



The Granite Slate

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



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Major MOAA Legislative Issues for 2009

In about two months, Chapter President Gary Terhune and member of the MOAA Board of Directors from New Hampshire Bancroft McKittrick will be headed to Washington DC for a dialogue on issues important not only to the local members, but in the interest of maintaining the quality of personnel in the service to our country which has been maintained to the present. The variety, impact and support for the issues is varied, and in-depth analysis can be found at www.moaa.org. MOAA designated the following issues important, or "hot-button" issues for the 2009 year. See page 3 for the 2009 DoD Authorization Act summary of issues enacted by Congress this year.

Active Duty, Guard and Reserve

1. TRICARE Continuity for Guard and Reserve
2. Military Readiness through Stability and Predictability Deployment Act

Retirement

1. Enhanced Disability Correction Act
2. Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act
3. Social Security Fairness Act of 2009

Health Care Issues

1. Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act
2. Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Services Act
3. Chiropractic Health Care Parity for Military Beneficiaries

Other Issues

1. Retirement Account Distribution Improvement Act
2. Veteran's Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act



Pres Gary Terhune presents January guest speaker Mr. Morrill Worcester, of the Worcester Wreath Company, a Chapter appreciation gift

MOAA Scholarship Update

The Chapter Board of Directors recently appointed a committee to consider the future of the Chapter Scholarship Loan Program. The results were presented to the Jan 8th meeting of the Board of Directions. It was determined that donations to the Chapter Scholarship Loan Program are not tax-deductible. Also, the committee determined if 501(c) (3) status were to be granted by the IRS, major changes to the program would have to be made. The board of Directors approved a motion to continue with the Chapter Scholarship Loan Program as it currently exists for two more years, at which time another review is to be conducted.

Please note: Donations to MOAA-National's Scholarship program do have tax deductible status

Upcoming Programs for 2009

- April 4th** Commander and Co-Founder of the Pease Greeters, Capt Edmond Johnson (USMC-ret); Portsmouth Country Club, Greenland
- May 30th** Hart's Turkey Farm, Meredith
- August 1st** Clam Bake Portsmouth Shipyard
- Nov 7th** Annual Meeting, Manchester Country Club, Bedford

Chapter Officers

- President** LTC Gary S. Terhune, USA (Ret), (603) 570-4885, schoonergst@yahoo.com
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- Visit the Chapter's website at: www.moaa-nh.org



President's Corner

Gary

Believe it or not folks. the spring light is coming into view at the end of the winter tunnel. As you are all well aware, there has been a lot happening in our country as we move toward the end of the first quarter of 2009. Much of it is not pretty as the new administration attempts to deal with the crisis we are going through. We kicked off 2009 with a great Winter Luncheon in Nashua at the Crowne Plaza. We were delighted to have Morrill Worcester, his wife Karen, and daughters Lydie and Molly join us. It was wonderful hearing about how [Wreaths Across America](#) got started. I wish we had more citizens with an attitude like this family has toward this country and the freedoms we enjoy.

Our next luncheon, to be on the Seacoast at the Portsmouth Country Club, promises to be exciting as we welcome Capt Ed Johnson, founder and chairperson of the Pease Greeters, as our speaker. Don't miss it. You should already have your flyer.

Upcoming events include Chapter and Council Presidents Seminar and Stormin' the Hill which will be held in Washington, DC at the end of April. I will be attending with Bancroft McKittrick, who is a member of the National Board of Directors. We will be visiting with our Congressional delegation to promote the MOAA legislative agenda. We have already started that process as Peter Burdett and I met with Rep Shea-Porter's staff to discuss issues. One of these is that she has made it a priority to try and get our VAMC to become a full service center. Stay tuned. You can help our cause in these endeavors by filling out and sending in cards that are found in your MOAA magazine as well as writing your congressional delegation. We need your help to make things happen!

Speaking of veterans, the Board of Directors is taking our show on the road in April as we meet at the Tilton Veterans Home to take a tour of the facility and visit with some of the residents. Should be an exciting opportunity to meet the New Hampshire veteran's and share concerns.

Finally, we are also looking at the possibility of resurrecting our local Travel Program . Our newest Board Member, Bruce Avery, is coordinating this project and we thank him for that.

Enjoy the rest of the winter everyone and we will see you at the Spring luncheon.

New Chapter Members Welcome Aboard !

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- ★
- ★ LTC Arthur K. Day, USAR (Ret.) ★
- ★ Portsmouth, NH ★
- ★ LTC Alexander G. Demos, USA (Ret.) ★
- ★ Manchester, NH ★
- ★ Mrs. Bertha A. Perron ★
- ★ Bradford, NH ★
- ★ Mrs. Barbara B. Ruble ★
- ★ Winchester, NH ★
- ★ LTC Frederick M. Wood, USA (Ret.) ★
- ★ Bow, NH ★
- ★

Flash—there is such a thing as a free lunch!

At each NH MOAA program, a drawing is held and a free meal for the next program is awarded. As a result of being winners in January, Steve and Mary Levine will be dining gratis at the Portsmouth Country Club. Congratulations

Board of Directors Meeting Locations Changed

The New Hampshire monthly meeting of the Chapter Officers and Board of Directors has moved to the Red Blazer in Concord. The meeting is open to members, but the Red Blazer requests 48 hr notice so if you wish to attend let Mary Moran (see Page 1 for information) know.

Summary of FY09 Defense Authorization Act

(source: www.moaa.org—also more detail and legislative updates)

Active Duty Issues

1. Pay Raise: 3.9% pay raise effective Jan 1, 2009
2. End Strength: Army +7K USMC +5K Navy -2.8K USAF -12.5K
3. Paternity leave: 10 days authorized for new military fathers, in addition to normal leave
4. Maximum reenlistment period: Raised to 8 years vs. 6
5. Increase in Service Academy Enrollment: Authorizes up to 4,400/yr starting 2008/09 academic year
6. Meal Charges in Hospitals: Permanently bans charging hospitalized troops
7. Temporary Lodging Exp. Allowance: Raises daily amt per family on CONUS PCS from \$180 to \$290
8. Family Separation Allowance: Authorizes payment to both member spouses with dependents if both are assigned remotely

Military Family Issues

1. Spouse PCS Weight Allowance: Authorizes 500 lbs for professional items
2. Spouse Education: Authorizes programs to help spouses to pursue portable careers
3. Impact Aid: Authorizes \$35M to schools with high proportion of military children, with additional \$15M for schools in BRAC/unit movement areas and \$5M for schools attended by disabled military children

Guard/Reserve Issues

1. Education: Requires honorable discharge for Guard/Reserve members to use education benefits resulting from active duty (effective 1/28/08 for members who haven't used any of their entitlement)
2. TRICARE Reserve Select Premiums: DoD must recalculate (and presumably reduce) premiums for 2009 and beyond and base them on actual costs for previous year (GAO previously estimated that Guard/Reserve participants were overcharged 45%-72%)
3. Guard/Reserve Medical/Dental Readiness: Services may provide free health/dental care to any SelRes/IRR (if subject to involuntary recall) they deem appropriate and may waive dental copays for Guard/Reserve personnel to facilitate/ensure readiness
4. Transition TRICARE: DoD may temporarily continue active duty TRICARE coverage for separatees who enter SelRes (continue for 60 days if less than 6YOS; 120 days if 6+YOS)

Health Care Issues

1. TRICARE Fees: Bar increases in pharmacy copays or retiree fees for FY09
2. Preventive Care:
 - (1) Waive TRICARE copays/deductibles for beneficiaries under 65 for colorectal/prostate/breast/cervical screening, annual physical, vaccinations and other services authorized by SecDef (those over age 65 to be reimbursed for copays rather than waived due to budget technicality);
 - (2) establish TRICARE Prime pilot project in three geographic areas to test monetary and nonmonetary incentives to encourage healthy behaviors;
 - (3) Establish smoking cessation program for all under-65s (refund copays for over-65s);
 - (4) Test a "preventive health services allowance" payable to up to 1500 active duty members in each service (\$500/yr single, \$1000 family to purchase preventive services); (5) Authorize SecDef discretion to pursue other innovative programs (e.g., G/R medical/dental readiness and/or stipend for G/R families to continue employer care for families when activated)
3. ECHO Payments: Raise TRICARE payment cap for active duty children with special needs from \$2500/mo to \$36K per year, allowing carryover month-to-month
4. ECHO for Retiree Children: Require Sec Def report on limited temporary transition coverage

Wounded Warrior Issues

1. DoD/VA Senior Oversight Committee (SOC): Extends authority for 1 yr, with SecDef report by Aug 31
2. Disability Determinations: Disqualifying condition is to be deemed service-connected unless there is "clear and unmistakable" evidence it existed before service entry and wasn't aggravated by service
3. Centers of Excellence: Establish centers for hearing loss/auditory injuries and for traumatic extremity injuries/amputations
4. Bonus Treatment: Bars recoupment of any paid amount and requires full repayment of unpaid balance within 90 days for member who dies or is separated/retired for combat-related injury/illness

Other Issues

1. Decorations: Requires SecDef to replace decorations on one-time basis upon request by recipient or next of kin
2. Salute: Authorizes military/vets not in uniform to salute flag during national anthem

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New Hampshire MOAA Chapter Earns 5-Star Award for Sixth Consecutive Year

The National Chapter handbook states the 5-Star Award is presented to the “very, very best chapters.” For those dedicated members of the New Hampshire chapter this recognition is well-deserved, and attaining this level for a sixth consecutive time speaks highly of the commitment and service provided. An in-depth evaluation of membership retention and recruitment, chapter communications, legislative liaison and updates, and civic support/ involvement produces a score—with perfect being 240. To earn four star, a chapter must achieve 200 points, for five star over 220 or more than a 91% grade.

President Gary Terhune accepts the 5-Star Banner of Chapter Excellence on behalf the New Hampshire MOAA from Bancroft McKittrick, MOAA Board of Directors, at the January meeting.



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