

February 27, 2018

Minutes of the 24 February 2018 Board of Directors (BoD) Meeting

BoD Members Present: CDR Balunis, BG Caruana, CAPT Concannon, Col Pecoraro, CAPT Roche, CDR Lichwala, LTC Ventura, LTC Sparacino, MAJ Privitera, LTC McGuire, CWO4 Scalfani, Father Mike, LTC Steve Bunch

Visitors Present: Ingrid Balunis, JoAnne Lichwala, Jamie Scotland. Board Member Excused: LTC Kreyer

Col Pecoraro, Chapter President, opened the meeting at 0858L. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was offered for those currently serving and for members recovering from illness (COL Peters and wife & MAJ Jerry Privitera's wife Nancy). Past Chapter President BG Caruana then swore in LTC McGuire and MAJ Privitera as the new MOAA of WNY Chapter Secretary and MOAA Board of Director respectively.

Treasurer's Report: CDR Lichwala reported checkbook balance of \$11,585.44 and distributed his treasury report. Motion made by CAPT Concannon to appropriate \$430 for a full-page Armed Forces Week (AFW) ad in their program. Motion made to approve by CDR Lichwala, seconded by LTC Ventura; motion unanimously approved by BoDs. Motion made by CDR Lichwala to accept Treasurer's report, seconded by LTC Ventura; approved unanimously by BoDs.

Secretary's Report: LTC McGuire introduced himself as the new secretary and apologized for missing December meetings. Motion made by LTC McGuire to accept December BoDs minutes; seconded by CDR Lichwala. December 2017 minutes approved unanimously by BoDs.

Membership Report: CAPT Concannon discussed national and local MOA/MOAA data bases and predicted that integration will continue to approve, and how credit for membership works nationally. MAJ Privitera reported 181 WNY MOAA members that includes 64 auxiliary members. Motion made by LTC Ventura to accept report, seconded by CDR Lichwala; approved unanimously by BoDs.

Personal Affairs Report: CWO4 Scalfani discussed social security cards and new VA issued ID cards. One must apply for the new VA card. Have DD-214 ready.

Legislative Report: BG Caruana provided a full legislative report to include the NDAA and how sequestration budgets negatively impact military planners, programs, and procurement at DOD; BG Caruana discussed five issues to include 1) 2.4% pay hike 2) BAH rates to remain stable 3) Tricare 4) 20K new troops authorized 5) Widow's tax reduction. Motion made to accept report by CDR Lichwala; motion 2 to accept by LTC Ventura. Approved unanimously by BoDs.

Newsletter: JoAnne Lichwala reported that there is no room in our newsletter for a column on the *Joint Function with MOAA* (Canada) outing to be held on June 24, 2018. Buses will be provided – costs will be in Canadian dollars - \$35. Motion made by LTC Ventura to accept report, seconded by LTC Sparacino; approved unanimously by BoDs.

ROTC/JROTC Awards: Col Pecoraro gave full report on behalf of LTC Kreyer on leadership medals and gold bar sets. Discussion from LTC Ventura ensued. Motion made by LTC Sparacino to approve up to \$200 for funding items for graduating ROTC/JROTC cadets, seconded by CAPT Roche. Approved unanimously by BoDs. Awards ceremonies to be conducted: Canisius ROTC – April 19, Niagara ROTC April 26, and St. Bonaventure ROTC March 24 (attended by MAJ Privitera). JROTC dates – Maritime Academy - 7 June, Dunkirk – June 6. Motion made by LTC McGuire and seconded by

CAPT Roche to accept Dunkirk High School and the local Civil Air Patrol to be eligible for leadership medals and gold bar sets. Motion approved unanimously by BoDs.

Events/Activities – Armed Forces Week: LTC Sparacino reported on the 58th Armed Forces Week celebration at Salvatore’s Italian Gardens (for both lunch & dinner – \$30/50 respectively, May 10, 12). The Italian Federation Event will be held on April 29, 2018, \$40, and the Amherst Gaelic League’s St. Patty’s party will occur on March 9, 2018 at Salvatore’s Italian Gardens; go to www.amherstirish.com for tickets, \$50).

OTHER BUSINESS: Next WNY MOAA Chapter Board meetings confirmed – 5 May, 1 September, and 24 November, 2018. LTC Ventura wanted to let everyone know about Dan Kirst, who is not doing well from open heart surgery; please pray for him.

Chapter Engagement Committee: Jamie Scotland was introduced by Col Pecoraro and provided thoughts on how to support causes important to MOAA, raise, money, and proposed more engagement with WNY Veterans to include the Veterans one- Stop Center of WNY (VOCWNY.org) and VA. Jamie asked for MOAA volunteers; he can be reached at 716-574-6131 or jscotland@hotmail.com. Additional discussion took place on re-charging the MOAA Speakers Series and looking for a guest speaker for AFW in 2019 when Army is the host service. MG John Batiste was suggested.

LTC McGuire prematurely made a motion to adjourn at 1055L, much to BG Caruana’s chagrin, but it was quickly seconded by LTC Ventura, and unanimously approved by the BoDs.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terence G. McGuire". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

TERENCE G. MCGUIRE, LTC, U.S. Army (Ret)
Secretary