

173rd Airborne Brigade Association
Minutes from Board of Directors Meeting
19 – 20 January 2013
Las Vegas, NV

0925 – The meeting was called to order. Chaplain Joe Marquez led us in prayer followed by Pappy Patchin leading us in the pledge of allegiance to the US flag. The roll was called, see attachment 1, and a quorum was present. We also had Joe Carmody there from Las Vegas who will try and get the Vegas chapter going again.

The reading of the Minutes of the last General Meeting was made followed by a Motion to accept made by Paul Denardo and seconded by J.C. Terry. The vote was taken and passed with one abstention. There were several corrections which were made in the minutes.

Roy Scott gave a membership report. We currently have 14263 members on our roles. We have 4881 active members as of the 2012. We have 9382 members in an inactive status. Eldon Meade questioned the Presidents report of why are articles in “*Sky Soldier*” that have no connection with the association. The article in question was not identified. All articles submitted will be reviewed and has relevance to the member orgroup that submitted said article. He told all that the Association is in the last phase of being on the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) which he hopes will allow the active soldiers to participate without joining. Also, all others who work will be able to assist the Association

Vice President Terry Aubrey gave his report. He enjoyed working the reunion this past year. He has been working on a memorial pistol .45 caliber on M1911 frame. He is dealing with 3 different venders and it seems the cost will be in the ranger of \$2000.00 per unit. This will be a commemorative 50th year anniversary thing. He is working with the current troops to get them into the association.

Eric Hitchcock then gave his report as the Association Foundation President. He gave all present a Foundation coin and the Foundation Report. He went to Europe to promote the Association. He sent 300 flags to the Field Artillery to fly in Afghanistan and then they sent them back to Germany to be sold to make money for the Battalion. He has been to three fund raisers. The Foundation has raised almost \$10,000.00 from selling the challenge coins. He specified that for \$25.00 or more a person will get one challenge coin, not one coin for each \$25.00 donated. He wanted to send out a mass e-mail to all members, Jim Bradley told him the web site was set up to do just that. The foundation sold some Dietz prints and generated another \$6,200.00 for the foundation.

Thus far they have sold over 40 of the commemorative M-16s and we get roughly \$200.00 each. Things in these areas are going well. He encouraged each Chapter to get a corporate sponsor to assist them in their task.

Craig Ford then gave the 173rd Memorial Foundation Report. He encouraged all to attend the 50th ceremony at Fort Benning, 21 – 24 March 2013. Many have already signed up to read names and they still need a few more. The KIA of this deployment will not be added to the Memorial this year, they are waiting until all return and they get a final total. They will be added next year. Next year the Foundation will be getting a contract for the yearly maintenance fee. The Memorial is valued at \$309,000.00 and currently is the best Memorial at Fort Benning. People for other museums have come to view it and comment they have never seen such a splendid Memorial. Currently this is the only Memorial in the US that has the Australians and New Zealanders on it. It is also the only place those from Iraq and Afghanistan who have been KIA are displayed, so it is where their families can go to see their names and remember them. Much positive feedback has been received.

Unfinished & Old Business:

Membership – will chapter or unit get the rebate check?

Active Brigade member joins could we set up an account for each unit, to Battalion level. This will allow the BN account to grow and then when they need something from us the funds will be there. It could be used by the Family Readiness Group (FRG) to assist in the activities done by the BN. Discussion was lengthy. To do this would have to change the by-laws as they mention the 173rd Chapter which is the active duty unit. Not a good idea to allow the FRGs to access the funds. Problem – the JAG has told us that for us to send the “chapter” funds is not legal. We are trying to determine how to get around that. A suggestion was to work through the unit chaplain. We have asked for a representative from each BN. Need to get a contact for each BN, a “go-to-guy” that will not change every few months or years. Craig Ford wanted to know if this came from DOD. Mike Montie asked why the active brigade does not assign a person as our contact on orders. Reggie Yeats suggested we form a committee to look at the problem and bring back recommendations. The by-laws say we can kill that chapter since they have not abided by them by submitting the required reports. It was mentioned that it all depends upon the BDE CO and BDE SGM, and now JAG. Maybe we could get a different format, Craig Ford suggested. Roy Scott then appointed the committee chairman, Terry Aubery. Paul Dinardo made a motion to have the committee report back to the BOD at this summers BOD meeting. This was seconded by Craig Ford and it was passed. Roy Scott then appointed the Vice President, Terry Aubery as the committee chairman. He will select his committee members and come back with recommendations this summer.

After the break the meeting was reconvened. Roy commented on the Association trying to make contact with many of the former members whose info has become incorrect or expired. He also talked about the support of the Active Brigade in its community efforts. He gave a big thanks to Dennis Hill and Peter Klausner for their handling of the membership duties. He thanked Eldon Meade and Bill Reynolds on the new magazine layout.

Eric Hitchcock told us Mommaski said of the latest reunion in Lexington, KY, it was the largest she has attended. Since then she has been very busy with 15 KIA thus far on this deployment, she sends out memorialization cards monthly to each family. Encouraged all to send Mommaski a thank you card for the good job she has done for the Association in the Gold Star area for these past seven years.

2013 Reunion Brief – Jim Bradley and Frank Miceli started off telling us the rooms would be \$29.00 per night plus tax. For any and all information on the reunion go to 2013Reunion.com as more information is obtained it will be posted on the site. All the tours that have been set up are at least 50% less than any other tours marketed in the area. A tour of the Grand Canyon has been set up, will take about 12 hours, but it is 50 – 70% cheaper than anything else. Also, a tour of Hoover Dam has been set up that again is much cheaper than any other tour of Hoover Dam. There is an all day nursery in the hotel that charges \$7.00 per child per day. The child must be potty trained and you must have the child's shot record for them to go into the nursery. Call reservations are under 2013 Reunion, Operation Sin City 173rd Airborne. They have viewed several firing ranges and they are very nice. At one of them you can fire almost any automatic fire arm. The ranges all have M60s and M16s to fire on full automatic. The Active Duty people will get food all day at the hotel for free. They will have a 50th Anniversary book for the reunion, so all in attendance please be sure and get your pictures taken. Currently about one-third of the blocked rooms have been booked, so you need to book your room now.

2015 Reunion Presentations – The Oklahoma Chapter, 18, Vice President Ed Perkins gave a great presentation to the BOD of activities they are planning and some of the cost. The main selling point is the fact that Oklahoma City is the center of the US, easy access by all. They are planning a trip to Fort Sill to see all of the current Howitzers fire and talk with soldiers after the firing, then to an area for lunch on Fort Sill and look at and climb over static displays of all of the Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery equipment. They are also working on getting an Indian group to come and sing and dance for the reunion. There will be a golf tournament, and many other activities. This was followed by a presentation from Jerry Glass a representative from BRATS, a group

that specializes in reunions for military groups. They are helping Chapter 18 in getting the reunion to Oklahoma. This was followed by a presentation from Paul Dinardo for the reunion in Phoenix. He will be assisted by chapter 25, the Arizona chapter. He gave a good presentation and they want to hold the reunion May 4 – 9, 2015, that is Monday through Friday. There are trips planned to Tombstone, and other places of interest. They will have a golf tournament, a Cinco de Mayo party, a Medal of Honor meal, and others activities. These dates agree with the date the Brigade went to Vietnam. Wambi Cook said he will give his presentation again at the reunion. It was determined that all have heard his presentation at the past several MWCs and the past several reunions. It was approved by the BOD that only these three will be given at the Reunion this summer.

It was asked if the reunion, 2013, could move the General Meeting should be the same day of the Board of Directors meeting like it was at previous reunions. The BOD meeting begins at 0915 to 1115 and the General Membership Meeting follows immediately at 1130 and end at 1300 on the day of the Reunion Banquet. This will clear up an entire day for the BOD to spend with their families and participate in the outings, tours, and other activities held at the reunions. They could then enjoy the Reunion much more.

The meeting was then opened to the Chapter Presidents for what they are wanting and what is important to their chapter. Chapter 7, Jim Bradley, said they work well with Chapter 13 as both of them work on supporting many units downrange. Then Chapters 14 and 10, J.C. Terry and Wambi Cook, said they are working well together and have started having at least one meeting together each year. They are trying to get Chapter 28 to come in with them. Wambi Cook said he is working with Chapter 28 on the reunion and Chapter 10 has started working with them on the reunion also. Wambi Cook also said his chapter is working with the All Airborne Chapter in California. Chapter 14 has a Facebook page.

Chapter 1 has been looking for the families of the Brigades KIAs in their area. Thus far they have not been greatly successful.

How many chapters have a 501C19? Chapters cannot use the Association's. Chapter 18 told of a bad experience of being connected to another organization in their state. It was brought out that it is not a problem to form a 501C to get the IRS to acknowledge them, and to get incorporated as a tax free entity in the state they are in. Chapter 8 gave information on how to get incorporated and it not costing much other than someone filing the correct papers.

Any chapter member that knows of a person that was KIA that is not on our list, either on the Wall in Washington or our Memorial, need to contact one of the Association's officers and it will be researched.

The meeting was then halted for the day.

Sunday, 20 January 2013 – 0915 Meeting called back to order.

Roy Scott gave the financial report. A motion to accept the report was made by Wambi Cook and seconded by J.C. Terry. Craig Ford said it was the best financial report he has seen from the Association. The motion passed.

Paul Dinardo wants more contact with the BOD.

The candidates for President and Treasurer were introduced to the Board. They are: President – Roy Scott and Charles Patchin; and for Treasurer – Roger Conely.

The chapters were reminded to get their 2012 financial and business reports in.

The meeting was then opened for the Good of the Order.

Eric Hitchcock talked about his last visit to the Brigade in Italy. The Brigade is requesting artifacts and pictures from Vietnam for display at their new headquarters. Pappy asked if the 1st Bn would be having it's own museum. He then pointed out that military museum's can lend stuff to other military museum's so the Brigade could contact the Infantry, Field Artillery, and other branches museums to see about getting stuff from them. It was unknown how much space the Brigade has for display.

Craig Ford told all that he has been invited to go to the 1st Battalion for a special event they are having in April. They wanted someone that was in the 1st Battalion in Vietnam. Craig was not just there, but he was in the 8th of November battle. They were all looking forward to the meeting.

It was then announced that Sal Guntia and Jeremiah would be going to Italy in March to welcome the troops home from Afghanistan. Tim Austin and Roger Conely will be going to Germany to welcome the troops home there. Roy Scott will be attending the 50th Anniversary being held at Fort Benning the weekend of 21 March 2013. Many others will be attending this also. Craig told of a new hotel at Fort Benning that is next door to the Museum there and they will be open in time for the Anniversary.

Joe Marquez told of the "Tears of a Warrior" book put out by the Purple Heart Society. They have quit publishing this and was wondering if it should be available for the returning troops. It was pointed out that the book is available at all VA locations and all DAV locations.

Frank asked where the financial report from the last reunion was and was told it has not been turned in yet. He pointed out they have 60 days from the end of the reunion to get it to the Association Treasurer. We will check with Roger to see where it is.

Eric Hitchcock told of a painting that is being done for the 50th Anniversary. After the painting has been completed, prints will be made for sale to any that want one and the proceeds will go to the Association Foundation.

Craig Ford then brought up the IRS policies and said he will send to the Secretary the required forms and these forms will be put at the end of the By-Laws, so all future sendings of the By-Laws will have them.

The next MWC location will be announced within 60 days of this meeting. The next reunion, 2014, will be in Fayetteville, NC, and that is a difficult place to get to for all chapter presidents. They are wanting to keep it to a place that will be central and easy to get to by all parties.

The meeting ended at 1110 with a prayer from Joe Marquez.