

Mid Year Meeting

October 9, 2022 – ZOOM

The meeting was called to order at 6:15pm by Commander French with 16 Brothers present or later joining.

At the Department Encampment it was discussed to establish a feasibility committee to look into establishing a State-wide college scholarship fund, and to eventually develop the rules and process to administer it. Brothers Duffy and Albanese have agreed to serve on a Feasibility Committee. Brother Albanese described the annual scholarship Ellis Camp awards. Commander French will ask around the Camp Commanders for a 3rd volunteer, looking for an October 19th start date on the Committee.

Department Encampment preparations...

Commander French asked about who to coordinate with on the Dr. Mary Walker Award. Brother Albanese has been involved in that and suggested contacting the National Quartermaster.

Commander French announced his nominations for the award from the Daughters and the Aux.

Commander French also announced a recommendation for the National award and asked Brother Wheeler to help move it through the National chain of command.

The Commander asked about suppliers for the various awards we give out at the encampment....

Brother Stump – looking into digitizing the Department Archives using “Fold 3”. A proposal will be written up and presented at the Encampment. Brother Orton expressed concerns with information security. The Department needs to have our material out of the cemetery building where it’s been at by the end of the year. Other proposals will be discussed as to where 10-12 boxes of material may be stored. Later in the meeting, Brother Castler added more to this discussion in re. storage racks, boxes and the various entities’ recordkeeping requirements.

Brother Castler and Commander French are establishing a new award, the “Danny Wheeler Meritorious Service Award” for Department Officers who have completed their term in an outstanding manner, possibly extending it into the Daughters and Aux. It will be an actual medal, to become a budget item – Commander French to donate the cost of the die to strike them.

The Commander is looking at eliminating the Department ROTC/JROTC Liaison position and moving the duties to the Patriotic Instructor. National is doing most of that function already. The Camp positions should not be affected.

The Rally Round the Flag Committee will be disbanded.

JVC Brother Stump - Brother Stump described some targeted recruitment efforts, with one new member. He described some efforts at National to streamline recruitment and membership activities.

Brother Shadman asked about the Encampment location – 2023 will be in Callicoon, 2024 will be in Rochester. The Encampment Committee is trying to get a year ahead on planning, hopefully future

committees will be able to stay at least one year ahead. The 2023 National Encampment will be in New Hampshire.

Brother Wheeler raised the subject of the cost of the Callicoon Encampment. There was an extensive discussion on various costs and price packages.

Secretary Pugsley described the current Department Membership demographics and totals. There was an extensive discussion on Life Members and dues. We have 508 listed members, but 422 dues paying members.

Commander French is on the new National Fundraising Committee. National may be asking the Camps to assist in raising money for Nation, which created the question – will the Departments receive some of the funds they help raise? The committee is new, so no answer on that yet.

The Commander discussed the new General Order on lineage documentation for new applications. The General Order can't be complied with yet due to the absence of the required database and should be stayed or rescinded. There was brief further discussion on this later in the meeting in re. forms of documentation and where to look.

Brother Castler asked about the costs associated with the Eagle Scout Coordinator's duties. Is there a way to cover these costs? There was a discussion on using PayPal for helping with Department projects, we may get some funding from the public. There was a discussion on our 501C3 status and how that works with PayPal – Brother Stump has a good handle on how that works.

Brother Verstrete asked if National would help fund the ROTC activities with the extra National Dues they're going to collect... Most of the increase will be going to pay for the Banner and to support another administrative position. The Commander described the vote process that allowed the Banner to stay as a paper copy – he will be sending out further info on that in a communication with the Department. There was further discussion on this later in the meeting.

The Commander is considering starting a fundraising committee at the Department level using our 501C3 status.

Legislation Committee – Brother Duffy discussed lobbying and asked if the Commander would ask National for permission to lobby on one or more of the issues in the Legislation Committee's Report. There was an extensive discussion on lobbying and 501C3 status.

Further discussion on Life memberships... National gets all the money, none allocated back to Departments and Camps, it's up to them to collect on their own. Brother Duffy suggested a National By-Law change to ask for a proportional amount for the Department and Camps. National By-laws already allow this.

Brother Stump – Thomas Schmidt SVC of Indiana has a Ledger from the Hatch Camp in Friendship, NY. The Allegheny Co. Historian now has this Ledger. Brother Stump asked for a certificate of appreciation to be sent to Brother Schmidt.

Brother Duffy described work at a local cemetery and how those efforts brought them a new member. This generated a discussion on getting new members. There was a discussion on Facebook, and that Camps need to be active there, and out in the public doing things and being seen.

Brother Wheeler – Brother Lyman Baker is not in good condition and will likely pass soon.....

Brother Duffy- The Greenpoint Monitor Museum will now have a permanent home. Suggested that an award/plaque of some kind to George and Janice Weinmann for their work to make this happen. This could possibly be placed in the finished museum. The Tilden Camp will likely be present at the groundbreaking ceremony and hopefully the Department as well.

Secretary Pugsley – Had positive comments on the quantity and value of the information covered at this meeting. He asked if we might have a similar meeting more frequently, possibly every other month or quarterly. Comments and discussion were positive on this suggestion. More discussion on getting Camps and Department officers more involved through these meetings.

Discussion on the new NY gun laws. Parts of the law was struck down as unconstitutional. Other parts may still stand for now, other cases pending. Suggestion that prior to any ceremony, the local police be notified.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30.