

16 September 2017

Minutes of the 16 September 2017 Board of Directors (BoD) Meeting

Board Members Present: CDR Balunis, BG Caruana, CAPT Concannon, Col Pecoraro, COL Peters, CAPT Roche, CDR Lichwala, LTC Ventura, MAJ Privitera, and CWO4 Scalfani.

Visitors Present: Ingrid Balunis and JoAnne Lichwala.

Board Members Excused: COL Braunbach, LTC Kreyer and LT Stitzinger.

CDR Balunis, Chapter President, called the meeting to order at 0900L. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was offered for those currently serving, for members who recently passed away including Lt Col Rugg, and for those who are suffering.

Treasurer's Report - CDR Lichwala reported a checkbook balance of \$10,593.19 and distributed a copy of his report. LTC Ventura motioned we accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded Col Pecoraro and unanimously approved by the BoD.

Secretary's Report - Col Pecoraro highlighted the minutes from the March meeting. CDR Lichwala made a motion to accept the report, seconded by LTC Ventura and unanimously approved by the BoD.

Membership Report - LT Stitzinger was unable to attend the meeting and MAJ Privitera presented the update. Currently, there are 176 members (the Chapter added 2 members since the last meeting) and 84 auxiliary members. MOAA National reported 834 potential candidates although the Chapter only identified 523 National members who are not enrolled in the Chapter. Col Pecoraro discussed he will informally approach Lt Gen Atkins at the NYS Council of Chapters Convention on how MOAA membership is currently structured with a proposal to make it similar to other veteran organizations. CDR Lichwala made a motion to accept the membership report, seconded by CAPT Concannon and unanimously approved by the BoD.

Personal Affairs - CWO4 Scalfani reported Lt. Col. Richard W. Rugg's death on 14 September 2017. CDR Lichwala made a motion to accept the personal affairs report, seconded by CAPT Concannon and unanimously approved by the BoD.

Legislative Report - BG Caruana thanked Col Pecoraro and CW04 Scalfani who accompanied him during the legislative visits (met with Congressman Collins and the staffs of Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, and Congressman Higgins) on 29 August 2017. His team discussed MOAA's top three legislative issues:

- To end sequestration
- TRICARE Reform
- Repeal of the Widows Tax

BG Caruana also noted the MOAA post card mailings to politicians are beneficial and impressed on the BoD to send these out when received in the *Military Officer* magazine with an added personal written note. MAJ Privitera made a motion to accept the legislative report, seconded by CAPT Concannon and unanimously approved by the BoD.

Newsletter - JoAnne Lichwala set the **fall newsletter deadline as 6 October 2017.**

ROTC/JROTC - LTC Kreyer was excused from attending the meeting and no report was forwarded.

Challenge Coins – LTC Ventura was thanked by the BoD for his coordination on two proposals. After discussion, Col Pecoraro motioned for the Chapter to not pursue the purchasing of challenge coins at this time, seconded by CDR

Lichwala and unanimously approved by the BoD. CAPT Roche will forward the designs to his challenge coin vendor for possible cost options.

NYS Council of Chapters State Convention – CDR Balunis (Convention Chair) discussed the upcoming Convention at Lake George next week. The Chapter is providing two baskets to assist in their fundraising and Col Pecoraro motioned for the Chapter to pay for the baskets (approximately \$60 total), seconded by MAJ Privitera and unanimously approved by the BoD. In addition, the 2018 NYS Convention will be held at the Niagara Falls Reserve Base 10-13 September and all NYS Chapters will assist in the coordination. Col Pecoraro made the motion, seconded by CAPT Concannon for the Chapter to fully support the 2018 NYS Council of Chapters State Convention, and unanimously approved by the BoD.

Events/Activities/Issues - Below is an overview of the upcoming Chapter events/activities/issues:

Royal Niagara Military Institute (RMNI): LTC Ventura discussed the challenges of Canadians accessing the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Base. He also thanks CAPT Concannon for the chapter web link to RNMI activities and their need for speakers. The RNMI 2018 Garden party will be a wine tour.

VA Tailgate Party: 12 November 2017: If attending, please show at 1230 at Freedom Hall. LTC Ventura made the motion to financially support the Party with \$420 of Chapter funds, seconded by CAPT Concannon and unanimously approved by the BoD. CAPT Roche will reach out to Team Red White and Blue to partner with the Chapter in this event.

Veterans Day Dinner/Concert 12 November 2017: Attendees will meet at Panes Restaurant at 1630 followed by the American Legion Performance at the Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda. Ingrid Balunis will purchase the Legion Concert tickets and it will be pay as you go at Panes Restaurant.

Annual Meeting/Christmas Party 2 December: MAJ Privitera coordinated with the Father Justin KoC (Cheektowaga) from 1800 – 2130 for a family style meal with open bar. This information and other details will be sent out in the October newsletter. The cost is \$35 per person and MAJ Privitera record the RSVPs while CDR Lichwala will be mailed the checks.

Other Business:

Philanthropic Subcommittee: The Chapter received \$481 in charitable contributions in 2017. CDR Lichwala will meet with his subcommittee and recommend where to direct those funds. In addition, COL Cunningham's estate provided a check on his behalf for \$5,000 to the MOAA Scholarship Fund. Col Pecoraro will mail the check to MOAA HQ.

Level of Excellence Award: CAPT Concannon accepted this responsibility for the upcoming annual report.

Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park: CAPT Roche discussed the following upcoming events at the Park:

- 24 September 2017: Gold Star Mothers/Family Recognition
- 11 November 2017: Wall of Honor Ceremony
- 16 December 2017: Commissioning of the USS Little Rock

Restaurant Depot Discount Card: MAJ Privitera discussed this benefit and the BoD highlighted more exploration is necessary.

Chapter Nominating Committee: BG Caruana discussed the various openings on the BoD. To date, we still need nominations for a secretary and 2 directors. The committee will be making calls this week.

Board members need to notify MAJ Jerry Privitera at least one week prior to each Board meeting if they will not be able to attend. That will save on the cost of breakfast for the absentees. The next Board of Directors' meeting will be on 18 November 2017 commencing at 0830.

LTC Ventura made a motion to adjourn at 1052, seconded by CAPT Roche and approved.

Respectfully submitted,



ROBERT E. PECORARO, Colonel, USAF (Ret)
Secretary