

**National Civil War Association, Incorporated  
Combined Administrative Board and Unit Board  
Minutes**

**Date:** April 22, 2017

**Time:** 11:50 a.m.

**Location:** Round Table Pizza, Benicia, CA

**Call to Order:** 11:50 a.m.

**Roll Call:** Present were: Karen Groom, Dennis Main, Jeff Polder, Becky Thompson, Robert Allen, Mike McKinsey, Kevin Groom, Russell Hanson, Jeff Matthews, Charles Kenyon, Stephen Senishen, Ashleigh Fiffick, Mike Sanders, John Moreno, Marcello Pontin, Scott Spence, Jane Beckman, and Melani Van Petten.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2017 were approved with one abstention and one correction.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda for April 22, 2017 was approved unanimously.

**President's Report:** Jeff Polder said that he is working on various problems, but that they will all be solved eventually with the efforts of everyone. He said that really good school days at our events will help.

Jeff said that we have been invited by Pacheco Pass State Park, near Los Banos, to do a weekend event in early April, with one school day. He said that we will need to get a grant for the school day, which could accommodate a maximum of 1800 students, and that the ranger in charge wanted to be really helpful and was hoping to increase park visitation. He said that Gibson Ranch will be on again next year at the end of April, and that we would do two school days. Jeff said that if the school days went well, the Gibson Ranch people would be happy. A sign-up sheet was passed around for the Tres Pinos school day, and good showing for all events was requested.

**Vice President's Report:** Mike Sanders thanked everyone for getting safety tests completed and for signing up for the school day. He said the school days were very important, because that was where the event hosts made their money.

**Treasurer's Report:** John Moreno said that the club is currently negative for \$4766.00 for 2017, because of yearly insurance payments of \$5654.00. There was a \$253.00 negative balance in 2015. A letter from the IRS has been received, certifying that we are a non-profit. The non-payment of 2010 taxes is so far in the past that the IRS doesn't want the money any more, but the State Attorney General is concerned about it. We actually can't file a return for 2010 at this point, so the IRS is being asked to forgive it. Everything has been filed for 2016. (See attached sheet for more detail on finances.)

**Secretary's Report:** There are currently 417 total members, of whom 114 have renewed for 2017.

**Planning Committee:** Scott Spence said that Whole Foods has given us a \$500 gift card, which he plans to use to buy food for Angel Island. For that event, he plans a flat fee of \$15-\$20, and an open kitchen with snacks, as well as a couple of meals. He said he would send a sign-up sheet and menu out around the beginning of May.

For a possible new site, John Moreno said he knows someone in Grass Valley with 40 acres who could be approached.

It was suggested that we help with the Duncan's Mills work day, probably a week before the event, as they had suffered a good deal of damage from the heavy winter rains. The date will be published when we know it. Jeff Matthews commented that the work days were a lot of fun and featured good food.

**Approval of 2017 Schedule:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the schedule of 2017 events, and was passed unanimously.

**New Event:** Dennis Main said there will be a full-immersion tactical at Skott Borello's place in Auburn May 6 and 7, with everyone staying in character all weekend. He would like as many soldiers as possible to sleep in the field on their arms, and while there will not be indiscriminate shooting in the middle of the night, some controlled confrontation is possible. He said that Skott wants to limit the event to 100 people, and that no one should arrive after dark on Friday, but if necessary, wait until early Saturday to arrive, to avoid disturbing Skott's neighbors. He suggested two privies, and Lynne Ashby requested that at least one of them be a handicapped size. The Board authorized \$400.00 for the privies. Scott Spence said that he had been trying to find a reasonable price for privies for Tres Pinos, but so far had been quoted \$2,000—he said he would keep looking.

A motion was made and seconded to do an unofficial rank ratio count at all future events this year, and passed unanimously.

**Website:** Jane Beckman, reporting for Andrew Crockett, said that the web designer is back to work on the new website, and it should be up in early or mid-May. (See attached sheet for details.)

**Marketing:** Jeff said he was looking for a company to do informational brochures and cards. Melani will send the existing ones to Jeff.

**Safety:** Scott said that there had been a violation of PACWR safety rules at Tres Pinos when an unloaded gun was passed around to school children. He said that as per PACWR rules, spectators were only to handle weapons under direct supervision, and minors only with the permission of a parent or guardian, who must be present. He said there were also new California laws about minors handling weapons, which he would look into. Mike Sanders suggested that children simply not be allowed to handle weapons. Scott said that

following the PACWR safety rules allowed us to get inexpensive insurance, and Dennis Main suggested following the PACWR rules as written.

**First Aid:** Jeff said that the brigades have big first aid kits, and the individual units have small ones for cuts and burns.

**Rank Ratio:** Rank ratio has already been discussed. The 79<sup>th</sup> New York has not met their probation requirements, and should be disbanded.

**PACWR:** Dennis said that PACWR is setting up a Facebook page, and wanted one contact person from each organization. The purpose of the page will be to disseminate information. Dennis and Grant Coffin wanted a command other than “cease fire” to suspend hostilities in an emergency, but Dennis said that a new command will not be chosen. Since recreational marijuana is now legal in California but not federally, new language was added to the rules, adding “or other intoxicants” anywhere that prohibition of alcohol use was mentioned, in order to avoid arguments at events. Scott said the new PACWR waiver had been examined and tweaked by a lawyer, and that all member organizations need to review and vote on the new language. Since the waiver is still not finalized, a vote will be taken at the next meeting.

A short break was declared from 1:10 to 1:20 p.m.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Marcello Pontin said the 6<sup>th</sup> California has been invited to do a living history presentation at San Juan Bautista’s Early Days, June 17 and 18. He said troops were actually stationed there to secure the town, and that there would be a camp on the plaza. He said that the mission there was holding their fiesta at the same time, so there would be lots of visitors and recruiting possibilities, and requested as many people as possible attend. Becky Thompson will be vending. Lynne Ashby commented that anyone who registers in advance will get a free lunch. Marcello said that there will also be a flag raising.

It was suggested that Marcello Pontin be designated the official contact for San Juan Bautista, and was agreed to by the Admin Board. His contact information is mpontin71@yahoo.com; 415-203-5996. The event will be added to the Event Calendar and also the NCWA Facebook page.

**79<sup>th</sup> New York:** A motion was made and seconded to disband the 79<sup>th</sup> New York for not meeting their numbers requirement, and was passed with 10 in favor, 5 against, and one abstention. A motion was then made and seconded to allow the 79<sup>th</sup> New York to reapply for another one year extension, and was passed with one abstention. Scott Spence commented that he would be joining the unit, and that they would also galvanize as the 11<sup>th</sup> Georgia.

**5th Alabama:** They are almost at the end of their probation, and there is a question as to whether they will meet their numbers. The issue was tabled until the next meeting.

**Cannon Donation:** Richard Henkus has moved out of state, and wants to donate his 3-inch ordnance rifle, "Flo," to the NCWA for a tax write-off. We need to vote on whether or not to accept the donation, and then give him a letter of evaluation from an expert—Jane Beckman suggested that Bob Hayes would be an appropriate person to do the evaluation. There is also a need to re-register the trailer; John Moreno said he would take care of whatever paperwork is involved. The issue was tabled until the next meeting.

**Announcements:** Becky Thompson is now a sutler, and also a member of the Board of Directors of San Benito County Park, and will be event coordinator for Tres Pinos. She said they want to include more California presence, and are also planning a ladies tea. She said that there is a \$6,000 donation pending to repair the roof of the bar building, but that matching donations are needed for it to go through. Scott suggested putting the donation form for this on the website and the Facebook page, and the Board agreed unanimously.

Scott suggested a longer school day for Tres Pinos, possibly including drill with the wooden rifle forms for the older kids.

Mike Sanders said he would try to make all events, but that he was having medical problems and might not be able to be as active as he would prefer.

Jeff said that he would be visiting the RACW event at Dog Island next weekend. He said they were having their largest school day ever, and might need some logistical support. He observed that they are wonderful hosts and have always supported us very well, and we should reciprocate.

Becky said that there would be a period bathing suit competition at Duncan's Mills, and men were welcome as well as women.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Saturday, July 22, at 11:00 a.m. at Round Table Pizza in Benicia, CA.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.