

589th Engineer Battalion Association Business Meeting October 2, 2010

Called to order by President Blanchfield at 1000hrs and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Blanchfield introduced Association Officers, thanked everyone for coming to this year's reunion and for all the support, outlined the business meeting and other scheduled events for the Reunion, including the Speaker, Lunch, Raffle, Memorial Service and Toast in Conference Room of Hampton Inn later that evening.

Minutes from the 2009 meeting were presented by **Secretary** Pendergrass:

Motion to accept: Fletcher Sapp Second: Ran McNichols Vote: Unanimously approved

Treasurer's report was presented by Bob Spencer and Audit Committee. The Audit committee has reviewed the accounts. An accounting system has been established so books can be passed on to next Treasurer. Also established a checks and balance system to assure books are in good order. Challenges this year were to get the Association registered as non profit in North Dakota, obtain a federal ID number and registration with Internal Revenue Service. The Association is not registered as 5013C Corporation. This is a time consuming process and not of much advantage to the Association. Treasurer explained sources of income and expenditures.

Motion to accept: Tim Cameron, Second: Howard Getchell, Approved by a unanimous vote.

Vice President John Hunt-Thanked everyone for their support and work. He is in the process of obtaining rosters for all companies which is difficult because of Privacy Act restrictions on access to Social Security Numbers. He does have some rosters from '67 and will keep working on this project.

Historian Al Cochran- Has ORLL's for entire time the unit was in country. He needs project pictures and requested that everyone provide any you might have. Al Carlisle was Battalion Photographer and Al will contact him for any material he might have.

Ways and Means Committee-Pete Philbrick will be handling this function in the future.

Newsletter Committee-Fletcher Sapp/Ran McNichols- Dec will be first newsletter this year with an issue published every three months. One hard copy will be sent to every member each year with other issues delivered by email. A hard copy of each newsletter will be sent to those without email. Fletcher requested that members send him human interest stories or other story ideas.

Publicity Committee – Sam Lamey – Would like to send newsletters to home town newspapers. He has done some publicity on Craig's list.

Old Business:

President Blanchfield talked about mementos donated to the Association by CSM Moore and SGM Leeder and the T-shirts from an anonymous donor.

After the last Reunion, Thank You letters were sent to:

CSM Leeder for donating his 589th Castle

SGM Moore for donating his large 589th Castle and copy of plaque

Baymont Hotel for their hospitality.

New Business:

President Blanchfield thanked Sterling Hester for donating the Deceased members Plaque. Sterling said it was his honor to provide the plaque.

Reports of members deceased: Glen Greathouse D Co, died in 1975, Steve Nelson 513th died in 2007, Arbie Duram C Co died in 1994,

Next Reunion date and location- Consensus was to hold the Reunion every year. St Louis and Branson areas were suggested as possible locations for the reunion. Majority voted to have in the FLW general area and hold it on the same, or as close as possible, weekend of September as this year. Majority want the activities to remain relatively low key- KISS.

President asked about establishing a Reunion fee to cover the two lunches and other incidentals. Members like the lunch arrangements as is-on site and approved by a show of hands to charge a \$25.00 per person registration fee for next year.

Al Cochran and Dennie Pendergrass reported they talked to Janet Fisher, Director of the Engineer Museum about their interest in assuming ownership of Association mementos and other historical items after we are no longer available to take care of them. She said many organizations have "Last Man standing" provisions and plans and the Museum would be willing and able to take possession of any items we desired.

President Blanchfield announced that an Association position for VA Health Benefits Liaison was established and Don Baux has agreed to fulfill those duties. In addition to helping keep members advised of VA Health Benefits available, he will act as a clearing house for Association members. If you are willing to share your VA experience and information with other members, let Don know and he will give your name and contact information to other members who ask him for help with specific problems or processes that you have experience with. Haywood Norman of the Helicopter Pilots Association indicated we have a treasure trove of information in the pictures-make these available to everyone for VA purposes-they can serve as proof you were in RVN.

President mentioned that a suggestion had been made to establish a Lifetime Membership Category and asked for comments. By their actions, members made it clear that this was approved and immediately began making contributions of \$100.00 to support the Association.

President stated that those who make a contribution will be recognized on the membership roster.

President described By-Laws Changes that are needed. He suggested that a motion to accept those changes be made now. He will send the changes to the entire membership and if no dissention is received the changes will be considered approved. Motion to that effect was made by Tom McClain with a second by Larry Jenkins.

At 1130 hrs a motion to adjourn was made by Willie Bonney, seconded by Clyde Hutson and approved by the members present.