relations from 1996 until 2011. Colonel Harris delivered effective communications to both military and civilian audiences.

Congratulations to our chapter webmaster, CDR Michael McLean, USN (Ret).



MOAA 2022 AIA

As of this writing we have been able to sit down and meet with three of our congressional delegation and their staffs here in New Hampshire, while Senator Shaheen and her staff have not set up any sort of meeting. I did remind all that MOAA is rated as one of the 25 top lobbying organizations in DC.



On April 12 we met with Congresswoman Kuster and her staff in Concord and followed that up by going down to Manchester to meet with Congressman Pappas and his staff. Both fully supported

MOAA national's objectives. In addition, we were able to cover other issues of national importance as well as our two current local issues. In both cases the delegation expressed a great deal of interest in all of the topics and had great suggestions for how we might proceed. The topics we covered included concurrent receipt, continuing resolutions, the defense health agency at the macro level, and our two earmark suggestions: a new full-service commissary at Pease and the environmental cleanup at Portsmouth Naval shipyard. While some questions were raised about all of the additional issues, there is clearly considerable support across the spectrum.



MOAA New Hampshire was one of 10 organizations invited to a "coffee with the senator" meeting prior to the field hearing that was held by Sen. Hassan at St. Anselm's on April 21. I was able to follow that up with a one-on-one meeting with the senator on Monday, May 2. The April 21 event yielded many additional benefits as Congressman Pappas joined the Senator for the field hearing while I got to meet a number of other important contacts and talk with them one-on-one. While there is no way to confirm it, it looks like our early discussions last year with the shipyard about moving the commissary may have been the seed that is moving that project forward as the commanders at Pease in the shipyard have been talking



about moving the commissary. Sen. Hassan went out of her way to meet with me this past Monday and I covered all the issues I had covered with the other members of the delegation. You should also be aware that Sen. Hassan is a cosponsor of the Star act.

MOAA 2022 AIA (continued)

As a result of our meetings with congressional delegation I want to remind everybody how important it is to get on to the MOAA national site and use the legislative links to send emails to the congressional delegation on all the issues MOAA has listed that are also important to you. We will also definitely need letters of support for the commissary.

CWO4 Robert D. Jaffin, USN (Ret)

Check Six

We all know the meaning of this phrase. Especially, us Air Force types. Be aware, be vigilant. Hopefully, it's your Wing Man you see. But, at times, there lurks a saboteur. And sometimes they may even disguise themselves as friendly agents. That's when one must be cautious. However, there are tell tale signs that give them away.

This happened to me a few days ago, in the cyber world. I received what appeared to be a legitimate email request from one of our ranking organizational members directing me to transfer significant funds to an online account. Many red flags went up immediately. First, I have no authority to transfer funds, and if this person was who they claimed to be they would know that. Second, there were no other organizational members copied on this email; those who would obviously be in the approval chain for the commitment of large sums. However, still not being totally sure of the request's legitimacy, I paused. "Buy time", think about this first. So, days passed and I did not react. But, eventually this scammer had to see how I was doing with his request. He had sent me account numbers, name, and address of the fraudulent claim. He said it was for, wait for it, "Project Services". Again I paused, buy time. But this scammer could not let it go. Four days later he once again contacted me asking about my progress. I told him I was not authorized to process funds. But, playing his role to the hilt he "authorized" me to do so. That's when I called my fellow officers. It seems that this type of scam has occurred before. This scammer is so sophisticated that he took a name in my email contact list and attached a bogus email address to it making it look legitimate when the name appeared in my new email listing. I responded by telling him the local police and state AG would be contacting him. No further requests were ever made by this criminal.

The moral of this story, for all, is be aware. The trolling scammers are out in the cyber world we walk. Question any request for money. Buy time to check six.

Be safe out there.

Lt Col Laurance M. Miller, USAFR (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 and through our “Trip of the Month” email blast messages.

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).

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

Currently, we have 6 passengers booked for three different tours this year.

Beginning in 2023 and beyond, we will be emphasizing our “**WORLD CONNECT**” program. You may select any state or country you wish to travel, approximate dates, contact Tony or Tom; and we will provide you with our member number and specific information on the trip. Reservations are then made through the retail division of Collette. These trips are not in our group travel program. In 2023, we will feature the following retail (World Connect) trips; but you can choose any other trip you desire.

The following prices do not include air.

Spotlight on New Orleans: 5 days, various dates — \$1,799

Magnificent Cities of Central & Eastern Europe: 14 days, various dates — \$2,999

The Best of Eastern Canada: 9 days, various dates — \$2,399

Alpine Lakes and Scenic Trains: 9 days, various dates — \$3,199

National Parks of America: 12 days, various dates — \$3,999

Treasures of Europe: 12 days, various dates — \$3,399

Discovering Poland: 12 days, various dates — \$1,999

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.

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.

Surviving Spouse

There are many MOAA resources available to surviving spouses than are not commonly known. Vast amounts of resources are linked at moaa.org under the Surviving Spouse Corner. Or go directly to the archived articles sscomm@moaa.org.

It’s also important to note many survivors might not be aware they are eligible to join MOAA, even if their military spouses were not MOAA members.

I found that the Minnesota MOAA chapter has an excellent web site that provides a 37 page booklet, The Day After Calls (TDAC). It is free to download at mcmoaa.org.

When a family member passes, the last thing on one’s mind is taxes and notifying pension plan administrators. But even as you grieve, it's essential that you begin taking steps to tie up the affairs of your loved one. Keep this TDAC on hand to refer to when dealing with the passing in the family. While not exhaustive, TDAC is intended to be a reminder for family members, and surviving spouses, about the many subjects that need attention at this time. Some associations offer spouse assistance to their members and will notify many of the places listed on this checklist. Organizations like OPM, DFAS, Credit Bureaus, DEERS, VGLI, VA, Social Sec Admin, etc. are included.

Lt Col Laurance M. Miller, USAFR (Ret)

Treasury Update

You may remember from the last newsletter that former treasurer, CDR Roby Day, reported that “...no one is indispensable...”. Well, that is debatable. Life is moving on, but it is taking a village to fill CDR Roby’s shoes!

The handoff is official, and CDR Dee Fasoli, USN (Ret.) and Lt Col Wayne Balcom, USAF (Ret.) are making progress. Communications and operations are being continued, business as usual, to make the transition as seamless as possible. Near term goals include 1) moving towards using more electronic-based banking/communications to avoid mail delays and allow for remote transactions when people are away on travel; 2) parsing up the many “hats” that Roby wore (figuring out division of labor); and 3) continuing what Roby started, by capturing standard operating procedures (SOPs) and lessons learned along the way, to facilitate future transitions.

Financially-speaking, we are on course with this year’s budget expectations. Retained earnings (operating funds) so far this year are stable – as of April 30, we’ve had one event, investments are moving with the market (-7% since Apr 2021), and scholarship repayment and membership dues are coming in as expected. Given that our last “normal” year was 2019 (before the impact of COVID) and the wide market fluctuations of the past year, it is too early to assess how we stand relative to past (pre-COVID) performance.

Last but not least, appreciation and gratitude are extended to Roby for his ongoing, good-natured, sage support and to the Board, vendors and stakeholders for their patience and flexibility in this journey!

CDR Dee Fasoli, USN (Ret.)

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www.moaa-nh.org



WHY MOAA?
YouTube video

Welcome to Our New 2022 Chapter Members!

LT James S Fasoli III, USCG, 41 Asa Meiggs Rd,
Sandwich, MA

LT James S Fasoli Jr. USN, 18 Saddle Hill Rd,
Amherst, NH

Maj Richard (Dick) H Maslin, USAF (Ret.),
PO Box 5162, Laconia

June 2022

Taps



Mrs. Norma J. Coker	Nashua, NH
CAPT Howard S. Crosby, USN (Ret.)	New Castle, NH
LTC Raymond E. Dubois, USA (Ret.)	Dover, NH
COL James E. Gallagher, USA (Ret.)	East Kingston, NH
Mrs. Eleanore L. Janetos	Rollinsford, NH
CDR David E. Lewis, USN (Ret.)	Colebrook, NH
LTC Richard E. Merrill, USA (Ret.)	Concord, NH
Mrs. Helena D. Miskill	Hampton, NH
Mrs. Carolyn E. Neill	Ponte Verda, FL
CWO4 Angelo E. Panteli, USMC (Ret.)	Manchester, NH



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 Jennifer Wright at wrijl@aol.com.