

31st US Infantry Regiment Association
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
12 September 2015

Fresno/El Dorado/Diablo room, Sacramento Holiday Inn – Capitol Plaza, Sacramento, CA

Opening. The Association Commander, Bill Owen called the meeting to order at 0900 hours on 12 September 2015. He opened with several comments on the current 4-31 Infantry deployment and the renaming of the Philadelphia VA Hospital to the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. That was to honor the memory of Michael Crescenz who was a Medal of Honor winner from of A company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry in Vietnam.

Minutes of the last meeting. Bill then called on Dave Wilson to read minutes of previous General Membership Meeting from August 2013. Motion made by Ron Corson to approve minutes as read. The motion was seconded and the members voted to approve the minutes.

Treasurer Report. The Association Commander requested that the Treasurer provide the Treasurer's Report. Joe DeAngelis reported gross receipts of \$25,720.12 and total expenses of \$27,680.31 leaving a net loss of \$1,960.19. Report dates were for January through December 2014. He reported cash on hand as \$45,867.00, money market accounts \$44,665.00. Motion by John Mimms to accept Treasurer's report as presented, Bill McMullin seconded and the members voted to accept the report.

Quartermaster Report. The Commander called on Dale Mills to give the quartermaster's report. Dale reported sales 2014 had a net income of \$1490.00. Starting this year, the quartermaster store is accepting credit cards. So far, 52% sales were by credit cards. A khaki hat was also introduced this year was well received. Dale also advised the hat could be customized with unit designations. Customized orders are by the dozen. Motion by John Mimms to accept report as read, seconded by Mike Mandersheid. Members voted to accept the report.

Membership Report. Ron Corson updated the membership roster, we currently have 1270 members. The breakdown by region is: Great Lakes – 215, Mid-Atlantic- 169, Mid-West- 206, Northeast- 167, Southeast- 273 and Western- 240. There are 1163 on the active mailing roster. Most of the members are now in the Southeast.

The Association Commander Bill Owen spoke about the great work the regional directors have done in tracking down members. Great work during 2014. He also indicated the Chuck McCammon will be the new membership chairman effective January 2016.

Election of Officers. Association Commander stated that the next order of business was the election of Officers. As well we have two vacancies for regional directors and confirmation of other officers. . One in the Midwest the current director no longer wants to serve as director and One in Western Region.

Ron Corson made motion that Mike Strand be Association Commander effective in January 2016 when the current commander's tour ends. Motion was seconded by John Mimms. Bill Owen asked Mike if he would accept the nomination, Mike stood and answered yes. A motion was made by John Mimms to close nominations for Association Commander. The membership vote was unanimous and Mike Strand was elected to Association Commander. He will take office in January 2016.

Joe Diangelis made a motion that Dave Wilson be selected Vice Commander when Mike Strand assumes the Commander position. Motion was seconded by Ron Corson. Bill Owen asked Dave if he would accept the nomination, Dave stood and answered yes. A motion was made by John Mimms and seconded by Ron Belloli to close nominations. The membership vote was unanimous and Dave Wilson was elected to Vice Commander.

Association Commander opened the floor for nominations for the Midwest Regional Director since the current director was unable to continue. There were no nominations from the members present. The Commander indicated that the officers would continue to search for a director and the Commander would appoint an interim director to be confirmed by the membership at the next meeting.

Association Commander opened the floor for nominations for the Western Regional Director since Dave Wilson has been elected Vice Commander and will be giving up the director position early next year. Bill McMullen nominated Ron Belloli. This was seconded by Louis Dominguez. Bill Owen asked Ron Belloli if he would accept the nomination, Ron stood and answered yes. Ron Corson made motion to close the nominations, seconded by Chuck McCammon. The membership vote was unanimous and Ron Belloli was elected to Director Western Region.

June Zagar was appointed as the Secretary prior to reunion by telephone. June was recognized by the membership and she accepted the appointment.

Old Business

The Association Web Site. Bill Owen reported the associate's web site has very little functionality. No one in our membership had placed an interest or complete capability to manage and maintain site. Bill presented a summary of the actions he had taken to contract for services to take on the project. He and other officers had searched the membership for a member with the appropriate skills and the interest in reviving the site; not were found. Secondly, he indicated that he asked for proposals from several companies. Two responded with proposals and cost estimates. One was from The American Eagle Company who wanted to start from scratch to rebuild the web and include

a chat room. Minimum cost would be \$7500.00 and may go to double to build new web site. A second company, JW Media, discussed the project but declined to submit a proposal. The third company was xxx. Their web developer indicated that they could expand the current word press website and could probably complete the work in 60 days. That would include fixing what we have; adding a chat room; and maintenance training. Cost proposal was \$4250 at the minimum, but probably go to \$6000. We will continue to work with these companies to refine the bids or find a member who would take on the task. The goal is to have the site operational early in 2016.

Publication of History. The Association Historian, Grady Smith, gave update on information on publication of book Karl Lowe had started. Grady advised we are working with Karl Lowe's family. He advised we need an Acknowledgement of Disclosure to the Association from the family. Charlie Tapp will contact Sandy and Kris Lowe and advise outcome. Grady's key points were that the 4/31st history needs to be completed and that the Association is hoping looking to close out the timeframe for the book at the 100th year anniversary. Book of the history can two begin then.

Membership Cards. Ron Corson spoke about plastic membership cards mentioned last year. He advised that the board decision was to stay with current cards. If you need a replacement, just ask your Regional Director or the Membership Chair.

Reunion Updates. Ron Corson spoke about continuing to do reunions as we are now doing them with some changes in the future. The intent is to involve members who can't attend a reunion with a voice in where the reunions are held.

The 2016 Reunion will be at fort Drum 100th Anniversary.

Thursday – self tours – Sachets Harbor-Alexandria Bay and Arrival Dinner at 1800

Friday Afternoon – 4-31 Infantry Battalion Parade and Pass-in-Review followed by a Barbeque/Cookout Dinner with the soldiers of the 4-31.

Saturday – Memorial Service, Membership Meeting, and Self Tours in the afternoon.

Saturday Evening – Joint Unit/Association Banquet at “The Commons” at Ft Drum with LTG Steven Townsend as our guest speaker.

Sunday –Breakfast/Departure

The 2017 Reunion will be in Myrtle Beach, SC with Charlie Tapp as the organizer. – The Association Commander Bill Owen advised that Seattle, WA had been discussed at the meeting last year, but the organizer was not able to make the arrangements. Charlie Tapp volunteered to arrange the 2017 reunion at Myrtle Beach, SC. Charlie spoke about Myrtle Beach, SC advising the reunion would be held mid to late September 2017 to avoid the tourist season and get more reasonable prices. The weather is warm and the ocean water is still warm. Charlie indicated there is an airport in Myrtle Beach. Ron Corson made a motion we go to Myrtle Beach, SC in 2017. Dave Wilson seconded. Membership unanimously agreed.

New Business

Regional Directors duties. New and current regional directors will now have specific duties. They will include reaching out to each member during the year and maintaining an updated roster. They will find out if member is okay -- healthy both physically and or mentally. Can we help? Maybe they need contact with VA. What can we do to assist them?

Host gathering after interment- Association Commander spoke about honoring association members who have passed with a place to meet at Arlington National Cemetery after interment. Bill said there is a reception area where cookies, tea, coffee could be served if the family has not set up something already. If the family would like to do this we could help. The issue was discussed but several members noted that most cemeteries don't have reception areas if we wanted to do this for all members. The discussion was closed with no further action to be taken.

Any other New Business-

Question was asked if the reunion will go back to Branson, MO. Association Commander responded this is why we are going to give all members a vote on where to go and hold reunions.

Charlie Tapp asked if anyone was interested in helping him with the Myrtle Beach, SC reunion to contact him. Any help would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

June Zagar
Secretary
31st US Infantry Regiment Association

