

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION *of* AMERICA
NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER
BOD MEETING MINUTES
12 January 2012

Attendance: See attached.

Call to Order. Meeting was cancelled due to the weather forecast, snow and freezing rain.

Opening Remarks. None.

Recording Secretary's Report/Minutes of Previous Meeting. Secretary Pat Graham received no changes to the November 2011 BoD meeting minutes. No meeting was held in December.

Secretary's Report. None

Treasurer's Report. Joan Huber sent the following report. The balance in the Chapter's checking account as of 31 December 2011 is \$2,665.38. The amount in the bulk mail account at the Dover Post Office is \$598.51, the amount in the postage due account is \$65.11.

Trustees of the Trust Fund. Joan Huber sent the following figures as part of the treasurer's report:

Life Membership Funds as of 30 November 11	\$29,026.59
Life Membership Funds as of 31 December 11	\$29,179.38
Scholarship Funds as of 30 November 11	\$80,962.10
Scholarship Funds as of 31 December 11	\$79,111.90

STANDING COMMITTEES:

National Legislative. Paul Chapman.

State Legislative. Peter Burdett. Peter submitted the following report from the SVAC on the bills thought to reflect veteran and active duty interest and committee's position: See attached.

Personal Affairs. Joan Huber sent the following report:

- **VOW Act Oversight Begins**

The Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity of the U.S. House Committee on Veterans Affairs recently began a series of oversight to hearings ensure that the new VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 is being implemented with the intent of the law intact and that the Departments of Labor (DoL) and Veterans Affairs (VA) are collaborating to execute the law. The major provision of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act is the temporary extension of Montgomery GI Bill benefits to eligible veterans to receive up to one year of training at a community college or technical school for in-demand occupations. A webcast of the first oversight hearing is available on the U.S. House Committee on Veterans Affairs website. (<http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/reviewing-the-implementation-of-the-vow-to-hire-heroes-act-of-2011>)

- **State Veteran's Benefits Directory**

Each state manages its own benefit programs. The following is a list of links to the websites for each of the individual states that offer veterans benefits. Be sure to take advantage of the benefits you have earned by clicking on the link to your State Department of Veterans Affairs. See what benefits your state offers.

(<http://www.military.com/benefits/content/veteran-state-benefits/state-veterans-benefits-directory.html>)

- **New VA Facebook Pages**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that all of its 152 medical centers are now actively represented on Facebook. The Department of Veterans Affairs now has 150 Facebook pages, 64 Twitter feeds, a YouTube channel, a Flickr page, and the Vantage Point blog. VA clinicians cannot discuss the specific health concerns of individual veterans on Facebook, but that does not prevent staff from monitoring VA's sites closely each day to provide helpful information to veterans when they can. For more information, visit the Directory of All VA Social Media Sites

(<http://www.va.gov/opa/SocialMedia.asp>) and the VA Facebook Page Directory.

(http://www.facebook.com/VeteransAffairs?sk=app_7146470109) To keep up with the military on social media, visit the Military.com Facebook page

(<http://www.facebook.com/#!/Militarydotcom>).

- **Veterans Benefit Calculator**

The benefits calculator is designed to quickly and easily connect you with your benefits based on your service and duty status. (<http://benefits.military.com/reg/Veterans-Benefits.do?ESRC=mr.nl>) Get started finding your Federal and State benefits and Special Military Discounts.

- **Beware of Phishing Attack**

A recent aggressive phishing attack is making the rounds in an email that appears to be from USAA, a financial services company that serves military members, their families, and veterans. The email subject begins with "Deposit Posted." Members are asked to open a Zeus-infected attached file. Once opened, it launches a malicious virus that could provide access to personal information and may require a complete reinstall of the computer operating system. Other attacks have been directed at U.S. Military installations and defense facilities. For more information and to protect yourself, visit the APWG Consumer Advice website (http://www.antiphishing.org/consumer_rec.html), the Internet Crime Complaint Center website (<http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>), and the Wombat Securities Technologies website (<http://wombatsecurity.com/antiphishingphil>).

- **Veterans Help Line Goes National**

A veteran-to-veteran hot line established six years ago in New Jersey to provide crisis counseling and prevent suicides among the state's military servicemembers has been expanded nationwide. Vets4Warriors is a 24-hour-a-day help line is staffed by nearly 40 specially trained veterans. The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey administers it at the school's Piscataway campus. The toll-free hot line is 1-855-VET-TALK. More information about the program is available at the Vets4Warriors website at (<http://www.vets4warriors.com/>).

- **Veterans Employment Website**

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management's Government-wide Veterans Employment Website (<http://www.fedshirevets.gov/> href=) is a critical component of the Federal

Government's strategy for the recruitment and employment of Veterans. In partnership with the Departments of Defense, Labor, Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security, and other Federal agencies, the Department of Veterans Affairs hopes that this website will be the preeminent source for Federal employment information for Veterans, transitioning servicemembers, their families, Federal HR professionals and hiring managers. For more information, visit the FedshireVets.gov website at www.fedshirevets.gov.

Membership. Michael McLean. There were two new members that would have been reported at the December Board meeting. There were four deaths that would have been reported at the January 2012 Board meeting. The 2012 dues letters (346) were mailed out on 10 January 2012. 2011 end of year membership data/statistics reports will be passed out at the February Board meeting.

Recruiting. Bob Jaffin.

Programs. Allen “Chad” Chadwick.

Web Page. www.moaa-nh.org There were 137 hits November up from 111 in October. There were 70 hits in December down from 137 in November.

Travel. Bruce Avery sent out a blast Email message about the upcoming Alaska trip.

Historian. Jim LeFebvre sent word that he has no reported changes.

Scholarship Loan Program. All going well.

Granite State Warriors Award. Bruce Avery. All seems to be on track.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Audit. Not required.

Awards. Need 2011 award results from Jackson Gaylord.

Budget/Chapter Finances. Vacant.

Newsletter. Craig MacPherson – last issue out in December – starting new year.

Board/Officer Nominations. New board members and officers were installed at the Annual Meeting.

PAO. George Arvanetaki.

LIAISON ACTIVITIES:

Martin’s Point. Bob Jaffin.

Veterans Home. Joe DiChiaro.

PSNY. Jeff Olson will cover this until he moves away.

State Veterans Advisory Committee (SVAC). Peter Burdett. The SVAC met on 6 December and the speaker was Dr. Levenson. He reviewed the Reintegration Clinic for returning war fighters. The clinic is held on Wednesdays from 1630-1930 hours. The clinic has been well received. The twice per year report was distributed, look for it on-line at the SVAC website. The 3 January meeting was entirely utilized to review and take positions on bills relating to veterans. The results are attached. Hearings are ongoing.

TOPS. Jim LeFebvre.

VAMC. Tom Kyle sent the following report:

VAMC—Manchester (Tel. 603-624-4366 or 1-800-892-8384)

Tom Kyle attended the 16 November 2011 VAMC Volunteers Staff meeting and reported on the following items that came out of that meeting:

-- VAMC Associate Director Tammy Follensbee stated that VAMC continues to act upon feedback from stakeholders on ways to improve VAMC services. The items she covered included the following:

- Efforts to expand services to female veterans should be completed by May 2012.
- Relocation of the pharmacy should be completed by July 2012.
- Construction of the new addition for expanded primary care and mental health care will begin in August 2012. The completed facility will consist of 30 examination rooms.
- Enhancement of cardiology and mental health treatment continues.
- The same day surgery capability at VAMC will be temporarily closed and relocated to White River Junction for four to six weeks in Jan-Feb 2012 while the VAMC facilities undergo renovation.
- The VAMC reintegration clinic for OEF/OIF/OND veterans is held at VAMC weekly on Wednesday evenings from 1630 to 1930 hours. Attendance can be either by reservation or walk-in. VAMC is trying to get the word out about this through publicity. Tom has handouts giving the details and the points of contact for this program.
- The FY 2012 budget is 4% more than what it was for FY 2011.

Other information provided at the 16 November meeting included the following:

-- VAMC will work to support the following FY 2012 priorities which the VA has established for its Volunteer Services Offices: (1) Support the VA Secretary's initiative to eliminate homelessness among veterans, (2) Improve access to care through the volunteer transportation network (driver recruitment), (3) Standardize and promote statistics about volunteer work, (4) Assist with voter registration for Veteran patients, and (5) Enhance the training of Volunteer Services staff members in the use of computer software.

-- VAMC is in the final phase of constructing a Memorial Wall to honor New Hampshire's fallen veterans of OEF/OIF/OND. The Memorial Wall is located in the hallway of the Urgent Care Clinic and will contain photographs of the fallen veterans. Financial donations are still being solicited for completion of the Wall to include framing of the photographs. An initial dedication ceremony was held for the families of the fallen veterans on 3 Dec. 2011, and a public ceremony will be held in either late winter or early spring of 2012. The point of contact for further details is Debra Krinsky, Chief of Voluntary Services at ext. 6419 or debra.krinsky2@va.gov

-- Laura Shannon, VAMC Recreational Therapist, informed attendees about ongoing efforts to transform VAMC from an "institutional" atmosphere to a "personalized care" atmosphere. This

is basically a cultural change and involves such things as more intergenerational activities, a more restaurant style form of dining, and an enhanced physical workout and massage area.

-- VAMC Chaplain, Father Tom Steinmetz, described the two categories of volunteers who work in VAMC chaplain services: (1) volunteers who do religious services set up work and escort duty, and (2) volunteers who perform bedside visits to patients in their rooms.

-- VAMC continues to work toward improving communication about its various medical services. Tom shared with Debra Krinsky, Chief of Voluntary Services, the various ways he distributes information within MOAA-NH about VAMC and its services.

-- The 2012 VAMC Salute to Veterans week will be 12-18 February. The Open House event during that week will be on either Wednesday or Thursday.

-- Volunteer positions at VAMC are available for escort duty, pharmacy work, greeters in primary care, support to homeless veterans, clerical work, and volunteer drivers (the DAV program). For further details, and to volunteer, contact the Voluntary Services Office at either ext. 6419 or 6422.

The next VAMC volunteers' staff meeting will be at 1830 on Wednesday, 4 April 2012.



Welcome Home to VA Health Care!

Manchester VA Medical Center has established an OEF/OIF/OND Post-Deployment Reintegration Clinic. The purpose of this clinic is to provide OEF/OIF/OND Veterans that have newly returned from a deployment cycle a one-stop-shopping model of integrative primary and behavioral healthcare as well as an opportunity to seek after-hours care and engage with key community resources. Returning Combat Service Members are eligible for five (5) years of cost-free medical care (from the date of honorable or general discharge) for any medical condition, including an aggravated pre-existing condition (as verified by a VA provider) that may **potentially** be related to your combat service while in a theater of combat operations during a period of war or "hostilities" after 11 November 1998.

Some of the services that will be offered at the clinic include:

Primary Care Clinic	Behavioral Health Clinic
Polytrauma/TBI Clinic	OEF/OIF/OND Case Management
Dental Clinic	Veterans Benefits Administration
My HealtheVet	Chaplain Services
Manchester Vet Center	Army Wounded Warrior Program
Deployment Cycle Support Program	Care Coordination Services

The new clinic will be available for a limited time on Wednesdays from 1630 to 1930 hours. It will be located in the Medical Center's Primary Care Clinic. **Please contact David Simpson, LICSW, OEF/OIF/OND Program Manager or James T. Mazzuchelli, MSW,**

OEF/OIF/OND Case Manager, Monday through Friday (0800 - 1630) at 603-624-4366, exts. 6483 or 6932, to make an appointment for the clinic.



**Manchester VA Medical Center
718 Smyth Road**



Manchester, NH 03104



Auxiliary. Working on replacement for Cindy LeFebvre. Peter has two names. He and Bruce Avery have been working on a team approach. The cell phone program ends on 31 January. More information at the January meeting, now February meeting.

OLD BUSINESS.

Next Email to Members. January luncheon with awards.

NEW BUSINESS.

Luncheon Ideas – MD hosts Lawmakers – review article from recent MOAA report at next meeting.

Miscellaneous calendar items:

21 January – MOAA-NH Luncheon – Granite State Warrior Awards

10 February – 1300-1500 hours, Ken Baron, an employee of the Social Security Administration at the VAMC Manchester Training Room. Call Kristin Maxwell to register 603-624-4366 ext. 5812.

16/17 February – MooreMart Packing Days – Please contact Paul Moore at Paul@Mooremart.org no later than 27 January to find out how to assist.

Next Board of Directors Meeting. Thursday, 9 February 2012 at 1830 hours at The Red Blazer Restaurant in Concord.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Graham, MAJ, USA (Retired)
Recording Secretary

BILL/LSR	RELATIVE TO ...	COMMITTEE	STATUS	PRIME SPONSOR	LAST/NEXT HEARING	SVAC POSITION	REMARKS
HOUSE							
2012-H-2081-R HB 1165	naming a bridge in the town of Meredith the POW/MIA Vigil and Freedom Ride bridge.	House Public Works & Highways	In Committee	Robert Greemore	1/19/2012 1315 LOB 201	support	
2012-H-2082-R	creating uniform and generally applicable definitions that clarify and unify the meaning of terms, words, and phrases used in New Hampshire statutes, regulations, procedures, forms, applications, registrations, and all other documents, excepting only the New Hampshire constitution and the Constitution for the United States of America, published by state authority or adopted for use within the state's jurisdiction.			Norman Tregenza			
2012-H-2084-R HCR 32	to urge the Congress of the United States to withdraw the membership of the United States from the United Nations so that the United States may retain its sovereignty and control over its own funds and military forces.	House State-Federal Relations & Veterans Affairs	In Committee	Norman Tregenza	1/26/2012 0900 LOB 203	follow	
2012-H-2137-R HB 1419	the rights of military parents.	House Children and Family Law	In Committee	Alfred Baldasaro	1/17/2012 1330 LOB 206	support	
2012-H-2138-R HB 1420	the disposition of the remains of service members.	House State-Federal Relations & Veterans Affairs	In Committee	Alfred Baldasaro	1/19/2012 1000 LOB 203	support	
2012-H-2139-R HB 1353	establishing an individual's status as a veteran.	House State-Federal Relations & Veterans Affairs	In Committee	Alfred Baldasaro	1/19/2012 0930 LOB 203	support w/ language chng	
2012-H-2140-R HCR 38	urging the United States Congress to extend equal benefits for treatment of Agent Orange exposure to Vietnam veterans who served outside of Vietnam.	House State-Federal Relations & Veterans Affairs	In Committee	Alfred Baldasaro	1/19/2012 1130 LOB 203	support	
2012-H-2150-R HB 1135	establishing a civil action for certain disruptions of funerals of members or former members of the armed forces.	House Judiciary	In Committee	Barry Palmer	1/17/2012 1630 LOB 208	??	Concerns expressed at the meeting over the possible need to publish addresses of immediate family.
2012-H-2281-R HB 1229	declaring March 30 Welcome Home Veterans Day to honor veterans of Vietnam.	House State-Federal Relations & Veterans Affairs	In Committee	Stephen Shurtleff	1/27/2012 0930 LOB 203	support	
2012-H-2283-R HB 1495	establishing a Purple Heart Trail along U.S. Route 3 and relative to fees for state parks for members of the United States uniformed services.	House Resources, Recreation & Development	In Committee	Jennifer Coffey	1/25/2012 1430 LOB 305	support	State park fees similar to SB 358
2012-H-2336-R HJR 21	informing the United States Congress that it is the desire of the general court of New Hampshire that the New Hampshire national guard shall not serve outside the borders of New Hampshire absent a declaration of war.	House State-Federal Relations & Veterans Affairs	In Committee	Robert Kingsbury	Not Specified LOB 203	oppose	
2012-H-2462-R HB 1606	adopting the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children.	House Education	In Committee	Duffy Daugherty	2/14/2012 1400 LOB 207	support	
2012-H-2465-R HR 22	urging recognition of the facts regarding the USS Liberty.	House State-Federal Relations & Veterans Affairs	In Committee	Duffy Daugherty	Not Specified LOB 203	follow	
2012-H-2491-R HB 1387	requiring United States flags purchased with state funds or displayed in state facilities to be manufactured in the United States.	House Executive Departments & Administration	In Committee	Leo Pepino	2/2/2012 1430 LOB 306	support w/ language chng	
2012-H-2509-R HB 1138	naming a bridge in Pelham in honor of Sergeant Daniel R. Gionet.	House Public Works & Highways	In Committee	Shaun Doherty	1/19/2012 1115 LOB 201	support	
2012-H-2541-R HB 1598	the definition of "meeting" under the right-to-know law.	House Judiciary	In Committee	Steve Vaillancourt	Not Specified LOB 208	follow	
2012-H-2598-R HB 1140	the care of war memorials in Franconia Notch state park.	House Resources, Recreation & Development	In Committee	Elaine Swinford	POSTPONED TBD LOB 305	support	
2012-H-2627-R HB 1308	the definition of "public body" under the right-to-know law.	House Judiciary	In Committee	Seth Cohn	Not Specified LOB 208	follow	
2012-H-2634-R HB 1629	state photographic identification indicating veteran's status.	House State-Federal Relations & Veterans Affairs	In Committee	Jane Johnson	Not Specified LOB 203	support	Similar to SB 313
2012-H-2765-R HB 1610	lowering the legal drinking age to 19 for active duty members of the armed forces.	House Criminal Justice & Public Safety	In Committee	Frank Sapareto	2/14/2012 1330 LOB 204	oppose	

BILL/LSR	RELATIVE TO ...	COMMITTEE	STATUS	PRIME SPONSOR	LAST/NEXT HEARING	SVAC POSITION	REMARKS
SENATE							
2012-S-2810-R SB 333	a surviving spouse's right to retain a Purple Heart plate.	Senate Transportation	In Committee	Lou D'Allesandro	Not Specified LOB 103	oppose	
2012-S-2828-R SB 338	residency requirements for national guard positions, establishing the office of state judge advocate, and establishing a military advisory commission.	Senate Public & Municipal Affairs	In Committee	Gary Lambert	1/31/2012 0830 LOB 101	oppose but expecting revisions	
2012-S-2838-R SB 217	management of Cannon mountain by the department of resources and economic development.	Senate Energy & Natural Resources	In Committee	Jeb Bradley	Not Specified LOB 102	follow	
2012-S-2907-R SB 302	the Honor and Remember Flag as an official symbol to recognize and honor fallen members of the armed forces.	Senate Public & Municipal Affairs	In Committee	John Barnes, Jr.	1/17/2012 1040 LOB 101	oppose	
2012-S-2925-R SB 358	expanding eligibility for free admission to the state park system to certain members and their families and retired members of the armed forces.	Senate Finance	In Committee	Andy Sanborn	1/19/2012 1300 LOB 103	support	Similar to part of HB 1495
2012-S-2965-R SB 313	state photographic identification indicating veteran's status.	Senate Transportation	In Committee	Sharon Carson	1/26/2012 1000 LOB 103	support	Similar to HB 1629
2012-S-2966-R SB 367	naming a bridge in the town of Londonderry in honor of Lance Corporal Peter J. Sora, Jr., U.S.M.C. and Private First Class Eric D. Carrier, U.S.M.C.	Senate Transportation	In Committee	Sharon Carson	Not Specified LOB 103	support	
2012-S-2977-R SB 262	requiring disclosure of minutes of meetings after the approval of the minutes.	Senate Public & Municipal Affairs	In Committee	Jim Luther	Not Specified LOB 101	follow	
2012-S-2984-R SB 319	extending the commission to study the effects of service connected post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury suffered in the line of duty by members of the armed forces and veterans.	Senate Health & Human Services	In Committee	Sharon Carson	1/26/2012 1330 LOB 102	support	

REVIEWED LSRs UP TO 2012-11-3047

Arranged in LSR numerical order. Bill numbers BOLD.

The Committee supports all "naming" bills UNLESS there is an objection by a Committee member.

Items in BLACK are still being considered; all BOLD means a hearing this next week.

Shaded background indicates date has passed.

Items in BLUE have been passed by both Houses. Blue & Bold have been signed by the Governor.

Items in RED have either been tabled or determined to be ITL.