

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA
NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
12 September 2024

Call to Order: The BOD meeting was called to order by President Larry Miller at 1135 hours at Alan's Restaurant, Boscawen, NH. The Opening Prayer was led by Gary Terhune and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled.

Attending: Balcolm, Boyle, Breuder, Burdett, Day (Roby & Sharon), Dunn, Frost and wife Annette, Jaffin, LeFebvre, Luti, McKittrick, McLean, Miller (Larry & Pat), Siemens. A quorum of members was officially present.

President's Opening Remarks: Larry referenced an email from MOAA National concerning the unveiling of a bronze statue, "A Soldier's Journey", to be broadcast live at 1900 hours on Friday, 13 September. This statue will serve as the centerpiece of the National World War I Memorial. The statue is 60 feet long and 12 feet high.

Immediate Past President Remarks: Jim discussed the slate of officers for the November meeting. Larry will run again for President; Bob Jaffin for Vice-President; Peter Burdett for Treasurer protem; and Michael McLean has agreed to remain as Secretary for one more year. The Treasurer position still needs a permanent replacement. The same needs to be done for the Secretary position. Drew volunteered to be Michael's understudy for this year and assume the position next year. Bob Jaffin recommended that we look at some of the functions in the Secretary's position and redistribute or break them up to get more members involved. More of the BOD members need to step up to assume some of these positions. Jim has picked up several duties over the past several years. **ACTION #1(Closed):** A motion to accept the proposed slate of officers for the next year was made, seconded, and approved by all present.

VP Remarks: Peter gave a quick update on the veterans campus in Franklin. Phase 1 is well underway including the rehabilitation of buildings for housing and the activity center. Phase 2 is coming later on and includes a recreation center with swimming pool. Planned opening will be in 2025. Easter Seals is taking car donations towards this project.

Peter discussed a book, "Silenced in Beirut", an 88-page story about a businessman from Dover, NH and runs a business called "Little Lebanon", was kidnapped by Hezbollah. He was eventually returned to the US in near-death condition and died within weeks of returning home. Peter met two of the four sisters and wife of that man and discussed with them the writing of that book at an event. Peter mentioned that he had been in Beirut and was invited to the launching of the book and received a signed copy of the book. It is now available at Barnes & Noble/Amazon. The book has a description of Hezbollah that will scare you. Ted Cruz and Jean Shaheen both were involved in his eventual rescue. Bob suggested that Peter do a book review for the MOAA "Military Officer" magazine, and this could also go into a future edition of the Granite Slate.

Secretary's Report: Michael said he received a couple of spelling mistakes to the July minutes from Bob Jaffin and Peter Burdett. **ACTION (Closed):** A motion to approve the corrected July minutes was made, seconded, and approved by all present.

Bookkeeper's Report: Roby sent out a cost analysis of the annual clambake in the middle of August. We netted \$1778.31 compared to \$1341.99 in 2023. Gary Terhune stated that most of the difference resulted from purchases for food/supplies made at the commissary rather than in the local community. For example, steaks in the community cost \$11.99/lb. but were \$7.99 at the commissary and they were rated at the "Choice" level, higher than those in the community. Last year we paid \$8.99/lb. for a cheaper grade of steaks. So, we will use the commissary for steaks in the future.

ACTION #1(Closed): Peter made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as filed. The motion was approved by all present. **ACTION #2:** A motion was made to submit the proposed chapter budget to the membership at the annual meeting was made, seconded, and approved by all present.

Trustee of the Trust Fund: Drew stated that all of the investments seemed to be doing very well. For all three investment types, we are up almost \$50K since the end of December last year.

Surviving Spouse Liaison report:

On June 20, 2024, sent Rosalie Dyer a sympathy care and her new MOAA number.

Attended an SSL virtual meeting, July 16, 2024. EVERPLANS was discussed. This stores important documents and prompts sharing with deputies. The cost is \$99.99 a year or for Life members free for the 1st year and 70% off after.

At another SSL virtual meeting. John Greer was the speaker. He discussed the benefits of AMBA.

Spoke about the "Golden Hour" which is 1 hour following a traumatic injury. It bridges the gap from Medicare and Tricare when away from home.

August 8, 2024, I was invited to and took part in a round table discussion about the PACT ACT with Sen. Maggie Hassan and Congressman Chris Pappas.

Reached out to Whitney Pogorek. Have not had a response to date. Will send a note to keep in touch.

Helped a surviving spouse in Oklahoma regarding Tricare.

Was part of Honor Guard at St. Elizabeth Seton for funeral of Women's Guild member. Consoled family after funeral.

Congressman Pappas contacted me to help with a surviving spouse how to proceed with the VA.

Spoke with the surviving spouse and assisted her with the issue. Was honored to assist.

Attended a 9/11 ceremony at the American Legion Post 98 in Merrimack, NH.

Submitted by Pat Miller.

Peter mentioned that MOAA National has taken a keen interest in surviving spouse issues. National is looking for chapters to mention this in all of their communications to the membership. The key question is, knowing what you don't know before it's too late.

The meeting was temporarily adjourned from 1215-1227 for lunch.

DISCUSSION

M/S Mt Washington Cruise and outings: Bob Jaffin said that the boat trip was successful but not as successful as he wished. Seventy-one people registered, but only 65 actually attended due to various reasons. He had hoped to have at least 100 attendees. Everyone seemed to have a good time including the McKittricks who were also able to attend. His disappointment was that the response from the survey indicated about 75 people were interested. Roby mentioned at the end of the meeting that we netted \$534.62 from this trip.

He is already working with Brenda Pennels regarding an event for 4 July 2026, the nation's 250th anniversary. The details have not been worked out but was looking for a motion to authorize spending money to reserve Jamaica Island for that date. Peter went back to the 250th national birthday plan at PNSY and suggested that we open up the event to all active-duty naval personnel, enlisted and officers, at the shipyard. By doing this, we could involve MWR which could contribute to supporting the event. We might also get some recognition from MOAA National as well as some funding. Bob suggested that by this December, we should be ready to submit a request for a grant from MOAA to support this activity. **ACTION #1(Closed):** Peter made a motion to authorize this expenditure to secure a reservation for Jamaica Island for 4 July 2026 was made and approved by all present. **ACTION #2(Open):** The chapter submits a grant to MOAA National for funds to support this activity by December 2024.

He made copies of the draft 3-year plan and distributed it to attendees on the M/S Mt. Washington trip and received a variety of comments on the proposed schedule. The NH Dinner train, which leaves from Lincoln, NH, and the Isle of Shoals boat ride received the most comments/interests. Bob contacted the NH Dinner train, which would run \$125/person, and has tentatively reserved two of the three available coaches. The train departs at 1715 for two hours. They begin services on 9 May 2025, and he has booked the two cars for 10 May 2025 (Saturday evening of Mother's Day weekend). He would need to get approval for a \$500 contract which is refundable for up to 90 days prior to the event. Many people indicated that they would also need hotel reservations to avoid traveling at night. He will research that issue including hotels with breakfast or brunch. **ACTION #3(Closed):** Bob made a motion, Peter seconded it, to authorize the expenditure of \$500 to accept this contract was made and approved by all but one member.

He has also looked into attending events in Boston and has a rough estimate of the cost for hiring a bus/buses for travel to Boston. We would need to determine where the bus would depart from. Many of the events, excluding museums or the USS Constitution, are already over 50% booked for April next year. To do this type of events, more advanced planning will be required. Also, the cost of send out a tri-fold mailer runs about \$500-600 for each event we schedule.

As a result of increased costs, should we consider an increase in Chapter dues in order to run more of these activities? Another suggestion is whether to create a "supporter" category of membership for people not otherwise eligible for membership, so that they could participate in these activities but not vote or hold office in the chapter. They would pay a reduced membership fee, e.g. \$10/year. They could become more involved in the chapter and help to offset increasing internal costs.

Next, he is looking to develop the concept of regional leadership in the state so that one person is not responsible for managing all of these events. An example would be something like a Christmas get-together in the western part of NH that would involve the Vermont chapter membership since

National has now given us their list of members. Ideally this should be somewhere between Keene and Lebanon.

Finally, he would like to see either a mystery bus tour or a visit to the USS Constitution in January 2025. For seacoast members, Bob suggested using the train into North Station and he does this himself on a regular basis which, with the senior rate, would cost about \$20/person roundtrip. Bob then summarized the responses that he has received from several of the items on the proposed 3-year activity calendar. The general impression is that we need to expand the options for activities for the membership.

Jim Lefebvre mentioned that in Lincoln, the American Legion runs an activity every year for the entire state. Some of our members also belong to the Legion and could access contacts in that area for planning events like hotels for the dinner train. He also mentioned that as soon as his house sells, he and his wife will be moving to Texas and will no longer remain in this chapter. Someone will need to assume the duties he has been covering.

OLD BUSINESS:

New Boston Space Force Base: No discussion.

Veterans Cemetery Project: Projected cost for a 4-foot granite bench is around \$5K.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Meeting, November 24: Michael said the flyer will go to the press tomorrow (13 Sep). In past years, we have done a 50/50 raffle. Larry also has two American flags he was thinking of placing for auction. One of the flags has flown over the NH State House, and the other was flown over the Capitol (donated by Senator Hassan). Larry would like the proceeds from the flag auction and/or the raffle to go towards the cost of the veterans cemetery project. Gary mentioned that the 50/50 raffle winner typically donates the money back to the chapter. We also have volunteers to conduct the raffle. Gary suggested doing a silent auction for the flags. Roby was concerned about using the term "raffles" in the flyer due to IRS considerations, so Michael will modify the wording to a "contribution drive for NH veterans organizations".

Michael asked about party favors. He suggested a coffee mug with the MOAA logo. For 120 mugs, the cost would be \$6.62/mug; 144 mugs would be \$6.60 which would provide some stock for future use. They would be procured from Allegra who does our printing. If we include the price of the mug in the meal, then we need to charge around \$40/meal whereas the price currently stands at \$35/person. Nashua Country Club is charging \$30.40/meal. Adding in the speaker's gift and meal, tickets, boutonniere for new attendees, and center pieces brings the cost up to about \$36/meal. The question is whether the chapter would pick up this difference plus the cost of the mugs. Roby says that we have the funds to do this. Sharon asked if every person who attends gets a mug? Yes, a mug would go to each person's plate. The mugs typically come in lots of 24. If we ordered 144, we would definitely have extras to sell later. They could also be used as a speaker's gift in the future. The design was approved by all present. **ACTION #1(Closed):** A motion for the chapter to pay for the mugs was made, seconded, and approved by all present.

Pat requested that a table be designated for surviving spouses. Michael will make the table sign. Pat also requested giving a rose to each of them. After some discussion, Pat said that she would do this. Roby will get the reservation responses and send the surviving spouse information to Pat. **ACTION #2(Closed)**: A motion to provide a flower of some kind to the surviving spouses was made and approved by all present.

Michael mentioned that they were trying to get General Dunford, former Chairman of the JCS, as a speaker, but that didn't work. Our speaker will be Ty Gagne, an award-winning author, who will discuss his book, "The Last Traverse; Tragedy and Resilience in the Winter Whites", about the White Mountains. Gerry Boyle said he is a dynamic speaker, and we won't be disappointed.

In the future, Larry wants to recognize members who have belonged to the Chapter for a certain length of time. Michael didn't think that there are any founding members still around.

Vermont Chapter Roster: Previously discussed. We have the current roster from National. There are approximately 30-35 members on the list. **ACTION (Open)**: The President will send out a letter to each Vermont chapter member to welcome to the NH Chapter, if they wish to join us, prior to sending out any invitations to chapter functions.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT/Vets Count): Peter said that the Blue Angels will be at the Pease Tradeport from 6-7 Sep 2025.

"Ask the Question" is still a thing. Any organization providing services should be asking if you or any member of your family ever served in the military. Too many people don't understand what a veteran is, but they understand having served in the military.

Leo Paquin is now the Chair of the SVAC. The next meeting is on 1 Oct at 1700 hours at the Pembroke Edward Cross Training Facility.

Personal Affairs: Jim Lefebvre said that we need a replacement and that he has changed the emphasis towards the American Legion "Take Care of People" concept. Whoever assumes this position should contact Jim so he can discuss how the American Legion does this. There are no candidates at this time.

Membership: Since July, we have three new members, two deceased members (one with spouse), and three dropped members for a new total of 530. Of the 49 dues reminders he sent out in June, he received 23 checks and 3 asked to be dropped. Those who have not yet responded will receive one more letter in January (final notice). If they don't pay then, they will be dropped on 31 Mar 2025.

Recruiting: In the past, Jim had been able to work with the Army Career Alumni program who gave us their slide deck that they used for their transition program. This is now obsolete. He is trying to do the same thing with the Soldier Provide program, but with little success. At some point, the material on the website will need to be replaced. He is talking to the San Antonio MOAA to see if we can get their slide deck. The Army transition program is a five-day program, and they are very tight on their trademark material.

Of concern is that once Jim leaves for Texas, Tom Goff is still spending ½ of his time annually in Texas as well. Jim will be putting together a packet for personal affairs, transition, and recruiting prior to his departure. **ACTION (Open):** Someone needs to be identified to assume responsibility for these programs.

Programs: Gerry Boyle said the annual meeting is the next program event. Michael asked if we have anything to put on the back of the place cards for next year. Gerry suggested just putting a placeholder for luncheons in January, April, June, the August Clambake, luncheon in September, and the November annual meeting. Roby will do the tent place cards again with this information.

Web page: In July we had 979 hits and 871 hits in August. Michael is still looking for someone to take over this function. Sharon mentioned that the webmaster is an appointed position. There is nothing that requires this position to be a member of MOAA-NH. Drew suggested adding this to the September newsletter for advertisement. Michael mentioned that after November, all surviving spouses will be full members of the chapter. **ACTION #1(Closed):** Sharon will provide Drew with an updated recruitment notice for the September Granite Slate newsletter. **ACTION #2 (Closed):** Drew will send Michael a copy of the latest Hanscom RAO newsletter containing three pages of contact emails, phone numbers, and webpages for member reference.

Travel Program: Tony reported that four travelers have completed their trips for 2024 with four more travelers scheduled to depart in October. We should receive rebates of \$4200 from Collette. We have eight travelers scheduled for 2025 on the Explore Scotland & Ireland trip in August 2025. Each traveler received an additional \$150 refund because Collette had to move up the departure date.

Scholarship Loan Program: Wayne said we currently have about \$258K in investments and \$24K in the TD bank account earmarked for scholarships for a total of about \$282K in available funds. In 2022, we changed the awards from a loan to a grant for all new scholarships. Members of the committee are Peter, Larry, and Wayne. There was discussion in the committee about reducing recipient debt by 25% but this was never reported in the November meeting minutes. There are currently about \$140K in outstanding loans. Do we now want to convert these outstanding loans to a grant? We are spending about \$24K/year in scholarships. With nothing changing, we should have sufficient funding for about 10-12 years of future grants. Considering current scholarship donation levels and increases in investment market levels, this would probably extend our ability out to about 20 years. There are currently three recipients who are delinquent in repaying their loans. Before forgiving their loans, they would need to get caught up to everyone else in the repayment status. **ACTION (Closed):** Jim made a motion that all current scholarship recipients in repayment mode have their current loans converted to grants. They must not be delinquent. The motion was seconded and approved by all present. Sharon mentioned that letters mailed to these recipients should be sent as certified mail.

2024 Granite State Warrior Award: Larry mentioned that there are two potential nominees. Service Credit Union for the Services award. **ACTION (Open):** Ray still needs to give us the name or names for the Military Capability award.

Nominations – Directors: Sharon sent out an email with the nominations for Directors. They were CW5 Tom Goff, CAPT Bill Luti, and CAPT David Rosa leaving one vacancy for three years and one vacancy for one year (departure of Diane Hulsey). Due to the upcoming Bylaws changes, these may be moot for the future. Sharon mentioned that we have had difficulties finding nominees for these positions. When Covid started and we didn't have lunches, we really haven't fully recovered from

that situation. Most of the new attendees have been in the organization for a short time and don't feel ready to step into these positions. Sharon subsequently sent Drew an updated report for the September Granite Slate. After the meeting, LTC Annette Buford-Frost, USA (Ret) approached Sharon about volunteering for a Director position (possibly the three-year vacancy) and Bob Jaffin noted that Jason Moody was also interested in a Director position. These will be presented at the annual meeting for consideration. **ACTION (Closed):** A motion to accept Sharon's report on the slate for the Board of Directors for this year was made, seconded, and approved by all present.

JROTC Awards/NH Veterans Home: Due to the recent illness of Joe DiChario, Larry has appointed Jim Dunn to assume Joe's duties. The tentative handoff will occur on Friday, 20 September. Larry asked if we should be expanding the awards programs to areas like the CAP? There are currently no certificates for those types of organizations that are given by MOAA National. Jim suggested looking more deeply into the senior ROTC programs. We have added Norwich University for the last two years. Jim thinks that the University of Vermont still has an ROTC program. Jim will provide a more comprehensive list of current programs. Peter has a contact for the CAP (Moran).

Granite Slate Newsletter: Drew stated that he was about 80% complete for the September edition. He was still asking if anyone had particular information from the opening comments at the Clambake since he arrived later. **ACTION (Closed):** The final draft was submitted to the BOD on Monday, 16 Sep. A few corrections were made, and the final changes were submitted for publication on Tuesday, 17 September.

NH Veterans Home: Jim had finally reached the Commandant, and he suggested that the BOD schedule a meeting and tour at the home sometime in the near future. Jim will contact the Commandant for some suggested dates. Joe had also been the Chaplain for the home, and we may need to identify a replacement. **ACTION (Closed):** Peter has volunteered to take over covering the information on the NH Veterans Home in the future.

Web Communications: Jennifer wasn't present. However, Anne Cheshire made a comment on Facebook about the Mt. Washington cruise. She said, "The cruise was wonderful. The buffet had many tasty choices, hard to resist, including desserts. Thank you for a wonderful day with perfect weather." Wayne mentioned that he was also on the cruise and one of the grandmothers of the college scholarships was there and her granddaughter was in Italy and had missed the deadline for the scholarship submission. She thanked everyone who helped her granddaughter with getting the application submitted.

Blast Emails: Geoff has sent out several blast emails at Larry's request.

NH State Legislation: Bill Luti said we're in the legislative "silly season". There are about 100 draft bills submitted so far. There are a few that MOAA-NH and the SVAC will begin tracking. The portal won't be opened up again until 1 November. Bill read off the titles of three bills that might be of interest to us. Some of the previous Libertarian bills from last session are again being re-submitted this session. Many of these bills are sponsored by a group called "Bring our troops home". Bill recommended looking up this group and seeing what is on their website. Some of these bills passed in the House last session only to be defeated in the Senate. He noted that the SVAC needs to be better organized when sending representatives to the hearings to oppose these bills. We will need 30 people to oppose these types of bills at the hearings. Bill is also tracking DOD is asking for state policy.

LIAISONS

ESGR: Peter said that the 157th ARW is deploying with the KC-46A this fall. This has been published on WMUR and the Union Leader.

Transition Assistance: No report. See previous discussion.

Manchester VAMC: Bernie Satterfield sent an email with a flyer on the upcoming Manchester VAMC and CBOC flu shot clinics. See the attached flyer for details. Rich Siemens said that the Medical Reserve Corps is also setting up clinics in NH.

Final Words: Charlie Frost and his wife Annette sit on the Ft. Drum retiree council. There are a couple of retiree days coming up. On the weekend of 21 Sep, there is one at Ft. Drum at 0800 for registration. Hanscom AFB has a retiree day on Friday, 1 November. Annette announced that there is going to be an unveiling for an African American, Scipio Page, who served in the French & Indian war as well as the Revolutionary War as a Captain of a Regional Black militia. The event will be on 19 Oct 24 at 1000 hours in Dunbarton, NH. See the attached flyer for details.

Larry mentioned that there is a leadership roundtable on 26 September. There is also a Social Security roundtable on 17 September.

Michael ran through the list of reports still outstanding for the annual meeting. He needs any of the outstanding reports now or as soon as possible in order to get them into the final published report. Absolutely no later than 1 October. Outstanding reports include:

1. Trustee of the Trust Fund
2. Government Relations/SVAC
3. COLA
4. Programs (submitted that morning).
5. Scholarships
6. Granite State Warriors Award
7. Facebook/Web Communications
8. Blast email
9. ESGR
10. Martin's Point
11. Surviving Spouse

Next Board Meeting: It was that the next BOD meeting be on the 17th of October at the State Veteran's Home. An alternative might be the Galley Hatch in Hampton.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1340 hours which was seconded and accepted by all present.

Respectfully submitted,

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

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Manchester Healthcare System

Veterans, it's that time of the year

2024 FLU VACCINE DATES

Manchester VA Medical Center Flu Clinic Dates

Where: 718 Smyth Road, Manchester, NH 03104

- **Drive-thru Clinics** – Open in September
Wednesdays, 8 a.m. to Noon on 09/25, 10/2, 10/09, and 10/16
Building 7, Manchester VAMC
- **Walk-in Clinics** – Thursday, 09/19 from 8 a.m. to Noon
Mountain Entrance, Manchester VAMC
- **Walk-in Clinic** – Thursday, 10/17 from 8 a.m. to Noon
Mountain Entrance, Manchester VAMC
- **Weekend Clinic** – Saturday, 09/21 from 8 a.m. to Noon
Drive-thru, Building 7, Manchester VAMC

Conway, Portsmouth, Somersworth & Tilton Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs)

- **Flu Vaccine Appointment Clinics** –
Friday, 09/20 and Wednesday, 10/30 from Noon to 3 p.m.
- To schedule your designated time slot at whichever CBOC
you prefer, call (603) 624-4366, ext. 3199.

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DUNBARTON'S BLACK VETERAN OF THE FRENCH
& INDIAN AND REVOLUTIONARY WARS,
CAPTAIN OF A REGIONAL BLACK MILITIA

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 19, 2024 | 10:00 AM

PAGE'S CEMETERY

339 STARK HIGHWAY NORTH | DUNBARTON, NH

UNVEILING CEREMONY FOLLOWED BY GUEST FIDDLER & REFRESHMENTS

HEARSE HOUSE OPEN 10:30-11:30 | HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUMS OPEN 11-3

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LIMITED PARKING - CARPOOL IF POSSIBLE**

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