

**Minutes of the
WWII Historical Reenactment Society
Board Meeting
22 May 2014, 8:00 pm**

Welcome and ROLL CALL:

| <u>Position</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Present</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| President: | Jonathan Stevens | YES |
| Vice President: | Mike Kaczorowski | YES |
| Treasurer: | Wayne McCulley | YES |
| Secretary: | Eddie Mayton | NO |
| Allied Representative: | Ron Kapustka | YES |
| Commonwealth Rep: | Bryce Seyko | NO |
| Axis Representative: | Doug Loge | YES |
| Newsletter Editors: | Jeff Skender | YES |
| Business Manager: | David Jameson | NO |

HRS Members Present

Chris Adams
Jim Schouten
Curt Gustafson
Keith Long
Carlos Ramirez
Steve Sloane
George Reinke
Scott Steben
Larry Fryklund
Will Greenslade
Frank Bartolo
Alan Militich
Sue Miller

Reading of the April, 2014 Minutes:

The April, 2014 meeting minutes were read by Jonathan Stevens. A motion was made by Ron Kapustka to approve the minutes as amended, which was seconded by Wayne McCulley. A vote was taken and the Minutes were approved as read and Amended.

Officer Reports:

New Business

Unit Charters:

New Charters: No new Unit Charters ready for a vote.

Probationary Charters:

40th Guards Rifle Division: Mike K reported that the majority of the S&A Committee voted "No" on the question as to whether the 40th Guards should be accepted as a full membership. Mike reported that the general discussion were concerns with safety and authenticity issues. Steve Sloane reported that the problems they had can be turned around and resolved. Will Greenslade reported that they failed to address reoccurring safety and authenticity issues over the past year. Frank Bartolo reported that they continue to have the same safety issues, even when they were with their prior Unit. Mike K reported that they have been a Probationary Unit for three years so far. Mike K asked for a vote as to whether the Unit should become a fully chartered Unit in the HRS. A "Yes" vote means they get accepted. A "No" vote means they get dissolved. Doug Loge seconded. A vote was taken and the Unit was NOT accepted as a full member in the HRS and their Charter will be dissolved.

517 PCRT: Mike K reported that this Unit passed the S&A Committee. Ron Kapustka reported that they are a smaller Unit and that he had checked them out at Danville. Mike K reported there have been no issues. Jon asked if they have at least 5 members and Doug confirmed they do, per EventBrite. Mike called for a vote to accept them as a fully chartered Unit in the HRS. This was seconded by Ron Kapustka. A vote was taken which was passed. The Unit will become a fully chartered Unit in the HRS.

3rd Infantry Division, 15th Regt.: Mike K reported on the Unit out of Colorado. The Unit passed the S&A Committee, and the BOD vote had been tabled from the April, 2014 Meeting. Mike K reported that the "boot issue" is not a big issue and that at the April, 2014 meeting, they reported that the M1943 boot was going to be their boot of choice. No further comments were offered. Rey and Carlos spoke on their Unit and reported about their activities within the State of Colorado. They recently added a member of the Unit with a Sherman and a Stuart tank. Mike K called for a vote on the Unit that the Unit be accepted as a fully chartered HRS Unit. If the vote was "No", the charter would be dissolved. Ron Kapustka seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the Unit was accepted as a fully chartered Unit.

E Co, 505th PIR, 82nd Abn: Mike K reported that all of the following four Units be tabled at this time as he just received information on all four Units which must be forwarded to the S&A Committee.

53. Aufklarungs-Abteilung: Tabled, see above.

3rd Infanterie Div (mot): Tabled, see above.

United Press: Tabled, see above.

Defunct Charters:

4th Infantry Div, 22nd Regiment; Mike K has not received any further information from them. Jon reported that all his attempts to contact them failed. They had no members in 2013 and none in 2014. Mike K made a motion to disband the Unit, which was seconded by Wayne McCulley. A vote was taken which was passed. The Unit will be disbanded and removed from the active Unit List and website.

506th PIR, 101st ABN: Mike K reported that he has not received any information from them lately. Jon reported that he sent them an e-mail, which was not responded to. Last year, they were "upset" about the memberships from last year. Doug reported they have no members for 2014. Carlos reported that they are still interested in being members, although they haven't signed anyone up. Based on this information, Mike K suggested we table the vote for one more month, until June.

Doug suggested that another Unit be added to the Defunct List, the 6th SS Nord. Jon reported that under the By-Laws, a Unit needs to have no members for two years. Jon pointed out that this Unit was not on the Agenda and that the issue should be tabled for this month. Doug asked that they be added to the Agenda for next month.

Treasurer Report:

This is the report of financial balances deposits and expenditures for April 2014.

Balances as of 4/30/2014

PNC checking account \$8,629.24

PNC Money Market Account \$48,327.50

Wells Fargo Account: We have approximately \$300 in this account

PNC Checking Deposits

04/07/14 Mailed Membership Deposit \$120.00

04/09/14 Eventbrite Deposit of March Memberships \$1,375.26

04/15/14 Deposit of check from Midway Village for insurance for WW1 event \$300.00

PNC Checking Withdrawals

04/04/14 Illinois Secretary of State for Certificate of Good Standing \$16.00

04/07/14 Mad Mimi Marketing \$12.80

04/21/14 Transfer of money to PNC Money Market account \$5,000.00

04/21/14 US Postal Service for Stamps for mailing ID cards \$99.85

04/24/14 Office Max for supplies for Membership cards \$32.56

PNC Money Market Deposits

04/21/14 Deposit of Money Transferred form PNC Checking account \$5,000.00

04/30/14 Interest \$2.96

2014 Eventbrite Memberships

April- 95 memberships Net Sales \$1,181.30

Old Business

2014 Membership Process: The 2014 procedure was discussed by Jon Stevens. All is going smoothly.

Event Listing Procedure: event request; funding request; AAR, submission of waivers; funding payments if approved.

Probation Vote for 12th SS

Posting Non HRS events – website and publications

Secretary Report: Eddie Mayton was unable to attend, Jon reported the HRS has 802 members.

Membership Coordinator, Craig Dvorack is absent.

Commonwealth Report: Tabled.

Allied Report: Nothing to Report

Axis Report: Nothing, other than Doug has contacted all Axis Units to verify memberships and all have members but three Units.

Edge Report: Jeff Skender reported that the next month's issue is ready to go. Jon asked that the scholarship information be included.

Business Manager Report: Tabled.

Committee Reports:

S&A - Nothing to Report.

Unit Commanders - There have been proposed By-Laws being circulated.

Vehicle – Jim reported that the Committee is working on S&A Rules for Vehicles. There are more than 200 vehicles listed

Old Business

Event Listing Procedure: The Event Request Form was revised and circulated by Jon. After the event, an AAR must be sent to the HRS and a submission of waivers from the event and any funding payments made and receipts collected.

Probation Vote for 12th SS: Jon reported that last month that Doug Loge mentioned the MN Dinner Issue and had made a motion that the 12th SS be put on probation for one year with the stipulation that they do not fly, display, or hang any flag, banner, pennant, or standard with a swastika, SS runes, or totenkopf on it. Jon mentioned that last month, he thought Scott Steben needs to be advised that this vote was going to be taken and that he be given notice to attend the next meeting. A motion was made by Ron Kapustka, which was seconded by Wayne. A vote was taken and the motion was passed. Scott Steben was to be advised that this discussion and vote will take place at the (next) BOD meeting and that he has the opportunity to attend the BOD meeting.

Mike K reported that the probation was not being imposed because of the "Dinner Issue" but because of past violations at Rockford and the Wade House where the 12th SS had flown political flags. Doug reported on the prior violations and that Scott had been advised of the violations. Scott wore a "Hitler" moustache; sold T-Shirts with swastikas on it at two different events; shot a rocket at a fellow reenactor; wearing Nazi

party pins; has a large SS and totenkopf tattoo; and displayed political flags at the MN Dinner. Larry Fryklund advised that the party in question was a "private party" and that any information found on a "FaceBook" page should not be the reason for the probation. Doug reported that Scott Steben wore a "Hitler" moustache at Rockford last year. A discussion was had regarding the moustache and Scott reported that the moustache was removed prior to the event starting. Jon asked that the violations of the By-laws and the S&A Regulations be discussed. Doug mentioned the Unit selling T-Shirts with swastikas on them at the Rockford event. Jon mentioned that is not a violation of the By-Laws. Doug mentioned the Panzerfaust which was a safety violation; the Christmas Dinner; wearing Nazi party pins at an HRS event. These pins are political in nature and are a violation of the By-laws in that a member of a political organization, you cannot be a member of the HRS. Doug suggested, for lack of a better word, that there appears to be a "fetish" with swastikas. Jon summarized that the issues appear to be the safety issue with the Panzerfaust; the wearing of political insignia and the flying Nazi flags at an event. Mike K reported that displays cannot be political in nature.

Scott Stebens asked what was the political pin that he was wearing at an event. Scott mentioned that the flags themselves are "props" and are being used as such, not to make a "statement". The flags that are being displayed are either Unit flags or battle flags. The Panzerschreck has been used many times in the past, but this was simply an accident with a malfunction. The system has been changed on that weapon and only smoke is used, NO projectiles are used. With regard to the "political pins" they are also being used as "props" not to make statements. Scott reported that they are simply WW2 reenactors "playing Army" and are not making any types of statements or to push any type of agenda. Scott Stebens offered that the Unit will refrain from flying any type of flag at any event in the future. Mike K commented that the display or flying of flags must be prohibited, although they are "part of the history". At Wade House, there was a Hitler Youth flag was displayed on a flag pole, "in a place of honor", and in violation of the Rules. Scott offered that the Unit will no longer display any types of flags at events. Jon asked if anyone else had comments. Alan Militch spoke about Waffen SS and that anyone who "does SS" should be careful of wearing such pins. Alan thought it is appropriate to put the 12th SS on probation. Steve Sloane reported that selling T-Shirts with a swastika on it was not a good idea at an event.

Jon asked for regular members who may have a comment. Hearing none, the floor was turned over to Scott Steben for a response. Scott Stebens apologized to the members of the HRS and stated that they do a combat Waffen SS Unit. The Dinner Party was a private event. They do not allow or have any "skinheads" or other people with an agenda in their Unit. The flags, pins, etc., that they use are only props. He is a patriotic, stand-up guy who works with disabled people. He again said that the Unit will

not display any flags or other props of such nature at any events. No political pins will be displayed either at events in the future.

Jon turned the floor over to Doug to wrap up the discussion. Doug reported that the "pin" was worn at an event approx. 6 months ago at the Greenbush event. Doug described it as a round pin, worn on the right pocket above the Hitler Youth pin and the Honor Chevron could only be worn by a member of the Nazi Party. Doug suggested that all of the evidence reflects a "fascination" with swastikas and the Nazi Party. Doug suggested that the probation would be for what Scott has already promised not to do. Doug read the motion as 12th SS be put on probation for one year with the stipulation that they do not fly, display, or hang any flag, banner, pennant, or standard with a swastika, SS runes, or totenkopf on it. Doug added "or wear any Party Pins". Doug amended his Motion to include "Party Pins". Jon asked if the Motion should be amended to include the Hitler Youth Flag.

The Motion, as amended, is as follows: "12th SS be put on probation for one year with the stipulation that they do not fly, display, or hang any flag, banner, pennant, or standard with a swastika, SS runes, or totenkopf on it. Also, there will be no wearing of any Nazi Party pins". Mike K and Ron K seconded the motion. Ron re-read the motion again. A vote was taken and the motion was passed. The 12th SS is put on probation for one year, to be reviewed in May, 2015.

Posting HRS events. A request was made for an event in Iowa and a display event at an airport in MN. There was no comment and the events will be posted on the website.

Posting Non HRS events. A request was made to post Non-HRS events on the website. Jeff Skender pointed out that Non-HRS events are already listed in The Edge. Jon suggested that the Board review any requests to post/list both HRS and Non-HRS events.

Open Comments:

Wayne asked that David Jameson provide information in a more timely manner to assist him in preparing his Quarterly Reports.

Sue Miller asked about her article submitted, which was about Jefferson Barracks, and asked whether articles should be about HRS events/Units. Jon suggested that articles should be about HRS Events and Units, which is a benefit to HRS Units. We want to promote HRS Units and Events.

The next meeting will be June 26th.

A motion to adjourn the Meeting was made by Jon Stevens and seconded by Ron Kapustka. A vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.