

Mormon Battalion Association

Minutes – Executive Leadership Planning Meeting

10:30 AM, Saturday, 19 January 2013

LTC Max Jamison Residence, 2854 N. Augusta Drive
Lehi, UT 84043

The regular monthly meeting of the Mormon Battalion Association Executive Leadership is held at 10:00 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.

Executive Staff Members in Attendance: LTC Max Jamison (Battalion Commander), COL Carl Larson (Battalion Executive Officer), and Margaret Larson (Acting Membership/Human Relations Officer). COL Jerome Gourley (Battalion Commander's Chief Advisor) was excused due to illness. John Hayes (Multimedia/Operations Officer), Anthon Jeppesen (Communications Officer), and Steven Rinehart (Judge Advocate General) were excused due to work requirements.

Executive Leadership in Attendance (via Conference Call): MAJ Clark Olsen (Scouting Relations Officer) and Kevin Henson (Battalion Trails Committee and representative of Battalion Trek Affiliated Organization). COL Norm Erekson (Battalion Commander's Advisor). was excused.

Welcome / Call to Order / Recognize Guests

LTC Max Jamison

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

COL Carl Larson

Minutes of Previous Meeting – Review and Approval

LTC Max Jamison

Minutes of the 20 October and 17 November 2012 Executive Staff Meetings were distributed electronically to all Battalion and local unit leaders on 18 November 2012. No corrections have been received.

General Business

(Open to Floor)

- Service Opportunities –
 - Honor Guard for Flag Presentation, University of Scouting, Utah National Parks Council, 7:45 AM, 9 February 2013, Orem, UT. *MAJ Clark Olsen to recruit assistance from CPT Robert Olson and others in "C" Company.*
- Grants / Funding / Sponsorship Updates – No report
- Recognition & Awards –
 - John Hayes Silver Beaver Award Ceremony in March. *MAJ Clark Olsen to find out date, time, and location so we can invite Battalion members.*
- Review & Approval of *Project Request Forms* – No report
- Review of Past Action Items:
 - COL Carl Larson: Send current copy of database to Oscar McConkie. *Need address from LTC Max Jamison.*
 - COL Carl Larson: Draft letter of intent to University of Utah Special Collections Library requesting new transcript of Dr. Sanderson's Journal, and then coordinate with Kevin Henson. *Recommend sending after February 2013.*
 - Anthon Jeppesen: Provide LTC Max Jamison and Margaret Larson with online Adobe Acrobat fillable versions of *Unit Leadership Survey* and *Membership Survey*. *Not done yet.*
 - John Hayes: Respond to 8 August 2012 email from Robert Paul regarding our Museum at This Is the Place Heritage Park. *Postponed until March 2013.*
 - John Hayes: Explore possibilities for Requests For Proposal (RFPs) for liability, renter's, and Director's and Officer's (DNO) insurance, but not exhibitor's insurance. *Report back mid-2013.*

- Graves Memorialization Planning –
 - *Milton Smith*, near Philmont Scout Ranch, New Mexico (see Battalion Trek report below) – *Committee of COL Carl Larson, John Hayes, MAJ Clark Olsen, and Kevin Henson to coordinate efforts. MAJ Clark Olsen and John Hayes will coordinate with LDS Scouting Representative.*
 - *Lewis Dent and George B. Sanderson*, St. Louis, Missouri – We know location of Lewis Dent’s grave in Belfontaine Cemetery, but need to find George Sanderson’s. *COL Carl Larson and LTC Max Jamison will work together and keep Clark and Kevin informed.*
 - *Two Battalion members* in Michigan - Kevin Henson knows location of gravesites. *Need to locate living descendants to attend.*
- Heritage Day Planning – John Hayes and Anthon Jeppesen are working on program. *Details to be released soon.*
- Pioneer Day Planning – Need to plan for Honor Guard Flag Presentation at 24 July SUP Sunrise Service, and general membership marching in Pioneer Day Parade. John Hayes has warned us that we need a liability waiver form signed by everyone marching in such parades.
- Request for Information – Mark Johnson from Erie, Pennsylvania inquired about source for paper on Mormon Battalion for military history class. *LTC Jamison to refer to Sherman Fleek’s book History May Be Searched in Vain.*

Subordinate Unit Reports (in person, electronic, or via written report)**A. Affiliated Organizations:**

- **Battalion Trek** – Kevin Henson:
 - 1) **Trail Progress** – considering all the distractions I’ve had of recent, I’ve made pretty good progress on fleshing out the “side trails.” To wit:
 - a. *Milton Smith* – died Oct 27 and was buried at the old Santa Fe Trail crossing of Rayado Creek, Colfax County, New Mexico. The “old” crossing was used before the communities Cimarron and Rayado were established. Further discussions with local historians indicate the probable gravesite is NOT on the Philmont Scout Ranch property (darn!) but is about two miles eastward on the EX UU Bar Ranch property. Will discuss possible options with the local historians who have connections with the UU Bar Ranch owner and operators. Apparently the owner has a soft spot for kids and has a respect for the history of the area and wants to preserve it. My recommendation is to let the locals take the lead on how to approach a memorial effort there. I’ve been feeding them the history and background information the past couple days and they have expressed significant interest in knowing more – because they knew nothing of the Battalion’s passage.
 - b. *Abner Chase* – died Nov 3. Now that we have Milton fairly well figured out, I turned to trying to figure Abner’s location. Still preliminary, but we can say he’s between Trinidad, CO and a historic location called “Hole in the Prairie” which I think I have a rational location for. “Prairie” is disputed. I have some more correlation with SFTA folks to do before I hazard an opinion on a likely location – and by that I mean within a mile or two of the probable burial but on the line of the trail.
 - i. I note here that so few specifics were recorded by the Sick and Family detachments while traveling that it’s REALLY hard to figure them out. I’m doing a lot of correlation with other period journals and histories to figure these out.

- c. *Family and Brown Detachments* – The Family and Brown detachment routes are well understood now – at least I think they are. Incorporating the additional supporting documentation is the next step before committing the information to our on-line display.
 - d. *Willis Detachment* – The Willis detachment is the least well documented and I’m having to interpolate quite a bit between recorded dates/locations. These of course will never be “solid” but I will have rationale for showing where they are on any given date/location I propose. Have to decide on a format to separate the “Known” date/location information from the “Speculative” sites.
 - e. *1847 Spring Route to Salt Lake City* - The 1847 spring route from Pueblo to join the Saints at Ft Laramie is largely done. About two thirds of the “connect the dots” is in place.
 - f. *Kearny Escort* – I’m not sure I really want to do the Kearny Escort because of the multiple threads before they leave Monterrey. Maybe I’ll just start them there and ignore how the various people got there.
- 2) **Historic Trail Status** – haven’t heard much from the OCTA folks on how they’re progressing. Will follow up on that, but the reelection of President Obama provides a more likely avenue for progress than would a Republican administration. Of course, Congress holds the purse strings to a large extent and the GOP hasn’t shown an interest in supporting a new National Historic Trail (Southern Emigrant Trails – to include Cooke’s Wagon Road as part of the complex of trails). Don’t know if Master Terry Wirth has additional information or no.
- 3) **“All Things Battalion” Website** – I have permission from “the Boss” to start working on my “all things Battalion” website. I covet (appropriately) from those of you who can, to provide any of the following:
- a. JOURNAL copies or Life Stories - this will be the key part of the collection. I desire to provide digital access to ALL Battalion journals & primary sources for stories.
 - i. At some date, it is my goal to provide an annotated version of each on-line.
 - b. PHOTOS of Battalion members, locations, etc.
 - c. EQUIPMENT – documented and photographed examples of their equipment (how did teamsters hook up the wagons?, etc.)
 - d. FOOD, MUSIC – etc., referenced and linked within the documents; recordings, videos, etc.
 - e. COMMENTARY – Collect some of the best commentaries on the Battalion, its importance, accomplishments, etc.
 - f. RELATED CONTENT – anything about the Battalion but not central to the story; for example, did you know the Battalion was featured as a comic book “true war story” once? I am purchasing a copy of that issue and have the digital artwork already in my files. I’m going to have them printed up as a series of wall hangings. Too cool or what?

This website will be a major effort – so pray for my businesses to conclude well so I can devote substantial time and resources to this effort.

In that vein – I also plan to establish a “drop box” into which folks may contribute materials.

Denny has also discussed the advisability of holding a monthly “round table” discussions online, and focus sessions for other efforts.

Would appreciate insights, suggestions and concerns by the Battalion Association leaders on my plan.

- **Mormon Volunteers, “A” Company, Historic Reenactors** – No report
- **Sons of Utah Pioneers** – No report
- **Friends of the Battalion** – No report
- **Mesa Squad** – No report

B. Local Units:

- **Albuquerque Squad** – No report
- **“C” Company** – MAJ Clark Olson: Christmas program and banquet very successful. January meeting this coming week. Successful in getting speakers from History Department at Weber State University. LTC Jamison suggested information be passed to Anthon Jeppesen for posting on official website.
- **“D” Company** – No report
- **California “B” Company** – No report
- **California North Company** – No report
- **California Orange County Company** – No report
- **Cedar City Company** – No report
- **Dixie Company** – No report
- **Eastern Idaho Company** – CPT Tom Griggs: Recruited 2-3 new members with uniforms.
- **White Mountain Company** – No report

Executive Leadership Reports

Battalion Leadership

- **Adjutant General** – No report
- **Acting Membership/Human Relations Officer** – No report
- **Finance Officer** – No report
- **Multimedia Officer** – No report
- **Scouting Relations Officer** – Not very much contact recently; working on getting Mormon Battalion Trails Award turned over to Battalion by LDS Church.
- **Communications Officer** – No report
- **Graves Memorialization Officer** – See New Business above.
- **Judge Advocate General** – No report
- **Chief of Chaplains** – No report
- **Affiliated Organization Representative** – No report
- **Battalion Commander’s Chief Advisor** – No report
- **Battalion Executive Officer** – We are finding new families descended from Battalion members.
- **Battalion Commander** – See Closing Remarks below.

Review of New & Continued Action Items:

LTC Max Jamison

- LTC Max Jamison: Pick up remaining grave markers from Sons of Utah Pioneers Headquarters and transfer to Battalion storage unit.
- LTC Max Jamison: Provide COL Carl Larson with Oscar McConkie’s address.
- COL Carl Larson: Send current copy of database to Oscar McConkie.
- COL Carl Larson: Draft letter of intent to University of Utah Special Collections Library requesting new transcript of Dr. Sanderson’s Journal, and then coordinate with Kevin Henson. *Recommend sending after February 2013.*
- John Hayes and Anthon Jeppesen: Submit new loyalty oath with correct legal verbiage.

- Anthon Jeppesen: Provide LTC Max Jamison and Margaret Larson with online Adobe Acrobat fillable versions of *Unit Leadership Survey* and *Membership Survey*. *Not done yet.*
- Anthon Jeppesen: Report on 2012 IRS Form 990 due 30 March 2013.
- John Hayes: Respond to 8 August 2012 email from Robert Paul regarding our Museum at This Is the Place Heritage Park. *Postponed until March 2013.*
- John Hayes: Explore possibilities for Requests For Proposal (RFPs) for liability, renter's, and Director's and Officer's (DNO) insurance, but not exhibitor's insurance. *Report back mid-2013.*
- COL Carl Larson and Kevin Henson: Create list of locations of original Battalion journals and their custodians so we can request/create new transcripts. Many journals are still in possession of descendant families.
- MAJ Clark Olsen, COL Carl Larson, and Kevin Henson: Coordinate Graves Memorialization planning for Milton Smith, near Philmont Scout Ranch, New Mexico. MAJ Clark Olsen and Johnny Hayes will coordinate with LDS Scouting Representative Hales.
- COL Carl Larson, LTC Max Jamison, and Kevin Henson: Locate gravesite of George B. Sanderson, St. Louis, Missouri. Locate living descendants of Lewis Dent and George Sanderson to invite to graves memorialization.
- Kevin Henson and COL Carl Larson: Locate living descendants of two Battalion members in Michigan to invite to graves memorialization.
- MAJ Clark Olsen: Recruit assistance from CPT Robert Olson and others in "C" Company for Flag Detail, University of Scouting, Utah National Parks Council, 7:45 AM, 9 February 2013, Orem, UT.
- MAJ Clark Olsen: Find out date, time, and location of John Hayes' Silver Beaver Award Ceremony in March so we can invite Battalion members.

Closing Remarks

LTC Max Jamison

Our conference call worked out well today. We'll see what my Sprint bill says. Kevin Henson has volunteered to share information on how he holds corporate internet meetings via Skype. John Hayes has been working on such a capability for some time now. We will explore all means of electronic conferencing so anyone, anywhere in the world can participate in all of our meetings, whether they be leadership, seminars, musical concerts, or our Heritage Day programs.

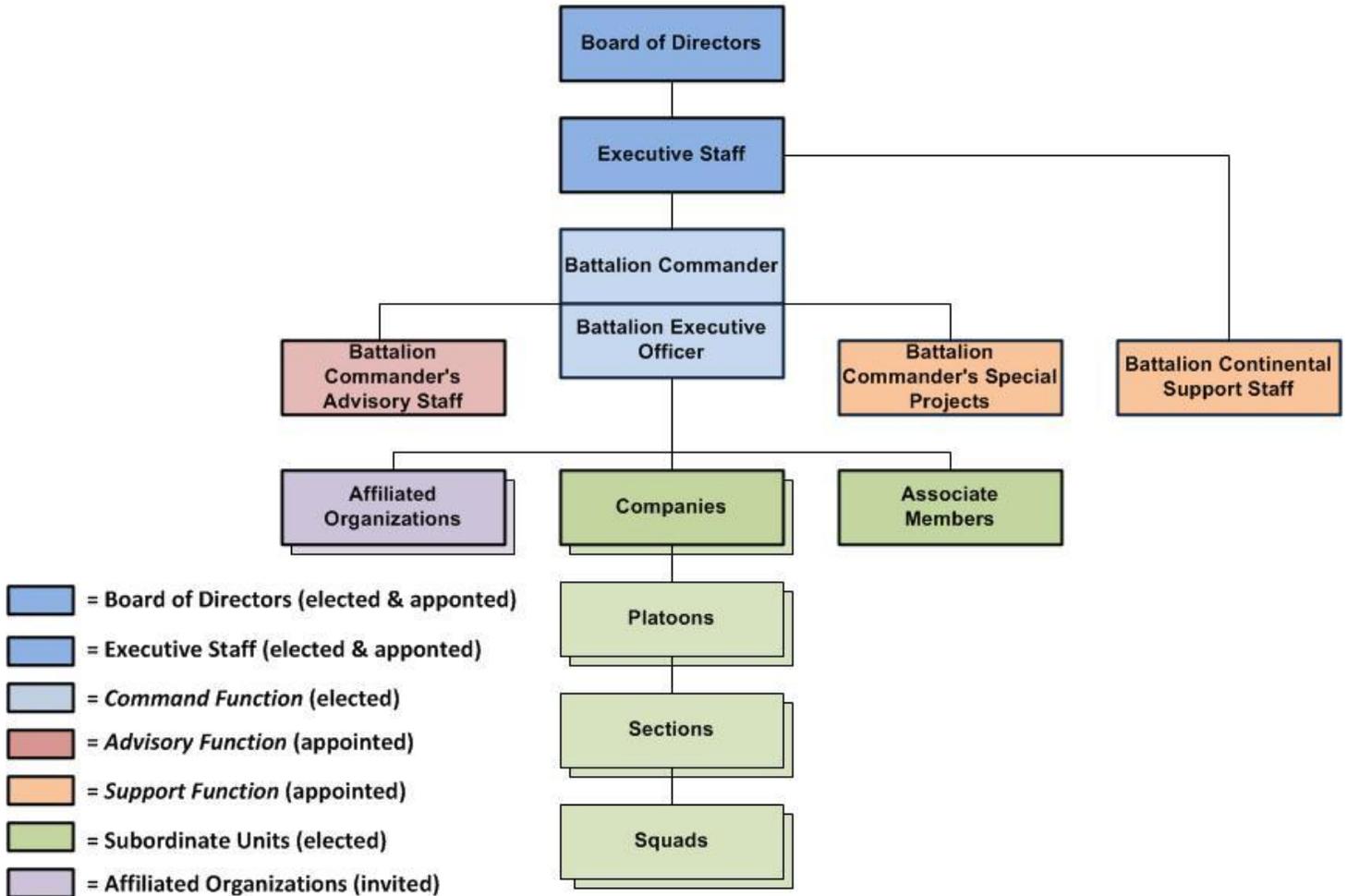
In case you haven't noticed, we have postponed collection of dues from existing members, recruitment of new members, and announcement of our reorganization of the membership for over a year while the Executive Staff has deliberated restructuring of the Battalion-level leadership. We will soon be making announcements on this subject, but they are pretty much irrelevant to our general membership, and we can wait no longer. Per authority granted by Sections 2.08 and 6.21 of the *Bylaws*, Margaret Larson, our Acting Membership Officer, and I will begin contacting existing and prospective members immediately to survey their Battalion interests and issue appropriate assignments. New things coming:

More Realistic Unit Designations. Since its reorganization in the late 1940s, the modern Mormon Battalion Association has always had a historic military-style membership organization. But we have also had inflated ranks and unit designations. We have decided to reorganize our membership to more closely emulate the modern US Army and the original Mormon Battalion – which had five companies, three sick detachments, and one temporary escort detachment. We have deleted regional divisions from our membership structure. In the current US Army, they are two levels *higher* than battalions (see www.army.mil/info/organization/unitsandcommands/oud). Because our membership is currently so widely dispersed, we have decided to include smaller unit sizes. Our members can now:

- a) belong to Companies, Platoons, Sections, and Squads; or

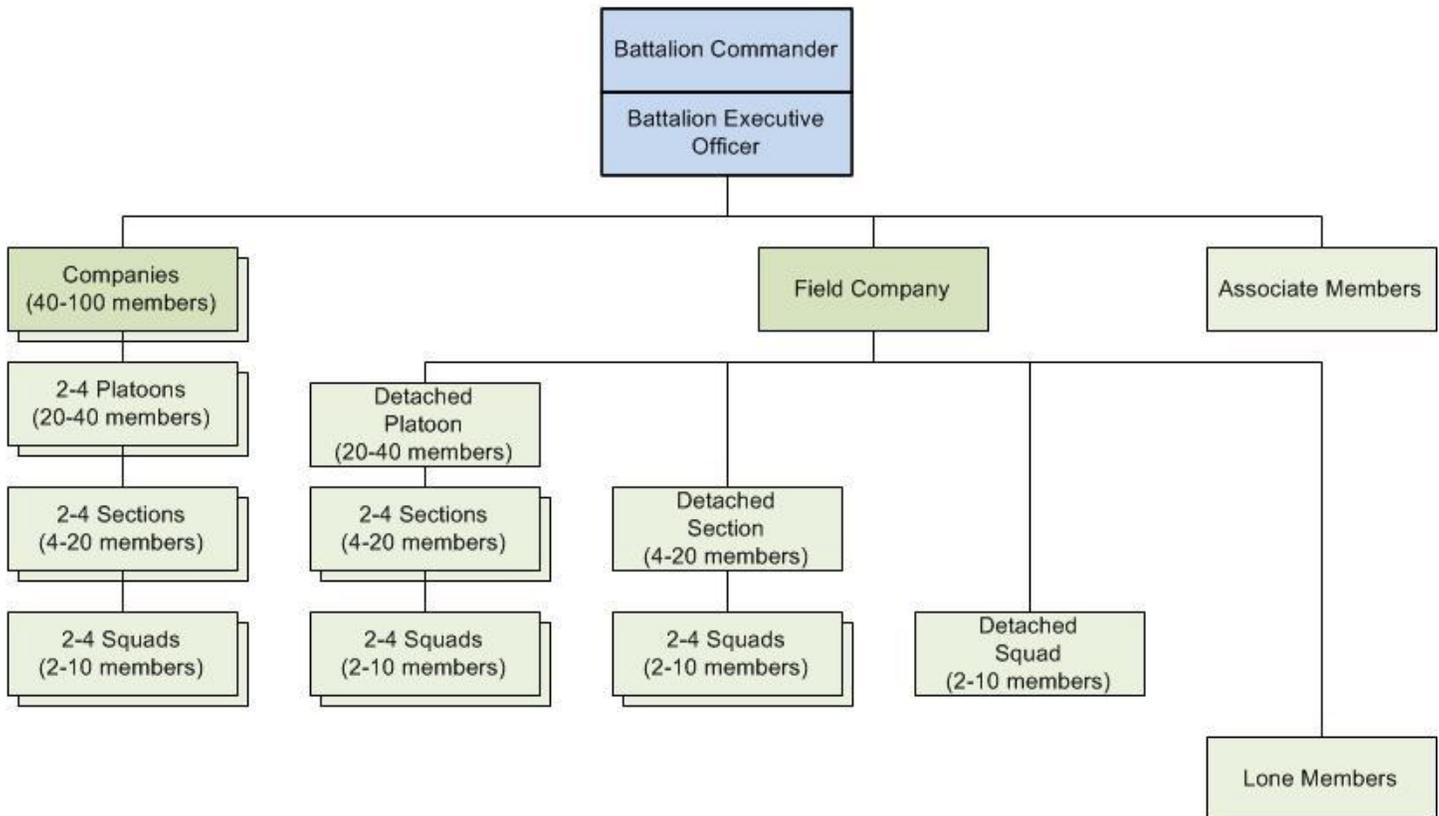
- b) belong to Detached Platoons, Sections, and Squads in a Field Company; or
- c) be an at large Lone Member in a Field Company, or
- d) be an Associate Member with special privileges.

The Mormon Battalion Association Organizational Chart



To the outside world, we will continue to be the local unit of the Mormon Battalion Association. And regardless of their official unit designation, members of existing units may continue to use their traditional “company” names. Unit leadership announcements are forthcoming, but we will start out with a Headquarters Company led by MAJ Clark Olsen, and a Field Company led by MAJ Alan Jamison. As unit memberships grow, we fully expect squads to become sections, sections to become platoons, and platoons to become companies. The day will come when we will have many full strength companies scattered all over the world. For now, we need to concentrate on building each “army of one.”

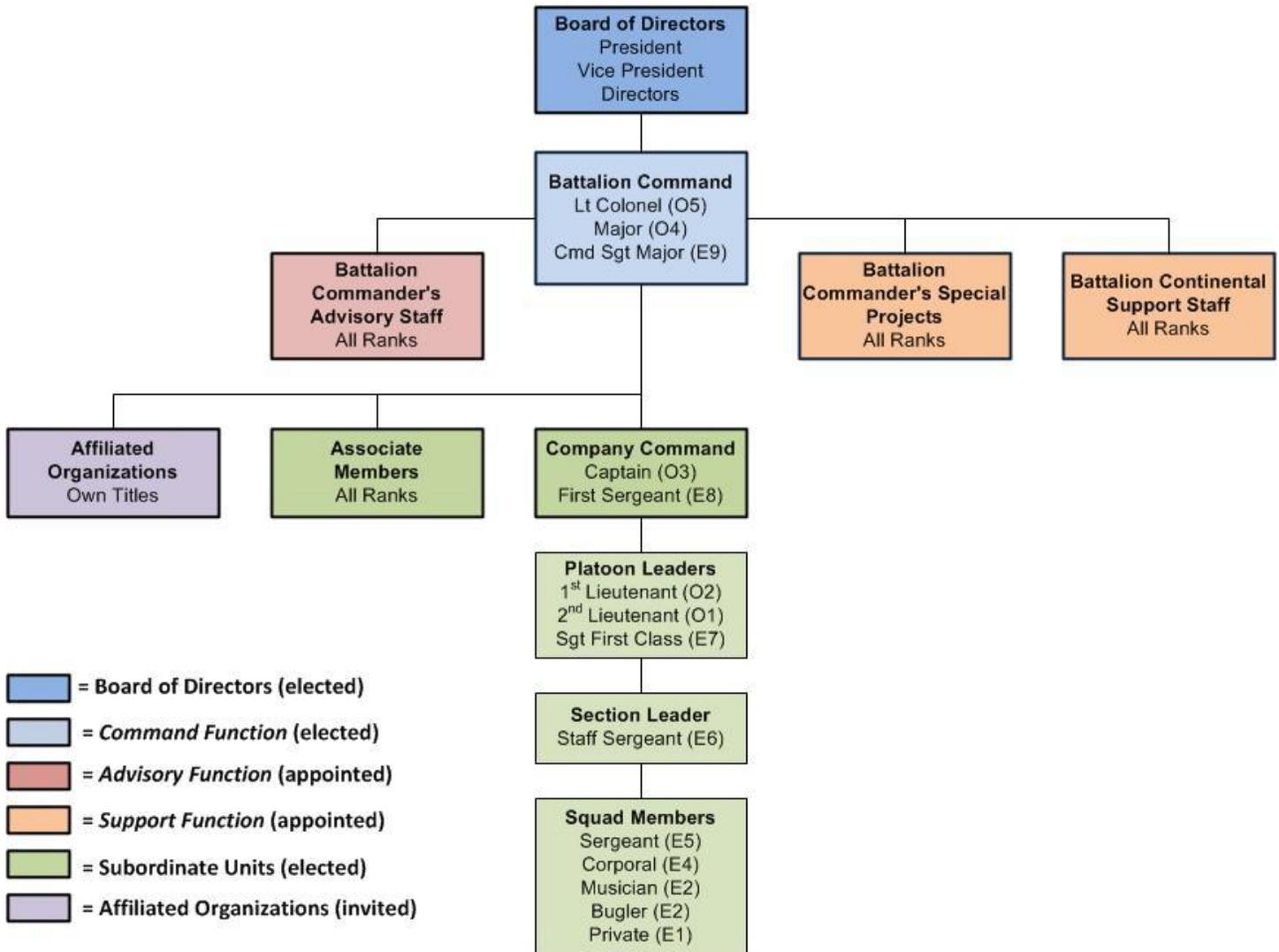
General Membership



More Realistic Uniforms and Rank. *We must remember that rank in the current Mormon Battalion Association is only honorary and has no inherent privileges, but only signifies a person's present or past duties!* The original Mormon Battalion had only *three* regular Army officers in dark blue field dragoon uniforms – all non-Mormons: The Lieutenant Colonel Battalion Commander, a 1st Lieutenant Quartermaster, and a 2nd Lieutenant Assistant Quartermaster. They were supported by a handful of regular army enlisted men (including two buglers) in sky blue field uniforms – all non-Mormons. *Ninety-seven percent of the Battalion – five volunteer companies with 20 elected officers and 480 enlisted men – were Mormons wearing civilian clothing plus military accouterments!* As I announced in an email to the Executive Staff on 15 April 2012, we are way, way too top heavy in rank. We need to recapture the joy of truly honoring and emulating our *mostly enlisted* ancestors. To be authentic, we need far fewer “blue suits” and many more people wearing period civilian clothing. The vast majority of us should be privates! We will always need willing dark blue uniformed honor guards for flag presentations and parades, but we will encourage most of our members to buy and wear authentic pioneer civilian clothing akin to that worn by the real Battalion. In the future, only the Battalion Commander, Battalion Executive Officer, a very few senior officers, and our honor guard members need worry about the expense of tailored “blue suits.” And while we will never “demote” anyone “over rank” for an assignment, we will begin setting future ranks according to the pattern of the original Battalion:

The Mormon Battalion Association

Table of Organizational Titles and Honorary Ranks

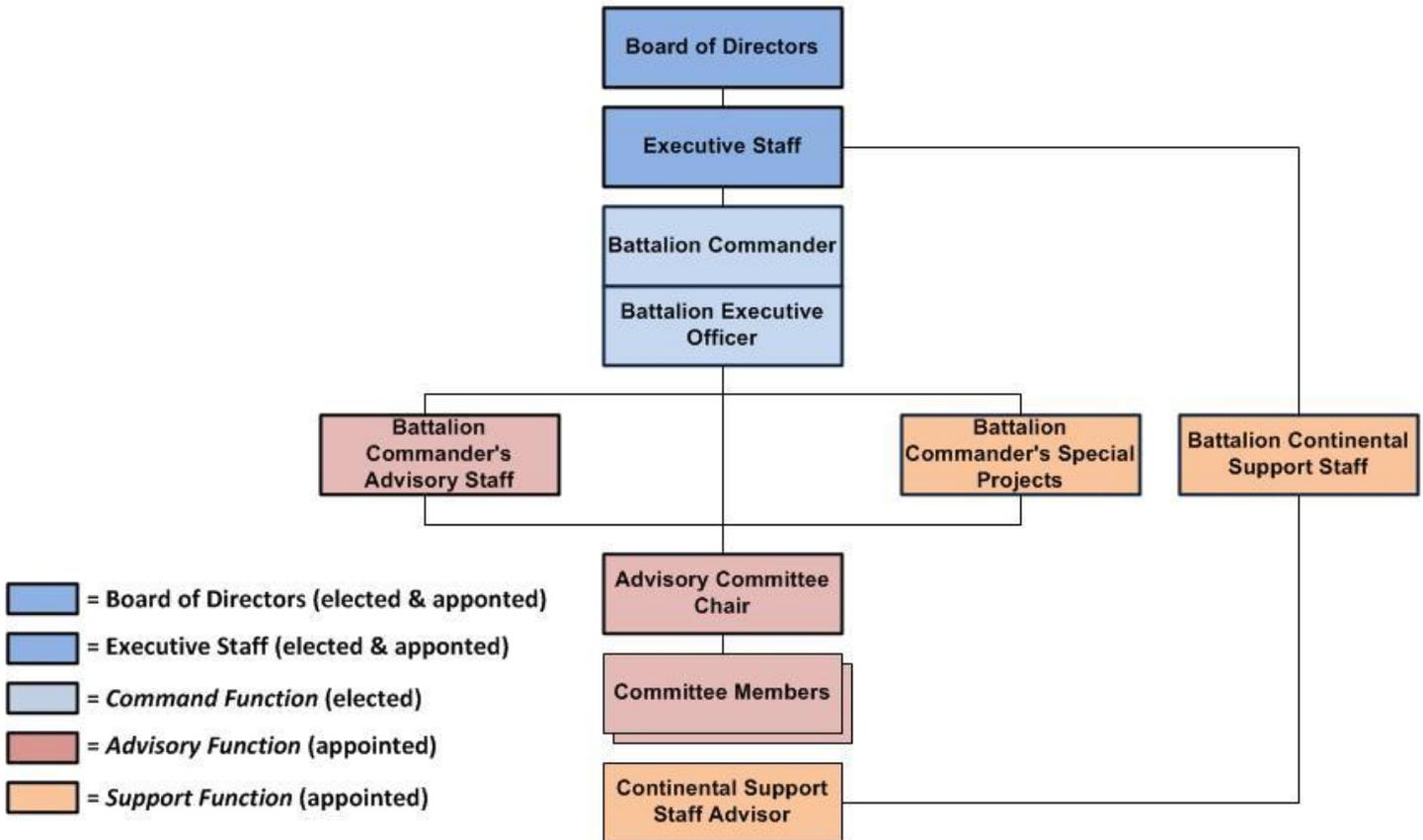


Many More Battalion Advisory Committees. *This is the really exciting news! We intend to create MANY member-level Battalion Advisory Committees. Anyone will be able to serve on an advisory committee!* Member suggestions, participation, and feedback are vital to the success of the Battalion. Based on this input, the Battalion Commander will create *ad hoc* and permanent member-level advisory committees to assist in creating and managing various projects and functions. These committees advise the Battalion leadership of current and proposed project status, including necessary member involvement and funding requirements, via appropriate *Project Report Forms*. The level of empowerment granted each advisory committee by the Executive Staff will vary as situations may merit. With the advice and consent of the Executive Staff, the Battalion Commander will appoint the chair of each committee, who will recruit and nominates other members for appointment. The Executive Directors of Business Operations will appoint appropriate *ex officio* Continental Support Staff advisors. The committees may include, but are *not* limited to:

- a) Heritage Day Program,
- b) Pioneer Day Parade,
- c) Essay Contest,
- d) Chaplains,
- e) Graves Memorialization,
- f) Museum(s),

- g) Historians,
- h) Historic Trails,
- i) Affiliated Organizations,
- j) Education and Training,
- k) Media,
- l) Finance,
- m) Membership,
- n) Recruiting,
- o) Scouting Relations,
- p) Website,
- q) Public Relations.

The Mormon Battalion Association Typical Advisory Committee



Inspirational Thought

LTC Max Jamison

Failure Is Not an Option – Of late, we have had numerous doomsayers predicting the eminent demise of the Mormon Battalion Association. Nothing could be further from the truth. We need to quash such talk. Be of good cheer. There will always be individuals – even groups – who falter and stray, Brigham Young and David O. McKay prophesied that our efforts will continue “for ever and ever.” We need to pass through tight places to get where we need to go. But the Lord will not let us fail.

Benediction / Adjournment

Margaret Larson

Next Meeting:

10:30 AM, Saturday, 19 January 2013
2880 W. 3650 South, West Valley City, Utah 84119
(possibly at another location TBD)