



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



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Summer Edition

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The 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
- To encourage participation in community services deemed to be in the Chapter's best interest

Mother Nature Didn't Stop MOAA-NH's 2018 Annual Clambake

The chapter's luck with the weather "gods" ran out this year on the day of our Annual Clambake, held at Jamaica Island at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) on August 4, 2018. The weather people had forecasted thunderstorms off and on for most of the day. Regrettably, they were right this time. Fortunately, there was no lightning or thunder seen or heard; but the reoccurring downpours definitely put a constraint on the festivities. Notwithstanding the soggy conditions, it did not dampen the enthusiasm of the majority of the 254 members, families, and guests who had signed up from enjoying our traditional feast of clam chowder, lobster or steak, mussels, corn-on-the-cob, potatoes, onions, rolls, and watermelon. The attendance was down this year, which may be an unfortunate result of our membership getting on in years! We were joined again this year by Col James O'Brien, USAF (Ret), MOAA's COO. Again, we welcomed the Shipyard Commander, CAPT David S. Hunt, USN and his wife, Cheryl. We were honored to have a US Navy color guard from the Shipyard Clinic



again this year. Unfortunately, due to the weather, their presentation of the colors was markedly diminished by having to do so under the shelter of the main pavilion.

This was the third year for our Chapter Bakemaster, COL Ken Lull, USA (Ret). Aably assisted by his second-in-command, Lt Col Joe Daley, USAF (Ret), and Drinksmaster, CW5 Bernie Satterfield, USA (Ret), they succeeded in putting on an outstanding clambake in spite of the weather. We were happy to once again put to work former US Senator Kelly Ayotte on the serving line to earn her dinner! Kelly is the wife of Chapter member Joe Daley.



It was wonderful to see that our neighboring MOAA chapters attended our now-famous clambake. Our western cousins from Vermont and New York along with cousins from several "south of the border" Massachusetts chapters joined the best chapter of MOAA at our clambake.



We welcomed three chapter members in attendance for their first MOAA-NH event: Everett & Michelle Pratt of Dover and Kurtis Virkaitis of Brentwood. We even had one person join on the spot – Robert Vose of Rye.

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President's Corner

CAPT F. Warren Coulter, USN (Ret)



Greetings! I hope everyone is enjoying their summer so far. The clambake has come and gone and, as usual, it was a smashing success – despite the downpours. Many thanks to Ken Lull, Joe Daley, and Bernie Satterfield and to the whole crew who pitched in to make it happen.

Looking forward, the chapter will need storage space for the clambake gear after next year's event. If anyone can help, please contact Ken Lull.

Our chapter Treasurer, Roby Day, is backed up by an Assistant Treasurer – currently Bruce Avery. However, Bruce has decided to step down as of the annual meeting in November. Consequently, we will need to replace him and encourage anyone interested to contact either Roby or me.

Meanwhile, we look forward to our next luncheon on September 22 in Grantham where we will learn something about the game of cricket.

Warren Coulter

MEDICAL UPDATE: THE NEW SHINGLES VACCINE

Shingrix, the new shingles vaccine, is a game changer according to health care experts. Shingrix is recommended for adults 50 and older to prevent shingles. Ninety to ninety-nine percent of people over the age of 40 had chickenpox. About one-third will get shingles at some point in their life.

The vaccine introduced in 2006 for people 60 and older was about 70 percent effective. The Military Health System experts recommend everyone over the age of 50 get the new vaccine. Shingles can recur, so even if you have had shingles, the new vaccine is recommended.

Shingles usually develops as a stripe across one side of the body or face. People may feel pain, itching, or tingling in the area where the rash occurs a few days before the rash actually appears. A few days after the rash appears, it turns into extremely painful fluid-filled blisters. They usually scab over after a week or ten days and then the scabs clear up a couple of weeks after that. The pain may persist for a long while after that.

Some people develop post herpetic neuralgia, or PHN. The older you are when you get shingles, the more likely you will develop PHN and have long-lasting, severe pain — a pain that is not easily treated. This constant pain can significantly affect your quality of life.

(Source: Health.mil) Note: The Shingrix vaccine is covered under TRICARE for persons over 50. (Source: TRICARE)

2018 Annual Clambake

Continued from page 1

The main benefit of the Clambake, other than to enjoy a great home-cooked clambake, is to support the Chapter's Scholarship Loan Fund. This locally run program helps children and grandchildren of New Hampshire Chapter members with college expenses by awarding interest-free loans of \$2,000 to \$3,000 per academic year. This year, NINE students will receive loans. This year, the clambake raised **\$3,345**. Thank you to all who contributed!



In addition to the money raised for our Chapter's Scholarship Loan fund, we held a 50/50 raffle to support veteran organizations in New Hampshire. Terry Bobseine (an Honorary Chapter member) collected \$227 for the chapter's half by measuring people's arms. *(You had to be there to understand.)*

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



**CREDIT: Article: CDR Michael A. McLean, USN (Ret)
Pictures: Courtesy of Susie Burdett**

New Storage Location Needed For MOAA-NH Clam Bake Equipment

We are looking for a new storage location for the annual clambake equipment. Ideally, we'd like to store the equipment within 30 minutes of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The equipment would need to be in a secured space, and the people setting up the clam bake would need access to it immediately before and after the event.



The equipment can be stored in a 10'W x 10'D x 7'H space. If you have extra room in a barn or storage area or have a piece of land where a shed could be built, please contact Jim Spotts at 603-494-8796 or jim.spotts@hotmail.com.

MOAA-NH will provide two free tickets to the annual clambake for the member who can help us out with storing the equipment!

New TRICARE Dental and Vision Plans

The MOAA had an exclusive preview of TRICARE's widely anticipated new dental and vision plans. This new insurance option for certain beneficiaries is set to be offered starting Jan. 1, 2019. The newly designed option was included in the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act with the legislated start date of 2019. The later starting time is meant to allow for better planning and communication for this new plan, as it will be offered and administered through the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). Here's the rundown on who is eligible for what:

All TRICARE retirees and their families are eligible for both the dental insurance and the vision coverage. The FEDVIP dental program of offerings will replace the existing TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan, which is currently provided through Delta Dental. That program will sunset Dec. 31, 2018. Here's what will be offered. The retiree dental plan and the new addition of a vision plan will allow for beneficiaries to make a selection from among several dental and vision carriers with a variety of benefit options. For example, in 2018 the FEDVIP program lists 10 dental carriers and four vision carriers (Delta Dental is included) with comprehensive dental and vision insurance at competitive group rates.

Key facts:

- Eligible beneficiaries must choose their plan during TRICARE's open season, which is scheduled to be Nov. 12 - Dec. 10, 2018.
- There will be no automatic transition for those beneficiaries currently enrolled in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program. Beneficiaries will be required to enroll for coverage.
- Enrollment and plan changes can only occur during the open season with the exceptions for those beneficiaries with qualifying life events (usually anything that necessitates a change in the DEERS system).

Here's the kind of coverage TRICARE beneficiaries will get with FEDVIP (besides more choices):

- No wait period for most dental services;
- No annual maximum benefit for some dental plans;
- Regional and national dental networks;
- No deductible for some vision plans;
- Three Military Health System experts recommend everyone over the age of 50 get the new vaccine
- No limit on brands for frames or contacts for some vision plans; and
- Discounts on LASIK offered by some vision plans.

Beneficiaries are encouraged to start getting information and pre-enrollment communications through the website set up just for this program. The relative website is available at www.tricare.benefeds.com.

CREDIT: Retired Military Newsletter, May 2018



Is travelling on your bucket list?

Maybe this list will help



2019 MOAA Travel Program:

(Additional information on the available 2019 and 2020 trips will be posted on our website in the near future.)

- Iceland's Magical Northern Lights, March 21, 2019
Seven days (\$3,499 with air)
- Magnificent Cities of Central and Eastern Europe, 14 days, August 4, (\$4,699)
- Canyon Country, early October 2019, contract pending
- Alaska Discovery, Land and Cruise, July 2019
13 days, (Estimated cost \$5,399) Contract pending
- Magical Christmas Markets, Austria and Germany.
Early December 2019, seven days, (Estimated cost \$2,600), contract pending
- London and Paris, eight days, May 2019, (Estimated cost \$3,800), contract pending

2020 MOAA Travel Program:

- ***The travel event of the decade! Book Early!***
Includes the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany
- Exploring the Alpine Countries, 13 days, (\$6,999)
- Alpine Explorer with Glacier Express, 12 days (\$6,899)
- Austrian Delight, 10 days, (\$4,999)
- Discover Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria, 10 days (\$4,999)
- Classic Danube River Cruise, 10 days, 7 to 16 June, (\$6,499)
- Classic Danube River Cruise, 10 days, Aug 30 to Sept 10 (\$6,499)
- ***NOTE: The prices above include air out of Logan.***
- Imperial Cities, 11 days (\$4,199 without air), air contract pending
- Germany's Cultural Cities and the Romantic Roads, 13 days (\$4,999 without air), air contract pending

Look for our "Trip of the Month" email blasts sent out every two months.

Log into our website "moaa-nh.org" and click on "Group Travel." For reservations or additional information, contact Tony Burdo, 603-391-7106 or email: tonyajjb@gmail.com.

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.

Summer Meeting - Eagle Mountain House

It was overcast and threatening rain on Saturday, June 23, 2018, when the chapter held its summer meeting and luncheon at the Eagle Mountain House in Jackson, NH. Several members drove up the day before on Friday and a few stayed over Saturday night after the luncheon to make a weekend of it. **96** members and guests signed up for the luncheon and all but a few made the drive north to attend. Fortunately, the rain held off until everyone was inside for the luncheon but then the skies opened up and it poured. The rain ended just as the luncheon ended, luckily!



This was our third visit to the Eagle Mountain House. The staff again was very cooperative and responsive to all our requests. Everyone enjoyed their meal that consisted of three entrée choices (fish, meat, or chicken) which is unusual for most venues.



We did not have any new members in attendance, but we did miss a long-time member of the chapter — Maj Gen John H. Jacobsmeyer, Jr., USAF (Ret), who passed away at the end of May. “Jake,” as he was known to his friends, joined the chapter in 1982 and served as president in 1989. He was also the founding chairman of the Scholarship Loan Committee. He and his wife, Pat, were loyal attendees at all the chapter functions.



We were pleased to have CAPT David S. Hunt, USN and his wife, Cheryl, who is a chapter member, as our guests of honor. CAPT Hunt, the commander of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, gave a very interesting slide presentation on the current status of the Shipyard and future efforts to improve its capability. The luncheon and his presence were written up in the local newspaper, *The Conway Daily Sun*. The luncheon seemed to be enjoyed by all present.

CREDIT: CDR Michael A. McLean, USN (Ret)

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>



Consider applying for this job with MOAA-NH!

VICE TREASURER

Do you like money? Have you ever wondered how your MOAA-NH dues are used? Are we solvent? Are we getting the most bang for our bucks? Consider stepping forward to be elected as our VICE TREASURER and find out all the answers and more.

The Vice Treasurer’s role within the framework of the Board of Directors is to be able to step in when the Treasurer is unavailable for any reason. To do so, the Vice Treasurer is kept current in, and familiar with, all our chapter’s finances. The Vice Treasurer can write checks, make deposits, prepare treasury reports, and complete reports external to the organization (e.g. IRS, State of NH, etc.). If you like dealing with money, here is an excellent opportunity to serve your fellow members. If you are interested in participating, please contact our current Treasurer, Roby Day (603-642-7956; fuzzbutthall@comcast.net).

Let’s Welcome Our New 2018 Chapter Members!

- CW4 Michael L. Brookins, USA (Ret.)**
- LtCol Robert J. Callahan, USMCR**
- COL Ronald G. Corsetti, USA (Ret)**
- MAJ Jackson E. Gaylord Jr., USA (Ret)**
- Maj Jane A. Hebert, USAF (Ret)**
- Maj Sean P. Heichlinger, USMC (Ret)**
- 1LT David G. Howell, USA (Ret)**
- Maj Michael B. MacCannell, ANG**
- CDR James McLaughlin, USCG (Ret)**
- Mrs E Diana Morris, USN**
- CAPT Everett S. Pratt, USN (Ret)**
- Maj Steven A. Schehl, USMC (Ret)**
- CAPT Kurtis L. Virkaitis, USCG**
- Maj Robert W. Vose, ANG (Ret)**



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.



Reflections . . .



“No Mom. They’re gas tanks... not bombs.”

A Befuddled Mother

As a freshly caught Naval Aviator, I took my first cross-country in my A4C Skyhawk (aka Scooter). I flew from Florida, stopping in Virginia for a bag of gas, then on to NAS New York at Floyd Bennett Field. On arriving at New York, I realized that I had too much fuel on board to

land on a 6,000 foot runway. Dumping as much as I could, I landed heavy, blew a tire, and took the long-field arresting gear. By doing so, I had closed the field, stranding four Reserve A4s who were airborne, low on gas, and with no place to go.

After profuse apologies to the station Operations Officer, I was picked up on the flight line by my mother, who was appalled at the sight of my aircraft. “*Why are you flying around the countryside with bombs on your airplane?!*” “*Good Grief, Mom,*” I replied. “*They’re gas tanks, not bombs!*” The lesson to be learned is —

Don’t let your mother near the flight line!

Epilogue: I got off easy. The Reserve pilots, however, were in serious trouble with the FAA, because they had no airfield approach plates with them and had to be told where to go by some rather irate New York Center controllers. That’ll teach ‘em, don’t you think?

James R. Day, Jr. “Roby”
CDR, USN (Ret)



The Military Officers Association of America - New Hampshire Chapter (MOAA-NH) Received Its 16th 5-Star Level of Excellence Award

Every year, MOAA’s affiliates compete for a four- or five-star Level of Excellence (LOE) Award. Application for the award is a very extensive process including information about the chapter’s significant activities during the year. Based on 2017 programs and initiatives, 139 of MOAA’s very best councils and chapters (approx 29%) earned five-star awards, while 26 above-average councils and chapters received four-star awards. This year MOAA-NH received its 5-Star award for the sixteenth year in a row (every year since the award was given).

Belleau Wood Buttons

In the spring of 2005, while stationed with Marine Forces Europe in Germany, I attended the Memorial Day ceremony at the American cemetery at Belleau Wood. The uniform of the day was Blue-White “A.” I billeted in a quaint bed-and-breakfast with a delightful French host.

The evening before the event, I began to prepare my uniform. As I was removing the cleaner’s plastic from my uniform blouse, I anxiously noted the absence of two buttons on the front of the coat. In a mild panic, I searched my room, luggage, vehicle and all points in between—no luck. I alerted the Marine who was traveling with me in hopes that he had some buttons to spare—no joy there either. I asked my host, who scoured her collection and produced some close resemblances, but those would not do.

My fellow Marine suggested we ask Gilles Lagin, the local battlefield museum curator, if he might have something that could be used as a close substitute. We traveled to the museum to see Gilles, who, as a child, collected discarded odds and ends from the battlefield. As he listened to my story, he rummaged through stacks of boxes yet to be catalogued. After some time, Gilles produced a small box with some weathered buttons. Of those buttons two were of the same size and shape of my missing ones but were black and chipped. Gilles let me borrow them.

With buttons in hand, I returned to the bed-and-breakfast and asked my host for some gold paint. She produced a flat gold paint, and after conducting some testing, I proceeded to gild the relic buttons. The gloss did not match the anodized buttons so I grabbed a can of Brasso and a rag and was able to produce a credible shine that came close to matching the anodized sheen. My host then sewed on the World War I vintage buttons.

Upon donning my uniform and being closely inspected by my travel companion, we collectively deemed that I might be able to pull it off.

I swore my travel companion to secrecy, and braved the scrutiny of my fellow Marines. Nobody was the wiser as my ruse remained undetected even while participating in the events at the Devil Dog Fountain.

A couple days later, an article appeared in the local paper explaining how Gilles had saved the day for a hapless American Marine in dire need.

Since it was written in French, my secret remained safe ... until now.

Geoffrey A. Corson
LtCol, USMC (Ret)
Chesapeake, Va.

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16th YEAR



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WHY MOAA?

New Chapter Member Directory

The chapter is planning to issue a new member directory at the beginning of next year (2019). 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 on this newsletter. It has all the data that will be included in your entry in the directory (except your telephone number). Please check that your name, rank, service, status [(ACT), (RET), (FRM)], spouse's name, address and zip code are all current and spelled correctly. If you can still find your old directory (it is dated 2016 on a pink 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 03821-0712 or emailed to Chapter@moaa-nh.org. Please ensure that they are received by the end of this year to be included in the directory. As they say in computer speak, *garbage in – garbage out!* **Thank you for your assistance!**

Michael McLean
MOAA-NH Secretary

Remaining 2018 MOAA-NH Luncheon and Annual Meeting

September 22 Bistro Nouveau, Grantham
November 10 Nashua Country Club, Annual Meeting

September 2018

Taps

New Hampshire:

Mrs. Mary C. Barker [Exeter]
Mrs. Jean A. Bergeron [Exeter]
Mrs. Jeanne K. Crouch [Manchester]
MAJ George R. Horner, USAF (Ret) [Goffstown]
LCDR Thomas L. Keily, Jr., USN (Ret) [Manchester]
Mrs. Patricia M. Taylor [Cantebury]
MAJ Don L. Thompson USAF (Ret) [Durham]
MAJ Joseph V. Titone, Jr., USA (Ret) [Seabrook]

Arizona:

Mrs. Helen L. Wilcox [Phoenix]

Connecticut:

COL Andrew R. Schindler, USAF (Ret) [Niantic]
Mrs. June P. Tucker [Bloomfield]

Maryland:

Mrs. Evelyn S. Munson [Annapolis]

Minnesota:

CAPT Robert E. Flolid, USN (Ret) [Royalton]

Virginia:

CAPT Derrill P. Crosby, USN (Ret) [Sterling]

