

**National Civil War Association, Incorporated
Combined Administrative Board and Unit Board Meeting
Minutes (corrected)**

Date: Saturday, March 14, 2015

Time: 11:35 a.m.

Location: Round Table Pizza, Benicia, CA

Roll Call: Present were: Grant Coffin, Jeff Polder, Dave Rogers, Lynne Ashby, Joan Stevenson, Don Christie, Robert Allen, Vicki Allen, Karen Groom, Dennis main, Midirise Arnold, Scott Spence, Ashleigh Fiffick, Jeff Matthews, Kevin Groom, Stephen Senishen, Andrew Crockett, Jane Beckman, and Melani Van Petten. A quorum was found to be present.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed, and a motion to approve as amended was made by Dennis Main and seconded by Jeff Polder. The motion was passed with 13 ayes, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Agenda: The agenda was unanimously approved with the addition of the item “NCWA Budget 2015.”

President’s Report: Scott Spence said that the President’s Report would be mostly covered under the committee reports, and that details regarding insurance could be found on the extra sheets that were passed out.

Vice President’s Report: covered under Planning Committee report

Treasurer’s Report: Andrew Crockett said that as of February 28, 2015, there was \$16,996.59 in cash, and that all expenditures so far were in line with the budget (see Budgeted Statement of Activities, 2015, attached.)

Secretary’s Report: Melani Van Petten said that difficulties with the membership database had been straightened out, and promised a better sign-in sheet for future meetings.

Website: Scott reported that there is a new website and domain name, “ncwa1863.org”, though he is trying to get the old domain name back. He has applied to the State of California for a service mark for “ncwa.org”. He said that he is also now the web administrator for the PACWAR website. He is writing a President’s Handbook, and is still moving content from the old website. He also said that the NCWA Facebook page is attracting people from all over the world, and has proven to be very successful marketing.

Bernal Middle School: Six re-enactors showed up for this event. A formal presentation was given in the gym for the entire group of students, and then the students went outside to be taught both artillery and infantry drill, the latter using the new wooden rifles. 420

copies of the teenage recruiting brochure were passed out. A short video was filmed and needs editing. He said there would also be a photographer at Gibson Ranch.

Rose, White and Blue Parade: The NCWA will have both a float with a cannon and a recruiting booth. Scott reported that the person in charge of the parade is an expert on the Civil War in Santa Clara County, and really likes us.

New Events: For San Juan Bautista, Chris Brady will be forming the 6th California Volunteer Germania Guards, sponsored by the San Juan Bautista Historical Society, with people from several different clubs.

We have a potential battle site in Santa Clara County, which may be used after September. We can possibly get Wells Fargo to sponsor the event in late autumn of 2016.

Insurance Policy: We need to have \$2,000,000 in insurance for Gibson Ranch, and \$1,000,000 for all other events. We have a general policy for three events, keeping one in reserve, and the cost is based on attendance. The cost is generally \$2,000 for each \$1,000,000 event. Gibson Ranch is not reimbursing us very much—at one time they said we would get \$3,000. We are spending a lot on that event, and Gibson Ranch is about \$40,000 in the red (see attached). PACWAR is very interested in our insurance deal. Scott intends to propose that he give them the name of our insurance company, and in return, we will all be allowed to recruit at other clubs' events. He thinks that other clubs will be more willing to attend our events if they are allowed to recruit. He asked to be sent comments before a vote is taken.

Planning Committee: Midrise Arnold reported that there were 63 people at the tactical, and that it went well, with discussions of live fire and use of horses. One lady made butter and then used it in a cake.

Midrise said that she needs to hear from the commanders if they will be coming to Gibson Ranch for the school day. She said it will start at 9:30 a.m., and we must be there by 8:00 a.m. The cannon will only be fired at the end. There will be 15 minutes at each station, and then 5 minutes of transfer time. There will be new stations, including sutlers, Father Mike, Federal infantry, Berdan's, civilian fashions, the Cal 100, three artillery batteries on the Federal hill, the Federal command, blockade runners, the Federal band, Confederate artillery, and laundresses. Parking will be the same as last year. There will be a swap meet on Saturday evening before the dance, which will start at 7:30 p.m. Scott will have contracts for the band and caller. The school day lunch will be at about 3:00 p.m., and 30 volunteer Boy Scouts will be handing out water, etc. She said we will also have use of the showers, and that there would also be a "farb camp" for new people with modern tents. It was suggested that a "Quaker infantry" could be set up with spare period tents.

New Business: A motion was unanimously passed to postpone an Administrative Board vote on the reciprocal agreement with the ACWA regarding insurance. Scott commented that a good working relationship would benefit both groups.

Scott said that new PACWAR rules require hearing protection on the field for everyone 18 and under. He also said that there would be no double artillery loads that involved poking holes in two charges outside the cannon—if you want a double load, then roll one, rather than use two singles. Andrew Crockett went into detail on the double loading procedure, and Jane Beckman agreed that it was safer to use a larger load. She said that the State of California was just waiting for a black powder accident to potentially ban it. Grant Coffin volunteered to be on the Safety Committee. A motion was made for Andrew to create wording in regard to only using larger charges rather than doubles, and passed unanimously.

Rules for the use of Gatling guns, mortars, and equines will be sent out for comment. Scott said that the host club can ban Gatlings if they wish.

Scott said that he has been representing the NCWA at PACWAR meetings, and that Midirise is Secretary for PACWAR. He said he would like to have someone with combat experience to represent the NCWA. Jane Beckman proposed sending someone from the Safety Committee.

Budget: (See attached) Andrew Crockett said that he has been conservative on estimated income, and overestimated the outgoing funds. He said that offering “swag” brings in 50-100% more donations. Galen Dunham has brought in \$500 in donations from school presentations, which serve 2,000-3,000 kids per year and fulfill our educational requirement, and also looks good on grant applications. There were 52 new members last year, which brings membership to about 265, so we will probably get about 50 more this year. Scott received a round of applause for his work on the insurance, which has saved us money. Andrew said the website expense is for an online interface for renewals for next year, and he hopes to have it in place for 2016, as well as safety tests. The bylaws are being condensed—they should be very basic, and everything else should be in the rules.

It was suggested that unit commanders should have access to Dropbox—Scott suggested at a minimum it could be accessed by brigade commanders, mayors, and the Admin Board. The \$500 expense will give more access and storage. The NCWA owns the data, and they are responsible for safety and backup.

A switch to Apple Square will make sales and donations easier. The audit expense will be good for grant applications. There will be a loss this year, but much of that is one-time expenses for upgrades to the club in general. Scott Borello will be making wooden rifles at cost, and will be pursuing grants and donations as part of Phase 2 of the upgrade.

A motion was passed unanimously to accept the budget.

Announcements: A gentleman named Donald K. Mann died on January 24, 2015—his birthday. He requested that donations be made to the Civil War Trust, and also left

money to the NCWA—we won't know how much until his estate is settled. Scott will send a letter of condolence to his family.

The Cal 100 plans to have a recruiting table at the Petaluma Hobby Expo on June 13, and invites anyone who wishes to join them.

The Scout-o-Rama will be May 9, and there will be a parade. The 7th West Virginia went to the Calico Ghost Town near Barstow for President's Day Weekend, and said it was fun.

Scott said that the NCWA is moving into the Pacific Theater in re-enacting, with the creation of the 6th California Volunteers, among other things. Jeff Polder commented that if we no longer do Gibson Ranch, we may be able to do an event at Vacaville.

Scott said that other groups want to join PACWAR, and that we got three new members at Fort Point. He said we must expose ourselves to the public.

The Benicia Arsenal is opening a World War II exhibit—see their web page for details.

Andrew said that new member Chris Brady joined because “the NCWA is up to something.” Tee shirt ideas were proposed.

The next Planning Committee meeting will be April 10.

Next Meeting: Saturday, July 11, 2015, 11:30 a.m., at Round Table Pizza in Benicia.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.