

**173rd Airborne Brigade Association
Board of Directors Meeting
January 18 – 19, 2014**

January 18, 2014 – Meeting called to order at 0900. Roy Scott said the prayer and then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Erick Hitchcock then led us in a moment of silence for the departed.

Roll call was made, see Attachment 1.

Roy Scott gave the President’s Report – He led in an active discussion on sending the magazines to the Active Duty soldiers in Italy and Germany. The cost of each magazine is over \$3.00 per copy. The Post Office will not return them if the recipient is no longer there. Finally all agreed the soldiers there will get the copy on-line. We will discuss this issue with Chapter 173. He then talked about the dates of the magazine. The dates are as follows.

ISSUE	SUBMISSION	PUBLICATION	PRINTED	MAILED
WINTER	15 – January	31 – January	15 – February	20 – February
SPRING	15 – April	30 – April	15 – May	20 – May
SUMMER	15 – July	31 – July	15 – August	20 – August
FALL	15 – October	31 – October	15 – November	20 – November

WINTER will speak of the 8th of November event, Scholarships, and push Annual Dues.

SPRING will Announce candidates for election.

SUMMER will Brigade Ball, annual meeting, election.

FALL will have Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, etc.

He then discussed the establishment of an Association Store. This will be on-line and in each magazine. The Association will also have the store at the reunion. There will only be limited items in the store. We, the association, need this for the income. He then gave several examples of other military associations that make money this way.

Roy then discussed the removal of deceased members. They will remain on the rolls for 1 year after death. This will allow the family to continue to receive the magazine and be able to join if they desire. Also he discussed selling subscriptions to non-members should they wish to receive the magazine.

Terry Aubrey then gave the Vice President report. See Attachment 2.

Tim Austin gave the Secretary report. It was started out by reading of the minutes of the last BOD meeting. After a few minutes, Tom McMahon made a motion to accept the minutes as written; this was seconded by Wambi Cook and voted on. It was passed by a unanimous vote. Then Tim relayed the Treasurer's report. This would be received by noon and passed out as soon as it arrived.

Eric then gave the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association Foundation report. See Attachment 3. It is very long, so might not be on-line with the other attachments. Eric asked for a Foundation representative from each chapter. This would be to have a person to organize and lead in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) in all areas of the country. The CFC was filed by the deadline and will also be in next year's campaign. Eric has all the information for anyone who wishes to assist in getting the information to the different federal agencies in their area.

Roy then led a discussion on the reunions. Since one chapter was prepared to hold the reunion in 2016 it was determined that the reunion will be held at Fort Benning. A lengthy discussion was held on how the reunions are conducted. All are not satisfied with the way they are being held currently. A committee will look into this issue.

Each chapter present then gave a report of their chapter.

Chapter 1 – Michael Montie gave that report. They have a quarterly meeting and found that changing locations has brought many members to the meetings they have not seen in a very long time. Each year they read the names of the KIAs from the Brigade that are in Arlington Cemetery. On Veterans Day they have a "Walk Around the Wall". They go to General Williamson's grave and place a wreath. The day before, 10 November, they visit each 173rd grave. They updated their chapter by-laws and suggested that each chapter do the same. They also encourage each unit (i.e. 1st Bat, 2nd Bat, 3rd Bat, 4th Bat, FA, Engineers, etc.) to have a get together at least yearly.

Chapter 2 – Tom McMahon gave the report on this chapter. They always have between 10 and 20 members at each of their meetings. He then told of General Deane's funeral and how all that attended did a great job. He was thankful to Chapter 9 for the list of his chapter members they sent to him. He then gave \$173.00 to the Association and another \$173.00 to the Foundation.

Chapter 5 – Jose Bercedoni gave a report on his chapter. He started out by distributing the projected cost of the reunion, as per the by-laws. (See attachment # 4.) He told of the preparations that are already made and what they are planning. They are working

on their web site to allow registration to the reunion on-line. The chapter has a meeting the 4th Tuesday of each month.

Chapter 9, Eric Hitchcock was representing them, and he was not prepared to give an update on the chapter.

Chapter 13 – John Barthelemy the chapter president gave the report. They have quarterly meetings around the state. Houston area, San Antonio area, Dallas / Fort Worth area, and in the Valley. They work with wreaths across America. He asked if there is a way to find 173rd guys in the National Cemetery. The answer given is to cross check from a list of the KIAs of the Herd against the names at the particular cemetery. The chapter also supports the Roy Mass center two times a year. This is a home outside San Antonio for disadvantaged kids.

Chapter 14 – Wambi Cook gave this report. They have quarterly meetings around dates that are important to the 173rd. They have about 20 to 25 members present at each meeting. They go to 7 different cemeteries in the Los Angeles area to place wreaths on graves of 173rd brothers. It takes about 7 hours to make this and they do this each Memorial Day. He then let Kimberly Hubbard, representative of the Town and Country resort and convention center in San Diego where the 2015 reunion will be held. She stressed we can start making reservations on April 29, 2014. They will have a drawing after the first quarter of registration and the winner will have a free stay for the reunion. The cost will be \$99.00 per night + tax which will make it about \$114.00. Once you make a reservation the hotel will hold 1 day cost on your credit card, not the entire time. You have 24 hours prior to arrival to cancel the reservation and that day will be refunded to you. The parking fee is \$2.00 per night. They have plenty of parking for campers should anyone want to bring theirs. The reunion will be May 2 – 6, 2015. This is the 50th anniversary of the Brigade arriving in Vietnam. They are hosting the convention in conjunction with Chapter 28, the San Diego chapter. They had brochures for things to do in the area. There is much to do in San Diego and the area. If the baseball team is in town they will get a block of tickets for us to attend a game.

Chapter 15 – Trudell Guerue gave the report for this chapter. They do several Powwows per year. They have a VA cemetery ceremony and a dinner to commemorate Corregidor each year. They have a problem getting new members. Was asking all present if they had an answer to this. They are not eligible to be a C19 type group due to Minnesota laws. They had an Airborne Walk at Fort Snelling and it is the best in the US. They will be adding a memorial this year to the troop carrier unit that dropped the paratroopers in WWII in the European Theater. They do a volksmarch each year in South Dakota and are encouraging all to make plans to attend and enjoy

the fun with them. They have a charter in MN as a non-profit organization. He said the Board of Directors are working on team work and succeeding this much better than any team in the past.

Chapter 17 – Roy Scott gave a brief up-date on this chapter. They are a 501 C19 organization that covers 5 + states. They do a raffle yearly and have a great web site.

Chapter 18 – Don Walton, president of the chapter. They have bi-monthly meetings in Lawton, Oklahoma City and Shawnee. They are considering adding a site in the Tulsa area to reach out to more 173rd brothers. They have 5 to 9 members present at their meetings. They have a really good web site. They service Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and part of Kansas. It would be good if we could get a chapter in any of these other states.

Chapter 24 – Sam Maslowski gave a report for this chapter. It was always at the VFW in Rochester, however they are now moving it to other cities and to the houses of the members. They do a large Veterans Day gathering yearly. They also have a Christmas dinner each year. They are meeting with Chapter 15 to plan some together activities.

Chapter 29 – (Wambi Cook) gave the report he received from Joe the Chapter president. They are moving along since getting their charter at the reunion this summer. They held their December meeting and have over 20 members present. They are working on their charter and getting their tax exemption. They look forward to being a very strong chapter.

Chapter 30 – Lester Yeargin the new president of the chapter gave the report for his chapter. They meet the 2nd Saturday every month. They are working on getting younger members. They have an annual picnic and have a good attendance. When they have a death of a member they give the surviving spouse a 173rd flag. They always set up a missing man table at their meetings. They hold a golf tournament yearly as a fund raiser. They move the meeting around the state and find they get much better participation. Chapter 30 will work with Chapter 3 to host the 2016 reunion at Fort Benning.

After the chapter reports, the subject came up about the All Airborne Association Man of the Year award. This was started by Don Larson, WWII paratrooper with jumps into Normandy and Holland, and the editor of the “*Static Line*”. Since his death, the paper has ceased, but the awards he started are still presented yearly at the banquet in Atlanta. Much talk about what the Association should do with the person from the Association that gets the award. Each chapter was encouraged to nominate a person

from their chapter for this award and the Executive Committee would go over the letters of nomination and determine who from the association would be the winner. As each chapter nominates a person they need to remember, do not try and surprise a person as there are several things the person has to do. To receive the award he has to be present at the banquet which is in Atlanta. He has to pay his way there and back, his hotel and all expenses. It was determined that each chapter would assist as they could, and the association would pay \$100.00 to the person receiving the award to assist in the costs. Since the person has to be present and pay money, it is not something that should be a "surprise". The chapter has to pay for the award itself, \$25 - \$50. The person will also be recognized at the Reunion banquet.

The treasurer reports came in and were presented to the Board. See attachment 5. All were pleased with the reports. One was the report for the Association, the other was the financial report for the Association Foundation.

We then mentioned that the Memorial Foundation would have a dedication to the Afghanistan KIAs the weekend before the reunion at Fort Benning and all were encouraged to be there and then go to the reunion.

Meeting was adjourned for the day.

19 January 2014 – Sunday

0900 – Meeting started again. Same members present except Chapter 1. Roy begins the meeting talking about the need for the Association to have a store. He told us we would be advertising in the magazine and only have a limited amount of items. We will also do sells at the reunions. We will limit our items to a few shirts, baseball type hats, and a few other items so we will not be overburdened with products. We will still have the items with Medals of America and so will still advertise their stuff.

Roy then asked for volunteers from the chapters to be a working committee on the By-Laws. They are in dire need of revision as they have not been touched since we changed from a Society to an Association.

Roy then brought up the letter sent by Jim Bradley in response to his being requested to send the audit of the reunion as per the reunion. Members were irate at the letter Jim sent. Tom McMahon took the letter and said he was ashamed and very upset by the letter. A lengthy discussion took place. Wambi and Trudell brought some rational thought to the discussion. It was finally determined the best response was not to answer his affront. Lester suggested we get a committee to come up with proper

options and then let the Executive Committee determine which of the options to pursue. It was tabled for now. All present wanted the letter sent to them, which was done.

Wambi then led the discussion on the tax exempt status for the chapters. Jose brought up the fact that his chapter had missed a requirement and were having to start all over getting their tax exemption back. It was suggested the National get a 501C3 status and then all of the chapters could be under that. Trudell brought up the fact that what they have in Minnesota they have to clear their financial accounts yearly to keep their status. All agreed it would be better for the Association to get the tax status and then all of the chapters could be under that exemption. It was brought up that VFWs do this, this is a C19, which is like a 501C3, but for military organizations. All supported the C19. Roy agreed the Association will look into obtaining this and then all chapters could just file under that. The Association will be more information on the 501C3 and the C19 and bring it back to the BOD within 90 days to determine which would be the best. Tom made a motion to table this until more information was obtained. This was seconded by Jose and it passed.

Lester then gave information about a Scout Dog monument that is being planned in South Carolina. See attachment 6. They are asking for donations for the project. It will be in Columbia, South Carolina at their Vietnam Memorial. Work has already begun, they are just needing funds to complete this project.

Roy then stated the city of Omaha has a monument with the 82nd, 101st, 173rd, and Special Forces being represented in which they put a wreath on yearly. Terry is the person in Omaha that is in charge of this and they are wanting a 173rd reunion there. We are in hopes we will have a request from them at the reunion for a Nebraska chapter.

Don Welton asked how the by-law committee would meet and was told it would be telephone and computers. Please notify Roy within 60 days if you would like to be on this committee.

Wambi made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Sam. All agreed and the Mid-Winter Conference for 2014 ended. Trudell led the group in a prayer of dismissal.