



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



September 2022

Autumn News & Events

Volume 44, No. 3



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 Provides Information on Proposed Reduction in MTF Coverage

During the July meeting at the Red Blazer, a decision was made to provide the CODEL with the chapter's take and information regarding the DOD's proposal to "Descope Military Treatment facilities". Following several drafts and coordination among key members of the MOAA-NH BOD (thanks to Pete Burdett, Andrew Breuder, Bob Jaffin, Larry Miller, and others too numerous to list in this short piece), I signed a letter to all members of the NH Congressional Delegation, on August 2nd. This letter focused on the continued erosion of military retiree benefits in the crucial area of health care, and how those reductions affect both recruitment and retention of a quality force.

I am pleased to let you all know that on August 9th, the combined Congressional delegations of New Hampshire and Maine signed a letter to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Honorable Kathleen Hicks, discussing our concerns in some detail. The CODEL letter focused on the Portsmouth Naval Yard's clinic, and the impact that "descopeing" would have on AD military and retired personnel in the containment area of the clinic. Moreover, the delegation urgently requested a briefing from the DOD "within the next 30 days" to update the delegation on key operational issues for the PNSY outpatient clinic and allied concerns.

I and other members of the BOD will follow up with the CODEL in early September 2022 and provide more information to all MOAA members later that month. If anyone desires a copy of the CODEL letter, please let me know.

Jim LeFebvre, MOAA-NH President

MOAA-NH Financial State of Affairs

Our financial condition has remained stable for many years, and our balance sheet has consistently grown since December 2012 when financial reports to the membership were first presented in classic accounting formats. Our total assets in 2012 amounted to over \$278,600, and by 2021 they had grown to over \$544,000. That said, since the beginning of 2022, we have experienced a loss of about \$45,000 from total assets, but that is understandable.

The losses in 2022 to date are due primarily to the declining securities markets that will recover in time. Several factors can explain the growth between 2012 and 2021, those being securities markets growth and our own organizational activities. Our membership has consistently been generous with donations to our scholarship program, and with the self-discipline inherent in making our events pay for themselves, there has been no damage done to our treasury.

Despite our self-imposed restrictions regarding use of funds (e.g. Scholarship and Life Membership investments), unencumbered funds for defraying operating costs have always fluctuated widely, and today they stand at over \$10,000. It is significant that, since 2012, we have never had to withdraw funds from the Life Membership investments to pay for operating expenses, covering expenses entirely with current year finances. Can we sustain such financial momentum? "Only The Shadow knows."

Roby Day, CDR USN (ret)

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

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

VICE PRESIDENT

Lt Col Laurance M. Miller, USAFR (Ret), 603-440-5054, millerlm73@me.com

FINANCE (TREASURER)

VACANT

SECRETARY

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

INCOMING NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Andrew J Breuder, MD, MPH, FACPM, FAsMA, CPE, 603-494-6639, abreuder@comcast.net

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



2023 MOAA-NH TRAVEL PROGRAM

All our 2023 trips are posted on the MOAA-NH website (moaa-nh.org) under Group Travel and through our periodic "Trip of the Year" blast email messages.

Alaska Discovery Land and Cruise featuring a 7-night Holland America cruise; August 30 – September 10, 2023; 12 Days; \$5299.00 per person, double occupancy. Price includes 26 meals, air from Logan, transportation to and from Logan, taxes, surcharges, hotel transfers and scheduled tours. Highlights include Fairbanks, Denali National Park-Talkeetna, Anchorage, 7-Night Cruise through the inside passage Hubbard Glacier, Glacier Bay, Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan and Vancouver BC.

Discover the Spotlight on Nashville. March 26 – 30, 2023, 1999.00 per person, double occupancy. Price includes air from Logan, taxes, surcharges, travel to and from Logan, seven meals and scheduled tours. Highlights include one hotel for the entire stay, Strike a Cord Tour, Grand Ole Time and A Small Town with a Story to tell.

Peaks of Europe: The Alps to the Dolomites: April 14 – 26, 13 Days; \$5899.00 per person, double occupancy. Price includes air from Logan, taxes, fees, surcharges, hotel transfers, scheduled tours in Switzerland, Austria, Germany and Italy, transportation to and from Logan and 18 meals. Highlights include Chamonix, Mount Blanc, Lavaux Vineyards Wine Experience, Montreux, Golden Pass, Gstaad, Jungfrau, Lucerne, Alpine Walks and Nature Experiences, Innsbruck, Dolomites, Cortina, Prosecco Region and Villa Stay.

A Taste of the Balkans: 13 – 28 May 2023, 16 Days, \$5599.00 per person, double occupancy. Price includes air from Logan, transportation to and from Logan, taxes, fees, surcharges, hotel transfers, 22 meals, scheduled tours in Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia, Herzegovina and Slovenia. Highlights include Dubrovnik, Choice on Tour, Kotor, Mostar, Sarajevo, Home-Hosted Dinner, Plitvice Lakes, Impact Moment, Motovun, Rovinj, Truffle Hunt, Ljubljana, Lake Bled and Zagreb.

We continue to emphasize our **"WORLD CONNECT"** with Collette Travel. You are entitled to select any state, country or specific tour offered by Collette. View available Collette Travel tours on the web <https://www.gocollette.com> or <https://www.tourvacationstogo.com>. Contact me or Tom and we will provide you with our World Connect member number and any other information you need for your desired trip that is not scheduled on our group travel program. Reservations are made through the retail division of Collette. Tom or I can assist you through the reservation process.

For additional information or reservations, contact me, 603-391-7106, email: tonyajib@gmail.com or Tom Kyle, 603-686-2663, 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 community organizations such as Kiwanis, Elks, religious organizations and other veteran organizations such as The American Legion, VFW, etc.

-Tony B

President's Corner

CPT James R. LeFebvre, USAR



I'm writing this piece in late August, a couple of weeks after the August 6, 2022 "bake" at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. I want to thank Ken Lull, in his last year as "bake master", Gary Terhune (Admin OIC), Roby Day (Finance Master) and Michael McLean (all around expert), as well as many others for their hard work and excellent performance. I would be remiss if I did not give Larry Miller a special tip of the hat. Larry filled in for me flawlessly, as right knee replacement surgery made attendance impossible. Making his job more difficult was the attendance of the MOAA National President (General Adkins) and two key MOAA national staff officers. Please read Larry's piece elsewhere in the Slate.

In June, I wrote about "Personnel being Policy". I must revisit that subject today. To continue the "Bake's" success, in the midst of headwinds, we must find a suitable candidate to replace Ken Lull, after 7 years of outstanding service. Your chapter also has key vacancies in the role of chapter treasurer, PAO, and a person to serve as under study to the long serving Administrative Officer, Michael McLean. For more information on any position, please contact me directly at (603) 356-7296.

A major part of our personnel challenge involves a major reduction in chapter strength. Ten years or so ago, the chapter had 1,150 members; today, we are down to 562, and those remaining are 10 years older, with all that implies. Clearly, a continued annual net decline of 45-50 persons per year can be devastating to our chapter's future. WE ARE ALL RECRUITERS, and a copy of our membership application is included in this Granite Slate. Please feel free to print it out and use it as you talk to prospective chapter members.

As most of us are fully aware, the cost of everything is increasing, and you must expect a somewhat significant increase in the future costs of luncheons and special events with lunch included. Citing just one example, prices for a Fisher Cats special event, including set aside seating, hamburger/hot dog buffet and all the fixings was reviewed this year and deemed cost prohibitive. We are always seeking to do interesting and affordable events. If you have suggestions, please contact Gerry Boyle, Chad Chadwick or me.

Closing on a positive note, our annual meeting and luncheon is scheduled for November 5, 2022, at the Nashua Country Club. We are fortunate to have the Commander of the USS Constitution, the oldest active-duty warship in the world, as our guest speaker. Be on the lookout for the event flyer in your mail in the relatively near future.

Take Care and Be Safe.

Jim LeFebvre

Editor's Note: Larry Miller was kind enough to provide links to two articles of interest prior to the November Luncheon: "USS Constitution and the Legacy of Live Oak" ([USS Constitution and the Legacy of Live Oak > The Sextant > Article View \(dodlive.mil\)](https://www.dodlive.mil)) and "The 225th Anniversary of the Creation of the United States Navy" ("[Act to provide a naval armament" – 225th Anniversary of the Creation of the United States Navy > The Sextant > Article View \(dodlive.mil\)](https://www.dodlive.mil)").

New Hampshire Chapter



***Active Duty,
Reserve, Guard,
Former and
Retired Officers***

WHO WE ARE

The New Hampshire Chapter was formed in November 1979 with the purposes, among which are, to foster fraternal relations between all branches of the various Services, to further the education of children of Service personnel, to present their rights and interests when Service matters are under consideration and to aid active and retired personnel of the various Services from which our members are drawn.

The NH Chapter has approximately 600 members. Most live in NH but we have a number who live in the surrounding states of ME, VT and MA.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Membership in the New Hampshire Chapter is open to all who are or have been commissioned officers and warrant officers of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Public Health Service, and of the Reserve, National Guard and other components of these Services. That includes **retired, former and current** officers. Surviving spouses are also eligible. Membership is *also* open to **retired, former and current** officers and warrant officers who are *not* members of MOAA national.

Visit us Online at:
www.moa-nh.org

An Invitation to Join the

**New Hampshire Chapter
Military Officers Association
of America**

- ✓ ***Protect your Benefits***
- ✓ ***Participate in Local events***
- ✓ ***Participate in national events***
- ✓ ***Have a voice in government***
- ✓ ***Provide community service***
- ✓ ***Continue to serve***

THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

Why MOAA chapter membership matters.



New Hampshire Chapter



MOAA AND CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

Name _____

Rank _____ Branch of Service _____

Active Retired Former Reserve National Guard Surviving Spouse

Spouse name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Date of birth _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

(To ensure deliverability of MOAA communications, please provide a personal email address.)

Are you a member of MOAA? Yes No Unknown

MOAA Member Number (if known) _____

Not a MOAA national member yet? Check here to receive a BASIC Membership at no cost to you. **BASIC**

And, for only \$4 a month, you can upgrade to **PREMIUM** membership, giving you immediate access to a full spectrum of career and financial resources, exclusive publications, college scholarships for dependents, and countless discounts on products and travel. **Visit moaa.org/join to learn more.**

How did you hear about MOAA Chapter involvement? _____

Are you a member of any other MOAA Chapter(s)? Yes No

If yes, which one(s)? _____

To complete enrollment:

• **Fill in this form** on your computer, save it, and email it to Chapter_moaa-nh@comcast.net as an attachment. Do not include credit card information.

We will contact you to finalize payment if required; or

• **Print it out**, fill it in by hand, and mail it with a check made out to _____ NH Chapter of MOAA, PO Box 712, Dover, NH 03821-0712

• Go to <https://www.moaa-nh.org/Membership.htm>

You will be opted in to receive e-communications from MOAA and your local chapter. You will be able to opt out of any further e-communications at any time. MOAA will not sell or share personal information.

THE MOAA-NH CHAPTER'S MISSION

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- 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

WHAT WE DO

Our programs include six meetings per year, usually on a Saturday involving a short business meeting and a timely speaker. The meetings are held around the state so members can share the drives to the functions.

A newsletter w/ pictures, news and messages is issued four times a year. Function notices for scheduled events are sent to all members.

The Chapter supports state ROTC & JROTC units. We make college grants to children & grandchildren of chapter members. We provide support to the Veterans Home at Tilton.

CHAPTER DUES

Yearly \$19.00 (Regular Members)
Yearly \$12.00 (Surviving Spouses)

Website - www.moaa-nh.org
Facebook - www.facebook.com/MOAA-NH

Lobster Bake 2022

The 38th annual Lobster Bake (LB) with the Southern Maine chapter is now in the books. It was a much anticipated event. And one of MOAA-NHs most attended events. The weather cooperated with sunny skies, floating white clouds, low humidity and a beautiful view of the inlet. The day was jam packed with many highlights. First off, the generosity of our members was demonstrated by the over 117 food items collected for the Manchester Food Pantry. The LB kicked off at 1045 with the presentation of colors by the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) Color Guard, graciously provided by the PNSY Commander, CAPT Michael Oberdorf. The Pledge of Allegiance and our National Anthem followed with an Invocation by Gary Terhune.

Many honored guests, or their representatives, were acknowledged. The following were announced:

- Senator Maggie Hassan, represented by Justin Torino
- US Representative Chris Pappas
- State Senator Tom Sherman, District 24, Rye
- Brigadier General (Retired) Don Bolduc, and his wife Sharon
- CAPT Michael Oberdorf, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Commander, and his wife Tara
- Command Sgt Major Nicholas Fregeau, NE Army Recruiting Battalion
- Brenda Pennels, Southern Maine MOAA Chapter. Brenda introduced the Veterans Benefits Administration representatives, Jennifer Brown, Executive Director, Mike Brawn and Chris Smith.

We were honored, this year, with attendance from MOAA National:

- CAPT (Retired) Erin Stone, Senior Director, Council and Chapter Affairs
- Col (Retired) Jim O'Brien, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
- Lt Gen (Retired) Dana Atkin, President and Chief Executive Officer

Gen Atkin welcomed all and thanked the NH Congressional delegation, especially Rep Pappas, for assisting in MOAA's efforts to support our veterans.

Lobster, steak, clams, potatoes, onions, biscuits, and butter contributed to a good time had by all. But, all of this could not have happened without the superb planning and leadership of our bake meister, Ken Lull and his team of lobster dunkers. This will be Ken's final cook. After seven years, Ken is stepping down as meister. Thanks for the memories, Ken.

Until next year, "Good night, Mrs Calabash, wherever you are".

Lt Col Laurance M. Miller, USAFR (Ret)

New Granite Slate Editor

Please welcome Andrew Breuder as the new Granite Slate Editor starting with the December issue. Thank you, Drew!

ROTC/JROTC Report, Academic Year 2021-2022

The impact of COVID-19 lingers still as 4 of our JROTC units did not participate just as last year. Missing are Alvirne, Nashua North and Spaulding all AFJROTC and Winnacunnet Marine JROTC. Unlike last year when we only had one public ceremony all this year were open.

I was especially pleased to have all units covered with branch-matched presenters. The 2 Army JROTC units located in the North Country are most difficult to match but this year Col. Gregory M. D'Arbonne who heads up the NH Chapter of AUSA and is one of our members took on double duty for his organization and ours at Fall Mountain and White Mountain Regional HS Army JROTC units.

Two new volunteers stepped up for Dover HS and Manchester West HS Navy units. Capt Scott Pratt USN (ret) was a perfect match for Dover as he is a Dover HS grad prior to the program's birth at that school. He is a well appreciated asset to that program as he lives nearby in Dover.

LT Don Moskowitz USN of Londonderry did the honors at West in presenting the award to Theodore Deel who will attend the Naval Academy this fall.

I was blessed to present to my Air Force JROTC neighbors as Pinkerton is within 2 miles of my home in Derry and Salem is reasonably close.

Our UNH ROTC units had very distinguished presenters this year with new Chapter member BG Don Bolduc doing the honors for the Army unit and our own retired Flight Surgeon Col. Andrew Breuder not only presenting at a full-blown Dining Out but being drafted as the guest speaker! Both senior ROTC presenters gave motivational speeches to the cadets and guests.

Continue to pray for these programs as they are more needed than ever.

Joseph DiChiaro USAF Col (ret)

Scholarship Recipients

Scholarship grants for 2022-2023 were given to 8 outstanding students to include Thomas Velardi, Matthew Schwartz, Justin Morse, Tatiana Bahoque, Avery Marr, Elisabeth Velardi, Benjamin Bahoque and Maria Haveda for \$11,000.

Lt Col Wayne Balcom, USAF (Ret)

DOD Next Gen USID Cards & TSA Usage

Identification cards for service members, retirees, and their dependents have changed to the Next Generation Uniform Service Identification (USID) cards and are being issued now. Those whose cards do not have an expiration date will need to upgrade within the next four years. The USID cards provide enhanced security features that include compatibility with Transportation Security Administration (TSA) checkpoints in all U.S. airports as a REAL ID, and free [TSA Pre-Check](#) availability for currently serving service members and DOD civilians. If you or your dependents have not been issued the new Next Gen USID cards, [schedule your appointment](#) today!

*Excerpt from VFW Action Corps Weekly

The New Hampshire Chapter of the MOAA
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www.moaa-nh.org



WHY MOAA?
YouTube video

Welcome to Our New Chapter Members!

COL Ellen M Bald
USA (Ret.)
15 Linden Dr
West Lebanon, NH 03784-1055

COL Charles E Frost Jr.
USAR Annette Buford-Frost
39 Overlook Dr
Dunbarton, NH 03046-4712

September 2022 Taps



Lt Col Charles R. Alexander, USAF (Ret.)
Barefoot Bay, FL

Mrs. Grace A. Bosch
North Hampton, NH

Col Robert M. Chamberlain, USAF (Ret.)
Camarillo, CA

Mrs. Mary R. Clark
Groveland, MA

Maj Harry A. Welch, USAFR (Ret.)
Meredith, 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.