



# 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



March 2022

Winter News & Events

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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

## Mass Casualty Situation

The general definition of a mass casualty situation is one in which an incident or incidents overwhelm the medical resources, personnel, equipment, and supplies available to respond to these events. In many parts of the US and around the world, this is exactly what is happening with Covid-19 cases that result in hospitalization and deaths. For anyone who has ever been in the military, especially medics, this is a familiar situation in which they have been trained to respond in a rapid fashion. Incident commanders are taught to assess the overall situation, respond to limit further casualties, triage patients, and treat and transport victims as rapidly and effectively as possible with the resources they have on hand. In the "old days," for combatant commanders, this was called the "come-as-you-are war." From the medical perspective, this means that you use the treatments you have on hand, not those that need a randomized, prospective, double-blinded study that may or may not give you the result you're looking for in two-to-four years.

For much of the last several months, the US health system has been responding to the surge of Covid infections and hospitalizations in much the same way, with one exception. There has been very limited, and in many cases, non-existent attempts to successfully prevent further cases. We have relied almost entirely, if not exclusively, on vaccinations as the only means of accomplishing this task. Treatment options to prevent the progression of early cases into more severe illness, have been severely limited to the occasional use of monoclonal antibodies. All attempts to use FDA-approved drugs that appear to have some effects in treating Covid, have been severely constrained from the federal government on down to the local level, simply because they are not FDA-approved for this infection. Even a local physician who heads the emergency department of one of the local hospitals had

recommended that the State of NH sanction practitioners who wish to try these drugs for Covid-19 treatment. If we were dealing with a new outbreak of some version of the old Spanish Influenza, I can almost guarantee we would be handing out Tamiflu or similar drugs like candy.

Although anecdotal evidence should generally be avoided in making treatment decisions, there comes a point when so much worldwide use information on the effectiveness of certain drugs against a particular disease becomes available that practitioners should be allowed to use their own clinical judgement and do what they believe is right for their patients. This already happens with many drugs in the US. Between 12% to 56% of all FDA drugs, depending on the particular drug category, are used "off label" to treat conditions for which they were not explicitly FDA approved. Even if these drugs are not 100% effective (no drug ever is), if they could reduce the number of cases progressing to severe illness by 50-60%, that would have an immediate and substantial impact on the current crush of hospital admissions and beds until more specific drugs are available. This approach to treating Covid was advocated by a paper from the Yale School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology, well over 18 months ago.

Therefore, I would respectfully urge all federal and state health departments to stop the efforts to prevent individual health practitioners from using all available pharmaceutical means to treat early cases of Covid 19 and help relieve the pressure on the hospitals throughout this state and the US.

*Andrew J Breuder, MD, MPH, FACPM, FAsMA, CPE  
Colonel (Ret), USAF, MC, CFS  
Retired USAF Chief Flight Surgeon*

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

CPT James R. LeFebvre, USAR, 603-356-7296, lefebvrej@att.net

### VICE PRESIDENT

Lt Col Laurance M. Miller, USAFR (Ret), 603-424-9698, millerlm73@me.com

### FINANCE (TREASURER)

CDR DiJon (Dee) Fasoli, USN (Ret), 603-672-8198, drfasoli@comcast.net

### SECRETARY

Lt Col Wayne E. Balcom, USAF (Ret), 603-880-4148, wbalcom@comcast.net

CDR Michael A. McLean, USN (Ret), 603-692-4648; mamclean@comcast.net

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Marie Chipola, 603-521-7708; marie.chipola@gmail.com

**President's Corner**  
**CPT James R. LeFebvre, USAR**



I'm writing this piece in the middle of February, as we continue to deal with COVID and the famous New Hampshire winter. It appears to this optimist that the worst of both are behind us, and we are in the process of returning to "normal," whatever that is.

In the following months, the chapter will have two luncheons, one in April at the Common Man in Plymouth, and the second at the White Mountain Hotel and Resort in North Conway in June. I trust that our membership will take full advantage of both opportunities to reestablish face-to-face contact with each other and shake off any cobwebs from the winter blahs.

On the "personnel" side, we have been successful in identifying a replacement team for our long serving treasurer, Roby Day. My deep personal thanks to Roby and his wife, Sharon, for their unstinting work on behalf of the chapter over many years. Dee Fasoli has agreed to step up to the treasurer challenge and, ably assisted by Wayne Balcom, will soon be taking over fully. Best wishes for future success.

In another important personnel change, this *Granite Slate* will be the final one produced by Marie Chipola. Once again, I wish to extend my personal thanks and those of the chapter's members for a job well done. Her temporary

replacement is someone I know very well, Cynthia Ann LeFebvre. She has agreed to fill in for the June and September 2022 editions of the *Slate*. We must take advantage of this opportunity to find a full-time replacement for this key position. We must also find someone to fill the Public Affairs Officer (PAO) position.

Advocacy in Action (the renamed "Storming the Hill") will be an area of focus in April. Due to Capitol Hill Security measures and other issues, we will be seeking to meet with our Congressional Delegation during their April 11-22 spring recess in New Hampshire. Our contact team will consist of Jim LeFebvre, Laurence Miller, Bob Jaffin, Peter Burdett, and William Luti. MOAA national's advocacy topics are:

- Support of concurrent receipt legislation for combat injured service members
- Reduction of Tricare Mental Health Copayments
- Enactment of a 4.6 percent Military Pay Raise in the FY 2023 NDAA

We will also bring up NH-specific topics for discussion. Anyone who wishes to bring other topics for review is asked to contact one of the leadership team listed above.

In closing, I wish to thank all chapter members for their continued support of both our local and national objectives. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our social events in April and June.

*Jim LeFebvre*

***MOAA-NH Statistical Summary as of 12/31/2021***

RANK BREAKDOWN		SERVICE BREAKDOWN		AGE BREAKDOWN		WHERE MEMBERS LIVE ( R E G I O N S )	
O10	0	USAF	148	< 40 YO	2	Dartmouth - Sunapee	38
O9	0						
O8	5	USA	148	40 - 49 YO	1	Lakes	54
O7	8						
O6	138	USN	104	50 - 59 YO	41	Monadnock	31
O5	159						
O4	70	USMC	29	60 - 69 YO	89	Seacoast	167
O3	40						
O2	7	USCG	21	70 - 79 YO	145	Merrimack Valley	163
O1	2						
CWO5	7	USPHS	2	80 - 89 YO	174	White Mountains	41
CWO4	12						
CWO3	3	NOAA	2	> 90 YO	141	North Country	5
CWO2	3						
CIV	139	CIV	139	UNK	0	Other States	94
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>593</b>

*CDR Michael A. McLean, USN (Ret)*  
*MOAA-NH Secretary*

## *Is travelling on your bucket list?*

*Maybe this list will help . . .*



**2022 MOAA Travel Program:** All our 2022 trips are posted on the MOAA-NH website under Group Travel and through our "Trip of the Month" email blast messages.

**Croatia and its Islands:** 7-night Adriatic cruise. Private ship cruise with only 22 cabins; 23 Aug – 3 Sep 2022; 12 days; 19 meals; \$4,999 with air from Boston (this is a deep discount).

**Classic Danube Passion Play Danube River & Land Cruise:** (limited time, only one cabin available); 28 August – 6 September 2022; \$6,499 per person double occupancy with air, 22 meals. This trip includes a six-night Danube River cruise and a four-day land journey including Munich, Passau, Vienna, Bratislava & Budapest.

The following 2022 trips, that include the **Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany**, are also available through our World Connect Program. If you are interested in any of the following trips, contact Tony or Tom at the contact information shown below. Various dates are available for the following trips:

- Classic Danube River and Land Tour, 10 days
- 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 & the Romantic Roads, 13 days

### **2023 MOAA Travel Program:**

**Discover the spotlight on Nashville:** 26-30 March 2023, 5 days, 7 meals — \$1,999 with air from Logan.

**Peaks of Europe (The Alps to the Dolomites) [New Tour]:** 14-26 April 2023, 13 days, 18 meals — \$5,899 with air from Logan.

**A Taste of the Balkans [New Tour]:** 13-28 May 2023, 16 days, 22 meals — \$5,599 with air from Logan.

The following 2023 trips are scheduled, but prices and specific dates are not yet available:

**Montana — Exploring the Big Sky Country [New Tour] — September 2023**

**Alaska — Discovery Land and Cruise — July 2023**

Beginning in 2023 and beyond, we will be emphasizing our "**WORLD CONNECT**" program. You may select any state or country you wish to travel, approximate dates, contact Tony or Tom; and we will provide you with our member number and specific information on the trip. Reservations are then made through the retail division of Collette. These trips are not in our group travel program. In 2023, we will feature the following retail (World Connect) trips; but you can choose any other trip you desire.

The following prices do not include air.

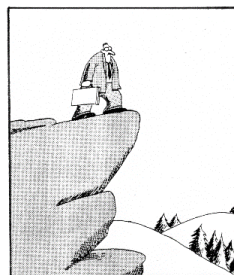
- ♦ **Spotlight on New Orleans:** 5 days, various dates — \$1,799
- ♦ **Magnificent Cities of Central & Eastern Europe:** 14 days, various dates — \$2,999
- ♦ **The Best of Eastern Canada:** 9 days, various dates — \$2,399
- ♦ **Alpine Lakes and Scenic Trains:** 9 days, various dates — \$3,199
- ♦ **National Parks of America:** 12 days, various dates — \$3,999
- ♦ **Treasures of Europe:** 12 days, various dates — \$3,399
- ♦ **Discovering Poland:** 12 days, various dates — \$1,999

For additional information and reservations, contact Tony at 603-391-7106 or email [tonyajjb@gmail.com](mailto:tonyajjb@gmail.com) or Tom at 603-686-2663 or email [tkyleh@yahoo.com](mailto:tkyleh@yahoo.com).

*Please feel free to send this article to relatives and friends. They may be interested in our travel program.*

*We continue to seek partnership with a community organization. Contact Tony or Tom with a point of contact, and we will complete the coordination process.*

*~Tony B.*



## *Passing the Accounting Eyeshade*

Eventually, everyone finds it necessary to move on, and so it is with members of MOAA-NH's Board of Directors. A corollary might be that no one is indispensable, and woe betide an organization that thinks otherwise.

CDR Roby Day, USN (Ret), Treasurer since 2012, is passing the Treasurer's eyeshade to CDR DiJon Fasoli, USN (Ret), aka "Dee," who is imminently qualified for the position.

Historically, MOAA-NH's Treasurer position has combined three positions in one; *i.e.*, that being Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer, and Comptroller. For Roby, the work was never onerous, but rather, rewarding as a way to serve our membership. The handoff has been complicated by the present, security-conscious, business environment. With every financial institution Dee and Roby have dealt with, the twists and turns of turnover are far more complex than they were in 2012. Therefore, this has become a lengthy transition, rather than simple. A final handoff is anticipated Feb/Mar 2022.

Lt Col Wayne E. Balcom, USAF (Ret) is one of MOAA-NH's Directors and serves on our Scholarship Committee. Last year, he was appointed Vice Treasurer to assist Dee in her duties. We have had a Vice Treasurer before. Today's circumstances dictate that, going forward, Dee and Wayne will share the Treasurer duties and responsibilities intimately. Together, they will maintain financial continuity and accountability the membership expects, and we thank them for their dedication.

*CDR James R. Day, Jr., USN (Ret)*

The New Hampshire Chapter of the MOAA  
PO Box 712  
Dover NH 03821-0712  
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PERMIT 615



www.moaa-nh.org



WHY MOAA?  
YouTube video

### *Welcome to Our New 2022 Chapter Members!*

CPT Alfred L. Cruz, USA (Ret)  
Nashua, NH

CPT Robert Dapice, USA  
Hopkinton, NH

Capt Matthew R. Sabourin dit Choiniere, USAF  
Hampton, 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).



March 2022

*Taps*



Mrs. Muriel J. Bennett  
COL John W. Britton, USA (Ret)  
LCDR Paul W. Elkins, USN (Ret)  
CAPT Robert Lagassa, USN (Ret)  
Mrs. Kathryn E. Schaller

Center Conway, NH  
Rindge, NH  
Farmington, NH  
New London, NH  
Hudson, NH