

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

Date: April 17, 2021

Time: 3:45 p.m.

Location: This meeting was a telephone conference call, due to social distancing restrictions resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m.

Roll Call: Present were: Skott Borello, Kevin Groom, Dave Rogers, Lynne Ashby, Stephen Senishen, Robert Allen (proxy for Vicki Allen), Marcelo Pontin, Mike McKinsey, Midirise Arnold (proxy for Debra Johnson), Robert Mayer (proxy for Jon Nickerson-Tremayne), Marvin Wilcoxson (proxy for Jon-Nickerson-Tremayne), and Melani Van Petten.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meetings of November 7, 2020, and January 9, 2021 were approved with one correction.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved with amendments.

Melani reported that former NCWA member Richard Henkus, previous owner of Flo, has passed away. Skott said he would prepare a condolence card for Richard's family, to be signed by as many people as possible at the advertising event on April 24. Melani will try to get contact information for his family.

Elections: Kevin Groom said that the next election will be conducted entirely by email, and that anyone who wants to vote should be sure that the email addresses the club has for them are up to date, and that any children between 14 and 18 who want to vote in their branch elections should have their own individual email addresses.

President's Report: Skott Borello said that the biggest thing we have going at the moment is Elk Grove. He said the event is insured for basic liability. The decision was made to add events to the insurance policy at a cost of \$80.00 apiece, so as not to have to ask the company for a refund in the event of a cancellation. He said that other clubs had been invited, and that a publicity day had been set for April 24, using Flo the Three-Inch Ordnance Rifle for advertising. Volunteers will meet at the Elk Grove Historical Society Museum at 9:30 a.m., and will go wherever the Historical Society directs, until 4:00 p.m. He reported that Cosme Muñoz said there would be at least 14 infantry soldiers present for the school day, and that any families with kids should be invited. He said that with the exception of Flo, whose powder is being donated privately, there would be \$100.00 cannon bounties for each gun present.

Vice President's Report: Jon Nickerson-Tremayne was not present, but sent a statement (see attachment).

Treasurer's Report: Marcelo Pontin said that the club had been very supportive, and that so far nobody had taken advantage of the suspension of dues for 2021, but had paid as usual. He said that he had deposited all the checks that he had received from the tactical, and that the club's liquid assets were \$3103.15, and that the club was in the black even after paying the insurance for Elk Grove. He observed

that the club was doing well even with no income last year. He said that a donation had been made that the donor wanted to earmark for powder reimbursements, but that there was no real way to itemize that. Robert Allen has agreed to loan the club powder and primers for Flo for Elk Grove. He will be paid back either in powder and primers or in cash, as he prefers.

Secretary's Report: Melani Van Petten reported that nothing had changed since the last meeting, with a total of 246 members for 2019 and 2020, including babies and children, of whom 171 were current for 2020. She said that all members, even those with Lifetime memberships, must fill out membership forms every year, to make sure that we have current contact information and signed waivers, as well as safety tests. She said that she would send an email reminding members to register for 2021, and encouraging them to send whatever money they could, as we could use the income in the absence of our regular sources. So far, she has processed 24 memberships for 2021, but has not yet received the ones that were collected at the tactical.

Committee Reports:

Planning Committee: Midirise Arnold said that there were 35-40 kids signed up for the Elk Grove school day so far, and that ACWA families will also be bringing kids.

Webmaster: Melani said that she had updated the Bylaws to reflect yearly elections rather than every two years, and was trying to find a way to remove or update the generic email addresses (president@ncwa.org, etc.) as all the emails to "president" were still going to Scott Spence, and the others to whoever held the office at the time they were set up. The details of whether to delete or update will be discussed outside this meeting.

Marketing: Skott mentioned that Flo the Cannon and the info booth would be used for advertising Elk Grove on April 24. He said that he had a price of \$150.00 for a collage printed on 3' x 6' PVC, with a stand. He said that all sorts of photos could be found on the 9th Virginia's Facebook page.

Safety: Lynne Ashby said there had been provost issues at the tactical, and that our rules specify no pets—dogs and cats—and that livestock was allowed, but only with pre-approval. She said that if there were any members of the public on site, there needed to be provosts if firearms were in use. She also said that the camps must be cleared before each battle. Skott said that we will get the necessary rope or tape to enclose the battlefield.

First Aid: Lynne said that nobody got hurt at the tactical, so we must have done a good job.

Rules: Skott said that we were currently small enough to negotiate whatever might come up, and that the Rules Committee had been suspended due to dissention over one member's behavior. He said that the rules specify that a committee chair should be elected at the first meeting when the committee resumed. Kevin Groom suggested a small ad in *The Dispatch* for people to serve on the committee, and Skott said he would contact the former members.

Rank Ratio: Rank ratio has been suspended since 2011. Mike McKinsey said it never should have been suspended across the board, but adjusted as necessary. Mike agreed to start up the committee again, and an ad for members will be put in *The Dispatch*.

PACWR: Skott said that PACWR currently is not functioning, with no president, secretary, or webmaster. He said he had been in touch with the presidents of ACWA, NCWV, RACW, CHAS, Battleborn, Comstock, and others, and they had made a gentlemen's agreement to abide by the existing PACWR rules until the organization was functional again. He said he would like improvements to the safety tests.

Old Business:

Stone Ranch: Skott said that Cosme Muñoz was the coordinator for this event, and they were waiting to hear from the site host about our proposals.

Elk Grove: Midirise said that there would be water available, and that the camps would be laid out either Saturday evening of the week before, or on the Tuesday before the event. She said the school day would need to be rather loose as to scheduling, as several groups had been told to show up at different times, so we would have to play it by ear.

Tres Piños: Skott said he had been in touch with Wes Liser of the San Benito County Historical Society, who is taking over for Becky Thompson, and that they were very interested in having the event. Mr. Liser also requested that the NCWA set up a memorial service for Becky Thompson at the event. Skott said they want to turn the event into something that makes a profit, and that we would assist with advertising, including taking Flo around Hollister the week before.

Review of Alleged Offensive Interactions: Skott outlined the offensive remarks by Jon Nickerson-Tremayne that were reported by member Sharon Bursey at Jackson in 2019. He said that there were no witnesses to this incident who had come forward to date. It was mentioned that a letter describing the incident was submitted and read at the July 2019 Board Meeting, but nothing was acknowledged or done about it, with the exception of Scott Spence resigning as temporary Vice President, a role he had assumed to provide an Admin Board quorum after Dennis Main had quit earlier in the meeting. He pointed out that our bylaws specify that members may not use abusive language toward each other, and suggested that a reminder of this should be included in *The Dispatch*. Lynne Ashby commented that the Civilians would not tolerate behavior of this sort. Skott said that a member of the club had said he would no longer participate because of this incident, and that Skott would call him personally to assure him that the NCWA did not condone such remarks, and to apologize on behalf of the club that nothing was done at the time.

New Business:

Rules for the Use of Flo: Kevin Groom suggested that we create a set of requirements to be in the artillery. He said that a greenhorn could run powder, which is relatively safe. To command a gun, he suggested one to two seasons of reenacting artillery, and an evaluation by existing gun commanders, as aptitude could vary widely. Skott said that the gun could be used by anyone who needed her, perhaps on a rotating basis, and Kevin said that the gun was for NCWA use only. Lynne Ashby made a motion for Kevin to draw up a set of rules to be submitted at the next Board meeting, which was seconded and passed.

Advertising Elk Grove with Flo and Info Booth: Skott said more volunteers for this (described above) would be welcome, and that he would provide lunch.

Petaluma: Skott said that Vice President Jon Nickerson-Tremayne had been pursuing this site, and while Jon had attempted to describe it to him, he still didn't have a good understanding of what was available. Jon is proposing this event instead of Tres Piños. Lynne pointed out that it takes four to six months to set up a new event, and Tres Piños was already established. Skott said that the San Benito County Historical Society was eager to have us back, but that he was worried that because it was associated with the State of California, new PC restrictions might be placed on us, such as no battle flags or gray uniforms, a problem that was presented to the Nevada Civil War Volunteers. That group agreed to remove the Confederacy from their presentation, and nine members resigned on the spot. The group present at this meeting agreed almost unanimously that the NCWA would not put up with such requirements, and if a venue insisted on no Confederates, our participation in the event would simply be cancelled. The 1st US Sharpshooters abstained from this vote. It was also agreed to concentrate on Tres Piños and not attempt an event at Petaluma in 2021, but leave the possibility open for 2022, though in addition to Tres Piños, not to replace it unless Tres Piños is cancelled.

Murphy's Campout/Meet and Greet, July 3-4 Skott said that Jon Nickerson-Tremayne had agreed to an appearance by the NCWA at this event, but that he had no authorization to do so without a vote. It was pointed out that July 4th is usually a family holiday, and that we have been working on an event at Stone Ranch (Capay Valley) set for two weeks later. It seems doubtful that many people would want to attend two events that close together in wool uniforms at the hottest time of the year. Skott pointed out that in January of 2020, the club voted to have four events per year, currently Elk Grove, Stone Ranch, Tres Piños, and Marysville. Lynne suggested that we treat Murphy's like the Woodland Christmas Parade, where individuals show up as they wish to advertise the NCWA. Skott said the Bylaws specify that such events must include not more than 10 members and no firing.

Review Procedure for Creating New Events: This has been covered above.

Selling Snacks From Info Booth: Grant Harrison has suggested that the club should sell bottled water and packaged snacks such as potato chips from the info booth, and offered to arrange it. Marcelo said that it is permissible to raise money as long as it is not distributed to shareholders. Skott said he would find out if a license was needed to sell packaged food. Lynne suggested including a recycling bin. There was discussion of the fact that four breweries will be sponsoring Elk Grove, and will be selling beer at the event. Battle participants are not supposed to drink alcohol until after weapons are stowed, and it was agreed to request that the beer booths not be set up near the camps.

Nepris: Nepris is an online company that provides presentations for schools, often very specific. They contacted the NCWA to request a couple of presentations, and have offered to partner with the club, displaying our logo. The benefit to the NCWA is to assist us in fulfilling our educational mission as a 501(c)3. Midirise said she would create a list of possible presentations and speakers.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Saturday, July 10, 2021. Location to be announced, depending on COVID restrictions.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Hello fellow reenactors, with a little sorrow, I am informing you that due to my personal schedule, I am unable to attend any board meetings until May 1st. This is due to being on the other side of the world. I'm giving my family a few weeks where their ideas and interest are a priority for a change.

The Planning committee's interest regarding the return to Murphy's event site produced some concerns, but in the end a valid interest in attending that location again.

Communication with Murphy's site host has produced a preliminary date. This date is only for this year in order to gain back trust and creditability. This date in no way commits the NCWA to future dates. This date in July is merely a meet and greet and/or camp out to demonstrate our ability to educate the general public on the issues of the civil war.

The last word from the host has verbally stated we are on their schedule, however no in person walk thru was performed and no monetary agreement has been agreed upon.

The board could approve a more general event, aka full scale battles or simply leave it as a camp out open to the general membership, open to anyone who would like to go.

The only concern of the host is that we would have Hundreds of people there. I made personal assurances that that would not be the case.

Camp out or the event could include Monday, it being the Official holiday for the 4th. This sums up my presentation on the new/old great location of murphy's.

On another issue

I would like to seek approval from the combined board to perform an inquiry into a site at Petaluma, ca.

In the event that Tres Pinos falls through, I have a location that in the past would not fit into our schedule. With the loss of Marysville and possibly Tres Pinos there is an opportunity of putting on this event.

With all due hopes, dreams I wish you all good fortune and health.

Jon

PS I look forward to shooting at you all in the upcoming battles of elk grove.