



VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.

www.battleofthebulge.org

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Via Teleconferencing

Monday, 3 November 2014

PRESENT:

J. David Bailey	Madeleine Bryant	Douglas C. Dillard	Barbara Mooneyhan
John D. Bowen	Alan Cunningham	Gary L. Higgins (Guest)	James Triesler (Guest)
Mary Ann D. Bowen	Louis Cunningham	Sherry A. Kloop (Guest)	
Robert Bowles, Jr.	Doris Davis	Mike Levin	
Duane R. Bruno (Guest)	Tracey Diehl (Guest)	Sally Lung (Guest)	

ABSENT:

Ralph W. Bozorth	Kevin Diehl (Guest)	Hope Kirkendall	Alfred H. M. Shehab
Thomas Chambers	John J. Dunleavy	Robert G. Rhodes	William P. Tayman
George Chekan	Ruth L. Hamilton	Bert L. Rice	Stanley Wojtusik

1. CALL TO ORDER: President Douglas (“Doug”) Dillard called the teleconferencing meeting to order at 10:06 a.m., via the teleconferencing network. Because of MD law regarding the taping of conversations President Dillard indicated that the teleconference will automatically be taped.. John Bowen was recognized to deliver the Invocation and all phone contacts were open for everyone to say the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Mary Ann Bowen, Recording Secretary was recognized to take the roll call the results of which is shown above. There were 17 people on the teleconference which included four 2015 new officers: Duane Bruno, 2015 Treasurer, Gary L. Higgins 2015 2Yr Trustee, Sherrie Kloop, 2015 VP Chapters, James Triesler, 2015 3Yr Trustee.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: The minutes of the 8 July 2014 meeting were emailed to all Executive Council members with email addresses. Doris Davis indicated that Patrick Henchy's name should be corrected in two places. Minutes were approved with those corrections.

3. PRESIDENT'S GENERAL COMMENTS & STATUS REPORT: In anticipation of the trip he had sent a letter to the Luxembourg Ambassador asking if there would be any awards given out in Luxembourg. The Ambassador responded that on 11 Nov 1984 the Grand Duke awarded to the Unknown Soldier, at the Tomb of the Unknown, the highest military award for heroic actions in liberating the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and each of the American Veterans who participated in the liberation of Luxembourg is morally a holder of this award. Thus Doug does not believe that there will be any individual awards given in Luxembourg. Doug also mentioned he had a meeting with the VA and they are trying to get money approved to send a film crew on the Trip to Europe. In the meantime they are planning to film interview Bulge Veterans in the Battle of the Bulge Conference Room at Ft Meade, in November. They are limited to four veterans. Doug mentioned that George Chekan is up and around and sends his regards to all. Bob Rhodes indicated that with his new job that he would not be able to handle associate Membership work that he was doing.

4. MEMBERSHIP: Barbara Mooneyhan, VP of Membership reported that from 1 Jul to 30 September 2014 we have recruited 44 new members. 126 members were put on the inactive list (deceased, did not respond to dues letters or no current address) and dues were received from 488 members. There has been a net loss of 82 members for this quarter. A question was raised as to our Total Membership and Tracey Diehl said it was about 3500 members.

5. CHAPTERS: Doris Davis, VP of Chapters reported that a Chapter update will be posted in the Nov 2014 Bulge Bugle, There are 43 Active Chapters and of these Chapters 20 are lead by a Bulge Veteran. Three chapters have recently disbanded San Diego (51), Indian River (41) and Gen. D. D. Eisenhower (35). Two years ago, we had 53 active Chapters, thus in that period we have lost nine Chapters.

# of Chapters	# of Members	Pres is a vet	Pres is Associate
7	100+	3	4
9	50-100	7	2
16	20-50	7	9
7	5-20	3	4
4	Could not reach		

In our next meeting Doris will present ideas to keep VBOB alive.

President Dillard reported that the Delaware Valley Chapter President Gary Lambert resigned and Stanley Wojtusik has assumed the Chapter presidency.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT: Sally Lung provided and reviewed the VBOB Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet through 15 October 2014. Total Income for the period 1 Dec 2013 to 15 Oct 2014 is \$47,075.64. Total Expenses for the period of \$40,854.94 for a Net Income Balance of \$6,220.70 Our Balance sheet for the same period is \$174,640.97.

7. WEB SITE: President Dillard reported for Ralph Bozorth who was away that the VBOB Web site now has 754 photos of veterans, 364 articles, 19 Veteran interviews made by Kevin Diehl and 83 books written by Veterans on the Bulge. All of the chapters are also listed.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT: President Dillard, acting as Treasurer reported that we will be receiving \$6000 from the Genesee Valley Chapter, (since disbanded) formerly of Rochester NY on their sale of 400 copies of their book "The Battle in Common." Stories were submitted by 19 Veterans and four Associates. They are now converting the book to an electronic Format (e-book) which will allow all sales income to go to VBOB National. President Dillard also reported that our VBOB book "The Battle of the Bulge," by our members, for which we had an outlay of \$2500 has sold 98 books and we have received \$611.44 income from these sales from the publishing company. Based on a question from Doris Davis on advertising, Tracey Diehl indicated that it is advertised in each of our Bulge Bugles. The book can be purchased on-line at www.amazon.com or www.barnesandnoble.com. or place an order through Barnes & Noble bookstores. President Dillard reported that he has received a copy of the Audit Report of our finances and everything was fine with one outstanding item which is the need for a letter of receipt for the donation made to the Infantry Museum at Fort Benning GA.

9. REUNION 2014: Barbara Mooneyhan, co-chair of the 2014 Reunion in Columbia SC, reported that they are still wrapping up odds and ends sending things like posters to veterans who were not able to come, to invited guests at the Pentagon, to the Belgium Embassy and to museums and overseas locations that requested the posters. Overall, she was pleased to report that they did end up the reunion with a positive balance of about \$2,000. Doug Dillard thanked her and asked her to convey to the SC Chapter his appreciation for their support in putting on one of the best reunions and financially one of the best. Mary Ann Bowen also complimented Barbara and her South Carolina Chapter for the "fantastic reunion," having heard not one complaint and a lot of great "to dos."

10. 70TH ANNIVERSARY TRIP: President Doug Dillard indicated that we have approximately 48 people signed up for the trip with 2 more tentative. He thanked Doris Davis for her tremendous efforts in telephoning and bring the count up to the present figure. Doris is to be commended for the 11 hours she put in one day on the phone and 10 hours on the next day talking to folks and encouraging them with a personal touch to join the trip. Doug indicated that brochures announcing the trip with registration forms had been sent to all the Chapters as well the 17th Abn, 82nd Abn, 101st Abn and 106th Infantry Division Associations but it was really Doris Davis' efforts that made the day. Doug indicated that he had purchased five American Flags that had flown over the US Capitol with accompanying certificate certifying that they have flown over the US Capitol. These are for presentation to Museums in Belgium and Luxembourg that we visit along with VBOB flags. One VBOB flag had previously been presented this year to the new Bastogne Museum at it's opening. The Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation is providing 4 more VBOB flags, at its expense, to be presented along with the American flags at the other museums. John Bowen was asked the status of the flags and he indicated that they are almost completed and will be shipped to Patrick Brion by the flag company within the week. Doug also indicated that the

TASK FORCE in Europe has designed a special Battle of the Bulge Certificate of Appreciation which will be presented to members of the Task Force, the museums we visit and to the dignitaries who we will see. Doug will also be bringing VBOB coins to distribute as appropriate in appreciation. Doug indicated that he will be leaving for Europe on 2 December.

11. COMMENTS: As this was the closing of his last Executive meeting as President Doug expressed his thanks to all of the Executive Council members that have helped him in his two years in office and he has appreciated all of the support that he has been given as President. He will be serving next year as Past President and plans to provide all the support that he can give.

Madeleine Bryant was then recognized who wanted to thank everybody who has worked on this trip and especially Doris Davis who outdid herself in the recruiting efforts that she has made with a personal touch to increase the attendance for this special trip. "Doris I give you a special pat on the back," Madeleine said.

J. David Bailey was then recognized who wanted to express the thanks of the group to Doug "for your good service over the past two years - a job well done." We welcome our new President Alan Cunningham whom we will recognize on 16 Dec 2014.

Mike Levin enquired as to how many veterans were going on the trip. Doris Davis said that there were 48 people signed up with two more people possible. Of that amount ten are (WWII) Veterans going on the trip.

Gary Higgins was recognized and stated that he went ten years ago on the 2004 trip with Doris Davis and J David Bailey and other and was happy to go again. He is anxious to move forward with the VBOB organization. As a member of the Vietnam Veterans Assn many of our members have fathers who served in the Bulge and are not aware of the VBOB organization. I would like to reach out to our Vietnam Veterans and bring them in as Associate members. I am anxious to get on-board with this "Greatest Generation."

Mike Levin asked if he could get a list of e-mails and names of people going on the trip so that we might make contact. Doris Davis indicated that she is putting together that information and will soon have it finished.

12. REUNION 2015: Alan Cunningham said that he was looking forward to Williamsburg next year and has made a visit to the Great Wolf Lodge and Conference Center last week which is quite children oriented. He will also be looking at the DoubleTree hotel and will have further information after the first of the year.

13. OATH FOR 2015 NEW OFFICERS: There were 11 of the 2015 officers online and Alan requested Doug Dillard to administer the oath of office via the teleconference as each 2015 Officer repeated the oath after Doug.

14. FINAL COMMENT: President Doug Dillard indicated that he was inducted, on 1 November at Fort Benning GA in the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM by President Dillard with thanks to you all..

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann D. Bowen, Recording Secretary
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Chapters that have had changes in officers or meeting dates/times please submit them to Tracey Diehl, 2015 Recording Secretary at tracey@battleofthebulge.org or calling 703-528-4058 These changes will update information on the VBOB Web Site at www.battleofthebulge.org. The VBOB Mailing address is VBOB, PO Box 27430, Philadelphia PA 19118-0430.