

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DESCENDANTS GROUP, AN AUXILIARY
OF THE AMERICAN DEFENDERS OF BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR HELD ON
FEBRUARY 20, 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 January's Minutes

Mr. Vater noted that he had forwarded to the Board a draft of the minutes of the January 19, 2012 meeting. A motion was then duly made, seconded and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2012 meeting.

II. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Pruitt then presented the Treasurer's Report. The balance in the checking account as of February 20, 2012 was \$59,968.96. Ms. Pruitt noted that there is an additional \$105 to deposit. One CD matures October 29, 2012, and the current value is \$8,526.55, a second matures December 13, 2012, and the current value is \$15,589.88, and a third matures June 13, 2013, and the current value is \$15,757.36. The value of the brokerage account is \$11,353.61. One hundred forty-seven people have paid dues for 2012, about 10 of whom are new, 34 people have registered and 25 have paid for the banquet. The most significant disbursements have involved \$200 for the band deposit and \$1284 for the cost of t-shirts. Ms. Pruitt then concluded her report.

III. Convention

The Board then discussed the 2012 convention. The interim agenda will be placed in *The Quan* and posted on the website and the Google Group. The Board is still considering two speakers for the banquet. The Board then discussed an opportunity to have the videos brought by attendees to be shown in one room where the audio visual equipment that will be used for

the convention is maintained. A list will be available for individuals to sign up to show their videos. The Board discussed the logistics of having the American and Philippine flags presented at the convention as well as obtaining an honor guard for the banquet. The Board will be in contact with Mr. Ropp who obtained the honor guard for the Pittsburgh convention or perhaps members who reside in the Albuquerque area.

The Board also discussed a bus trip to see the Bataan Memorial Museum in Santa Fe. The Board was concerned about potential financial obligations as well as the logistics. No decision was made on the matter.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Communications

The Board discussed attempting to identify a contact at the POW Museum in Andersonville, Mississippi. Ms. Burkhart also noted that the National Guard Museum was going to have an exhibit for the 70th anniversary of Bataan.

B. Fund Raising

A fund raising idea that had been considered was to sell flags for placement at grave sites. However, it has been discovered that there are limits to the types of items that can be placed at grave sites. More study is needed on that matter. A new member in the New York area seems to be interested in assisting the Descendants Group with fund raising activities.

V. The Quan

Mr. Vater reported that the date for submission of information to *The Quan* is February 27, 2012. Initially it had been set for March 2; however, Mr. Vater encouraged Mr. Wallace to move it up so *The Quan* would be mailed as soon as possible in advance of the convention. Mr. Wallace will be invited to the Board meeting on Wednesday, May 2, 2012 in Albuquerque. Mr. Vater encouraged the Board to have the materials to *The Quan* on or before the deadline date. This would include the President's Letter, the agenda, information

concerning registration, silent auction items and assistance that will be needed at the convention. Mr. Vater also indicated that he would describe the visit to Washington, DC.

VI. Old Business

The Board discussed the Gold Medal legislation. The Board supports the legislation generally; however, it will work to attempt to have it amended so as to include all Japanese prisoners of war captured at the commencement of World War II.

The nominating committee was established to come up with a recommended slate of candidates that will be sent to the membership in advance of the meeting. The Board also discussed the necessary information that is to be sent to the membership including any by-law changes as well as the proxy information. Mr. Vater also noted that the amendment to the purpose reflecting the discussions at the last general meeting would need to be sent to the membership more than 30 days in advance of the meeting.

VII. New Business

Mr. Vater reported on Ms. Burkhardt's and his visit to Washington, DC earlier in February. He indicated that he met with staffers in the House of Representatives and the Senate as well as representatives of the Japan desk of the State Department. They also met with representatives of several national veteran service organizations. Mr. Vater indicated that it was his hope that the visits will be the start of a dialogue with government representatives. The focus was to encourage the continuation and expansion of the visits to Japan by finding a permanent funding solution. In addition, they pushed for the opening of records to researchers. Mr. Vater indicated that he believed that it was a valuable trip and indicated his appreciation for Ms. Burkhardt's efforts as well as those of Ms. Kotler and in setting up the meetings and assisting during the meetings.

Mr. Vater indicated that he had received a letter from a member who was unhappy about the fact that her membership and the membership of her daughter was not recognized. Mr. Vater agreed that he will draft a letter for the Board's review to be sent to new members if Ms.

Pruitt would forward to him the necessary information. Mr. Vater also discussed the letter to the Congressmen relating to the Washington visit. He thanked the Board members for their comments and indicated that those comments would be reflected in the letter.

The next meeting date was set for March 22, 2012. A motion was then duly made, seconded and unanimously carried to adjourn.

Jim Erickson, Secretary