

31st US Infantry Regiment Association
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
10 August 2013

1. Opening.

Chuck McCammon called the General Membership Meeting to order at 1103 on 10 August 2013 in Ballroom B of the Holiday Inn in Fairborn, Ohio. Chuck read the agenda that listed the items to be covered in the membership meeting. He called on Ron Corson to read the minutes of the previous General Membership from August 2012. A motion was made by Bill McMullen to approve the minutes as read. The motion was seconded by John Mims. The vote of the membership was affirmative.

2. Treasurers Report.

a. The commander requested that the treasurer, Joe DeAngelis, give the Treasurer's Report. Joe reported that from January 1, 2013 to 6 August 2013 the Association had total income of \$23,164.16 and total expenses of \$7,464.28 leaving a Net Income of \$15,699.88. He reported cash on hand as \$53,382.14, Lifetime Fund with \$44,650.10 in investments with Raymond James, and \$3,202.00 in the Mary Doyon Memorial Fund.

b. Motion was made by John Mims to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Karl Lowe and the membership vote was affirmative with no "nea" voices.

c. Joe DeAngelis commented that the Association was in good shape financially and doing quite well. However, he added the cash on hand would be significantly reduced once he paid the current reunion expenses.

d. Ron Corson remarked to the treasurer that there was a need to send a deposit of \$500 to the Commons at Fort Drum for the 2014 Banquet. Ron Corson stated he would provide the Name and address to the treasurer so a check could be sent by mid August.

3. Quartermaster Report.

a. The commander called on Dale Mills to give the Quartermaster's Report. Dale reported that sales had improved during 2012 and he thought putting the QM Store Form back in the newsletter had helped. He reported that internet sales had increased from \$825 in 2011 to \$2500 in the past year. Total sales in 2011 were \$6930 with 22 orders and \$7061 in 2012 with 30 orders. Dale remarked that sales at the reunion were going well.

b. A motion was made by Bill McMullen to approve the QM Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Al Olson. The membership vote was affirmative with no Nea voices.

4. Election of Officers.

a. Chuck McCammon stated that the next item of business was the election of officers. He stated that his term of office as Commander was ending in December and that the only other

position that was at the end of its 2-year term was that of Vice Commander. He then opened the floor for nominations for Commander.

b. Karl Lowe stood to nominate Bill Owen, the current Vice-Commander, to be Commander. The motion was seconded by Jim Jagger. Chuck McCammon asked Bill Owen if he accepted the nomination and Bill states "Yes". Chuck then asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. A motion was made by Bill Mc Mullen to close the Nominations for Commander. The motion was seconded and the membership voted to close nomination. A unanimous vote of the membership elected Bill Owen as the new incoming Commander whose 2 year term would start on 1 January 2014.

c. Chuck McCammon opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Commander. Karl Lowe rose to nominate Mike Strand for vice-commander. The nomination was seconded. Chuck asked Mike Strand if he accepted the nomination and Mike stood and answered yes. A motion was made by Dale Mills to close nominations for vice-commander. The motion was seconded by Jim Sims. The membership vote was unanimous and Mike was elected to be the incoming Vice-Commander with his 2 year term starting on 1 January 2014.

5. Future Reunions.

a. Chuck discussed future reunions and reported on Board Meeting discussions where changes to reunion dates had been discussed. He stated that the 2014 Reunion was fixed for Fort Drum, NY and that any potential changes would not affect the current dates for 7-10 August 2014. He further stated that consideration was being given to shoulder times such as September, October, or May. There were comments from the floor over potential conflicts with members who would not like to have the reunion date conflict with football season in September and October. Another comment was made concerning the Association intention of drawing younger members where holding reunions other than in the summer months would interfere with school. After more comments pro and con, the commander asked not for a motion but for an indication of a consensus of the membership present. A raising of hands indicated that most members favored moving the Reunion dates to mid to late September or early October.

b. Chuck asked Jim Jagger, the 2015 Reunion coordinator, if such a change was feasible for the 2015 Reunion planned for Sacramento, CA. Jim stated that he felt that was possible. Chuck reminded members that the 2016 reunion was planned for Fort Drum and would be built around any unit activities planned for the 100th Anniversary of the Regiment.

c. Reunion 2014 Fort Drum. Ron Corson, the currently designated reunion coordinator for the Fort Drum reunion presented a short overview of the reunion plans. He stated that the reunion would be held from 7 to 10 August 2014 and would be hosted at the Best Western Watertown/Fort Drum. He stated the Best Western was the same location as the 2009 Reunion, but that the hotel was now under new ownership and had been significantly renovated. He reported that the rate would be under \$100 and include breakfast. Friday would be a "Day with the Troops" and would include a look at new items of equipment and anti-IED vehicles that the unit used in Iraq and Afghanistan. He stated that tours were planned for Alexander Bay/Castles along the Thousand Island area and the Sachette's Harbor and the War of 1812 battlefield. The reunion banquet was planned for "The Commons" located on Fort Drum. He added that in 2014 there would be No School Buses, and we would have regular deluxe 50-passenger buses.

d. Reunion 2015 Sacramento. Jim Jagger, the 2015 reunion coordinator presented his planning for the 2015 reunion He stated he intended based, on the previous discussions, to move the dates to September or early October 2015. The hotel hosting the reunion would be in downtown Sacramento and that he had looked at potentially going to a baseball game depending on the actual dates of the reunion and the team schedule. He was considering a trip to the Disney Museum in San Francisco, but that involved a long bus ride. He reported that there were many things to do in the Sacramento area and that it was a great place for the reunion. He would have a more complete run down after he finished adjusting the dates.

e. Reunion 2016 Fort Drum. There was a discussion of the significance of the 2016 Reunion. Karl Lowe reminded members that August 13 2016 would be the 100th Anniversary of the 31st US Infantry Regiment. It was announced that it was the intention of the Association to align our reunion with events and activities that the 4th Battalion.

6. Old Business.

a. Chuck continued the agenda with a call for any other Old Business. Vin Zike reported that the business software for the Association that had been approved in 2012 had not been purchased. He reported that the Association did not qualify for the reduced price that had been expected and the price offered was significantly above what had been authorized. He was currently in search of alternate software that could meet the needs of the Association and would bring any requests to the Board when he completed the search.

b. John Howdeshelt, the reunion coordinator, brought up the issue that had arisen over the shuttle to and from the airport. He stated that there had been confusion because the Holiday Inn itself did not have a shuttle, but that they had an agreement with a shuttle service and that it was available by making a reservation at the front desk. He further stated that no weapons were authorized inside the Wright-Patterson Air Force Museum and charged those with conceal carry permits to comply.

7. New Business.

a. LTG Sam Wetzel, the Honorary Colonel of The Regiment, stood to present an issue to the members that had been discussed at the Board Meeting on Thursday evening. He stated that his mission as the Department of Army designated Honorary Colonel of the Regiment was to keep alive the customs and traditions of the Regiment. In that light, he brought forward a project that was on-going at Fort Benning, GA. He related that the National Infantry Foundation was seeking donations to prepare a permanent location for one of the Vietnam Memorial Moving Walls along the Walk of Honor at the museum where our Polar Bear Monument was located. He stated that he thought it was a project that the Association should give strong consideration to supporting with a donation.

b. LTG Wetzel raised the issue of membership recruiting and asked that every member to become a recruiter. He then made a request for every member to start wearing a Polar Bear Pin on their lapel. He further pressed all members to wear one starting at the banquet that evening.

b. Karl Lowe rose to introduce the Association's new Command Sergeant Major. He introduced CSM(Ret) Daniel (Dan) Wood as new Honorary CSM of the Regiment appointed by Department of the Army. CSM Wood rose and was warmly greeted by the membership.

c. Jim Simms then rose to present another project that he felt should be considered by the Association as a project worthy of support. He presented a project that was being undertaken by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to build "The Education Center at the Wall" at the site of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC. He asked that the Association consider providing a donation for the project.

d. No direct actions were requested or taken on any of the funding requests presented.

e. Chuck McCammon indicated to the attendees that the Association had received a number of suggestions from concerned members. The suggestions were intended to improve the Association policies and procedures concerning membership and reunions. Chuck reported that these suggestions were discussed at the Board of Director's Meeting without final resolution. Actions on those suggestions will be decided at a later date.

8. Closing.

Chuck McCammon asked if there were any other issues or business to discuss. There being none offered, he called for a motion to Adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Bill McMullen and seconded by Karl Lowe. The membership voted to Adjourn at 1203.

Signed,

John R Corson
Acting Secretary
31st US Infantry Regiment Association