

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

Date: July 11, 2015

Time: 11:56 a.m.

Location: Round Table Pizza, Benicia, CA

Roll Call: Present were: Dennis Main, Lynne Ashby, Midirise Arnold, Jack Davis, Kevin Groom, Jane Beckman, David Moffat, Stephen Senishen, Scott Lee Spence, Midirise Arnold, Andrew Crockett, and Melani Van Petten. Proxy votes were given by Skott Borello to Dennis Main, by Karen Groom to Lynne Ashby, and by Robert Allen to Jane Beckman. A quorum of the Administrative Board was found to be present, but not of unit commanders.

Approval of Minutes: The approval of the minutes of the meeting of March 14, 2015, was postponed in the absence of a quorum. Corrections were made.

President's Report: Scott Spence said that the *Dispatch* had fallen by the wayside for the moment. He said that the login and password for the NCWA website had been given to Paul Fuller, who would transfer information and add interactive apps to facilitate registration online. He also said that the 7th West Virginia was at the San Jose Steamfest for the purpose of recruiting.

Scott said that San Juan Bautista went well, with Confederates running through town, yelling and waving the First National flag, and pursued by the 6th California, who captured and jailed them. A good time was had by all.

The Rose, White and Blue Parade also went well, and the NCWA was invited to attend next year's Juneteenth Festival. Ruthanne Lum McCunn, author of *Chinese Yankee*, sent us a recruit.

Vice President's Report: Midirise Arnold said that 93 people attended the Angel Island event, which went extremely well, and that many more people were planning to attend next year—perhaps over 100. She said there was a picnic and roundtable planned for Tres Piños on Sunday, and that the Planning Committee meeting would be August 1. A cleaning extravaganza is planned for Angel Island on August 10, 11, and 12, focusing on Quarters 10 and the Bakehouse.

Secretary's Report: 252 members have renewed, and all cards to date have been sent. Rosters will be sent to all commanders.

Treasurer's Report: The Silent Auction at Gibson Ranch took in \$373.00 A Statement of Cash has been distributed. Everything is not totally up to date, as Andrew has been busy passing the CPA exam, and also with work, but he will get everything caught up by

the end of July. He said there is about \$13,000 in the account, and about \$9,000 to be deposited, with cash available for unit improvements. The 71st Pennsylvania has asked for \$2100 for a new flag for the 6th California. Units can ask for money to provide powder, loaner gear, colors, etc. There is \$1,630.17 in the Scholarship Fund. There is a Civilian Fund for teaching period crafts with \$314.86, and \$9,130.52 in unrestricted cash to run the organization. Revenue is ahead of last year. John Moreno has been assisting in going through receipts for an IRS audit. (See attachment)

Planning Committee: Midirise covered this in the Vice President's Report. Scott suggested setting a date for a live fire event.

Safety Committee: Scott noted that PACWAR had approved safety rules for Gatling guns, but that most people in the NCWA didn't want Gatlings at events. He said that the event host can decide whether to allow them or not, but that Gatlings are not period-accurate. He said that the next PACWAR meeting will be August 8.

First Aid Committee: no report

Old Business: none

New Business: Scott reported that Donald K. Mann, an enthusiastic audience member, had died and given the NCWA 2% of his estate, or \$6,342.96, which will create the Donald K. Mann Scholarship Fund. It is proposed that the entire amount be invested, which will produce about \$400 a year. We would like to give out about \$500 in scholarships per year, which would be topped off from the general fund. This would ensure a perpetual fund. He said the fund would look good when we apply for grants, and the units indicated support for the idea. A motion was made and seconded for an advisory vote, which passed unanimously.

NCWA Logo: Andrew Crockett commented that the battle flag had been an issue before the South Carolina shootings, and that it has been co-opted by hate groups and causes a lot of negative emotions. He suggested that the NCWA logo be altered to use the 35-star U.S. flag and the 13-star Confederate flag, with no other changes. He suggested having vector graphics files, which can be expanded to any size, made of both the old logo and the proposed new one. He thought this could be done inexpensively, or perhaps by members. He thought a new logo without the battle flag would make it more likely that schools would request programs. There was a great deal of discussion, with people noting that it was a very passionate issue, but that our first mission should be to educate. Others objected to what they deemed an unnecessary degree of political correctness. Jane Beckman commented that the First National was the only Confederate flag documented to have been used in California, and Andrew and Scott were concerned that search engines like Google might decide to block any website with a battle flag graphic. Andrew said that having a vector graphic made could cost very little, and would be cheaper if we had an alternative logo to hold in reserve done at the same time, instead of doing it separately later if it became necessary. A motion was passed to table the issue.

Mission Statement: Andrew Crockett commented that a mission statement is an easy way to explain what an organization does. A slight correction was made to the proposed language (see attached): “Inspire people (to develop) a deeper understanding for this rebirth of our nation...” A motion was passed unanimously to table the issue and email the membership, asking for a copy of the old mission statement.

Sound System: David Moffat has recommended an outdoor PA system with four 15-inch speakers on stands to project to the crowd. The system he has in mind is very light and has 100-foot cables and a separate amp and mixing box. It has six channels, 2000 watts, and will work with a battery pack, but a generator would be better. He describes it as simple to use and virtually “idiot-proof.” We supply sound at Duncan’s Mills in return for CHAS allowing us to recruit and solicit and sell swag. The old sound system is very, very dead. The proposed new one comes with various warranties and a manual, and the stands are adjustable and can even hang from a tree. Scott said it would cost about \$2500 and could be purchased with the NCWA credit card and paid off over time. An advisory vote from the units to spend up to \$2500 was passed unanimously.

Other New Business: Dave Moffat said that the 7th West Virginia would be having a raffle at Duncan’s Mills to help finance new unit colors, at \$10 per ticket. Andrew mentioned that it would have to be characterized as a donation rather than a sale, for legal reasons.

Scott said that after he resigned as President, his impression would be with a new Confederate unit, Gilmor’s Partisan Rangers, and that they will also be able to portray Ingram’s Partisan Rangers.

Midirise and Andrew will be stepping down when their terms expire.

Andrew said that Paul Fuller wants to form a new U.S. artillery unit.

Vicki Allen has three new members for the 15th Alabama.

Next Meeting: Saturday, October 17, at Round Table Pizza in Benicia.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.