

Minutes of the Continental Line Annual Meeting 1/9/2016
Crowne Plaza Hotel, King of Prussia, PA

8:40 AM Meeting called to order by Bob Healy

Prayer by Brad Chetwynd

Roll call taken by Bob Healey

Minutes of the last meeting – January 2015

Motion to Accept 2015 Minutes as read: Glenn Valis, Outwater's Militia

Second: John Taber, UTA

Unanimously Accepted

Compliance Committee Report, Thad Weaver, Chairman

Description of the function of the Compliance Committee, 4 items addressed this year.

- Dues By-law – up for a vote this year
- Liability insurance for the CL as a corporate entity – final quote, to include explosives and pyrotechnics usage was \$3,862.40. The decision was made not to pursue further. As a result the CL as a corporate entity has no insurance.
- Proxy voting – this is permitted by PA law (CL is incorporated in PA) as long as the proxy votes are notarized and registered.
- Review of the safety guidelines

Motion to accept Report of the Compliance Committee: Jess Smith, 24th CT

Second: Bob Balcius, 2nd NH

Unanimously passed

CL Treasurer's Report – Mitch Landin, Treasurer

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as Read: John Taber, UTA

Second: Dave K. PA Navy

Unanimously passed

Mounted Safety Committee

Function is to create a working document for mounted troops and horse safety to regulate horse troops. 2-3 year project. Call for questions was unanswered. No questions from the floor.

Motion to accept: Eric Nason, 2nd South Carolina

Second: Jack Cerra, 4th South

Unanimously passed

Report of the Northern Department Coordinator – Ellie Hutchinson

Motion to accept, seconded and unanimously passed

Report of the Southern Department Coordinator – Eric Nason

Convince more units to come South, always supported ND and MAD events

Attrition, Guilford Courthouse, Camden, small regional events

Motion to accept SD Report as read: 7th VA

Second: Susan Stewart, 2nd MA

Unanimously passed

Report of the Mid-Atlantic Department Coordinator – Steve Santucci (New coordinator 2016)

Peter Warren House, Mount Vernon, Jockey Hollow, Monmouth, Battle of Trenton

Proctor's Artillery to be placed on the inactive list, sadly. Thanks to Jim Stinson for

being the commander of Proctor's and a mentor for so many reenactors.

Motion to Accept MAD Report as read: 3rd PA

Second: 2nd PA

Unanimously passed

9:18 Nominations for New Continental Line Chairman

Nominated: Bert Puckett by Bob Allegretto, Tallmadge's 2nd Dragoons

Second: 7th VA

Unanimously passed

Bert will continue on the same track, thanks for the trust and confidence and hopes to follow the examples of the founders.

9:21 New Applicant Unit – Marden's Gun, sponsored by United Train of Artillery

Sponsor - John Taber, UTA John Glover, Representing Marden's Gun (3rd

NH)

9:24 - New Units up for a vote

Stevens Independent Artillery – Sponsor, John Taber, UTA Gregg Provost, Stevens Ind. Artillery

Attended in 2015: Bunker Hill, Old Sturbridge Village, Segregansett , Nathaniel Greene Homestead, Artillery School. Equipment safe and up-to-date (JT)

Spanish-Louisiana Gun – Sponsor, Mike Cecere, 7th VA Hector Diaz – 6th Spanish Louisiana

Attended in 2015: Mount Harmon and Monmouth. Centered in MD and VA – Applying as a second impression

1st VA Dragoons – Sponsor, Bert Puckett, 3rd Dragoons

9:32 – Prospective new units left the room during discussion and voting.

Stevens Independent Artillery

Steve Colonies, Crane's Artillery – very safe on the field

9:34 Motion to accept: Larry Maxwell, 4th NY Second: Steve Taskovics, 85th Saintonge
Unanimously passed

Spanish Louisiana Gun - DISCUSSION

Chuck Faust, McDougal's Rifles: Sponsoring unit has a gun

Bill Myers, Coryns Artillery: Do they have a full crew? Always borrowing from other units, will they be able to move the gun around on the field?

Mike Cecere: This is only a problem when they need to travel to events outside of VA and MD.

Bill Myers, Coryns Artillery – Inspection should take a second look at them to make sure they have an experienced crew and can field the numbers. Concern: Can they field a crew consistently?

Jim Stinson, Proctor's Artillery – at Mount Harmon, during the inspection, Jim and Mitch Landin had to shut them down not let them take the field for drill issues. When they were allowed on the field, they had to be carefully watched.

Mary, 7th VA – It was a very humbling experience for the unit and Jim Garner to leave the field at Mount Harmon. They were already asked last year to wait a year. They have worked very hard to improve, reworked their drills, learned how to make more efficient quills.

Jim Stinson, Proctor's Artillery – they still don't have the numbers. Can they field a full crew at

a National Event?

Dennis, 7th VA – 7th VA was responsible for them at the Monmouth event.

Doug, 6th PA – can we have them as a member but not take the field until they are considered safe?

Susan Stewart, 2nd MA – Will they bring muskets? If they could, then they could field as infantry until they can make a full gun crew.

Seamus – Glovers – if they can come, who are the people policing them? If they police themselves, then vote yes. If others are policing them, vote no.

Jim Casco, Whitcomb's Rangers – What is the recommended number? There is a minimum of 4 people needed on a crew to field according to the Safety Guidelines.

Tom Vogley, 1st NJ – We are splitting hairs talking about the numbers. Do they have their act together and are they safe?

Mary, 7th VA – They have gotten in trouble before so they have been working on their drill and safety.

Steve Eames, Eames Rangers – Does it mean they can't be a line member if they don't have the numbers?

Susan Stewart, 2nd MA – She is getting the sense that we should be watching them for another year.

Paul, 6th CT – How was their safety last year?

Mary, 7th VA – She feels safe taking the field with them. They have been cooperative and receptive to improvements.

Jim Casco, Whitcomb's Rangers – The question is not membership, but an additional impression.
9:55 Motion to Accept the Spanish-Louisiana Artillery (Fijo) – Susan Stewart, Seconded by

Mary, 7th VA

41 yes, 3 opposed – motion carried.

9:57 – Chip Marshall, 3rd Dragoons – additional impression for 1st VA Dragoons – no discussion. No vote necessary

10 AM to 11 AM – Breakout sessions – Departments of CL combined with the counterparts in the BB.

11:00 – Dr. Gary Stone, Director, Monmouth Battlefield addresses the membership

Thanks for keeping the park in the news with the reenactments each year. There is a new book that ID's the musket balls coming out and can be bought at the park. John Koopman has written a new novel on George Washington. There is a need to preserve the park as there is a real threat to the home of the NJ militia. We have supported you for 25 years and we are asking for help. Would like any interested reenactors to come in kit for a one-day protest.

11:10 AM – Joint CL/BB presentation of events

Mount Vernon, VA - April 30 – May 1st, 2016 Marshall Smith, 1st VA Regiment, Jim McGaughey, British Brigade. As a result of the event in 2015, there was a film produced for the education center and promotion. (Film shown to membership) It is being proposed as a National Event this year. They hope to do the same as last year. The British will be on the front lawn, American's down in the back field. The battles will be changed around, with the morning battles being only a "half" battle and the full battle being in the afternoons. A Jollification will

be supplied by Mount Vernon . The Facebook page will be used for registration

Battle of Meadow Mills, June 4th and 5th, 2016 - Bill Buser, Von Heers, British Guards 8437 Valley Pike, Middletown, MA, in the Shenandoah Valley, VA at the intersection of 81 and 66. This is an opportunity for the CL/BB to educate the local population. Wood, water, hay, traffic management supplied. This is a turnkey operation and an experienced site for reenactments. This event will have more of a Western flavor – roles for riflemen, militia, Indians.

Battle of Quebec, August 20th and 24th, 2016 – Eric Chetwynd, 2nd MA, Horst Dressler, Kings Rangers Held at Royal Military College, Saint-Jean-Sur-Richelieu. The original redoubt is still there. There are modern showers, portapotties, wood, security and they will supply breakfast and a box lunch. They want a full scale event with all the bells and whistles. It is the 240th Anniversary of the Retreat of the American Army. There is a stipend: Cannons - \$300, Boats - \$250 Need to have a passport or a passport card. When you cross the border, call the weapon an “antique” or a “musket”, NEVER a “gun”. If you have ever been convicted of a DUI, you will not be allowed across the border without a waiver. You can apply for a waiver on the Canadian Customs website. The maximum allowable ROLLED cartridges is 3000. NO loose powder is permitted.

Battle of Brooklyn/Harlem Heights in NJ, Monmouth Battlefield – Sept 16th, 17th and 18th, 2016 Dave Hospador, 3rd PA, Paul Novotny, BB We will be allowed to use land that was restricted before. There will be evening entertainment. The website is www.thebattleofny.com – still under construction. The FB page is “The Battle of NY in NJ” Registration will be up on the webpage. Pre-Von Steuben camp for Americans.

11:56 Am – Vote on the four events

Mount Vernon – CL – 23, BB – 21 Total: 44 Voted IN

Meadow Mills – CL – 8, BB – 6 Total: 14

Battle of Quebec – CL – 26, BB – 17 Total: 43

Battle of Brooklyn– CL – 37, BB – 34 Total: 71 Voted IN

Proposed 2017 Events – Polls of Interest

Sandy Hollow – Paul Novotny, BB – 240th Battle of Brandywine. Word will come out later when the date is set.

Epping, NH – May 21 & 22, 2017 – Ellie Hutchinson, CL, Paul O’Shaughnessy, BB Battle on the same ground but with a different scenario, possibly “Battle of Saratoga” Sponsored by the 2nd NH & 1st NH and 10th Regiment of Foot. They have monies leftover from the last event to be applied to the next one.

Brattonville, SC – Robert Bemis from Brattonville, site of the filming of “The Patriot”. Very historic area, 3rd weekend in April or 2nd weekend in May. Everything is allowed. 45 minutes south of Charlotte, NC. Looking at the Battle of Huck’s Defeat. 815 acres of variable topography. Thirty structures to fight in and around. Highly recommended by Bert Puckett.
Cedar Creek, Middletown VA – still on the docket as a 2017 event. No further information

Fort Wellington, Prescott, Ontario August 2017 – Reg James, 64th, Chase Patterson, Mike Grenier - There are no pistols allowed. Has the support of the Town (already raised \$20,000), Federal and Provincial Members of Parliament. There are washrooms, showers and toilets, straw, wood, portajohns, security, and food. There will be funds for travel expenses – powder

and horse bounties. 2017 is Canada's 150th birthday. Nice fort site – battlefield is adjacent to river. The tall ships will be on the Saint Lawrence Seaway.

12:05 PM ADJOURN FOR LUNCH

1:15 PM – MEETING RESUMED

Proposed Changes in By-Laws

Yearly Membership Dues – proposed \$50 per unit per year to be used for running of events.

Copies of the reworked and re-proposed by law are on the front table. This is to be paid by the start of the annual meeting. It will go into effect the second year after a unit is voted in. The funds will be distributed by the discretion of the board. (SEE REPORT)

Spanish Louisiana: This is the first time we are seeing this. The language is very vague. They have a model we can use to rewrite; this is not a good proposal as written.

Bob Healey: The proposal was published and up on the CL website for prior review.

Steve Colonies, Crane's Artillery: When will this start?

Bob Healey: Next year, 2017

Brad Chetwynd, 2nd MA: Opposed to dues generally. The folks who put this together thought there was an issue getting events due to no money. Two issues – first, the treasurer's report shows we have \$20,000, we should delay this action until we have more money; second, the unit should not be summarily dismissed if they haven't paid, could be voted on for continuance based on non-payment of dues.

Bill Myers, Coryn's Artillery: "discretion of the board" Did they have a meeting to work out the details on how the money will be collected?

Bob Healey: The units can pay while they are registering in the morning before the annual meeting. The group may not be able to vote if their dues are not paid. The by-laws state that a unit cannot be dismissed "without good cause". The unit receiving the money will submit receipts and be reimbursed, up to \$2000. If needed, the money can be distributed before the event. This would provide for more flexibility to the battles and help funding the units needing more money. The funds would not be used to reimburse for alcoholic libations. Since the CL is a 501 (c)(3) they are allowed to spend money on "food and entertainment". Most of the money in the bank for the rainy day fund.

Steve Eames, Eames Rangers: Agreed that we have enough money and there is no need for dues.

Bob Healey: No units have asked for any money this year.

Tom Vogley, 1st NJ: Event sites are hard to find. This gives us flexibility to do special events. The best places for events are getting built up.

John Casida, 5th PA: Trust the board. It's only \$50, just do it.

Jobie Ford, 11th PA: It's only a nominal fee and we should do it.

Nick Dalrymple, 3rd NY: They have lost Newtown Battlefield. They could have used the funding and didn't use any CL money.

Jim Garner, Fijo: How about the \$50 being used to buy liability insurance to protect the reenactors?

Mark Nowaki, 2nd MA: If the money is to be used only for events, what if there are no events? if it isn't We are stuck with money that can't be used. Where does the money go? It is not a slush fund. There is no data, need to know where the money is going.

Carl Gnam, 1st VA: If the CL can pitch in some money, that is a selling point to other sponsors

for events.

Mitch Landin, Treasurer: Until this year, all the funds have been dispersed.

Jack Saure, 4th Legionary Corp: Unless we can start with \$10,000 for Whitpain, then we can't have an event. Having the funds available makes it dramatically easier.

Jack Smith, 24th CT: Without money from the CL, the Battle of Wyoming would never have happened.

Gary Stone: We did brush cuts at Monmouth Battlefield and the money came from the CL.

Brad Chetwynd, 2nd MA: I'm not opposed to giving money to events. Let's just use the \$20,000 before we start to tax the members.

Spanish Louisiana: We are better off spending the money for insurance. The language is awful. Do we trust the chairman? This will become a slush fund.

Bob Healey: We haven't had any problem with trusting the board members.

Susan Stewart: This isn't a complaint against Bert Puckett, but what if we ever elected a non-trustworthy person?

Bob Balcius, 2nd NH: Moved to end discussion and vote on the proposal as written.
40 Yea, 16 Nay, 10 Absentions. Motion not carried, less than 2/3 majority.

1:56 PROPOSED PROVOST POSITION

Decision not to pursue any further and the proposed change has been dropped.

1:58 PROPOSED MOUNTED REENACTIN GUIDELINES

Bert Puckett - There have been years spent crafting the guidelines. It's always been a gentlemen's agreement to try them out, test them and keep tweaking them until they work. The infantry and artillery were added to review the rules. Bert was on the original committee and the developed guidelines were used at every event, but the rules are still evolving.

Jim Stinson: The guidelines were discussed until we were tired of discussing them. They are regulating the horses and mounted reenactors on the field. He thanks the committee for their service.

Jim Garner: The committee and board deserve credit for doing all the work and being proactive by putting together the standards.

John Taber, UTA - He checked the insurance policies issued by the NRA and contacted the underwriters. The reply from the underwriters, "regarding used of swords on the battlefield, they are prohibited and prohibits coverage, in addition saber tag activities are discouraged." It would be foolish to pass the particular section that allows mounted reenactors to use a sword on the field during a battle. We should delete this section of the proposal and pass the proposed guidelines without this section. Otherwise we are opening ourselves up for a huge lawsuit without the liability and we could lose everything we have.

Bill Buser, Von Heer's: He has looked at the NRA insurance and talked with his underwriter. It is okay with them having the current safety regulations. They do not like pistols, but swords are okay. Also, the State Equine law states that if you mount the horse, you take on the responsibility until you dismount. The insurance covers everything except the mounting and dismounting. The dragoons are taking on known risks.

Bob Balcius, 2nd NH - moved to vote the question. 7th VA seconded

YAY - 53 NAY - 1 ABSTENTIONS - 12 Motion carried

2:14 NEW BUSINESS

Bob Allegretto: Brown's Raid did not receive a vote from the CL meeting last year, but did very well. Thanks to his staff and the staff of Fort Ti. Please don't hoard wood.

Jerry Hurowitz – President of Princeton Battlefield Society, Princeton, NJ. The Institute of Advanced Studies is currently engaged in the destruction of the Princeton Battlefield. They are using a section of the Clean Water Act from the EPA to hold them off. They are also getting help from the Civil War Trust. They are having a demonstration of the weekend of Washington's Birthday to pressure the DEP of NJ and Governor Christie into preserving the battlefield.

Discussion: Can we use Reddit? Post a letter on Facebook? Have we considered an event at Princeton? (The size of the battlefield and lack of parking prohibit an event there.)

Brad Chetwynd, 2nd MA: Reading of the roll of past commanders of the Continental Line
Jim Stinson, Proctor's Artillery – fielded the last event in December 2015. Respectfully requested Proctor's Artillery be removed from the active rolls of the CL and officially resigned from CL. Accepted by Bert Puckett.

Bert Puckett, New CL Chairman – addressed the membership, thanks to everyone who supported him but most particularly his wife. Next year is the 30th Anniversary of the Continental Line, so come up with some ideas for a celebration.

Eric Nason: Move to adjourn the meeting Unanimously seconded by rest of the units
Meeting adjourned by Bert Puckett at 2:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Ellie Hutchinson, Northern Department Coordinator