



The Granite Slate

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



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President Joan Huber presents January guest speaker CAPT Bud Schneeweis, USCG (ret) Director of MOAA Benefits Information with Chapter thank you present

NH Congressional Positions on Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act

The March edition of the Military Officer highlighted one of the national organization's legislative priorities for 2007, passage of HR 579 and the Senate Bill equivalent "Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act." For more detail on the specifics of the legislation see either the March edition or the national website.

The offices of all four congressional members were contacted in February and March asking for input on the record for this edition of the newsletter. None of the offices responded with the positions of their congressional members.

However, Jim Lefebvre, Chapter's National Legislative Liaison, reported his contacts with the offices reveal only Representative Hodes has not expressed support for the legislation.

Coming Events

2007

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)*

2008

February 9 Holiday Inn, Concord
April 12 The Oaks, Somersworth
June 7 Diamonds Edge North Restaurant, Waterville Valley
August 2 Clambake, PNSY
Sept TBD Wentworth by the Sea
Nov 8 Manchester Country Club

Chapter Officers

President CAPT Joan M. Huber, NC, USN, (Ret) 863-5731, joanhuber@aol.com
Vice President LTC Gary S. Terhune, USA (Ret) 964-7541, schoonergst@yahoo.com
Secretary Col Mary E. Moran, USAF, NC (Ret) 528-5744, moran@metrocast.net
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Visit the Chapter's website at: <http://moaa-nh.home.comcast.net/>



President's Corner

By Joan Huber

The military has been in the news a lot, lately. It's hard to open a newspaper or turn on the television without seeing at least one lead story about the military. Some of it is discouraging, such as the casualties of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the strange behavior of astronauts, or disappointing stories about Military Medicine. However, some of it is good and encouraging, albeit a bit harder to find.

Did you know that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is opening 23 more Vet Centers around the country, one of which will be in Berlin, NH? Did you know that the Senate recently added \$3.55 billion to the budget for veterans' medical care in 2007? How about that the Senate has designated a National Medal of Honor Day to acknowledge the extraordinary men (only 111 of whom are still living) who have received the military's highest honor?

And there is more. Military health care is improving, our benefits are increasing, and many programs are being implemented to support military families and communities. We may not hear about all of the good stories, but they are there.

Who makes that happen? As they say, "it takes a village" and many people are involved, but our MOAA national organization is a powerful voice in vigorously and vigilantly protecting our benefits and programs. We are well served by the MOAA national organization and by the MOAA-NH chapter at the state level. You may notice the preprinted letters and postcards that come with your copy of Military Officer Magazine. Please take the time to send those along. Those cards and letters are part of the lobbying efforts MOAA performs on our behalf. They make it easy: sign your name, add a personal thought, place a stamp, and send them off! The hard work is done for you. For the price of a stamp, you can be part of the good news stories.

It is up to each one of us to do our part. Just like when we were on active duty, we are all part of the team. Everyone has to do their share to make it happen. Send in those cards and letters, be active in the chapter, and stay informed about the status of MOAA's goals. Keep up the efforts, and you will be able to read more and more of those good military stories!

New Chapter Members Welcome Aboard !

| | |
|---|---|
| Lt Col Marcel Adams USAF (ret) 660 Coolidge Ave Manchester, NH 03102 603-669-6644 | CAPT Andrew Armstrong NOAA (ret) Spouse: Nancy 39 Ross Rd Durham NH 03824 603-659-8903 |
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| LTC Verlin Balsiger, Jr USA (ret) Spouse: Therese 14 Cliff Ave Hampton, NY 03842 603-926-6624 | Lt Col Kit Clark USAF (ret) Spouse: Marie 44 Diane Dr Belmont NH 03220 603-528-0364 |
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|---|--|
| Col Joseph DiChiaro USAF (ret) Spouse: Pam PO Box 865 Londonderry, NH 03050 603-421-9229 | LT William Hayward USN (former) Spouse: Carol 30 Ledgewood Hills #303 Nashua, NH 03062 603-598-3112 |
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|--|--|
| 1 Lt Eleanor Kjellman USAR (former) Spouse: Capt John V. 51 Rush Rd Henniker, NH 03242 603-428-4234 | LTC John Lohmann USA (ret) Spouse: Mary P PO Box 1795 Grantham, NH 03753 603-863-4135 |
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| | |
|---|--|
| CAPT Joan Olson USNR Spouse: CDR Jeffrey K. 2 Durgin Dr Lee, NH 03824 603-659-2342 | Great to have you with the chapter and look forward to meeting you at a future meeting |
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CHAPTER DUES REMINDER

Please look at the number (if you have one) above your name on the address label on this newsletter. If it is '2005', your dues are way past due. You are in danger of being dropped from the Chapter! You **must** pay your dues immediately! Please send your check for \$15.00 (for regular members) or \$10.00 (for surviving spouses), made out to "NH Chapter of MOAA", to MOAA-NH, PO Box 712, Dover, NH 03821-0712, to ensure your continued membership.

**New Hampshire Chapter-Military Officers Association of America
Membership Breakdown as of 12/31/06**

| By Service | | | By Age | | | Geographic | Area |
|--------------|------------|--|--------------|------------|--|------------------|------------|
| USAF | 338 | | < 40 YO | 3 | | Merrimack Valley | 314 |
| USA | 336 | | 40 – 49 YO | 22 | | Seacoast | 295 |
| USN | 234 | | 50 – 59 YO | 115 | | Lakes Region | 117 |
| USMC | 45 | | 60 – 69 YO | 197 | | Sunapee Area | 70 |
| USCG | 26 | | 70 – 79 YO | 293 | | Monadnock | 56 |
| USPHS | 1 | | 80 – 89 YO | 287 | | White Mtn Region | 44 |
| NOAA | 3 | | > 90 YO | 63 | | Outside NH | 88 |
| UNK | 1 | | UNK | 4 | | | |
| TOTAL | 984 | | TOTAL | 984 | | TOTAL | 984 |

Highlights of 2006 Legislative Summary for MOAA

Health Care Issues

- Won ban on TRICARE fee increases for FY2007
- Established single-fee access to TRICARE for all drilling Guard-Reserve
- Barred pharmacy copay increases for FY2007
- Mandated use of Medicare filing procedures for TRICARE claims
- Prescribed access standards for injured and wounded servicemembers
- Required Task Force to study sustainment of TRICARE benefits for long term
- Pilot projects directed on early diagnosis / treatment of PTSD
- Avoided a 5.1% Cut in 2007 Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors
- Waive imposition of \$1740 limit on Medicare payments for therapy services

Retirement/Survivor Issues

- 3.3% retired pay/SBP COLA
- Minimum SBP annuity raised to 45% of covered retired pay (as of 1 Apr 06)
- Expanded SBP coverage options for active duty deaths since 7 Oct 01
- Permanent ID cards for retirees' totally disabled dependents
- Mandated review of removing SSAN from military ID cards
- Authorized one year housing allowance for active duty death survivors

Active/Reserve Force Issues

- 2.2% 2007 pay raise with additional targeted raises for certain grades
- Increase of 30K in Army and 5K USMC force levels over 2007 budget request
- Won major restrictions on predatory "payday lenders"
- Won \$400K free SGLI coverage for members deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq
- Won increased voluntary separation incentives to help avoid drawdown RIFs
- Provided retirement credit for certain state duty performed by Guard after 9/11
- Required more consistent Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) rules / explanations
- Authorized housing allowance fix for mobilized reserves or retirees

Military Family / Veterans / Other Issues

- Provided \$50M in aid to school districts serving military children
- Required full replacement value for damaged household goods on PCS moves

The NH Chapter of MOAA
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Chapter & National Membership Dues

By Michael McLean

The NH Chapter of MOAA is affiliated with but not a direct part of MOAA national. Consequently, when joining one, you do not automatically join the other, or that when paying dues to one, that covers dues to the other. In recent years, MOAA has had a program whereby when someone, who is not a member of MOAA national, joins a chapter, they receive a free one-year membership in the national organization. However, after that first year, the expectation is to pay national dues as well as our chapter dues. In the past, our chapter by-laws stated when you reach 80 years of age, you no longer paid chapter annual dues and you become a life member. Unfortunately, with a large number of our membership getting older, we have had to do away with that provision and require annual dues from all members who are not paid as life members. MOAA national has no such provision, so even if you do not have to pay chapter dues, you still must pay dues to MOAA national (unless you are a life member of national). One final point concerning surviving spouses – you inherit whatever category your deceased member had – either annual dues paying or life membership.

If you have further questions, please call me at (603) 692-4648.