



589th Engineer Battalion Assn. (Vietnam)

589th Engineer Battalion Assn. Business Meeting, September 12, 2015

President John Miller called the meeting to order at 1200 hours.

Tom McLain gave the invocation.

President John Miller led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Miller thanked all officers and reminded all members to seek the board's help with any questions they may have during the year.

Minutes of 2014 Meeting

Secretary Sterling Hester was asked to read the minutes of the 2014 meeting, copies of which were distributed among the membership. Larry Jenkins made a motion to accept the minutes as printed and circulated, without reading. The motion was seconded by Mike Morrish. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bob Spencer gave an in-depth report of the Association's financial condition. He thanked the audit committee consisting of Tim Cameron, Jerry Nichols and Bill Carter, for providing an audit review of this past year's transactions. Bob talked about the strides we have made in the financial workings of the association including the PX and the electronic funds transactions. He discussed the tax-exempt status that we recently obtained and how that affects our donations to the 589th. After answering questions from the floor, Rich Comiso made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Mike Morrish. Motion approved.

President's Opening Comments

President Miller commented that the association membership currently stands at 684. He thanked all the attendees returning for multiple reunions. President Miller welcomed six first-time reunion attendees and presented them with a 589th shot glass.

First Time Attendees

Justin	Fritchley	A Co	Mar 1966 – Nov 1967
Kenneth	Stasiak	513 th	Mar 1970 – Oct 1970
Clifton	Felts	B Co	Jan 1968 – Oct 1968
Robert	Honick	HHC	Jan 1971 – May 1971
Clay	Bolen	B Co	Jan 1970 – Jul 1971
Paul	Howe	A Co	Dec 1968 – Feb 1970

A motion was made by Bill Darreth to include all new Honor our Fallen next of kin as Honorary Members. This brings our total to 60 Honorary Members. The motion was seconded by Rich Comiso. Motion approved.

The President thanked Jim Swick for organizing and coordinating the Golf Scramble. Jim related the results as follows;

Closest to the Pin – Terry Story

Longest Drive – Shawn Gourley

Longest Putt – John Miller

Best Team – Bob Spencer, Jim Swick, Terry Story and Russell Eary

The President thanked the Ways and Means Committee Chair, John Ryan, for his efforts with the PX and Raffle/Auction. The President thanked Rich Comiso for his publicity effort and asked if there is more we need to do to get the word out to the media about what we are doing. The President thanked Sterling Hester for keeping the 589th Memorial Plaques and other memorabilia.

589th Unfinished Business

A motion was passed in 2014 to purchase a 589th brick at the Branson Museum. Since Tim Cameron made the original motion and the brick had not been purchased yet, Tim was appointed by the President to complete the transaction on behalf of the Association. A proposed Association Challenge Coin was discussed, with it being noted the coin was stamped with the incorrect date. The question was asked whether the Association should accept the coin with the incorrect date, or make arrangements to have the coin re-stamped correctly. At the conclusion of a discussion, a motion was made by Perry Blanchfield to accept the coin and have the date changed. The motion was seconded by Nick Kallas. Motion approved.

New Business

Bob Spencer led a discussion on Board of Director elections and officer positions. The question was posed, should the Association membership vote for five (5) Board members and let the board as a group decide the individual officer positions? A discussion followed regarding how to fit nominations into officer positions and the board's responsibility and accountability for those ultimate decisions. A motion was made by Jim Swick to allow the membership to select the directors, have the directors select the officers, and have a Bylaw revision created to reflect that change. The motion was seconded by Rich Comiso. After discussing the change to the By-law, a draft revision was read to the membership and the motion passed.

The Honor Our Fallen program was discussed and a special thanks went out to the 52 volunteers who participated. The President encouraged members not able to participate this year to reconsider in future years. Dennis Pendergrass discussed the process of locating the graves of our fallen brothers. It was noted that last years intended donation to the Vietnam Memorial Wall fund was redirected by board action to help fund the 2015 Honor Our Fallen program.

The Board announced it was going to gift the two room upgrades given to the Association by the Stone Castle Hotel to John Ryan and Tom McLain based on their contributions to the Association during the past year. A drawing was held to award the two free rooms sponsored by the Stone Castle; the rooms went to Larry Dench and Mike Waugh. A motion was made by Nick Kallas to authorize the names of the directors to be included in future drawings. The motion was seconded by Larry Jinkins. The motion was approved.

Scheduling Reunions

The Board presented a recommendation to hold the Branson reunion every other year for the following reasons:

1. The organization of the reunion requires many hours of effort throughout the planning year and sadly, like most other tasks, these efforts have fallen on a very limited number of members willing to accomplish those tasks.

2. With the introduction of the Honor Our Fallen program, which is a planned annual event, those same members are being asked to do even more.
3. The expenses for many attendees has become difficult to justify on a yearly basis.
4. We are seeing many of the same faces every year, which is good, but if we changed it to a bi-annual event we might encourage even more to attend.
5. We are getting older and travel is becoming more difficult for us every year.
6. Having it bi-annually would allow for more Mini Reunions in other areas of the country for members that can't make it to the main Branson Reunion.

After considerable discussion, Perry Blanchfield made a motion to move to Bi-annual Reunions with Mini reunions in off years. The motion was seconded by Tim Cameron. The motion passed with 3 nays (Nick Kallas, Larry Jenkins, Freddie Guth).

Election of Officers

Board of Director ballots consisting of the six names nominated, those being Perry Blanchfield, Dennie Pendergrass, Sterling Hester, Mike Morrish, Charles Begley and Bob Spencer, were distributed, with instructions to vote for five individuals. It was noted that based on the bylaw amendment, the five top vote-getters would be elected to the Board, with the Board selecting the individual officer positions. It was also noted the ballots will be tallied and the results announced at the Farwell Dinner.

Note:

At the conclusion of the Farewell Dinner, Bob Spencer reported the results of the election. Spencer reported that after a discussion among the Board members, Perry Blanchfield decided to remove his name from the ballot because of the position he holds, Chairman of the Board, is provided for in the bylaws and does not require him to stand for election. Therefore, the results of the balloting are that each of the five members nominated for the Board, those being Dennie Pendergrass, Sterling Hester, Mike Morrish, Charles Begley and Bob Spencer, are elected to serve a two-year term on the Board. Spencer went on to report that during its reorganization meeting the Board had elected him President, but had decided to wait a couple of weeks before appointing members to the remaining positions of Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Open Microphone

Past years' member losses were read by Tom McLain.

Charlie Klotz	A Co	Apr. 13, 2015
Joseph Lagassee	A Co	Mar.08, 2015
Rufus Hill	C Co	Apr. 14, 2015
Billy Stemen	C Co	May 08, 2015

Closing

President Miller mentioned the group photos to be taken outside the main lobby and the Memorial Service at the gazebo at 1500 hours.

A Toast to the 589th by A Co Jim Swick.

Closing Prayer by Tom McLain.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Sterling Hester, Secretary