

March

Minutes for the HRS meeting, 16 March, 2006

Teleconference, In attendance: Randy Palmer, Dave Halseth, Brian Jones, Barry Hamper, Tim Sherrer, Greg Lee, David Jameson, Alan Miltich, Ken Thompson and a possible unknown person(s) listening in.

Meeting was called to order by President Randall Palmer at 7:07 PM.

A vote was called to accept the February minutes as written without reading passed unanimously.

Member Dave Jameson stated that he is not giving his permission for audio recording of this meeting.

Secretary's report: Ken Thompson, Number of memberships to date : 650 with about 10 more being forwarded to the Treasurer for processing. Ballots for bylaw proposals starting to come in. Problems to report: 1. Family memberships- Family memberships are to have up to 4 members at the same location get one Edge per month (to be shared). There has been several cases of family memberships with several people at different addresses requiring multiple Edges sent out the various addresses and this is actually costing the HRS money on such memberships. As the problem is not widespread, it was decided to clarify the application and to continue as is for this year. Associate memberships: Several members who are not yet part of a chartered unit asked to have their cards sent quickly in order to participate in the Ft. Custer event. Associate cards were sent, but it was explained to those receiving the cards that associate card holders were not allowed to participate in the battles without being accepted by a chartered unit to oversee them. I made it known to them that it would be a good idea to make sure that they had a sponsor unit before running their 20 plus guys to the event otherwise they would risk being turned away. We need to be more clear about associate memberships and the need to get battle participants into chartered units to prevent problems. I (the Secretary) need a comprehensive list of Chartered units and their unit CO's not only for record keeping, but for accuracy in the upcoming HRS directory. I received some information from America in WWII magazine and it appears that they are looking for us to advertise in their magazine. As we have done this in the past and not seen results, it does not seem to be something we would be interested in. I will retain the information if this situation changes. Bylaw ballot count. It was decided to count the bylaw ballots on Saturday, April 22 at 3 PM. At Ken Thompson's house. All HRS members who care to are welcome to attend and watch the counting. There has been concern for the lack of privacy of the voters in this election (to be addressed in New Business).

Treasurer's report as submitted by Marilyn Fornell who was unable to attend. Current checking account as of 16 March, 2006 was \$827.06, Current money market account also of the same date held \$ 16,780.74 for a total of \$17,607.80

Vice President's report Dave Fornell also unable to attend submitted this report: 10 charters are in process of approval at this point all but 1 of the applicants have been asked to submit some clarifications regarding their applications and their replies are being awaited. Hopefully they will arrive and will be ready for vote by next meeting. End of report.

US representative report, Dave Halseth: The first ID unit charter issues have been resolved and they have been issued their charter. Dave Fornell awaits the charter information of the 5th Armored Division before being able to proceed with that.

Commonwealth representative report, Brian Jones: Brian stated he was awaiting information regarding the possible charter application for a 6th Airborne, 9th Bat. Unit. Other than that, nothing else to report.

Axis representative, Rick Pennington, not present, no report submitted.

Website report by Randy Palmer: Gallery is partly up Randy is still working on it choosing a good representation of photos from the HRS' history from the early days, middle days and the present. No major problems, mainly just takes time.

Editor's report, Mike Bollow: Nothing to report other than the latest Edge was sent out with first class postage (something the printer's mistakenly did not do with the last issues) and so far, this seems to have corrected the newsletter problems.

Old Business: 30th Anniversary of the HRS membership souvenirs: Marilyn Fornell submitted the report on her findings of possible items for the membership and their costs. These are: 4" stickers with the HRS logo for car windows-- \$ 1049.00 per 1000 copies. HRS bumper stickers-- \$1029 per 1000 copies and Dog Tag style keychains— 1850 per 1000. Member Dave Jameson said he would check into the possibility of getting a better price on these type items and will contact Marilyn with findings. An opinion poll was taken by those present at the meeting their views on the most appropriate item to commemorate the 30th Anniv. Of the HRS. It was the general opinion that the window sticker seems to be the most beneficial to the HRS in getting our organizations name in front of people and keeping a watch on fund expenditures of the HRS at the same time. No decision was made at this time pending Mr. Jameson's upcoming findings.

2006 National Battle: Since no other bids to host the 2006 National Battle have been forthcoming, in the interest of giving the 353rd and the 9th ID who have volunteered to host the National at the Joliet, Illinois Training Facility maximum time to coordinate their efforts, a motion was made by Randy Palmer to accept this proposal by the 353rd and the 9th ID to host the 2006 National Battle at the Joliet Training Facility. The motion was seconded by Ken Thompson, Dave Halseth and Brian Jones the motion carried.

Chartering of sub units: It was suggested by Randy Palmer that as a way of clearing up confusion, particularly in the maintaining of paperwork for the Secretary, that a temporary hold be placed (90 days) on sub-chartering of existing units. In order to make sure all members have been listed with the proper units. Secretary Ken Thompson said that the fact that many of the applications are coming without the proper unit CO's signature or incomplete listing of the unit has caused a great deal of confusion as to who belongs to what unit or in some cases if the unit has even been properly chartered at all. Brian Jones and Dave Halseth expressed concerns of any units already in the process of applying for their charters and that they be grandfathered from this stipulation. Only one, the 6th ABN/9th Bat.) falls into this category and would be exempt from this temporary hold. As for this exemption, Ken said it would be best to make sure that before this charter (6th ABN/ 9th Bat.) be brought up for a vote, that existing HRS chartered unit (22nd IPC) who is part of this Division already, is asked about their feelings regarding this application in order to prevent a repeat of the current 5th SS type "double charter" situation. Brian Jones said he would talk to unit CO Bob Saxton on his thoughts on the matter. That detail having been addressed a Motion was made by Randy to place a 90 day hold on sub chartered units pending cleaning up of current units members and getting paperwork organized. This was seconded by Ken and was voted yes to by other BoD members present, Dave Halseth and Brian Jones. Motion passed..

It was noted that Ken Thompson's (Secretary, HRS) name has been added to the bank paperwork for the HRS' account.

Annual Meeting Location to hold a National meeting for the HRS was discussed—among possible places, Rockford ,IL and Mexico, MO. Dave Halseth said he liked the Rockford location as there was a large number of HRS members already there for the September event—even though he would prefer not to have a National meeting in conjunction with another event such as a tactical or public event as it usually pulls people away from the socializing with other HRS members that is a large reason to attend events in the first place. It was noted the large turnout of people at Rockford, only a few members attended the meeting, most likely because most members preferred being at the dance or other simultaneous events. The offer of Mexico, MO as a location was also brought up as a possibility—a church facility offering to accommodate the necessary numbers possibly attending the meeting. . In the interest of making the meeting as accessible as possible to the members it was proposed to try an find a site that would be as centrally located as possible in order to preclude any particular area from having to travel exceedingly large distances in order to attend. It was also deemed important to make sure the location was "user friendly" to both genders and that a certain amount of comforts were available. The decision to ask the membership for their opinions on the matter was put forth and until then, being this is not an issue that must be decided now, the decision will be postponed until a later time.

HRS Tax ID Number

The use of the HRS tax number: Marilyn who was unable to attend this meeting has talked to Lowell (Buckley Homestead) representatives and has information regarding this issue which we should be able to hear at the next meeting. It has been decided to be much more discriminating in the use of this number and to closely watch that it is not abused or misused. Member Tim Scherrer stated that the local event host,(such as Buckley Homestead, Rockford Park District , etc.) should supply their tax number should it be required. Letter to be sent by the Secretary to 2nd Panzer regarding this issue (see Feb minutes) was to be put on hold until hearing from Marilyn's information.

5th SS “double Charter” issue. Randy has talked to Rey Ramirez who has said he will be sending a letter in regards to this situation and will wait for the arrival of same before continuing.

Helmet Blyaw Proposal

Brian Jones’ helmet bylaw proposal was discussed and it’s possible conflict with existing bylaws at which point Dave Halseth read the existing bylaws. Randy stated that he did not support this proposal for safety reasons which should be paramount over other considerations. Items such as removing your helmet to take a “hit” were discussed and in general, there appears to be several flaws in the existing helmet rules. The issue of insurance was brought up in regards to whether the use of helmets affected our coverage and Mr. Jameson who has knowledge in this area seemed to be of the impression that it most likely did not affect the coverage.

Member Complaint

Barry Hamper addressed the BoD present in regards to the problem his fiancé had with Marilyn concerning a card sent by Marilyn last Christmas and ensuing conversation between the two parties. It was said to Barry that he needs to put any complaint in writing stating specifics and evidence he has in order for us to be able to do anything and for Marilyn to be able to address. Until such a letter is submitted, we would not be able to address the issue as it would just be hearsay.

Voting Privacy

Privacy concerns were raised concerning the bylaw proposal vote currently underway. It is acknowledged that this is a problem. There needs to be a standard voting procedure employed that protects voter anonymity as well as ensuring proper safeguards to prevent fraudulent voting. Such a system will be discussed in the future. Dave Halseth suggested that in the future separate mailings should be used that could prevent most of the problems. The ballots could be numbered in such a way to prevent tampering and at the same time protect voting privacy. It was decided that despite the lack of privacy concerns with this current vote, that it should continue as it is the lesser of the evils. Ken Thompson stated that as the ballots are coming to him for keeping until the count, he will do his best to figure out a way to safeguard member’s voting privacy while still maintaining integrity of the voting process for this election. He also stated as has been done in the past that all who are interested in attending the tabulation are welcome to attend or send a representative they trust to ease their concerns regarding this matter. Any who are interested in attending the count (Saturday, April 22, 3PM can contact Ken at: (630) 968-1378, for directions to his home). The Board apologizes for this oversight and will not only do it’s best to conduct this counting as best as possible given this situation, but will address implementing a standardized voting procedure for future votes at upcoming meetings. Dave Halseth stated he would like an item put on the website asking member’s opinions on how voting should be conducted. Once a standard voting procedure has been decided upon, it should become a part of housekeeping rules for the HRS.

Rumors of Impeachment

At this point Randy Palmer stated that although he does not like to deal in rumors, he has heard a number of times that there might be a plan to impeach him. Randy asked Dave Halseth, Brian Jones and Ken Thompson if they had any knowledge of such plans, Dave said he had heard talk of such impeachment proceedings and Brian Jones stated he had no knowledge. Randy inquired on what grounds, but none were forthcoming. Dave Halseth, Brian Jones and Ken Thompson, all BoD members present at this meeting stated without doubt none of them would vote for such a measure.

Batavia Meeting

At this point it was asked if a meeting was scheduled at Batavia for March 18th and Dave stated that such a meeting had been discussed—possibly an informational meeting only.. It had been stated that a quorum would be present implying a vote could be taken which greatly concerned Randy and others. It was stated that such a meeting had not been announced in the organization’s newsletter or website in accordance with the bylaws and therefore if one were to be held, it would be in violation of those bylaws.

Web Forums

The issue of forums were discussed. Among those forums the one Dave Halseth has put together for the use of HRS members. He stated that they might be used as a means of stopping rumors and would like to see BoD members use them more. Randy stated he does not frequent them much and Ken Thompson admitted to not being much of a user of such technology. Both stated that they were limited in the time that they had for such interaction on something that is outside of the HRS’ official control. Neither Randy or Ken stated that anything was wrong with having such a forum, but

time constraints of them both prevent participating in such to a large degree and prefer to limit their involvement to one on one e-mails from members as they send them.

At this point (9:43 PM) Alan Miltich, 5th SS out of Michigan joined the meeting and gave a brief synopsis of his 5th SS unit. Randy told him of our earlier mention of the 5th SS issue and our waiting for the letter from Rey Ramirez before proceeding on the matter..

At this point the date of Thursday, April 20th, 2006 was decided upon for the next HRS meeting at the time of 7PM. Randy made a motion to adjourn at 9:43 PM and was seconded by Ken and unanimously approved by the rest of the board.

Submitted by Ken Thompson