

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

Date: October 17, 2015

Time: 11:43 a.m.

Location: Round Table Pizza, Benicia, CA

Roll Call: Present were: Karen Groom, Dennis Main, Jeff Polder, Jack Davis, Kevin Groom, Stephen Senishen, Robert Allen, David Rogers, Jeff Mathews, Mike, McKinsey, Don Christie, Joan Stevenson, Lourdes ???, Scott McDonald, Scott Lee Spence, Midirise Arnold, Andrew Crockett, and Melani Van Petten. Proxy votes were given by Skott Borello to Dennis Main, by Vicki Allen to Robert Allen, by Grant Coffin to Charles Kenyon, and by Dan Bishop to Marcello Pontin.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of July 11, 2015, were approved unanimously.

President's Report: Scott Spence said that the schedule conflict between Dog Island event and Gibson Ranch had been resolved, with Gibson Ranch scheduled for April 30 to May 1, and Dog Island the weekend before. He said that the 72nd New York and the 1st Tennessee of the RACW would attend Gibson Ranch.

Scott said that "Ranger Duke" of Pacheco State Park very much wanted to have a full battle reenactment, and that he is the person who would approve the event. He said there is a lot of parking and shade, and hills. He said that October and November were very dry, but that things might be better in March and April, and that perhaps admission could be charged (characterized as a donation) to offset expenses. He also mentioned the Knight's Ferry and Mooney Grove events, which take place in March.

Vice President's Report: Midirise Arnold said that she had no calendar with her, but that it would be posted on the website. She said that Gibson Ranch wanted to have school days on April 28 and 29, offering \$100 per station for those who participate in both days, to go into the unit's fund. She said that they want three loops, with five stations on each loop and three rotations per day, lunch and showers provided on both days. Scott Spence said that he had asked CHAS to participate in the school days.

Midirise also said that it was time for a new Vice President.

Treasurer's Report: Andrew Crockett said that the end-of-season total funds stand at \$19,300--\$9,000 is unrestricted, and the rest spoken for as scholarships or unit funds. He said to contact him if your unit needs to buy anything. He said he will be working with Paul Fuller to set up an online registration and database, and that all bookkeeping will be online and available in Quickbooks, to allow for more oversight.

Secretary's Report: Membership currently stands at 301, and all cards to date have been sent.

Planning Committee: Midrise covered this in the Vice President's Report. Scott said that Jane Beckman had offered to head the Planning Committee in 2016.

Webmaster: Scott said that PACWAR had not yet supplied a calendar. He said that if you would like your contact information on the website, send it to him. Jeff Polder suggested that everyone willing to recruit should send their contact information to Scott.

Marketing: Scott said that he and Don Pitt are trying to get money from the Hollister Chamber of Commerce for the Tres Pinos event. He said they will also try to get money from the county for Gibson Ranch. He noted that there will be a school day at West Valley College staffed by Melani Van Petten and Stephen Aguierre of the ACWA, using our wooden drill forms. He said we may be able to get an exemption for cannon firing, as several schools would like it.

Safety Committee: Safety Committee head Grant Coffin was not present. Scott said that PACWAR now requires all minors to wear earplugs, and had placed a limit on the number of weapons each member could bring onto the field—two pistols or one rifle. This is not necessarily historically correct. He hoped that Grant would be able to study and discuss this.

First Aid Committee: no report

Rules: Scott said that the Rules and Bylaws overlap a lot, and need to be streamlined. He said that our insurance requires that there should be bylaws. Andrew Crockett will be working on that when his term as Treasurer is complete.

Rank Ratio: no report

Elections Committee: The deadline for entering names is November 1, and proposals should be sent to Kevin Groom. The officers will keep their jobs until replaced.

Old Business: Two other groups have apparently been threatened by Google and others with having their sites taken down over the Confederate battle flag, but no one has approached us about this issue. Amazon is no longer selling merchandise featuring the battle flag. Scott said he thinks the worries over this are exaggerated. Andrew proposed that up to \$500 be spend to create vector files of the two current logos, both featuring the battle flag (see attachment). He explained that vector files can be expanded infinitely without loss of resolution, and so can be used to create tee shirts or signs or anything we might want. The motion was unanimously passed by and Administrative Board vote.

No copy of the NCWA Mission Statement could be found. The Administrative Board unanimously approved a new Mission Statement (see attached).

New Business: Rank Ratio—There was a discussion of the Rank Ratio rule, where it was pointed out that it had been made when the club had over 1,000 members, and that the idea was to prevent there being too many officers in a unit, or three people forming a voting unit. The current minimum is four. A motion was made and passed to suspend the Rank Ratio rule for one more year, while recording information to see if ranks are used appropriately.

Board Terms—A motion was made to change all Board terms to one year after the 2016 election, and was unanimously passed by the Administrative Board.

Gibson Ranch—There was discussion of how many people could be expected to do two school days. \$100 per station works out to \$1,800, and we have asked for \$3,000. Midirise said that the Planning Committee will deal with this issue.

Changes to Board Duties—Scott said that the President is supposed to deal with the outside world, while the Vice President is supposed to deal with the internal organization, and that our Bylaws have some of this wrong. He suggested tabling the issue.

Historical Relevance Campaign—Andrew explained that this organization aims to get more programs like the ones we present into schools (see attachment). He said if we adopt their statement, they would put a link to our website on theirs, and this would produce a lot of traffic for us. We would be the only re-enactor group to do so. A motion was made to table the issue and unanimously passed by an Administrative Board vote.

Website—A motion was made to spend up to \$2,000 to improve the website to allow online registration and safety testing. Scott commented that the ACWA already does online safety testing, and said that Paul Fuller will take over as webmaster. He hopes to have these improvements by January 2016. The motion was passed by a unanimous Administrative Board vote.

Announcements: Jeff Polder said that the next big event would be the Woodland Holiday Parade, which would feature firing five rounds and candy canes for the kids.

Dennis Main said that he and Jon Tremayne were looking into the cost of re-starting the Grand Balls, and trying to find an inexpensive caller and band, hoping for maybe \$300 for a caller. He said there is a hall in Sonora for \$500, and the whole thing could cost under \$1,000. Karen Groom suggested The Coyote Contra Band.

Next Meeting: The General Membership Meeting will be Saturday, January 9, 2016, at 11:30 a.m., at Round Table Pizza in Benicia.

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