

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

Date: November 7, 2020

Time: 12:15 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 12:15 p.m.

Roll Call: Present were: Skott Borello, Kevin Groom, Charles Kenyon, Dave Rogers, Lynne Ashby, Debra Johnson, Stephen Senishen, Robert Allen (proxy for Vicki Allen), Joe Cedillo, Marcelo Pontin, Mike McKinsey, Michael Flanagan, and Melani Van Petten.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of July 11, 2020 were approved with one correction.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved.

President's Report: Skott Borello said that three of the events that had to be canceled in 2020 were on track to happen in 2021, pandemic permitting. He said that Elk Grove would probably take place in May, and that Becky Thompson had reported that Tres Piños is set for September 17, 18 and 19. The date for Marysville has not been settled, but it will take place at Cotton Rosser Arena Pavilion, as in the past. He said that Jon Nickerson-Tremayne had been working on a possible event in Petaluma, and that Mike McKinsey was investigating a very nice site near Fresno, with lots of space, trees, and running water. He said that the Fresno Historical Society event would probably not resume for a year or so. He said that Michael Flanagan was investigating a site near Laytonville, and that we could also pursue another event at Jackson if we so desire. He had no information on Half Moon Bay.

Skott said that he had received the refunded insurance payment for 2020, and that Marcelo Pontin had deposited it to use for next year. He said he was working on turning Flo and her trailer into an information booth that could be used to recruit and advertise events, and that Daniel Smith had offered to help with woodworking.

Vice President's Report: No report; Jon Nickerson-Tremayne was not present.

Treasurer's Report: Marcelo Pontin said that the current bank balance was \$4210.65, and that the club's last expense was \$118.00 for the Post Office box. He said that we had had no income to speak of, but at least we would be starting 2021 in the black. Skott said that we could pay the insurance fees in installments, and Marcelo said that might be a good idea. Skott said we would need either a school day or donations at the first event.

Secretary's Report: Melani Van Petten reported that there were 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. We have already decided to carry 2020 memberships over through 2021, but Marcelo pointed out that we would need income, so payment of dues or donations should be encouraged.

Committee Reports:

Planning Committee: No report.

Webmaster: Melani said that she was still adding unit information bit by bit. Skott has requested various changes and corrections, such as removing the 6th California from the unit roster, as they do not seem to be currently active and are not part of the NCWA, and removing the 12th Virginia from hiatus and adding a unit description and contact information. Copies of *The Dispatch* from the beginning of 2019 to date have been posted, as well as the Combined Board Minutes from 2015 to the present.

Marketing: Skott said again that he was working on setting up Flo's trailer to be used for advertising and recruiting. He suggested bringing her out the week before an event to advertise. He said that a work party at his place should be set up for December or January. It was suggested that when advertising an event with Flo, people in both uniforms and civilian clothing should be present, so that people would understand that we are a non-partisan organization, rather than focusing on the battle flag. He suggested that anyone who wanted to work on ideas for this should contact Joe Cedillo. This information will be included in the next *Dispatch*.

Safety and First Aid: Lynne Ashby said that we have been very safe, since we haven't done anything. It was suggested that all units should check their first aid kits for outdated materials.

Rules: Kevin said that the committee was working on reconciling discrepancies in the Rules and Bylaws, starting with changing the terms of office from two years to one. A paragraph will be included in *The Dispatch*, including a link to the website, asking members for input on any changes they feel are needed.

Rank Ratio: No report; rank ratio has been suspended since 2011. Skott said it was good to address the issue regularly, as it was a good principle.

PACWR: Skott said that there effectively was no PACWR at the moment, as the only active officer was Secretary Brendan Krepchin, and webmaster Scott Spence. He said that he had spoken to the presidents of several other PACWR clubs, and had the impression that the NCWA was the only one currently active. He thought

that people looking for a club to join might come to us. He asked for volunteers to chair PACWR, and said that we had to maintain it for insurance purposes, to show that we all operate under the same safety rules. There was discussion of the NCWA charging a visiting re-enactors fee to members of other clubs who attend NCWA events. Skott suggested that we need a committee to research insurance, and commented that ours was really good, while clubs who were paying much less were basically just hoping that nothing bad happened. Mike McKinsey offered to head an insurance committee, and his contact information will be included in the December *Dispatch* for anyone who would like to assist him.

Old Business:

Receipt for Flo: Jane Beckman and Andrew Crockett said that they would contact Richard Henkus to send him a receipt for his donation of Flo. Skott said that there weren't any cannon evaluators as such, but a consensus of three informed people had put her value at \$9000.00 at the time she was donated. Melani will contact Jane and Andrew to pursue this. Skott commented on the burr in Flo's bore, and said he would weld a chisel to a long pole to try to file it down.

New Business:

Elections: Kevin Groom said that the Bylaws require that we hold elections every year. He said that next year we could save money by sending out an email "survey," but that all unit commanders would have to make sure that email addresses and other contact information for their units was current. Those without email would still receive a paper ballot. He said that it is also necessary to have the age of each individual, as those 14-18 are only allowed to vote for unit positions, while those 18 and up can also vote for all other positions.

Remove Andrew Crockett from Wells Fargo Account: Andrew has requested that his name be removed from the account. A motion to do this was made, seconded and passed. A copy of these minutes will be mailed to Skott Borello to be signed, and he will then mail it to Marcelo Pontin to be presented to the bank.

Rules and Bylaws: Skott suggested that the committee should resume work in January of 2021, and a chair will be appointed at the General Meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Saturday, January 9, 2021, at noon. It will be outdoors at Elk Grove if the weather is good, at Round Table Pizza in Benicia if the pandemic permits, or by telephone conference if that is the safest option.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.