

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

**Date:** January 5, 2019

**Time:** 11:15 a.m.

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

**Call to Order:** The General Membership Meeting was called to order at 11:15 a.m.

**Roll Call:** Present were: Karen Groom, Glen Johnson, Becky Thompson, Kevin Groom, Robert Allen, David Rogers, Kurt Reidel, Stephen Senishen, Jeff Polder, Jon Nickerson-Tremayne, Dennis Main, Marcelo Pontin, Melani Van Petten, Jane Beckman, and Don Christie.

**Additional Ballots:** There were no additional ballots.

**Open Floor:** Ted Stahr presented a list of upcoming events in Arizona, which he encouraged NCWA members to attend: Yuma Quartermaster Depot, January 26 and 27, no fee and soft green grass on the battlefield which is a pleasure to die on, as well as a nice museum; American Civil War Council event at Tucson, February 9 and 10, no fee and free lunch, with two battles each day, near the Pima Air Museum and Titan Missile Museum; a timeline living history event at Fort MacArthur at San Pedro, CA, July 6 and 7, featuring a Civil War battle each day; and Huntington Beach, CA, Labor Day weekend, with one battle each day.

Dennis Main pointed out that the club is in dire need of money to cover our insurance premiums for upcoming events, and suggested a voluntary assessment of \$25.00 per member to cover the deficit. He said that with luck we would not need such an assessment next year, as Becky Thompson had done a great job of making Tres Pinos profitable, and a profit had also been made at Marysville, thanks to Jon Nickerson-Tremayne's hard work.

Jon Nickerson-Tremayne said that he would probably take over as coordinator for Duncan's Mills, July 20 and 21.

Marcelo Pontin passed out a financial statement for 2018. He said that Tres Pinos had made a profit of \$289.00, and Marysville had been very successful, with a profit of \$288.00. He said that we were down about \$1200.00 at the end of 2018, and need money quickly for the insurance premiums. He said that direct donations were best, as he and a friend had donated \$500.00 through Facebook, but that Facebook couldn't seem to find the money, and the NCWA didn't get any of it. He also pointed out that donations are

tax-deductible, and that if you are over age 70 ½, you are required to withdraw from your IRA if you have one, and that the NCWA would be a great place to put that money.

Jane Beckman thanked everybody who helped with the new events. She said the Tres Pinos school day was understaffed, but people stepped up to make it a great success. She said that she had missed only 11 NCWA events since 1983, and had been reenacting much longer than the original war had lasted, and therefore would be stepping back a bit, but would still be available for phone meetings and consultation.

Dennis Main said that we need more new faces and young people to be involved.

**Election Results:** Kevin Groom said that printing and mailing for the election cost \$250.00, and that he would be donating the expenses. The results are as follows: President: Jon Nickerson-Tremayne; Vice President, Dennis Main; Secretary, Melani Van Petten; Treasurer, Marcelo Pontin; Civilian Mayor, Lynne Ashby; Vice Mayor, Debra Johnson; Town Clerk, Susan Pfeifer; Federal Brigade Commander, Daniel Bishop; Chief of Staff, Dan Baldwin; Chief of Infantry, Charles Kenyon; Sergeant Major, Cosme Munoz; Confederate Brigade Colonel, Glenn Johnson; Lt. Colonel, Jon Nickerson-Tremayne. Jane Beckman and Robert Allen each received one vote for Confederate Major, and all write-in candidates for Confederate Sergeant Major declined. (see attachment)

**Installation of New Board:** The newly elected Board took their seats at this time.

**Adjournment:** The General Membership meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

## **Combined Administrative Board and Unit Board Meeting**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 11:55 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of October 13, 2018, were approved unanimously.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda for January 5, 2019, was approved unanimously.

**Vice President's Report:** Dennis Main said that for several years we have just been trying to survive one year at a time, and we need to make the club viable again. He said that hopefully the new events in the coming year would bring in both money and new members, and that each unit should actively try to recruit new members, and get the newbies to be more active. He said that some Federal units communicate very well, and that all unit commanders should send out more emails. He also said that we need to have updated lists of unit commanders every year, with contact info. Marcelo Pontin commented that his unit has loaner rifles, but that they sell them to new recruits on an installment basis, and use the money to buy more rifles.

**Treasurer's Report:** Marcelo Pontin pointed out that he had already passed out the balance sheet for 2018, and suggested that people should go through it and try to figure out where expenses could be cut.

**Secretary's Report:** Melani Van Petten requested that 2019 memberships should be sent in as soon as possible.

**Break:** A recess was called from 12:18 p.m. to 12:29 p.m.

**President's Report:** Jon Nickerson-Tremayne thanked everyone for coming. He said that the loss of Gibson Ranch had hurt us financially, but that talks were underway to possibly get it back for 2020. He said that Angel Island had been the most financially successful for us, netting \$180.00 on food. He said Uncle Tom's Cabin was a financial catastrophe where we lost about \$200.00, but that if it became established, local folks would probably take care of advertising and food vendors. He thanked Becky Thompson for her work on Tres Pinos, and said that Marysville had been a great success. He pointed out that we have a very aggressive schedule for 2019, with the tactical at Jackson 60 days before the public event there. He said that McFarland Ranch is in direct conflict with Mariposa this year, due to the 2019 date of Easter, and that we are the host for McFarland and will feed the presenters for the school day. Jon said he had learned a lot in the preceding year, which would help him make upcoming events more profitable. He suggested that if anyone had business connections in the Sacramento area, they should be offered the chance to put their business cards into a flyer for \$100.00. He said that people are needed to put up posters in the Sacramento area. Jon said that Jackson will also be hosted by the NCWA, but that Marysville will be hosted in 2019 by the Chamber of Commerce. He said that Half Moon Bay may have to be postponed, because the councilman who wanted it lost re-election. He said our budget for 2019 would be \$9500.00 to cover expenses, and that if we make more than that, we can consider gun and horse bounties. He said we will be suspending free memberships for 2019, and that we need to put out \$7800.00 before our first event. We may be adding two more events after 2019, and we may need to evaluate how much fun and how expensive each event is in deciding whether to keep it. We might consider alternate years for Uncle Tom's Cabin, for example. He said it would be a good idea to make sure that people running the gate could answer the public's questions. It was suggested that such training could be included in the tactical.

Dennis Main said he wants to head up a Rules Committee to work out the details of signing people up at events. Jeff Polder commented that the 71<sup>st</sup> PA always had forms available at events, and Melani Van Petten said she always carries forms and cards.

## **Committee Reports**

**Planning Committee:** Dennis Main said he had heard the following from Skott Borello concerning Uncle Tom's Cabin: it is set for August 17 and 18, we can't change the name, it is a primitive camp with no toilets. Skott said he would pay for one privy, and asked if

anybody would like to pay for a second. Dennis said he didn't think the event would ever pay for itself. Jon said we would get beer on consignment, and suggested a Blue-Gray cocktail hour. Dennis said it would be a good event for new guys to get the feel of the activity.

Jeff Polder is coordinating McFarland Ranch, and said it unavoidably conflicts with Mariposa, because of the 2019 date of Easter. There will be above-ground fires only, and we will provide our own security. There are already enough bathrooms on site. He said we need more trash cans and posters, and a school day coordinator. He said there is an area for the dance, and easy access from the freeway.

Jon will be coordinating Jackson, set for May 4 and 5, with a school day on May 3. In-ground fires okay.

Jane Beckman will coordinate Angel Island, June 22 and 23. Jon will provide food (see attachment), and checks for food should be sent to him.

Jon will also coordinate Duncan's Mills for CHAS, which needs to be added to the calendar.

Becky Thompson will coordinate Tres Pinos, and said with a bit more effort from the NCWA it can be made into a really great event, much bigger. She said the Historical Society had not shown much interest in advertising. Dennis said we need to host our own events, at least at first, and that the Planning Committee would address this. He said that Marysville was being hosted by the Chamber of Commerce this year because we were successful last year. Becky said that the schools were fine with paying \$3.00 per kid for the TP school day.

Dennis said that the Chamber of Commerce will host Marysville, and that we will get \$3.00 per kid for the school day. He said we will get one-half of the gate for our expenses, and after that will share with the C of C. He said there will be food vendors and a possible dance site.

**Webmaster:** See Andrew Crockett's report (attached). Jane Beckman apologized for not getting more done on the new website because she had been sick. She said she will eventually be the webmaster, and Dennis and Melani have logins. She said she will try to get content up, and would welcome help. Melani suggested having three people with logins.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to use the nwca1863.org site until the new site is totally completed and functional.

**Marketing:** No report.

**Safety:** No report.

**First Aid:** No report.

**Rules:** No report.

**PACWR:** No report.

**Rank Ratio:** A motion was made, seconded, and passed to suspend rank ratio for one more year.

## **Old Business**

**After Action Reports:** Lynne Ashby said the Woodland Parade was a great success, with perfect weather, and the crowds loved us. Marcelo said we took first prize once again. A motion to put Woodland on the Events calendar was made, seconded, and passed.

## **New Business**

**2019 Budget:** A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve a budget of \$9500.00 for 2019.

**Announcements:** No announcements.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Saturday, April 6, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. Location TBA; there was discussion of having it in Galt, and in uniform, to advertise the new event, and also to rededicate soldiers' graves in the Liberty Cemetery. Logistics will have to be arranged.

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