



Berlin US Military Veterans Association

Minutes to BUSMVA Conference Call

Friday, May 15, 2020

Attendees:

Jerry Bryson, President

Rose Miller, Vice President

Allen Lawless, Secretary

Rich Dietrich, Treasurer

Berry Williams, Reunion Director

Doug Brockway, Membership Director

Not present:

Chris Tureau, Sales Director

Conference call began at 1500 hrs Eastern, 1400 hrs Central.

Conference Call Zoom Conference Login, coordinated by Jerry:

- <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9316210290?pwd=WVZPSGdaS2l2SFJhUGNpWFhGT2JCQT09>
- Meeting ID: 931 621 0290
- Password: mauer4594

Documentation provided by Attendees prior to the call:

- Various design documents/emails for the Unit Tribute plaque for the National Museum of the U.S. Army effort (Rose). – Attachment 1

Discussion and Decision Summary:

Purpose of the call:

- Followup and feedback stemming from the 30 April decision to cancel the 2020 Reunion in Billings.
- Updates to the BUSMVA contribution and fund solicitation for a Berlin Brigade plaque for the National Museum of the U.S. Army.
- Discussion whether to purchase a subscription to Zoom and to discuss using the platform for a periodic Townhall meeting for paid members.

Billings Reunion Update:



- Berry stated that the Billings organization (hotel and visitor's center), while different than originally since staffing was negatively impacted by the Covid-19 outbreak, was understanding and generous regarding potential financial penalties resulting from the cancellation. All penalties were forgiven, except for \$850. The impact could have been closer to \$4,000. Billings expressed appreciation for the BUSMVA decision to hold a future reunion there, at a date to be determined.
- Feedback from the membership inquired about the feasibility of employing the federal guidelines of a "phased" approach to allowing crowds to gather. It was anticipated that Phase 2, an intermediate step might apply, but would allow only 50 people to congregate in the manner typical to a reunion. The difficulty was determining who the 50 people would be as all reunions to date have numbered at least 100.
- On that basis alone, the Board concluded that cancellation was the best approach.

National Museum of the U.S. Army:

The fundraiser organized by Rose to ease the \$5,000 impact to the BUSMVA Treasury for the Unit plaque to be designed, created, and emplaced within the museum, netted a total of \$3,075. Therefore, the BUSMVA Treasury is obligated to provide \$1,925 to complete the \$5,000 obligation. Rose requested that a credit card transaction for \$1,925 by either Jerry or Rich be authorized and completed, which would set the stage for plaque design and development. Rose provided examples and a form for completion detailing the design. The blank form is attached to these minutes and guides the organization through the design process.

Rose also reminded the Board of an earlier decision to provide a memento plaque to Vern Gibson in appreciation for his service as BUSMVA President. The decision was made to present the plaque and other gifts to Vern at the 2021 Reunion in New Orleans.

Berry confirmed the dates of the New Orleans reunion as beginning on Sunday, 9 May 2021 through Friday, 14 May 2021.

Rose confirmed that the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation Welcome Home tour for 2020 is still planned at this time and will not be cancelled due to the virus outbreak. The tour for 12 selectees is scheduled from 3 October through 10 October 2020.

Jerry confirmed that adjustments to the workload associated with the Membership Director and the Secretary/Webmaster are being discussed. While the current 2005 Bylaws stipulate that the Membership Roster be maintained by the Secretary, the actual practice has been that Jerry, acting as Membership Director at the time of his appointment, took that task on and maintained it for more than 10 years. The recent review and revision to the Bylaws approved by the Board but not yet approved by the membership stipulates that the Membership Roster shall be maintained by the Membership Director.



Rose pointed out that the three directors are appointed in their various positions and that the President has the authority to delegate tasks to them accordingly. In that light, the President may opt for the Membership Director to continue maintaining the Membership Roster as an interim measure pending approval of the proposed Bylaws by the Membership in New Orleans.

The conference call concluded at approximately 1540 hours Eastern, 1440 Central.

Respectfully submitted:

Allen Lawless
BUSMVA Secretary