

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

Date: July 22, 2017

Time: 11:40 a.m.

Location: Round Table Pizza, Benicia, CA

Call to Order: 11:40 a.m.

Roll Call: Present were: Karen Groom, Dennis Main, Jeff Polder, Robert Allen, Vicki Allen, Skott Borello, David Rogers, Keith Bowles, Mike McKinsey, Kevin Groom, Jeff Matthews, Stephen Senishen, Ashleigh Fiffick, John Moreno, Scott Spence, Jane Beckman, and Melani Van Petten.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of April 22, 2017 were approved unanimously.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda for July 22, 2017 was approved unanimously with seven additions.

President's Report: Jeff Polder thanked everyone for their efforts at Angel Island and Duncan's Mills, and said that we looked great. He especially thanked Scott Spence for helping out CHAS.

Vice President's Report: Mike Sanders was absent due to illness.

Treasurer's Report: John Moreno said that the checking account currently has \$13,778.00, and the savings account \$2,045.00. He said that the vector graphic of the club logo has been paid for, and that he will issue a more formal report later on.

Secretary's Report: There are currently 428 total members, of whom 174 have renewed for 2017. The Secretary will send an email reminder to those who haven't yet renewed.

Committee Reports:

Planning Committee: Jane Beckman said that Becky Thompson is working on Tres Pinos.

Webmaster: Scott Spence said that the vector graphic of the logo is complete, and the eagle no longer looks like a chicken. He said that the upcoming discussion forum will feature icons for each member with details of their current status, and that there will be a forum for members only and another that is open to the public. He said that unit information and pictures for the new website must be sent to Andrew Crockett ASAP in order to be included. Scott said that he was burning out on the job of Webmaster, and that

websites need yearly tune-ups to keep them current and functional. Jeff commented that the website would need contact information for each unit.

Marketing: Scott said a photographer he knew had taken a lot of great photos at Angel Island, including of civilians and children, which could be used for advertising posters for next year.

Jeff said that somebody should take pictures of people teaching their classes at the school day at Tres Pinos, for the same purpose, perhaps Ashleigh Fiffick's brother if he agrees.

John Moreno said that he had been in contact with the Oakland Military Academy, a college prep school, to try to get them involved in our activities.

Jeff said that there needs to be more publicity at Gibson Ranch next year, and Ashleigh Fiffick and Karen Groom offered to distribute flyers, as they live in the area. PSAs and other radio announcements were also suggested.

Safety: Kevin Groom observed that the cavalry at Duncan's Mills kept riding close to and even through the gun lines, much too close to the safety area. He spoke to Brigade Colonel Mark Alan Price, and said the situation improved somewhat on Sunday. Scott commented that it was appropriate to go through the chain of command in that way, not to take issues to PACWR. Ashleigh said that the newbies needed better training. Karen Groom said that on one occasion, the Yankees exited the field through civilian town without warning, and there were both children and the public in their path. Scott said the Union CO should have warned Karen that her town was about to be invaded.

First Aid: Jeff said that there were no problems.

Rules: No problems.

Rank Ratio: Mike McKinsey said that 50% of the paid-up members showed up at Duncan's Mills, which he thought was very good. He suggested that CO's send emails to their units, encouraging people to show up.

PACWR: Scott said the new PACWR waiver had been submitted to a lawyer who tweaked the language a bit, but said it was very good, and that it is also good for events in Nevada. He said that he is currently cleaning up the inconsistencies in the PACWR rules, and that he will continue as PACWR chair for one more year, in order to prevent mayhem. He exhorted everyone to respond promptly if contacted about a problem.

A short break was declared from 12:25 to 12:40 p.m.

Old Business:

Cannon Donation: Jane Beckman said that Bob Hayes, an expert with FFL and owner of a gun shop, as well as many years of experience, would be appraising Flo so that Richard

Henkus could declare the donation on his taxes. She said a receipt would be generated for NCWA records and for Richard. She added that Bob is not qualified to appraise the trailer, only the cannon. Jeff felt that that was not a problem; the trailer will be much easier to appraise. It was suggested that Flo could move around to whatever unit might need her at a particular event, and Jeff commented that the NCWA Yankees did not have a cannon, and that a cannon duel would be nice. Jane said she would work with Bob Hayes on the paperwork.

Porta-Potties for Tres Pinos: Scott said that five or six porta-potties and two wash stations for Tres Pinos would run around \$2,000.00. The placement of the privies is still under discussion. Keith Bowles suggested getting local sponsors for the event, and John Moreno said we had the money to pay for the porta-potties, and that otherwise there wasn't much in the way of expense, though no money was coming in, either, as the schools around that area have no money, so we do the school day free of charge. Scott commented that we need to generate an annual budget, with projected income and expenses for 2018, and that we need regular quarterly statements if we want to apply for grants.

A motion was made and seconded to allot \$2,500.00 for expenses at Tres Pinos other than liability, which is already covered. The motion was passed with one abstention.

New Business:

Membership Forms: The Admin Board passed a motion to allow Scott to update the membership forms on the old website while waiting for the new website to be finished. The demographic questions have been removed, and Jeff will contact Andrew Crockett and ask him not to include them on the new website, since many people find them offensive.

PACWR Rules: Dennis Main suggested that we remove the NCWA rules and simply use the PACWR rules instead, since they are contradictory to each other in some places. It was observed that if we felt we needed more stringent rules about certain things, those rules could always be added later. Skott Borello said that the cavalry test had inadvertently been left off the PACWR rules this year, and it was suggested that we could require our own cavalry test, including a "ground test" to see horse and rider in action together. The motion to remove NCWA rules and substitute PACWR rules was made and seconded, and passed with one abstention.

Drill Forms: Scott Spence said that we have 60 wooden rifles for drill with school kids, currently in the NCWA locker, to which there is only one key. This makes them difficult to get at, and as a result they have not been used as much as they could have been. Jeff said we should get more keys made. Jane suggested that they might be kept in several locations, and Karen Groom suggested they could be signed out by units, who would then be charged if they were not returned. Scott suggested drilling in the park as a recruitment tactic. The issue was tabled until the November meeting.

5th Alabama: Jon Nickerson really wants this unit to happen, and they are close to having the required ten members. He needs to submit rank ratio reports and other paperwork. The issue was tabled until the November meeting.

Elections: Kevin Groom said that anybody who wants to run for any position needs to get their letters of intent to him by early or mid-October. Dennis suggested that those who wish to run could campaign at Tres Pinos. Kevin said he would have information on the website in November, mail the ballots out in December, and expect them back by January. He said he would check his paperwork and set exact dates.

New Event: John Moreno said he had contacted a property owner in Grass Valley about holding an event on her land. Jeff suggested the first week in November, and said conditions for the first event there might be somewhat “Spartan” (no porta-potties). Keith Bowles offered to coordinate the event, and also to coordinate the school days at Gibson Ranch. Karen Groom suggested a games station, and Jeff said we needed more interaction for the school days.

Lynne Ashby suggested collecting donations at events. Scott said that sending little kids around with buckets and a cute story had worked well at Duncan’s Mills. He also said we needed a standard powder reimbursement policy.

Announcements: Jeff said that the Gibson Ranch school days would be April 26 and 27, 2018, with battles on the 28th and 29th.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Saturday, November 4, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. at Round Table Pizza in Benicia, CA.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.