



VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.

www.battleofthebulge.org

MINUTES OF

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Bowling Center Lounge Fort George C. Meade

05 November 2013

PRESENT:

J. David Bailey	Ralph W. Bozorth	Douglas Dillard	Vicki Rafel (Guest)
John D. Bowen	Madeleine Bryant	Mike Levin	Robert G. Rhodes
Mary Ann D. Bowen	George Chekan	Sally Lung (Guest)	Alfred H M Shehab

ABSENT:

Thomas Chambers	Doris Davis	John J. Dunleavy	Bert L. Rice
Alan R. Cunningham	Kevin Diehl (Guest)	Ruth Hamilton	John R. Schaffner
Louis Cunningham	Tracey Diehl (Guest)	Demetri Paris	William P Tayman
			Stanley Wojtusik

President Douglas Dillard called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM in the Ft Meade Bowling Alley Lounge.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. The Roll Call was then taken by John D Bowen as indicated above.

PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS: President Dillard asked Mary Ann D. Bowen to fill the vacant Recording Secretary's position which was unanimously approved by the Executive Council.

Ralph Bozorth was then asked to fill the resulting 3 year Trustee position vacancy created by Mary Ann accepting the Recording Secretary position. Ralph agreed to accept the 3 year Trustee which was then unanimously approved by the Executive Council.

Vicki Rafel, who was voted to be the 2014 Treasurer at the Annual Membership Meeting, was recognized as a guest, and will be sworn in at the December Installation of Officers Luncheon at the DoubleTree Hotel on 16 December 2013.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: The Minutes of the last meeting, 09 July 2013, had been e-mailed, or mailed to all. The Secretary asked for any further additions or deletions. There being none, a motion was made by Alfred H. M. Shehab to accept the minutes which was seconded by George Chekan and passed without dissent. Minutes of the 33rd Annual VBOB National Membership Meeting were also distributed for information. They will be submitted for review and approval at the 34th Annual VBOB National Membership Meeting in 2014.

KANSAS CITY REUNION: Ralph Bozorth presented a Financial Report of the Annual Meeting in Kansas City, which includes all expense items. John Bowen reported that he had a request from Doris Davis (as Alan Cunningham reported before the meeting that he would not be there to set up tele-conferencing) regarding the Kansas City reunion that dealt with the costs of the reunion. She requested that the questions (6) be raised at the Council meeting, which John read to Council. There followed a discussion of the report. Dialogue ensued with Ralph answering questions raised and about cost determination; and the difficulty in projecting the charges not knowing in advance the numbers that would attend various events. John Bowen indicated that on buses that you will always lose money on buses if you take the cost of the bus and divide it by the number of seats that it has. John said that he takes the cost of the bus and divides it by 30 and it has always worked out well. The main difficulty is estimating the incidental expenses that must be covered by the Registration Fee to charge. In order to increase our reunion income. Ralph indicated that Registration fees will be more expensive next year, although there are no expenses outlined for South Carolina as yet. He indicated that the Profit and Loss Statements show \$71.03 for this year's reunion as compared with a \$9,916.59 loss in the previous reunion.

Madeleine Bryant indicated that she felt that a \$50.00 Registration fee might be doable. There was some related discussion that having a reunion with an active chapter "in place" is a better way to achieve success with our reunions, as evidenced by the Kansas City Chapter and the excellent planning they accomplished! However we should always have some members of our Council helping out with registration along with Tracey and Kevin when they can be there!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Mike Levin reported that for the period September – October, 2013 we had gained 30 new members of which 10 were Regular Members and 20 were Associate Members. We also had 5 of our Regular Members upgrade to Life Membership. We were also notified of 23 deceased members.

RECRUITMENT REPORT: Bob Rhodes reported that we have recruited 550 new Associate Members so far He also indicated that we were losing more members than we are gaining at this time. He indicated that we need to focus next year on new recruitment techniques.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Sally Lung, Accountant, provided Financial Reports of our Balance Sheet as of 4 November 2013 \$172,944.00 and our Profit & Loss statement from 1 Dec 2012 to 4 November 2013. The P&L report shows Total Income of \$51,023.59 and Total Expenses of \$51,434.02 leaving a balance of Net Ordinary Income at \$-410.43.

BULGE BUGLE:

George Chekan reported that the Bulge Bugle for November has been published and people should be receiving them now. A revised registration form for the December event indicating that the Luxembourg Ambassador will be hosting the Reception of the 16th of December is also included. George directed our attention to Page 14 of the Bulge Bugle which lists VBOB Chapter Statistics as of 4 October 2013, gathered by Doris Davis, VP of Chapters. The chart lists Chapter and the number of Regular, Associate, and Total members. The chart notes that there are 46 active chapters of which 14 Chapter Presidents are Associate Members. He questioned whether all were dues paying members of National VBOB.

BELGIUM & LUXEMBOURG MEETINGS:

President Dillard and John Bowen reported on various discussions or news.

The Belgium Ambassador H. E. Jan Matthysen will be leaving at the end of the year. The new Ambassador will be Mr. Johan Verbeke, who has been the Belgium Ambassador to the United Kingdom.

The Belgium Military Attaché Brigadier General Mike Delobel will be retiring and leaving also by the end of the year. The new Military Attaché will be Brigadier General Johan Andries. The Assistant Military Attaché Major Patrick de Smedt will remain until September 2014.

Doug & John met with the Luxembourg Deputy Chief of Mission Olivier Baldauff relative to plans for the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. He will make enquiries with his government but indicated that their government has elections coming in May 2014 so folks may be reluctant to make decisions until after then.

The Ambassador & Luxembourg Embassy has invited our December Commemoration attendees to their embassy for a showing of the Movie “Charlotte- A Royal at War” followed by a luncheon on the 15th of December and also invited the attendees to a reception at the Embassy on the night of December 16th.

MISC. COMMENTS:

Past President J. David Bailey indicated that he had been invited for Veterans Day by the Dept. of Labor for a special Veterans Day observation, which he will attend.

President Doug Dillard indicated that he will be attending the Patriot Brunch held in Bowie on Veterans Day.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be Tuesday, 14 January 2014, 10 AM, Fort Meade Bowling Alley Lounge, between the PX and Commissary, Fort Meade MD

ADJOURNMENT: The President adjourned the meeting at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann D. Bowen, Recording Secretary
613 Chichester Lane
Silver Spring MD 20904-3331
301-384-6533
johndbowen@earthlink.net

Many Chapters change officers at the end of the year. Would you please send Mary Ann D. Bowen, johndbowen@earthlink.net any changes to your officers, meeting dates and times? These changes will update information on the VBOB Web Site at www.battleofthebulge.org

The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Inc

Balance Sheet

As of November 4, 2013

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Bank of America

Certificate of Deposit 5181 100,000.00

Operating Checking Account 32,801.47

Total Bank of America 132,801.47

Pentagon Federal Credit Union

Pentagon Federal - Share 5.01

Pentagon Federal Money Market 40,137.52

Total Pentagon Federal Credit Union 40,142.53

Total Checking/Savings 172,944.00

Total Current Assets 172,944.00

TOTAL ASSETS 172,944.00

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Opening Balance Equity 205,585.07

Unrestricted Net Assets -32,230.64

Net Income -410.43

Total Equity 172,944.00

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 172,944.00

The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Inc

Profit & Loss

December 1, 2012 through November 4, 2013

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Donations	14,165.50
Interest Income	25.34
Program Income	
Lifetime Members Dues	2,460.00
Membership Dues	30,774.00
Total Program Income	<u>33,234.00</u>

Quartermaster

Certificates	1,515.00
Postage and Shipping	-1,614.64
Purchases	-1,526.80
Sales	5,154.16
Total Quartermaster	<u>3,527.72</u>

Reunion

Convention	-19,430.97
Reunion Income	19,502.00
Total Reunion	<u>71.03</u>

Total Income 51,023.59

Expense

Bugle Publication

Other Services	1,974.00
Postage	5,939.62
Printing	10,381.70
Total Bugle Publication	<u>18,295.32</u>

The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Inc

Profit & Loss

December 1, 2012 through November 4, 2013

Operations

Bank Service Chages	12.00
Dues and Subscriptions	125.00
Insurance	1,443.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	5,200.65
Office Supplies	2,148.56
PayPal Fees	123.68
Postage, Mailing Service	1,678.54
Printing and Copying	715.33
Professional Fees	
Accounting Fees	3,300.00
Outside Contract Services	186.60
Total Professional Fees	<u>3,486.60</u>
Rental	301.00
Subcontractor	16,309.00
Telephone, Telecommunications	722.68
Travel and Meetings	
Seminars and Meetings	184.00
Travel	688.66
Total Travel and Meetings	<u>872.66</u>
Total Operations	<u>33,138.70</u>
Total Expense	<u>51,434.02</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-410.43</u>
	<u><u>-410.43</u></u>

Financial Report 2013 Reunion

The attached table reveals the following:

- VBOB lost \$1,466
- The Registration form and QM sales are the only sources of income
- The Expense items are not related to any of the tours or the food at the banquet

Breaking even on the tours and the banquet is not too difficult because we know the associated expenses up front. Knowing what these expenses are allows us to establish a cost for the attendees to pay. From the **Income items** at the top of attached table we see that the VBOB made about \$900 on the tours and the banquet.

Now lets look at the lower section of the attached table, that lists the **Expense items**, which total \$5,968. These costs can only be offset by the registration fee; however for VBOB to have broken even for this reunion the registration fee would have had to have been \$58, (102 people divided into \$5,968).

The VBOB registration desk, interviews, etc represents 64% of the total Expense items. The following is a breakdown of the expenses associated with the registration activity:

Process registration forms, etc	\$1,930.50
Office expense, copy, printing, etc	\$160.30
Shipping, packets, QM	\$114.71
Travel. Lodging, meals,etc	\$1,562.79
Total	\$3,768.30

In closing there are two options if VBOB is to break even on reunions:

- Reduce the Expense items
- Increase the registration fee

Ralph
11/5/13

2013 Reunion Description	Nov 5, 2013 Income	Expense	Net
Income items			
VBOB Registration Form:			
Registration fee \$35, (102)	\$3,570		\$3,570
Tours:			
Wed - Independence	\$3,965	\$4,061	\$96
Thur - Fort Leavenworth	\$3,408	\$2,500	\$908
Fri - KC+Harley Davidson	\$4,218	\$3,452	\$766
Hotel banquet, food-champaigne	\$4,277	\$4,923	\$646
QM sales	\$186		\$186
Total Income items	\$19,438	\$14,936	\$4,502
Expense items			
Pre reunion site visit-Jan 2013		\$547	\$547
Hotel:			
Hospitality room		\$298	\$298
Audio/visual		\$324	\$324
Internet, easels		\$158	\$158
Banquet, bar tender's charge		\$232	\$232
Wreath		\$200	\$200
Shipping, flags, QM, etc		\$125	\$125
Hospitality room supplies		\$316	\$316
VBOB registration desk, interviews		\$3,768	\$3,768
Total Expense items		\$5,968	\$5,968
Grand totals	\$19,438	\$20,904	\$1,466