

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA
NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
21 January 2026

Call to Order: The BOD Zoom meeting was called to order by President Larry Miller at 1902 hours. Gary Terhune provided the opening prayer. All members present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attending: Breuder, Burdett, Dunn, McLean, Miller (Larry & Pat), Moody, Rosa, Siemens, and Terhune. Initially there were only seven Director's present and there wasn't a quorum, but within 10 minutes a quorum of members was present.

President's Opening Remarks: Larry had several topics to discuss including the following:

1. Internship job description: Joe Demers sent Larry some suggested changes to the job description.
2. MOAA-NH Coin: Larry submitted some ideas (see **Attachment #1**) to include on a new chapter Challenge coin. We are currently running low on the current coin. If anyone has additional suggestions, let Larry know.
3. Sea Cadets Ball will be on 7 February. There is no backup date for the ball. The Awards event will be either on 5 or 12 February depending upon weather conditions. Jim Dunn will attend the Awards ceremony at the Army Reserve Center on the southeast side of the Manchester Airport. Certificates are made up but still need to be signed by Larry.
4. Insurance forms have all been signed and sent to Gary for forwarding to Vanguard. This will result in lifting of the current restrictions on the accounts due to a change from the old accounts to the new brokerage accounts. This was a mandatory transition and resulted in restrictions on the account until the new forms were signed.
5. The contract with the Common Man restaurant in Plymouth for the Granite State Warrior Award luncheon in April has been signed.

Immediate Past President Remarks: Jim was excused from the meeting.

VP Remarks: Bob had not been present at the November Annual meeting, so he was sworn in during this meeting as Vice President. Bob had previously sent out a notice to the BOD about a luncheon at Wentworth-by-the-Sea on 15 February. About six people are coming. Drew and Betty will also attend.

Bernie has notified Bob that he will do the beverages for the Clambake for another 1-2 years, but then someone else will need to pick up this job. **ACTION #1 (Open)**: Find Clambake Beverage replacement POC. Include this requirement in the next GSNL.

Secretary's Report: Michael received no corrections or comments to the October minutes. A motion to approve the October BOD minutes was made by Pat, seconded by Michael, and approved by all present. The minutes of the November Annual meeting will be reviewed/approved at the next annual meeting.

Bookkeeper's Report: Peter said we remain solvent. All bills and charge cards have been paid. Gary has a bill from the Post Office for sending out the Vanguard forms and will forward it to Peter. A motion to accept Peter's report was made, seconded, and approved by all present.

Trustee of the Trust Fund: Drew stated that trustee funds are doing well despite the recent jitters on the stock market.

Surviving Spouse Liaison report:

1. Participated in “Wreaths across America” on 12/13/25 by laying wreaths on Veterans graves in the Last Rest Cemetery. Will follow up by picking them up.
2. Sent a sympathy card to Jacqueline Husander for her husband, Lt Col Thomas Husander, who died October 2025. He was a member of MOAA, and I saw it in the MOAA magazine that he was from NH, but not a member of MOAA-NH.
3. Sent a sympathy card to Col MacKay on the death of his spouse, Linda. There will be more information in the Spring.
4. Jan. 6, 2026 SVAC, unfortunately no bills for surviving spouses.
5. Attended a virtual DOD Survivor Forum.
6. Attended Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter meeting 1/10/26. Tom Remenick spoke about Artificial Intelligence. He gave the history of it and how the tools work. He was also helpful with the major components and its issues and limitations.
7. There are 293 Active Surviving Spouse members of MOAA. The breakdown is
 - a. 234 Surviving Spouses
 - b. 73 Surviving Spouse Liaisons
 - c. 26 both
 - d. 4 Staff members
 - e. 1 Spouse
8. Pat also received a letter and call from the NH Veterans Cemetery thanking us for our gift of \$150.

OLD BUSINESS:

Veterans Cemetery Project: Larry said we will probably have the dedication ceremony sometime this spring in May or June.

NEW BUSINESS:

AiA 2025 November Roundtable: The next AiA meeting will be 13-16 April 2026. They will be using SoapBox again to standardize/centralize scheduling of key lawmakers based on committee of interest for MOAA, Congressional influence, military background, and familiarity with the issues. All the NH Congressionals should be included again.

Bob mentioned that he has an invitation to WMUR tomorrow to listen to a taping of Senator Hassen.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT/Vets Count): Peter said the SVAC met on 6 January 26 and was well attended. There is \$852.57 in the SVAC treasury. There was a presentation on “Books to the Beat” by Concord Music School offering music therapy to veterans for PTSD, social isolation, etc.

Kevin Forest (Manchester VAMC) gave an update on pain management. Reps from DMVAS were present discussed some issues.

Kim McKay for the NH Veteran’s Home said they are still getting a few more veterans in for care but they are still short of nursing staff based on the resident population.

There was some discussion about SB 66, relative to third-party veterans claims assistance and protection, and it has been sent to Interim Study (i.e. tabled) for this year. It will be revised and reviewed for 2027, but it is not supported by the SVAC.

Kevin Grady gave a legislative briefing. There is one bill, HR 45, which has to do with regaining NH control of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. US Supreme Court ruled about 10 years ago that PNSY belonged to Maine, but newly discovered 1781 maps in England that Governor Ayotte saw indicates that that island was considered part of NH. Peter recommended to Bill Luti that this should be on our list of items to support. Bob Jaffin has already contacted his state Senator regarding this. This information was not available to the Supreme Court when they made their ruling.

NH State Legislature: Bill Luti was absent and there was no update.

Personal Affairs: No report.

Membership: Michael first discussed the LOE submissions which have been sent to National including the Communications award for both the webpage and the newsletter. Larry submitted the Surviving Spouse and Legislative Liaison. Michael suggested to Larry that he look to Congressman Pappas for an endorsement for the Surviving Spouse Award. National said that no awards were submitted for surviving spouse, but Larry has a receipt for the submission (#5) and for the legislative award (#8) and accepted. National was looking for endorsements for each, but Larry submitted both and questioned why this was necessary.

Michael said that since October there was four new members, one deceased member, four with spouses, and zero dropped members, so the total membership is now at 503. Today, he received one new membership application in response to Larry's December letter. Twenty-seven letters were sent out in December with the one response.

Michael sent out 167 dues letter on the 15th of January. We need 200 for the bulk mail rate, so Michael sent out 33 blank letters to himself. This was still cheaper than individual postage.

Recruiting/Transition: No report.

Programs/2025 Granite State Warrior Award: Gerry was not present. On 28 February, we'll have the GSWA luncheon at Fratello's in Manchester with awards to Jack Heath and TurboCam. Peter is getting meal selections for Heath and the TurboCam attendees. On 26 April will be our luncheon at the Common Man in Plymouth.

Web page: Michael said that there were 283 hits in December. The GSWA flyer is already in the mail.

Travel Program: Tony Burdo sent the following information in an email. To date, we have 4 travelers for 2026. A blast email was sent out about the upcoming Alpine Countries trip.

Scholarship Grant Program: Wayne Balcolm said that there are currently five recipients for scholarship program.

Nominations – Directors: Sharon was excused and there was no report.

J/ROTC AWARDS: Jim Dunn said that the Sea Cadets were looking for a \$300 donation to help support them. Peter said we sent them \$300 last year for the Ball. John Murphy, who has been running this program for 10 years, is now on extended sick leave according to the XO. Peter made a motion to support their ball again this year with a \$300 donation. Bob Jaffin seconded the motion, no was no further discussion, and the motion was approved by all present. Peter will coordinate the transfer of funds with Dave Kenney. Jim said that Governor Ayotte will be the quest speaker at the Ball. Last year, six of our members attended the Ball. Jim, Larry and Pat will be attending the Ball.

The awards date was previously discussed. Last year, Peter went around talking to both the individual cadets and their parents.

The NH CAP will hold its awards ceremony on 7 March at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord. This date has already changed twice and may not be final yet.

The Maine Sea Cadets may have their awards program in June. The Portland unit is no longer active, so the southern Maine unit is the only active unit.

Granite State Newsletter: Drew said that there is nothing going on currently.

Web Communications: No updates. Jennifer was excused.

Blast Emails: Michael is now doing this and sent out 356 blast emails through Cheddar Up regarding the upcoming Alpine trip.

LIAISON REPORTS:

ESGR: Peter said that there was nothing to report.

Manchester VAMC: Bernie sent a report. See **Attachment #2** for specific details.

Miscellaneous items: Bob Jaffin mentioned that there is a new Interim Director up at the Veteran's campus in Franklin for Easter Seals, Ana McKenna. She retired from the US Army in July 2025 at a Lt. Colonel.

September 2025 BOD meeting: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2005 hours which was seconded and accepted by all present.

Next BOD Meeting: March 2026 with date TBD at the Backyard Restaurant/Brewery in Manchester.

Respectfully submitted,

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

MOAA-NH

Challenge Coin

- 1. State of NH Seal**
- 2. Black granite color**
- 3. Old Man in the Mountain**
- 4. MOAA Seal - MOAA-NH**
- 5. “Never Stop Serving”**
- 6. “North Star - Protect Earned Benefits”**
- 7. Boots, dog tags, DD214, helmet,**
- 8. American flag**
- 9. Folded American Flag (tri corner)**
- 10. “Live Free or Die, Death is not the worst of evils”**
- 11. Officers seal**

JAN 2026 MOAA VA Report

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced it will extend Community Care Network (CCN) authorizations to one full year for 30 standardized types of care. According to VA, effective immediately Veterans referred to Community Care for eligible specialties will receive 12 months of treatment at VA expense before requiring VA reauthorization.

The change allows Veterans to benefit from uninterrupted CCN care, enabling them to focus on their health and minimize administrative requirements.

Prior to the change, some CCN authorizations were re-evaluated every 3 to 6 months. With today's announcement, VA is now offering year-long community care authorizations for the following standardized types of care:

Cardiology	Oculoplastic
Dermatology	Eye Care Examination
Endocrinology	Optometry Routine
Neurology and Otology	Orthopedic Hand
Otolaryngology or ENT	Orthopedic General
Gastroenterology	Orthopedic Spine
Urogynecology	Pain Management
Addiction Psychiatry Outpatient	Podiatry
Family & Couples Psychotherapy	Podiatry DS
Outpatient	Addiction Medicine Outpatient
Mental Health Outpatient	Pulmonary
Nephrology	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Neurology	(Physiatry)
Nutrition Intervention Services	Rheumatology
Oncology and Hematology	Sleep Medicine
Neuro-Ophthalmology	Urology

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it permanently housed 51,936 homeless Veterans across the country in fiscal year 2025.

That number is 4,011 more Veterans than VA housed last year.

The nationwide numbers include 175 permanently housed by the Manchester VA Medical Center

Veteran Donors Blood Drive with the American Red Cross

Be a HERO and make your appointment today at redcrossblood.org by search sponsor code "VAMANCHESTER"

When:

Tue. Jan 27, 2026, 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. ET

Where:

Manchester VA Medical Center

Solarium

718 Smyth Road

Manchester, NH