



VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.

www.battleofthebulge.org

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Bowling Center

Fort George G. Meade

9 July 2013

PRESENT:

Douglas C. Dillard	Alfred H. M. Shehab	Mary Ann D. Bowen	Demetri Paris
Mike Levin	John D. Bowen	J. David Bailey	Sally Lung (Guest)
Ruth L. Hamilton	Robert G. Rhodes	George Chekan	

ABSENT:

Ralph W. Bozorth	Madeleine Bryant	Bert L. Rice	William P. Tayman
Doris Davis	Thomas Chambers	John Schaffner	Stanley Wojtusik
Alan Cunningham	Robert Bowles	Louis Cunningham	Kevin Diehl
Hope Kirkendall	Gary Patucci	John J. Dunleavy	Tracey Diehl

President Douglas (“Doug”) Dillard called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Ft. Meade Bowling Center Lounge and gave the Invocation.

Alfred Shehab led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Recording Secretary Ruth Hamilton then took the Roll Call as indicated above.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: The minutes of the 5 March 2013 meeting were emailed to all Executive Council members with email addresses. Printed copies of the minutes were available at the meeting. John Bowen pointed out a correction in the terms of office for the Executive Vice President and Treasurer positions. That correction was made before emailing/ mailing copies to council members and Chapter Presidents. John then made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. The motion was seconded and it carried without dissent.

PRESIDENT'S GENERAL COMMENTS & STATUS REPORT: President Dillard apologized for not being at the previous meeting because he was in Germany while his wife was processed for her green card. He recognized the Past Presidents in attendance and thanked them for all they have done for the organization. Then he asked if they wanted to say a few words. Past President Demetri (“Dee”) Paris recounted that the first meeting of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge (VBOB) was just four members who met in a spaghetti house. It later began to grow and the meeting location was moved elsewhere. Past President George Chekan stated that he thinks we have too many meetings throughout the year. Past President J. David Bailey said that in President Dillard’s absence, he attended Veterans Administration (VA) meetings: a conference call on 8 May 2013, and a formal meeting of the Veterans Day Committee on 16 May 2013. He pointed out that the National Veterans Day Committee will be working side-by-side with the VA on a joint outreach initiative. The intent of the initiative is to ensure all veterans know what benefits are currently available to them.

President Dillard commented that as an organization, we need to monitor our financial situation; the cost of the *Bulge Bugle* was discussed. Decreasing annual publication by one issue was considered, but it is the main means of communication with the Chapters. Sally Lung said that we are doing better at this time of the year; she cautioned about overspending at the reunion.

In Alan Cunningham's absence, President Dillard covered the topic of teleconferencing. He met with the Fort Meade Public Affairs Officer to discuss obtaining a conference room with telephone and computer capabilities for our meetings. If we can acquire such a facility, it would save a lot of travel for Executive Council members who have difficulty getting to meetings.

President Dillard noted that during the last meeting Alfred Shehab made a motion to change Associate Membership fees to \$50 for a 4-year Associate Membership. Sally Lung resurfaced the concept of once-a-year membership renewals and she provided several statistics on monthly memberships with the peak months being August, September and January and slow months being May, June and July. Sally said that processing membership renewals each month is a lot of work. President Dillard said that he will get with the VBOB administrative personnel in Philadelphia, PA on this. John Bowen pointed out that the general VBOB membership must vote on any changes in Associate Membership fees and renewal procedures.

Alfred Shehab asked if there is a roster of members who live in the nearby area to identify members for meetings, leadership positions, etc. President Dillard said that he would ask Kevin and Tracey Diehl if they can run a query of the membership to identify VBOB members who live in the nearby area (Washington, DC/Virginia/Maryland) to fill Executive Council positions, especially Associate Members. Mike Levin stated that perhaps our meetings are not being held at the best days and times for members to attend. A comment was made that we can possibly find out from the local VBOB members what days and times would be best for them to attend meetings. Past President J. David Bailey said that meetings should not conflict with VA meetings, which occur on Thursdays.

Alfred said that if we bring in active duty personnel, we should take time to acquaint them with the Battle of the Bulge and VBOB. If they were to become trustees, they could serve as ambassadors for us. Having brochures that provide background information about the Battle of the Bulge and VBOB might be helpful. Ruth Hamilton shared a copy of a brochure from another organization with such information with President Dillard for consideration.

MEMBERSHIP: President Doug Dillard recognized Bob Rhodes for his efforts regarding membership. Then Bob Rhodes said that he had sent out two letters in an effort to get new Associate Members. Since the last meeting, we increased by 25 Associate Members, so we are now at 465. This is approaching the goal of obtaining 500 Associate Members. Bob has queried several Associate Members and asked if they would be interested in stepping up to take over Associate Memberships. He is planning to put together a job advertisement to seek someone to run Associate Memberships. We want the person to work closely with the Chapters and Doris Davis, as Vice President for Chapters. Bob thinks that the best way to find an interested person might be to publish the ad in the *Bulge Bugle*. Sally Lung commented that taking on the job might be a good opportunity for someone to build experience for their resume.

BULGE BUGLE: Past President George Chekan said that the next issue of the *Bulge Bugle* is ready to go to press except for the nominations of members for the 2014 officer elections. The section currently states that nominations will be posted on the VBOB website 15 July 2013.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Alfred Shehab said that all Executive Committee members need to assist with proposed nominations. Ralph Bozorth was contacted about his position. He has been our Treasurer for 3 years and Executive Vice President; he does not want to be

considered for either position but he will accept a position as a Trustee. At this time, we do not have a name for a Treasurer nomination. Alfred called Alan Cunningham and asked him if he would be willing to serve as President; he received an email reply from him. Alan was concerned about overstepping Ralph Bozorth, but this is not the case now. We need to eliminate the position of Corresponding Secretary. Ruth Hamilton explained her dilemma in continuing to serve as Recording Secretary. The recommended slate of officers for 2014 is as follows:

President - Doug Dillard
Executive Vice President - Alan Cunningham
Vice President, Chapters - Doris Davis
Vice President, Membership - Barbara Mooneyhan
Treasurer -
Recording Secretary - Madeleine Bryant

The Military Affairs Liaison position is an appointed position; the incumbent is mostly involved installations and other military organizations. Alfred said that we will want to meet with the new Garrison Commander to let him know about us and our agreement with Fort Meade.

The names the proposed 3-year Trustees are: Mary Ann Bowen, Bert Rice, and Mike Levin.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Sally Lung reviewed the VBOB Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet through 8 July 2013.

VBOB BOOK: Ralph Bozorth provided the following information about this initiative. On 2 July 2013, he sent a personal check for \$1000 as a deposit to the publisher, Aperture Press, LLC. (An amount of \$2500 was approved by the Executive Council.) Approximately 200 stories ranging from one-paragraph to three or four pages in length will be included in the book. About one third of those who submitted stories returned signed release forms.

2013 REUNION: The 2013 Reunion in Kansas City, MO, was covered in the *Bulge Bugle* and the minutes of the last meeting. Past President J. David Bailey mentioned that members should be making reservations now for this reunion and Tuesdays generally are the best day to book flights. Ralph Bozorth reported that as of 1 July 2013 a total of 14 people had registered. This is about the same number as for the 2012 Reunion. Seventeen rooms have been reserved at the Embassy Suites.

2014 REUNION: The 2014 Reunion in Columbia, SC is scheduled to be held during the first week of September 2014. The hotel will probably be the Marriott that was used for the 2010 Reunion.

2014 70TH ANNIVERSARY TRIP & EMBASSY UPDATES: President Doug Dillard wrote to both the Belgian and Luxembourg Embassies regarding this event, but he has not yet received a response from either embassy. There will be a Belgian Military Attaché attending the 2013 Reunion.

President Dillard received an invitation to attend Belgium Day. He will find out who will attend that event. The Luxembourg Military Attaché will attend the December event in Crystal City/Arlington, VA. There are a number of changes occurring in the Belgian Defence Force key positions. Prince Philippe will become the King of Belgium because the current king abdicated the throne to his son who is very favorable of VBOB. We will need to coordinate with the Belgium and Luxembourg Embassies for flights, tours, etc. Because of the anniversary of World War I in 2014, European attention has taken on a different focus.

John Bowen moved that the meeting be adjourned. His motion was seconded and carried without dissent. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruth L. Hamilton, Recording Secretary
1045 N. Utah Street, Apt. 408
Arlington, VA 22201-5753
703-527-8235
ruth12345@aol.com

**Chapters that have had changes in officers or meeting dates/times to Ruth Hamilton
ruth12345@aol.com. These changes will update information on the VBOB Web Site at
www:battleofthebulge.org.**

2013 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS:

**10:00 a.m. Fort Meade Bowling Center
(Between PX and Commissary)
Fort George G. Meade, MD
~~Tuesday, 27 August 2013 (Canceled)~~
Tuesday, 12 November 2013**