

February

Minutes for HRS meeting, 16 February, 2006

Meeting was by teleconference and was attended by: Randy Palmer, Dave Fornell, Marilyn Fornell, Dave Halseth, Brian Jones, Rick Pennington, Ken Thompson from the BoD, Mike Bollow- Edge editor, and: Wyatt Gardner, Rey Ramirez, Carl Bogar, Greg Alexander, Tim Scherrer, Pat Blaser, David Jameson, and Grady Zuver- past President.

Meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM by Randy Palmer. Marilyn Fornell stated at this point that she was recording the meeting and asked for anyone's objection-- none was forthcoming.

Randy opened with the statement of board change, Dave Fornell coming into vacated Vice President spot.

Secretary report: Ken Thompson : As of today. 2/16/06 530 membership cards have been mailed and Marilyn has roughly 10 more which I plan to pick up this weekend. He stated that Randy Palmer (former VP, now Pres.) delivered them to Ken this past weekend and Ken would deliver them to Dave either Friday or Saturday.

Also mailed out were the Charters for: 12th AG WAC, 82nd ABN/ 505thPIR, RAF 11 . The Charter for 2629th WAC was ready for mailing and was only waiting for Dave Fornell's signature and will be delivered to him for same either Friday or Saturday. A question was raised as to the status of 1st ID, 16th Rgt. Co.L, 1st Pltn. It was stated that the BoD had not yet finished the approval process on that unit. Ken Also apologized for sending out unproofread (by the BoD) letter to the Edge Editor.

Allied Rep report: Dave Halseth: Asked about bylaw proposal status. Answer given was that due to a missing address as to where to send the ballots, the voting by the membership on these proposals would be postponed until a new ballot could be printed in the next Edge with the proper information. It was also stated at this point that Mike Bollow was withdrawing his proposal pending a rewrite. The two other proposals to be included in the next vote are that of Brian Jones addressing helmets/headgear in the field and one from Tim Scherrer which includes multiple topics including: keeping of minutes of BoD meetings, financial reports of the Society and their dissemination to the general membership and the issue of closed door meetings. There was one error in wording of Mr Scherrer's bylaw, that being the mentioning of our Society as a 501C-3 when we are actually a 501C-4. Mr. Scherrer was asked if it was OK to change that wording of his proposal to which he said yes. It was asked of the BoD if such a change was OK with them without a resubmitting of the proposal to which they said yes as well. So it will be printed in the next issue for vote by the membership as corrected.

It was then discussed as to what might be done about the slowness of members receiving their Edges. It was decided to make sure the printer's (who put the postage on the Edges) are sending them out first class as they are supposed to (and as we are paying for). It was also decided to allow 40 days from date of mailing of the voting issue until vote tabulation so that members would be allowed enough time to get their ballots, vote and return them for counting. Should they not get their issue on time, it would also be possible to vote via the internet. The suggestion was made for the ballots to possibly go through unit commanders as a way of getting them to the individual members, but it was decided that the chain of command in all cases was not as good as it would need to be and was decided against.

Treasurer's report, Marilyn Fornell: Marilyn stated that as of today (Feb 16th '06) there was \$16,654.88 in the treasury, \$567 in the checking account the rest in the money market account. Marilyn suggested we consider putting the majority of the money in a higher interest yielding account. If time permits, we will discuss in new business. She also stated she has another 11 applications to be processed .

Vice President's report: Dave Fornell:

It appears that there may be two other charters being submitted soon one being a unit attached to the 6th British Airborne and also the Polish Lancers. Dave Fornell asked how the charters were being handled and Dave Halseth gave an order of business in processing. Randy Palmer spoke about the 1st ID's pending charter application. At this point Grady Zuver expressed a concern stating concern for the 1st ID in question made some inappropriate comments at the past Ottawa, IL event and also allegedly committed some safety infractions by firing too close to other reenactors. It was decided to delay final vote on this charter until this issues can be looked into. There were no other issues brought forth by Dave Fornell.

Allied Rep report, Dave Halseth: Dave stated that he had to look into some issues with the 5th armored Division's authenticity, but had not yet had time to do so.

Commonwealth Rep report, Brian Jones: Nothing to report, but mentioned he was excited about the possibility of another British unit joining the Society, but expressed concerns about previous Polish Lancer problems. Mike Bollow stated that some questionable members of this group have been removed and are improving. Dave Fornell and Dave Halseth also had concerns, but none recently and we will wait for their charter application before addressing the concerns.

Axis Rep, Rick Pennington. No Axis report, but had a comment on a letter addressed to the Edge editor to be discussed in new business.

Dave Halseth mentioned at this point that the final report on the Lola issue is not yet complete.

Website report, Randall Palmer. Randy asked if there were any concerns regarding the website, none were forthcoming. He did state that we must be very careful to include a small Socket ad in each of our newsletters as they supply our service free of charge (a savings to the Society of over \$400 per year) and Randy promised a small ad would appear in each Edge issue as a courtesy for their generosity. A concern was raised on how events got listed on the website, even though it is clear. Dave Fornell mentioned that almost nobody ever follows the instructions, but that as long as the vital information is given he would, (when he was newsletter editor), include the events anyway.

Member David Jameson had a question on proper format for getting information by means of e-mails listed. Mike Bollow urged more contact between Randy, Dave Halseth and himself to prevent problems of listing or not listing of events.

Marilyn asked that it be mentioned in the Society's publication and website that any who are running or planning to run an event be sure they understand the difference between needing proof of insurance and requesting a certificate of insurance. Certificates of insurance are not supplied to us free of charge and it should not normally required when putting on an event, so to prevent an unnecessary cost to the HRS, please be sure of what you really need when dealing with insurance needs. David Jameson asked at this point who the HRS' carrier was and Marilyn stated Maxum out of Duluth, GA. Mr. Jameson said it might be a good idea to post a "help wanted" section in Society publications (and website) in order to possibly utilize member expertise in a particular field.

The present case being that Mr. Jameson has experience in the insurance field and could possibly have helped Marilyn as she struggled to find a carrier to supply our club's insurance which has been becoming increasingly hard to get. Mr. Jameson said he may be consulted for possible insurance questions in the future.

Rey Ramirez needed to leave the conference at this point and had Wyatt Gardner stand in for him as 5th SS spokesman.

Editor's report, Mike Bollow: there seems to be a problem with some members getting their Edges. The problem may be with the printing company who handles the printing and mailing of our newsletter. Mike said he would make sure that they are putting first class postage on our Edges as that is what we are paying for and should not be taking near as long as it seems to be for members to get their copies. Ken asked Mike to let him know when the Edge went to the printer in order that he could send a current membership roster to the printer.

Old business: 30th Anniversary gifts for members . Marilyn had as yet not had time to look into possible mementos and/or their cost.

National Battle: The 353rd and the 9th ID have expressed interest in possibly hosting the next National battle at Joliet training facility in Illinois. As a Federal site, class 3 weapons would be permissible. The BoD suggested that any others who might like to bid on hosting the National battle, need to submit their intents very soon, or it is suggested we proceed with the offer from the 353rd and the 9th ID. Dave Halseth mentioned the fact that someone had mentioned a possible Indiana site, but nothing concrete has been forwarded. Dave Halseth offered to be point of contact for anyone interested in possibly hosting the national. David Jameson also stated that the information regarding the national should be on the website as well as the Edge. Grady said that the bylaws state that the latest a bid for the National can be is August first—not that we must wait 'til August first to decide.

The sooner that a decision as to location can be reached the more time those who sponsor the battle will have to organize the event. Tim Scherrer stated that it did not appear that Weldon Springs would be available for the National this year. It was decided that any unit who is considering hosting the national, must have their bid in no later than May 1st.

New business: The possibility of putting a moratorium on sub units of a single division or parent organization. These sub units make it very difficult to know who belongs to what unit. Concerns were brought up primarily by the Commonwealth rep. Brian Jones because the British way of organization differed from the US and therefore even though two groups may be in the same ‘Division’ and wear the same patch, they are, in truth, two completely different organizations. Idea was tabled pending further discussion at a later time.

Banking signatures: Marilyn and Ken will either set a time to meet at the bank in order to add Ken’s name to the banking documents or else Marilyn will see if they can be sent via mail.

In the interest of time, bylaw proposals were not read into the minutes.

National meeting: Choosing a site for the National meeting was discussed. It would be a benefit to have a centrally located place in order to prevent some from driving exceptionally long distances, Marilyn expressed concern that were it to be held at a tactical, women would be somewhat excluded as they don’t frequent them as much. Subject tabled for the present.

Corporate ID Number:

Giving out of our corporate number: As our organization is classified as a 501C-4, we are NOT able to take material or services from the public in return for a receipt to be tax deductible for the giver. There may be a few exceptions to this rule in regards to donations being deducted as advertising, but must be looked into very closely in order to prevent our being in violation of our classification. Member Wyatt Gardner stated , and it appeared everyone agreed that as long as any “perks” were legal and were equally available to all, there would be no problem if such “perks” were taken advantage of.

The present issue deals with a request from 2nd PZ in regards to the Lowell, IN. event. Marilyn suggested calling Lowell to see exactly what it is they need and if we could legally supply what they need. Care must be taken so that the HRS is not held liable for a tax we should not be.

New business: Complaint by 5thSS Wiking, Colorado. Speaking for the 5th SS Wyatt Gardner (for Rey Ramirez) stated the Board was out of line in allowing another 5th SS a charter. It was said that they did not sign off on such a charter and that they have the rights to that name within the society. Mike Bollow attested for the quality of the “new” 5th SS. The history of the 5th SS (Colorado) was given and had gone back as far as 1982 and became a chartered unit when the chartering process came into being. Grady Zuver stated (he was President at the time) that Stephanie Fornell Batronie (Vice President at the time) said that as the original paperwork from the Colorado group was presented, it only was for a smaller unit within the 5th SS and therefore did not preclude another unit from chartering a different sub unit within the 5th SS. Ken Thompson, who had possession of the Charters the night of the meeting, pulled the charter for the 5th SS (CO) and it read 5th SS only--no sub unit. Mr. Garner was asked if he thought it was possible to find a solution allowing for the coexistence of another 5th SS. That was not answered this evening and the issue was tabled until all parties concerned are available for discussing the matter. Wyatt asked that a copy of the original charter be sent to Mr. Ramirez. Ken Thompson said he would do so (with the board’s approval.)

Axis rep asked that a vote be taken to apologize for a letter supposedly reprimanding Mike Bollow for anti-HRS talk. Secretary Ken Thompson who wrote the letter at the board’s request, stated unequivocally that the letter was NOT of an accusatory nature, but rather a fact finding request and was so worded. He did apologize for not sending a copy to all BoD members prior to his sending it to Mr. Bollow, but that was all he would apologize for as there was nothing in the letter for which to apologize. After heated discussion of the issue, a motion was made by Pres. Randy Palmer to delete all references to the letter and issue with Mr. Bollow regarding this matter from the January minutes. The vote was held and all voted for this motion except Ken who abstained. He stated that it was hoped that for the sake of the HRS the whole matter would be considered closed. Randy asked that everyone might review the etiquette section of the bylaws.

Dave Fornell on the importance of adhering to the bylaws

Mike Bollow stated he was unhappy about Tim Scherrer's independent committee outside the HRS. David Jameson said there are many ways of looking of things and just because something is done outside the HRS doesn't make it bad. Grady said he did his best to protect the Society's reputation. Dave Fornell said that any charges or complaints would be best put into writing so that they might be addressed. Dave Halseth said it would be best if concerns were brought out into the open rather than be rumored about. and Dave Fornell said more should be done to foster unity amongst HRS members.

At this time Randy Palmer made a motion to close the meeting and Dave Halseth seconded.
The meeting ended at 10:16 PM .