

## ADBC-MS Board Meeting 6/20/14

Jan Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:08 Central Time.

The board discussed the minutes from the General Meeting held at the 2014 ADBCMS Convention. The minutes were approved with corrections.

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### 2014 Convention Review:

Judy Pruitt moved that the organization pay for the pizza lunch provided at the 2014 Convention. The motion was seconded and passed.

The board discussed how drink tickets worked this year and whether we should continue with the same system in the future. We discussed the option of hiring a bartender instead of using one from the hotel.

Network access in the registration room was a problem and is expensive to obtain through the hotel. The board discussed the possibility of using a personal hotspot for network access, rather than asking for special access from the hotel.

Board members suggested preparing questions in advance for POWs to answer on their panels, so that POWs can have them ahead of time. Audience members could also write questions on cards, so the moderator can screen them and repeat them into the microphone. The board briefly discussed the original way POWs sat at tables, one each, and answered questions. We agreed that it was hard to hear when there were so many people, and too few POWs.

Jim Nelson suggested providing a panel of non-POW experts, with descendants or people at large who have done extra research into the war in the Philippines.

The board agreed that it would be helpful and interesting to have members bring more memorabilia to the conventions. We would like to know how members are keeping the memory of their soldier alive and to encourage members to share their experiences at the next convention. One suggestion was to make showing memorabilia a part to the hospitality parties.

The board agreed it would be helpful to provide a bulletin board in the registration room for messages, letting members network with each other.

Unfortunately for the 2015 ADBCMS Convention in New Orleans, the Road to Japan exhibit at the National World War II Museum will not be opening until after the convention.

#### Nagasaki Memorial Update:

Board members have reviewed documents discussing the plan for the memorial. The board discussed what might happen if they don't raise enough money and what our next steps should be. The goal is to be done by 8/2015. The ADBCMS can send donated money with the next POW trip to Japan.

#### Japan Trip:

Jan Thompson listed the seven POWs going on the next trip to Japan: Oral Nichols, Dan Crowley, Bill Sanchez, Jack Schwartz, Nick Hianedes, Anthony Costa, and Warren Jorgensen. Board members are looking at the long list of names of veterans and determining who is still able to travel. Members can send Jan any names that don't appear on the list.

#### Website design:

Scottie Kersta-Wilson has had trouble working with the current site, finding that changes are slow and expensive. Scottie and board member Jim Erickson recommend we move the site to a new host that will make Scottie's work much easier. Scottie has sent a document about the pros and cons of each host and how the ease of use with the new host is much better. She has already set up a first draft for review. The board motioned to move the site to the new host. The motion was seconded and passed. The board mentioned our appreciation for Scottie and the excellent work she has done with our web site.

#### The Quan:

The board decided that we would like to add the names of donors to our web site and to the Quan.

Beth has said she needs material for the next issue of the Quan in the next couple of weeks. She would like to add as many photos from the convention as possible, as well as a list of names of attendees. Andrea Krempa agreed to write about the luncheon, including the names of people who helped. Linda McDavitt and Nancy Kragh are writing about the POW panels from the convention. Caroline Burkhart will write a piece about the book, "Pure Grit" and Mary Cronk Ferrell's presentation at the 2014 Convention.

The Board discussed the health of the Quan and how well supported it is. We received a large \$10,000 donation to the Quan. Jan would like to know how far that money will go and when we will need to add more money to the fund. The board discussed new ways to raise funds, such as charging for advertisements from outside companies, like Valor Tours. George Wallace is putting together the estimated cost for each issue. We know that a few widows are not receiving their copies and recognized that the board needs to get the list of recipients to update it.

#### Google Group:

The ADBCMS Google Group does not have as much traffic as it did in the beginning, but it is still a useful way to send members information. New members need to have

a Google account to sign on to the group. Judy agreed to send Jan and Jim Erickson a list of new members. Jan and Jim will sign these new members up for our Google group.

#### Social Media:

The board agreed that it would be useful to have a group Facebook page to provide information on our organization. Kristen Meilicke agreed to work with Scottie Kersta-Wilson to create an ADBCMS Facebook page. The page would be set up so that the public can see the page, but only members can post to the page. Jim Erickson, Kristen, and Scottie will act as moderators and bring any issues that might arise to the board for discussion.

#### Congressional Gold Medal:

The board continues to push for bringing back the Gold Medal by working on legislation and making sure it is inclusive and accurate. It would also be helpful to identify more sponsors who will be a part of the bill, such as the DAV.

#### Punchbowl Monument:

The board discussed the proposed plaque to be placed at the Punchbowl in memory of the many soldiers who died on Japanese hellships. We need to determine the status of the plaque, which has been put on hold in the past because of objections to the term "hellship." The cemetery administration is in charge of approving the language, and the administration has changed hands, so there may no longer be objections to the proposed wording. Michael Herst has worked hard on this project and could be very helpful in obtaining the large stone needed for the plaque. Jan agreed to find out the status of the monument, to keep working with Michael, and possibly reach out to any Senators who could support us in getting the project finished for 2015.

#### Bringing in New Members:

The board agreed it would be useful to have a bigger presence at the Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands, New Mexico each spring. We have spent \$450 to put an ad in their program, but we're not sure if we're getting much traffic from it. We would like to become part of the history presentation in the theater, but we don't want to usurp the student presentation. We could also bring attention to our organization by showing Jan's documentary films. Andrea agreed to email Kate Ediger, who represented the Guardians of Bataan at our 2014 convention, to get more information about White Sands.

Jim Nelson mentioned that we could also bring attention to the ADBCMS by contacting universities with military programs and letting them know about our scholarships. We could tie this in with the White Sands march. The board discussed the possibility of selling pith helmets with our logo on them at White Sands. Jan agreed to email Linda McDavitt and CC Caroline Burkhardt about providing collared shirts with banded sleeves for sale, embroidered with the ADBCMS logo if possible.

Kristen suggested that ADBCMS members who participate in the White Sands march could take pledges to raise money and to raise awareness for the organization.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm CST.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Meilicke