



# The Granite Slate

The official newsletter published quarterly for the  
New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America  
P. O. Box 712, Dover, NH 03821



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Spring Edition

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## MOAA-NH Chapter's Mission

- To promote the aims of the MOAA stated in the By-Laws of that Association
- To further legislative goals and objectives of MOAA
- To encourage and facilitate camaraderie among our membership
- To provide useful services for and to protect the interests of members, their dependents, and survivors

## MOAA-New Hampshire: Moving Forward

*CWO4 Robert D. Jaffin, USN (Ret)*  
*MOAA-NH President*

While certainly not unique to MOAA-New Hampshire, the declining membership numbers, aging, a slowly burning-out leadership team, and changing social norms have led to an erosion of participation within the Board of Directors. At the current rate, the Chapter will no longer be able to operate within less than two years unless things change.

Your leadership team recognizes this and had already started talking about formal succession planning prior to the pandemic closing everything down. This has become our top priority as we move forward. Thanks to Bruce Avery, we now have a strategic review committee in place. That committee is beginning to explore how to approach the problem in order to rectify the situation. Wayne Balcom, Jim Spotts, and Ken Lull are actively working the Scholarship Program. I have failed to recognize the contributions of many others, and I apologize for that. I assure you that as a group your Board of Directors has been working hard. We really need to hear from current and prospective members on how we can turn this organization around and perhaps create a model that can be successful within northern New England for all the other military service organizations facing the same problems. For many of our long-time members, the social aspect of the luncheons may be the most critical piece; and that is fine. However, we still need to hear from you regarding what you would like to see/do at those luncheons. Are these purely social events where speakers or themes are not important? Perhaps you would like to see different topics presented that both spouses and/or other invited guests might enjoy; or you would like to go to different sites where the site

itself presents opportunities. Some examples are a boat ride on the MS Mount Washington, the Cog Railway, or one of the dinner trains. There are others, but it's hard for our teams to plan unless we understand what the membership wants.

What do you think about opening the luncheon to guests with no restrictions, inviting the same guests regularly? It is my opinion that more directly engaging our community is key to our continuing evolution into a recognizable contributor to the community. Do you know young people, perhaps high school juniors or seniors, who have expressed interest in learning more about our military? Invite them to our luncheons and allow them to meet those who have served in most of the conflicts in the last 75 years might offer additional opportunities to both engage and educate future generations.

For those officers who are younger, whether they be active, retired, or merely prior military, what sort of activities would you like the Chapter to engage in – mentoring, networking, community development efforts, or something else? Are there members willing to work on local social service events?

Are there even five or six members who have not yet served on our Board who could commit six-to-ten hours a month to our programs and efforts? We have critical, unfilled openings — especially Treasurer and Recording Secretary. Many of us who have served repeatedly on the Board or in elected positions are simply aging out and will not be able to continue to carry a load by ourselves. Your ideas in terms of what we have done traditionally or what we can do moving forward are going to be a critical piece of the puzzle as the Strategic Review Committee tries to put together a roadmap for the future.

*(continued on page 3)*

### CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Visit the chapter's website at [www.moaa-nh.org](http://www.moaa-nh.org)

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## President's Corner

CWO4 Robert D. Jaffin, USN (Ret)



I hope this edition of the *Granite Slate* finds you all in good health and improving spirits.

We have good news and we have bad news. We will start with the good news: the world, the country, our state, and our chapter are slowly, but surely, returning to more normal times/operations. The bad news is that even prior to the pandemic, our chapter was slowly entering a downward spiral. The pandemic did little to help that situation, but I am hoping the arrival of Spring, the reduction in restrictions, and the strengths of our individual members can turn that around by the end of our calendar year.

We currently have critical vacancies amongst our elected officers and our Board of Directors. ***Only you, the membership, can correct that shortcoming.*** I must single out Roby Day, Bruce Avery, and Michael McLean for the extraordinary efforts they continue to contribute to the survival/existence of this chapter. Having said that, I must also point out that we need new blood on our leadership team to ensure that the chapter survives and moves into the remainder of the 21<sup>st</sup> century as a leader in New Hampshire for all active-duty, prior service, deceased members of the military and their families. That can only happen if we re-invent ourselves to meet the goals and requirements of younger, newer members while still meeting the needs of our current members who have served in Vietnam, Korea, and countless other places in the past century.

Returning to more positive data, we now have three firm program events in our schedule for 2021. I hope this will be the beginning of a memorable "eight-month year." We plan to kick off what should be a very active remaining eight months with our first luncheon on May 15 at the Common Man in Plymouth. The luncheon will include our Granite State Warrior Awards. You should see a flyer in the not-too-distant future.

Our next scheduled event is the Annual Clambake. Because we encountered a little difficulty securing a date, given the current restrictions, we were forced to move the Clambake to September 11, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11. There is an air show running concurrently at Pease. We look forward to a more formal participation by the Southern Maine Chapter of MOAA. I expect this to be a unique event demonstrating the strength and resiliency of MOAA in Northern New England.

Finally, we are committed to holding a normal — and we hope very well attended — Annual Meeting in November at the Nashua Country Club. Let me assure you that the Country Club staff enforced very strict state and federal protocols to ensure our safety. Please mark your calendars for these events and keep your eyes peeled as we, the Board of Directors, look at adding one or two more nontraditional events, hopefully with outdoor elements, between May and September.

**Bob Jaffin**

## Is travelling on your bucket list?

**Maybe this list will help . . .**



### 2021 MOAA-NH Travel Program:

- Spotlights on San Antonio Holiday, five days, five meals. November 27—December 1, 2021 (\$1,990 per person, double occupancy, includes air)
- Greece Island Hopper, 11 days, September 10-21 2021 featuring Athens, Mykonos, and Santorini (\$4,849 per person, double occupancy, 13 meals)

**2022 MOAA Travel Program:** I recently completed our 2022 program with our Collette Regional Manager. The information below indicates our group trips. However, the information on some of the trips is forthcoming and will be posted on our website or "Trip of the Month" email messages. I will begin publishing our Trip of the Month program once again.

**Mackinaw Island Tulip Time Festival:** first week of May 2022. Additional information forthcoming.

**Croatia and its Islands:** Private ship cruise with only 22 cabins, August 2022, 12 Days, 19 meals, \$4,999 with air (this is a deep discount). Additional information forthcoming.

**Classic Danube River and Land Tours:** (limited time available, only two cabins left), with Passion Play in Oberammergau, 28 August – 6 September, \$6499 per person, double occupancy, with air. This trip includes a six-night Danube River cruise and a four-day land journey including Munich, Passau, Vienna, Bratislava, and Budapest.

The following 2022 trips that include the Passion Play are available: Since these trips are not included in our group travel program, call Tony for reservation and price information.

- Classic Danube River and Land Tours
- Exploring the Alpine Countries, 13 days
- Austrian Delight, 10 days
- Discover Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria, 10 days
- Imperial Cities, 11 Days
- Germany's Cultural Cities and the Romantic Roads, 13 days

If you, a family member, or friend desire a specific trip not included in our program, contact me and I will make arrangements with Collette under our World Connect program. For additional information or reservations, contact Tony at 603-391-7106 or email [tonyajb@gmail.com](mailto:tonyajb@gmail.com)

***I continue to seek partnering/co-op with a community organization. Contact me with a point of contact, and I will complete the coordination process.***

**~Tony B.**

### Welcome to Our New 2021 Chapter Members!

CAPT Hernan Altamar (Ret) — Portsmouth, NH  
CDR Philip B. Fuller (Ret) — Londonderry, NH  
CW5 Thomas Goff (Ret) — Newport, NH  
Lt. Col. Dennis D. Kost (Ret) — Barrington, NH  
Maj William Reed, Jr. (Ret) — Exeter, NH

## ***MOAA-New Hampshire: Moving Forward*** (continued from page 1)

*CWO4 Robert D. Jaffin, USN (Ret)*  
*MOAA-NH President*

Our scholarship program is the other major element that we have to address and addressing that issue could lead to some very significant changes to the structure of the corporation. YES, we are essentially a not-for-profit corporation, but one that does not qualify for charitable contributions. We are a 501(c)19 corporation. In my humble opinion the cost and effort of creating a 501(c)3 foundation or corporation should be part of a long-term plan to address the scholarship program. Others have suggested both more radical and less radical approaches to the scholarship program but leadership and the scholarship program are the two biggest challenges facing MOAA New Hampshire. To address both of these we really need more engagement, at least for the short term but preferably for the long term, from all our members.

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### ***Commentary on the VA***

*CWO4 Robert D. Jaffin, USN (Ret)*  
*MOAA-NH President*

The Veterans Administration (VA), driven by the pandemic and by congressional actions, has undertaken massive efforts to become more proactive within the larger military family precept. At the top of the list are their most recent efforts on vaccination. After a very rocky start, the VA quickly moved to open registration for all veterans. Shortly thereafter it moved to open registration to veterans, their spouses, and their caretakers. If you are not currently registered within the VA medical system perhaps this is reason enough to register. The VA has been getting increased consignments of the vaccines and is working hard to be as inclusive as possible in this effort. If this becomes a recurrent requirement, being enrolled with the VA may provide the most reliable guarantee of future vaccine appointments. There are many other individual actions that both VAMCs at Manchester and White River Junction have taken and are taking to increase their outreach/interaction with the entire veteran community.

While we don't actively advertise it, MOAA-NH is actively engaged with the State Veterans Advisory Committee, which meets monthly. The directors of both the Medical Centers always present new and valuable information. Perhaps we will even add a short segment to ***The Granite Slate*** adding some of the more significant VA announcements. Bruce Avery has suggested conducting one or more presentations from the Manchester and White River Junction VAMCs on the complete family of resources the VA offers to veterans. A must to include would be the VA qualification process to present either to the Board of Directors or to the entire membership.

As the current membership continues to age and new challenges appear for the families as well as the veterans, many may not be aware of the totality of services offered through the VA beyond the VAMCs. Here is one example: a March listening session open to all veterans and family members. I fully appreciate that this edition will arrive well after the date, but the point is that the directors of both the VAMCs in our region are being more and more proactive.

### ***MOAA-NH Needs Your Help!***

**Treasurer:** The Treasurer's role within the framework of the Board of Directors is to prepare periodic treasury reports to the Board and membership, keep our books, write checks, make deposits, and complete reports external to the organization (e.g. IRS, State of NH, etc.). In accordance with our By-laws the Treasurer must be a MOAA-NH member. If you are interested in being a part of our leadership team, please contact Roby Day at 603-642-3956 or [fuzzbutthall@comcast.net](mailto:fuzzbutthall@comcast.net).

**Public Affairs Officer:** publicizes MOAA-NH's existence and achievements. It requires writing press releases for media outlets reporting luncheons, the annual clambake and the annual meeting, computer skills for submitting articles and photos, and briefing the Board of Directors on Public Affairs issues. Photos are taken by the Public Affairs Officer and other MOAA members. This position is open to members, spouses, and surviving spouses. Please contact Ken Lull at 603-833-5260 or [long-bow1962@msn.com](mailto:long-bow1962@msn.com) if you are interested.

**Blast e-mail Coordinator:** when requested sends out emails to the membership regarding luncheons, special events and programs, travel programs, Personal Affairs items of interest, and press releases. In conjunction with the Chapter Secretary, the Coordinator adds/deletes/updates/and reconciles member email addresses as needed. Prepares an Annual Report which chronicles the content of the blast e-mails and usage rates among members, and maintains the iContact file library content, deleting old content and updating new content. The fee for iContact is paid by MOAA-NH. This position is open to members, spouses, and surviving spouses. Please contact Geoff Corson at 757-672-0208 (cell) or [geoff-frey.corson.usmc.ret@gmail.com](mailto:geoff-frey.corson.usmc.ret@gmail.com) if you are interested.

**Linked-in Coordinator:** works with an established group on Linked-in for the purpose of helping members who have a Linked-in account find employment in NH. Contacts recruiters and human resource professionals around New Hampshire who are interested in hiring former officers to join the group, and asks members to post information on open positions. This position is open to members, spouses, and surviving members. Please contact Jim Spotts at 603-494-8796 or [jim.spotts@hotmail.com](mailto:jim.spotts@hotmail.com).

Jim also oversees recruiting for us. He states, "Every member is a recruiter. Please take a few recruiting business cards and sign-up flyers with you. If you would like to help our chapter recruit new members please contact me."



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[www.moaa-nh.org](http://www.moaa-nh.org)



WHY MOAA?  
YouTube video



March 2021

## Taps



LCDR William Andrews, USN (Ret)	Punta Gorda, FL
CPT Robert M. Gordon, USA (Ret)	Concord, NH
Mrs. Ann Holcombe	Wolfeboro, NH
Mrs. Christina T. Hurst	Hanover, NH
CWO2 Donald Lambert, USMC (Ret)	Dover, NH
CAPT Robert Lewellen, USN (Ret)	Contoocook, NH
CW4 Edward Nyberg, Jr., USA (Ret)	Somersworth, NH
MAJ James H. O'Rourke, USA (Ret)	Bedford, NH
COL Bruce S. Packard, USA (Ret)	Bedford, NH
Mrs. Doris P. Phippen	Concord, NH
Mrs. Dorothy G. Roloff	Swanzy, NH
Mrs. Virginia P. Rose	Littleton, MA
Mrs. Jean W. Saladino	Rochester, NH
COL Merle W. Schotanus, USA (Ret)	Lebanon, NH
Mrs. Elizabeth B. Shea	Exeter, NH
Mrs. Barbara J. Smith	Trumbull, CT
Capt Everett A Weare, USMC (Ret)	Seabrook, NH



### CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK

Did you know that MOAA-NH has a Facebook page? We do . . . at <https://www.facebook.com/MOAA-NH-403462326493407/> Check out all the latest pictures and information about the chapter. While you're there, be sure to "like" us.

Cut and paste or type the link below into your browser. It will take you directly to National MOAA's "Take Action" tab. There you can learn about current legislative issues and voice your opinions about their efforts.

<http://www.moaa.org/takeaction>

### FOR LINKED-IN USERS

MOAA-NH members: We have established a group on LinkedIn for the purpose of helping members find employment in the New Hampshire area. If you have a LinkedIn account, please request to join the "New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA-NH)" group. If you are seeking employment or know a prospective member who will be, create a post for the group with a link to the member's profile. We also ask that recruiters and human resource professionals from companies around New Hampshire who are interested in hiring former officers to join the group. If you have suggestions for the LinkedIn Group, please contact Jim Spotts at [jim.spotts@hotmail.com](mailto:jim.spotts@hotmail.com).