

**173d Airborne Brigade Association
Mid-Winter Conference
17 – 18 January 2015**

The meeting was brought to order at 0900 by Roy Scott, Association President.

Roll call was taken, see attachment 1. A quorum was present so the meeting commenced.

Pledge of allegiance followed by a prayer by Chaplain Marquez, then a moment of silence for the fallen.

Special guest Colonel Foster, the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team was introduced. It was a pleasure to have him there for the meeting.

Chapter 14, the host chapter for the 2015 reunion, made a presentation on the upcoming reunion. This was made by Bill Ortiz with assistance from Chapter 28's Gill Reynoso, the chapter that will be assisting in hosting the reunion. When you send in the reunion registration please make the checks to "Chapter 14". The dinner will be at 1850 on 6 May 2015. It is a formal banquet, so all please wear at least a sport coat and tie (know it will not kill any of y'all to do that) as the ladies will be all decked out in their finest.

The past minutes are posted on the web site. Motion to accept them was made by Tom McMahon, Chapter 2, and seconded by Joe Marquez, Chaplain. They were approved.

Jose Perez-Ortiz gave a brief description of the program for ROTC programs in both high schools and Universities. This program was encouraged. It is currently in use by Chapter 10, J.C. Terry. Any interested should contact J.C.

Terry Aubrey gave the Vice President report. It was well received. (See Attachment 2.)

Jerry Cooper then gave the Treasurer report. (See Attachment 3.) Reggie Yeats had very good comments on this report, as did several others.

Danny Dan, the Store Manager, then gave a report on the store. It was well received. He encouraged all to purchase all things from the store. He gave Chapter 2 as an example. They ordered their golf tournament shirts from the Association Store and were well please with the quality and cost.

Eric Hitchcock then gave the Association Foundation report. It was well received by all.

Ray Ramirez gave the Memorial Foundation Report. They will be having a services on June 13, 2015 for Ryan Pitts and Kyle White to add them to the memorial and encouraged all to attend. Should be a great event.

Colonel Foster then was given the podium and he suggested that each chapter try and get an Active Duty soldier to be the liaison for that chapter and the association. He thinks this will help in getting more of the soldiers involved in the association and give them more input and feeling that they are actually a part of the association. All present agreed this would be something to try and all chapters present agreed to try it.

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CSM Clark then told that each year the Brigade will be naming a building in the new facility at Del Din. They will be naming them after a past Sky Soldier. He encouraged all to get the information together for the man they wish to nominate so they will have it when asked whom the building should be named after.

Marc Thurston, a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) in California gave a good talk. He encouraged all to go to the Agent Orange web site and register. He said that is the first step, that of being registered.

Jerry Cooper then told of things the Association needs to do to keep the IRS off our backs. He said it is easier for each chapter to use the Association tax number for their chapter. This requires that each chapter submit a letter at the end of the year to the Association Treasurer showing their finances. He said he will be glad to work with each chapter. For all requirements and what you have to do, contact Jerry. He also explained several of the web site capabilities and encouraged all to go to the web site and start using it for all things. He also said we need to change the fiscal year for the Association from June 1 to May 31 to January 1 to December 31. Since Jerry made the motion, it was seconded by Carlos Hernandez. Discussion was short, and the vote passed.

We then broke for the evening.

Sunday, 18 January 2015. Jerry opened the morning with presentations concerning the Raffles, Reunions, Store, documents, IRS, Financial, membership, magazine, and how the new web site is handling all of these items and will be able to make all available to all the members by them going onto the web site. In order for the Association to receive credit from Medals of America, the items must be ordered through our web site.

Chapter 5, Jose, passed out the documents for the reunion in North Carolina. It was well received.

A proposed by-law change was made to the Association writing checks to the chapters.

Roy then proposed that the reunions be held with the assistance of Armed Forces Reunion, Incorporated (AFRI). This will ease the burden of a local chapter having to do all the work. This will also allow the web site to handle the registrations without the person doing anything except going to the web site, filling out the information, and paying.

Roy then proposed a new chapter. Members in the Missouri area have gotten together and petitioned the Board of Directors for a chapter. The new Chapter is 21, the Gateway Chapter. Their chapter President is Kaiser Sterbinsky. Motion to accept was made by Eldon Meade and seconded by Bill Reynolds. This was voted upon and it passed with no dissenting votes.

Chapter 173 made a recommendation on changing the Sigholtz Award. This was approved, and will come up for vote at the next General Meeting, if it is presented per the by-laws prior to the upcoming reunion.

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A new policy was made for the running of the reunions. It was suggested that AFRI be set to host the reunions and the local chapter to assist. The local chapter will still get their share of the income produced by the reunion, if any exists. The motion was made for this by Bill Reynolds and seconded by John Barthelemy. The discussion followed. The association will adopt a policy to set the chapter and professional organization to run the reunions. The Chapter will still get 50% of the profits generated, if they exist. The last sentence in the by-laws will change from the Chapter to the Association to the Association to the Chapter. Motion was then made by Bill Vose to table this, and it was seconded by Dan Parker. It passed.

The President is to send out the wording prior to the General Meeting per the by-laws for the change to the reunions so it can be voted upon. He is also to send out the change to the Sigholtz award so it may be voted upon also.

The meeting was ended at 1030.

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ATTENDEES**

POSITION	NAME	NO	YES
PRESIDENT	ROY SCOTT		X
VICE-PRESIDENT	TERRY AUBREY		X
TREASURER	JERRY COOPER		X
SECRETARY	TIM AUSTIN		X
CHAPLAIN	JOE MARQUEZ		X
ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION	ERIC HITCHCOCK		X
GOLD STAR			
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION	RAYMOND RAMIREZ		X
MEMBERSHIP	DENNIS HILL	X	
STORE MANAGER	DANNY DAY		X
CH 1 CAPITOL	JOE FLESCH		X
CH2 NEW YORK	TOM MCMAHON		X
CH3 COLUMBUS. GA		X	
CH4 PHILADELPHIA		X	
CH5 FT BRAGG	JOSE BERCEDONI		X
CH6 CHICAGO	TERRY GANNON		X
CH7 FLORDIA	BILL VOSE		X
CH 8 INLAND	ELDON MEADE		X
CH 9 NEW ENGLAND	MARC THURSTON		X
CH10 NORTHERN CA	BOB ORTIZ		X
CH11 AUSTRALIA	RAY PAYNE		X
CH 13 TEXAS	JOHN BARTHELEMY		X
CH 14 SOUTHERN CA	ART MARTINEZ		X
CH 15 MINNEAPOLIS	TRUDELL GUERUE		X
CH 16 WASHINGTON	CARLOS HERNANDEZ		X
CH 17 MIDWEST	BILL TERRY		X
CH 18 OK	BILL REYNOLDS		X
CH 19 NEW ZEALAND	JOE MARQUEZ		X
CH 23 AUSTRALIA	RAY PAYNE		X
CH 24 ROCHESTER	SAM MASLOWSKI	X	
CH 25 PHOENIX	REGGIE YEATS		X
CH 27 AUSTRALIA	RAY PAYNE		X
CH 28 SAN DIEGO	JON HUTCHENS		X
CH 29 NV	JOE CARMODY / RON THOMAS		X
CH 30 SC	LESTER YEARGIN		X
CH 173 ACTIVE	CSM CLARK		X
CH MO	DAN PARKER		X