

## **589<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion Association Business Meeting, September 17, 2011**

President Blanchfield called the 2011 business meeting to order at 1230.

He then led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

First time attendees were asked to stand, introduce themselves and give their Company and date of service in Viet Nam. Twenty-Three first time reunion attendees were present.

Secretary Pendergrass presented minutes of the 2010 meeting. Motion to approve was made by Rich Comiso, seconded by Chuck Schueddig and unanimously approved.

The financial report was presented by Treasurer Bob Spencer (copy attached). He explained the balance sheet and sources of revenue and expenses up through the 2011 Meeting. He also mentioned a large portion of the revenue was a result of the 60 Life Members. Tim Cameron indicated the Audit Committee had examined the records and found them in order. The Treasures report was unanimously approved.

Vice President Hunt thanked all who had worked on the 2011 Reunion and all who attended. He encouraged each member to get one new member enrolled.

Historian Al Cochran stated he has a great deal of information from the Units first year in Viet Nam and is working to collate that data and a method to make it available for all to review. He then stated he needs project information with pictures if possible from the entire tour period.

Ways and Means: Chairman Pete Philbrick was not present and President Blanchfield gave a brief report and said that anyone that did not get a T-shirt in their size should let him know and it will be sent after more are produced.

Fletcher Sapp discussed the newsletter briefly and will continue in the role of Newsletter Publisher.

President Blanchfield unanimously and enthusiastically appointed Rich Comiso as Chair of the Publicity Committee based on his vast experience and depth of knowledge of that function. He accepted the task with great humility and promptly asked that anyone with specific publicity ideas or avenues of raising awareness of the Association and reaching potential members to please forward that info to him.

VA Services Liaison function was discussed at great length. President Blanchfield outlined his concept that this position be an avenue for members to obtain advice on making VA Claims and serve as a clearinghouse for members to share their successes with the VA Organization. It is not envisioned to be a location to complete the claims forms. That is best accomplished by contacting a local representative.

The take away point is to get help from a local representative who deals with VA claims and can act as your advocate. Don Baux will continue to serve as our VA Services Liaison.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Reunion-Members voted 29 to 12 to continue the 589<sup>th</sup> Reunion on an annual basis after a motion by Charles Begley and seconded by Larry Jenkins. After a discussion of various locations, President Blanchfield asked for a volunteer to chair a Reunion committee to locate an acceptable alternate geographical location and plan a Reunion for there. There were no Volunteers for this task.

A vote was then taken for returning to the Branson area with a majority of 34 in favor. There were 6 opposed and 24 abstentions.

President Blanchfield then discussed the Reunion Committee and said he would like to have one person per Company to help with the Reunion and coordinate membership efforts. Members were asked to let him know who would be willing to act as their company's coordinator with the following results:

Company	Membership	Reunion
HHC	Sterling Hester	Dennis Kotke
A	Luigi Bersani	Randy Joyner
B	Charles Begley	Bill Fraundorfer
C	Larry Jenkins	John VanZelf
D	John Miller	Willie Bonney

Election of Officers was then addressed. President Blanchfield reminded members that the By Laws allow the President to only serve two terms of two years each. There are no limit restrictions on the other elected offices. The floor was opened for nominations.

A motion was made by Larry Jenkins and seconded by Chuck Schueddig that Bob Spencer be reelected as Treasurer. Membership approved that motion.

A motion was made by Chuck Schueddig and seconded by Larry Jenkins that Dennie Pendergrass be reelected as Secretary. Membership approved that motion.

A motion was made by Ralph Downing and seconded by Rich Radko that Al Cochran be reelected as Historian. Membership approved that motion.

A motion was made by Larry Jenkins, and seconded by Mike Morrish to allow for an interim additional Vice President position with duties to be assigned by the President. A single Vice President will be decided at the 2013 elections. The motion was approved by the membership.

A motion was made by Larry Jenkins and seconded by Tim Cameron to reelect John Hunt as Vice President. The motion was approved by membership.

A nomination was made by Mike Morrish to elect Nick Kallis as Vice President and seconded by Rich Comiso. The nomination was approved by the membership.

A motion was made by Larry Jenkins and seconded by Al Cochran that Perry Blanchfield be reelected as President. Membership approved that motion.

A motion was made by Nick Kallis and seconded by Ralph Downing that the by-laws be changed to provide for the position of Chairman of the Board to add long-term stability to the Association and to name Perry Blanchfield to fill that position. Membership approved the motion.

Randy Joyner was appointed by President Blanchfield as Chaplin and agreed to by acclamation.

At 1500 a motion was made by Willie Bonney and seconded by Clyde Hutson to close the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Randy Joyner offered a closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted

Dennie Pendergrass, Secretary