

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA
NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
11 September 2025

Call to Order: The BOD meeting at the Backyard Restaurant was called to order by President Larry Miller at 1157 hours. Gary Terhune provided the opening prayer. All members present recited the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was made in remembrance of the attacks on the US at 08:46 and 09:03 on the twin towers.

Attending: Balcolm, Boyle, Breuder, Burdett, Dunn, C. Frost, Jaffin, McLean, Miller (Larry & Pat), Rosa, Siemens. Bancroft McKittrick was also in attendance. 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. Annual meeting of membership, 30 Oct, also at the same location as above.
3. Eastern Workshop, 14-15 November, Hersey, PA, Pat and he will attend.
4. Privacy Policy. Similar situation to the Copyright issue. There will be a 30 day opt-out and more details will be sent out.
5. A bipartisan complaint was made to National about Larry. The complaint was from Frank Michael about Larry not being bipartisan at one of our events. Larry's policy is that if you are a candidate for elected office and attend one of our meetings/events, he will not allow that individual to speak at that event. Allowing that to happen would constitute a campaign speech. He thinks this came about at the Granite State Warrior's awards where Representatives Goodlander, Pappas, and Senator Hassan spoke about helping veterans. At the Clambake Governor Ayotte and Representative Pappas spoke. He recognized others who were running campaigns, but didn't allow them to speak.
6. MOAA Summer Advocacy ended in August.
7. Internship Job description – Handshake. Larry handed out a copy of the description of duties. This is based on Moe Demers from the Franco-American Society which has a similar position. This not only assists the organization but also the intern with respect to college credits or experience. Using their basic format, Larry only changed it to match our description and needs. Main needs are for a media type person. Michael suggested an additional set of topics or tasks that he would like to off-load to an intern. Moe suggested a possible candidate and there is a program called "Handshake" that can provide candidates. Peter suggested adding another topic: uses of artificial intelligence (AI). Drew & Betty will be taking a course at St. Anselm's starting next week that covers this topic. Program is four sessions of 1.5 hours each. Peter also mentioned that this person might change every semester and won't be available during the summer.
8. Chapter coins: At an earlier meeting, Larry distributed some poker chips. There is a vendor in California that makes a coin, designed by his friend, a former Ohio State Trooper, that cost about \$6.50. Larry passed the sample around the table. This may be a task for the intern to design a chapter coin or make a poker chip like Veteran's Count does.
9. Articles of Agreement: Larry came across this document from 2003 and wanted to know if this required an update with the state of NH? Micheal said "No" it is current and was only filed in 2003 with the name change from "TROA" to "MOAA". This doesn't need to be re-filed. The original agreement was from 1979 when the chapter was formed.

Immediate Past President Remarks: Jim was absent. Peter used this time to make a few comments. Peter still has some “Veteran’s Count” coins if you don’t have one. The US Navy birthday event will be in the Governor’s chambers in the State House on 13 October. Please RSVP if you intend to attend.

VP Remarks: Bob said he has spoken to Larry about replicating last year’s holiday get together at Jesse’s in Lebanon. He asked for a show of hands for how many members would be willing to go to Lebanon in December for a luncheon? Most indicated they would attend. Bob will also invite the Vermont, Albany/NY, and Maine members.

The second issue is that after he leaves here today, he has an hour meeting in Rep. Goodlander’s office this afternoon and will be attending Goodlander’s ceremony at the cemetery that evening. He has about two pages of issues to discuss with her, including the copyright issue involving the Armed Services seals. Part of the reason we didn’t have more attendees at the August Clambake involved issues from the Government Office of Ethics regarding “gifts”. For example, the Fire Chief called Bob and said they couldn’t accept a meal due to the ethics rules regarding possible influence. (Note: As a young 1Lt at SAMSO at LA AFS in the early 70’s, I wasn’t allowed to accept a cup of coffee from General Dynamics staff in San Diego when visiting the production plant for Atlas missiles. Current limit for federal employees is \$25).

Secretary’s Report: Michael introduced Bancroft McKittrick, a former President of the NH Chapter, who was here on visit. Michael said that he received no comments or corrections to the July minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was seconded and approved by all present. **ACTION #1: Closed.**

Bookkeeper’s Report: Larry said he received a bill from iContact regarding our annual \$88 subscription for the blast emails. Peter said that in talking with Bob, he doesn’t want to use it anymore as it no longer meets our needs. Once an email address is removed from that system, it can’t be added back into the system later. Also, we have many inaccurate or inactive member email addresses. Cheddar UP can support blast emails. We also have the possibility of using the intern to do some of this work. Bob suggested that by using FaceBook, our own website, and Cheddar UP, we can accomplish this task without this service. Peter concurred with that assessment. A motion to discontinue the iContact subscription was made and approved by all present. **ACTION #2: Closed.**

Peter said that we are solvent. He has moved all the funds currently on Cheddar UP to our TD bank accounts. We are gradually shifting our resources over to SCU for the future. If you still need to make deposits to the TD bank accounts, if you aren’t already in their verification system, you need to go through their process before being allowed to make a deposit. Peter, Wayne and Mike are the principal depositors for this bank. This requirement is to help prevent any money laundering. Peter will settle some money transfer issues for the Scholarship fund after the meeting. Michael asked if Peter was going to submit an annual budget for the annual meeting? He will come with a draft soon. Historically, the Chapter hasn’t always done a budget. Larry mentioned that the MOAA National fund for buying tablecloths run out completely very quickly. He wants to make sure we get some of that money next year so we can buy a chapter tablecloth because using the current banner is somewhat cumbersome. He knows of a vendor who makes these. Michael said these are also available from the MOAA National store (**NOTE:** in checking the MOAA National website, I got a “Server Error 404; file or directory is temporarily unavailable” flag). A motion to accept Peter’s report was made, seconded and approved by all present. **ACTION #3: Closed.**

Trustee of the Trust Fund: Drew stated that stock market has significantly improved for the last few weeks. Peter said that the Dow hit an all time high if it closes above its opening this morning.

Surviving Spouse Liaison report:

1. During MOAA-NH annual clambake, CAPT Frank Michaels, USN (Ret), Senior Director, Affiliated Councils and Chapters, presented me with the President's Award, signed by Lt. General Brian Kelly, USAF (Ret), President and CEO of MOAA. Congressman Chris Pappas, member of Congress, awarded me a Congressional Record, from the House of Representatives.
2. I attended a virtual meeting of Surviving Spouse Liaisons. MOAA is concentrating on spouses and members needing information. On the MOAA website, there are several pamphlets to help. "Preparing for the Loss of a Spouse" and "Survivors Planning Guide" are only two.
3. Capt. William Davis passed away 11/19/23. His surviving spouse, Nancy, has retained his LIFE membership with her own MOAA number. MOAA-NH is sending a donation in his memory to Tunnels to Towers.
4. Capt. Paul W. Chapman passed away July 19, 2025. He is survived by his spouse of 68 years, Arvilla, who will retain his LIFE membership under her own MOAA number. At one point in his career, Capt. Chapman served as the commanding officer at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard while in the Reserves. I attended Capt. Chapman's Celebration of Life on August 23, 2025. I met with Arvilla and sons Caleb and Enoch. Since his obituary asked for memorial donations made to the charity of choice, MOAA-NH donated to the MOAA-NH Scholarship Fund.

OLD BUSINESS:

Veterans Cemetery Project: Larry passed around a photo of the completed bench. The contractor in Vermont is coordinating the delivery with the cemetery and coordinating with Shaw Buck to get the foundation set. It will be a gravel foundation, not cement, so this will be less expensive. The bench is black granite is expected to provide a better contrast with the logo and lettering. Total expected cost should be just at \$4,500. Larry suggested that we hold off on a dedication ceremony until the spring. Bob suggested doing a dedication during the week of Veteran's Day.

VT Members: Larry has sent out the remaining postcards and received on return. These postcards were sent out to members whose names we didn't have an address in Vermont.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 1237 and resumed at 1256 hours.

NEW BUSINESS:

November Luncheon: The breakeven point for the luncheon is \$33.82 and we're charging \$35. A more expensive speaker's gift might change this situation. Different meal selections cost between \$24 - \$38/plate depending upon the actual selection. Most were in the mid twenty-dollar range. When you add in taxes, gratuity, etc., the average meal cost would be around \$37.50.

Michael wasn't impressed by the proposed speaker talking about 3-D printing for submarines, but Bob said that this applies to all aspects of the military industrial base, not just subs. It is really a discussion of advanced manufacturing issues.

For the speaker's gift, we will have a certificate of appreciation, a challenge coin, and one of the picture books of NH.

MOAA Magazine Article: Chuck Frost said that Annette had written a nice article on our Clambake and submitted it to MOAA Magazine, and it has been accepted for publication in the future. Michael asked if she had accepted the PAO position for the Chapter, and Chuck said "Yes". Michael will add her name to the annual report for the PAO position.

Clambake Audit: Bob mentioned that tasks related to the Clambake are year-round. He is working with Jason Moody, and they have to an exhaustive inventory of the items in the trailer. He is asking if one or two BOD members could assist them with completing this by the end of the month. **ACTION #4: Open;** All BOD members.

Larry questioned whether there is a requirement for having a HAZMAT sign on the trailer due to the number of propane tanks stored inside. Apparently, there is no issue if you are moving the trailer as a private citizen.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Government Relations (National/State/SVAC/MLT/Vets Count): Peter said the SVAC is on summer break and will reconvene again on 7 October.

NH State Legislature: Bill Luti was not present, and the State Legislature is on summer recess. Kevin Grady puts out a report in the fall about all the upcoming LSR's. Bill Luti will cover the relevant items in his annual report.

Personal Affairs: Position is now filled by Annette Buford-Frost.

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

Recruiting/Transition: No updates. Tom has not been available due to medical issues. Peter suggested that we ask him if he wants a replacement. If he wants to remain in the position, we should look to add an assistant. **ACTION #5: Open**

Programs GSWA: Gerry said we've already discussed the annual meeting. Next will be the Granite State Warrior award in January, and the April luncheon at the Plymouth Common Man.

Web page: Michael said that there were 245 hits in August.

Travel Program: Tony Burdo sent the following information in an email.

Discover the Alpine Countries...16-27 July 2026

Sunny Portugal Discovery...27 October – 5 November 2026

Alaska Discovery Land and Sea...2-13 September 2026

Discover American Heritage...17-24 April 2026

Discover Christmas Markets of Montreal and Quebec...14-20 December 2026

To date, we have no reservations to travel for 2026

I am having difficulty getting my periodic blast email messages sent to members. I normally send out a message for one or two of our trips every couple of months. Without getting travel notices out to our members, our program will be impacted in a negative manner. I need help with this. Who can I contact to get our travel blast email messages out to our members? Thank you.

Our 2025 commission from Collette Travel totaled \$4,302.00. I sent the commission check to Peter Burdette.

Scholarship Grant Program: Wayne Balcolm said we have \$9731.22 in the TD account and there are five students. He will need to disburse \$8,000 for the spring semester. Wayne received \$275 directly during the Clambake. Peter and Wayne will discuss fund transfers after this meeting. He has enough funds for December's payout, and three of these students are seniors. He also received a letter from a current awardee who thanked the board for supporting him these past four years. His sister is a former scholarship winner and is currently a singer aboard a cruise ship in the Caribbean.

2025 Granite State Warrior Award: Bob gave a list of a dozen possible candidates for these awards. Bob had suggested John Barrett, State VSO and Wilcox Industries. Peter and Gary mentioned that Wilcox has already received this award. EasterSeals has already received an award. Gerry suggested TurboCam which makes turbine fans for a variety of military applications. They are located in Barrington. They are currently putting up their 3rd major addition. Jack Heath from the local radio station was also suggested for the personal award, and after some discussion, it was decided to proceed with his selection. Bob suggested that Fratello's in either February or March would be an option for the luncheon. **ACTION #6: OPEN;** Jaffin to check on date for luncheon at Fratello's in Manchester.

Nominations – Directors: Sharon was unavailable for the meeting. As a follow up from previous meetings, we need to determine whether the number of Directors will remain at the current 12 or be reduced to 9 over three years. This subject has been discussed previously, and as a result, Michael made a motion to reduce the number of Directors from 12 to 9 over the next three years subject to membership approval at the Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded.

After further discussion of alternatives to recruitment (Saturday am meetings; night driving issues, luncheon meetings during working hours, etc.), the vote of the BOD was 6 in favor and 5 against. The motion carried. **ACTION #7: Open;** Present the proposed reduction in Directors to membership at the Annual Meeting.

JROTC Awards/NH Veterans Home: Jim Dunn discussed adding the Sea Cadets to our awards program. Since the last meeting, he has contacted the CO of the Dan Healy Division in Portsmouth, NH. They were excited to join. However, Kevin Galeaz, Council President of the NH Chapter of the Navy League, said that the Sea Cadet program was overseen by the Navy League and that we should be going through him about this program. The Portsmouth program will have their award program in June 2026. Jim will have another discussion with the CO again in early October.

Michael asked about the other two Sea Cadet programs in NH, and Jim said that it appears that they are no longer in existence. Jim has not gotten any responses from other units he has tried to contact.

Peter asked about the CAP program. Jim has not received a response back so far. Peter suggested contacting Bill Moran. Drew said that Bill might be attending the Order of Daedalians meeting on Friday night (he was not there due to ongoing medical issues). Bob said that there was a very large CAP turnout during the Friday session of "Thunder over NH" airshow prep. He spoke to one of the CO's and they said that there were cadets from at least four different units at the airshow. The last time Bill Moran spoke to Jim, he said he couldn't get any commitments for joining our awards programs.

There was also a discussion about adding gold bars for commissioning ceremonies. There are two units at UNH and the three units at Norwich. The Navy unit might require shoulder boards, which would be significantly more expensive. Michael said that Joe DiChario had done this previously but stopped doing this for the Army since they wore patches on their uniforms and only used them on dress uniforms. Jim will do more research on this issue.

ACTION #8: Open; Jim will inform Kevin Galeaz that we will be proceeding with Sea Cadet Award Program and keep him in the loop.

Granite State Newsletter: Drew handed out some copies of the draft of the September newsletter. Page 3 still needs some material to fill a small gap on that page. He had already received an "activities update" from Bob and wondered if he should delete the vacancies Sharon listed or add information about the upcoming Annual Meeting or photos from the recent airshow. Michael recommended updating the vacancies list and he would send some information on the Director's issue to be voted at the annual meeting. **ACTION #9: Closed;** a final draft was submitted on 15 September, amended, and final draft submitted on 16 September.

Web Communications: No updates. Jennifer was excused.

Blast Emails: This position is still vacant. We will no longer be using iContact.

LIAISON REPORTS:

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

Manchester VAMC: Bernie sent a long report. Details will be included as an attachment to the minutes. Also, November is the deadline for the study for a full-service hospital at Manchester. **Annual**

Veteran's Home Donation: A motion was made, seconded and approved by all present to present a \$500 check to the NH State Veteran's Home at the next SVAC meeting in October. **ACTION #10: Closed.**

September 2025 BOD meeting: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1400 hours which was seconded and accepted by all present.

Next BOD Meeting: 16 October 2025 at the Backyard Restaurant in Manchester. Respectfully submitted,

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

August 2025

Tomorrow: Town Hall for Veterans and their family members.

When: Tue. Sep 9, 2025, 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET

Where: Manchester VA Medical Center Solarium

718 Smyth Road

Manchester, NH

Veterans Free Farmers Market

When: Wed. Sep 24, 2025, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET

Where: Manchester VA Medical Center

Mountain Entrance

718 Smyth Road

Manchester, NH

Flu Shot:

Drive-thru Clinic

When: Wed. Sep 24, 2025, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET

Where: Manchester VA Medical Center

718 Smyth Road

Manchester, NH

Weekend Clinic

When: Sat. Sep 27, 2025, 10:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET

Where: Manchester VA Medical Center

718 Smyth Road

Manchester, NH

Walk-in Clinic

When: Thu. Oct 2, 2025, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET

Where: Manchester VA Medical Center

Mountain Entrance

718 Smyth Road

Manchester, NH

Walk-in Clinic

When: Wed. Oct 8, 2025, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET

Where: Manchester VA Medical Center

Mountain Entrance

718 Smyth Road

Manchester, NH

Conway, Portsmouth, Somersworth and Tilton CBOCs:

Flu vaccine by appointment only starting in October. To schedule an appointment, call 603.624.4366, Ext. 203199.

The following has seen wide review, but worth posting:
Manchester VA Medical Center to receive infrastructure improvements

The Department of Veterans Affairs will realign an additional \$800 million this fiscal year as part of the Veterans Health Administration's Non-Recurring Maintenance program, which makes infrastructure improvements to health care facilities to ensure safe and effective patient care. The extra funding means more resources to repair and update aging VA facilities and technology. The extra money will be spent on a variety of improvement projects at various VA health care facilities across the nation, including the Manchester VA Medical Center, where the following improvements will occur:

Replace Above Ground Storage
Stair 4 Fire Separation Deficiency
Renovate Building 1 3rd Floor Lab
Electric Health Record Modernization (EHRM) Installation of NextGen WiFi Upgrade

NH Veteran Stand Down (Not VA Manchester Related)
When: Wed. Oct 8, 2025, 10:00 a.m. –22:00 p.m. ET
Where: Eversource Energy Park
Mountain Entrance
780 N Commercial Street
Manchester, NH
Find more information at: www.harborcarenh.org/stand-down