



The Military Officers Association of Western  
New York, Inc.  
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5 December 2016

## Minutes of the 4 December 2016 Annual Meeting held at Salvatore's Italian Garden

**Board Members Present:** CDR Balunis, CAPT Concannon, CWO3 Mariani, MGen Cudmore, Col Pecoraro, COL Cunningham, CAPT Roche, CDR and JoAnne Lichwala, LTC Kreyer, LTC Beagle, LTC Ventura, MAJ Privitera, and CWO4 Scalfani.

**Board Members Excused:** BG Caruana, COL Braunbach, COL Peters, and LT Stitzinger.

**Other Members Present:** COL Kozell, COL Kubus, COL Smaczniak, Lt Col Scotland, LTC D'Aloise, LTC Bellavia, LTC Caruso, LTC Onesi, CDR Breckner, LCDR Metz, and Maj Johnson.

CDR Balunis, Chapter President, called the meeting to order at 1810L and led the Chapter in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the invocation by Col Pat Cunningham.

Dinner was served and the annual meeting commenced at 1935L.

**President's Opening Remarks** - CDR Balunis welcomed the attendees in his opening comments and requested feedback on the annual meeting time and location.

**Annual Secretary's Report** - Col Pecoraro reported on the 2016 events and read the minutes of the 5 December 2015 Annual Meeting. A motion was made by CDR Lichwala and seconded by LTC Beagle to approve the 5 December 2015 minutes and unanimously approved by the membership. He invited COL Cunningham to come forward to accept one for the Healing Field Flags designated in his honor, presented by CDR Balunis. Other Healing Field flags honoring Chapter members included CDR Thomas E. Blaine, CW4 William C. Dolce, Lt Col Cravene M. Givens, Tom Mangus, and COL Richard H. Peters. Col Pecoraro also reflected on the past events for the Chapter with an emphasis to get involved – a Five Star Level of Excellence Award is within our reach.

**Annual Treasurer's Report** - CDR Lichwala reported a total income of \$6,722.01 and expenses of \$6,391.18 for a balance of \$10,285.21 as of 4 December 2015. He also thanked the members for their support to the Buffalo VA facility during the Tailgate party on 20 November and reminded the membership there is an online dues capability offered by National MOAA – please take advantage of this option. A motion was made by COL Cunningham and seconded by MAJ Privitera to approve the Treasurer's report and it was unanimously approved by the membership.

**Annual Membership Report** - No report was offered due to the absence of the Membership Chairman. I anticipate this report will be made available at the next Board of Director's Meeting and will be reported on during the minutes review at the next Annual Meeting.

**President's Recognition** - CDR Balunis requested to keep COL Braunbach in our prayers. He furthered recognized the leaders of the Chapter individually including CAPT Concannon, CWO3 Mariani, CDR

Lichwala, Col Pecoraro, MAJ Privitera, LTC Kreyer, CAPT Roche, LTC Beagle, CWO4 Scalfani, and LTC Ventura.

**Level of Excellence Award** - CAPT Concannon and Maj Privitera were invited forward to place the Four Star Level of Excellence Award ribbon on the WNY Chapter flag CDR Balunis was presented at the MOAA National Meeting in Arlington VA. This award demonstrates our ability to perform at a high standard, proves our relevance, and overall ability to accomplish our Mission.

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

Secretary: Robert E. Pecoraro, Colonel, USAF (Ret)

Treasurer: Stanley J. Lichwala, Commander, USN (Ret)

Board of Directors:

Brian Roche, Captain, USCG (Ret)

Mark W. Kreyer, Lieutenant Colonel, USA (Ret)

Vince Ventura, Lieutenant Colonel, USA (Ret)

COL Cunningham, standing in for BG Caruana, requested any nominations from the floor. Seeing none, CWO3 Mariani made the motion to close nominations, seconded by CAPT Concannon, and unanimously approved by the membership.

**Installation of Officers** - LTC Beagle made the motion for the Secretary to cast one vote for the slate of officers, seconded by CWO3 Mariani and unanimously approved by the membership. COL Cunningham swore in the newly elected officers for a two year term.

A motion to close the annual meeting at 2010L was made by Col Pecoraro and seconded by CDR Lichwala and unanimously approved by the membership.

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

Respectfully submitted,



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