

31st Infantry Regiment Association General Membership

Date: Saturday 13 August 2011 0900 AM

Location: Sycamore Room in the Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Georgia.

Opening Remarks

Commander Charlie Tapp gaveled the 2011 General Membership Meeting to order at 0910. Charlie thanked the members for attending and extended his thanks to LTG Sam Wetzel for his outstanding leadership and to his committee for the excellent work in organizing and coordinating this year's Reunion at Columbus, GA. The commander commented on the wonderful accommodations at the Marriott and grand setting for reunion events at the National Infantry Museum. The commander praised the previous day's dedication of the Polar Bear Monument and again thanked everyone associated with the design, coordination, fund raising, and planning of the monument honoring all of the Soldiers who have served in the 31st Infantry Regiment. The commander introduced the members to the association officers present on the stage next to the podium (Ron Corson: Acting Secretary, Joe DeAngelis: Treasurer, and Chuck McCammon: Vice Commander). The commander addressed the meeting agenda and his desire to keep the meeting short and sweet. Commander Tapp called for Ron Corson to read the minutes of the previous General Membership Meeting (2010). He announced that Ron Corson had been asked to act as secretary for the meeting in the absence of our current secretary Mary Dolan.

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the 2010 General Membership meeting were read by Ron Corson, the acting secretary. Copies of the 2010 minutes were not distributed at the time of the meeting, but were offered to be provided to any member who made a request. Due to the 24-page length of the 2010 minutes which included minutes of the previous year's Association Board Meeting and 5 Attachments (2011 Reunion Proposed Itinerary, the Treasurer's Report, the Quartermaster's Report, the new By Laws, and the association Constitution), Ron Corson announced that he would read only the basic body of the report which was included in the first four pages. A motion was made to "Accept the 2010 Minutes as Read" and it was seconded. The membership body accepted the previous minutes as presented and no requests were made by any member present for a written copy.

Treasurer's Report

Joe DeAngelis, the association treasurer, presented the Treasure's Report. Joe announced that copies of the financial report were available at the podium if any members wanted a copy. Joe covered the key income amounts for the year, the expenses paid over the year, and estimates of those reunion and monument expenses still pending. He reported that the association was in good financial condition. He reported that the cost of Polar Bear Memorial had come in a little below the \$35,000 expense approved by the membership and that the Memorial Fund Campaign

had received as of the first week of August 2011 approximately \$19,500. He again stated that with these funds in the general account, the profits expected from the 2011 Reunion, and Quartermaster sales profits at the reunion that the Association was in good shape. Chaplain Burns made a motion to "Accept the Treasurer's Report as presented". It was seconded and the members voted to accept the report.

Polar Bear Memorial Monument

Ron Corson reported to the membership that the Memorial Fund Campaign a one-time request for donations was essentially complete. Letters had been sent to 834 members and 34 major defense related corporations and other organizations such as AUSA. Formal legal approval for the one-time solicitation had been received from Virginia and seven other states to ensure that requirements for the Association's non-profit tax exempt status were met. To date more than 230 individuals or organizations had made contributions.

Quartermaster's Report

Dale Mills gave an informal report on the status of QM sales. He stated that sales at the Reunion were going well and that he was testing the potential for several new items in the store. Two new limited test items mentioned were a long sleeve shirt and a hooded sweatshirt. He stated that he was trying to gauge the interest in these items but did not mention a specific price for the items. QM sales for 2010 were reported as \$910 for mail-in sales and \$1961 from the 2010 Reunion. QM sales for 2011 looked similar but no direct total was estimated. At the end of the verbal report, several members asked where and what hours the QM sales store was operating in the Marriott. A motion was made and seconded to accept the QM sales report as presented. The membership voted to accept the report.

Election of Officers

Commander Tapp opened the election of officer's process by announcing that only two officer's positions were open for election the Commander and Vice-Commander Positions and that they would take over those positions on 1 January 2012. He called for nominations for Commander. Chuck McCammon, the current Vice-Commander was nominated from the floor. A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations for Commander. The membership concurred and voted for Chuck McCammon as the new commander. Commander Tapp then opened nominations for Vice-Commander. Ron Corson nominated Bill Owen. After a short discussion, a motion was made to close nominations for Vice-Commander. The membership concurred and voted for Bill Owen as the new vice-commander.

Commander Tapp discussed the need to fill several Regional Director Positions based on the desire of several directors to be replaced due to health or other issues that made it difficult to continue. The discussions led to a decision to have interim appointments by the Commander and board until a formal election at the next reunion. Ron Corson volunteered and was appointed to fill the Mid-Atlantic Director's Position in 2012 as Bill Owen moved up to be the Vice-Commander. The membership approved the appointment.

General Meeting Continuing Discussions and Events

Charlie Tapp continued the session by recognizing the contribution of LTG Sam Wetzel in organizing and working to make the 2011 Reunion such a great success. He then opened the floor for a discussion of future reunions.

Future Reunions:

2012 – Washington, DC – Bill Owen one of the 2012 Reunion coordinators discussed the current plans which included a visit to Arlington Cemetery on the first day, visits to the Memorials (WWII, Korean, and Vietnam) the second day, with the banquet to be held in a site close to the planned hotel in Old Town Alexandria. He discussed several of the current issues including the possibility of having the reunion start on a Friday versus Thursday due to room rates and availability in the Washington area and access to Arlington Cemetery. Karl Lowe was identified as the key Reunion Coordinator with Ron Corson and Bill Owen supporting Karl.

2013 – Dayton, Ohio - John Howdeshelt the 2013 Reunion Coordinator presented a brief review of plans for 2013. The dates of the reunion are Aug 8-10, 2013. He stated that he has coordinated with the Holiday Inn at Fairfield for accommodations. Wright Patterson AFB will be the site of the formal banquet on 10 Aug at the Vietnam Hanger one of the National Museum's Hangers. He discussed activities at Caroline Park Museum, a German Festival, and asked about interest in a golf outing. It was agreed that a complete schedule of events should be set prior to the 2012 Reunion.

After a discussion of where the 2014 reunion could or should be held and whether it was a mid-west and far west location, a recommendation was made to have the reunion in Sacramento, CA and another recommendation for Salem, OR. With further discussion, it was clear that Sacramento had the advantage of easier access for travelers and a coordinator already at hand.

2014 – Sacramento, CA - A motion was made and seconded to have the 2014 reunion at Sacramento, CA. The membership voted for that motion with no further discussion

Old Business- Discussions and Actions:

An open item of business from the 2009 Membership meeting was raised. The item in question was the purchase of Shanghai Bowl cups engraved for the Regiment's Medal of Honor recipients. Commander Tapp recognized that this item was missed from last year's meeting and reported that the Board of Directors had once again failed to address this item. It was now to be addressed.

Purchase of Silver Punch Bowl Cups for Medal of Honor Recipients. The idea of adding engraved cups for each of the seven MOH recipients was raised once again. The cost of the cups and the cost of engraving were discussed with an understanding that the cost would be approximately \$125 to \$135 per cup including the engraving. A motion was made by Chaplain Burns for the Association to purchase the cups and a second to the motion was made by Dave

Wilson. With no further discussion, other than the cost was not a problem given the status of Association funds, the members voted for the motion.

New Business- Discussions and Actions:

A Scholarship Program. There was a discussion of establishing a scholarship fund for college for children, grandchildren, etc. of members. There were a number of comments of programs or projects such as scholarship programs and awarding of funds to members that the Association has attempted to conduct in the past. The focus of the discussion centered on the difficulties of running a scholarship program. They included the problems of fairness, of a nominating process, consistent administration, and funding support over time. No action or motions were entertained as a result of the discussions.

Recruiting and Gaining Young Members. The topic of how the Association could more actively gain new young members was raised. Discussion started with efforts to get more of the Vietnam era Soldiers from the 4/31 and 6/31 to join and led to how the Association could foster more members from the current active duty Soldiers from the 4/31. After a lively discussion of ideas a motion was made to create a special active duty Lifetime Membership Category for Soldiers of the 4/31 at Ft. Drum. The motion was made by Dave Wilson of create a Special Lifetime Membership for \$25 to any active duty Soldier serving in a unit of the 31st Infantry Regiment. The motion was seconded by Bill Mullen. With no further discussion a vote was called and members stood to vote yea. The motion passed. One of the immediate results was that several of the 4/31 Soldiers attending the reunion signed-up for membership during the reunion.

Social Networking. The subject of using social networking or Facebook as means to expand membership and increase opportunities for improving communications within the Association and potentially for gaining new members was brought up. Some members thought that that type of networking would expand the existing Web Site and attract more interest. It was agreed that it should be looked into further, but no specific actions were proposed.

Dates of the 2012 DC Reunion and the Day the Banquet. The idea that the 2012 Reunion would potentially start on Friday rather than Thursday was raised and several issues discussed. The start day of the 2012 reunion had been moved to Friday due to issues associated with the trip to Arlington Cemetery and room rates at the hotels in the DC area. The specific issue raised was a desire to keep the banquet on Saturday night rather than the understood move to Sunday. After a large show of hands was made of those that would prefer to see the banquet on Saturday, it was agreed that the coordinators would look at the possibility for such a change.

Hearing no other business, a call for a motion to adjourn was put to the floor. A motion, was made and seconded and the Membership approved the conclusion of the 2011 General Membership Meeting of the 31st Infantry Regiment Association.

Respectfully submitted 31st Infantry Regiment Association General Membership Meeting
Minutes - August 2011

John R. Corson
Acting Secretary, 31st Infantry Regiment Association

Distribution electronically with attachments:

Chuck McCammon, Commander
Bill Owen, Vice-Commander
Charlie Tapp, Past Commander
Karl Lowe, Sr. Director/Historian
Joe DeAngelis, Treasurer
Jack Considine, Membership Chair
Vin Zike, Adjutant
John Howdeshelt, Sgt-at-Arms
Sam Wetzel, Honorary Col of the Regiment

Regional Directors

Northeast - Ed Bettis
Mid-Atlantic – Ron Corson
Southeast - Noah Halfacre
Great Lakes – John McNichols
Mid-west – Phil Harris
West – David Wilson

Attachments:

Attachment A – Treasurer’s Report