

**MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA**  
**NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**  
**12 October 2023**

**Call to Order:** The BOD meeting at Roger's Pizza, Dover, NH was called to order by President Jim Lefebvre at 1200 hours. The invocation was led by the President and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Warren Coulter and recited by those assembled.

**Attending:** Breuder, Burdett, Chadwick, Coulter, Day (Roby & Sharon), DuVall, Hulsey, LeFebvre, McLean, Miller (Larry & Pat). A quorum of members was officially not present, so the President requested a vote on whether the actual members present could be considered to be a quorum for the purposes of sending items to the annual meeting next month. A motion to accept this one-time exception was proposed by Burdett, seconded, and approved by all those present.

**President's Opening Remarks:** This is the last BOD meeting before the annual meeting next month at the Nashua Country Club, and Jim looks forward to seeing everyone there. A new BOD and slate of officers will be sworn in at that meeting. Today we will be voting on the proposed annual budget, the new BOD members, and Jim will nominate the slate of new officers. In addition, there will be some discussion regarding the next Granite State Warrior's award.

**Immediate Past President Remarks:** Bob Jaffin was not present.

**Vice President Remarks:** Larry received an email from a group called, "Relationships, Aging, and Coping Lab" who was looking for volunteers over age 65 to participate in a study about sleep, emotions, and to complete a survey and are offering a stipend of \$75. He was just making members aware of this survey. He also mentioned that the most recent MOAA newsletter discusses the upcoming COLA numbers. MOAA National is also encouraging everyone to sign up for the Advocacy in Action (AiA) items based on the seven areas that MOAA is supporting.

**Secretary's Report:** Michael said he received no corrections to the September minutes. He mentioned that MOAA National has moved up the due date for the LOE submissions from 1 May 24 to 31 January 2024, so they have more time to review the submissions. This means that right after the annual meeting, we have to start working on our submission, for review in December, and submission in January. At this point, it is too late to try and accomplish additional items to submit. Michael will begin sending out requests for inputs to the report right after the annual meeting. Drew asked if there were any option to negotiate some intermediate submission date? Jim said he would call Frank Michael on Monday to discuss this. They only recently published the results of this year's LOE submissions. The communications award submission date remains on 1 February. A motion to accept the Secretary's report was made, seconded, and approved by all present.

**Bookkeeper's Report:** Roby stated that we are in good shape financially. There were no questions about the September treasury report. He also mentioned that currently we have 40

reservations for the annual meeting. The deadline for reservations is 27 October. Jim will ask Corson to send out another email blast. Michael made a motion to send the proposed 2024 budget to the members at the annual meeting was made, seconded, and approved by all present.

**Trustee of the Trust Fund:** Drew said that since the last report, investments have gone down 2.6% in value, but overall, they have increased 7.7% since 31 Dec 22. The information for the End of Year report has already been submitted to Michael for the annual meeting.

## **DISCUSSION**

**Annual Meeting:** Michael says that all of the reports are in for the annual report publication. Jim plans to be at the Nashua Country club at around 0930 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and will stay in a hotel the night before. Michael will send an electronic copy of the reports to the BOD members so you can be prepared for your presentation at the meeting. Jim would like BOD members there at 0945, if possible. Chad and Gary Terhune (not present) stated that they had been all over the seacoast looking for a venue for the Granite State Warrior award in January. However, just about everywhere, the projected catering costs range from \$6K-16K from four different caterers. We still need to establish a date for this luncheon. Gary will check out the “Old Salt” which has a significant limitation on attendees. Most of the catering cost is due to labor for the chef, waitresses, etc. Pete has suggested that we do the next Granite State Warrior presentation at the upcoming annual meeting as we will have a speaker from MOAA National present, and this could be beneficial to us. This would save money as the meal is already catered at the club. They also noted that fewer members are attending luncheons in January. If we did the award now, then maybe we could return to the usual process next year. Pete said that the normal procedure would result in a roughly \$45/plate lunch with the chance of unpredictable weather in January. Peter also thought that doing this at the annual meeting might result in some publicity for us in the MOAA magazine. Peter contacted Ray D’Amante for potential candidates and he recommended his neighbor, Jack Daly, Jr., who is the current advisor to “Veterans’ Rest Stop (VRS)”. Peter submitted a handwritten four-page list of Mr. Daly’s accomplishments. Due to the short time available, Peter wanted to present Mr. Daly’s nomination to the BOD, and if approved, Ray could put together the citation and Larry Miller could obtain a suitable plaque. Jim and Ray have spoken several times in recent days, including before today’s meeting. Jim endorsed this nomination and presented a motion to proceed believing the plan was for the annual meeting in 2024. Peter countered saying that he intended to present the award at the upcoming annual meeting. The original motion to proceed with this nomination/presentation at the upcoming meeting was generally agreed to but Michael strongly objected and presented his reasons for doing so. He felt that we were trying to do too much in too short of time for this meeting and recommended the presentation be delayed to the annual meeting in 2024. There was an extended discussion between Michael and Peter regarding the costs and benefits of doing this presentation this November, and this would be the second award for this year (we had previously skipped a year). Jim requested a reconsideration of the previous vote based on Michael’s arguments. Michael also suggested approaching the Nashua Country Club to see if they would be willing to host another luncheon for this award in January. Roby made some comments about the length of the function if we

added this to the current agenda, and Chad again mentioned the projected higher luncheon costs in the future if we wanted the event on the seacoast or delayed it. After several more minutes of discussion, Jim recommended that we postpone this award to 2024 and a motion was proposed, seconded, and approved by all but one attendee. Peter will notify Ray regarding the decision. Jim stated that the slate of officers for the annual meeting will be President, Larry Miller; Vice President, Peter Burdett; Treasure/Protom, vacant; Secretary, Michael McLean. Jim will address these vacancies at the annual meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Clambake Discussion:** We still need volunteers to manage next year's event as Chad and Gary only agreed to manage this year's event. Larry said he will bring this up at every BOD meeting and concerned for next year's event.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Peter noted that the US Navy's Birthday was tomorrow on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT/Vets Count):** Peter Burdett said that on Tuesday, Mr. Ronald Corsetti, Col. (Ret), USA of Hollis was formally installed as the civilian aide to the Secretary of the US Army for NH. The SVAC meeting occurred on 3 October and was very heavily attended included Larry Miller, Bill Luti, and Peter. Peter also called the VA Medical Center in Manchester to find out when the drive-thru Flu shots were to begin. These were originally planned to take place on the 20<sup>th</sup>, but everything is not in place yet and no actual dates have been announced. The CBOC's have not yet announced when they will be doing the flu shots either. One of the SVAC speakers talked about electronic voting for military members. The proposed bill was deficient in that it didn't include provisions for military spouses as well as DOD contractors. In addition, there is a \$20 million program in NH to deliver digital equity programming. This will allocate \$4-5 million/year for five years to deliver high-speed internet connectivity for veterans including access to telehealth, online educational resources, banking, etc. Peter is going to connect this speaker with Easter Seals to ensure that this program includes the new veteran campus in Franklin. There are about 120 veterans in the state of NH who are homeless. Jack Daly (see discussion of the Granite State Warrior award) has also built some tiny homes to be used by the 15-20 veterans who are unsheltered at any time. Also, the NH Veterans Home has received funds to put up an additional wing. This will not increase overall capacity but will allow more veterans to be placed into single rooms with private bathrooms. This will also allow for better infection control practices within the facility. Currently, all veteran related legislation is still in the LSR proposal stage, so there really is nothing to discuss at the SVAC meetings regarding legislation. Also, the Governor's representative to the SVAC hasn't been attending recently. The Chair will probably inquire as to why that person hasn't been coming. The "Ask the Question" program is starting up again. It had previously been worked under the old Governor's Commission on Drugs and Alcohol Treatment and Prevention programs. Jim mentioned that the homeless coordinator in North Conway has already spent her entire budget for this year and will need a supplemental request.

He suggested that other members check out their own towns to see if a similar situation exists. Peter also mentioned that the number one question all of these programs should be asking is "Are you a veteran"? If they are, then these veterans can be referred to the VA and take the financial burden off the local town budgets. The "Ask the Question" campaign asks the question, "Have you or any member of your family served in the military"? Amy Cook, who used to work for the TAG, has been replaced by Brendan Fraser who is a retired USA Colonel. Larry also mentioned the proposed law about NH not allowing Army or Air National Guard personnel to be deployed outside of NH in contingencies without specific approval by the Governor and a declaration of war by Congress. This violates existing federal law. In the NH legislature, this bill will probably end up being ITL (inexpedient to legislate).

**Personal Affairs:** Jim has made recommendations in the annual report. He recommends that someone else in the future pick up this responsibility. He recommends that other members of the BOD pick up this as secondary responsibility.

**Membership:** Since the September BOD meeting, there were no new members, no deceased, and no dropped members, for a total of 545.

**Recruiting:** No report. Tom Goff, Michael McLean, and Jim will become a sub-committee working on recruiting and looking for people in different regions to spearhead efforts in those regions. This should allow for better communication on why non-members should join the local chapter in addition to their national membership. Frank Michael, deputy director of chapters from MOAA National, said that he and other staff will be combing through the approximately 1,600 members in NH who are national members but not chapter members. Current national policy is not to release these names to the local chapter but will send out a blast email to those identified members.

**Programs:** Gerry Boyle only sent a summary of the meetings for this past year, not the upcoming year. The proposed list of dates for meetings was listed in the September BOD minutes. The following list is extracted from the September minutes: "Jim has a proposed schedule for luncheons in 2024 starting on 20 January with a luncheon on the seacoast for the Granite State Warriors award at the Service Credit Union worldwide headquarters. April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Common Man in Plymouth. June 15<sup>th</sup> in North Conway. August 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the Clambake at PNSY. On 21 September, there will be a luncheon in Concord at a place TBD. On 2 November, it will again be the annual meeting at the Nashua CC." Jim will be the OIC for the event in North Conway and will look at the White Mountain Hotel/Resort for options. We will need OIC's for the other events.

**Web page:** In September, there were 756 hits. Michael will no longer be reporting on the particular areas of the webpage for hits because the provider is now making an additional charge of \$9.99/month to generate that report. Jim mentioned that next January, MOAA National will be sending us \$1,250, intended to defray our so-called Council expenses and an additional \$180 to fund the web page/Zoom operations.

**Travel Program:** We received about \$1,300 from Collette for travel programs this year.

**Scholarship Loan Program:** No new information other than what is in the annual report.

**Granite State Warrior's Award:** See comments in the "Annual Meeting" discussion of these minutes.

#### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Nominations – Directors:** Sharon gave an update on the last meeting. Col. Chuck Frost affirmed that he will be a director which gives us a full slate. Balcolm, Dunn, Miller, Siemens, Frost and Terhune. Jim Dunn will not be attending the annual meeting has a three-day obligation for the Knights of Columbus.

**Nominations – Officers:** The present slate looks like Larry Miller for President; Peter Burdett for Vice-President, Roby Day for pro tem Treasurer, and Michael McLean for Secretary.

**Granite State Update:** Drew has an updated travel schedule from Tony Burdo and one small article for a scholarship recipient by Wayne Balcolm. Anticipated publication date in mid-December.

**Web Communications:** Jennifer Wright was not present and had no report.

**Blast Email:** No report.

#### **LIAISONS**

**ESGR:** ESGR is has a new chair appointed, Mr. Pacheco. Michael asked if Peter will still be the POC as Sandy Way has resigned. Peter will still be the POC.

**Transition Assistance:** Jim talked to several senior NCO's and junior officers and recommended that it probably was not in their best interests to get out of the military at this time. The transition website needs to be revised and updated and Jim will work on that. That job along with recruitment and retention can have a positive impact on us.

**Manchester VAMC:** Bernie was not present and only submitted information for the annual report. In addition, he collected 75 canned goods at the annual clambake for the food bank.

**Martin's Point Liaison:** No report.

The meeting was adjourned from 1310 – 1342 for lunch.

**Surviving Spouse Liaison:** Gail Joyce, our speaker at the annual meeting, has a number of functions to attend three days prior to our annual meeting and will be picked up by Pat Miller

the night before the meeting. Gail is a surviving spouse and also a Gold Star mother. Pat said she is a wonderful, great, caring person. She has never been to NH and intends to stay a few extra days to site see in the state. Jim reminded everyone that on 3 November, MOAA National is holding their annual meeting and Gail will also be attending that meeting and might be able to fill us in on what went on at that meeting.

**Next Board Meeting:** The annual meeting at the Nashua Country Club on 4 November 2023.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1345 hours which was seconded and accepted by all but one present.

Respectfully submitted

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