

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

**Date:** July 9, 2016

**Time:** 11:40 a.m.

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

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m.

**Roll Call:** Present were: Karen Groom, Dennis Main, Lynne Ashby, Robert Allen, Jack Davis, Kevin Groom, Russell Hanson, Charles Kenyon, Stephen Senishen, Chris Brady, Scott Spence, Jeff Polder, John Moreno, Jane Beckman, and Melani Van Petten.

President Scott Spence called for a moment of silence for the five police officers killed in Dallas, TX.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of April 9, 2016 were unanimously approved with two corrections.

**Agenda:** Additions to the agenda were approved unanimously.

**President's Report:** Scott Spence said he had nothing to report as President, and would wait for the committee reports.

**Vice President's Report:** Jeff Polder said there was a good showing at both Gibson Ranch and Angel Island, and thanked Midirise Arnold and Keith Bowles for their efforts. He said that there were thousands of school children at Gibson Ranch, and said that Scott Spence did a great job on the food at Angel Island. He said that the Boy Scouts want to be at Gibson Ranch next year, and we need to make sure our insurance will cover that. He said that the Boy Scouts would not be allowed to handle guns, but that they would have period tents.

Jeff said that he and Keith Bowles had explored a possible event site at Grass Valley, and that it looks okay—easy to get to, with a grassy surface and lightly wooded, though with some playground equipment, and parking and water may be an issue, as well as permission to use the site.

**Treasurer's Report:** John Moreno said that he had broken his report down by event from the start of the year to the present. He said that there had been an increase of \$110.00 in the savings account, and that we were to receive \$3,000.00 for the school days, but that he hadn't seen it yet. He said that we have had expenses of \$9,060.00, and that there was \$8139.00 in the checking account, but that there were more membership checks to deposit. He said that most of the debit card expenses were for food at Angel Island.

**Secretary's Report:** Melani Van Petten reported that for 2015 and 2016 combined, there are 111 single memberships, of which 70 are current; 261 family memberships, of which 170 are current; 3 supporting memberships, of which 0 are current; and 20 youth memberships, of which 16 are current, for a total of 394, 256 of which are current. The total of all members listed in the database is 752, some of whom have not renewed in several years.

**Planning Committee:** Jane Beckman said Angel Island went really well, now on to Tres Pinos, where Scott may take over the school day. Chris Brady will propose an event at San Juan Bautista, and a couple more new ones are possible, one in Skyline Park in Napa. The Planning Committee will meet after this meeting.

**Webmaster's Report:** Scott said that we have the old domain name, but no one has been able to reach the lady who designed the old website and owns the name. He thinks we should give up and use the old one, which he owns. He has filed paperwork on it, and the Board can vote to transfer the name to someone else, who will then fill out the same paperwork. He said that domain names must be held by a living person, but they can be held in trust for an organization. Once we get rid of the old one, we can upgrade the website. Scott said he will still be the webmaster next year. He said that we should forget online membership registration for now, as it is too difficult and expensive, and we don't have enough techies to handle it. He said that an online search currently goes first to the old name.

**Marketing:** Scott said that it will cost \$500 to refresh the club logo and get a vector graphics file made. He suggested getting rid of the arch, which makes the eagles look like chickens, and use 19<sup>th</sup> century currency as a basis for the artwork. He suggested possibly horizontal flags half furled, and a scroll saying "National Civil War Association" at the bottom or the top. He said the file would be designed by Jamie Mertz, and web addresses could be added to anything.

**Safety:** No report.

**First Aid:** David Moffat and his wife will see that every unit has a basic first aid kit, and that every site has an AED (automated external defibrillator). Units must purchase first aid kits. If the rules for first aid are sent to David, he will see that the units are in compliance. Karen Groom observed that there used to be a list of local hospitals, veterinarians, etc., for each event sent to company commanders; Scott said that was a job for the event coordinator.

**Rules:** Scott said that the NCWA is using the 2014 PACWAR rules and safety tests. He thinks that new rules are being sent down without a vote, and will see about it at the next PACWAR meeting. Currently they have the 2015 rules and 2016 safety tests available.

**Rank Ratio:** The NCWA had lost three units by 2015. The 79<sup>th</sup> New York has seven members, and the 5<sup>th</sup> Alabama has two. Scott said the ACWA is also shrinking. Rank Ratio is still suspended.

**Old Business:** A motion to strike the discussion of insurance rules was passed unanimously.

**New Business:** Scott said that Gibson Ranch wants us to sign a contract for next year soon, but that he didn't want to sign without an event coordinator and a school coordinator lined up, as Midrise is retiring as school coordinator. Doug Osie of Gibson Ranch wants the school days to start on Tuesday, and only have one event day. Scott said we must have a coordinator in place to negotiate, and we must present ourselves as a team. Gibson is a huge strain, and we must impose limits. The \$3,000.00 stipend for the school days covers our expenses for the first time. Gibson Ranch must distribute the stipend, because we are a non-profit. Karen Groom suggested that the event needs more advertising.

**Break:** At 12:48 p.m., a motion for a 10-minute break was passed unanimously.

**More New Business:**

- 1. Lifetime Memberships:** Lifetime memberships were proposed for Debra Johnson and Andrew Crockett. As Treasurer, Debra saved our tax-exempt status, putting in 120 hours of work meeting with the IRS, etc. Andrew has done a tremendous amount of work stabilizing the organization and acquiring a credit card. It is because of them that we were not audited. A motion to grant them both lifetime memberships was passed unanimously.
- 2. San Juan Bautista:** Chris Brady said we have a battlefield, and showed photos. He said it is a large piece of land off San Juan Road, with lots of shade in one area. He said the city supports the idea, and we have a battlefield and campground. The city wants the event on Vereran's Day weekend, so there could only be one school day on Thursday. We can parade through the plaza with horses, and use the jail and other public sites. There is parking on the property, about one mile away, with lots of room. He thought three privy sites would be appropriate, and that firewood may be provided by the Plaza Historical Association, and water in a water buffalo. Scott has gotten a quote for services, and is trying to set up water and electricity. The public could be set up along the road. There needs to be an artillery shock wave test to determine the effect on historic structures. Chris said the camps could be along the treeline for shade, with a good area for the horses. He has estimates for shuttle service for both re-enactors and the public. It was suggested that we invite schools from Santa Clara County rather than San Benito County, so the schools would not overlap with Tres Pinos. Portable bleachers could be used. There is very low crime in the area. It would take \$7,000.00 to \$10,000.00 to make the event free to the public. There are many possible sponsors. It would be difficult to make this event happen this year, but next year might be doable. A proposal was made to have the Planning Committee investigate the details, and put the event on the calendar for next year.

**Announcements:** There is a Bluegrass Festival at Tres Pinos August 13-14, and they want us to come in costume and camp.

The RACW has a new event the same weekend as Tres Pinos, with a \$250.00 cannon bounty.

David Moffat said there had been incidents with infantry firing too near artillery ammo boxes, and would like to discuss safety with both groups. Scott said it was an issue for the Safety Committee.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Saturday, November 19, 2016, at 11:30 a.m., at Round Table Pizza in Benicia.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.