

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. at the Fairfield Inn in Destin, Florida. Board members present: President Karla Merritt, Vice President Sandy Boyd, and Member at Large Laura Moore. Absent: Treasurer Bill McCausland, and Secretary Nancy Taube.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by President Karla Merritt.

Minutes of previous meeting. Corrections to the minutes were made:

Pg 1: Under "Monuments": "Darby Project" corrected to read "Darby Legacy Project"; "Dan Williams" corrected to read "David Williams".

Pg. 2: pt paragraph: "The board has decided to hold supporting " Corrected to read " has decided to delay ... ", Under " Budget Lines": "Glen Dykes" has been corrected to read "Gene Dykes". Under "Website and Newsletter": "Ron Huddell" has been corrected to read "The Board". Under "Personal Issues": "Personal" has been corrected to "Personnel" and " ... involved in issues that we do not know" has been corrected to " ... involved in issues when we do not know".

Pg. 3: Under "Future Reunions" "1st ranger battalion" has been corrected to read "1st Ranger Battalion".

Minutes approved with corrections.

#### Treasurers Report:

In the absence of the treasurer, Karla Merritt gave the background of the financial history of the past 2 years and the difficulty of obtaining documents and correct information. She then read the report. Report is attached.

Questions and discussion:

What is our bottom line now?

How can we sustain these expenses?

What about dues? (any change requires ByLaws change)

What is our membership? (70 paid)

Do we have to have a Reunion each year? (no, this is in response to membership request of several years ago)

Are Reunion fees covering the costs? Do we need to add to basic Reunion charge?

How much is donated each year for Best Ranger, Darby Legacy Fund, etc.?

What have been the deposits from the Ranger Store, since most was cash?

Who is handling the Ranger Store? (Nancy Taube this year until family illness/time constraints interfered)

Newsletter expenses? (Descendants who have email get it that way. All Rangers and wives will receive either an Email or hard copy via USPS)

Ron Hudnell moved to approve the Treasurers Report. Andrea Buchanan seconded. Carried.

New Members:

There are 15 new members since our last meeting.

Old Business:

501c3: Karla Merritt discussed the current status of our 501c3 and how we arrived at our position. We currently have our 501c3, granted retroactively. If forms are not filed each year, and 3 consecutive years pass, the 501c3 is revoked. We are currently applying to be classified as a "charity" rather than a "foundation". There was a paperwork error in the submission of our 51c3, and to change it to a "charity" requires additional paperwork and a fee of \$400. This has been done.

Jim Altieri CD: Karla Merritt explained the history of the funds. This money, in CDs, was bequeathed to the RBA. As we are the successors to the RBA, we receive these funds, minus a "finders fee". The previous Board signed a contract with the organization that "found" the money, Vanicorp, to proceed with the process. We have turned in the required and requested paperwork, and are told that it will take about 18 months to receive the money. We believe that it will be about \$50,000.

Monuments: The WWII Ranger Monument at Ft. Benning was discussed. The Columbus Monument Company has been contracted to repair and repaint the areas of the monument needing repair. Ron Hudnell states that he has also contacted them and that the estimate for keeping the shrubbery trimmed and neat will be approximately \$500 for work twice a year. Karla has also discussed with this company the cost of landscaping on a contract basis. No decisions on landscaping have been made.

Congressional Gold Medal: the history of this Medal goes back to the Continental Congress, with George Washington being the first recipient. This discussion is in progress with the appropriate staffers in Congress. It is a slow process with many "moving parts".

Insurance for the Board: Insurance has been obtained to insure the Board.

Ranger Scroll: The Ranger Scroll (1-2-3 4-5-6) is the property of the Descendants of WWII Rangers, since we received all property of the RBA when our organizations combined. No one, no organization, may use this symbol without the express written consent of the Board.

Cisterna Monument: tabled

Reunion 2016: Tampa, Florida, June 22-27, at the Hilton Tampa Airport. Information will be sent out early and to all who are on our lists, members or not. We need Reunion chairmen.

Reunion 2017: Ft. Benning, Ga. A resolution was read from the Board: "The 2017 Reunion of the Descendants of WWII Rangers shall be held at Ft. Benning, Ga. Rational: This Reunion marks the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the 1st Ranger Battalion." Ron Hudnell moved to approve, Roy Murray seconded. Motion passed.

New Business:

Thank you notes were read from "Best Ranger Competition", "Darby Legacy Project", and the Spiro Family.

History Project: David Williams explained his concepts for the History Committee. The Board has approved a motion to "Research and document WWII Ranger data fund in libraries and museums, i.e. Carlisle, Texas A&M, Ft. Benning, US Army Museum, etc." David would like to also add a capability to become a repository for Ranger related material on behalf of our Organization and future historians. He will explore the requirements of this proposal, obtain 3 bids for the IT support and report to the Board. Andrea Buchanan (6th Regiment) and Terry Toler

(5th Regiment) are on his History Committee. Andrea Buchanan reminded the meeting that this is part of our Mission Statement. This was approved.

Receipts: To maintain the integrity of the bookkeeping of the organization, the following proposal was made:

The Board voted to accept only original receipts for reimbursement. Individuals should make copies for themselves before submitting originals to the Treasurer.

Rational: This is standard operating procedure for business and other 501©3s.

The motion was made to accept this proposal by Sandy Boyd. Laura Moore seconded. Members voted to approve.

Receipts for Reunion and wreath at Netuno, Italy: Receipts for these activities were presented. Laura Moore moved to accept, Sandy Boyd seconded, members voted to approve.

Treasurer: David Williams suggested that the Treasurer use Quick Book, or a similar program and spread sheets in order to quickly and accurately view income and expenditures. He will obtain costs, and report to the Board.

Newsletter and Expenses: Ron Hudnell asked about costs of mailing/emailing the Newsletter. Based on previous Board action, all Rangers and Widows will receive a Newsletter, even if they are not paying members. Those with emails will receive it via that method, and all paying members of Descendants who have emails will receive the Newsletter via email.

David Williams: History Chairman:

1. A discussion was held concerning Descendants and interested others meeting informally in various locations in the US. There is no policy concerning this, but “grass roots” gatherings of interested and prospective members would be welcome.

2. As Chairman of the History Committee, David proposes to catalog documents, books and assorted papers (personal and professional) which pertain to the history of the WWII Rangers. He will also research and provide a listing of the museums and other historical sites which already provide this service and resource.

Proposal: The History Committee will research and document WWII Ranger data found in libraries, and museums. This information will be given to the Board.

This motion was made by Sandy Boyd, seconded by Karla Merritt. Members voted to approve.

This concept being approved, David will come back with details to the Board.

3. Face book: David stated that there are 250 files on Face book. He will talk with Jim Smith, who is the owner of the WWII Range Face book page, and encourage him to become a member of Descendants of WWII Rangers.. Our Web page, Descendants of WWII Rangers, needs to establish a data base and support the gathering of information of and about the WWII Ranger family. This database would be password protected. Andrea Buchanan stated that this meets our Mission statement. David was given authority to gather bids for setting up and bringing up to date our Web page; he will bring bid information to the Board.

4. History Committee: David is looking for 1 person to represent each Ranger Battalion on the History Committee. He currently has a member, Terry Toler, from the 5<sup>th</sup> and Andrea Buchanan from the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Monuments:

Ron Hudnell discussed the landscaping at the Ft. Benning Monument. The trees are either overgrown or dying, the grass is unkempt, and the Monument grounds do not present a caring, respectful appearance. He suggested either annual maintenance or removal of all trees and shrubs and plant sod up to the sidewalks. He states that with those changes, Ft. Benning will assume the cutting of the grass.

Discussion followed, with costs being given by Karla and Ron, which they had obtained. Since the Monument will remain in its location (contrary to rumors of being moved to the Benning Library grounds), it is important to establish a means to care for the grounds. Ron moved to spend \$5273 to remove all plants and resod. Roy Murray amended the motion to:

Motion: To obtain 3 bids for removal of plants and shrubs at the Ranger KIA Memorial at Sacrifice Field, Ft. Benning, GA, and replacement of grass with sod to the sidewalks and monument foundation. Before any action, this information will go to the Board.

Ron accepted the amendment, and approval was voted by the members present.

Ranger Wall: On the moving Ranger Wall it was shown to the members present of the errors and omissions found on the WWII KIA Ranger Monument at Ft. Benning. Ron Hudnell presented 3 methods for correcting these items, which he (and Karla in a previous visit) had discussed with Georgia Monument Company.

1. Attach a bronze plate to cover the area of errors and omissions on the 7<sup>th</sup> panel of the Monument.
2. Sand the area and re-engrave the marble
3. Remove the engraving below the 3 stars (located in the middle of the panel).

David Williams moved the following:

Motion: Establish a committee to investigate a recommended design to correct errors and omissions on the 7<sup>th</sup> panel of the WWII KIA Ranger Monument, located on Sacrifice Field, Ft. Benning, GA; specifically the lower part of the panel found beneath the 3 stars (red, white and blue).

Gene Dykes offered the following amendment:

“...between the 3 stars and the writing ‘Rangers KIA while serving’”.

This change was accepted. Ron Hudnell will present his findings to the Board before he proceeds with further action on this matter.

President’s Comments: Karla reviewed the past 2 years of the Descendants of WWII Rangers.

1. There were enormous challenges with the revocation of our 501©3 tax exempt status and the massive undertaking of getting it renewed.
2. This was made very difficult by the absence of Treasurer’s records and accounts from the past 5 years. Karla had to obtain bank records, and using those and the checkbook of the past Treasurer, put together a timeline of accounting of income and expenditures.
3. The Jim Altieri CDs required much paperwork and interaction with the “finding company”, Vanacore, our legal advisor and Karla.
4. Monuments in Italy and at Ft. Benning were checked. Cisterna, Italy, will not become a place for a monument at this time. The WWII Monument at Ft. Benning is being repaired by the Georgia Monument Company

for cracks, grout missing and painting of the areas that have faded (red writing, blue CIB). This action was previously approved by the Board.

Election of 2015-2017 Board of Directors:

1. In order to verify Proxies for the election of the Board of Directors, the following must be complete:
  - a. Verbal acceptance or signed document from nominated person; email is acceptable.
  - b. Must be a current voting member
  - c. Signature and document must be hand written; signature on proxy must be notarized
  - d. Person checking Proxy will give a colored piece of paper with the number of Proxies per individual, sign it, and give it to the Secretary before voting takes place.

Because there was no formal acceptance from Nancy Taube to be nominated, Laura Moore called her, and she emailed her agreement to be nominated for the 2015-17 Board.

2. Nominations for office:

Andrea Buchanan  
 Laura Moore  
 David Williams  
 Karla Merritt  
 Sandy Boyd  
 Nancy Taube

Five were elected: 14 members present; 5 Proxies also voted

Andrea Buchanan  
 David Williams  
 Karla Merritt  
 Sandy Boyd  
 Nancy Taube

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Boyd  
 Vice President