

US Mormon Battalion Draft National Staff Meeting 19 November 2005 11:00am 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, Ltc Max Jamison, Maj Roger Grua, Jay Todd, Maj Don Schurtz, Maj Tom Coyne, Capt Earl Gillmore, Maj Jerome Gourley, John Hayes, Ltc Gaylen Maynes

Excused: Maj Robert D. Welti, Maj Gloyd Sprouse,

1. Minutes: The minutes of National Staff meeting of 15 October were presented. A correction to the minutes was noted by Capt Jay Bowen. A proposal to accept the modified minutes was made by Maj Jerome Gourley, seconded by Maj Roger Grua. Vote passed.

2. Calendar: The new calendar as revised in the Executive meeting was presented for review by Maj Richard Bullock.

3. Promotion: Col Norman T. Erekson indicated that Maj Gourley had accepted a new assignment as an assistant to the Ltc Robert Paul on fund raising and as an assistant to Jay Todd on the Heritage Day Committee and was thus being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. Col Erekson then presented Ltc Jerome Gourley and swore him into the office and rank.

4. Memorial: Ltc Jerome Gourley presented a fine report on the trip by several members, (Col Erekson, Maj Gourley, Col Larson and Margaret Larson) to Detroit for the memorialization of the grave site for Brigadier General Philip St. George Cooke. The program was organized by Kevin Henson. Cooke had died in 1895 and was buried in the Elmwood Historical Cemetery. Cemetery Director Chance Miller, opened the chapel and conducted the program. Col Erekson spoke and Maj Gourley dedicated the Monument and Grave on Veterans Day 11 November 2005. A Fireside was held at the Bloomfield Stake Center where Wilma Dieson, Col Carl Larson, Margaret Larson and Brent Holladay spoke. Maj Gourley had prepared a wonderful collection of photos of the event for the Battalion History files.

Col Erekson then spoke about the roots of the Battalion and the Mississippi Saints staying in Pueblo, Colorado where they learned to irrigate from the Indians and passed the knowledge on to the Saints in Salt Lake Valley as soon as they arrived.

5. Financials: Maj Tom Coyne indicated that we were negative \$54.00 for the month but that we had \$3252 in the working account. Ltc Maynes had indicated that about \$32K had been spent on the Visitors Center.

6. Valiant: Col Norman T. Erekson indicated that the latest issue of the Valiant had been completed and that to save postage members should come forward and get their copy before leaving. The mailing of the Valiant would not take place until after Thanksgiving Day.

7. Heritage Day: Jay Todd made a report on his status of preparation for Heritage Day 2006 to be held 17 June 2006 at the Bountiful Regional Center. The Choral group will now be the Sterling Singers. Gordon Johnson has agreed to perform an abbreviated version of his "A Soldiers Tale." Needs copies of the past decades newsletters. Arthur H. Clark to publish Military History of the Mormon Battalion by Sherman Fleet. Maj Bullock indicated that Darryl Harris is going to publish his fourth volume of Light and Truth based on his families experiences in the Mormon Battalion very soon, as Maj Bullock was proof reading the manuscript. Jay then indicated that he has no agreement yet to waive the building fees for the Regional Center. He also indicated that Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles had agreed to speak.

8. Company Reports: Company A: Capt Jay Bowen indicated that they had held their meeting on November 18th in conjunction with Company B and the Ship Brooklyn Company to listen to Gordon Johnson's presentation. He reported that there were 63 in attendance. Company B. See above. Company C, D, E. No report. Ship Brooklyn: Maj Bullock mentioned his discussions with Norma Ricketts regarding a donation of her research materials.

9. Essay Contest: Maj Roger Grua indicated that the essay contest would be held in Utah, Idaho and Arizona. It would also be added to the Website to encourage more participation. He thinks we should print the last winners in an upcoming issue of the Valiant.

10. Membership Pins: Col Erekson indicated that we have decided to use the Battalion Man in place of the Buffalo Skull on Lifetime Membership ribbons and the Eagle Scout slide. Any changes to the BSA slide would need to be cleared through Brent Bryner of BSA. Also indicated that patches are running low and that 105 more have been ordered.

11. By-Laws: Maj Richard Bullock passed out a set of proposed By-laws to replace the current By-laws in accordance with October 15th goal of changing the organization to allow flexibility in member groups that want to be part of the Battalion influence but not necessarily be dues paying members. The By-laws will be discussed in detail in January. They will not take effect until a vote by all members of the Mormon Battalion.

12. DVD's: Ltc Max Jamison presented John Hayes who in turn described the process of converting from tape to DVD and the many long hours of editing required. He then gave two version of the Heritage Day 2005 to Col Erekson for archival purposes.

A proposal to close the meeting was made by Jay Todd, 2nd by Ltc Jerome Gourley and passed a vote.

Benediction: Ltc Jerome Gourley

Adjournment at 12:10pm