



31ST U.S. INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
2012 REUNION - Washington, DC
The Westin Alexandria - 400 Courthouse Square - Alexandria, VA 22314

General Membership Meeting
Edison Room Salons E & F
Sunday, August 12, 2012
9:00-10:30

Commander McCammon called the meeting to order.

Previous Minutes

Ron Corson read the minutes of the 2011 Columbus General Meeting – motion from the floor to accept the minutes as written, seconded. Hearing no discussion the membership voted to accept the minutes as written.

Treasurers Report – Joe DeAngelis

Joe reported that the full report will be published in the January newsletter to coincide with our fiscal year. The interim report as read:

Checking Account balance \$44,336.75
Lifetime Fund Balance \$44,633.11

The checking account balance will be diminished by approximately \$7000 once all reunion expenses have been paid.

Income January 1 – August 7 \$31,746.91
Expenses January 1 – August 7 \$13,586.24

Monument Fund \$11,957

Joe reported we received two donations from MacMaster estate and the Carlson family. Donations for the Monument fund are still being received.

A question was raised as to the cost of upkeep of the monument – the cost of maintaining the grounds, lighting and such has not yet been received from Ft. Benning.

Karl Lowe questioned the income ceiling for tax status and tax filing. Joe responded the ceiling is \$50,000 to continue with the post card filing. Notation from the floor was that the ceiling was raised to \$100,000.

Our Treasurer reports the Association is solvent and in good financial condition.

A motion from the floor to accept the Treasurers report was made and seconded. Hearing no further discussion the membership voted to accept the report as written.

Quartermasters Report – Dale Mills

Dale reported that from the 8/2011-7/2012 the mail order sales had decreased by approximately 50%. Discussions were held in the Board meeting to address the decrease by ensuring the newsletters will carry the Quartermaster form for mail orders from the online catalog.

Overall the average sales of 2011 were \$6930.75 and thus far in 2012 sales were \$4,853.91, not including sales at this reunion.

Mailing/Shipping costs will need to be addressed as costs are increasing.

Dale added that the Quartermaster store will be open from 12:00-2:00 pm today for those of you wanting to purchase more shirts or caps.

A motion from the floor to accept the Quartermaster report was seconded and hearing no further discussion the membership voted to accept the report as written.

Slate of Officers

Membership Chair

Chuck McCammon reported that Ron Corson has been appointed as the new Membership Chair replacing Jack Considine who has held this position since 1995. Ron's intent is to form a membership committee to assist in implementing a unit affiliation to assist in recruiting new members via a membership drive. Ron is enlisting the assistance of Bill Morgan and Nick Zagar as this committee.

General Wetzel reported that Vance VanWieren D/4-31 has a roster of over 500 names; we also have 4-41 rosters for Alpha and Charlie Company that will need to be forwarded to Ron.

It was noted that for each newsletter mailing there are 100 newsletters sent to Fort Drum for distribution.

Ron's first mission will be to reconcile our current membership roster with the information passed on from Jack Considine.

It was noted that a formal recognition of the service of Jack and Alice Considine should be made.

Sgt at Arms

Chuck McCammon reported that James Jagers has been appointed the new Sgt at Arms, freeing John Howdeshelt to focus on his 2013 Dayton Ohio Reunion. The Sgt at Arms position is intended to be a right of succession preparing our future reunion coordinators.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Director

At the last reunion Bill Owen was voted in as Vice-Commander and Ron Corson appointed to fill the remaining months of Bill's Director position. The floor was opened for nominations for Mid-Atlantic Regional Director. Karl Lowe nominated Jim Simms 4-31, PA resident to fill this position.

Nomination was accepted by Jim Simms, seconded by Ron Corson and hearing no further discussion the membership voted to elect Jim as the new Mid-Atlantic Regional Director.

Future Reunions

2013 – Dayton Ohio slated for August 8, 9, 10. John Howdeshelt reported the host hotel will be the Holiday Inn. Wright Patterson AFB Vietnam Hanger Museum will be the location for the banquet.

John advised that attendees should consider flying into Columbus or Cincinnati airports as well as Dayton, John also advised that rental cars will be necessary as there is little public transportation in that area. The Holiday Inn shuttles will be available to us as needed.

A welcome dinner is being planned for Thursday evening in the Holiday Inn, our host hotel. If there is enough interest John will arrange a golf outing on Thursday at the NCR Country Club – advance notice will need to be sent to John if interested in golf.

George Mauldin requested information regarding the carrying of concealed weapons in Ohio, Dayton and Wright Patterson as many members now have concealed weapon permits. John will report back on this subject.

There are many memorials in the Dayton area including of course Korean and Vietnam memorials.

John added more information will be coming as plans are finalized in the interim save the date and hope to see you all in Dayton.

Chuck McCammon reported that at last year's meeting the 2014 reunion was approved for Sacramento CA. At this time we are requesting the membership body accept a change to postpone the Sacramento reunion until 2015 so that we will be able to return to Watertown in 2014 and Welcome Home the units or elements of the 4-31 troops that will be returning from deployment. It was noted that the main reason to return to Fort Drum is to increase the connection and decrease the time break of face to face between the Association and the Units.

Jim Jagers did not have a problem with the change and felt it would help him in his planning efforts. Louis Dominguez cautioned Jim to forge ahead despite the date change in the event that another change is required down the road as happened with the San Pedro reunion.

The value of support our active duty troops with this change was recognized. It was also noted that the 7th Infantry Division is being reactivated at Fort Lewis.

A motion was made to defer the 2014 Sacramento reunion to 2015 and host 2014 in Watertown, pending finding a reunion coordinator in that area. The motion was seconded and hearing no other discussion, the membership voted to accept these changes.

Old Business

The purchase and engraving of seven (7) Shanghai Punch Bowl Cups for Medal of Honor recipients has been completed. The cups will be presented to LTC Dicks at the banquet for inclusion in the Punch Bowl set.

Recruiting new members – as voted on last year the membership form was changed to afford a reduced membership fee of \$25.00 for any active duty Soldier for lifetime membership.

Social Networking – the 31st does have a Facebook group page with approximately 100 members.

New Business

The membership was informed that James L. MacMaster D/6-31 67-69 bequeathed a donation in the amount of \$10,000 from his estate to the Association. The funds are currently being held in the Monument Fund.

Vin Zike, Adjutant made a request that the membership consider purchasing new colors and flag cases. The flag would cost approximately \$200 and the cases in the area of \$600-800. In Addition the Regiment flag would be reviewed to ensure that all streamers are current and in good condition.

A motion was made from the floor to purchase a new flag, purchase flag cases, and upgrade the colors, the motion was seconded and the membership voted to support this motion.

Vin also requested the purchase of the Adobe software that he uses to prepare the newsletter. An organizational version of the software cost in the \$400-500 range as opposed to a personal copy in the amount of \$2700.00

Motion to approve the purchase was seconded and the membership voted to support this purchase.

Hearing no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Mary Doyon
Recording Secretary

Electronic Distribution:

Chuck McCammon
Sam Wetzel
Ed Bettis
Noah Halfacre
Phil Harris
Charlie Tapp
Jim Simms

Bill Owen
Karl Lowe
Ron Corson
John McNichols
David Wilson
LTC Roland Dicks

Vin Zike
Joe DeAngelis
John Howdeshelt
CSM Stallworth

Jack Considine
Dale Mills
Bill Burns
James Jagers