

**U.S. MORMON BATTALION
NATIONAL STAFF MEETING**

DRAFT

15 October 2005 - 11:05 a.m.

420 South 800 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84102

- Conducting:** Col Norman T. Erekson
- Invocation:** Maj Roger Grua
- Attending:** Col Norman T. Erekson, Maj Richard Bullock, Maj Gloyd Sprouse, Ltc Max Jamison, Capt Dale Read, Maj Roger Grua, Jay Todd, Maj Don Schurtz, Maj Terry Wirth, Maj Tom Coyne, Capt Earl Gillmore.
- Excused:** Maj. Robert D. Welti, Ltc Robert Paul, Ltc Gaylen Maynes, Ladies Auxiliary
1. **Minutes:** The minutes of National Staff meeting of 17 September were presented. A correction to the minutes was noted by Ltc Max Jamison and Capt Terry Wirth. A proposal to accept the modified minutes was made by Capt Earl Gillmore, seconded by Capt Jay Bowen. Vote passed.
2. **Calendar:** The new calendar as revised in the Executive meeting was presented for review by Maj Richard Bullock.
3. **Membership:** Col Norman T. Erekson indicated changes as follows: Lynn Willardson, historian for Company D had passed away, and Curtis Slade, Finance officer of Company C and husband of Roselyn Slade had also passed away. A card of sympathy for Roselyn was passed around for signatures. A new Commander for Dixie Company will be Capt Johnnie Johnson and a new Commander for Company D will be Capt Gordon Coulson. Ltc Doug Williams is on leave of absence due to a special Church assignment that takes him out of the country.
- Maj Gloyd Sprouse read the new members as follows: Clinton Hansom, Shane Osborn, and Lewis Earl Robbins as annual members and Gerald Harris as a life member.
4. **Valiant:** Capt Earl Gilmore passed around a variety of possible cards for a Christmas Card for the *Valiant* and a card was selected by the membership. Several suggested that he add a "Christmas" scene to the card and they would buy them as personal Christmas cards. He

presented letterhead packages that could be obtained for a \$5.00 donation and several were obtained after the meeting. A copy of the photo of “Duty Calls” was also available for a \$5.00 donation. He indicated that the next issue of the *Valiant* would be finished by November 15 and would contain a Christmas greeting, the items as discussed from our meeting of 17 September, and would be a smaller issue.

5. **Financials:** Maj Tom Coyne indicated that we were negative \$591 for the year but that we had \$3300 in the working account. He also indicated that there is now \$22,137 in the Life account and that interest from this account would be transferred to the General Fund in January.

6. **Goals:** Col Norman T. Erikson then conducted a discussion concerning the goals of the Mormon Battalion. Short-term goals include the *Valiant* as a communication medium, Heritage Day as a way of introducing the public to the Battalion, Essay contest to introduce the youth into thinking about the Battalion, our involvement in the scouting program with neckerchief slides, Trail Awards, & etc. Col Erikson then proposed that each member of the Battalion recruit at least one new member by the first of the year. He then indicated that they would look at possibly having the Church include a special Battalion/Brooklyn Room within the Archive building that is being planned, but had little confidence it would be accepted. He stressed that the Heritage Park Visitor Center should be our major effort to complete ASAP; that it would be a great tool to educate the youth and expose the Battalion and Ship *Brooklyn* to the general public.

7. **Organization:** Col Erikson then presented a lengthy discussion regarding the proposed future structure of the Mormon Battalion. A structure that would be all encompassing and an umbrella of leadership that could have the authority and leadership to accept divergent groups of organizations that were sharing a common interest of the Battalion and Ship *Brooklyn*. Such groups as the re-enactors, River of Time in Michigan, Winter Quarters, etc. The organization would be set up based upon the structure of the Church or the Priesthood and would not necessarily be based upon military titles, etc. Perhaps those interested in the military aspects could be a special group, those interested in biographies another, those in descendants still another, family group organizations, etc. He then mentioned that Maj Richard Bullock had volunteered to re-write the Bylaws to support such a structure and that it would include the women as well as the men. He acknowledged that it may take some time before the final Bylaws are completed for such a future

organization but that it had come to the point of needing to be done.

8. Heritage Day: Jay Todd took the floor and informed the group of his plans for Heritage day 2006. He indicated that Quorum of the Twelve Apostle L. Tom Perry had accepted our invitation to speak on 17 June 2006 at the Bountiful Regional Center - may cost \$500 for the hall. He then passed out an outline of the general program with time allotments and assignments for review. One of the items in the program is a clip that highlights the Battalion over the past ten years. He passed out a sheet that details his proposed inclusions in the program clip and asked for input of additional items, several of which were given to him. Maj Bullock asked if all the copyright issues were going to be cleared if recordings were made. Jay indicated that the subjects had been discussed with those involved in the program. He also stated that a good professional recording of Gordon Johnson's presentation "A Soldiers Tale" could prove to be our best fund raiser for the next several years. Jay Todd then specifically stated that he was not going to be responsible for the video portion of the program or any recording for archival purposes. He felt that was beyond the scope of his assignment due to costs involved and little chance of financial return. He indicated that John Hayes would possibly be willing to provide this if desired but someone else needed to take on this portion of the program. He would provide a good program as outlined in his handout.

9. Company Reports: Deferred

Benediction: Maj Tom Coyne

Adjournment at 12:30 p.m.