

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA
NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
10 July 2025

Call to Order: The BOD meeting at the Backyard Restaurant was called to order by President Larry Miller at 1200 hours. Gary Terhune was absent, so Larry Miller provided the opening prayer. All members present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attending: Balcolm, Boyle, Breuder, Burdett, Dunn, Frost (Chuck & Annette), Jaffin, Luti, McLean, Miller (Larry & Pat), Rosa, Siemens. A quorum of members was present.

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

1. Total Task Force, 28-29 Oct, National Harbor, MD. He will not be attending.
2. Eastern Workshop, 14-15 November, Hersey, PA, Pat and he will attend.
3. MOAA Copyright Memo, 28 May 25. This has been previously distributed to the BOD. The main point is that if a Chapter is sued for copyright violation, they are on their own and cannot rely on National to assist them. Chapters are considered independent entities from National for legal purposes. Peter said we have separate liability insurance for situations like this (Directors/Officers and liability). Bill Luti pointed out many instances where this copyright of DOD and Service seals is routinely violated, and no actions have been taken against those violators. First, Bill proposed talking to our CODEL's to propose legislation to change this situation for "chartered organizations, such as MOAA", to use them, and Bob Jaffin stated that he has already done this. Second, he proposed submitting an application, per the DOD instruction, to obtain a license for the Chapter as an alternative. Rick Siemens mentioned that Title 17, Section 105 of the Copyright Act says that works of US Government do not acquire a copyright. He referenced a case he had previously worked on when he was a Navy JAG. Bob Jaffin suggested that the answer is to get DOD to write some form of licensing regulation allowing various VSO's and organizations like MOAA to use these seals. Peter said that the other part of this issue is whether the reason for using the service seal would generate income for the organization. David Rosa suggested that we pursue both the request to the CODEL regarding legislation AND applying for a DOD license. **ACTION #1 (Open)**: President and Rick Siemens will continue this investigation.

Immediate Past President Remarks: Jim was absent. Peter used this time to make a few comments. Jim LeFebvre lives about 140 miles away from the current flooding issue in Texas and has not been affected. Peter just came from an Easter Seals event and said that a lot is going on. He passed out coins and business cards from "Veterans Count". There is a QR code that allow you to connect to their website for events, and an important upcoming event is an on the tarmac meet at Pease ANGB on 5 Sep, veterans and families can go and see the Blue Angels perform their practice routine for the Saturday/Sunday's Airshow. The Blue Angels will also make a "Meet and Greet" visit to the Easter Seals tent that day.

VP Remarks: Bob said that no further action is due on the Maine Golf Tournament. The Clambake is 2 August, and Michael McLean has reported that reservations are extremely low. They will be four of the scholarship winners present. The Navy Submarine League will pay for a number of meals for the junior enlisted personnel on the base to attend the Clambake. SCU sent the Chapter a contribution of \$2,000 which will pay for many of the Sea Cadets (expecting between 60-90). The OIC of the Navy Medical Clinic has offered the use of their locker rooms for the Color Guard Sea Cadets to change

back into civilian attire after the opening ceremony. The PNSY CO has already submitted his reservation. SUBRON2 officers hopefully will be involved. Bob has asked National to let Karen **Routisoule** (?) who testifies on the Hill regarding military health issues join CAPT. (Ret) Frank Michael, and they will attend a small dinner with select Chapter Officers the night before the Clambake. There will also be staffers from Sen. Hassan and Rep. Pappas, the OIC of the Branch Clinic, the incoming Maine Chapter President. The dinner discussion will focus on medical and quality of life issues. Regarding the Manchester VA, Kevin Forest will be returning from his TDY to VISN 1 HQ. and he may also join the above for this dinner. Finally, we will have staffers from every Congressional office and Maine and NH as well as Reps. Goodlander/Pappas and Sen. Hassan will be attending the Clambake. Governor Ayotte is also expected to attend. Bob **has** also asked the PAO if we could get one of the local radio show hosts, like Jack Heath, to do a live broadcast from the event. The Navy Commissary may also be doing a sidewalk sale that day.

Micheal mentioned that we needed to have a gate list for everyone coming from off base as well as specific details on meals for those attending so that we can place orders for food. Bob has set a deadline for that information NLT 18 July with a cutoff of 25 July.

Bob mentioned that he has contacted Moe Demers regarding finding some interns to help us make better use of social media. The mailing costs for flyers, newsletters, etc. are going up again in the near future. Bob suggested that the Chapter to convert entirely to electronic distribution of all items we currently mail out or have them pay for the cost of the mailing. It's no longer cost effective to send out flyers for low return/participation rates.

Bob wanted to discuss plans for the 250th national birthday next year. We currently have Jamaica Island reserved for 4 July 2026 but recommends that we move this reservation to our normal August date due to potential conflicts with other events on 4 July. After a brief discussion, a motion was made and approved by all present to move the reservation to 1 August 2026.

Larry also asked Bob about the list of attendees who should be recognized in the opening ceremony, as well as any other commanders of PNSY who should be invited other than the base CO. Volunteers for the Clambake need to be present on Jamaica Island NLT than 0730. Michael stated that as of this date, there are 61 reservations from MOAA chapter members, 8 from the Maine Chapter, and 10 others. Nine people used "Cheddar Up", and 30 sent in flyers.

Finally, Bob mentioned that CPT Hollie Noveletsky, ARNG, a new Chapter member, has agreed to store the Clambake trailer at her Mountain Lion Works after the Clambake.

Secretary's Report: Michael received no comments or corrections to the May minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was seconded and approved by all present. **ACTION #2: Closed.**

Bookkeeper's Report: Peter said he will spend \$28 for the trailer registration and will update the license plate sticker at the Clambake. There is \$22,209.44 in the checking account. The credit card has some charges for printing, mailing, and propane. On Cheddar Up, the Clambake has deposits of \$360 for lobsters and \$150 for steaks and \$120 for scholarship donations (\$630 total). There is a total of \$2,561 in the Cheddar account and will be moved to our SCU account shortly. Any remaining TD accounts, including scholarships, need to be moved over to SCU. A motion to approve the Bookkeeper's report was made and approved by all present.

Trustee of the Trust Fund: Drew stated that stock market has significantly improved for the last few weeks. We have recovered all the losses since 2 April.

Surviving Spouse Liaison report:

1. In June I attended a Surviving Spouse Virtual Meeting. There is a publication on MOAA's website, PREPARING FOR THE LOSS OF A MILITARY SPOUSE, I will encourage everyone to check it out.
2. For the 10th year I was involved with HOT DOG DAYZ in Merrimack raising money for the Alzheimer's Association. I had the opportunity to meet and talk to several surviving spouses, whose husbands had passed from this disease.
3. On July 4th we were in the Merrimack Fourth of July Parade. We met with Congressman Chris Pappas, State Senator Tim McGough, State Representative Julie Miles.
4. Doris Stacy, a surviving spouse, died on 11/05/2024, at the age of 102 yrs.
5. LTC Alphonse Haettenschwiller, USA (Ret) of Nashua died on 02/06/2025. He was 100 yrs. In his obituary the family suggested donations can be made in his memory to a charity of choice. I suggest MOAA-NH send \$25.00 in his name to the MOAA-NH scholarship fund. This expenditure was approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Veterans Cemetery Project: Larry has approved the design of the bench and given the funeral home the approval to proceed with its construction. Larry will forward the invoice to Peter when ready. At some point in the future, we need to pick a date for its dedication. Hopefully, we can have the Governor attend.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 1250 and resumed at 1310 hours.

Chapter Divestiture: Larry has completed the draft of the divestiture plan but has not filled in all of the details. Larry asked Michael if there is a certain minimum chapter membership number that would necessitate the plan implementation, and he said "No". So, Larry will put the Talking Paper, Point Paper, and draft agenda together for potential future use, if needed.

VT Members: Larry has sent out 20 postcards to those members for whom we have addresses are pending. There are another 26 that need to be sent. He is not sure of the accuracy of the addresses since a previous mailing resulted in four returned letters due to incorrect addresses.

Military ID's: Pat mentioned that all old military and dependent ID's need to be updated even if they have an "Indefinite" expiration date on them. The mandatory date for accomplishing this is January 2026. One of our members recently had their "old" ID's confiscated at Hanscom AFB and had to obtain new ones at Pass & ID the same day. For Hanscom, effective 14 July, Pass & ID will take "Walk-in" during the mornings, and appointments in the afternoon. Their phone number is: 781-225-1320. Not sure if the old Pass & ID at Pease is still operational. Concord ARNG Hq. is one of the easiest places to obtain new ID cards. There are still some reported issues with using the new military ID's at TSA at airports although legally they are supposed to be valid even with "Indefinite" expiration dates. Neither Drew nor Peter has had any feedback from our telecon with Rep. Goodlander's staffer in May.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT/Vets Count): Peter said Lori Flynn is now the Congressional liaison for the VA Medical Center. Kevin Forest is returning from his TDY to VISN 1 headquarters. The Tilton CBOC has a new PCP. He hasn't met her yet, but he has an upcoming appointment with her.

There is interest in looking into the availability of dental services through Delta Dental or VA. Rick Siemens said that eligibility in the VA is based on whether the connection is service related directly to the jaw (which is not based on % of service connection) or whether the veteran is 100% service connected. After Iraqi invasion, many service members become 100% SC for a variety of conditions like PTSD and this placed an immediate and excessive strain on the VA Dental Service. Peter said the Delta Dental has committed \$300,000 to dental services in NH.

There will be a SVAC picnic in August. They also have \$72.67 in their treasury.

Peter did have a document detailing the number and location of "unhoused veterans" in NH. He also had a flyer on the Military Affairs and Veteran Services are doing a NH Employment Security "Hire a Veteran" day on 25 July.

The next meeting will be on 7 October at the Pembroke Cross NG training facility at 1700 hours. Easter Seals Veterans Count has selected and employed an individual to be a "Reach Out" coordinator and she will be regularly attending SVAC meetings.

NH State Legislature: Bill Luti had nothing to report.

Personal Affairs: Position is vacant.

Membership: Michael said that there two new members, six deceased members, zero with spouses, and zero dropped members, so the total membership is now at 501.

Michael sent out 33 letters to members who have not paid their dues this year. He has only received a couple responses so far.

Michael said that we finally have access to MOAA Committee module. They are working on reconciling our database with the committee module; they were off by about 100 people. Michael has managed to reduce the difference to about 10 now.

The Near Real Time Reports (NRT) seemed to have been fixed concerning members that have joined MOAA or moved into NH. You are supposed to be able to look back at any three-month time frame to get that list, and Michael has found 15 people whom he has sent letters to already, including General Perkins. So far, he has received no responses.

Recruiting/Transition: No updates. Tom Goff was excused due to recent back surgery. He had wanted to be here to discuss veteran real estate tax deductions for disabled veterans. Dave Rosa said that each town has a veteran's agent who has this information. Bill Luti said that in NH nothing happens at the local level unless there is a piece of enabling legislation at the state level. NH has a law that authorizes towns to provide a tax credit for veterans ranging from \$50 - \$1,000. The towns must take a vote, or their selectmen make a decision to decide how much to offer veterans in their town within

those limits. In Alton, its \$50, but in his town, it is the maximum. To change that amount requires lobbying at your individual town meeting and it must stay within the enabling statute limits. Each year the legislators as the SVAC attempt every year to increase that amount while the SVAC pushes back against this because it looks like more handouts to veterans. Peter said to obtain this tax credit, it has to be a principal residence, you need your DD214, and you have to own the property. Two years ago, when the limit was raised to \$1,000, there was a mistake in the legislation that resulted in each town having to re-adopt the legislation. There have been attempts for disabled veterans to not pay any property taxes. However, some towns are resentful of providing tax breaks for any veterans. The SVAC has decided to ask for nothing above \$1,000/year at this time.

Bill Luti mentioned that the NH Department of Revenue has a list of all 246 towns and what amounts they allow to veteran tax credits.

Programs GSWA: Gerry Boyle had nothing to offer at this time.

Web page: Michael said that there were 243 hits in June. He is still looking for relief.

David Rosa has been reaching out to various organizations in NH asking to be a member of their Facebook pages and then mentioning MOAA.

Travel Program: Tony Burdo had no updates.

Scholarship Grant Program: Wayne Balcolm said we have \$17,456.22 and there are five applications: 2 new and 3 current. He also read three "Thank you" letters from former grant recipients, one of whom enclosed a small donation to the scholarship fund. If all five applications are approved, this will cost \$14,000 for this semester. Next semester will require tapping into the scholarship investment fund to cover outlays.

Bob Jaffin recommended that we find out what the process is to report these awards to National. We're not getting recognition for what we are doing. This is another reason we need to find a PAO for the chapter.

2025 Granite State Warrior Award: Bob Jaffin suggested that we need to create an ongoing list of potential award recipients, like Bruce Avery did, so we don't have to scramble each year to come up with candidates. Although the President thought that the membership of this committee was spelled out in the chapter bylaws, it is not mentioned in the last update from 2024. This award is described in the latest edition of the "Operations Handbook" on pages 18-19. Membership includes the President, Vice-President, two most recent past President, Programs Director, and Public Affairs Officer (vacant).

Some nominees might include the following: John **Barrett** (?), the VFW State Service officer; someone from Easter Seals, or Jack Heath from WMUR radio. We should have a larger standing list to select from, if possible.

Larry wants to again nominate two individuals and one company which is different from what has been done previously. The Operations Handbook only describes two categories, not the specific number of awards to be presented.

Nominations – Directors: Sharon was unavailable for the meeting but wanted to give the Director nominations for November which includes Peter Burdett, Chuck Frost, Jason Moody, and Holly Noveletsky. Michael also mentioned that we deferred from the last meeting the decision on whether to reduce the number of BOD positions from 12 to 9. Sharon recommends a phased reduction to nine. Michael made a motion to reduce the number of members on the BOD to nine over a three-year period. There was much discussion of this issue, and the President felt that the number of BOD members should be pegged to the total chapter membership in some fashion. A revised motion was proposed by Michael but failed to obtain a second and the motion failed. The President said that he would put together a point paper on this issue.

A motion to approve the proposed slate of Directors for the November meeting was made, seconded, and approved by all present.

JROTC Awards/NH Veterans Home: Jim Dunn presented the following information on 2025 awards:

JROTC Awards -

The final two of the nine 2025 Awards were presented in late May:

May 23 at Manchester West High School by COL Drew Breuder, USAF (Ret) May 29 at Alvirne High School by CAPT Jim Dunn, USN (Ret)

Photographs from the Spaulding High School presentation on May 15, where I reported last meeting that security was very tight the day of the awards are now in the process of being forwarded. The school committee required the parents of the award recipients to sign a release form in addition to an email release from the JROTC staff. I've received one of the two releases from the parents this week.

Invitations to the MOAA Clambake have been emailed to the JROTC Staff at the High Schools along with a MOAA membership application.

Civil Air Patrol Awards -

I reached out to Bill Moran to see if we can reenergize the effort to obtain CAP participation in the MOAA-NH annual award program. We seemed to be making progress early this year, but the effort stalled when Bill was not able to obtain approval.

US Naval Sea Cadet Corps

Reached out to the Dan Healy Division, located in Kittery, ME to determine their interest in participating in our Awards Program. Contacted Howard King the unit commander and Melissa Perkins, parent leader / events coordinator per Bob Jaffin's suggestion.

Harlan R Dickson Division (Londonderry, NH) – The MOAA Naval Sea Cadet Award Certificate was presented to the Top Cadet in February 2025. Will continue in 2026. Monadnock Squadron (Peterborough, NH) – due to declining enrollment, the Unit CO stated the unit could not participate in 2025. The unit is no longer listed on-line.

Newport News Division (Concord, NH) – No response received to our inquiries made about the unit's willingness to participate in the awards program in 2025. Still working to connect with the organization.

The President was concerned about the lack of participation of the CAP and recommended that Jim contact Gunter AFB where the Headquarters is located and see if they can assist.

Granite State Newsletter: Drew said the June newsletter was completed and approved in early June, but there was a delay in getting it to the printed. It has been mailed recently. He thought it was a very good issue with a lot of participation and photos. The President continues to be concerned about mailing costs.

Web Communications: No updates. Jennifer was excused but continues to work on Facebook and LinkedIn. We are not on SnapChat.

Blast Emails: This position is now vacant. Frank Michael from National will put out a blast email for us regarding the Clambake.

LIAISON REPORTS:

ESGR: Peter said nothing special is going on with ESGR.

Manchester VAMC: Bernie had no report.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1407 hours which was seconded and accepted by all present.

Respectfully submitted,

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