

9th Annual Continental Line Meeting
February 3, 1996
Warrington, PA

Jim Hayden called the meeting to order promptly at 10:10.

Once again, snow and ice (especially in the South) precluded some folks from making the big trek, however 33 (35 by the end of the morning) units were represented by either delegate or proxy.

Opening remarks — Jim Hayden

It was determined that seven people in the room had been to every meeting of The Continental Line to date and noted that this was the first one that Jim Daniel is missing.

Ed Moderacki, new adjutant of the BAR, was supposed to attend the meeting and will be acting as a liaison between the BAR and the CL. Due to extenuating circumstances, he was unable to make the meeting. However, this is one step in fostering our two organizations opening communication lines and working together as the 225th fast approaches.

There was quite a bit on the agenda, so comments should be brief.

Unit Transfers

Weltner's German Regiment in the Northern Department (not to be confused with the somewhat prosperous German Regiment in the Mid-Atlantic Department) has dropped from Provisional Status to off the books due to inactivity.

The Third New York - Long Island Company should be added to the units up for Full Member status.

Second New Jersey, Lawrie's Company has dropped to Provisional Status due to inactivity.

Bergen County Militia, which has been listed in the directory as an "Associate Member," is now a "Full Member" after presenting documentation for receiving pay from Continental Congress.

Artillery Company of Rhode Island, listed as an applicant member in the last newsletter, does not exist.

The 1995 minutes were accepted.

Proposals:

All proposals were considered moved by their writers, only requiring a second to be discussed. The first two proposals were up for full approval by the Line and will be incorporated into our operating procedure. The remaining proposals, if approved, are now active for a one-year trial period, and, at next year's meeting, will be up for a final vote.

Proposal #2 or Bylaws Proposal – Approved

Sean Kelleher proposed that we approve Proposal #2 (Bylaws Proposal) before Proposal #1, in order to have a framework to run the meeting. To do that, Sean motioned to suspend the rules. (Wouldn't be a CL meeting without it.) After a quick orientation due to the poor printing job on the bylaws, we got down to chatting about the semantics.

The proposal was amended to include that "Any operating procedures adopted by the Line will become standard operating procedure."

The only change to the bylaws is Article IV, Section 1. It now reads:

"The Annual Meeting shall be held on the first Saturday of February in Warrington, PA, or at a place and time determined by the Membership."

Mark Magiera moved that we put the rules back in place.

Proposal #1 or Co-Sponsorship Proposal – Approved

Mitch Lee seconded the motion, adding that in light of the problems at Cherry Valley, the Queen's Rangers were no longer members of the British Brigade.

Jim Hayden noted that the proposal referred to our opposition as "Crowned Forces" as opposed to specifically, "The British Brigade." The proposal also states "should have cosponsorship," not "had to have cosponsorship."

It was generally agreed that when both sides are represented, there is a better chance for equal provisions for each side.

Proposal #3 or Rotating Meeting Proposal – Not Approved

Written by Jim Hayden and Mike Bennett, this proposal, in part, originated as a way to involve the Southern units more in the general activities of the Line.

The proposal specified West Point and Yorktown as the two additional sites for the meeting. Paul Hutchins noted that attendance would be best if the locations were near major roads, such as I-95, which prompted thoughts of Standford, CT and Gunston Hall. Walt McIntyre suggested via proxy that we hold a meeting of the Line in the deep South, such as Atlanta. It was also mentioned that the Northern Department now extends into Ontario.

Joe Lessman pointed out that an early meeting took place in Baltimore and was comparatively poorly attended. John DiCarlo agreed, saying we should continue to hold meetings in Warrington.

The failure of the motion prompted a discussion reiterating the need to show support for the Southern units. Buses have gone and will continue to go to the various Southern events. Michael Thompson mentioned that, although it is not a full CL show, the North is being proactive in putting together a bus headed to Guilford Courthouse to support the South.

Proposal #4 or Grand Sutler Proposal – Approved

This prompted an extended conversation regarding sutlers. Bob Sullivan, of Sullivan's Press, offered several words of wisdom in addition to other ideas regarding sutlery that he proposed to the group.

To begin, Bob explained, there are two sides to determining how many sutlers to have — “fewer and better” or “the more the merrier.” Some sutlers work harder to have an authentic sutlery and offer quality merchandise. While the general re-enacting population may enjoy having more sutlers and simply skip over some, the sutlers have to listen to pop guns all day.

Therefore, Bob proposed that there be distinct sutler areas (up to five, but at least two), based on those that make an effort and those who don't, those who enjoy selling mainly to re-enactors and those that want to sell to tourists, and other criteria. The areas don't have to be very far apart, just designated.

Mike Goode mentioned that he had a problem with a sutler claiming to be authentic, who showed up to the event and was farby. He wondered who would police the sutlers. Jim Hayden added that as The Continental Line, a separate entity from the site that generally invites the sutlers, how can we tell [sutlers] what to do? Bob Sullivan suggested getting back up documentation from the sutlers. Mike Bennett then inquired about setting up a list of suggested sutlers. At which point, several folks brought up the idea that it would be hard for sutlers to objectively choose or rate other sutlers, since they are competitors.

Brad Chetwynd, British Brigade Liaison at the time, mentioned that Stephanie Zembrowski, who had been the BB Grand Sutler, was no longer in the position. It was then noted that the BB has been collecting a yearly fee from the sutlers that, in theory, was to be split with the CL. We haven't seen any of the money.

It was then mentioned that we have standards for camps; the sutlers should have standards as well. Joe Lessman suggested that they should come to the Annual Meeting.

One solution to the problem could be a jury system, like a craft show, where you're able to participate if you stick to the standards set up prior to the event. It was also suggested that event organizers prepare sutler evaluation forms after events.

Pam Patrick mentioned that this whole thing was getting very complicated with jurying and reports. Ron Puza suggested that standards should be created and proposed later on. Brad Chetwynd noted that we were straying from the original proposal, and Michael Thompson called the question.

Bob Sullivan commented that it would be very hard to draw the line, because some folks that sell junk also sell some “nifty stuff,” and that it's not the sutler's job to police authenticity. If you don't like something, don't buy it.

Doug Miller, site administrator with the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission, said the PHMC has living history standards that each site has to follow. Every year, after Hope Lodge, they ask for written comments. After an event, they were notified of some inappropriate sutlers. This brings up two thoughts to consider: 1.) you should let the site know if a sutler isn't authentic — some folks wouldn't be able to tell by looking, some site folks don't have time during an event to look, 2.) let the site folks be the bad guys to address a sutler if there is a problem. That's why they're there.

Proposal was amended to read, “I, therefore, would ask the CL to appoint Bob Sullivan to this position for a two (2) year term for the above stated purpose and to work with the event coordinators. Upon approval of the proposal, Bob Sullivan has accepted the position.

Proposal #5 or Sutler Fee Proposal – Withdrawn

Jim Hayden withdrew this proposal, mentioning that this point would be discussed and determined by the CL and BB Grand Sutlers.

Proposal #6 or Authenticity Proposal – Approved (albeit technically withdrawn)

Kevin Coyle penned this proposal after seeing a couple anachronisms around camp. He wondered if a committee to help educate folks on authenticity would be a worthwhile thing to pursue. Basically, this proposal was not asking whether or not there were problems, simply whether a committee should form or not.

At this point, Joe Lessman opined that authenticity was a problem. In looking at camp and uniforms, have we really progressed since the Bicentennial? At Monmouth, Joe was disappointed at the camps -- one unit had lanterns in front of every tent. Some folks had cooking equipment that was out of period, and one unit even had chairs. What we need is for everyone to go back to their units and say, "We need to do better." We need to improve our impression from this point through the 225th. Commanders need to police their own men, and new units need more influence from their sponsors. If we're not careful, some of the folks that have been in this hobby for years may stop coming out.

Jim Hayden pointed out that the Northern Department had addressed this problem at their Department Meeting. Sean Kelleher mentioned that the intentions of the department was to "improve through education." Several activities have been planned to offer more insight as to camp life in the 18th Century. Also, each Northern Department Event will be assigned a "Site Education Supervisor" (term courtesy of Mitch Lee), who will be responsible for maintaining a positive manner while pointing out anachronisms such as watches and sleeping bags.

Steven Taskovics mentioned that it appeared that we were simply proposing the formation a committee, which was not something we really needed to vote on. The report that they create should be presented to the organization in the form of a proposal.

Therefore, proposal #6 was technically withdrawn at this point. Jim Hayden and Kevin Coyle (then new CL Chairman – sorry to ruin the surprise if you haven't been reading ahead) chatted after the meeting and appointed Joe Lessman as head of the committee, which will include at least two representatives from each department – both male and female.

Proposal #7 or Same Branch Proposal – Approved

The thought behind this proposal was safety before authenticity, as well as focus on the coupling of new units and their sponsors. Joe Stokes mentioned that it was important for the sponsor unit to pass along the responsibilities of CL membership and how the Line and units within the Line operate. Several folks commented that they felt that we were creating too many guidelines.

Dave Wilson suggested that the department coordinators should field with new units.

Sean Kelleher stated that we need to keep ourselves open to change -- offering the term "suggest" over "must [be sponsored by a Regiment that is in the same branch of service]." There is the possibility for interested units, such as Van Heer's Provost Corps, to not have complementary units already within the organization, so a provision needs to be made for that.

Tom Vogeley reiterated that we may be getting too bureaucratic and regulatory.

The new wording for the proposal is as follows:

“...Any new Regiment that is applying to The Continental Line must be sponsored by a Regiment that is in the same branch of the service where applicable. For example, an artillery unit must be sponsored by another artillery unit, light infantry by light infantry and so on.”

The proposal passed.

Proposal #8 or Joint Safety Regs Proposal – Part 1 (Yes), Part 2 (No)
Jim Hayden suggested that we address the two areas of this proposal separately -- first the idea of a joint safety document and secondly, what the sponsors must provide.

Jim talked to Neil Sorensen about the safety regulations. The differences appear to be in wording only, so coming to an agreement over a joint set of rules should not be a problem. He also suggested the Liaison officers from the two organizations check for discrepancies and report back to the Line at next year's meeting.

Sean Kelleher inquired about a review of the safety distances for artillery for firing in demonstrations as outlined in the safety regulations. Mark Magiera noted that tests were going to begin soon, and he would forward the results.

Paul Hutchins pointed out that our rules say that rifles loading from the horn would be safe in “demonstrations,” however wasn't specific when it came to tacticals (bringing this up because it has been a bone of contention with some sites in the past). It was determined that no where in the rules does it say that they can't.

This portion of the proposal was approved. Later in the meeting, Jim Hayden assumed the role of Liaison officer and will pursue this with the British Brigade. Mike Bennett mentioned that we work with other organizations as well and wondered how this would affect ties with other organizations.

The second part of this proposal addressed the sites' responsibility regarding provisions.

Eric Chetwynd commented that perhaps we should have a list of suggestions, but not necessarily nail ourselves down with “must haves.” Steven Taskovics commented that it should be mentioned that items 1 and 3 (potable water and loos) should be sufficient to accomodate both re-enactors and public.

Mike Goode felt the proposal was redundant, because we discuss the events ahead of time and don't attend events if they don't supply the necessities. Paul Hutchins agreed, saying that we select events site-by-site, and we shouldn't lock ourselves in.

Regarding item 6, accepting the joint safety rules of the Brigade and Line in writing, Jim Hayden introduced Drew Smith, the British Brigade representative (and twin). He also reiterated that the BB rules and the CL rules were basically the same.

Proposal #9 or Event Geography Proposal – Not Approved

Mike Bennett introduced the proposal and mentioned that it would cut down on our hectic schedules. Drew Smith then commented that if we limit our events and base them on geography, we run the risk of the BB and the CL attending different events. Bob Sullivan mentioned that, with the 225th, coming up, there may be events during

Paul Hutchins moved that the \$500 donation from Monmouth Battlefield be donated back to the Friends of Monmouth. They've been purchasing large tracts of land around the park and could use the funds. Dave Wilson mentioned a march they do up north that helps fund preservation efforts. Ted Heske pointed out that \$500 was one-fourth of our total 1995 income.

The proposal passed.

Liaison Officer's Report – Brad Chetwynd/Jim Hayden

Due to Brad's laryngitis, Jim Hayden, who had also been at the meeting, briefly mentioned that the BB had approved Gunston Hall and North Andover as full BB shows.

A full written report has been included with these minutes.

Department Reports – Sean Kelleher (Northern Department), Kurt Hague (Mid-Atlantic Department) and Mike Bennett (Southern Department)

All three kept their comments short. Each was given five minutes to talk -- none took more than thirty seconds. Basically, any problems and such within the departments was addressed earlier during proposals. Kurt announced that Paul Hutchins would be the new Department Coordinator, and Sean Kelleher mentioned the Fort Griswold event on Aug. 16-17.

British Brigade Representative Report – Drew Smith

In reference to Gary Corrado and the Queen's Rangers' safety violations and such at Cherry Valley (especially after the infamous Ft. Plain event), Drew commented that Brits are not very good at apologizing, so instead they "took 20 men out and executed them for it." Basically, they held a court martial, where the unit was questioned and banned from the BB. Other than that, several good events are scheduled for the new year, and he looks forward to CL participation at same events approved by the BB.

New Units – Provisional to Full

3rd NY - Long Island: This is a hard corps group with gray faced green (1775) uniforms. They are safe, have liability insurance, and often fall out under Mitch Lee. This unit was approved.

Selin's Rifle Company: These riflemen are very authentic as far as dress and carrying little camp equipment. They are very safe and use rolled cartridges. Sean Kelleher mentioned that the unit had full Northern Department support. This unit was approved.

Coren's Independent Artillery: Chuck McGatha mentioned that this unit has come a long way since they first expressed interest in this impression. They have put forth a strong effort and take suggestions well. This unit was approved.

First New Jersey: According to Paul Loane (one of the unit's sponsors), all of these guys are experienced, authentic, and love the hobby; and they will be a good addition to the line. Then, virtually everyone in the room mentioned that Tom Voageley was a nice guy. This unit was approved.

Pennsylvania State Regiment: Mike Bennett commented that they were good fellows that had done research on their uniforms. John DiCarlo also mentioned that he had worked with these guys several times in the past and that they had always been willing to help out. This unit was approved.

New Units – Applicant (or Pre-Provisional) to Provisional

Von Heer's Provost Corps: These guys will portray the "police" of the Continental Army. They are often behind the lines and perform some in camp actions (punishments, hangings, that sort of things). They sometimes fall out in ranks with the Lights. This unit was approved.

Whitcomb's Rangers: These guys offer a minimalist ranger impression. They fell in with the Light Company at Monmouth and are sponsored by the 2nd Mass. This unit was approved.

Fifth Pennsylvania: John DiCarlo of the sponsoring unit, Wayne's Lights, mentioned that these guys are really willing to work. Joe Lessman announced that he had some safety concerns. Mike Goode commented that the lights seemed very cooperative. Dave [Last Name?] from the Sixth MD mentioned that his unit often works with the Line company, which he finds orderly and safe. However, it was said that they fielded too many officers (they have a captain for each of their companies -- light, rifle, and line, which others thought was justified), and someone questioned their dress and the prospect of insurance (it was later determined that they carry a \$2 million policy). The snowball effect brought up additional safety concerns. John DiCarlo was surprised to hear any of these allegations. Joe insisted that the Fifth PA representatives come down to address the issues.

Dominic DiIorio of the Fifth PA, who had been applicant members for three years without hearing any complaints until the meeting, calmly and professionally addressed the concerns and demonstrated that a sincere effort was being made to educate and train unit members on safety, research and document uniforms, and create a command structure that would supply leadership for their three companies that do not often function together on the field. He mentioned that they are excited and eager to do whatever it takes to get into the Line and has asked that other units provide any guidance and additional knowledge to help them work toward full membership. It was decided that this unit should stay as a pre-provisional member.

Pre-Provisional/Applicant Members

It was reminded that applicant units need to be sponsored by "like units."

3rd Continental Light Dragoons: Sponsored by 2nd Continental Light Dragoons, Tallmadges were not at the meeting but will be pre-provisional members for this year.

4th Continental Light Dragoons: There was some concern with the past history and command structure of this new unit, which contains several talented and eager re-enactors. After being unsuccessful in finding a sponsor in the Northern and Mid-Atlantic Departments, the dragoons found a sponsor in the First Virginia, who worked with them during a skills weekend and has offered the dragoons their guidance and support.

Open discussion about Membership

A general question was raised about expelling full members who no longer meet the standards of the Line. We currently don't have a procedure that addresses this issue.

1996 Shows – Approved: Gunston Hall and North Andover

Gunston Hall, VA – June 1-2, 1996: The First Virginia has been sending out (and will continue to send out) information regarding this exciting event with the potential of 500+ on a side. Gunston Hall is located just south of Alexandria in Virginia. The battlefield is approximately the size of the final field at Boone. This was approved as a full CL event.

Williamsburg, VA – weekend after July 4, alternating years: The CL would provide the Continental relief that occupied the city. Paul Loane commented about the British occupation that provides lots of interesting things to do. Bob Sullivan also commented on Publick Times and called this “a wonderful opportunity.” Michael Thompson moved that we open this event to individual units. This passed. Folks interested in this event should contact Jim Daniel ASAP.

North Andover, MA – September 21-22: The first settlement in Massachusettes is celebrating it's 350th anniversary. The date was moved ahead a week to leave room for Brandywine. The location, the Barker farm, offers three restaurants within a quarter mile hike. A tea/social for women and children's tea has been planned. A good time should be had by all. This was approved as a full CL event.

Pound Ridge, NY – October 12-13: Originally perceived as an opportunity to combine the efforts and manpower of the BB, CL, and BAR, the Line has run into a snag with the county – we never received a written invitation. According to Sean Kelleher, Northern Department Coordinator, he has put a lot of effort into trying to make this event work: securing the 10th Mass. as a CL sponsor unit, working with representatives of the BAR and the county regarding logistics, and spending hours on the phone trying to track down an invitation. The King's Rangers, the BB unit with whom we would have shared the responsibility of hosting the event, voted against attending the event. Although this event was not approved as a full CL event, Sean stresses that we need to find an opportunity in the near future to joint sponsor a PTNE (play nice together event) with the other big umbrellas as we head into the 225th.

1997 Shows – Approved: Bordontown, NJ and Western, NY

Bordontown, NJ – June 7-8, 1997: This event will be sponsored by the 2nd NJ and the King's Royal Rangers. Supplies and insurance is being supplied by the city, which is located at Exit 7 off the NJ turnpike. Drew commented that “there are plenty of hotels, so you know the Brits will be there.” This event, which has been in the planning stages for several years, will also feature street fighting. This event was approved as a full CL event.

Western, NY – Sept. 13-14, 1997: In an ongoing effort to honor the gravesite of Baron Von Steuben with an event, Mitch Lee has secured the use a Delta Lake, a state park in the area with room for up to 500 muskets on each side. New York state gun laws will obviously be in effect. Western is near Rome, NY. This event was approved as a full CL event.

Elections:

Jim Hayden nominated Kevin Coyle to take over as Chairman of the Line. Joe Lessman then nominated Jim Hayden as Liaison Officer (which will now work with both the BAR and the BB). Both were approved.

New Business:

Larry Gorecki mentioned the importance of quality rifle flash guards. Some are found to be too flimsy or too brittle.

Mark Magiera asked the Line for permission to represent the Line in working with Parks Canada on re-evaluating their stringent artillery safety guidelines. This was approved.

The meeting adjourned around 5 p.m., after which Bob Sullivan presented "From KOA to Continental Camp, Part 2."

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Newell
Adjutant
The Continental Line, Inc.

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the raffle!

the season that we would not be able to approve. Brad Chetwynd also felt that this was limiting, and we were running the risk of having too much regulation. Tom Vogeley suggested that we use common sense when choosing events. Mitch Lee thought we should stay fluid. Since we're not interested in politics, we should follow the idea that if someone "runs a big juicy event, we will come."

Joe Stokes called the question, and the proposal was defeated.

Prior to lunch, we had a couple announcements that took care of the logistics for the day.

Jim formed the authenticity committee, as well as a committee look into Artillery Drill Standardization. Chuck McGatha will chair the committee and work with folks from all departments to create a report or proposal to present to the Line.

Joe mentioned that this was the best year for pre-registration. Joe will provide some, at least, partial refunds if possible for folks who registered but did not make the meeting.

It was a working lunch, so folks were asked to bring pens and such.

Chairman's Report – Jim Hayden

The British Brigade decided not to have a naval department.

He then reviewed the three CL events we had last year.

Boone, despite a rocky start, went well.

Regarding Monmouth, the new area and ten gun battery were both very impressive. He also mentioned that the "talking trees" reminded him of Woodstock.

At Cherry Valley, the French made Sunday' show by dismantling the bridge and using them to create a safe path for the cannons to get on the field. It was noted that Mitch Lee shelled out the money for the American wood, since the provisions were not adequate as promised. Mitch mentioned that the support he was shown really demonstrated that The Continental Line is a strong organization that cares.

Next, Jim thanked the department coordinators, mentioning that the foundation of the organization is in the departments. As he stepped down from the Chairman's position after eight years in the organization, Jim offered a big thanks to Brad Chetwynd for all his hard work and support, and he mentioned that Joe Lessman had held every post.

Lastly, Jim reminded us that we were all volunteers. This is a hobby -- it should be fun, and we should be respectful of others.

Adjutant's Report – Kim Newell

Kim mentioned that her main goal as adjutant this year was to improve communications. To do that, she put The Continental Soldier on a schedule: Mar. 1, June 1, September 1, January 1, with submissions due the first day of the month before. She also opened up the newsletter to individual subscriptions that run out the end of her term for \$15/year, which covers postage and production costs. Anyone who has something interesting to say or has done some interesting research is highly encouraged to submit their work to The Continental Soldier.

She also thanked the several units that send her their newsletters and encourages others to begin forwarding their newsletters as well.

Probably the most important procedure new this year is the institution of the Safety Officer Registration Process. Our safety regs mention a signed document, and she's trying to make sure that we're covered if our safety regulations ever come under question. About half of the units have sent in their forms, which isn't that bad for this being the first year for the project.

Treasurer's Report - Joe Lessman

The Continental Line, Inc. - Balance Sheet As of December 31, 1995

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking	2,056.79
Total Checking/Savings	<u>2,056.79</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>2,056.79</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>2,056.79</u>
LIABILITY & EQUITY	
Equity	
Fund Balance	1860.24
Net Income	<u>195.55</u>
Total Equity	<u>2,056.79</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>2,056.79</u>

The Continental Line, Inc. - Profit and Loss January through December 1995

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Subscriptions Income	437.75
Contributions Income	100.00
Program Fees	<u>2,228.00</u>
Total Income	2765.75
Expense	
Newsletter Expense	923.20
Program Expense	1406.00
Refunds	<u>240.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>2569.20</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>196.55</u>
Net Income	<u>196.55</u>