

Mormon Battalion Association

Minutes – Executive Leadership Meeting Saturday, 16 April 2011

Pioneer Hall, Sons of Utah Pioneers Headquarters Building, 3301 East 2920 South (Louise Ave), Salt Lake City, Utah 84109

The regular monthly meeting of the Mormon Battalion Association Executive Leadership is held at 9:30 am on the third Saturday of every month, excepting August and December, or when that day is a holiday. In that case, the meeting will be re-scheduled and the Executive Leadership will be notified of the change. Members of the public are invited to attend.

Call to Order / Recognize Guests / Comments

COL Jerome Gourley

Guests: Chris Barnes and Layne Waite

- Moving in new direction and need some changes
- Money being spent faster than received. Report on Eagle neckerchief presentation
- Issued lapel pins and slides. \$100 received.
- While they are there, Eagle presenters should take time to promote slides to family and friends.

Prayer / Pledge of Allegiance

By Invitation

Battalion Minute

MAJ Val John Halford

One Battalion member served in Civil War.

Minutes of Previous Month – Review and Approval

Executive Staff

General Business

LTC Max Jamison

Announcements

- Resignations: MAJ Alan Jamison, Adjutant General; MAJ Jennifer (Heubner) Jamison, Membership Officer.

Service Opportunities

- 1) **Battalion Leadership Opportunities:** Adjutant General, Chief Finance Officer, Civil Affairs General, Acquisitions, Logistics/Quartermaster, Membership/Registrar, Recruiting, Webmaster, and Inspector(s) General
- 2) **26 May 2011 Fireside** at Mormon History Association Convention, St. George Tabernacle. Speaker: Sherman Fleek.
- 3) **11 June 2011 Heritage Day** – New co-chairs: MAJ John Hayes and LTC Max Jamison (See Battalion Projects.)

Fund Raising Opportunities

- 4) *Battalion Soldier* Pins
- 5) Books and Databases
- 6) Annotated Mitchell Maps
- 7) *The Battalion Soldier* Statuettes – Ed Fraughton will soon be refurbishing his mold for the miniature of *The Battalion Soldier*. He is agreeable to letting us market new castings on our website for about \$5,000 each, plus some of his other statuary, with us getting some of the profit.
- 8) New Baer Bronze Products (See Executive Officer Report)

Grants / Sponsorship Updates

- Battalion Business Plan still awaiting current financials.

Recognition & Awards - No report

New Battalion Projects

- **Heritage Day Program** – LTC Max Jamison contacted Ed Fraughton, M. Gordon Johnson, MAJ Richard Bullock, Mike Baer, MAJ Roger Grua, LTC Robert Paul, Kevin Henson, and Ron VanLeuven. Here's what we know to date:

Place: SUP Headquarters Building

Date: Saturday, 11 June 2011

Times: 10:00-11:30 AM for the Business Meeting in the Pioneer Hall downstairs

2:00-3:30 PM for the Program in the Heritage Hall upstairs

Displays: (in Main Hallway and rear of Heritage Hall)

1. Ed Fraughton Display – LTC Max Jamison met with Ed last Wednesday at his studio to pick out items. He will likely be loaning us the following items for the weekend:
 - mounted photos of his \$6 million outdoor sculpture garden covering 6 blocks of downtown Omaha,
 - small statue of Parley P. Pratt surveying Parley's Canyon,
 - small statue of a young Brigham Young digging an irrigation ditch shortly after entering the Salt Lake Valley,
 - small statue of "The Sentinel," a lonely mother scanning the distance holding a musket, with a small child hiding in her skirts. (This was his nomination to represent the *Battalion Woman*.)
2. M. Gordon Johnson Display - accouterments to *A Soldier's Tale*
3. Ship *Brooklyn* Display - special items from MAJ Richard Bullock
4. Monument Plaza Assembly Display – previously unpublished photos of monument transport and assembly with a head mold of *Duty Triumphs* from Baer Bronze
5. Boy Scout Display - display of different awards, patches, and memorabilia
6. Quartermaster Display - display of items on sale
7. Baer Bronze Display - Eagle Scout Neckerchief Slide, Bronze Paper Weight, and "Bill" Life Sized Skull
8. Essay Contest – MAJ Roger Grua and his daughter are putting together a display.
9. Battalion Trek website display - Kevin and Denny Henson are putting together an interactive electronic display for the rear of the Heritage Hall.

Program:

Master of Ceremonies: TBD. *MAJ Hayes is working on this.*

Combined Boy Scout-Battalion Flag Presentation & Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem: *MAJ Hayes is working on a choir.*

Essay Contest Winners Announcement: MAJ Roger Grua

Speaker: COL Jerome Gourley (10-15 minutes) "The Mormon Battalion in the 21st Century - The Way Forward"

Intermediate Song: Choir

Keynote Speaker: M. Gordon Johnson (20-30 minutes) "The History of A Soldier's Tale"

Note: We offered a display table to Helen Paul about the Mormon Battalion Museum at This Is the Place Heritage Park, and invited LTC Robert Paul to accept a special award in the program, but they declined, as they will be traveling all summer long. We want to present this award at a future date when he is available. LTC Paul did request special pages on our website about the museum and Mormon Battalion Monument Plaza.

Executive Leadership Reports

Battalion Leadership

- **Adjutant General (by Executive Officer)** - No report
- **Civil Affairs General** - No report
- **Chief Finance Officer** - Finance Report: \$2,867.64 ending balance on checking account. (Additional in bonds.)

- **Chief Multimedia Officer (by Publications Officer)** - External hard drive and music library have been received. Expect *A Soldier's Tale* to be completed by Fall. Website continues to grow. Discussion on content: Need more company involvement.
- **Publications Officer** - Posting of membership applications and forms on website coming soon.
- **Sons of the Utah Pioneers Representative** - Contract has been signed. SUP mailing address is now official. Moving in as soon as keys issued.
- **Chaplain** - Essay Contest – The CES is distributing. Eight essays have been received to date (ahead of schedule). Deadline is 30 April.
Memorializations – We have a grave memorialization scheduled for 25 June in Fairfield (Camp Floyd).
We are running out of markers. Jerome thinks we have 21 “somewhere.” Max received list of 29 of all types from Carl before he left on mission to Germany.
Discussion: Should we transfer our production to Baer Bronze? Will look into after current inventory is used.
- **Judge Advocate General** - No report
- **Chief Advisor** - No report
- **Executive Officer**

1) **New Baer Bronze Products**

- a) **Neckerchief Slides** – I brought the first batch of 50 neckerchief slides this morning. Mike is checking out an alternative to the polyurethane we have been using for years. The \$800 plus \$200 we have already paid went for our first master and template slides. My discovery of my ward scoutmaster's super detailed slide #325 with detail and quality far superior to current slides caused us to rethink the whole project. In the process, Baer Bronze discovered three problems, and found solutions to each:
 - i) *All slides, including the originals, suffered from bubble accumulation.* - Given their expertise in making bronze molds, Baer Bronze had a solution for this problem: Vacuum pumping.
 - ii) *The original loop and pour point were incorrect.* - Baer Bronze had a solution for this problem: Slightly altered the shape of the loop to allow inverted pouring so that bubbles would float upward out of the horns and face of the slides.
 - iii) *Don Shurtz had apparently been making molds from molds from molds, each generation of slightly lower quality and poorer design.* - Baer Bronze had a solution to prevent losing detail again:
 - (1) create a new *first generation master slide* with all of the detail of the original, which we would safely store for future generations,
 - (2) copy a *second generation template* from the master slide,
 - (3) make *third generation production molds* made from the template, each capable of producing about 500 slides. After the first set of eight production molds, Baer Bronze will amortize all future production molds into their profits.

The pluses: We have a far superior product with guaranteed high quality continuing far into the future.

The minuses: It will cost us a one time additional setup charge of \$774, divided into three equal monthly payments. Per direction from COL Gourley, I paid the first payment this week.

- b) **Bronze Paper Weights** – Mike can make a modified slide mold that he can fill with wax from which he can make bronze paper weights. He will have the first one ready to show at Heritage Day.
 - c) **Bronze Wall Mounts** – Mike will find an appropriate walnut plaque with brass name plate for about \$25.00 to which he can bolt a modified bronze paper weight. He will have the first one ready to show at Heritage Day.
 - d) **Polyurethane Paper Weights** – Mike will take a special mold for the polyurethane paper weights. This is on hold pending funding.
 - e) **Polyurethane Wall Mounts** – Mike can mount a polyurethane paper weight on a \$25.00 plaque. This is on hold pending funding.
 - f) **Life Sized Bronze Buffalo Skull** – Ranger Rich Kerr of Antelope Island State Park sent his personal real buffalo skull of a two year old buffalo named “Bill,” which he will loan to us through Heritage Day. Mike Baer will use it as the model for a bronze skull he will sculpt with the same markings as the slides. This is on hold pending funding.
- 2) **Membership Applications:** Citing shorter one page BSA applications, some of our members have complained that our four page application form is too long and intrusive. The Executive Committee is taking this under advisement. Many employers use forms as long or longer. The current application serves three purposes: Membership records, service interest survey, and youth care. The latter purpose requires sufficient information to run a background investigation. We may move fields required for that information onto a separate form. All completed forms will be kept under lock and key, with access on a strict “need to know” basis.
- 3) **Eagle Scout Slides:**
- a) The Eagle Scout slides may only be sold to Eagle Scouts, youth or adult. There are only two ways to obtain a slide: From a Battalion member, or from the website. ***In both cases, there will be a single price: \$20.00.***
 - b) While it is desirable that each presenter be a Battalion member, there are just too many prospective recipients without a sponsoring Battalion member nearby.
 - c) Our JAG has informed us that, since we are a *single* 501(c)(3), ***we CANNOT wholesale slides to our own local units (ourselves), only to have them (ourselves) retail the slides at a higher price. That is an illegal pyramid scheme!*** Fair trade laws require us all to "sell" them to customers at a single retail price. ***We will therefore immediately cease charging local units in advance for slides!***
 - d) Today, we will begin issuing ***FREE refillable Eagle consignment kits*** to qualifying local unit commanders. These kits will include as many consigned Eagle Scout slides and \$10.00 *Battalion Man* pins as they request, plus documentation forms and receipt books, membership applications, COL Carl Larson’s database book, and other appropriate forms. Each local unit commander will sign for the items they receive. As they turn in ALL documentation and funds (which will go into the single Battalion bank account), they will be issued replacements. Just think of your "consignment kit" as your unit's **Perpetual Slide Fund**.

- 4) **Bank Accounts:** We are a single 501(c)(3) organization. The IRS requires us to maintain accountability and control of ALL funds at ALL levels. To comply with IRS regulations, ***we must keep the majority of our funds in a single parent Battalion account***, with disbursements to subordinate units per Project Report Forms. We are still working out the banking details, but ***the immediate impact is that our Battalion Chief Finance Officer will have to receive monthly financial reports and bank statements from each local unit, and the Battalion Inspector(s) General will have to perform scheduled and unscheduled financial audits at every level.***

- 5) **Revenue Sharing:** We expect that the vast majority of the Battalion's funding will come from our website, where we will sell many different items. Just like your local ward or stake, ***local units do not need to maintain large stale bank accounts, but only need to maintain sufficient funds for local service projects.*** The Battalion leadership will allocate available funds to local units based on the need expressed in Project Report Forms. Thus, more affluent units will help less affluent ones. As the Battalion becomes more affluent, we expect to be able to provide "seed money" and then major funding to local projects and scholarships. Please note that local units should ***NOT*** be totally dependent upon revenue sharing from Eagle consignment kits. Our White Mountain and Mesa companies have shown us that we achieve the greatest "bang for the buck" by creatively allocating sufficient local manpower and funds to worthy local service projects (and reporting these efforts to the Battalion leadership on Project Report Forms). Service projects should be the "roots" and soul of our local organizations. ***Net result: Nobody loses any money, and everybody wins!***

- 6) **In Honorable Remembrance:** Some of our members have complained that we have one single purpose, to which we are not expending enough effort. *The challenge of is not whether, but how we hold the original Battalion "in honorable remembrance!"* To be sure, we are, and always will be, a heritage organization. But what does that mean? The success of this organization lies in three intertwined links: Each new generation learns to honor their *past* heritage by serving in their *present* and leaving a legacy for their *future* descendants. Brigham Young never intended that we become a monolithic organization, only paying homage to the past. We are sure to stumble and fall if we insist on marching in lockstep, facing backwards. We need to regain the multidimensional organization we were in the 1950s; we need to expand, with many dynamic activities and projects – many columns supporting the common roof of the Battalion, many spokes of a common wheel. If we learn anything from the demographics of our website reporting, it is that we have many, many prospective members searching for *present* service opportunities. Such service projects are the heart and soul of the Battalion, the very things which will make the Battalion grow into the *future*. By being outwardly oriented and serving our local communities, we garner necessary funding, respect, and membership to truly hold the original Battalion "in honorable remembrance."

Subordinate Unit Reports (in person or electronic)

Subordinate unit commanders or representatives are invited to attend and make a report. Such reports may also be made by e-mail, or written report.

Associated Organizations:

- **Battalion Trek** - No report
- **Mormon Volunteers, "A" Company, Historic Reenactors** - No report

- **Sons of Utah Pioneers** - No report

Subordinate Units:

California North Division:

- **Northern California Company** - No report

California South Division:

- **Orange County California Company** - No report
- **“B” Company** - No report

Southwest Division:

- **Mesa Company**

**2010-2011 Trail Activities
As of 12 April 2011**

Date	Stake Camporees	Troops	Other Groups	Attendees	
22-23 October	2			190	
29-30 October	1	2		148	
12-13 November	1	2		146	
19-20 November		8		168	
3-4 December	1			140	
10-12 December		7		94	
17-18 December		2		34	
27 December			1	135	Trek
7-8 January	1	4	1	263	
21-22 January	1	1		362	
11-12 February		1		15	
25-26 February		9	1	181	
11-12 March			1	24	Family Group
25-26 March		3		62	
8-9 April			1	65	Father & Son Outing
15-16 April			1	40	YW Group
22-23 April		1		15	

As you can see from the Trail Activity Report above which I prepared for the BLM, we have been busy meeting on the Trail at Christmas Camp this season. We do a reenactment presentation around the campfire that tells the story of the Mormon Battalion, their accomplishments, and Brigham Young’s promises. I have attached a copy of our flyer explaining our program with the BLM and the thousands of service hours repairing the Trail. [Note: These statistics are amazing, since the BLM only allows Trail camps on two days per month during the cooler months of October through April, and do not allow *any* Trail camps during the hot summer months of May through September.]

In addition, we have awarded well over 100 Eagle slides at Eagle Courts of Honor in the same time frame. With an average attendance of 75 people at the Courts of Honor, you can see that we do a pretty good job of keeping President Young’s promise.

- **White Mountain Company** - We held our April Company meeting on the same day as the second biggest snow storm of the year here. Nevertheless, fourteen showed up and we have signed up three more members from among those attendees. Two more of them have pledged to sign up. We continue to receive good interest and now have 21 members.

We may be involved in a presentation for an upcoming regional dance festival as well as the parade on the 24th of July in Snowflake. We have made many Eagle slide presentations these past few months. Members are enthused by any service project as well as our focus on Battalion history and a study of the Constitution.

We plan on holding an outdoor barbecue/meeting in May.

- **Yuma Company** - No report

Utah North Division:

- **“A” Company, Mormon Battalion Choir** - No report
- **“B” Company (Salt Lake County)** - No report
- **“C” Company (Weber and Davis Counties)** - Last month’s meeting included the “Utah Flag Man” from Colonial Flag, who gave presentation on American flags since Columbus. Gave history of “Bill” skull loaned by Ranger Rich Kerr of Antelope Island State Park.
- **“D” Company (Cache County)** - No report
- **Eastern Idaho Company** - A new member Steve Cannon has sent in his paperwork to join. On Saturday, 16 April, three Eagle slides will be presented in two different Eagle Courts of Honor.
- **Ship *Brooklyn* Company** - No report

Utah South Division:

- **Cedar City Company** - Some results, 1-2 at a time.
- **Dixie Company** - No report
- **Kane Company** - No report

At Large Company - No report

New Business

None

- **Commander** – Closing remarks.

Action Items:

- Annie Erikson: Write article about museum for website.
- MAJ Roger Grua: Attempt to recover history kept on old website by MAJ Robert and Brian Cole.
- MAJ Anthon Jeppesen: Simplify membership application.
- COL Jerome Gourley: Locate grave marker inventory (21 “somewhere”). Get COL Carl Larsen’s email address.
- COL Jerome Gourley: Gain Executive Committee access to SUP Headquarters (keys, security code, etc.)
- LTC Max Jamison: Follow up with CPT Floyd Rigby regarding music double quartet will be singing for opening and closing songs at 26 May 2011 Fireside at Mormon History Association Convention, St. George Tabernacle.
- LTC Max Jamison: Convert COL Carl Larsen’s WordPerfect database into Excel table.
- LTC Max Jamison & MAJ John Hayes: Continue Heritage Day planning.
- MAJ John Hayes & MAJ Anthon Jeppesen: Work with LTC Robert Paul on new webpages for museum and Monument Plaza after Heritage Day.
- Company Commanders: Local companies need to have maximum attendance and participation in Heritage Day:
“B” Company – Set up Friday from 6:00 pm until done
“C” Company – Take down Saturday from 4:00 pm until done
- Company Commanders: Need more company involvement with website: Monthly reports, calendars, and data entry help from membership.

Prayer / Adjournment

COL Norman Erikson

Next Meeting:

Saturday, 21 May 2011 at 09:30am

Pioneer Hall, Sons of Utah Pioneers Headquarters Building
3301 East 2920 South (Louise Ave), Salt Lake City, Utah 84109