

2 January 2018

Minutes of the 2 December 2017 Annual Meeting held at the Knights of Columbus Cheektowaga

Board Members Present: CDR Balunis, CAPT Concannon, MGen Cudmore, Col Pecoraro, CAPT Roche, CDR and JoAnne Lichwala, CDR Zuffoletto, LTC Bunch, LTC Sparacino LTC Kreyer, LTC Ventura, and MAJ Privitera.

Board Members Excused: BG Caruana, COL Peters, Lt Stitzinger, and CW04 Scalfani.

Other Members Present: COL Breen, COL Delbalso, COL Kirst, CAPT Lookerman, COL Smaczniak, Lt Col Caruso, LTC D’Aloise, Lt Col Forte, LTC Keefe, LTC Kozell, MAJ Davis, and CPT Kasmer.

CDR Balunis, Chapter President, called the meeting to order at 1903L and led the Chapter in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the invocation by CDR Zuffoletto. Dinner was served and the annual meeting commenced at 2015L.

President’s Opening Remarks - CDR Balunis welcomed the attendees in his opening comments and requested feedback on the annual meeting time and location. He highlighted the Chapter’s mission statement as a point of reference. In addition, he thanked CDR Lichwala and MAJ Privitera for the detailed planning of the annual meeting dinner and meeting.

Annual Secretary’s Report - Col Pecoraro reported on the 2017 events and reviewed the minutes of the 4 December 2016 Annual Meeting. A motion was made by CDR Lichwala and seconded by CAPT Concannon to approve the 4 December 2016 minutes and unanimously approved by the membership. Col Pecoraro also reflected on the past events for the Chapter with an emphasis to get involved and showed the 2015 Level of Excellence Award the Chapter received during the year and that a Five Star Level of Excellence Award is within our reach.

Annual Treasurer’s Report - CDR Lichwala reported a total income of \$8,429 and expenses of \$7,017.57 for a balance of \$11,696.64 as of 2 December 2017. A motion was made by CAPT Concannon and seconded by CAPT Lookerman to approve the Treasurer’s report and it was unanimously approved by the membership.

Annual Membership Report – MAJ Privitera reported 192 current members and 63 auxiliary members for a grand total of 255 in our WNY Chapter. A motion was made by CAPT Concannon and seconded by LTC Ventura to approve the Treasurer’s report and it was unanimously approved by the membership.

President’s Recognition - CDR Balunis introduced Lt Col Norma Weissend, a representative from the NYS Council of Chapters and Chairwoman of the 2018 NYS Council Convention, who highlighted the Wreaths Across America on 16 December and the support to the Oakwood Cemetery. In addition, she highlighted the Chapter’s outstanding website and newsletter. CDR Balunis also highlighted the void left from the passing of COL Cunningham, COL Braunbach, and LTC Beagle. He concluded his comments on thanks to both CDR Lichwala and MAJ Privitera for planning the Annual Meeting.

Election of Officers - A Committee of past Chapter Presidents led by BG Caruana came up with the following slate of officers:

President:	Colonel Robert E. Pecoraro, US Air Force, Retired
First Vice President:	Captain Brian Roche, US Coast Guard, Retired
Second Vice President:	Lieutenant Colonel Frank Sparacino, US Army, Retired
Secretary:	Lieutenant Colonel Terry McGuire, US Army, Retired
Director:	Commander Michael Zuffoletto, US Navy, Retired
Director:	Lieutenant Colonel Steven Bunch, US Army, Retired

Director: Lieutenant Colonel Vincent Ventura, US Army, Retired
Director: Major Jerome D. Privitera, US Army, Retired

Due to some confusion with the new slate of officers, LTC Ventura and MAJ Privitera were left off the slate and this will be corrected at the next BoD Meeting as well as the oath administered to LTC McGuire who was unable to attend. CDR Balunis requested any nominations from the floor. Seeing none, MGen Cudmore made the motion to close nominations, seconded by LTC Ventura, and unanimously approved by the membership.

Installation of Officers - LTC Ventura made the motion for the Secretary to cast one vote for the slate of officers, seconded by CAPT Concannon and unanimously approved by the membership. Lt Col Weissend swore in the newly elected officers for a two year term.

Closing Comments - CDR Balunis relayed that the new BoD schedule is in development and will be emailed once finalized and wished the membership good luck in the future. He then requested Col Pecoraro for comments and he thanked CDR Balunis for his leadership during the past 2 years as the President. He also requested the membership watch out for some upcoming changes the way the Chapter will move forward in the future and relies on everyone to actively participate.

The benediction was offered by CDR Zuffoletto and motion to close the annual meeting at 2048L was made by CAPT Concannon and seconded by CDR Lichwala and unanimously approved by the membership.

The next Board Meeting will TBD – stand by for updates.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'R. E. Pecoraro', written in dark ink.

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