

January

WWII HRS Board of Directors meeting

31 January, 2006

Meeting was by telephone conference

Those in attendance: Randy Palmer, Dave Halseth, Brian Jones, Marilyn Fornell and Ken Thompson

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:10 PM by Randy Palmer (having taken over as President of the HRS upon Graden Zuver's resignation).

First order of business: Introduction of changes brought on by resignations of former BoD members, Randy Palmer from Vice President to President and Ken Thompson taking over the Secretary position from Marilyn Fornell. Marilyn will remain in the Treasurer's position.

Secretary's report by Ken Thompson:

Membership numbers 401 (cards sent out as of this date, 31 Jan.). The Edge was delivered to the printer yesterday (30 Jan.) according to an e-mail from Mike Bollow, Edge Editor. The printer has been given the latest membership list (401 members).

Problems encountered; None other than it might be considered for next year's applications to warn all applicants to complete the entire form and to write legibly in order to facilitate processing applications. Membership Directory is planned to be put together by the end of March so as to give ample time for members to get their 2006 dues in.

Treasurer's report by Marilyn Fornell: Current money in checking account as of this date 31 Jan \$501.00 Also as of this same date there is \$13,842.63 in the Money Market account. Marilyn also stated that the interest income on the M/M account has been earning in the \$7-\$8 range per month. (Exact figures were given for the past three months). Problems encountered: None

Vice President's report (Given by Randy Palmer, formerly VP.

Unit Charters. The unit charters have not been processed in a timely manner and this needs to be corrected. Charters are to be processed within 30 days of receipt and this has not been happening for several reasons..

Charter Applications that have been voted on:

Sons and Daughters: 9 -No, 2-Yes/ with corrections and 1- No reply. Main reason given by No votes : spectrum way too broad-- includes all branches and all impressions and no uniform guidelines given.

12th AG WAC , 1 - No, 10-yes , and 1- No reply.

2629 WAC Battalion 1-No, 10-yes w/changes, 1-No reply.

1st ID Charter tabled for the moment to get approval of existing 1st ID CO. Same is true for 82nd Abn 505th PIR plane #11 and 11th SS Nordland FG Truppe.

Safety Report: No action at this time.

Authenticity report: None at this time.

Public relations/correspondence:

We have been contacted by a group in Bakersfield, CA. to ask if any reenactors would be interested in attending a veterans memorial dedication in May. Note may be placed in the Edge and/or on website in case any are interested.

Allied rep report: Dave Halseth: Nothing to report

UK rep report: Brian Jones : Nothing to report

Axis rep report: Rick Pennington: Not present

Web site update by Randy Palmer: Website has been renewed (again at no cost to the HRS) Randy has also added photos for the thirtieth anniversary of the HRS this year. These have been broken into ten year increments-- first ten years, second ten years, etc. In order to see the progression of our organization-- particularly in regards to authenticity.

Editor's report: Mike Bollow: An e-mail report was sent to Randy and read to the board . Mr. Bollow seems displeased with the current situation, but gave no constructive suggestion.

Old Business:

Insurance, Marilyn said that we were covered as of Midnight tonight 31 Jan. with the company of Maxim Indemnity. Insurance is getting to be a very serious issue and companies covering our type of hobby are very, very few. Marilyn asked that we all keep our eyes open for any possible insurance options in the future. Also, she said we must be clear when dealing with the members of our organization of the difference between proof of insurance and a certificate of insurance. The proof of insurance, normally enough for most event organizers is free and relatively easy to supply on the other hand, certificates of insurance cost our organization per copy and should not be given unless specifically asked for.

30th Anniversary of the HRS, a thought was made as to the possibility of obtaining a small gift for each of our members-- such as a decal for their vehicle. Cost of such a plan was brought up as a concern and should not be considered unless it can be done at very small cost to the HRS as the funds could be used to better use. The issue was tabled for now with the possibility of reopening the issue should an economically feasible idea be put forth.

2006 National Battle: The possibility of the 353rd hosting the battle, possibly in Indiana was addressed. Will discuss with them further.

New business:

It was suggested by Marilyn to add Ken Thompson's (HRS secretary) name to the bank account in the event she was unable to perform the duty of Treasurer. This will be done as soon as is practical.

Unit Charter approval system. This system needs to be looked at in order to streamline the process and to clarify who belongs to which unit. This has become particularly difficult with the increase of chartered sub units within a given division. This will be an ongoing project. A temporary hold on further chartered units was discussed, R. Palmer to write a proposal for board vote.

Location for National Meeting. Suggested places for National meeting: possibly Rensselaer or Rockford. Issue was tabled for the moment with the hopes of finding the most accessible location for the majority of members. Randy also reminded us of the days when hundreds of members attended the National meetings and what might be done to return to that participation (and what location could handle that number of people)

Safety Concern

A safety problem at the Ottawa event was mentioned although there was no signed complaint. It was said that an individual was firing his weapon very close to the ears of other reenactors-- so close as to cause not only hearing issues, but powder burns as well. As no formal complaint was filed, not much can be done, but safety must be paramount in this hobby and it is especially important for unit commanders to monitor their people. New members should be watched especially closely. Any serious injury has the potential to shut our hobby down and every effort must be taken to insure that that does not happen. Dave Halseth said that the offenders at the Ottawa event need to review the safety rules.

Safety and Authenticity:

Both of these areas need to be upgraded at our events. Safety can never be overstated and in a related area, vehicles (and vehicle insurance) needs to be scrutinized in the coming months. Authenticity problems were touched upon. One issue was the escaping prisoner scenario where at the tail end of a battle a prisoner bolts and is shot down, another was the "just shoot him, he's SS" skit. These scenes, while they may have happened, were not the norm and do not shed a particularly good light on those who served and need to be looked at.

Use of the HRS tax ID number. Marilyn stated that the HRS is a 501C-4 organization, there are specific rules for this type organization and tax deductions for donations given are not a part of our type classification. This has been mishandled in the past and must not happen again as there could be serious consequences if our Not -for- profit status is misused.

Threats

Marilyn stated she was threatened by the girlfriend of an HRS member after having sent a Christmas card (one among dozens sent to HRS members by Marilyn at random) . This is obviously not something that can be tolerated and the police should be called should this ever occur again.

Vice President

Marilyn made a motion at this point that we appoint Dave Fornell to the office of Vice President, Randy Palmer and Ken Thompson stated that we would like to give a chance for other members of the HRS to apply for the position at which time she (Marilyn) stated that I was appointed into the position of Secretary immediately, why shouldn't Dave be put in the VP spot immediately? At this point Dave Halseth seconded the motion making it necessary to vote on the matter. The results of that vote were Marilyn-Yes, Dave Halseth-Yes, Brian Jones-Yes, Ken Thompson-abstain, Randy Palmer- abstain. With that, the motion carried and Dave Fornell was voted into the Vice President's position.

he next HRS meeting date was scheduled for Thursday Feb.16th (7PM) phone conference. Up to 16 members may attend the conference which is encouraged. Meeting concluded at 9:58 PM.

Minutes submitted by Ken Thompson, Secretary, WW-II HRS Inc