



589th Engineer Battalion Assn. (Vietnam)
Minutes of the September 9, 2017 Business Meeting

The 589th Engineer Battalion Association (Vietnam) business meeting, which was held in conjunction with the 2017 Reunion at the Stone Castle in Branson, Missouri, was called to order on September 9, 2017 at 1200 hours by chairman Bob Spencer, pursuant to a notice of meeting provided all member. The chairman noted that a quorum was present for the conducting of business.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as printed and circulated. Motion carried.

Chairman Spencer introduced the officers of the Association, noting that Denny Pendegrass and Perry Blanchfield were absent due to family issues and the weather in Florida.

Minutes of 2015 Meeting

Secretary Sterling Hester was asked to read the minutes of the 2015 meeting, copies of which were distributed among the membership. A motion was made by Nick Kallas and seconded by Rich Comiso to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve the minutes as printed and circulated. Motion carried.

Audit Committee Report

Audit Committee chairman Tim Cameron reported he and Committee members William Carter and Jerry Nichols met with the Treasurer to review financial transactions for the accounting period September 1, 2015 thru August 31, 2017. Cameron noted that the Committee's examination consisted of a detailed review of the transactions of one month chosen at random, along with a review of the checks and balances in place which help maintain the integrity of the financial reports. At the conclusion of Cameron's report, a motion was made and seconded to accept the report of the Audit Committee. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bob Spencer provided a thorough review of the finances of the organization. Spencer noted that for the most part the revenues from PX sales and reunion activities are sufficient to cover their costs. The Association's primary money-maker over the years has been the raffle and auction, with the proceeds being nearly \$4,700 this year. Spencer discussed the audit process and thanked the Audit committee and chairman Tim Cameron for providing their review. There was a discussion regarding the good financial condition the Association is in and whether the Association should do something to reduce its cash level. After responding to questions from the floor, a motion was made by Rich Comiso and second by John Ryan to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Bylaw Amendments

Spencer offered a set of amended bylaws previously considered and reviewed by the Board. He noted that although the Association has modified its bylaws several times, situations still arise that cause Association members to question contractual terms between members, or between members and the Board. As an

example, within the past year the Board has had questions regarding just what authority the Board has, where the line is drawn between the members' authority and the Board's responsibility, and exactly what responsibility the Board owes to the membership. As the discussion developed, several examples were discussed and debated as the proposed bylaws were applied to various fact situations. After a thorough discussion, a motion was made by Tim Cameron and second by Nick Kallas to adopt the Bylaw revisions as presented. It was a general consensus that future proposed bylaw changes be posted on the Association's website so they can be reviewed prior to the meeting.

Mini Reunions

There was a general discussion on the mini reunions that have been held during the past two years. From the comments made, the administrative and planning phases of most mini reunions is the most difficult challenge to overcome. After the discussion, a motion was made by Nick Kallas and seconded by Dennis Kotke not to directly fund the mini reunions, but continue to provide website information and support as in the past. Motion carried.

Association Reunions

It was noted that the Association has not decided on the time and location of its next reunion. There was discussion regarding the timing between reunions, with some members favoring a reunion each year, with others favoring a reunion every two or three years. Reunion locations were debated as some suggested the Association simply let its Board decide the location and timing. Following the discussion, a motion was made by Larry Jinkins and seconded by Rich Comiso to hold a reunion during 2018 in Branson. Motion carried. It was suggested that anyone who desires an alternate location in subsequent years, provide the background information on the site for the membership's consideration during the 2018 business meeting.

Board Structure

A motion was offered by Terry Story and seconded by Willy Bonney to eliminate Perry Blanchfield's permanent position of Chairman of the Board, while allowing him to be a consultant to the Board and to provide website support services. The motion did not pass.

Election of Officers

The chairman reported that four nominations had been received for the office of director, those being Dennie Pendergrass, Mike Morrish, Sterling Hester and Charles Begley. Although there were five open seats on the board, no additional nominations were made from the floor. After a general discussion of the available options, a motion was made by Tommy McLain and seconded by Tim Cameron to cast a unanimous ballot for each of the four director candidates and allow the Board to designate someone to fill the vacancy. The motion carried.

Honor Our Fallen Program

Bob discussed the Honor Our Fallen program and noted that donations were meeting expenses. Various members shared their experiences. It was asked if a different script for reading could be created. John Ryan talked about the problem with the larger flags. The Program will continue.

Association Chaplain

Tom McLain addressed the membership about the role of Chaplain and the support he is prepared to provide as needed. No formal action was taken.

First Time Attendees

Chairman Spencer introduced the first-time reunion attendees and presented each with a traditional 589th Association shot glass.

Robert Burden	D Co	Mar 1968 – Mar 1969
Glen Gowen	B Co	Dec 1966 – Feb 1968
Allen Holt	C Co	Feb 1968 – Feb 1969
Richard Nelson	B Co	Apr 1967 – Apr 1968
Ed Pavlich	A Co	May 1970 – Apr 1971
Gary Cowie	C Co	Feb 1968 – Feb 1969

Following the introduction of first time attendees, those attending each prepared their individual shot glass for a toast. The toast to Our Fallen Brothers was made by Larry Jenkins.

Unfinished Business

Rich Comiso addressed the membership about ongoing publicity and the desire to have the 589th represented in Washington DC and Ft Belvoir, Virginia with a brick commemorating its service to our nation. Comiso did not have prices but will obtain them as soon as he returns home. It was discussed that The College of the Ozarks has a nice memorial for Viet Nam Veterans. Tim Cameron made a motion to purchase a brick at the memorial not to exceed \$150.00. The motion was seconded by Freddie Guth. Motion carried.

Terry Story asked about Elizabeth and the possibility of her being reestablished as VA Rep. There was general consensus that it would be worthwhile to invite her to the next Reunion.

Tom McLain offered the closing prayer.

A motion was made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sterling Hester, Secretary