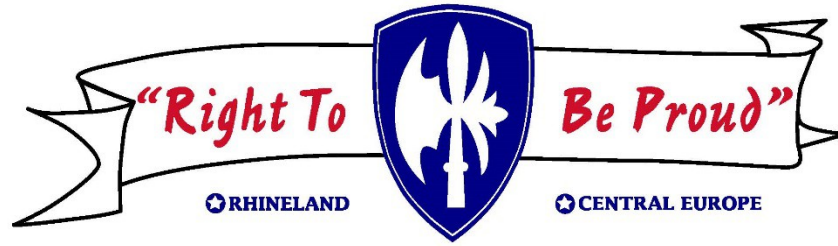


# 65th Infantry Division Association



Membership Meeting Minutes  
September 30, 2022  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

- A. David Ream called the meeting to order at 7 pm MT.
- B. Interim Chaplain Jean Pullin gave a prayer of invocation.
- C. Historian Steve Schell led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- D. Attendance: David Ream asked for a roll call to ensure the required quorum to continue meeting of 25 members were present. Attendance at these meetings is important as our bylaws require us to start dissolution procedures if a quorum of 25 is not present. A quorum was present.
1. President David Ream welcomed everyone and introduced the Executive Board: Interim Vice President and Recording Secretary: Joan Pratt, Association Administrator and Halbert Editor/Publisher: Jackie Hanson, Treasurer: Sibyl Ream, Corresponding Secretary: Courtney Walker, Interim Chaplain: Jean Pullin, Halbert Editor/Publisher: Debbie McNiff, Historian: Steve Schell, Social Media Administrator: Christine Phillips, Member at-large: Diane Repasky. Not in Attendance: Past President: Charlie Gemeinhardt, Membership Chair Lisa Brill Nadler, Sergeant-at-Arms Susan Theisen, and Members-at-Large Ben Diaz and Ed G Lewis. Earlier this year the Board voted per our bylaws for Jean Pullin and Joan Pratt to fill in the rest of the year as Chaplain and Vice President for the Russells. He also thanked the Russells for their service and Ed G. Lewis for serving his term as member-at-large.
  2. Veterans Norvin McClure and 71<sup>st</sup> Division veteran Earl Flanigan were in attendance at the reunion. David shared an update on the Lewis family and their hurricane Ian damage.
  3. First Time Attendee Introductions – David Ream: Philip Ellis (new Legacy), Alexis Stewart, and Doris Davis.
- E. Minutes of the Membership Meeting Nov 14, 2021 – Joan Pratt
- Meeting minutes from the Membership Meeting at Camp Shelby were posted on the 65<sup>th</sup> Div Association website and available prior to the meeting for attendees to review. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and passed.
- F. Financial Reports - Sibyl Ream:
1. Treasurer's Report:
    - Opening Balance on Nov 6, 2021: \$ 51,532.84
    - Total Income: \$22,446.89
    - Total Expenses: \$33,440.55
    - Difference: **-\$10,993.66**
    - Closing Balance as of Sep 15, 2022: \$40539.18

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Financial Reports as presented.

2. Auditor's 2020 Report – Jackie Hanson for Jessica Hanson Gamroth:

Beginning Balance 1/1/2021: \$36,031.00

Income: \$25,403.26

Expenses: \$28,873.90

Income minus expenses for a decrease of **-\$3,470.64.**

Balance as of Dec 31, 2021: \$32,560.36

All transactions were found correct for the 2021 fiscal year.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Auditor's Report as presented.

G. Standard Association Reports and Updates:

1. Membership Report- Jackie Hanson for Lisa Brill-Nadler: We had 24 new members since our last reunion which includes 2 Honorary, 2 Annual and 20 Life Legacy Members. Total active membership at this time is 210 Members: 38 Veterans, 20 Annual Legacy, 145 Life Legacy and 7 Honorary Members.
2. Condolence/TAPS Report – Sibyl Ream: Twenty veteran deaths were reported and 18 parchments were sent to families. Two were for 2016 and 2017 deaths and parchments were not sent. Two family members and 4 legacy member death notifications were received. David thanked Sibyl and Jackie for assuming the reporting of deaths in Barbara's absence.
3. Halbert Report- Jackie Hanson/Debbie McNiff: 220 copies with 156 glossy/colored paper were mailed. Fewer copies are being printed but that also can drive up the cost. The next edition will be smaller but we will try to keep the cost at \$25 per magazine if color and glossy pages are used. Copies will always be free for veterans. An insert in the next Halbert will have wording similar to that in the last one requesting a donation to continue receiving a copy. Attendees were encouraged to continue sending her articles and photos. Deadline for the 2022 issue is Jan 15, 2023.
4. History Books Report – Jackie Hanson: 10 books are available through [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) with six books to proof and covers selected. Forty-five books, including proof copies, have been sold.
5. Merchandise Report – Joan Pratt/Sibyl Ream/Jackie Hanson: Halbert pins in two sizes will be available for sale during the reunion. A merchandise selection team was appointed. Members are Team Leader Joan Pratt, Sherrey and Mitch Murray, and Lisa and John Newell. New items have been designed and embroidered polo shirts and hats are now available on-line. Limited merchandise is available in the Hospitality Room. Expenses of \$1083.39 include the purchase of pins and merchandise to display and sell at the reunion.
6. Historian Report – Steve Schell: many good contacts were made including a person who purchased a trunk in a surplus store belonging to General Reinhart. Steve was given photos and put the person in touch with the Reinhart family who wish to have the trunk. Another contact was from a person in Canada asking about their grandfather who was a German POW captured by the 65 Infantry Division. A uniform on display at the Dragonmans Museum with the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Halbert patch included dogtags belonging to our veteran Roy Schild of the 259SVC who passed in 2009. David will ask Charlie, as Camp Shelby liaison, to research the music that may have accompanied the “65th Song.” Steve is working on locating all of the regimental flags.
7. National WWII Monument Database Project – Steve Schell: The project to enter 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division veterans into the National WWII Monument Database ([www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com)) has begun and volunteers will begin beta testing submissions. Additional volunteers are asked to contact him for full implementation by Jan 1, 2023.
8. Social Media Report – Christine Phillips
  - a. Website: many of the veteran stories received have been posted, but several large donations have yet to be digitized. She has received thumb drives and electronic documents of about 8,800 items including letters donated by the family of a recently deceased veteran. Donated albums still need to be digitized, and establishing a topic search function is in the works. Approximately 15,000 photos need to be cataloged for searching including a recent donation of older reunion photos. A monetary payment/donation button has been added to the website to make donating an easy process.

b. Facebook: it is still providing good engagement. Steve will continue to provide reunion themed information. Christine has developed a calendar for recurring posts and members were encouraged to also post to the page.

9. Camp Shelby/MS State Armed Force Museum – David Ream for Charlie Gemeinhardt: Camp Shelby is considered the home of the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and with his personal interest, and relationships at the museum, Charlie has been appointed as our Liaison with them. This does not preclude members from making their own inquiries. MS has approved the building of a new museum outside the South gate increasing the size from 20,000 sq ft to 150,000 sq ft. Brick pavers donated in memory of our veterans are still on display and will be moved to the new location. The museum design is complete and building will take 5-7 years. Members were encouraged to follow Camp Shelby and the Museum on social media.
10. Obituary Research Report – Joan Pratt: progress continued at a slower pace. Binders will be available in the Hospitality Room for reading. Another living veteran was located and corrections have been shared. Volunteers wanting to help research or more information should contact her.

#### H. Open and Unfinished Business:

1. History Book Program – Jackie Hanson: work continues.
2. Merchandise/on-line Zazzle Store – Joan Pratt: Zazzle Black shipping and the Zazzle Refer-A-friend program were explained. Members are encouraged to use these program. Zazzle offers daily sales which reduces item pricing. Ordering through the 65thdiv.com website provides an additional referral fee to the Association. Reunion items will continue to be available in our on-line store. Contact Joan if you have a merchandise idea.

#### I. New business:

1. USS Slater Restoration Project – Steve Schell: The USS Slater was part of the convoy that escorted some of the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division to France. It is currently docked in Albany NY. Sibyl read the letter that accompanied our donation to this restoration project. Steve provided information for those wishing to make a personal donation directly to the USS Slater foundation ([www.uss.slater.com](http://www.uss.slater.com)) or subscribe to their newsletter. The foundation has shared a copy of the ship's convoy log book during the transit of the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division with him. The 2020 movie "Greyhound" starring Tom Hanks and based on the novel "The Good Shepherd" by C.S. Forester tells the story of the convoy.
2. Reunion 2023 & Beyond – David Ream/Jackie Hanson:
  - a. The 2023 reunion will be in Washington DC. Dates will be announced in early 2023 but will probably be in late Sep/early Oct.
  - i. Focus:
    - (1.) The Holocaust & the 65<sup>th</sup> Division: with the theme of the Holocaust we will be emphasizing the 65<sup>th</sup> involvement in concentration camp liberation. A tour of the Holocaust Museum is being planned.
    - (2.) The new National Museum of the United States Army: we plan to tour this official Army museum.

Jackie presented a slide show of some of the many places to visit in DC and attendees will be surveyed for their interests. Joan Pratt provided information on the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) complex and their world renown research library as an alternative to the National Archives ([www.DAR.org](http://www.DAR.org)).

- b. Future reunion – Feedback for 2024: Board members considered a number of locations. Their top suggested sites included NY/West Point/Camp Shanks, San Antonio TX and Charleston SC. The membership was surveyed for their preferences which agreed with the Board member's choices. Additional suggestions can be sent to Jackie. She will explore the suggested options keeping cost in mind.
- c. Reunion Planning:
  - i. 2026 is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association. Attendees discussed returning to Camp Shelby.

ii. Scope of Reunion:

- (1.) Themes and span of days: attendees were asked to consider if they want to continue with themes and with a two or three day reunion. Steve Schell was asked to develop an outline with themes to trace the the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division across Europe.
- (2.) Days of week, ending time, etc.: attendees were asked to consider if they want to continue meeting Thursday to Sunday with a schedule similar to the 2022 schedule ending by noon on Sunday. Meeting at other times of the year depending on location can be considered.

iii. Vacation/reunion package: attendees were asked to consider if they would be interested in a theme park, cruise reunion. A return trip to Europe will be included on the survey.

d. Membership Feedback: attendees were surveyed for their preferences and comments.

3. Interim Member Information Meeting via Zoom – David Ream: he will continue to keep the membership informed especially as we get closer to reunion time.
4. Halbert Costs and Financing – David Ream: the Camp Shelby edition was great but due to the number of pages, glossy paper and color it was published at a loss. Future editions may be smaller but economy of scale could keep costs up. Veterans (about 38) will always receive a copy at no cost. A donation insert will be included in the next Halbert edition. We cannot continue to provide copies to members who are not making a Halbert donation. A member asked about digital printing availability. This is an option but the setup price remains the largest cost.
5. Nomination Committee Report & Election - David Ream/Joan Pratt: the slate this year is different. The Vice President nominee will be filling a one year term to realign, per our bylaws, the coinciding two year terms of the President and Vice President. Nominating Committee Chair Interim Vice President Joan Pratt, veteran Ed Lewis and Lisa Brill-Nadler assembled a slate of nominees. The committee's endorsed slate of candidates was presented as follows:  
Vice President: Joan Pratt, Association Administrator and Halbert Editor/Publisher: Jackie Hanson, Treasurer: Sibyl Ream, Recording Secretary: Joan Pratt, Corresponding Secretary: Courtney Walker, Sergeant-at-Arms: Susan Theisen, Chaplain: Courtney Walker, Historian: Steve Schell, Membership Chair: Lisa Brill-Nadler, Halbert Editor/Publisher: Debbie McNiff, Social Media Administrator: Christine Phillips, members-at-large: Diane Repasky, Ben Diaz and Sandy Turner.  
There were no nominations from the floor and a motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Nomination Committee's slate of nominees. David thanked those members who have agreed to continue serving on the Board and the newly elected Board members. He extended the membership's appreciation to retiring member Ed G. Lewis for his contributions to the Association. Interest in a future Board/chair position will be included on the reunion survey or contact a Board Member for consideration by the next nominating committee.
6. Other New Business: none

J. Memorial Program/Taps Information:

1. Breakfast Sunday morning will be a buffet in the meeting room for those staying at the Hilton.
2. The Memorial/TAPS service will be presented Sunday morning after breakfast.
3. There will be short closing program following the memorial service.

K. Closing Remarks – David Ream

1. Attendees were thanked for their Halbert contributions to offset costs.
2. Becoming a legacy life member is inexpensive and appreciated. As members of the Association, we are all recruiters for new members to keep the Association thriving. Everyone was encouraged to have family members become new Association members and invite a guest to a reunion. A question was asked if people interested in the Association but not eligible to join could be allowed as members. Per our current bylaws this is not allowed. David provided the history of many veterans wanting to dissolve the Association when they were no longer able to attend. To honor the veteran's allowing the Legacy members to continue the Association no change is proposed. Guests are allowed and encouraged.

3. Contact Lisa Brill-Nadler for membership information.
4. The future of the Association depends on all members becoming involved by volunteering to help with a committee (from home), serving as a Board member or committee chair, attending reunions and providing feedback for improvement. Jackie Hanson thanked all the volunteers who helped make this reunion a success. David thanked everyone who came to the reunion and especially for attending the Membership meeting. Enjoy the rest of the reunion and see you in DC in '23.

L. Benediction was given by interim Chaplain Jean Pullin.

M. David Ream adjourned the meeting at 8:58 MT.

Respectfully submitted,

*Joan A Pratt*

Joan Pratt

Recording Secretary

Distribution:

Ben Diaz

Charlie Gemeinhardt

Jackie Hanson

Ed G Lewis

Debbie McNiff

Lisa Brill-Nadler

Christine Phillips

Joan Pratt

Jean Pullin

David Ream

Sibyl Ream

Diane Repasky

Barbara DuBois Russell

Scott Russell

Steve Schell

Susan Theisen

Sandy Turner

Courtney Walker-Saunier