

10th Annual Continental Line Meeting
February 1, 1997
Warrington, PA

Kevin Coyle called the meeting to order promptly at 10:00am.

Unit Roll Call – Kim Newell, Adjutant

Out of the 49 full member units on the books, 34 were in attendance at the meeting, and four additional units had returned proxies. We easily made a quorum, 25% of the full member units plus one (or 13.25 units). The two-thirds majority needed for voting on membership status and amendments was 23, and the simple majority to pass proposals and officer elections was 18.

Provisional members in attendance included: Alden's Sixth Mass., Von Heer's Provost Corps, Whitcomb's Rangers, the Rehoboth Minutemen, and the Seventh Virginia.

Applicant members in attendance included: Eighth Mass., Glover's 14th Mass., the United Train of Artillery, Doughty Artillery, the Eleventh PA, the Fifth PA, the Fourth Continental Light Dragoons, and Robert Erskine's Militia.

Neil Sorenson and Drew Smith were present on behalf of the British Brigade. Ed Moderacki attended as a representative of the Brigade of the American Revolution.

Chairman's Welcome – Kevin Coyle

Kevin welcomed everyone to the Tenth Annual Meeting of The Continental Line. He then mentioned that the Board of Directors met briefly before the meeting to determine a new agenda. It was decided that, in light of several letters and a general feeling among the membership that we were becoming overregulated, we should *begin* the meeting with a discussion on the direction of The Line.

Kevin then regretfully announced that the 6th North Carolina had dropped out of The Line.

In an attempt to keep quality units in the Line and make sure that the goals of the organization were still the focus of the Line, Kevin announced that, following some additional quick housekeeping, the focus of the meeting would then focus on the direction of the Line.

Treasurer's Report – Joe Lessman

This year, we opened a business line account for the Line, which had been avoided by treasurers in the past, in order to save on bank fees that would be associated with that. Joe is working with a local bank, which has waived all bank fees since we are a non-profit organization. Now, all monies going to and from the organization will be in the name of The Continental Line.

Up until recently, the only way to generate income for the Line, was through the Annual Meeting. The profit from the meeting, about \$800, is generated by the fact that we get the meeting room at the Warrington for free. After the \$3 per person fee for morning refreshments, the remainder of the registration fee goes back to the Line.

Joe then suggested that we forgo dues and not bring that to the floor this year. Instead, we should all realize the benefit and needs of the Line, and each unit should take the responsibility upon themselves to make a donation to the Line.

The Continental Line, Inc.
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 1996

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1000 - Cash Checking - Commerce	<u>586.13</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>586.13</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>586.13</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>586.13</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
3900 - Fund Balance	2,056.79
Net Income	<u>-1,470.66</u>
Total Equity	<u>586.13</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>586.13</u>

The Continental Line, Inc.
Profit and Loss
January through December 1996

	<u>Jan - Dec '96</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4000 - Newsletter Advertising	70.00
4010 - Subscriptions Income	390.50
4030 - Contributions Income	815.20
4170 - Program Fees	<u>2,672.00</u>
Total Income	3,947.70
Expense	
6010 - Incorporation Expense	460.00
6180 - Contributions	500.00
6380 - Insurance	1,342.00
6500 - Newsletter Expense	1,587.93
6640 - Professional Fees	-100.00
6670 - Program Expense	1,360.00
6710 - Refunds	180.00
6880 - Telephone	<u>88.43</u>
Total Expense	<u>5,418.36</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-1,470.66</u>
Net Income	<u>-1,470.66</u>

Joe noted that the newsletter is a rather large expense (with the last issue's bills not included in the total). Each newsletter costs about \$400 to get out each quarter. As reflected, in part, by the difference in subscription income and newsletter expense, Joe pointed out that many folks getting the newsletter are not contributing to that effort. If each unit paid for their own subscription, the newsletter could pay for itself. The newsletter is

a necessity in order to facilitate communication. A lot of folks contribute, and it's worth the cost.

Joe also pointed out that, except for the newsletter costs, he received very few bills (postage, phone, etc.) from the officers for the work they do on behalf of the Line. We try to keep our costs of running this organization to a minimum, but we need support.

It was noted that the 2nd PA donates \$100 every year to the Line, and Paul Loane was thanked and acknowledged. Even if the unit donates \$10, \$50, or \$100, it would help ensure that the Line will be able to continue functioning at the level that we've achieved. The Line is a valuable organization, and we need to take responsibility for it and support it.

The Direction of the Line

Insurance – Kevin Coyle

The policy that Kevin found costs \$1300. The insurance agent had mentioned that a basic Board of Directors policy starts at \$1000. The alternative would be for each of the directors to go out and secure their own liability insurance, which would cost each of them around \$200 (based on Kevin's cost).

Rick Rehrig (6th PA) had done some investigation, because he was concerned about the high cost. He noted that if you're a non-profit organization, your directors are covered by that. The Living History Association mentioned that, depending on the state, some lawyers can still go after the directors personally. The \$400 LHA policy that several units carry will only cover the unit's assets, not the directors. Kevin felt that, in this litigious society, that was like playing Russian Roulette. Joe Lessman then noted that, regardless of our incorporation status, the liability had existed all along. Before incorporating, individuals covered it themselves (if they had it). Kevin again mentioned that we would be securing insurance for the board, and encouraged each unit to support this.

An Open Letter to the Line -- Brad Chetwynd

Brad had prepared a letter to the Line regarding the direction of the Line, which he then presented at the meeting. That letter has been included in this newsletter.

In addition to looking back at the original goals of the Line, Brad suggested the following course of action: 1. Scrap the fourteen proposals before the Line. 2. Scrap the current membership policy, replace it with a simpler process covering a broader spectrum of original units, and encourage responsibility among host units to deal with problems directly at events. 3. Renew our alliance and communications with the Deep South. They are a valuable part of the Line, as well as representative of a valuable part of Rev War history.

Open Discussion Regarding the Direction of The Line

The discussion reflected the ideas from Brad's letter and moved toward encouraging units to take responsibility to self-police their individual organizations for authenticity and safety – and to continually improve. The proposals that were brought up for this year seemed to be reactionary from incidents that have occurred in the past. Rather than trying to solve problems by creating rules, we need to get back to the original intentions of The Line and give responsibility – as well as guidance when needed – to member and interested units to be the best they can be regarding authenticity, safety, and inter-communication.

In the past, we've been an organization that has a grounding in a largely oral tradition. We've grown to the point (originally we had 13 units; we now have 49 full members plus several interested units), that it was felt that we need to put our goals and ideas into a reference book (it was definitely stressed that these would not be "rules") to help new units

understand where we're coming from and what we expect out of their participation in the Line, as well as to help guide member units if they're putting on an event or if they have questions about how something can be done. (Things like Mike Thompson's Organizational Structure for the Line and the Leesburg Checklist are to be included.) This is to be a working document. This project is currently being spearheaded by Paul Hutchins and Tom Vogeley. Feel free to contact them with your input.

This "guidance" system was discussed. The Authenticity Committee is one source for reference – if a unit wants to know something about period dress or documentation for something, as well as advice on sources to find cloth, supplies, or other materials, they can contact the folks on the Authenticity Committee (they will be listed in each copy of the newsletter.) Also, the sponsoring units, other member units from the department, Department Coordinators, and any other member units that come in contact with new units need to be more proactive in sharing information, giving constructive advice, and working them into scenarios.

Jim Hayden mentioned that we are still a young organization. Ten years ago, we created the Declaration of Independence. Now, we're looking at the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists trying to determine the next direction.

Open Discussion about the Southern Department

One of the factors in gauging the importance of discussing the direction of The Line came as the result of several letters from Southern Department member units as well as the withdrawal of the 6th NC. It was mentioned that the Southern Department units work well together and are an integral part of The Line and Revolutionary War history. However, we have also had some communication problems in the past. Brad Chetwynd is going to work at reviving the communication structure in the South as well as working toward making sure the South's needs are met within the organization. Also, Kevin Coyle encouraged units to make a concerted effort to travel to Southern events. [It should be noted that, since the meeting, the Southern Department has a new interim Department Coordinator, Jim Garner, with additional support from Jeff Lambert.]

The result of all this discussion was a Motion (Moved by Paul Loane, 2nd PA):

PART 1: The officers of the corporation and a group of volunteers should go over every rule we have and present to the organization at next year's meeting a simplified structure for The Continental Line.

PART 2: Table the fourteen proposals up for vote at the meeting and run the organization based on the current bylaws we have in place.

Eric Chetwynd (2nd MA) called the question. Ray Andrews (1st NY) seconded.

After the question was called, it was mentioned that this was disenfranchising. We took the vote (since the question was called) – which passed with 27 yes votes. At the threat of the proposals being untabled, all of the authors of the proposals consequently withdrew their proposals except for the author of the proposal on joint safety regulations (who was not in attendance).

Ted Heske (1st PA) moved that we retable this proposal (which was Proposal #3). Mark Magiera seconded.

For the discussion section, Liaison Officer, Jim Hayden, noted that he has been working with the British Brigade for the past year or so regarding the Safety Regulations. Aside from some differences in wording, the two documents are identical, except that our riflemen are allowed to use powder horns. This dialogue will be continuing, as well as creating a unified set of Rules of Engagement, in which all different types of troops will be involved.

The question was called and the proposal was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Executive Session – Kevin Coyle

In order to finalize the incorporation of The Line, Kevin called to order an executive session for us to accept the bylaws, accept the officers, and allow the treasurer to open a bank account.

Jim Hayden (1st NH) moved that we accept the bylaws; Joe Stokes (1st NH) seconded. The bylaws were accepted unanimously by voice vote.

Joe Stokes then moved to accept the slate of officers as they currently stood. Paul Loane (2nd PA) seconded. The officers were accepted unanimously by voice vote.

Jim Hayden moved that we allow the Treasurer to open a bank account; Joe Stokes seconded. This was accepted unanimously by voice vote.

Election of Officers

The terms for the current adjutant and treasurer were up as of the meeting. Therefore, it was necessary to railroad them back into the appropriate positions.

Paul Loane moved that Kim Newell continue as Adjutant. Dwight Dixon (Regt. de Saintonge) seconded. Jim Hayden called the question. Since Kim was unopposed, she (as secretary) cast the single vote necessary to make the vote legal.

Paul Loane then moved that Joe Lessman continue as Treasurer. Bob Mundy (24th CT Militia) seconded. Dwight Dixon move that we close nominations; Mike Bennett seconded. Kim cast the single vote necessary for Joe to remain as Treasurer.

Corporate Insurance to Cover the Assets of the Corporation

Since we don't really have any assets -- except a rather small bank account, it was decided pretty quickly that we didn't need to insure the "assets" of The Line.

Eric Chetwynd (2nd MA) moved that not get the corporate insurance policy. Jim Hayden (1st NH) seconded. Joe Stokes (1st NH) called the question. This was accepted unanimously by voice vote.

However, the discussion did bring up some good points:

Brad Chetwynd (2nd MA) mentioned that the Line never actually sponsors any events. The individual units sponsor the events. That is why all of the individual units within the Line are required to have their own insurance.

This initiated a discussion about the importance of insurance. The Line is basically going by trust that each unit has insurance. The sponsors of the events often require copies, or at least policy numbers, of insurance, so it's to each unit's benefit to carry it. The Department Coordinators and sponsor units will be looking for the new units to have insurance. The problem with rules such as this and the other proposals that we tabled is that that we don't

have the means or inclination to be policemen in the hobby. However, if you'd like to send a copy in for the Line's files, you are more than welcome to attach a copy to your safety officer form.

Eric Chetwynd (2nd MA) moved that we do not require units to send copies of their insurance in to the Adjutant every year. Jim Hayden (1st NH) seconded. Bob Mundy (24th CT Militia) called the question. This was accepted unanimously by voice vote.

Review of 1996

Gunston Hall and North Andover, the two full CL shows last year, were touted as being good shows. It was also noted that several folks from the Gunston Hall show ended up with Lyme Disease and that we should keep our eyes open for ticks at events. Andover was highlighted by the effective military camp, complete with paperwork and duty calls.

Department Reports – Sean Kelleher, Paul Hutchins, Mike Bennett

The Northern Department will hold a Garrison weekend at Ft. Adams. This event will be sponsored by the United Train of Artillery.

The Mid-Atlantic Department is "growing like a weed." In addition to the full Continental Line event at Bordentown, the Mid-Atlantic will have two department events: Rockford Plantation in Lancaster, PA and a Firelock Match at Boone Farmstead.

The Southern Department concerns were noted earlier. Also, Mike Bennett stepped down as department coordinator.

The 225th – Sean Kelleher

The British Brigade, The Continental Line, and the BAR has a lot in common and are interested in working together on large events for the 225th. Currently, it is suggested that we work toward one "mega-event" each year that wouldn't conflict with other events or have events on the weekends immediately surrounding the event. Rob Bothwell and Sean are working with a site right off of Boston Harbor for an event.

Additionally, Sean is working with the Minuteman Organizations in the area (many want to improve quality and authenticity) to open up the 225th Battle Road to the Line. It would mean that we would all have to get second kits (early war militia). We need to work out the details and plan ahead.

Authenticity Committee – Joe Lessman

The committee met at Gunston Hall. They aren't "stitch counters" or "authenticity Nazis;" they will simply serve as a resource, especially for new units, to provide suggestions and general observations regarding authenticity and sources.

BAR Liaison Introduction/Report – Ed Moderacki

Ed brought greetings from The Brigade. The BAR is anxiously looking forward to the 225th, the excitement that it will bring to the public, as well as the new re-enactors that will come out as a result. The BAR is excited to be working with the BB, the CL, and the NWTAA.

British Brigade Liaison Report – Neil Sorensen

Neil is looking forward to Bordentown and the other events where the CL and the BB work together.

Announcements (During Lunch)

Rich Walling from the Friends of Monmouth Battlefield mentioned that the New Jersey State Parks are revising their Black Powder Safety Regulations and are basing them on the Maryland Regulations.

Jim Newell suggested that events schedule in times for church services and announce it to local residents. He portrays a Revolutionary War minister if you need one for a service.

The music of the Continental Line announced that they will begin playing Roseline Castle at the end of the battles to commemorate the original soldiers. It just didn't seem right to play a bright and cheery "everybody get up" assembly immediately at the end of the battles. Soldiers should mourn firelocks during the tune.

New Unit Commanders were Introduced

The following folks are the new commanders for the respective regiments:

Mass. Ninth – Joe Paluzzi, Regt. Bourbonnais – Robert Borden, 6th PA – George Radesky, 2nd Mass. – Eric Chetwynd, 5th PA – John Godzieba, and Wayne Brunt is the news president of the First Continentals

Unit Transfers

Mark Magiera announced that Knox Artillery would be moving to the Bermuda Department.

The Fourth Continental Light Dragoons, who had been affiliated with the First Virginia and the Southern Department, has changed to the Mid-Atlantic Department, since most of its members are from the greater New Jersey area. Their new sponsor is 2nd Continental Light Dragoons – Sheldon's Company.

The 2nd NJ, Lawrie's Company attended the meeting and is attempting to regroup. They are provisional and are in the process of securing a sponsor to help them get back on their feet.

In Southern Department news, the First Continental Artillery no longer exists. The Maryland Militia has been removed from the list as per the Southern Department Coordinator. Crockett's Battalion is now a part of the 7th VA, and the 4th VA is now part of the 3rd MD.

New Units – Full Membership Status

Alden's Sixth Mass.

This unit is a safe, small, authentic, unit out of Albany. They work well with others, and they've sponsored some really topnotch events. Timothy Raymond (1st NY) moved; Jim Hayden (1st NH) seconded.

Voice Vote: Approved

Congress's Own Light Company

Congress's Own features good kits and a good camp. They're dynamic and amalgamate well. Dave Howarth had made reservations with the hotel and confirmed directions within the last couple days, however due to an ice storm in Ottawa, they were unable to make the meeting. Paul Loane (2nd PA) moved that we accept them even though they weren't at the meeting. Mark Magiera (Knox Artillery) seconded it.

Voice Vote: Approved

Von Heer's Provost Corps

Von Heer's is a good, growing, group. They are not a line unit or hobby police. They portray a provost corps – they're in the rear of the ranks and stop people trying to desert during battles, as well as act as the "heavies" when we drum people out of camp. Some people get angry with them; be sure you realize that's simply their portrayal. Jim Hayden (1st NH) moved; Henry Cooke (10th MA) seconded.
Voice Vote: Approved

Whitcomb's Rangers

These guys are from upstate Vermont. They have a great hard core kit and camp. Dwight Dixon (Saintonge) moved; Jim Hayden seconded.
Voice Vote: Approved

Seventh Virginia

They fell in with Virginia troops at Gunston, fielding an average of 15 men. They are good about amalgamating and will have insurance by the first event this year. They have a line company, a light company, and a 3-lb. brass gun. Paul Loane moved that we accept them as long as they get insurance; Dwight Dixon seconded.
Voice Vote: Approved

New Units – Provisional Membership Status

Eighth Mass.

Good group, but still small and growing. Sean Kelleher (2nd MA) move that we accept them. Henry Cooke (10th Mass.) seconded.
Voice Vote: Approved

Glover's Marblehead Regt. (14th Mass.)

These guys have been around for twenty years doing a lot of militia stuff. They dress and seamen and are working on a midwar brown and red kit. They also sing very well. They also recently put together an excellent Safety Officer manual. Joe Stokes (1st NH) moved; Henry Cooke seconded.
Voice Vote: Approved

United Train of Artillery

They field two funs and are very safety conscious. Any concerns folks have had in the past have been quickly dealt with, they amalgamate well, and they're willing to travel. They also have really cool helmets. Dwight Dixon (Saintonge) moved; Joe Stokes (1st NH) seconded.
Voice Vote: Approved

Rehoboth Minute Men

They've been to several events in the Northern Department. They do early war militia and wear civilian coats. Their kits just keep getting better and better, and they've accepted any suggestions that come their way. Joe Stokes (1st NH) moved; Mitch Lee (3rd NY, DeWitt's) seconded.
Voice Vote: Approved

Eleventh PA Regt.

The 11th PA would like to switch from a Light Company to a Line Company. The Light Companies are concerned because there have been amalgamation problems in the past, especially concerning officers on the field. There were also some musket and safety issues. Since the unit is separated from a light company, it was felt that the switch to a Line company would be a good move and put distance between some bad

blood. The sponsor unit, the Department Coordinator, and other Mid-Atlantic units will make an extra effort to work with them as far as amalgamation and safety. Paul Loane (2nd PA) moved that we accept them as provisional. Joe Stokes (1st NH) seconded.

Voice Vote: Approved (with one nay vote)

Fifth PA Regt.

Last year, they were top heavy with officers, and there were some concerns with their rifle corps. Their highest rank is a lieutenant. Various member units who have worked with each component of their organization vouched for their safety. However, other member units, especially rifle units at Line show, should pay particular attention to make sure that everything's okay. Jim Hayden moved that we accept them; Mark Magiera seconded.

Voice Vote: Approved

Fourth Continental Light Dragoons

They are putting together a really good kit and a great camp. There are personality issues with one individual and some horse safety concerns (that will be worked out, in part, with some more experience). They're working with the personality issues internally, and things look good that they'll have that straightened out. Dwight Dixon moved; Jim Hayden seconded.

Voice Vote: Approved

Robert Erskine's Militia

Since they haven't been to a Line event, they were not eligible to move to a different status.

Doughty Artillery

They have a tight crew and are willing to work with the other artillery. It was noted that their camp might be a little excessive, and there were some concerns about behavior on and off the field as a result of incidents at North Andover. The other artillery units are working with Doughty's so they can interact better with battlefield hierarchy as well as working together socially off the field.

Voice Vote: Approved (with one nay vote)

What We've Learned in the Past Year

We should have the camps in Brigade order (this is often attempted, however the rifles are sometimes not organized and some other minor concerns). To do this, it's important that the returns somewhat accurately reflect the true number of tents. Also, at least part of the artillery is going to make some attempt to amalgamate into the Line (like von Steuben) with Battalion guns, rather than integrate into a big Artillery Park.

Full Continental Line Events for 1997:

BORDENTOWN -- June 6-7, 1997

Drew Smith mentioned that commanders will be getting a large packet of materials (upon receipt of their return and a copy of their insurance cover sheet) that they should disseminate to their members *prior* to arriving at the site. (Having hotel information and such at the sign-in table won't do much good.) Paul Hutchins (CL Host Commander) noted that Tom Vogeley will act as Brigade Adjutant, and many of the guidelines that they are collecting for the reference manual will be employed at this event. Also, Dave Wilson of the 2nd Mass. will be heading up a "hard core" camp. Paul's also looking for a good number of pioneers to be a part of this effort.

DELTA LAKE -- September 13-14, 1997

Mitch Lee had a 12 foot x 12 foot diorama with little soldiers on it -- they fought the battle throughout the course of the Meeting day. It's a very large site. There are interesting skirmish plans (the skirmishes start as early as 8 a.m. on Saturday and will run for two hours), with several different scenarios occurring at once. There will be six boats coming as well as nighttime artillery on the beach. The castrementation officer will be there and camping is available starting Thursday.

Full Continental Line Events for 1998:

Neil Sorensen (BB Liaison Officer) was concerned about the 1998 shows, because they were not brought up in front of the British Brigade. However, folks from the German Regt. were told that the BB wouldn't address it until the 1998 meeting. We need to work more closely with the Liaison Officers and plan on getting information out before the meetings of the other umbrella organizations. Future event information should get to the Liaison Officer (Jim Hayden) by November of each year.

ROCKFORD PLANTATION (May 16-17, 1998):

The German Regt. is sponsoring an event at the home of Col. Edward Hand, who led the PA line during the war. There are 1600 acres with very few modern intrusions. The British Brigade will not confirm this early in the process and hasn't received much information from the BB host of the event.

Voice Vote: Accepted

LEESBURG (October 17-18, 1998):

The 1st VA is sponsoring an event in Leesburg at a different site than in years past. Again, the BB hadn't heard about this event yet.

Voice Vote: Accepted (one nay vote)

QUEBEC (August -- probably the second weekend):

The 2nd Mass. is working Hoss Dressler to offer a similar weekend (hopefully with less rain). The month has been reserved; they're still working out an exact date. More information will follow.

Voice Vote: Accepted (one nay vote)

Full Continental Line Events Proposed for 1999:

Boone's Homestead -- May 22-23, 1999

This event will be sponsored by the First Continentals and the 43rd of Foot. Don't say you weren't warned.

New Business:

The Brandywine event was moved to accomodate the Delta Lake event. Bob Sullivan wouldn't be able to do his presentation on the School of the Adjutant that evening. Please forward e-mail addresses to Kim for inclusion in The Continental Line Directory.

The meeting ended at 4:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Kim Newell, Adjutant
The Continental Line, Inc.