

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

**Date:** July 11, 2020

**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 12:07 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Present were: Skott Borello, Kevin Groom, Charles Kenyon, Dave Rogers, Jeff Polder (proxy for Logan Dambrino), Lynne Ashby (proxy for Debra Johnson), Stephen Senishen, Dave Rogers, Jon Nickerson-Tremayne, Marvin Wilcoxson, Robert Allen, Vicki Allen, Joe Cedillo, and Melani Van Petten.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of April 4, 2020 were approved as written.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved.

**President's Report:** Skott Borello said that there wasn't much to report, except that he and Jon Nickerson Tremayne had been working on the Elk Grove event.

**Vice President's Report:** Jon Nickerson-Tremayne said that he would discuss a possible new event at Petaluma under New Business.

**Treasurer's Report: No report;** Marcelo Pontin was not present.

**Secretary's Report:** Melani Van Petten reported that there were at grand total of 476 members, including babies and children, not all of whom were current, and that so far 112 had renewed. Those who had renewed before July 11, 2020 would have their membership carried over through 2021. Memberships renewed after July 11 will last until the end of 2020.

**Committee Reports:**

**Planning Committee:** No report.

**Webmaster:** Melani said that she was still adding unit information bit by bit, as well as updating the event calendar. It was noted that Fresno had been cancelled for 2020, but the organizers were planning to extend the timeframe of the event beyond the Civil War in 2021.

**Marketing:** no report.

**Safety and First Aid:** Lynne Ashby said that the brigade commanders were responsible for seeing that first aid kits were available and up to date. She said that the Civilian Corps and the Trades and Professions Guild were ready with their kits. Charles Kenyon said that the Federal Brigade was ready as well, and Jon Nickerson-Tremayne said that he was on it for the Confederate Brigade.

**Rules:** Skott asked why there were differences in the club's Bylaws and Rules. Lynne explained that the difference was in the official corporation Bylaws and the way they were actually enacted. Both date from 2014. There was discussion of the fact that it had been decided to change Board terms from two years to one, but that a vote of the membership was required to make the change official. It was decided to form a committee consisting of Vicki Allen and Kevin Groom, and chaired by Jon Nickerson-Tremayne to review the Bylaws and recommend needed changes, to be voted on at the next meeting, and then submitted for a vote by the membership.

**Rank Ratio:** no report.

**PACWR:** Skott said that there effectively was no PACWR at the moment, as the only active officer was Secretary Brendan Krepchin. He said that Scott Spence was trying to set up a phone meeting to resolve the situation. It was agreed that the NCWA would continue to use the 2017 PACWR safety tests until such time as they were updated.

**Old Business:** Skott said that Elk Grove was scheduled for July 24, 25 and 26, but was still tentative, based on the Covid-19 situation. He said that all safety protocols current at the time of the event would be followed, including the wearing of masks and social distancing. Charles Kenyon expressed concern that the weather would be very warm and he was afraid that running around in wool uniforms while wearing masks might result in heat stroke. He said he would not require his troops to wear jackets. Skott said that if social distancing was observed on the field, masks could be optional. Melani observed that social distancing was not possible on a cannon crew.

Charles said that he was expecting about 30 people, Skott said about 10-12, and Lynne said between 5-20, for a maximum possible total of 60 or so, so far. Skott said no one should feel pressured to come for the good of the club, and that if it proved necessary to postpone the event, it would then take place on the first possible weekend. Lynne said she planned to space civilian tents 10 feet apart. She said that she had red ribbon that could be tied to tent poles by those who did not want their camps to be approached, and had enough for the military camps as well. Jon observed that \$200 was still needed for the portapotties, and Skott said that we had still not received the refund check from the

insurance company, which was now two weeks late. He said that there would be a rules sheet passed out to everyone attending, and that they would have to be NCWA members and have their temperatures checked to get into the event. Jon said he was getting a no-touch thermometer. Kevin commented that in very warm weather a person's body temperature could be affected by the air temperature and their activity level.

### **New Business:**

**Virtual School Programs:** Melani said that she had been in touch with Galen Dunham, who organizes school presentations, and they had discussed the possibility of creating video presentations that could be sent to schools while they were having online classes. It was decided that it would be appropriate to ask for a minimum donation of \$20.00 from the schools, since as a non-profit we could not charge a fee. Melani said that she would begin the process of producing the videos with the help of a tech-savvy friend.

**Elections:** Kevin Groom suggested that elections should be put off until next year, since we hadn't really done much this year. It was decided that the previously-mentioned Bylaws Committee would make a decision on this proposition as well as other Bylaws questions.

**Petaluma:** Jon said he was working on arranging a new event at Petaluma—a private event like Elk Grove for this year, with a possible public event for next year. This year's event would take the place of Tres Piños the weekend of September 18-20.

**Life Memberships:** Skott said that four people had suddenly turned up and claimed to have Lifetime memberships, though they hadn't registered for several years. It was determined that rules stipulating that all members must fill out membership forms every year should be enforced if people with life memberships wish to maintain them. Melani will email all Life members to be sure that this is understood, as well as post it on Facebook and in the *Dispatch*.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Saturday, November 7, at 12:05 p.m.—hopefully at Round Table Pizza in Benicia.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.