

## ADBC Memorial Society Board Meeting 8-27-2014

Jan Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:02pm Central Time.

The board approved the minutes from our 6-20-2014 meeting.

### 2014 Convention Accounting

The board determined that there was nothing new to report.

### Japan Trip Update

Laura Till from the state department has had only interns helping her with the upcoming trip. They have done most of the grunt work. Jan will get some of the passports from participants to scan and copy, instead of the passports going to the state department. The board has helped with vetting the biographies of the POWs and editing them for the trip. Laura asked for suggestions for a team leader, a POW if possible. The board recommended Warren Jorgenson and Bill Sanchez as good possible leaders.

After sending out a letter to potential veterans for the next Japan trip in 2015, Jan received responses from 27 men. They were very thankful to the ADBCMS, and the board would like to keep them encouraged. Jan will send the list to Jim Erickson for vetting, then she will divide them up amongst board members so that we can keep in touch with them and keep them updated. Jan has received two books from veterans and noted that they were eager to talk about their experiences.

Next year, 2015, is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WWII, and it would be great to allow more men to go on that trip. Jan said that the Japanese have a specific budget for these trips, so they would need to expand their budget for this to occur. The board would also like to push for the trip to be scheduled earlier in the year than October, to optimize the number of veterans still well enough to travel.

Caroline and Jan received an email from Mindy Kotler. Mindy suggested we submit congressional testimony this fall and send out press releases to members of congress, at least those representing the districts of the visiting POWs. She will send these out a couple of weeks before the trip. Mindy mentioned the POW biographies, which the board has taken care of this year.

### Mukden Reunion

Jan and Andrea reported on the upcoming Mukden Reunion, which they plan to attend. It is a loose organization with 24-30 people and 3-4 POWs attending each reunion. The group does not currently have their own non-profit status. Jan would like the ADBCMS to help with the expense of their gathering. The ADBCMS could help by donating money directly and by accepting donations specified for the reunion. A motion was made to donate \$500 to the Mukden group. The motion was

seconded and passed. Jan will talk to Joe Vader about our tax-exempt status and the option of accepting a donation specified for the Mukden Reunion.

### Web Site

The new website will continue to go to our domain name for the moment. Board members commented that the site looks great, but it needs a couple of corrections, including Judy Pruitt's correct address, removing Kris Dahlstrom as board member, and adding in Jim Erickson.

### Google Group and Social Media

Jim E. will add new members to the Google Group

Once Scottie has the new site up and running, Kristen and Scottie will get the ADBCMS FB page up, preferably by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Kristen will email Scottie and let her know that time frame.

### Grants and Scholarships

The board discussed whether we should we continue the same grant program and concluded that yes, we would like to set aside the same \$5000. The grants have provided a great source of content for the conventions. Jan will talk to Linda McDavitt about who we should target with our scholarships, perhaps moving to college students instead of younger students. It might be helpful to increase the amount to something like \$1000 and to develop stronger criteria for acceptance, such as a major in history.

### Quan

Jan has been in discussions with George Wallace about the purpose and future of the Quan. Jan and George are in disagreement about whether the Quan is the official newsletter of the ADBCMS, the museum, or both. Jan and Nancy Kragh have been in contact with Father Bob and Paul Ross, the last Secretary of the ADBC. These members of the original organization replied that the Quan was not intended to be the museum's newsletter. It belongs to the ADBCMS and is our way of communicating with our members. Past issues of the Quan from 2010 to 2013 state that it is the official publication of the ADBCMS. As such, the board would like more editorial control over the content of the newsletter. The board also needs more information about how much it costs to produce each issue, how the money from our organization is being spent, how much has been donated directly to the Quan, and how much outside organizations are paying for ads in the Quan. Jan will continue to discuss the future of the Quan with George. The ADBCMS should be willing to take over publication of the newsletter if working with the museum does not work out.

The board agreed that the majority of the content needs to focus on our organization. It could include more contributions from our members or articles on items from the museum, with stories that support our organization. We also need to put the Quan on a regular schedule, so that members know when to expect it.

### ADBC Museum

Joe Vader and Jan are now officially on the board of the museum. George Wallace expressed appreciation for the exit letter from Beth Patsch, the former employee of the museum. He found it informative and believes it will help them move forward. Jan has made it clear that having ADBCMS members on the board does not equate to our endorsement of the museum. In order to earn our endorsement, they would need to demonstrate that they have addressed some of the items in Beth's letter.

### Convention 2016

Caroline mentioned visiting a great place for a convention just south of Washington DC, with new buildings, restaurants, stores, a Ferris wheel, water taxi to Virginia, and a shuttle from hotels to the metro stop that goes into Washington DC. The nearby Museum of the US Army won't be open until 2018. The board will also look into San Antonio and Albuquerque, and we will probably move to a shortened schedule of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. We need to continue to provide interesting content, knowing that POWs will not be coming as much in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm Central Time.