

THE 2ND FLORIDA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY, COMPANY E

THE HAMMOCK GUARDS

Annual Business Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2009

The Annual Business Meeting of the members of the 2nd Florida Volunteer Infantry, Company E, was called to order by Captain Clay Kearney 10:20 AM at Turkey Lake Park. Lee Monroe took the roll call for the meeting. Bill Speir, Secretary for the Corporation, was asked to take the minutes.

I. Introductions. New Recruits and Guests were introduced to the membership by Captain Kearney.

II. Treasurer's Report. Lee Monroe provided the Treasurer's Report. The Corporation currently has 44 paid members, \$750.05 in the bank account and an additional \$50.00 in cash. This does not include the \$100.00 donation that was received from St. Mary Magdalene School and the food for the membership that was purchased from that donation. Lee also reminded everyone what the dues structure for the Corporation and for the Infantry Unit are.

Captain Kearney reminded everyone that they need to list "Florida Battalion" on all sign-in sheets for all events to be covered by the insurance that the Unit has purchased from that organization. Captain Kearney has the insurance card. If anyone is involved in an accident covered by the insurance policy, they should speak to no one and contact the Captain immediately to coordinate filing the appropriate reports and claims.

III. Opening Remarks. Captain Kearney provided his opening remarks regarding the past year, noting that the unit has had a great year, has made great progress, and has an outstanding reputation within the reenacting community. Captain Kearney also commented that authenticity would continue to be a major focus of the Unit going forward. Captain Kearney opened discussion to the membership to get their feedback on the unit, and it was all positive.

IV. Recap of the 2nd Florida action July 13, 1861 - June 13, 1863. Captain Kearney did a quick recap of what the original 2nd Florida Infantry did from the date it was mustered into service until June 1863. Captain Kearney noted that he will be sending several updated regarding the Gettysburg campaign during the coming weeks.

V. Election of Officers and NCOs. Captain Kearney reviewed the duties of each position and commented on the qualifications for each person seeking rank (e.g. must attend at least 6 events a year, must be ready to step up to a higher rank when that person is absent, must know the drills, etc.).

The following individuals were elected:

CAPTAIN – Clay Kearney

QUARTERMASTER SERGEANT – John Suskey

ORDINANCE SERGEANT – Buck Custer

1st SERGEANT – Larry French

2nd SERGEANT – Matt Saunders

3rd SERGEANT – Wayne Alonzo

CORPORALS (3) – Tim Saunders, Hunter Shaw, Alan Ward

In addition, when “Musket” Ward is performing his medical impression, he will have the rank of Lieutenant and will wear the appropriate uniform. At other times, when in the infantry ranks, he will continue to be a private and will wear the appropriate uniform. Robert Sonntag will also take role of Assistant Surgeon with Musket Ward. The Assistant Surgeon was in charge of inspection of hospital grounds, record-keeping, supplies, etc.

VI. Finalize Upcoming 2008-2009 Battle Schedule. 1st Sergeant Larry French presented the schedule of events for the coming reenactment season and took an approximate headcount of who is interested in attending each event.

2009:

9/4-6 Atlanta, GA - 13

10/2-4 Andersonville, GA - 6

10/10-11 Parish Train Raid - 0

10/10-11 Ft. Clinch Confederate Garrison - 15

11/6-8 Ocklawaha Raid - 15

11/20-22 Suwannee River Raid - 20

2010:

1/15-17 Brooksville Raid – 15

1/30 Mount Doro (Day Trip) -

2/12-15 Olustee - 24

3/5-7 Natural Bridge - 4

3/12-14 Crystal River - 14

3/19-21 145th Bentonville, NC - 7

3/26-29 Narcoossee Mill - 27

4/10-12 Parish Train Raid - 8

5/16-18 Resaca, GA – 7

Two additional events were discussed:

1. Near the Ocala National Park, there is a Boy Scout camp that is one of the best in the country. These scouts could be a great source of recruits. There is also a shooting range where we could fire our muskets with live ammunition. During the discussion, it was pointed out that very few of the attendees at this camp during the summer are from our local areas, and the weekends would present problems with getting the attention of the scouts (checking in on Sunday and checking out on Saturdays), even though the weekends would be easier for us. It was pointed out that there are weekends during the year when most of the scouts in central Florida do attend events at the camp and we should target one of these weekends. The group voted that it was interested and will wait to see what date is chosen. Robert Sonntag will keep everyone informed as the plans firm up for this event.
2. Also near the Ocala is an Adventure Camp where there is also a shooting range we can use. Larry French will get more information on this event to everyone soon.

VII. New Business. Captain Kearney opened the floor to the membership for any new business.

1. Captain Kearney challenged each member to develop a first person impression so they can stay in character throughout each event. A sample and a questionnaire will be provided to each members to help them.
2. Tim Saunders provided an overview of the new educational program that the Corporation is sponsoring. More information on this can be found in the 6/20/2009 Board of Director's Meeting Minutes posted on the Corporation's web site.
3. It was noted that the Unit has lost some of its cohesion during the last season and it was suggested that holding a period-correct evening mess/meal with the entire unit on the Saturday night of each event would be a great way for everyone to reconnect. Several people spoke in support of this. Captain Kearney appointed two members of the Civilians to work on this.
4. A request was made by Robert Sonntag for old white sheets and linens that can be used to create bandages for the medical impression.
5. A suggestion was made that we start a book exchange to share reference material between the members. Captain Kearney appointed a member to start working on this.
6. 3rd Sergeant Wayne Alonzo presented two proposed Unit Bylaw amendments for the membership to consider.
 - a. **Current Wording:** "(J) All members will be expected to display the proper mannerisms common to the period, such as chivalry and courtesy."
Proposed Wording: "(J) All members will be expected to display the proper mannerisms common to the period, such as chivalry and courtesy. These mannerisms are to be extended to fellow members (both military and civilian), fellow reenactors, guests, spectators, and event staff, with special manners shown towards women."
After discussion, the amendment was passed by the membership without dissent.
 - b. **Current Wording:** "(K) When in uniform, all orders given by officers and/or NCOs of this unit will be promptly obeyed. NOTE: No order will be given which is improper, personally demeaning, or hazardous to personal safety."
Proposed Wording: "(K) When in uniform, members are expected to portray proper military protocols, such as, but not limited to, immediate obedience to officer and NCO orders, proper respect given to officers and NCOs (such as salutes and referencing according to rank) on the field of battle as well as in camp, as well as refraining from the very appearance of dissent towards those holding rank. NOTE: No order will be given which is improper, personally demeaning, or hazardous to personal safety."
After discussion, the amendment was passed by the membership without dissent.
7. Captain Kearney reminded the members that they are expected to attend at least two events a year and everyone must get better about confirming which events they will be attending or not attending. This information is used to determine brevets, ranks, food, logistics, camp layout, etc.

There was no additional new business to come before the membership of the Unit.

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The vote was taken and the meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM. The membership then fell out for drill practice and lunch.