

173rd Airborne Brigade Association
Board of Directors Meeting
9 June 2016

The meeting started at 1600 with the pledge to the flag followed by a prayer and a moment of silence to those not with us.

Roll call was given and a quorum was present. (See Attachment 1.)

Roy Scott, President, made his remarks and all were positive about how the association is moving forward.

Tim Austin, Secretary, then presented the Secretary report from the Mid-Winter Conference. As it is published on-line, all members had the opportunity to go over it. Motion was made by Tom McMahan to accept as published and seconded by Wako Cotney. It was passed with no dissenting votes.

Treasurer's report was given. Actually news that we have a new Treasurer, David Williams, a 173rd veteran stationed at Fort Bragg. He volunteered for the job and was accepted. He will be at the reunion this evening and will present all tomorrow at the General Membership meeting. Eldon Meade asked if he was going to be appointed and the answer was yes. Chapter 1, Joe Flesch, asked if he could be an office holder since he is on active duty. This was a yes as the bylaws do not prohibit anyone currently on active duty from serving in any capacity. Additionally, he will have Jerry Cooper as the back-up if he is sent on a mission. To see the Treasurer's report go to the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association web site, it is posted.

A change in the By-Laws was brought up concerning the section on Gold Star families. All can now be regular members, but it was requested that the "Gold Star" status be given to the siblings and children of the Gold Star and that they be allowed to obtain a life-time membership. Wako Cotney made the motion to accept this change. Wambi Cook seconded the motion. During the discussion, Eldon Meade kept asking why they have to pay at all. Anytime anyone would say anything in agreement with the motion, Eldon would butt in with his comment. Roy Scott then tabled the motion and it will be re-visited at the Mid-Winter Conference. JC Terry seconded the table motion and it was approved.

Webmaster report was then given by Jerry Cooper. He told all about we can now vote on-line and it worked really well during this last election. This election we got 600 + votes on-line and 50 + via mail. He also stressed to all to get the members in each chapter to go to the website and update their information and to open their e-mails they get from the Association. He encouraged all that the future reunion information will all be on our web site so another will not have to be purchased.

The Association Store was then talked about by Terry Aubrey. It was not brought to the reunion so as not to compete with the other merchants. The store is doing well online and generating money daily. He asked all to encourage their members to go to our website and select items they like. The Association store is working with an existing business. That business sells us their blank stock, shirt, hat, cup, and then puts the logos the customer wants on the item and sends it out. That is much less expensive than us trying to maintain a stock of shirts, hats, etc., hoping we have the correct items. It is working well as it is. Reggie Yeats then asked when the on-line store would start and was told it is currently going and has been for the past year.

Then it was brought up that a group of spouses were wanting to form or have the BOD consider a family support group.

Questions were asked about the magazine. We are now seeking a person that will do the layout of the magazine for us. This has been the problem for several years now. All were asked to see if they have anyone in their chapter that knows of or can direct the Association to such a person.

The question came up about an Association calendar. At the MWC Bill Vose was asked to see if Chapter 7 would do the calendars for the Association. He said he left the question with Jim Bradley and Bill McSorley. He said they were not that enthusiastic about the project, but will check back with them to get an answer by the next BOD meeting. Bill Reynolds then made a statement; however, not being a member of the Board he could not speak to an issue.

The Vice President then made his report. It dealt with the store as already covered. He then gave an account of the coin sales and how well they were doing. He then informed the Board that we, the Association, now have legal and exclusive rights to "Sky Soldier" and "Sky Soldiers". George then asked if the Chapters will be allowed to use them, or what has to occur. The answer is the chapters can use them for chapter items as they are part of the Association. The VP stated that a committee should be formed to develop policy and procedures for issuing certificates of use of our intellectual property.

The Memorial Foundation, Ken Smith, then spoke. He enjoyed working with Chapter 30 on the reunion. He told of the program he would have that evening at the Memorial and urged all to attend. Don Downing has designed a new web site for the Memorial. It is not compatible with phones, uses too much data. Thus far the Spartan club has collected \$250,000. They are hoping to reach the goal of \$300,000.00 really soon. He brought out the fact that there is no monument for the 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne). He has gotten permission from the grounds committee of the Infantry Museum to place one on our area. This will save many dollars and make the monument much less expensive. Anyone that wishes to contribute to this 503rd monument can send the contribution to the Memorial Foundation and at the bottom of the check place 503rd Monument. The Army is re-writing the "Honorary Colonel of the Brigade". They at first were going to do away with it, but have reconsidered and are re-writing the regulation. He then asked why the Gold Stars were not invited to the reunion this year and why they had no

luncheon for them? (Actually, there was a Gold Star luncheon held on Saturday.) We, the Association are going to try and do better for the Gold Stars in the future. The webmaster will be working on getting a data base for the Gold Stars.

It was brought out that the Membership is run by Chapter 9. It is working very well and they, Dennis Hill and Peter Klausner are doing an outstanding job. We now have over 5,000 active members. Please ask all chapter members to go to the 173rd web-site to ensure their correct information is there. It was brought out that if a chapter wishes to run an ad in a local newspaper, you can talk with them. All have places to put ads in for free that are "Public Service Announcements". Most newspapers will do this for you to advertise the meetings.

Wako then asked about the \$3,000.00 that Danny Day used of the Association money. It was brought out that it was actually under \$500.00 dollars. His credit card has been taken from him and he no longer has anything to do with the store. It would cost more to file charges on him than we could get back. The extra charges he put on the credit card in San Diego were for packaging and shipping the store merchandise home, not for himself. That is one of the reasons for not bringing the store this year. After all was done, the Association did no clear enough to make it worth taking the store to the reunions. We had thought we made money last year, but when we finally paid for the merchandise shipping and packing charges on both ends it was not much more than a break even event.

Roy then talked about the 2017 reunions. Again, explaining that we are having two due to past experiences with having such a small turnout at reunions in Australia and on a cruise ship. We will be having the reunion in May 2017 in Oklahoma City, and then a Gathering in July 2017 in Italy. All chapter presidents were encouraged to get as many of their members to one or both.

Frank then talked about the Gathering in Italy. They are planning on a great event. All details will be on the web-site. Chapter 173 has gotten an entire Villa for us to stay at. The room rate will be 89 Euros per night for one person and 99 Euros per night for 2. It will be from 10 to 14 July, 2017. They are planning an airborne drop for us over water. They will also have the change of command for the Brigade, and are going to try and get the Battalions there for the same. All are expected to have a great time and all were encouraged to attend.

Tim then gave a report about the 2017 Oklahoma City reunion. Their main event will be on Thursday. It is a trip to Fort Sill to see the howitzers firing and talk with the soldiers. Friday is set aside for a free day so all Battalions can hold their "mini-reunions" and all will have a chance to see the "sights of Oklahoma City".

Both 2017 reunions will have a registration fee of \$99.00 per person. It is important as to how a chapter will do reunions with the Association. This is a work in progress.

Chapter 21 then gave a check to the Association Foundation for \$1,173.00. Then C/1/502rd gave a scholarship to the person that missed the scholarship that the Association Foundation gives out.

This is the longest group that has given scholarships. The Association Foundation gives 10 scholarships and C/1/503 gives one, making 11. All chapters were challenged to consider starting to fund a scholarship each year. Currently Chapter 1, Chapter 21, and the 319th Association are funding a scholarship each year.

JC Terry then made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded by Tom McMahon. It passed. Chaplain Joe Marquez then led us in a prayer and we were dismissed.

**173rd Airborne Brigade Association
Board of Directors Meeting
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UNIT	Person	Yes	No
President	Roy Scott	X	
Vice President	Terry Aubrey	X	
Secretary	Tim Austin	X	
Treasurer	Jerry Cooper	X	
Association Foundation	Eric Hitchcock	X	
Chaplain	Joe Marquez	X	
CH 1	Joe Flesch	X	
CH 2	Thomas McMahon	X	
CH 3	Tony Butler	X	
CH 4	George Bembischew	X	
CH 5			
CH 6	Bill Johnson	X	
CH 7	Bill Vose	X	
CH 8	Eldon Meade	X	
CH 9	Dennis Hill	X	
CH 10	JC Terry	X	
CH 11	Neil Cromarty	X	
CH 13	John Barthelemy	X	
CH 14	Wambi Cook	X	
CH 15	Trudell Guerue	X	
CH 16			
CH 17	William Terry	X	
CH 18	Richard Perez	X	
CH 19	John Deazley	X	
CH 21	Dan Sartori	X	
CH 23			
CH 24	Sam Maslowski	X	
CH 25	Reggie Yates	X	
CH 27			
CH 28	John Hutchens	X	
CH 29	Richard Rocia	X	
CH 30	Wako Cotney	X	
CH 173	Frank Marcantonio	X	
Memorial Foundation	Ken Smith	X	