

The Military Officers Association
of Western New York, Inc.
P.O. Box 472
North Tonawanda, N.Y. 14120
www.wnymoaa.org



**Board of Directors Meeting/Annual Membership Meeting/Holiday Party
3 December 2022**

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Call to order (LTC Sparacino)

- President LTC Frank Sparacino called the meeting to order at 1201 on 3 December 2022 at Salvatore's Italian Garden 6461 Transit Rd., Buffalo, NY 14043.
- Introductions/Welcoming Remarks (LTC Sparacino)
- Pledge of Allegiance (LTC Ventura)
- Invocation (CDR Lichwala)
- Toasts (Col Pecoraro)

Roll Call

Attendance: LTC Sparacino USA (Ret), CAPT Roche USCG (Ret), Col Pecoraro USAF (Ret), Lt Col Forrest NYANG, CDR Lichwala USN (Ret), LTC Kreyer USA (Ret), Maj Novak USAF (Ret), LTC McGuire USA, (Ret), BG Caruana USA (Ret), CDR Balunis USCG (Ret), CAPT Concanon USN (Ret), JoAnne Lichwala,

Excused: CW5 Niezgodna USMCR, CW4 Scalfani USA (Ret), MAJ Privitera, USA (Ret), CDR Zuffoletto USN (Ret)

National Hq MOAA Guest: CAPT Kathy Thorp USN (Ret)

MOAA COC Guest(s): LtCol Norma Weissend & LtCol Timothy Vaughan

Secretary's Report/Approval of Minutes (Lt Col Forrest)

- Motion made by Col Pecoraro to approve the 22 Jan 2022 BODs meeting minutes, seconded by LTC Rebecca Sparacino; motion approved by BOD

Treasurer's Report (CDR Lichwala)

- Closing balance 3 Dec 2022 - \$11,699.33 (see attached Treasurer's Report for detailed report)
- Motion made by BG Caruana to approve report; seconded by D'Aloise; motion approved by BOD

Newsletter Report (JoAnne Lichwala)

- Last newsletter Summer 2022
- Newsletter printing very costly. Recommend sending newsletters by email in the future and only mail to members who do not have access to email. Motion made by CDR Balunis to accept the recommendation, seconded by LTC Rebecca Sparacino; motion approved by BOD.

Membership Report (LTC Sparacino)

- LTC Sparacino sent out a membership letter recommending members pay dues online. Reported online dues paying improved membership. Forty-plus members paid online. Eleven mailings were returned as undeliverable. Paid members to date:
 - 2022 – 109 members paid
 - 2023 – 88 members paid
 - 2024 - 58 members paid

Personal Affairs Report

- WNY Chapter continues with sending \$50 check to the MOAA National scholarship fund in memory of the deceased member and the family of the member is notified of donation to the scholarship fund.

ROTC/JROTC Awards (LTC Kreyer)

- Coin presentation continues with local SROTC/JROTC programs. All three local colleges were represented by chapter representatives.

MOAA Level of Excellence (LOE) (CAPT Concannon)

- No LOE submitted this year. Chapter will participate next year, deadline May 2023

Legislative Report (Advocacy in Action - AIA) (BG Caruana)

- PACT ACT – signed 10 Aug 2022 by President Biden
- Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S.344) – failed; Senate version to be submitted
- Stop Copay Overpay Act (H.R. 4824) – Not in NCNDAA list; MOAA expects this to continue
- 4.6% Military Pay Raise – at House Armed Services Committee; MOAA expects it to pass

Past/Future Events and Activities

- State Convention. 11-15 Sep. Alexandria Bay, NY was a success with many WNY chapter members attending
- VA tailgate party was a success
- Our chapter donated \$1,000.00 towards “Save the Sullivan” at Buffalo Naval Park
- We plan to continue with our Garden Party with our Canadian friends (RNMI)
- Future AiA is scheduled for 24-25 Apr 2023
- Armed Forces Military Ball 20 May 2023 at Joseph’s Catering

New Business

- Scheduled BoD meetings: 18 Mar 2023, 10 Jun 2023, 9 Sep 2023 all at the Buffalo Naval Park Board room (2nd floor). Members are to contact LTC Sparacino with any conflicts at 716-200-9957.
- The NYS COC 2023 Convention is hosted by the Southern Tier Chapter and will be held at the Tioga Downs Casino Resort. Tentatively scheduled for the last week of September 2023, more details to follow.
- Annual Membership meeting tentatively scheduled at Salvatore’s for December 2, 2023. The floor is open to other suggestions.

Guest Speaker

- LTC Rebecca Sparacino introduced HQ MOAA Speaker CAPT Kathy Thorpe USN (Ret)
- CAPT Thorpe provided updates on the following issues/concerns:
 - MOAA currently working on 430 bills; top select for a lobbyist on The Hill
 - 2022-2023 improvement on strategic plan
 - Past years AIA and future AIA
 - New name for contacting your Congressional leaders is called "QUORUM". Go to the MOAA website, click on ADVOCACY, then click Legislative Action Center. Here you will be able to reach your representatives by clicking Tell, Call, or Write.
 - Membership remains a priority – activities to highlight membership, media, and virtual chapters
 - Initiatives – MOAA scholarship fund and Crisis Relief Fund
 - National currently working on – Arlington National Cemetery, National Level Advancement, Tech advancement, VA engagement for membership
 - Information – MOAA website, MOAA magazine and MOAA podcast

Closing

- LTC Sparacino presented a WNY MOAA coin to CAPT Thorpe
- Lt Col Norma Weissend USAF (Ret) – Vice President of NYS CoC comments
 - Council and 4 NY Chapter's each earned LOE awards

Adjournment


- President LTC Sparacino adjourned the meeting at 1416

Minutes submitted by:



Kelly A. Forrest, Lt Col, NYANG
MOAA WNY Secretary

Minutes approved by:



Frank J. Sparacino, LTC, USA (Ret)
MOAA WNY President