

Mormon Battalion Association

Minutes – Executive Staff Meeting 10:00 AM, Saturday, 21 June 2014

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

The Mormon Battalion Association Executive Staff meets at least once per quarter on the third Saturday the month at 10:00 am, except when that day is a holiday or conflicts with another event. In that case, the meeting will be re-scheduled and the Executive Staff will be notified of the change. Members of the public are invited to attend. *Policy:* As with U.S. Congressional minutes, anyone can read appropriate items into the minutes, but – in the interest of expediency – we will only discuss those items the Executive Staff deems necessary. Also, detailed discussion of Action Items will be referenced to equivalent sections in Membership Reports, Member Advisory Committee Reports, and New Business.

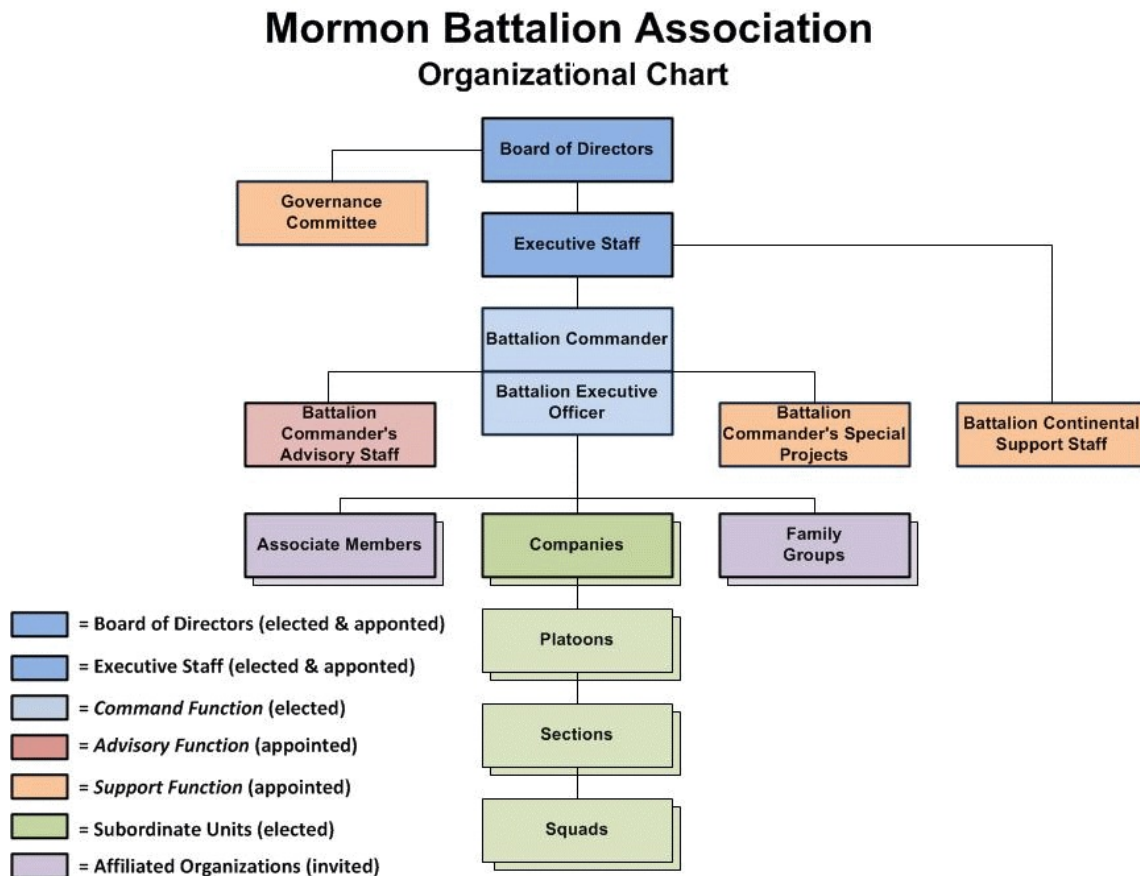
Executive Staff Attendance: The following were present: LTC Max W. Jamison (Battalion Commander), COL Carl V. Larson (Battalion Executive Officer), and Margaret Larson (Membership Officer). Excused: COL Jerome G. Gourley (Battalion Commander's Chief Advisor), MAJ Val John Halford (Quartermaster/Logistics Officer), MAJ Clark Olsen (Community Relations Liaison), and Steven L. Rinehart (Judge Advocate General).

Leadership and Guest Attendance: None.

Welcome / Call to Order / Recognize Guests / Administrative Items **LTC Max W. Jamison**

Note: The 19 May 2014 Executive Staff Meeting was cancelled due to personal commitments of its members. Battalion business was transacted via phone and email.

Distributed copies of organizational charts and tables of Mormon Battalion Association. Posted copies of *Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and General Handbook* on conference table for reference. The organizational structure of the Mormon Battalion Association is shown below:



Pledge of Allegiance

None

Minutes of 19 April 2014 Executive Staff Meeting – ApprovedGeneral Business● **Recognition & Awards**

None

● **Service Opportunities**

numerous member advisory committees

● *Project Request Forms*

No *Project Request Forms* and *Budget Request Forms* have been received from local units. We welcome your input on a list of potential projects in which local units can become involved. We need these forms for historical and IRS documentation purposes.

● **Action Item Review****Leadership:**

All: Recruit civic and community leaders to serve on our new **Board of Directors**. *We have recruited two more Board members, D. Guy Dickson and S. Dennis Holland from California, and have received nominations for two others.*

All: Recruit and vet a new **Chief Finance Officer**, preferably a CPA already familiar with QuickBooks. *In process.*

Recruiting:

LTC Jamison: Follow up with representatives of University of Utah and Brigham Young University regarding recruiting of new college aged units. *In process.*

LTC Jamison: Follow up with four local universities to recruit university staffs for *The Valiant Journal*. *In process.*

Journals Transcription:

COL 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. Once journals are located, seek opportunities to authenticate current transcriptions and/or retranscribe them, and then post results on website for public use. *See Historians Member Advisory Committee Report below.*

Graves Memorialization:

COL Gourley, COL Larson, MAJ Olsen, and Kevin Henson: Coordinate Graves Memorialization planning with LDS Scouting Representative and Philmont Scout Ranch Representative for **Milton Smith** gravesite near Philmont Scout Ranch, New Mexico. COL Gourley to take lead due to proximity of his home, and will arrange to set marker in concrete onsite. *See Graves Memorialization Member Advisory Committee Report below.*

COL Larson, LTC Jamison, and Kevin Henson: Locate living descendants of **Lewis Dent** and **Dr. George Sanderson** to invite to graves memorialization. COL Larson to research placing ad in local St. Louis newspaper. *See Graves Memorialization Member Advisory Committee Report below.*

COL Larson and Kevin Henson: Locate living descendants of **Thomas P. Dutcher** and **William Reynolds (Reynolds)** in Michigan to invite to graves memorialization. Contact historical organizations in Michigan. *No progress report at this time.*

Documentation:

LTC Jamison: Find software to translate audio recordings of our meetings from Apple format to Microsoft format, so we can transcribe them verbatim, and recreate minutes. *Will ask Experian Software for references.*

BSA Mormon Battalion Trail Award:

Kevin Henson: Obtain a long-term binding agreement assuring that the BSA National Headquarters will not “drop” the Mormon Battalion Trail Award from its’ list of “approved” National Trails. *Done.*

☒ LTC Jamison: Provide the LDS/BSA Relations Office with a current leadership list of the Mormon Battalion Association. *Done.*

☒ Kevin Henson: Establish a process for the Battalion to “take the award back” under its review/approval process. This includes promoting and publicizing the new requirements through the BSA and the LDS Church. *Done.*

☐ Kevin Henson: Create a small committee to redesign patch and update requirements list, booklet, and appropriate bibliographic/resource documentation and provide to the BSA National Trails Office, the LDS/BSA Relations Office, and the Battalion’s webmaster for use on their websites. This committee should make a diligent search of the internet to identify the sources of outdated copies of the Award and replace them with links to the new Award on the Mormon Battalion Association website. *In process. COL Larson received 300 patches from SymbolArts for presentation at Boy Scout encampment in Denver, CO area in June.*

Mormon Battalion Historic Trail Monuments:

☒ Ashley Hall: Send sample of Old Spanish Trail Eagle Scout project proposal used to identify and refurbish trail markers. *Received.*

Days of 47 Parade:

☐ LTC Jamison: Place ad in newspaper inviting descendants of original Mormon Battalion to march with us in Days of 47 Parade wearing pioneer clothing. *In process.*

Website Revitalization:

☐ LTC Jamison: Create Website Design Member Advisory Committee, with initial membership of COL Larson, MAJ Halford, and Kevin Henson to implement interactive, multifaceted Release 3.0 of our website. *Arranging for website design training of committee members via GoToMeeting.com by our website host, i4 Solutions.*

● Membership Reports

1. Failure of Battalion External Hard Drive – LTC Jamison: The 2TB external hard drive purchased by the Battalion over four years ago failed during the month of April. When the internal hard drive holding the operating system on his personal computer failed, LTC Jamison took it and the Battalion external hard drive to the Geek Squad at Best Buy for diagnosis and repair. At a personal expense of over \$575, LTC Jamison had the Geek Squad install a new solid state internal hard drive plus a new personal 4TB external backup drive on his computer, and then back up all data from all internal and external drives to it. Two days later, the Battalion external hard drive failed. LTC Jamison took it back to the Geek Squad. Not able to restore it, they stated that it had likely caused the earlier failure of the internal operating system hard drive. LTC Jamison had the Geek Squad repartition his internal data drive and transfer all safely stored Battalion data from his new backup drive to the new internal partition. Net result: After over three weeks of down time, all data was restored without lost. But it took another month to restore full operating system functionality and reinstall all application programs. We are now “ghosting” all data from the internal hard drives to the external hard drive. When the Battalion decides to purchase a new hard drive, LTC Jamison will transfer all data from his personal computer to it.

2. First Meeting of Board of Directors: The Mormon Battalion Association’s new Board of Directors comprising civic and community leaders from California, Nevada, and Utah held their first official meeting on 20 June 2014. Directors present were Edwin N. Kimball, Ashley J. Hall, and James L. Waite. LTC Max W. Jamison and COL Carl V. Larson were present in their *ex officio* (secondary) roles of President and Vice President. Directors D. Guy Dickson, Hugh S. Gregson, and S. Dennis Holland were excused, and Director Al Matheson was placed on temporary leave of absence due to personal health. Guests included Battalion Commander’s Chief Advisor COL Jerome G. Gourley and Membership Officer Margaret Larson. After being sworn in by COL Gourley, Board Members elected Edwin Kimball to be their Chairman. They then held a detailed discussion of the status and goals of the Battalion. Board membership now comprises:

Chairman: Edwin N. Kimball, Sandy, UT

Director: D. Guy Dickson, Irvine, CA

Director: Hugh S. Gregson, Orem, UT

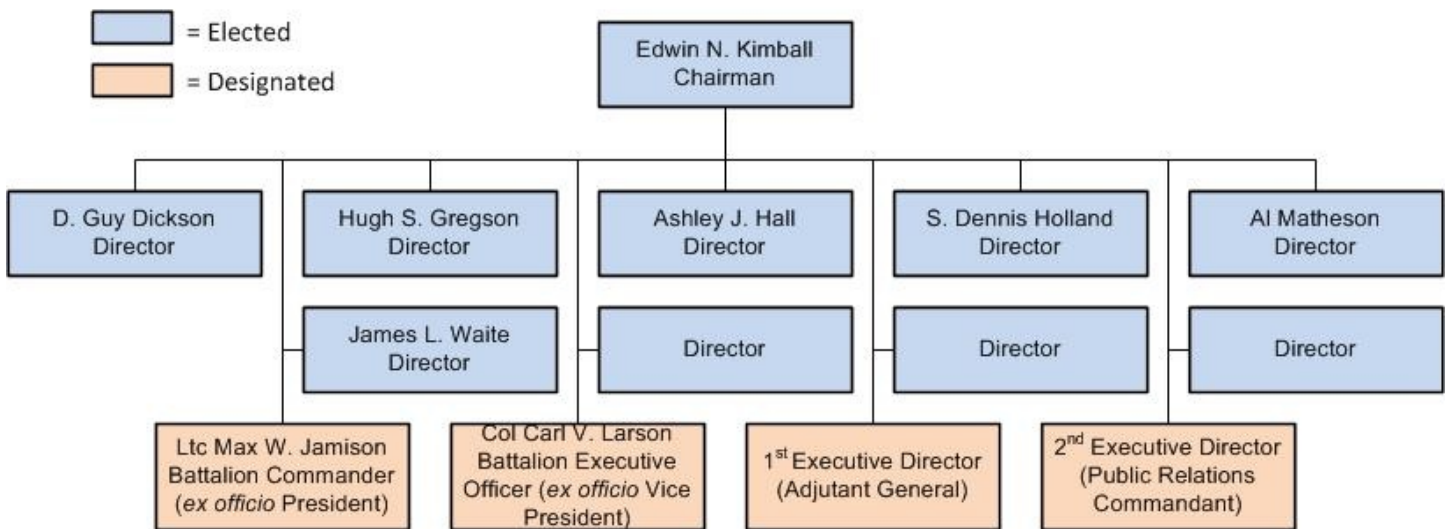
Director: Ashley J. Hall (BG retired), Las Vegas, NV

Director: S. Dennis Holland, Placerville, CA

Director: Al Matheson (COL retired), Hurricane and Cedar City, UT
Director: James L. Waite (CDR retired), Nibley, UT
Director: [TBD]
Director: [TBD]
Director: [TBD]
President (Battalion Commander): LTC Max W. Jamison
Vice President (Battalion Executive Officer): COL Carl V. Larson
1st Executive Director: [TBD]
2nd Executive Director: [TBD]

Mormon Battalion Association

Board of Directors



Your nominations for the remaining three Director positions and the 1st and 2nd Executive Director of business administration positions are welcome.

Associate Organization Reports:

1. **Battalion Trek – Kevin Henson:** No report.
2. **Mormon Battalion Volunteers, Utah Living History Association – MAJ Val John Halford:** No report.
3. **Sierra Nevada Mormon Pioneers – Peter D. Guilbert:** Received numerous reports on their activities, including the memorialization of the Monroeville gravestone of **William Brown Ide**, first Mormon in California and President of the California Bear Republic during the brief period before it became a territory of the United States.
4. **Sons of Utah Pioneers:** Received numerous reports.
5. **Friends of the Battalion:** No report.
6. **Mormon Battalion Arizona (Mesa Company):** No report.

Local Unit Reports:

- Headquarters (HHC) Company – MAJ Clark Olsen:** No report.
- Utah North Platoon – CPT Robert Olson:** No report.
- Eastern Idaho Squad – CPT Thomas Griggs:** No report.
- Logan Squad (aka “D” Company) – CPT James Hansen:** No report.
- Ogden Section (aka “C” Company) – SGT Thayne Fry:** No report.

Salt Lake Section/Squad (aka “A” and “B” Companies): No report.
Utah South Platoon – LTC Jerry Harris: No report.
Albuquerque Squad – CPT Blaine Bachman: No report.
Cedar City Squad – CPT Robert Tingey: No report.
St. George Section (aka Dixie Company) – CPT Robert Wood: CPT Wood has made a number of Eagle Scout Slide presentations.
White Mountain Section – CPT David Crockett: No report.

Field Company – CPT Lynn Tegland: No report.
California Detached Section – LTC Frank Szeles: No report.
California South Squad (aka “B” Company) – No report.
Arizona Detached Section – LTC Lloyd Smith: No report.
Yuma Squad – CPT Gary L. Smith: No report.

● **Member Advisory Committee Reports:**

1. Battalion Flag Committee – Mike Anderson, Chair:

a. Kevin Henson: Working in *Scott’s Infantry Tactics*, I have realized that the School of the Battalion would have relied heavily upon flag bearers to help coordinate frontal attacks. Drilling the full Battalion without a flag bearer would therefore likely not have been acceptable to LTC Cooke. Consequently, I now believe that at some point (probably in California), the Battalion had some kind of flag to “guide on.” Barring new evidence, I am still of the opinion that the Battalion either did not have a flag on the march to California, or did not use one as a matter of practice.

2. Graves Memorialization Committee – COL Carl V. Larson, Chair:

a. Dr. George Sanderson – Kevin Henson – LDS Family History has determined that **Dr. George Sanderson** had no direct descendants. His only known child, daughter Emma, died before 1870 with no issue. The Fort Leavenworth Public Affairs Office has agreed to help arrange a grave marker for Dr. Sanderson. This may provide a way to mark the other “unknown” locations at low cost to the Mormon Battalion Association. I desire to mark the Sanderson grave in 2016 and to coordinate this effort with the St Louis historical community, perhaps to hold a mini-symposia recognizing all Battalion-related individuals buried in the St. Louis area: **Dr. Sanderson, Lewis Dent, 1LT A. J. Smith,** and others. COL Larson suggested that this has the makings of several Eagle Scout projects.

b. Milton Smith – Kevin Henson – I have had no discussions with COL Gourley about the **Milton Smith** burial area. I will renew my contacts with the Philmont Scout Ranch staff, property owner, and local historian regarding the situation, and suggest we place the memorial in 2015 or 2016. This will require funds to design and develop memorial. I will discuss obtaining a stone with the Ft Leavenworth Public Affairs Office. I will contact the LDS Family History Offices to determine if there are living descendants.

c. Thomas P. Dutcher and William Reynolds (Reynolds) – Kevin Henson – I have had no success in locating living descendants of **Thomas P. Dutcher** and **William Reynolds (Reynolds)** in Michigan to invite to graves memorialization.

d. Reuben Allred and Eliza Bridget Manwaring Allred – COL Larson – COL and Mrs. Larson are planning to represent the Battalion at the family memorialization of the **Reuben Allred and Eliza Bridget Manwaring Allred** graves in the Pima City Cemetery, Grand County, Arizona at 6:00 PM on 2 July 2014.

3. Historians Committee – Kevin Henson, Chair:

a. Journals Transcription: Margaret Larson has completed her new transcription of two-thirds of the Dr. George Sanderson journal. Kevin is comparing three transcriptions by Merrill Glasgow, Margaret Larson, and himself to arrive at a “most accurate” combined version. That “final” copy will then need to be reviewed and corrected one last time before approaching the University of Utah regarding publication of the journal with editing commentary and footnotes. Target date has slipped to no earlier than mid-2015 given the current status of the project and my current commitments.

4. **Membership Committee – Margaret Larson, Chair:** No report.

5. **Scouting Relations Committee – MAJ Clark Olson, Chair:**

a. **Mormon Battalion Trail Award – Kevin Henson** – I have suggested a comprehensive approach to the restructuring of the award and targeting summer 2016 for full implementation. This would allow time to determine long-term viability for Association to accept responsibility for Award management, to produce the array of researched materials that will be needed, to design and produce new artwork and – MOST IMPORTANTLY – to get “buy-in” from all the parties involved (Boy Scouts of America National Headquarters and LDS/BSA Relations Office, local Scout councils, LDS Young Men/Young Women/Primary, and to EXPAND the reach of the program as previously suggested. Reading between the lines of the April 2014 Minutes, it would appear that the Executive Staff has directed me to follow this course. Questions:

- 1) Have my recommendations been approved as made? *Yes.*
- 2) Do we make it less Boy Scout-centric, i.e., involve Young Women and other organizations? *Yes. Patches only need delete the BSA fleur-de-lis symbol.*
- 3) Do we want to create sectional trail awards?

I WILL NEED A HIGH LEVEL CONTACT AT THE LDS CHURCH OFFICE BUILDING to help push this along at the Church level which will then give us clout with the Boy Scouts. *This sounds like a job for COL Gourley.*

b. **Handcart Trek “Handouts” – Kevin Henson** – LTC Jamison, MAJ Halford, and I have discussed creating a “handout” which can be used in Handcart Trek type events to represent the Battalion’s formation. This could be an intermediate step to the full Mormon Battalion Trail Award restructuring. It could be a small ‘brochure’ hosted on our website which would contain:

- 1) History of the Battalion, recruitment information about LTC Allen, the Circular, enlistment forms, Oath of Allegiance, photos of military uniforms, and a suggested “program” for “calling out” a Battalion group. *We need to correct two persistent myths: (a) that the 1846-47 Mormon Battalion actually interacted with 1857-60 handcart companies, and (b) that the handcart companies were isolated groups on the prairies. There was a departure window of opportunity lasting about three weeks days during which a wave of numerous closely spaced emigrant wagon trains could safely sweep westward from the Missouri River to the West Coast. During that period, Native American tribes simply stood by the trails collecting transit fees from each group of white men passing through their territory. The Willie and Martin Handcart Companies were only isolated because they were stragglers leaving so late in the season.*
- 2) The concept and its implementation will contain many parts of the anticipated Mormon Battalion Trail Award restructuring, but will not require coordination with other groups. It could be a test-bed for ideas implemented with the larger project.

6. **Men’s Uniform Committee – MAJ Val John Halford, Chair:** No report.

7. **Women’s Dress Committee – Kayla Willey and Wendy Sorenson, Co-chairs:** No report.

● **Continental Support Staff Reports:**

1. **Quartermaster/Logistics Report – MAJ Halford:** No report.

2. **Acting Finance Officer Report – LTC Jamison:** Our financial status continues to improve. A separate monthly finance report is being emailed to the Board of Directors and Executive Staff.

New Business

(Open to Floor)

1. **LDS Regional Scout Encampment in Denver Area – LTC Jamison:** We have been getting confusing signals from the folks in Denver regarding our participation in their 1,500 Scout encampment. There appear to be a number of players involved who do not always talk to each other very well. Here’s what we DO know.

- a. *15 and 29 July, Ft. Vasquez Museum, 13411 US Highway 85, Platteville, Colorado* – The Scouts are apparently providing their own personnel for the “enlistment” ceremonies on 14 and 28 July. They desire us to provide a Battalion representative to present about 150 **Mormon Battalion Trail Award** patches at each final evening campfire ceremony. Local Denver resident David Jamiel (keynote speaker in our 2012 Heritage Day Program) and

his wife have volunteered to make the presentations on 15 July, and COL and Mrs. Larson have volunteered to do it on 29 July. MAJ Halford will mail the 300 patches and personal accouterments to Mr. Jamiel. The program will go as follows:

10 minutes: Mr. Jamiel (15th) and COL Larson (29th) will give a brief speech emphasizing the historical significance of the the trail and experience that everyone just had over the last two days and a brief recap of the key points of the award they have earned and are about to receive. MAJ Halford and Mr. Jamiel are creating a script.

10-15 minutes: Mr & Mrs. Jamiel (15th) and COL & Mrs. Larson (29th) will hand out the patches and certificates to a single representative of each unit.

5 minutes: Mustering out of the three companies (dismissing them to their vehicles to get up to Tahosa)

b. *9:30-10:30 AM, 2 August, in front of Elbert County Courthouse, Kiowa, Colorado (about 50 miles southeast of Denver)* – They also desire our participation in the dedication of two monuments on the courthouse grounds, one a 7' tall stone monument paying tribute to Elbert County military veterans, and the other a four-panel monument telling the history of Elbert County from prehistoric times to the present. The parade will feature about 30 Scouts representing the Mormon Battalion in Scout uniform with white leather belts and brass buckles, carrying the 28 star 1846 U.S. flag and the Mormon Battalion Association flag. LTC and Mrs. Jamison have volunteered to attend the parade and dedication.

Please note that the “original” Mormon Battalion flag was not blue, but white, appears to have been created about 1855 – many years after the completion of the enlistment of the original Mormon Battalion, and was probably used by Battalion veterans in commemorative events and parades.



Projected Action Items

Leadership:

- All: Recruit civic and community leaders to serve on our new **Board of Directors**.
- All: Recruit and vet a new **Chief Finance Officer**, preferably a CPA already familiar with QuickBooks.

Recruiting:

- LTC Jamison: Follow up with representatives of University of Utah and Brigham Young University regarding recruiting of new college aged units.
- LTC Jamison: Follow up with four local universities to recruit university staffs for *The Valiant Journal*.

Journals Transcription:

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Philmont Scout Ranch, New Mexico. COL Gourley to take lead due to proximity of his home, and will arrange to set marker in concrete onsite.

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- COL Larson: Represent the Battalion at the represent the Battalion at the family memorialization of the **Reuben Allred and Eliza Bridget Manwaring Allred** graves in the Pima City Cemetery, Grand County, Arizona at 6:00 PM on 2 July 2014.

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BSA Mormon Battalion Trail Award:

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- Col Gourley: Ask Elder Christofferson to find General Authority contact/sponsor for Mormon Battalion Association takeover of BSA Mormon Battalion Trail Award.

LDS Regional Scout Encampment in Denver Area:

- LTC Jamison: Advise organizers that MAJ Halford and local Denver resident David Jamiel have volunteered to make the presentations on 15 July, COL and Mrs. Larson have volunteered to do it on 29 July, and Ltc and Mrs. Jamison will represent the Association at the 2 August parade and monuments dedication.
- LTC Jamison: Request 300 blank certificates from LDS/BSA Office.

Days of 47 Parade:

- LTC Jamison: Place ad in newspaper inviting descendants of original Mormon Battalion to march with us in Days of 47 Parade wearing pioneer clothing.
- LTC Jamison: Invite West Valley City Venturer teams to march with us in Days of 47 Parade.
- MAJ Halford: Invite Mormon Battalion Volunteers, Utah Living History Association , to march with us in Days of 47 Parade.

Website Revitalization:

- LTC Jamison: Create Website Design Member Advisory Committee, with initial membership of COL Larson, MAJ Halford, and Kevin Henson to implement Release 3.0 of our website.

Request for Reimbursement from CPT Robert Woods, Commander of St. George local unit:

- LTC Jamison to send CPT Woods \$150 check as partial reimbursement for 2013 with letter thanking him for his service and explaining that the IRS requires us to keep accurate records. Further payment conditional on his submission of budget request for 2014. If budget request is not received by 1 July, this check will be final payment.

Closing Remarks

LTC Max W. Jamison

Inspirational Thought

None

Benediction

Margaret Larson

Next Executive Staff Meeting:

10:00 am-noon, Saturday, 19 July 2014
Residence of LTC Max W. Jamison
2854 N. Augusta Drive
Lehi, UT 84043