

MIAMI VALLEY MILITARY AFFAIRS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

14 November 2023

The Annual Meeting of the MVMAA was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at the Walnut Grove Country Club, Riverside, OH. President Susy Himelhoch welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Himelhoch introduced dignitaries present for the evening. She thanked the sponsors for their partnership: Dayton Development Coalition and Kettering Health. She gave a special thanks to Ms. Brenda Baker, MVMAA's Events Chair, for organizing the evening's events.

Guest Speaker: Rebecca Westlake introduced the guest speaker, Steve Byington, Cultural Resources Manager, 88 ABW/CE.

Presentations from Wing Commanders: Vice-President Brian Jarvis introduced the Wing Commanders: Col. Travis Pond, Deputy Commander, 88th Air Base Wing; and Lt. Col. Karen Gharst, Deputy Commander, 445th Maintenance Group, 445th Airlift Wing. Both deputy commanders provided an overview of the past year.

Financial Grants: Brandon Creech stated that every year MVMAA and the President's Club of Dayton partner on the Bob Chiles Golf Classic, which is 44 years strong and the single, largest revenue generator. He thanked Ms. Holly Beard for her leadership on this committee that has led to the event being sold-out and profitable. He added that this annual golf outing and membership dues are the only revenue for MVMAA that allow the MVMAA the opportunity to contribute to local charities that support military members and their families. He stated the contributions made to the following organizations: Fisher-Nightingale Houses, \$7,807 (a total of \$57,679 MVMAA has donated to this organization since 2017); First Sergeants Council, \$3,346 (a total of \$20,645 MVMAA has donated); the USO at WPAFB, \$1,000 (a total of \$2,500 MVMAA has donated); and the Junior Force Council, \$1,000 (a total of \$2,750 MVMAA has donated). He added that every year the MVMAA selects a new organization to receive a donation and this year they selected the Dorm Council with a donation of \$500.

Business: Ms. Sara Lommatzsch moved, seconded by Dr. Cassie Barlow, to approve the minutes of the 12 September 2023 meeting. All were in favor. **Motion carried.** It was moved (unable to determine who), seconded by Dr. Cassie Barlow, to approve the most recent treasurer's report. All were in favor. **Motion carried.** Dr. Cassie Barlow provided the membership report: Annual, 101; Corporate, 5; Lifetime, 17; Five-Year, 12; Charter, 16; and Honorary, 12. Ms. Westlake reviewed the nominating slate for the 2024 officers.

Winkler-Martin Award: Mr. Brian Jarvis and Mr. Mike Mayer presented the Winkler-Martin award and stated that Mr. Jon Larrabee (not in attendance) is this year's recipient. Ms. Sandra Brassington, Office of Governor Mike DeWine, read a proclamation honoring Mr. Larrabee.

Outgoing President Remarks: President Himelhoch reviewed what MVMAA accomplished in 2023 by supporting local military members and their families through the following: First Sergeant Council, Release parties, USO Center at WPAFB, Fisher-Nightingale Houses, Junior Force Council, Bob Chiles Golf Classic, Top III, POW/MIA Recognition Day, and holiday cooke drive and related support. She listed the meetings and special events that took place for MVMAA in 2023 including receiving the 445th Airlift Wing's

'Community Partner of the Year' award for 2022. She added that MVMAA has growing partnerships with the community's foremost leaders and organizations. She recognized Ms. Patti Phillips for leading the charge with MVMAA's nomination of Dr. Cassie Barlow for the Citizen Legion of Honor Award. She thanked all those who wrote dynamic letters of endorsement for Cassie's nomination.

She thanked this year's Executive Committee, committee chairs/coordinators, and chamber members for their leadership and willingness to serve. She addressed past presidents of MVMAA thanking them for paving the road on which MVMAA continues to prosper.

2024 Installation of Officers: President Himelhoch installed the 2024 MVMAA Officers: President – Brandon Creech, President Elect – Brian Jarvis, Vice-President – Katie Lewallen, Treasurer – Tony Colussi, and Assistant Treasurer – Chad Boone. Each took the oath of office concurrently. President Himelhoch announced that Ms. Gina Franz has volunteered to serve as the MVMAA's Secretary beginning In January. She will be sworn in at the January 9, 2024, board of trustees meeting.

Incoming President's Remarks: Mr. Creech thanked President Himelhoch for her leadership, dedication, and service to MVMAA for the past year on behalf of the Executive Board. He stated that President Himelhoch requested that a donation be made to the Airman's Attic in lieu on receiving a plaque. Mr. Creech presented a check to Anna Schulte, who represented the Airman's Attic, a shop with new and gently used items, available to all service members with a rank of E6 or below and their families.

He thanked the military partners, chambers, and community partners for their year-round commitment to the communities where they live, raise families, and work.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 18:00, 6:00 pm, at the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Chamber of Commerce, 2090 Ferry Road, Sugarcreek Township, OH 45305.

He reminded current members to renew their memberships and to consider volunteering to serve on, or chair, a committee. Those in attendance who are not a member were encouraged to join. He stated that this is an excellent way to give back to the military.

Mr. Creech moved, seconded by President Himelhoch, to adjourn the annual meeting. The annual membership meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Lewallen
MVMAA Secretary