

NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
8 October 2020

Call to Order: President Bob Jaffin called the meeting to order at 1834 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled followed by the invocation delivered by Gary Terhune.

Attending: Balcom, Boyle, Breuder, Burdett, Coulter, J. Day, S. Day, Ikstrums, Jaffin, LeFebvre, McLean, Miller, Terhune.

Opening Remarks: Bob Jaffin began by asking if everyone got the agenda. He then said that he got a call from a staffer in Jean Shaheen's office saying that they are planning to do a virtual next Wednesday with various veterans groups. Bob asked if anyone had any questions they wanted brought up. He had one issue – the wait time for VA ratings. He relayed a story of a friend of his who waited three years to get his. Bob said his Senator's office said that was normal. Bob said the other issue that he plans to bring up is that someone needs to revamp the Defense Health Authority (DHA). He also said he will bring up moving the Commissary from the Shipyard to Pease. Peter Burdett brought up Concurrent Receipt for all. Bob asked if anyone had any issues with NDAA and the various items that have been attached to it.

Immediate Past President Remarks: Warren Coulter had no comment.

Secretary's Report: Michael McLean reported that we do have a quorum. He said he received three spelling corrections to the September 2020 minutes which he has corrected. Michael asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Sharon Day commented that she was impressed by the thoroughness of the minutes given that it was a ZOOM meeting. Motion made to approve the minutes, seconded and motion passed to approve the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Roby Day reported that we are still solvent, sort of. He said that we have enough retained earnings to carry us to the new year. It was reported that we have 57 people signed up for the November Luncheon. Motion made to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded and motion passed to approve the report.

Trustees of the Trust Fund: Andrew Breuder reported that not much is happening on our investments. Compared to December of last year, we are doing well.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Meeting: Bob Jaffin began by saying that, based on conversations before the meeting; he is more comfortable with the protocols in place by the Nashua C. C. He went into some of the procedures that Michael McLean had mentioned that the Country Club has instituted. Bob asked if anyone had any questions or concerns about the annual meeting. He added that we all need to be monitors to ensure people are following the rules. He asked Roby Day if the responses were about the same as luncheons before the pandemic. Everyone agreed that the note in the flyer about the attendance limit helped.

2020 – 2021 Program Planning: Bob began by talking about the January luncheon. We don't know if the Portsmouth C. C. wants us. Bob said that Ray D'Amante has agreed to take over being in charge of the GSWA. Gary Terhune said that he normally starts talking with the Portsmouth C. C. in

mid November. Gary said he will contact the Country Club. Bob reiterated what he said before that he is comfortable with two outdoor events next year – one in the spring and one in the fall. He said we can always add functions if the situation changes. Bob brought up the Clambake next year, switching it to September. Roby Day said that we have September locked in, but couldn't remember the date. Michael McLean brought up the point that the Shipyard might not allow us to have the numbers we usually have for the Clambake. Michael also brought up that a possible venue for an outdoor event in the spring is the Pease Golf Course which has a large tent. Bob brought up possibly having something outdoors at the Wright Museum [*in Wolfeboro*]. Sharon Day asked if anyone had heard from Bruce [Avery]. No one had.

BOD appointments and Vacancies: Bob Jaffin asked what are we going to do. Warren Coulter asked what about splitting up the Treasurer's job. He suggested splitting off the checking in at luncheons. Sharon Day said that function used to be the responsibility of the event coordinator. Roby Day pointed out that even if we don't have a named Treasurer come this November, he still is the only person to write checks. Roby added that he made a mistake years ago when he assumed the responsibilities of the event coordinators. Roby and Sharon reminded everyone that Michael McLean used to do it all. Bob Jaffin asked if there is any direct oversight of the coordinators at this time. Michael pointed out that Gerry Boyle is the Program Chairman, who should oversee the coordinators. Bob asked whether Jim LeFebvre could help oversee the coordination of luncheon planning. Bob added that with fewer Board meetings, there should be less work for the Treasurer. Bob also asked whether we could make the Treasurer position a group effort. Roby pointed out that the bookkeeper job and preparing the monthly reports are time consuming. The consensus was that it is a one person job. There was further discussion on the responsibilities of the luncheon coordinator. Jim LeFebvre pointed out that there are several guides out there that haven't been updated for a number of years. Michael said that the Event Guide, that covers luncheon planning, is still valid for the most part. The appendix that covers the names of the coordinators needs to be updated, but the rest by and large is still valid. Michael said he will send the Event Guide to everyone. Peter Burdett brought up that we need a second signer on the checking account. Roby commented that there should be a Vice Treasurer who will be the second signer.

BREAK FOR DINNER

Reconvened Meeting at 1939

BOD appointments and Vacancies (cont.): Bob Jaffin continued by bringing up the Public Affairs position. He then mentioned that Joe DiChiaro had volunteered to do Personal Affairs. Sharon Day reminded everyone that these positions are not Board positions so they do not have to be chapter members. They can be spouses like Marie Chipola who is doing a wonderful job as newsletter editor. Bob agreed that it could be any member of a person's family. Bob brought up Annie Ohlson, the widow of Nils Ohlson, who ran the "Military Blues" as an example of someone who could fill a position.

Next BOD meeting: Bob Jaffin began by saying that we will probably do ZOOM in December if we're having the January luncheon. Michael McLean suggested that we do the ZOOM meeting in January rather than December. The consensus agreed. Michael said we need to tell the Red Blazer what meetings we will have in person next year. Bob said our next meeting will be a full ZOOM meeting in January on the third Wednesday. Bob said we have no firm events next year other than the Clambake, tentatively in September. Michael added the annual in November. Bob said the next

Board meeting after January will be in March. That will be an in person meeting at the Red Blazer on the second Thursday.

Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT/Vets Count): Peter Burdett asked for a few minutes to brief on the SVAC meeting. He began by saying that the MOAA Annual Meeting this year will be a virtual one. The SVAC met on the sixth of October. They had three speakers. The first was Congressman Pappas, who talked about veteran suicide. The second was Dalton McLaughlin who runs a program called “Helping Vets”. Peter said the bottom line is if a veteran is having problems, they should contact “211”. Then Lynne Blankenkemper spoke about the same issue as is included in the September issue of our newsletter. The VA from both Manchester and White River Junction gave briefings. Peter reminded everyone to get their flu shot. There was a discussion about the different types of flu shots and their availability. Veterans Count received a 1.2 million dollar grant from the Federal Government. The NH Veterans Cemetery is looking for three new Directors. Peter then mentioned the issue of Arlington National Cemetery running out of space and new rules for burial there. In November the SVAC will meet on the tenth as a ZOOM meeting. There was a brief discussion on the comparison between Arlington and Boscawen Cemeteries.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chapter engagement internal and external: Bob Jaffin said that this subject was woven throughout the meeting, but he wanted people to think about what “things” we could do as a chapter to get us more engaged with our community, to help veterans and perhaps get some money from MOAA to “do” these things. Bob then went on to talk about the needs of older veterans. He said that most of what he reads is about the younger veterans (PTSD, etc.). Bob said we need to raise the chapter’s profile in the state. Larry Miller added that the “Bells of Peace” initiative is moving forward under the name of MOAA-NH. He commented that young military members do not know why we celebrate Veterans Day on November 11th. Bob said we need to educate the younger generation on the meaning of a number of holidays.

Last Minute Items: Jim LeFebvre brought up the article he put in the newsletter about suggestions for luncheons/events. He said he had a twenty minute conversation with John Carty about what was wrong with our programs. John said we are in a rut. Jim talked about a Mount Washington Hotel weekend including taking the cog railroad up Mt. Washington. Jim mentioned an event with the Fisher Cats. There was discussion about venues we had visited in the past. Bob Jaffin said for everyone to send him their ideas for possible events and he will collate them. Bob mentioned the brunch that a few of the members were included at the Wentworth last year.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, 20 January, 2021 on ZOOM.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2007 hours.

Michael A. McLean
CDR, USN (Ret.)
Secretary
New Hampshire Chapter