

65th Infantry Division Association



Membership Meeting Minutes September 30, 2023 Washington D.C.

- A. David Ream called the meeting to order at 9:30 ET.
- B. Chaplain Courtney Walker gave a prayer of invocation.
- C. Sergeant-at-Arms Susan Theisen led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- D. Attendance: the required quorum of 25 members to continue meeting was present.
1. President David Ream welcomed everyone and introduced new members Susan Mathews, Carolyn Nix, Joe Kinder, Lou Giansante and returning member Susan Acquisto.
 2. Veterans Norvin McClure and Ed Lewis were introduced.
 3. First Time Attendee Introductions – David Ream: Including our new members, there were a total of 35 first time attendees.
- E. Minutes of the Membership Meeting September 30, 2022:
Meeting minutes from the Membership Meeting at Colorado Springs CO were previously posted on the 65th Div Association website and available prior to the meeting for attendees to review. There were no questions or comments and David asked for a show of green cards for approval. Motion passed.
- F. Financial Reports - Sibyl Ream:
1. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. Association Account:
Opening Balance on Oct 2, 2022: \$36,768.80
Total Income: \$26,806.30
Total Expenses: \$27,705.88
Difference: **-\$899.58**
Closing Balance on Sep 25, 2023: \$35,869.22
 - b. Camp Shelby: Income: \$12,307.03 Expenses: \$12,488.95 Difference: **-\$181.92**
 - c. Wash DC: Income: \$18,668 Expenses: \$16,554.12 Bills are still outstanding
Closing Balance as of Sep 25, 2023: \$2113.88
 - d. Registration: 98 - 2 veterans, 52 legacy, 41 guests, 3 from the 71st Div. Thirty-five attendees were 1st timers.
- A motion was made by Jean Pullin and seconded by Glenn Turner to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion passed.

2. Auditor's 2022 Report – Jackie Hanson for Jessica Hanson Gamroth:

Beginning Balance Jan 1, 2022: \$32,560.36

Income: \$21,312.90

Expenses: \$23,648.36

Income minus expenses for a decrease of **-\$2,335.46**

Balance as of Dec 31, 2022: \$30,224.90

All transactions were found correct for the 2022 fiscal year.

A motion was made by Jean Pullin and seconded by Jim Hanson to accept the auditor's report as presented. Motion passed.

G. Standard Association Reports and Updates:

1. Process – Association Board members have designated areas of responsibility and many provide annual reports to the Board, traditionally followed by oral reports to the membership. Based upon feedback from the membership, instead of oral reports, a summary of the traditional reports was provided this year to attendees at registration. Any comments or questions were addressed.

2. Report Information – summary provided to membership.

a. Membership Report – Sibyl Ream: Total membership is 204 including 161 lifetime, 16 annual legacy members and seven honorary members. There are 20 known living veterans of the Association.

b. Condolence/TAPS Report – Sibyl Ream. No additional comments or question.

c. Halbert Report – Debbie McNiff and Jackie Hanson: Norvin McClure commented that the latest issue was the best one he's read.

d. History Book Report – Jackie Hanson: members were asked to look in their family belongings for other 65th publications.

e. Merchandise Report – Joan Pratt and Christine Phillips: Merchandise will continue to be available and added on-line at Zazzle.com but we will no longer be selling new merchandise at future reunions.

f. and g. Historian and Social Media Reports: Members were asked to continue sharing their veteran's military history with Christine Phillips and Steve Schell.

h. Camp Shelby/MS State Armed Forces Museum: Charlie Gemeinhardt. Additional information was provided by Mark Prine.

H. Special Camp Shelby/MS State Armed Forces Museum update was provided by Col Mark Prine, Camp Shelby Projects Officer and Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Museum and one of our honorary members. Archaeological digs continue to unearth history of the Camp and the 65th Division. The museum has received a grant for improvements and nine new signs are in the works to identify historical locations. This includes the sign identifying the 65th Infantry Division Halbert parade field for which we are accepting donations. Planning continues for the new museum to be located off Highway 49/South gate on 470 acres to include the area that housed German POWs. He is hopeful they can break ground in 2025.

I. Joining the "Social Media Team" – Christine Phillips explained how social media comments from your Instagram, X and Facebook accounts can be linked to the 65th Infantry Division social media sites. This increases our on-line visibility.

J. New Business:

1. Reunion 2024 - David Ream/Jackie Hanson: last year members expressed the most interest for this reunion to be in NY with possible visits to Camp Shanks, West Point and the USS Slater in Albany. Jackie has begun obtaining hotel proposals with possible dates in Aug or Sep. Several NY resident

members have offered to help with the planning. The tentative theme will be “from Camp Shelby to the Siegfried Line,” exploring how the men traveled to NY and Europe, what they encountered along the way and once they arrived, and their entry into battle.

2. Reunion 2025: the Board discussed possible locations with recommendations to the membership of San Antonio TX (runner up to 2024), St Louis, New Orleans, and Fort Moore (formerly Ft Benning) GA. The membership concurred with the possibility of going to San Antonio or New Orleans and those locations received the greatest positive feedback.

3. Reunion 2026: this year will be the 75th anniversary of the Association. Members were asked about and showed interest in going to Camp Shelby for the celebration. The possibility was well supported by the Membership. This conversation will be continued with officials at Camp Shelby and the museum.

4. Nomination Committee Report and Election: The committee of Joan Pratt, Darla Sperduto and Susan Theisen prepared the following slate of recommended Board Members for 2023-2024:

President: David Ream

Vice President: Tammy Dorman

Treasurer: Sibyl Ream

Association Administrator & Halbert publisher: Jackie Hanson

Corresponding Secretary: Courtney Walker

Recording Secretary: Joan Pratt

Sergeant-at-Arms: Susan Theisen

Chaplain: Jean Pullin

Historian: Steve Schell

Social Media: Christine Phillips

Halbert Editor: Debbie McNiff

Members-at-large: Sandy Turner, Philip Ellis and Darla Sperduto

With no comments or additional nominations from the floor, a motion was made by Jackie Hanson and seconded by Jim Hanson to vote on the consolidated slate as presented. Motion passed. A motion by Glenn Turner and seconded by Patrick Elbert was made to approve and accept the slate. Motion passed to accept this new Board. David thanked departing Board Members-at-large Diane Repasky and Ben Diaz for serving on the Board and congratulated new Board members and those members who have agreed to continue serving.

5. Other New Business: In lieu of a paper survey, members were asked and heartily concurred with the following questions: was the location good, did they enjoy the National Museum of the U.S. Army, was visiting the Holocaust Museum a good idea, did they enjoy speakers at the sites and want this continued, was having annual report summaries sufficient, did they want to continue with themed reunions, did they like having optional evening programs, did they plan to attend in 2024 and were they interested in a European tour in 2025.

K. Closing Remarks – David thanked everyone who attended the reunion and all of the volunteers who worked together to make this reunion a success. Meeting adjourned with the TAPS Memorial Program immediately following.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Pratt

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Recording Secretary

Distribution:

Tammy Dorman
Philip Ellis
Jackie Hanson
Debbie McNiff
Christine Phillips
Joan Pratt
Jean Pullin
David Ream
Sibyl Ream
Steve Schell
Darla Sperduto
Susan Theisen
Sandy Turner
Courtney Walker-Saunier