

**Board of Directors
of the
The 2nd Florida Volunteers Living History, Inc.
December 19, 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 (by phone)

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 8:39 AM at the Office of Kearney Publishing, 7901 Kingspointe Parkway, Suite #28, Orlando, FL 32819. 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 June 20, 2009 Meeting of the Board of Directors had been reviewed previously. The minutes were accepted as written.

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

New Business:

I. Review of 2009 Activities. The President opened the meeting with a review of the previous year.

- The authenticity goals established previously have been met, with the possible exception of speaking in character. The President announced that he will discuss keeping conversations in character to the time period more around camp with the membership.

- Visual authenticity, authenticity of drills and skirmishes, authenticity around camp are all going as planned.
- The membership has embraced authenticity. New members have this expectation set up front and know that it is a requirement. Older members who cannot or will not conform to these expectations have withdrawn their membership.
- Skirmishes continue to be a great way to keep authenticity at event – especially since we have very little control over the battle scenarios at events.
- The President stated that a goal for 2010 would be to get better acquainted with the Federal Commanders to make it easier to conduct skirmishes at events.
- The President stated that a goal for 2010 would be to coordinate skirmishes better with event organizers to avoid confusion with the public or sutlers that the battles are starting.
- The President stated that a goal for 2010 would be to continue exploring the possibility of sponsoring a Campaign Event that would involve marching, camping, and running skirmishes either on the night before a reenactment, the morning of a reenactment, or completely separate from a reenactment. There was much discussion on this topic. The logistics would need to be worked out to ensure that water, food, medical assistance, and emergency transportation had been taken care of for the safety of the participants. Physical conditioning would be required for all participants to get ready for the physical demands of this activity. The location and route would need to be well mapped so no one got lost or inadvertently wound up somewhere they should not be. The event would need to be well planned, and it would be best to start small before launching into a major event. The President announced that he will continue working towards this goal.

II. Report From the Education Committee. The member of the Education Committee reported on their progress to-date. The plan is to develop a number of modular scripts that contain educational information in “first person” regarding a soldier’s life, duties, and warfare during the War Between the States. Each educational event would assemble these modules into an overall, cohesive presentation for the intended audience.

The Committee has begun work on script scenarios, and will be engaging additional members of the Corporation, as well as outside resources, to start building the details of the presentations and constructing the props needed. A call for volunteers will be made at the Annual Membership Meeting in January. The plan will be to start small and build on that. The President announced he will schedule a presentation at Olympia High School for later in the school year to try out the first of the presentation scenarios. There was also discussion regarding filing for a State or Federal Grant to help provide funding to take the presentations to more audiences.

III. Recruiting Activities. The President noted that the economy is having an impact on new recruits all across the hobby. The Infantry Unit Commander announced that the current newspaper advertisement for the Infantry Unit is being updated. In addition, the Infantry Unit Commander is thinking of appointing a Recruiting Sergeant to take some of the burden off of himself. This new position would be responsible for selling membership in the unit and the hobby to interested people at events, and would hand out an information packet that the Infantry Unit Commander is having designed. Wayne Alonzo announced that he would help the Infantry Unit Commander with this effort.

IV. Election of Two Board Members. There are two Board positions coming open at the Annual Membership Meeting in January – Tim Saunders and Wayne Alonzo. Wayne Alonzo announced he will not seek reelection to the Board. Tim Saunders announced that he will seek reelection to the Board. The President sent a communication to all members asking for anyone who might be interested in being part of the Board. John Susky, Dwight Dorr, Buck Custer, and Larry French have expressed interest so far. The Secretary will prepare a ballot to bring to the Annual Membership Meeting that will have these candidates' names, as well as spaces for write-in candidates. The Secretary will also prepare a statement outlining the qualifications for Board Members and send this to the Board in advance of the Annual Membership Meeting.

V. Annual Membership Meeting. The Annual Membership Meeting will be held at either Noon or at 5:30 PM on January 16 and the Brooksville Raid Reenactment in the Infantry Unit's Camp area. The agenda for the meeting will be:

1. President's Welcome Address – 2009 in Review
2. Election of Board Members
 - a. Review Qualifications for Board Members
 - b. Open the Meeting for Nominations – the people who have expressed an interest must still be nominated
 - c. Close the Nominations
 - d. Allow Each Candidate to Speak
 - e. Vote for Two Candidates
3. New Business
 - a. Treasurer's Report
 - b. Education Committee's Report
 - c. Authenticity Discussion
 - d. Communications Discussion
4. Open the Meeting for Additional Business From the Membership
5. President's Closing Comments

The Board will meet briefly after the Annual Membership Meeting to elect officers.

VI. Communications Within the Membership. The President noted that there are still problems with communications – specifically, getting people to respond to requests asking for who will be attending each event. Discussion included having the NCOs obtain this information via email and direct phone calls to the membership, and demoting any NCO who fails to provide this information to the Infantry Unit Commander. The suggestion was also made to assume that no one would be attending an event unless they confirmed their attendance. The President will continue working on the most effective method of improving internal communications within the Membership.

VII. Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer presented the 2009 financial report. It was noted that we need to build a fund in the future to finance the educational activities and presentations developed by the Education Committee, but that no action needs to be taken at this time until a budget is approved for the Education Committee to develop one or more of its scripts.

VIII. Other Discussion. One item was brought up concerning having a professional photographer come and take portraits of the Unit, the Command Structure, the Board, and Individuals. The comment was made that these portraits could be available for sale, with a small amount coming back to the Corporation as a Fund Raising idea. The President authorized the Vice President to invite the photographer to an event and work out the details.

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 10:30 AM. There will be a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors immediately following the Annual Membership Meeting in January to elect Corporate Officers. The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be scheduled for mid-2010.