

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DESCENDANTS GROUP, AN AUXILIARY
OF THE AMERICAN DEFENDERS OF BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR**

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

Mr. Vater called the meeting to order.

I. Approval of Minutes

A motion was duly made, seconded and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the June, 2011 meeting.

II. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Pruitt then presented the Financial Report. She first discussed the necessity of revising the signature cards for the Descendant Group's checking account. After discussion, a motion was duly made and seconded to authorize Joseph A. Vater, Jr. and Judy Pruitt to be the signatories of the account and to remove Jan Thompson and Nancy Kragh as signatories. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Pruitt then reviewed the financial statements. As of August 2, 2011, total assets were \$93,641.78 consisting of a checking account balance of \$54,154.71, a certificate of deposit in the amount of \$8,474.77, a second certificate of deposit in the amount of \$15,506.15 and a third certificate of deposit in the amount of \$15,506.15. She also reviewed the Statement of Income and Expenses for the current fiscal year through August 2, 2011. The DG had ordinary income of \$10,574.76.

Ms. Pruitt then reviewed the actual cost of the 2011 Convention compared to estimates. Total income was \$16,930. Total expenses were \$17,863.27. Expenses

exceeded budget by approximately \$1,400. The biggest difference between budget and actual expenses involved the rental of the audio visual aides. This expense item is one which must be better controlled at future conventions. One control is to schedule audio visual well in advance and to not allow speakers to request audio visual at the last minute. The convention lost a little less than \$1,000 which was an improvement over the prior year. Both sponsorships and the silent auction were instrumental in narrowing the gap between expenses and income. Ms. Pruitt then concluded her report.

III. Convention

The Board then discussed the 2011 convention. One suggestion was to try to obtain separation from the areas involving registration and the bookstore. Ms. Pruitt noted that it was often times difficult to determine the rooms that will be provided until the week of the convention. One suggestion was to have the bookstore and the visiting room separate from registration. Other issues involving books that were provided to the Descendants Group to sell were also raised. In terms of scheduling, it was suggested that the Widow's Luncheon and the Wives' Tale not be back-to-back.

The Board then began a discussion regarding the 2012 convention in Albuquerque. The hotel arrangements have been made. The Board then began discussion of the event. The Board considered increasing the cost of registration as well as ensuring that the cost of the banquet tickets covers the meal costs. It was noted that the Overmier's have agreed to help the convention committee with respect to providing local assistance in Albuquerque. Joe indicated that he had spoken with William Overmier who lives in Albuquerque and he had agreed to assist in attempting to obtain sponsorships. Joe indicated that he would forward a draft of a letter to Mr.

Overmier for his consideration. It was also noted that Allan Overmier has agreed to provide the Board and the Convention Committee assistance. The registration costs and the banquet will be determined at the next meeting. A discussion also ensued concerning identifying the prison camp and/or military unit on the badges of the POWs in lieu of the current hometown. Kris indicated that would not be a difficult change to make.

The Board then discussed possible sites for the 2013 convention. They included Chicago, Illinois, Denver, Colorado, Norfolk, Virginia, Tacoma, Washington and Montana. The Board agreed that selecting sites with nonstop flights and centrally located makes it easier for the ex-POWs to travel to such locations. Judy indicated that she is attending a conference in Chicago where representatives from cities will be providing information relevant to convention planners. She indicated that she would bring back information for the Board to consider at the next meeting.

IV. Public Relations and Fund Raising

Joe discussed his efforts in obtaining sponsorships for the Pittsburgh convention. He indicated that he would draft a letter to send to the Board which the Board might consider sending to friends as individuals or who work at corporations which might be interested in providing sponsorships for the convention. Joe also indicated that perhaps this letter could be modified to attempt to obtain corporate and individual giving for the Descendants Group.

The Board then had a lengthy discussion concerning donor designated giving. The issue arose as a result of a request from Michael Hurst concerning a memorial at Punchbowl. Mr. Hurst had had discussions with the prior Board regarding providing

support for this. Mr. Hurst is now asking that the DG allow contributions to the DG could be designated by donor for the cost of this memorial. The Board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of such donor designated gifts. An advantage is that the DG would be supporting a memorial to the defenders of Bataan and Corregidor. In addition, it might expose the DG to donors who might not otherwise have heard of us which could result in increased membership or financial support for the DG. A significant disadvantage would be the requirement to ensure that the monies given were used for the donor's purpose. This would require separate bookkeeping for each of the purposes for which a donor designated gift would be introduced. It would also establish a precedent that may be difficult to control. Finally, if more money was donated than the cost of the purpose, issues would arise. The Board decided to continue to support this effort and Mr. Hurst will be advised to contact Joe concerning moving forward.

Linda then discussed the need to obtain more patches. She believes that at the Memorial March she will be able to sell them for \$5.00. After discussion, a motion was duly made and seconded to authorize the purchase of 300 patches at a price not to exceed \$2.00 each. All votes were cast in favor of the motion. The Board also considered other fund raising items including polo and tee shirts. The cost of these items will be brought to the next meeting.

V. Communications

The Board commented on the website. Suggestions were made to include the minutes and financials. Discussion occurred as to whether those items and perhaps others should be in a members only section. The Board also discussed means to

publicize the fact that April, 2012 will be the 70th anniversary of the Bataan Death March and May, 2012 will be the 70th anniversary of the fall of Corregidor.

VI. Quan and Museum

Joe indicated that he had spoken with George Wallace concerning deadlines and ensuring that materials submitted by the Board or other representatives of the DG are included in the *Quan*. Joe indicated that the deadline for the next issues of the *Quan* is August 22, 2011. Joe suggested that all articles be sent through him to forward to the *Quan*. Joe also indicated that he has been asked by George Wallace to have a member of the DG Board become a member of the Board of the museum. Joe indicated that he would be willing to serve since the meetings are held in Wellsburg which is less than an hour from his office. However, he indicated that he wanted to make sure that the DG Board was comfortable with the idea of having a member on the museum board. After discussion, the Board agreed and Joe will indicate to George Wallace his willingness to become a member of the museum board. Joe also discussed George Wallace's comments to him that it may be necessary for the *Quan* to charge a subscription. He wanted to obtain the Board's thoughts on having a part of the dues go to the *Quan* in the event a subscription charge is levied. Mr. Wallace also discussed attempting to provide copies of the *Quan* by electronic mail since the largest expense for the *Quan* is the postage.

VII. New Business

The Board established the committees for the new year. Carrie will chair the education committee. Nancy Kragh has indicated her willingness to continue to participate in that. Carrie will speak to friends of hers to obtain some guidance for

completing a lesson plan that could be forwarded to schools for American History class regarding the defense of the Philippines and subsequent capture and treatment of POWs by the Japanese. The communications committee will continue to be chaired by Carolyn. The web committee will be chaired by Jim. The grant committee will be chaired by Linda McDavitt with Nancy Kragh agreeing to participate. The fund raising committee will consist of Joe and Linda and the convention committee will consist of Kris and Judy and the finance committee will consist of Judy and Joe.

Joe indicated that he will forward a Doodle link to establish the next meeting which will occur at the end of September, 2011.

A motion was then duly made and seconded to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Jim Erickson, Secretary