

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

Date: July 10, 2021

Time: 12:05 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 12:10 p.m.

Roll Call: Present were: Skott Borello, Kevin Groom, Stephen Senishen, Marcelo Pontin, Mike McKinsey, Midirise Arnold, Debra Johnson, Scott Spence, Charles Kenyon, Marvin Wilcoxson (proxy for Jon Nickerson-Tremayne), and Melani Van Petten.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meetings of April 17, 2021 were approved as written.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved.

President's Report: Skott Borello said that the event at Murphy's Camp was not materializing. He noted that the Planning Committee had agreed to four events per year, but that the club could use more income. He said that Flo the Three-Inch Ordnance Rifle was still safely parked at his ranch, and that he wants to make a few more improvements to the trailer. He would also like to consider whether the info booth was worth the effort of setting it up. He said that people had been concerned about the ACWA's level of involvement with the upcoming Stone Ranch event. Marcelo Pontin pointed out that the ACWA had donated \$2500.00 for the event, and Kevin Groom said that we needed to ensure that there were enough people present to make a good showing. He also pointed out that it would be in the upper 90's during the event, and discussed the possibility of cancelling for excessive heat. It was agreed that the event would happen, but the degree of activity would depend on the temperature. Charles Kenyon said that if it was too hot, his men would not take the field. Workshops on how to interact with the public were proposed in lieu of a battle if the heat was deemed excessive. Finding a back-up date was also suggested.

Vice President's Report: Jon Nickerson-Tremayne was not present.

Treasurer's Report: Marcelo Pontin said that the club has \$7199.00 in the bank, including \$2500.00 from the ACWA, and that audits have been completed and we are in good standing with the State of California. Skott Borello said that he had a little over \$100.00 in cash donations from the Elk Grove event, and Marcelo and Debra Johnson agreed that it had to be logged as income before it could be used for any purpose.

Secretary's Report: Melani Van Petten reported that again, 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.

Committee Reports:

Planning Committee: Scott Spence said that so far he had received 23 responses to his letter regarding the school day at Tres Piños, and was currently expecting about 85 kids, but hoping to double that. He said that the crafts fair would be run entirely by the San Benito County Historical Society, so they will receive all the income, and that they are currently full, with 11 vendors, including Alaina Young. He said there was a large fire pit, opening the possibility of a barbeque Saturday night. He said that the Period Events and Entertainment Re-Creation Society (PEERS) would run the dance and provide a caller in return for free admission, but he had not yet located musicians. There will be a memorial service for Becky Thompson at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, and a battle at noon. He has a two-page flyer to advertise the event which he will start distributing about six weeks in advance. He said that the event was being taken much more seriously this time, and there would be an advertising banner in downtown Hollister. A publicity tour, using Flo the Cannon as was done for Elk Grove, is also a possibility. He said he was concerned about the proximity of the date for the second Elk Grove event, as people have complained that Tres Piños is a long way to go, and he was afraid that the Elk Grove event would decrease attendance at Tres Piños. Scott also said there was no chance that Tres Piños would fall through, and he was concerned about Jon Nickerson-Tremayne's implication that it might do so and be replaced by an event at Petaluma. Skott Borello said Jon could say anything he liked, but there is no event at Petaluma.

Scott said he had investigated the idea of the club becoming a vendor for homeschool events, but that it would require an application fee of several hundred dollars, as well as background checks for everyone involved, which would also cost money. He also said that he was concerned that with the current political climate, our curriculum would not be found suitable.

Webmaster: Scott Spence has resumed as webmaster, with assistance from Melani. He said he will be updating the Events calendar in the next few days.

Marketing: No report.

Safety: No report.

First Aid: No report.

Rules: No report.

Rank Ratio: No report.

PACWR: Scott Spence said that PACWR currently is not functioning, with no president, secretary, or webmaster. He said there was a gentlemen's agreement to abide by the existing PACWR rules until the organization was functional again. He said that Jack Eaves had had a heart attack.

Old Business:

Stone Ranch: Potable water is available on site, but it was advised that people bring extra water and shade, as it is expected to be very hot.

Elections: Kevin Groom said he had investigated using Survey Monkey or another electronic form to conduct elections, but it seemed as if it would entail a huge amount more work to save a relatively small amount of money, and he was inclined to continue doing it the old way.

New Business:

NCWA P.O. Box vs. Street Address for Banking Purposes: Scott Spence said he had investigated adding donation buttons to Facebook and Paypal to the website, but that neither one would accept a P.O. Box as a mailing address. He said that he had a mailbox where the address did not appear to be a mailbox, and it was agreed that he should look into this for the NCWA, with the possibility of changing the official corporate address.

Raffle: Joe Cedillo has suggested a raffle as a way to raise money and increase attendance. Debra said that as a 501(c)3 we are required to register a raffle, but that it wasn't a big deal and she would find the forms she had used for this in the past.

Dispatch: Skott Borello pointed out that the NCWA Rules specify that *The Dispatch* cannot be edited by a member of the Admin Board. He said that as the Secretary is currently editing *The Dispatch*, we should either change the rule or find a new editor. Scott Spence pointed out that the rule was made when there were many more members than currently, and it was agreed that the rule should be changed, and that a vote will be taken at the next meeting.

Announcements: Kevin Groom said that brigade commanders should make sure that everyone had a current address listed if they wish to vote in the upcoming election.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Saturday, October 16, 2021, at 11:00 a.m., at Round Table Pizza in Benicia.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.