

National Civil War Association, Incorporated
Special End-of-Year Meeting
Minutes

Date: December 8, 2021

Time: 7:05 p.m.

Location: Telephone conference call

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Skott Borello.

Roll Call: Present were: Skott Borello, Kevin Groom, Debra Johnson, Stephen Senishen, Mike McKinsey, Cosme Muñoz, Lynne Ashby, Darren Loupe, Paola Loupe, and Melani Van Petten.

This was a special meeting called by President Skott Borello to wrap up the previous two years and to discuss plans for 2022. As such, there was no traditional format. Skott said that the past two years had been a very weird time to be running an organization, and it had sometimes seemed like an uphill fight to keep the NCWA alive. He said that he really wanted input on both the past two years and ideas for 2022.

Events: Lynne Ashby said that given the pandemic, having any events at all had been an achievement. Cosme said that Skott had done a good job of keeping things together. Cosme said that he had just gotten a new job, which required him to supervise 110 people and to be in Reno most of the week. He said that to set up the inaugural event at Stone Ranch, he had had to take a week off running his own business, but would not be able to do that this year. Skott said that it should be easy enough to get volunteers to take care of things like drinking water and garbage collection, while Cosme dealt with more delicate issues involving dealing with the landowners and locals, with whom he has a relationship. He observed that the volunteers would need to be dependable, to ensure that the landowners were happy with us.

Skott said that the only solid dates we have so far are Mahon Ranch, April 29-May 1, Stone Ranch on the Memorial Day weekend, May 27-30, and Tres Piños, September 17-19. He said the Planning Committee should deal with this issue.

Participation by Other Clubs: Skott said that with an eye to increasing the number of participants, he had spent a great deal of time and energy talking to other clubs and encouraging them to attend NCWA events, with mixed response, ranging from no response to lukewarm to enthusiastic, but that the enthusiasm had ended up causing a certain amount of difficulty. Cosme suggested that time could be better spent encouraging participation by our own members. Kevin suggested contacting our members to encourage them to show up, and Skott said that that was the duty of the unit COs. He said that phone calls were more effective than emails, but took a great deal more time.

Fees: Kevin mentioned that at one time we had visiting reenactor fees, and suggested that we might do that again. He said that perhaps “undocumented” reenactors who could not produce a current membership card in a PACWR club could be charged \$10.00 and required to fill out the PACWR waiver. Skott wondered who would check the cards, and Debra said that she had in the past gone around to all Civilians, checking that their cards were current. Lynne pointed out that we are not allowed to charge other PACWR members to participate, and Skott said we were the only ones following the rules,

and that PACWR currently is not functioning, though Scott Spence has said he will work on that issue. Skott Borello said that the Admin Board should meet and try to come to decisions on these issues before the January 8 Board meeting.

Insurance: Skott said that our insurance rates would be going up, possibly by \$500.00 per year, but that the insurance company, which has taken care of the club for years, wouldn't tell us the exact amount until the renewal date of March 10, 2022. He said that at the moment we had enough money to cover the club's expenses, but he didn't know if that would continue to be true, as, among other things, the individual who had originally planned to finance the Blue Gray Ball and had set everything up for it was now requesting financial assistance, which would be an unexpected expense. There will be a donation jar at the ball to help with funding, but there will be no charge for admission. Debra suggested that the 2022 membership forms be uploaded to the website ASAP, so that we could take advantage of incoming membership fees. Skott suggested that the 2022 forms be put up quickly with the new date, and then fee information could be changed after a decision by the Admin Board as to what the new fees might be. Charging a visiting reenactor fee, raising membership fees, and offering a discount for renewal before March 1 were all discussed. Lynne suggested that anyone who renews at an event be charged a \$5.00 "You've Got To Be Kidding!" fee. Melani suggested they also be required to set up her tent. New members who sign up at an event are of course a totally different matter, and should be welcomed with rejoicing.

Speaker System and Narrator: Paola said that she had noticed that the audience seemed confused at several events, and suggested that there be a narrator and a speaker system to help them understand what was going on. Skott said that the narrator who had been expected at Mahon Ranch had been ill and hadn't come, and nobody else knew how to set up the speaker system. Melani mentioned that she is holding a back-up system donated by Alaina Young. Skott said we need to compare the two and decide which one will work better for our purposes. He commented that there should be some agreement as to the facts presented to the audience. Melani wondered if the Living History Committee should be responsible for fact-checking, and Skott observed that our numbers were so far down that it was hard to find enough people to fill the various committees. It was suggested that at least two people be trained to set up the speaker system and narrate.

Skott said that he would be calling a meeting of the Admin Board sometime in the next week or ten days to make decisions about possible new fees before the January 8 Board meeting. He said that the Board would have to set priorities in regard to what should be implemented most urgently.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.