

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DESCENDANTS GROUP, AN AUXILIARY  
OF THE AMERICAN DEFENDERS OF BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR HELD ON  
JANUARY 19, 2012**

Board Members Present: Judy Pruitt; Linda McDavitt; Jim Erickson; Caroline Burkhart; Kristin Dahlstrom; Joseph A. Vater, Jr.

Mr. Vater called the meeting to order.

**I. Approval of October's Minutes**

Mr. Vater noted that he had forwarded to the Board a draft of the minutes of the October 27, 2011 meeting. A motion was then duly made, seconded and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2011 meeting.

**II. Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Pruitt then presented the Financial Report. The balance in the checking account is \$56,694.88. In addition, Ms. Pruitt noted that she had \$325 in checks that have not yet been deposited. The DG has three CDs. One for \$15,583.83, another for \$15,565.50 and a third of \$8,517.96. The total cash on hand is \$96,362.17. The value of the brokerage account is \$11,329.60. Ms. Pruitt noted that she has received \$3,300 in dues renewals (including the \$325 not deposited). 132 members have renewed. The DG has also received 14 registrations for Albuquerque resulting in \$545 paid for registrations and \$560 paid for the banquet. Ms. Pruitt indicated that a note on Google Group relating to the dues would be a good place to remind members to renew. Ms. Pruitt then concluded her report.

### **III. Convention**

The Board then discussed the 2012 convention. The Board agreed to ask Mr. Opolony to be the Roger Mansell speaker. The Board also discussed possible speakers for the banquet. One possible speaker is Hampton Sides who lives in New Mexico. A second possibility was Senator Udall from New Mexico who has sponsored legislation to honor those who served on Bataan. Nancy Kragh and Linda McDavitt will work on the POW panels and widows and wives panels.

The Board had reviewed an audio of a band known as "Red Wine Band." A motion was made to hire the Red Wine Band for a cost of \$1,500 to play at the Quan party. The motion carried unanimously. The Board also discussed displaying the Philippine flag as well as a POW-MIA flag. The Board agreed that both the Philippine flag and the POW-MIA flag should be displayed. Judy will check to see if the hotel has poles and stands to utilize in displaying the flag. The Board also approved expanding the widows lunch to include wives. Ms. Overmeyer has discussed putting on a New Mexico style show early in the convention.

### **IV. Committee Reports**

#### **A. Communications**

Ms. Burkhart noted that the Museum of the Army is being planned for a 2015 opening in Fort Belvoir, Virginia. It is expected to bring in 750,000 visitors a year. A letter to the museum from the Descendants Group was suggested and approved.

#### **B. Fund Raising**

Mr. Vater noted that he would forward the letter that he had drafted regarding efforts to obtain funding for the convention. Mr. Vater indicated that he would

also forward copies of the two books which were given to the Descendants Group at the Pittsburgh convention and that will be sold as fund raisers at the White Sands event. Judy Sachwald is interested in doing flags with the ADBC emblem. Ms. McDavitt will work with her on this project.

The Board approved the color and style of the shirts to be purchased for resale as a fund raiser.

C. Grants

Ms. McDavitt noted that the museum is currently part of the Library Foundation. As a result, we are treating the museum's request for a grant as one from an individual. The museum has also provided information on courses relating to preservation of documents. One is a webinar course that will be taken by all of the museum's personnel. The second involves classes at the John Heinz Center on July 12 and 13, 2012. The cost is \$75. A motion was duly made and seconded to provide the ADBC Museum with an award of \$230 for education related to document preservation. The motion carried unanimously.

V. New Business

Mr. Vater indicated that he would send letters to those who attended San Antonio, Reno and Pittsburgh inviting them to the Albuquerque convention. Mr. Vater indicated that he had the list from Pittsburgh but would need the attendees lists for San Antonio and Reno. Ms. Dahlstrom will try to provide him that information. Ms. Dahlstrom will also request a *Quan* mailing list from Mr. Wallace in order to determine whether certain names should be dropped off the mailing list in an effort to save costs.

The Board then had a lengthy discussion concerning the establishment of a policy regarding communications by Board members on behalf of the Descendants Group. A motion was duly made, seconded and unanimously carried to approve a policy requiring any communication sent that references the sender's role as an officer of the Descendants Group be approved by the Board in advance of its mailing.

The Board reviewed Senate Bill 2004 introduced by Senator Udall regarding a Gold Congressional Medal. After discussion, the Board directed Mr. Vater to contact Senator Udall's office indicating the importance of expanding the Gold Congressional medal to all forces of the Philippine Islands as well as other islands such as Guam and Wake.

The Board then discussed the Board members whose terms are up. They include: Ms. Burkhart, Ms. Pruitt, Ms. Dahlstrom and Mr. Erickson. Ms. Burkhart indicated that she would be willing to serve the remainder of the term of Ms. Collier who has resigned.

The Board approved sending a letter to Mr. Minetta requesting a response from a letter that was sent by the Board more than one year ago. Mr. Vater indicated he would forward a draft to the Board before mailing it.

The next meeting was scheduled for February 20, 2012 at 6:00 pm.

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**Jim Erickson, Secretary**