



**SIGHOLTZ CAPITAL CHAPTER
173d AIRBORNE BRIGADE ASSOCIATION
PO Box 173
McLean, VA 22101-0173**



30 January 2019

Subject: 2019 Chapter 1 Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: 26 January 2019, 1100h

Location: 501 Slaters Lane; Alexandria, VA

Members Present:

Ed Anthony	Garrett Clemons	Roy Gilmore	Ryan Shipley
Steve Brignoli	Bill Connolly	Francis Hinton	Trudy Surut
Mack Brooks	George Farris	Jackie Lofton	Terry Walsh
Don Byrne	Joe Flesch	Mark Ludlow	Charlie White
Richard Caporiccio	Jeane Flesch	Henry Persons	Richard Wrona
Gene Cartier	John Foley	Alan Phillips	Jim Yarrison
Eric Gardner	Chris Sanchez	Gene Weeks	

Officers Absent:

Robert Read	Rick Young
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Others Present:

Connie Anthony	Patrice Snyder	Brenda Persons	Galina Sanchez
Susan Clemons	Valor Brignoli	Alex Sanchez	

Call to Order: The President called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence for Fallen Comrades.

Prayer: Rich Caporiccio, the Chapter Chaplin, led the assembly in prayer

Roll Call: See members present above.

Old Business.

1. Review of the 2018 Chapter Annual Meeting Minutes.

The Chapter President asked the assembly to review the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes. Henry Persons noted that his and his wife's names were not listed as being present at the Meeting. The Chapter Secretary noted the error and indicated that the minutes would be amended to reflect that Henry and Brenda Persons were present.

2. Report of Chapter Officers.

a. The Chapter President's Report.

1.The Mid-Winter Conference. The Chapter President said that on January 17 through 20, 2019, he and the prospective new Chapter President, Steve Brignoli, attended the Mid-Winter Conference, in Charleston, SC, where the 2019 Reunion will be held. He noted that the hotel is full and that there are other hotels within walking distance of the main venue. He encouraged members to register as soon as possible. The President noted that the Association was making good progress on critical issues. Overall, it was an excellent meeting. Reunion activities are posted on the Association website.

2.Chapter Donations in 2018.

1. Last year, the Chapter voted and donated \$2000 to Chapter 30 SC Chapter who is hosting the 2019 Reunion. The donation reciprocated monies donated to us for our Reunion.
2. In September, the Chapter approved and donated \$2000, in disaster relief, to the Sky Soldier Foundation to assist Sky Soldiers whose homes suffered damage as a result of Hurricane Florence. The money went to the son of a retired Sky Soldier Command Sergeant Major. The recipient lost his job and his house.

3.Chapter Activity Report.

The Chapter submitted its Activity Report to the Association. The President gave kudos to all who participated in Chapter activities, especially for the Reunion. He noted that 871 people registered for the Reunion. He had received positive feedback on the Chapter's performance.

4.Veterans Benches.

1. The Chapter President noted that the Chapter had donated benches with the Brigade logo to Bethesda Fisher House, the McGuire VA Medical Center, in Richmond, and to the Armed Forces Retirement Home (The Old Soldiers Home), in Washington DC.
2. Joe Flesch said Chapter members were donating money to sponsor Sky Soldier benches. The Fisher House said they could use another bench.

5.Old Soldiers Home.

1. The Chapter President passed out literature on the Old Soldiers Home. He noted, in the past, only former enlisted Soldiers were

eligible to reside at the Old Soldiers Home. Now the spouse of eligible persons is eligible to accompany the servicemember.

b. The Chapter Vice President's Report.

Additional Veteran Benches.

The Chapter Vice President, Terry Walsh, noted that the Chapter had approved and purchased three more benches. Terry is looking at sites at Fort Belvoir and Fort Dietrich. He asked for suggestions for the third bench. George Farris proposed the VA Medical Center in Washington DC. George said he would check into the DC site and get back to the Chapter.

c. The Chapter Secretary's Report.

Mack Brooks reminded the assembly that this would be his last term as Chapter Secretary.

d. The Chapter Membership Chairman's Report.

The Chapter President noted that the Membership Chairman, Bob Read, was not present due to family matters.

e. The Chapter Chaplin's Report.

Rich Caporiccio had nothing to report.

f. The Chapter Judge Advocate Report. Vacant.

g. The Chapter Master-at-Arms Report. Vacant.

h. The ABCT Veterans Recruiter Report. Vacant.

i. The Chapter Arlington Funeral Coordinator's Report.

Ed Anthony noted that there have not been any recent Sky Soldier Arlington National Cemetery burial notifications.

j. The Chapter Website Editor Report.

Gene Cartier is pursuing ideas to make the website more attractive. He said he'd like to put the updated membership list on the site, but there may be privacy issues. He is mulling over the prospect of putting war stories on the site.

k. The Chapter Treasurer's Report.

1. The Chapter Treasurer, Jeane Flesch, referred the members to the financial report sent to Brigade. (See attached). John Foley noted discrepancies in

the documents. The Treasurer said a corrected report will be developed post haste.

2.The Chapter President noted that this was Jeane’s last official act as Chapter Treasurer. He was joined by the assembly with a round of approval for service well rendered.

l. **Gold Star Family Coordinator.** Vacant.

The Chapter President recommended the Chapter pursue finding someone to fill the Gold Star Family Coordinator position.

m. **The Herd Word Editor’s Report.**

Mack Brooks repeated his request for members to write articles for The Herd Word. He emphasized that most of the Herd Word is done by very few people and we welcome articles, especially if they are accompanied with pictures.

n. **Historical Projects Leader & Medal of Honor Books Report.**

Ed Anthony reminded the group that the Chapter history and The Herd Word contain the story of the Chapter and Chapter members’ experiences.

o. **Wounded Warrior Support Report.** Vacant

p. **Welcome Packet Project Officer Report.**

1.Rick Young could not be present for the meeting. The Chapter President noted that Chapter 10, in California, has a welcome packet for new members that our Chapter would do well to imitate.

2.Ed Anthony raised the prospect of getting additional Maryland 173^d Airborne Brigade license plates. The Chapter President said he called Rick Young but Rick had not called back. Maryland novelty plates are ordered in batches of 50. To reorder, the special plate requestor must have 25 paid requests.

3.Mack Brooks said that it seemed the matter was addressed and resolved at the Annual Picnic. That proved not to be the case. Ed Anthony noted that Maryland has a numbered plate format. Additional follow up is needed on this action.

q. Iwo Jima Lithographs Update.

1. Chuck Heller donated two signed numbered sketches of the Iwo Jima monument to the Chapter. They are valued at \$9500 each. The Chapter donated one to the US Army Heritage and Education Center (AHEC) several years ago. The Chapter tried to donate one of the lithographs to the US Marine Corps Museum, in Quantico. It was not accepted. Subsequently, Chuck Heller sent the Chapter two more lithographs. The Chapter President noted that the 4th Battalion was, for a short time, in Vietnam, attached to the 1st Marine Division and had earned the Navy Presidential Unit Citation, hence, the 173^d Airborne Brigade-Marine Corps connection.
2. The President suggested donating one of the lithographs to the Army Museum. Another suggestion was made to donate it to a VA facility. Concern was expressed that the item may not be secure at a VA facility. Gene Cartier suggested having an auction or selling the lithographs through an art dealer or on ebay. Dick Wrona had concerns about pursuing ebay. The matter was tabled for the next Chapter President to consider.

2. New Business.

a. Donations.

In the past, the Chapter pledged \$200 per year, for 10 years, to the 173^d Airborne Brigade National Memorial Foundation. We have two years to go on that obligation. The first payment was made in 2001.

b. Donation Slate.

1. The Chapter President identified a slate of organizations to which we routinely donate. He recommend we continue donating to these organizations/activities.
 1. \$300 annually to the Bravo Bulls for the wreaths they place on the grave of a Global War on Terrorism Sky Soldiers' grave, on the 173^d Airborne Brigade Marker, and on General Williamson's Grave site, in Arlington National Cemetery.
 2. \$500 annually to the Sky Soldier Foundation for their Scholarship Fund.
 3. \$1,173 annually to the Sky Soldier Foundation for the Sigholtz Chapter Scholarship.
 4. \$500 to the Fisher House at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.
 5. \$500 to USAHEC, Carlisle, PA.

6. \$500 to Carole Carrol of Miracle Quilts. The President noted that Carole Carrol is an Associate/Honorary Chapter member.
2. It was noted that there was about \$3000 worth of donations. Don Byrne suggested supporting the items above by targeted member donations. Jeane Flesch advised the group that our organization was limited to \$50,000 annually by the IRS guideline for a 301 c 19 organization.
3. George Farris suggested waiting to vote on the recommended donations until the new Chapter administration was in place. He also proposed the Chapter consider combining Chapter scholarship donations. The President responded that the Chapter wanted to have a Chapter specific scholarship (\$1,173) and a (\$500) donation to support the Foundation's overall scholarship fund. George Farris then proposed a motion to wait for the new Chapter administration to be in place before approving the donations. The motion was not seconded.
4. Gene Cartier proposed a motion to vote on the recommended donations as outlined by the President. Charlie White seconded the motion. The motion to approve the proposed donations was approved by voice vote.

c. Chapter Elections.

1. Chapter President, Joe Flesch, stated that no one had fulfilled the bylaws requirements by declaring their intention to run for Chapter President and Chapter Treasurer. Nor had anyone provided their bio and vision for those offices. The Chapter President informed the members that Steve Brignoli and Dick Wrona had volunteered to serve in the Chapter President's and Treasurer's positions, respectively. He praised each candidate and proposed that they be appointed to the vacant positions.
2. Mack Brooks suggested having a voice vote to approve the appointments. Trudy Surut suggested the candidates for President and Treasurer be appointed by proclamation. Forthwith, the members approved the two candidates by proclamation.

d. New Chapter President's Remarks.

1. Steve Brignoli said Joe Flesch approached him to become Chapter President. He attended the Mid-Winter conference with Joe. He praised the Chapter for what they had done over the years. He thanked the members for their dedication to the Brigade and service to Sky Soldiers. He felt it was incumbent upon the next generation to assume and continue the efforts of current and earlier members. Steve said he wanted to increase membership so others can carry the torch. He thought some of the younger guys had much to bring to the table, especially in the area of IT, communications, and services to veterans.

2. Steve diverged to say how he became part of the Second Battalion, 173^d Airborne Brigade and, afterwards Army Special Forces. His business helps veterans find jobs. Steve challenged the older members to mentor new Sky Soldiers.

e. New Chapter Treasurer Remarks.

Dick Wrona said he got involved with the Chapter as a result of Joe Flesch's prodding. He became involved during the Reunion. Dick began his military service as a ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate (DMG). He was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. His battalion, then under LTC Mike Healy, became the 4th of the 503^d. He was a heavy mortar platoon leader and Headquarter Company Commander with the Herd in Vietnam. He too served with Special Forces. He retired and worked with the Treasury Department and other agencies, until retiring from the government.

Chapter Raffle.

An Official 50th Anniversary Coin of the 173rd Airborne Brigade "First in Last Out" with the certificate of Authenticity was won by John Foley.

Adjournment.