

31st US Infantry Regiment Association
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
8 August 2014

1. Opening.

The Association Commander, Bill Owen, called the General Membership Meeting to order at 1645 hours on 8 August 2014. The meeting was held in the Meeting Room of the First Presbyterian Church, Watertown, NY. Bill noted the agenda to be covered in the membership meeting and called on David Wilson to read the minutes of the previous General Membership Meeting in August 2013. A motion was made by Bill McMullen to approve the minutes as read. The motion was seconded and the members voted to approve the minutes.

2. Treasurers Report.

a. The commander requested that the treasurer, Joe DeAngelis, provide the Treasurer's Report. Joe reported that the Association had total gross receipts of \$31,826.12 and total expenses of \$32,032.09 leaving a Net Income loss of \$204.83 for the year. He reported cash on hand as \$38,105.83 and money market accounts of \$44,653.53.

b. Motion by Ed Bettis to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded and the members voted to approve the report. Joe DeAngelis commented that the Association was in good shape financially and doing quite well.

c. There were discussions of the reunion attendance being lower at Fort Drum due to the location of reunion and accommodations. Members asked if there was a possibility to have a reunion in the middle of the US. The reunions are rotated among the regional areas and normally require a volunteer to host each one. We are looking for a mid-America member to host a reunion in the near future.

3. Quartermaster Report.

a. The commander called on Dale Mills to give the Quartermaster's Report. Dale reported that sales are from \$6,000 to \$7,000 per year. Dale remarked that sales at the reunion were going well and encouraged members to check out the Quartermaster store for items they might need. Also, special hats with unit designation are available for order in lots of a dozen.

b. A motion was made by Robert Brown to approve the QM Report as presented. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership vote.

4. Election of Officers.

a. Bill Owen stated that the next item of business was the election of officers. The vacancies that need to be filled include the Great Lakes Director and the Senior Director positions. He then opened the floor for nominations.

b. Dale Mills nominated John Howdeshelt to fill the vacancy of the Great Lakes Director. Jim lives in that region is an active Association member. Bill Owen asked if he would accept the

nomination and John stated “Yes”. Bill then asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. None were made. A motion was made by Bill Burns to close the Nominations. The membership voted to close nomination. A unanimous vote of the membership elected John Howdeshelt as the new Great Lakes Director.

c. The commander opened the floor for nominations for the Association’s Senior Director position to replace Karl Lowe. David Wilson rose to nominate Ron Corson for the Association’s Senior Director. The nomination was seconded by George Mauldin. Bill asked if Ron would accept the nomination and Ron stood and answered yes. Ron is an active Association member, a former regional director, a former commander and currently the Membership Chairman. A motion was made by Bill Burns to close nominations for Senior Director. The membership vote was unanimous and Ron was elected to be the Association’s Senior Director.

d. A motion was made from the floor by Ed Bettis. Citing Robert’s Rules of Order, Ed made the motion for the Acting Secretary, David Wilson, to cast 1 unanimous vote for all the current directors to continue in office. The membership vote was unanimous. The Secretary entered his voted that all directors continue in office. The vote was approved and the current regional directors will continue in office.

5. Reunion Updates.

a. Bill first discussed the upcoming events for our current reunion:

- The memorial will be at the First Presbyterian Church tomorrow at 9:30am.
- The Formal Banquet will be tomorrow night at the “Commons” on Ft Drum.
- Each banquet table will have 5 active duty soldiers and 3 Association members.
- The 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry (AC) will be hosting the banquet.
- The hi-light, as always, will be the Shanghai Bowl Ceremony.
- Our Regimental CSM Dan Wood is the guest speaker.

b. The 2015 Reunion to be held September 10-13 in Sacramento, CA. James Jagers is planning the reunion and presented a short overview of the reunion plans:

- He stated the reunion will be September 10 – 13, 2015.
- We will stay in the Holiday Inn near I5 in Sacramento.
- There is a shuttle from the airport to the motel available at \$14/person.
- Thursday will be open to explore on your own.
- Tentative plans are for a baseball game or visit to the State Capitol area on Friday.
- Old Town, train ride and museums are within walking distance of the motel.
- Saturday is open for a trip to Lake Tahoe or San Francisco.
- The cost for the rooms will be \$99 for single and \$119 for a double.

c. The 2016 reunion is planned for Fort Drum and would be built around any unit activities planned for the 100th Anniversary of the Regiment. The reunion is scheduled for Fort Drum, NY. August 13th will be the 100th anniversary of the founding of the 31st Infantry Regiment and the 32nd.Infantry. There was a general discussion of the significance of these anniversaries and the fact that we need to celebrate them at the 2016 Reunion. One of our veterans from Bataan Death March spoke to the importance of these events. Darrell Stark emphasized the

importance to us as veterans and the importance of keeping our regiment visible in the eyes of the members, the Army and our country. There was consensus by all the members as to the importance of this upcoming anniversary.

If situations make our reunion at Ft Drum untenable in 2016, then the Association will have Ft Benning, GA as the backup location. The issues that may make our reunion at Ft Drum untenable include: the status of the active battalion due to training or deployment; the hotel/motel space available in Watertown area; support from the 4-31 Infantry Battalion; and MG Townsend (a big supporter of the 31st), may or may not be in a position to assist with arrangements at Fort Drum.

e. Bill informed the members that our tentative reunion location for 2017 will be Seattle, WA.

6. Old Business.

There being none, this portion of the meeting was tabled.

7. New Business.

a. Bill informed the Membership of the medical status of Karl Lowe. Karl's has been a staunch supporter for the Association. He served the Association for over 19 years as a member, a regional director, commander, senior director, and historian. He is quite ill and is not able to attend the reunion this year. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.

b. Karl has been writing a book on the history of the 31st Infantry Regiment for over 19 years and is unable to continue due to his illness. He asked Grady Smith to finish the project for the Association. There are some difficulties with legal issues and getting the book to press. Grady thinks it will take an additional 15 to 19 months for publication after the book is ready. In accordance with Karl's wishes, all revenues will go to the Association.

b. The commander stated that our web site is in poor shape and is less than effective. A former soldier had been working on it, but he is no longer available. There was a discussion on how to improve the web site by getting professional help from web site builders either by Pro Bono or paying if necessary. It was suggested that we might be able to get a student to do this for free as a part of their learning experience at a university. The Board will research ways to make improvements in the site.

c. Other topics discussed during the meeting including:

- The possibility of sending the newsletter by email or putting it on the new website.
- The possibility of providing a more durable ID card for members.
- The possibility of having a pre-sale on Karl's book when it is available.

No action was taken on these topics at the meeting. The Board members will investigate each of these and report back to the Members at the next meeting.

d. No direct funding actions were requested or taken on any of the possible funding requests discussed in the New Business portion of these minutes.

Bill Owen asked if there were any other issues or other business to discuss. There being none offered, he called for a motion to Adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made Bill McMullen. The motion was seconded and the membership voted to Adjourn at 1820 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

David P Wilson
Acting Secretary
31st US Infantry Regiment Association