

**Board of Directors  
of the  
The 2nd Florida Volunteers Living History, Inc.  
June 20, 2009  
Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes**

**Directors in Attendance:**

There was a quorum present for this meeting.

**Present:**

Clay Kearney  
Tim Saunders  
William B. Speir, Jr.  
Lee Monroe  
Wayne A. Alonzo

**Absent:**

None.

**Others Attending:**

None.

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Corporation was called to order by President Clay Kearney 8:38 AM at Turkey Lake Park. Proper notice had been given to all directors of the meeting in accordance with the Bylaws of the Corporation.

**Old Business:**

I. Minutes to the November 12, 2008 Meeting. The Minutes of the November 12, 2008 meeting of the Board of Directors was reviewed. The minutes were accepted as written.

There was no additional old business to come before the Board.

**New Business:**

**I. Corporate Mission.** The President opened discussion regarding the mission of the corporation. A Corporate Mission is defined as an “assigned task,” which is a special task given to a person or group to carry out, or a “calling,” which is an objective or task that somebody believes it is his or her duty to carry out or to which he or she attaches special importance and devotes special care.”

During the discussion, several areas were brought up by the Directors, including the following:

- The need to “walk the talk” and embody our principles in everything we do.
- The integrity of the Units, and the fact that the Units have had the “right growth,” rather than having a focus on getting as many members as possible. The growth of the Units has not come at the expense of what the Corporation set out to accomplish.
- Turnover is an issue – especially because most of the events in Florida are becoming steadily less interesting. This is because of the close mindedness of the event organizers and the senior officers, most of whom do not like ideas that they did not originate. For this reason, the Units have been looking for ways to make events more interesting (e.g. unscripted tacticals at the events, providing narrations to the spectators about what is going on, etc.). The Corporation has also been conducting round table historical discussions for the members to attend to share information and build camaraderie.
- There are two kinds of reenactors – those who come to play and those who come to live the history. This Corporation’s Units are in it for the love of history and will continue to make that a major focus. The Units’ emphasis on authenticity is part of the Units’ outstanding reputation in the reenacting community. This focus on authenticity should be extended to having each Unit member develop their own First Person Impression, which will be their persona at all events and living history demonstrations.
- Teaching safety will continue to be a major focus of the Corporation. This includes working with events to push for strong safety rules, teaching safety during infantry drills and holding safety inspections at each event, and continuing to sponsor the USFAA Artillery Safety Schools here in Florida.
- Educating the general public will continue to be a major focus of the Corporation. The Corporation is beginning to receive several requests for presentations from schools and civic groups who are interested in the War Between the States era, and this is something that the Corporation will continue doing as much as possible.

While no “mission statement” was crafted, it was decided that the primary mission of the Corporation is as follows:

1. Continue making the hobby interesting and fun for the members, including conducting historical round table discussions and holding tacticals at events;
2. Continue a focus on the integrity of the Units’ growth and activities to ensure that the Corporate continues to have the right grown;
3. Continue a focus on authenticity, including drills, uniforms, camps, and the development of First Person Impressions;
4. Continue the focus on safety, including teaching safety drills; and,
5. Continuing looking for new ways to educate the general public on the War Between the States.

These five areas of the mission are also the foundation for the Corporation’s goals for the coming year.

**II. Educational Activities.** A great deal of discussion was held regarding the recent increase in demand for the Units to present information to schools and civic groups. The comment was made that, while much information is being presented at these presentations, they are still basically a series of “mini lectures” ad-libbed by the individuals presenting. The comment was

made that it would be good if we could create a more comprehensive and interesting presentation that could be “packaged” for the type of group and the time frame desired.

Some of the ideas presented included the following:

- The “stage” could be set to have the Unit Commander under his tent fly on one side working on an after action report (to relate the particulars of a battle, its tactics, and the unit’s performance in the field), and the NCOs and enlisted men on the other side discussing army life, letters from home, music, and other realities of camp life. A Narrator would move from side to side to introduce what is going on and set the context for what the Unit members would be performing.
- Have a wider stage where the Confederates would be on one side and the Federals on the other each talking about the same events from their perspectives.
- Include audio visual effects that would include lighting, sounds, and some videos from battles and engagements.
- Develop multiple variations of the presentations to fit within specific lengths of time and audience interest.
- Focus on realism so the audience will feel they are actually witnessing a true moment in time, rather than a play or a lecture.
- Engage as many members of the Corporation to participate as possible. Have the presentations well scripted so that anyone can step into a part based on availability.

Pursuant to Article 5, Section 2 of the Bylaws, the “corporation shall have such other committees as may from time to time be designated by resolution of the Board of Directors. These committees may consist of persons who are not also Members of the Board of Directors and shall act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Directors.” The motion was made to appoint an Education Committee for the corporation to build on these ideas and formulate a plan of action for producing this presentation. The motion was seconded. Discussion followed. The vote was called and the formation of an Education Committee for the corporation were adopted by a unanimous vote. Tim Saunders and Lee Monroe were asked to serve on this committee, with Tim Saunders being the committee chairman. The President directed Tim Saunders to develop a plan of action and present that to the Board as soon as possible.

Another comment was made concerning how members of the Units conduct themselves in camp when members of the general public or members of other units are near. The President called for each member of each Unit to develop a first person impression that will be their character/persona whenever the camp is open to the public. The President also called for a variety of scenarios to be developed that can be performed in the camp that will both entertain and educate the general public by demonstrating actual things that would have happened while the army was in camp during the war. The President stated he would bring this up to the Infantry Unit at its Annual Business Meeting so everyone would know to remain “in character” of an 1860’s soldier while the public is around.

**III. Linking Corporate Goals to Unit Goals.** The President raised the question regarding the linkage of Unit goals and activities to the Corporate goals and mission. In the discussion that followed, it was decided that the Units and the Corporation are well linked.

- While reenacting is what we do for ourselves as reenactors (for fun), Living History (educating the general public) is a major focus of all Units.
- The Artillery teaches a nationally recognized safety program for artillery use.
- The Infantry teaches safety as part of its drilling.
- Both Units have in the past and continue to work with events to push for better safety rules and procedures during the events.
- The development of first person impressions for each member, as well as scenario skits for the general public while in camp will help educate the general public at all events we attend.

**IV. Other Discussion.** Two items were brought up that applied specifically to the Infantry Unit. These included recommendations for changes to the Infantry Unit bylaws and clarifications to how the Infantry Unit elections will be handled. The discussion on the Infantry Unit bylaws was deferred to the Infantry Unit Annual Business Meeting.

There was no additional new business to come before the Board.

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The vote was taken and the meeting adjourned at 9:47 AM. The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be scheduled for early 2010 after the new Board Members are elected.