

JOIN OUR CHAPTER



COL Edward Cross Chapter

The New Hampshire Chapter of AUSA



Chapter General Membership Newsletter – December 2018

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A Note from the Chapter President

Hello everyone. A belated Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy Holidays and early Happy New Years to everyone! It seems like the Year 2018 has flown by for many of us, but a lot of great things happened for our Chapter. A very special thanks to all of you who continue to show your support for AUSA and our Chapter by being members.

This brings up my number one topic for this month and that is membership. While every organization I know and belong to is always pounding away about membership, membership, membership...I discovered that on 1 January 2019, our Chapter will lose over 130 members, a quarter of our membership, unless everyone checks when their membership expires. I ask that everyone take the time to look at their Membership Account by logging into the AUSA.org website and then click on "My Account" in the top right portion of the page. If you are due to renew, I kindly ask that you renew. If you choose not to renew, I kindly ask that you send me a message to let me know your reasons so I can at least improve our Chapter and AUSA, so you may consider rejoining

in the future. It is extremely important that everyone do this for the viability of the Chapter. On behalf of all the members of our Chapter, I thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter. Additionally, if you are reading this newsletter, and have so for many months, please kindly consider joining AUSA to help support the Chapter's work for our Soldiers, their families, and those who work for the Army.

The second, and equally important topic for this month, is the "Our Community Salutes" (OCS) program. This is a program to recognize and honor our local citizens who are joining the military. While some communities in our State do something like this locally, our State does not have a formalized program as OCS provides. I would like our Chapter to lead the way in this effort, but other organizations have expressed support for our efforts, which is great. Our goal is to do something like a dinner or luncheon where the young folks going into the military are recognized and that their parents can attend as well. If ever there was a time our Chapter needed your help, please consider this the time to volunteer. We will need a team to organize and coordinate this event so please contact me if you can give some of your time to this effort. The Manchester Monarchs are already on board and are willing to help us raise funds by having a military appreciation night where some of the proceeds will go toward the OCS program. You can read more about the program at <http://www.ourcommunitysalutes.org/>. Please contact me if you are interested. Thanks!!!!

As the year ends, I thank those of you who have volunteered to help at our events throughout the year. Whether it was the Golf Tournament, as a Guest Speaker at the UNH ROTC, organize the Army Ski Day, or as a member of our Chapter Executive Committee; your efforts and time have made our Chapter number one. I cannot thank you enough and I look forward to our continued success and exciting endeavors in 2019. Next year will be an extremely busy year with organizing the OCS event before May and hosting the AUSA First Region Meeting the end of April; along with all the regular events we hold. I always consider us successful, though, if all of you members can say "my dues for AUSA membership are well worth the cost." Thank you again for all who volunteer, and I look forward to seeing everyone next year!!

Greg

November Recap

Thank you to UNH Athletic Department for their support of Veterans this past Veterans Day: A special note of thanks to the UNH Athletic Department for supporting Veterans on the 10th of November with their special "Salute to Veterans" game. A wonderful time was had by all despite the weather (and the loss by UNH to Albany). The Athletic Department did a great job in meeting the needs of the veterans and we are all grateful for the event.!

Upcoming Chapter Events:

January 25, Chapter “Army Ski Day” at Gunstock: Our Chapter will hold our Army Ski Day on 25 January at Gunstock Mountain Resort. There will be skiing, tubing, Mountain Roller Coaster riding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and night skiing all available to everyone who attends. Plus, we will have a social after the day skiing with soup and sandwiches. This can be a family day so please put this on your calendar and invite others to attend and bring your family as the tubing will be after the ski day, so the kids can attend after school. The flyer with detailed information is in this newsletter.

February 23, “Our Community Salutes” Fundraiser at the Monarchs: The Manchester Monarchs will sponsor a fund raiser for “Our Community Salutes”, a program to recognize and honor those young Americans who volunteered to join the military. The evening will not only include a great hockey game but, included free:

- Meet the Players - Kids can enjoy meeting the players in the high-five tunnel
- 1 FREE Concourse Table to promote your organization
- VIP parking: Volunteers and group leaders receive free parking in our VIP lot.

Also, for all the kids that come out to the game we can get them down into the High Five Tunnel to High Five all the players when they walk onto the ice before the game! More information as we work out the details.

Please visit Our Facebook Page: Our Chapter’s Facebook page is called the “Colonel Edward Cross Chapter, the New Hampshire Chapter of AUSA” and you can find it at <https://www.facebook.com/Colonel-Edward-Cross-Chapter-the-New-Hampshire-Chapter-of-AUSA-1350333641697702/>. Please visit the page and hit the Like button so you can receive notifications when items are added. There you can see pictures from our events as well as learn about upcoming events. If you want to add items to the page, contact me and I can have them added. Pictures from events will be posted there so please take the time to visit the page and hit the “Follow” button. Thanks!

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Until next month... Please have a wonderful Christmas, Chanukah and Holiday Season and see you next Year!!

Greg d'Arbonne, Colonel Edward Cross Chapter President

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Military Retiree Dental and Vision Plans Dental/Vision (FEDVIP) Sign-up is now!

Just a reminder that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has begun offering vision and dental insurance to military families and retirees through the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). Many military retirees and

their families currently use the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) which is ending on Dec. 31, 2018. For 2019, most TRICARE retirees and their families can enroll in FEDVIP for dental coverage, vision coverage, or both. Also new for 2019 – many active duty military families may enroll in FEDVIP vision coverage.

Military families and retirees who enroll in FEDVIP will be able to choose from 10 dental carriers and four vision carriers, selecting the plan that best meets their family's needs. This will be the first year military families and retirees participate in the federal benefits open season, which runs Nov. 12 through Dec. 10, 2018. For more information, visit <https://tricare.benefeds.com/>.

If you don't "opt in" during the enrollment open season, you will not have dental coverage for 2019!

Some key dates:

- Nov. 12 – Dec. 10, 2018: Federal Benefits Open Season
- Dec. 31, 2018: TRICARE Retiree Dental Program ends
- Jan. 1, 2019: 2019 FEDVIP plan year begins.

Manchester VA Health Promotion, Disease Prevention, Whole Health Programs

Check out Manchester VA Medical Center's Health Promotion, Disease Prevention Program Healthy Living Newsletter:

[https://www.manchester.va.gov/documents/November Decemeber Newsletter.pdf](https://www.manchester.va.gov/documents/November_Decemeber_Newsletter.pdf)

Did you know? Whole Health is offering Well-being classes check for offerings here: Well-being November Schedule:

[https://www.manchester.va.gov/services/Whole Health Center.asp](https://www.manchester.va.gov/services/Whole_Health_Center.asp)

Death of George H.W. Bush

It is with great sadness that we hear of the passing of former President George H.W. Bush. President Bush served our government in many capacities, culminating as a President of the United States. Many of us who served in the military served during his time in our government, from WW II though the 70's when he was CIA Director and in the 80's and early 90's when he was Vice President and the President. His love of the Troops was always at the top of his list. His leadership, sense of Patriotism and true caring for his fellow Americans will be missed.

President Trump has ordered all flags to go to half-staff for 30 days in honor and respect for President Bush.

LinkedIn for the military community: Rock your job search and build your brand

LinkedIn offers free premium memberships to veterans as well.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/linkedin-for-the-military-community-rock-your-job-search-and-build-your-brand-tickets-51718483376>



AUSA Colonel Edward Cross Chapter

Army Ski Day and Après-ski Social at Gunstock Mountain Resort

719 Cherry Valley Road, Gilford, NH <https://www.gunstock.com/>

Friday, 25 January 2018

***Come for the skiing and/or come for the food and drinks...
but come to have fun!***

Pricing: See page 2 for full pricing

All-day and night Ski Pass & Reception:

Ages 18 to 59 = \$85

Ages 6 to 17 = \$65

Ages 60 and over = \$65

Night Ski Pass & Reception only = \$55

Après-ski Reception Only = \$25

Tubing only (from 4 PM to 9 PM) = \$18

To participate in the NASTAR races = \$5

(<http://www.nastar.com/articles/what-is-nastar>)

NASTAR Prizes for top individuals

Schedule

0800-0900 Registration @ Main Lodge

0900 Lifts Open

1200 Lunch (on your own)

1300 Nastar Army Ski Race (\$5 charge to participate)

1530-1630 Après-ski Reception ("Soup & Sandwich Buffet") & Awards

1630 to 1900 Tubing and Night Skiing

Guided Snowshoe Hikes, Mountain Coaster, Cross-Country Ski, Downhill Ski and Snowboard Rentals and instruction are available through Gunstock; ask when you arrive. See page 2 for price details.

*Donation to Adopt-a-Recruit Program (optional but gladly accepted) = \$10
Proceeds will help the Chapter's "Adopt a Recruit" program. Thank you for your generous support!*

For more information, call: Greg d'Arbonne (978) 604-8835 or e-mail gdarbo6844@aol.com

AUSA, Ski Day 25 January 2017, please RSVP by 22 January

Paying online is currently not available

Or make checks payable to: *Granite State AUSA* and mail to: AUSA, c/o Greg d'Arbonne, 65 Cleveland Hill Road, Brookline, NH 03033

Name _____ Telephone: _____ E-Mail _____
Amount Enclosed for Ski Activities _____
Activities you are participating in _____

Check-In at the Lodge; look for the AUSA signs



GROUP RATES 2018/19 - PG2
 REGULAR PRICING IS MON-FRI NON HOLIDAY PERIODS
 PEAK PRICING IS SAT-SUN AND HOLIDAY PERIODS

CROSS-COUNTRY/SNOW SHOEING

	REGULAR	PEAK
ADULT	\$12	\$15
YOUTH/SENIOR	\$9	\$12
ALL DAY RENTALS ADULTS	\$12	\$15
ALL DAY RENTALS YTH/SR	\$9	\$12

BEGINNER PACKAGE (1 DAY)

TRAIL PASS/RENTALS/LESSON	\$33	\$36
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GUIDED SNOWSHOE HIKES:

2 HOUR GUIDED RIDGE TOUR	\$18	\$21
RENTALS ADULT	\$12	\$15
RENTALS YOUTH/SENIOR	\$9	\$12

TUBING:

	REGULAR	PEAK
2-HOURS	\$18	\$21

Please call us at 603-737-4320 if you have any questions.

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Want to learn more?
 Interested in attending?
 Contact us!
WRI@Hitchcock.org

**December 5,
 2018**

- ✓ Meet D-H Employees who are part of the military community
- ✓ Explore Career Options
- ✓ Build Connections
- ✓ Develop job-searching skills

Career Exploration for NH and VT Veterans, Guard Soldiers, Reservists & Spouses

Participation

- Gain exposure to **clinical and non-clinical** D-H jobs
- **Meet** D-H employees and leadership who are Veterans, or who are currently serving in the Reserves or National Guard
- Learn about current **employment opportunities** and D-H Workforce Readiness Institute (WRI) **training programs**

Logistics

Location

- Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC), Lebanon, New Hampshire

Date

- Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Time

- 12:00-1:30pm Leadership Luncheon
- 1:30-5:00pm Job Exploration
- 5:00-8:00pm D-H Career Expo

Learn More about the D-H WRI and the Career Expo: DHWRI.ORG

New Hampshire State Plan on Aging Survey



Please help inform the process! Survey responses will be collected from participants across the State and will help guide our efforts in the development of the 2019-2023 NH State Plan on Aging. It should take you about 10-15 minutes to complete the 29 question survey.

Please take the survey and share it with others!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NHSPOASurvey>

For more information, call 1-800-852-3345 x9215

The Survey will close on January 15, 2019

New Hampshire State Plan on Aging Survey

The NH Department of Health & Human Services, Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services, and the NH State Plan on Aging Planning Committee are developing the State's Plan on Aging. As part of the process, we ask for your input through the State Plan on Aging Survey. This survey is part of a statewide outreach effort to improve our understanding of the needs of people who are aging in NH. By completing the below survey, you will help guide the development of NH's State Plan on Aging!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NHSPOASurvey>



If you're not already a member of AUSA, please click the link below to fill out an application. As a member of our chapter, we'll keep you updated on upcoming events, important news on the military, and ways you can get involved with supporting service members.

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