

**U.S. MORMON BATTALION
HERITAGE DAY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
14 June 2008 - 2:00 p.m.
420 South 800 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84102**

- Conducting:** LTC Jerome Gourley
- Music:** Norma Bench
- Pledge:** COL Norm Erikson
- Invocation:** MAJ Roger Grua
- Attendance:** COL Norman T. Erikson, LTC Jerome Gourley, LTC Gaylen Maynes, Shirley Maynes, PRES Annie Erikson, MAJ Thomas Coyne, VP Erma Bullock, LTC Max Jamison, Lynn Tegland, CAPT Jim Hansen, MAJ Richard Bullock, Kirk Jameson, Elaine Erikson, Margaret Phillips, Lynn Miller, Arlene Miller, MAJ Clark Olsen, MAJ Roger Grua, Trace Skeen, LTC Bob Paul, MAJ Johnnie Hayes
- Welcome:** LTC Jerome Gourley welcomed those in attendance and thanked them for coming out. He outlined the program and turned the time over to COL Norm Erikson.
- State of Battalion:** COL Norm Erikson presented award plaques to MAJ Richard Bullock, VP Erma Bullock, LTC Max Jamison, and LTC Robert Paul and Helen Paul for their work on Heritage Day.

COL Erikson then reported on the state of the Battalion as follows: The Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws were enacted, retaining the names of U.S. Mormon Battalion, a Corporation, Mormon Battalion, Inc., Army of the West 1846-1847, Mormon Battalion Association and Mormon Battalion Heritage Association. All these are under the 501(3)(c) tax exemption. Women are now full partners with the Mormon Battalion and can hold offices in the Battalion, and we now allow other organization affiliates to partner with us. MAJ Don Schurtz and others have made and distributed over 4,000 neckerchief slides for Eagle Scout Awards. We perform flag ceremonies, march in parades, etc. As the Battalion membership ages we have a harder time marching in parades. Please help recruit new younger men. The Mormon Battalion building was commenced on September 6, 2007 and is underway. December salvage workdays yielded nearly \$100,000 in building materials. The building infrastructure is nearly in place. All are invited to come and inspect the site. We need volunteers and in-kind donations to continue the project. LTC Robert Paul has worked diligently with several great construction companies who

have been very generous with “In Kind” donations of equipment and work. It is interesting to see the miracles Bob has accomplished almost singlehandedly in that for every dollar of our funds spent we have had ten dollars in “Contributions in kind.” Battalion Trek will start in July 2008 and all are urged to support it. We have a great legacy to enhance, of “keeping these men and women in honorable remembrance.” Let us humble ourselves and work together to finish the route as they did. Seek the Lord in humble supplication for enlightenment and strength.

Our main focus until it is completed, should be on the Building Project, and our needs there are money and manpower. Ask yourself what can I do to help and do not just conclude “Not much,” but dig deep and work on it. It will not do to stop in the middle of the project. Contact your family reunion groups and any other people who may have an interest in the Battalion that you are aware of, and try to get donations of money and men. Make your own monetary contributions no matter how small or large. Sacrifice some time and other resources you have.

Late breaking news is that the Missionary Department called to say the Visitors center in San Diego has been closed for renovation in to a museum of the Battalion’s accomplishments in Southern California, and they would like us to have some of the old artifacts that are there moved to our building at This Is The Place Heritage Park. Contacts have been made with LTC Frank Szeles and the local Stake there for on site help and they have agreed to help when we know what, when, and how many men we will need. This will be done in a month probably. I remain your humble servant.

**Financials &
Building:**

LTC Gaylen Maynes indicated that he felt it a pleasure to help with the work on the building by controlling the cash flow. There have been pledged \$5 million in donations toward the building, so far. The statues have been paid for. Casting metal has tripled in price since we contracted for the casting.

LTC Robert P. Paul reported that the utilities have been installed, requiring 1000 ft connections. The machinery and manpower have all been donated. The power transformer cost us less than half of the normal price. He stated he had been given an Apostolic Blessing by Elder Ballard that the work would be completed. We have received 100,000 yards of top soil from the Boyer Co. to enable the garden area to develop. Heritage Park will furnish us tools at no charge. We need money desperately to pay for the upcoming need for concrete. He then expressed his gratefulness for COL Erikson in leading the Battalion. The new drawings are nearly finished - being donated at a cost of \$65,000.

MAJ Tom Coyne then reported that our operating cash balance increased by \$821.91 in the month of May. The gold account has \$1204.76 in balance and the CD is now at \$27,793.02.

Membership:

VP Erma Bullock reported that we have recently deleted 95 members that have been carried on our rolls and who have not paid their annual dues since 2005. There are currently 127 annual members who have paid since 2005, and 253 Life members for a total of 380 members. Does not include the 35 Honorary Members added as a result of the Essay Contest. In 2008 we have added five Life members and fifteen annual members. Only fifteen annual members renewed. Trace Skeen then added that he has written a musical about the love stories of the Battalion men and women that were left behind, and this might help in adding new memberships.

General:

LTC Jerome Gourley indicated the program "Find the 500" initiated in January has not produced the desired results. We need help with growth. He mentioned the Mormon History Association in Sacramento had 450 members attending, of their 1400 membership. He commented that Heritage Day planning was late getting started. Helen Paul had made a new painting which appeared on the Heritage Day program. She is to be congratulated for her artwork. Erma suggested giving the special *Valiant* that was produced for Heritage Day to the Captains of each Company.

LTC Gourley then handed out sample recommendations for upcoming election of new officers and asked for suggestions before the meeting ended.

The Battalion Trek board now meets weekly via telco. Six individuals will make the entire march. It will leave Council Bluffs on 18 July and will follow the entire route as closely as possible. Most equipment has been donated. The permitting process, camping locations, private, state, federal lands, etc have been most difficult. Every Stake along the route has been notified of the event and when it will be in their area.

"Treking Their Trail in Tribute" is the theme given to Cooke's Cadre. They will dress in period costume, eat by campfire, and can just walk or become a member of the cadre and carry the accouterments the Mormon Battalion provided, including a mock rifle.

Hymn:

"My Country Tis of Thee", accompanied by Norma Bench

Benediction:

PRES Annie Erekson.