

Minutes of the Virginia Division Executive Council Meeting  
Gander Mountain, Ashland, Virginia  
August 14, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Commander Mike Rose at 1 p. m.

After the invocation and flag salutes, Commander Rose called on Adjutant Pullen to call the roll. The following members were present and a quorum was established.

Commander Mike Rose  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Michael Thomas  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander Tracy Clary  
Adjutant Michael Pullen  
Treasurer Joseph Wright  
Archivist Edwin Ray  
Chaplain David Smith  
Inspector Thomas Blanks – see below  
Quartermaster Alfred Chiesa  
Heritage Defense Chief Tom Davis  
Past Commander John Sawyer  
Past Commander Frank Earnest  
1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Commander Kenneth Harris  
2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Commander Douglas Pruiett  
3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Commander Kevin Parker  
4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Commander Murrel Partlow – see below  
5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Commander Ted Crockett – see below  
7<sup>th</sup> Brigade Commander Ronald Graves

Commander Rose nominated the following compatriots to fill vacant positions as follows; for Inspector, Thomas Blanks; for 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Commander, Murrel Partlow; for 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Commander, Ted Crockett. A motion to accept the nominations was made, seconded and passed by voice vote.

Archivist Ray read the minutes of the 1 April meeting. Commander Sawyer recommended adding a sentence noting that there was no quorum for the 1 April meeting, but that no motions were passed that would have required a quorum according to the constitution and likewise, no motions authorizing funds to be expended were made or approved. A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made, seconded and passed by voice vote.

Commander Rose asked Treasurer Wright to give his report. With dues and donations beginning to come in, the picture is less bleak than his previous report, although the Heritage Defense Fund still contains only about \$85.00. Lt. Commander Thomas found a September 2005 issue of the Old Dominion Voice (ODV) which contained a couple of articles summarizing the minutes of the 2005 Division Convention which include some references to the passage of an amendment to the Division Constitution authorizing an

increase in the dues and that \$3.00 of the increased amount were to go to the Oakwood Cemetery Restoration Committee. Treasurer Wright has discussed several times his concern that the text of the amendment, though passed never found its way into subsequent revisions of the constitution. Commander Sawyer made a motion, seconded by Commander Earnest, to add the amendment language from the ODV article to the constitution. Commander Rose asked Adjutant Pullen to effect the update to the constitution and Archivist Ray to add the ODV issue to the Division's records.

Adjutant Pullen reported that a mistake had occurred early in this year's Member Renewal System (MRS) billing cycle. The MRS service provider sent into the mail non-current test data as actual bills. The mistake was caught and an updated file with the correct data was sent into the mail. About 1,300 members received two bills causing some confusion. The mistake was not the fault of any division officer, but rather someone in the employ of the service provider's company. Company officials have apologized profusely and have taken steps to correct their procedures so that a similar mistake cannot happen again.

Commander Rose asked if the Brigade Commanders had anything to report. Treasurer Wright commended 2nd Brigade Commander Pruiett for the report he had distributed via email this morning and asked if the Brigade Commanders had any feedback from their members to report to us. Commander Pruiett reported two items; first, that there is great concern regarding the current prohibition to flying Confederate flags at the Confederate Chapel and second, that there seems to be a problem getting acknowledgment for items submitted to the Confederate Veteran magazine.

Commander Rose next called on Chairman Lee Hart to provide a report from the Oakwood Cemetery Restoration Committee. Chairman Hart reported that we are awaiting a response to our recently submitted appeal paperwork wherein we requested a hearing in Washington, DC. Chairman Hart and Adjutant Pullen recently met with attorney Patrick McSweeney. We expect the appeal hearing will be attended by Chairman Hart, Senator Webb, attorney Patrick McSweeney, and, perhaps a few other people. This is not a situation where we need to pack the courthouse, so to speak. 7th Brigade Commander Graves asked what has been the response to the letter writing campaign. Chairman Hart reported that has gone very well, so far. Treasurer Wright asked what support do we have from elected officials. Chairman Hart said the support is growing, but that Senator Webb has indicated we don't need a lot of them at this upcoming hearing. He went on to say that Senator Webb wants the marker installation to happen during the sesquicentennial. Treasurer Wright read from the minutes of a 1925 Oakwood Ladies Memorial Association meeting that mentioned a plan to relocate the speakers' stand near and facing the monument and dedicate it as a memorial to the 8,000 unknown Confederate soldiers buried there. Chairman Hart reported that he had asked for an official written report from the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) on this subject and that they prefer to keep the speakers' stand where it is. Chairman Hart recommends working with DHR and not antagonizing them. Treasurer Wright mentioned a previous discussion that John Kindred had had with Ms Kilpatrick wherein he asked her opinion of the idea of moving the stand and she said she had no problem

with the idea so long as it isn't on top of any graves (as it apparently is now). Treasurer Wright went on to report that the North Carolina Division Commander has said "Get that damn thing off our boys' graves."

Commander Rose next asked Chairman Everette Ellis to give a report from the Jefferson Davis Memorial Committee. Chairman Ellis said it has been a successful year. He reported however, that the committee's budget is currently at the lowest level of any time during his tenure. He commended Compatriot Jim Cochrane for another successful program and that 2012 preliminary arrangements look good. The next service is scheduled for Saturday June 2nd at 9 a. m. Compatriot Cochrane asked if anyone had any changes to recommend. Someone mentioned that the amplified volume from the speakers was somewhat improved over previous services.

Commander Rose asked for Commander Ray to report on plans for the Sesquicentennial national rally event. Commander Ray said that he and Compatriot Cochrane had met with PCIC Chuck McMichael and AOT Commander Tom Strain before leaving the convention in Montgomery and that we now have a clearer idea of what they have in mind. Commander Ray has the parade permit form and a contact for obtaining off-duty police. Expenses for the rally event will be borne by the national SCV Sesquicentennial Committee. Commander Ray said he had talked with Walter Donald Kennedy at the convention in Montgomery and he has agreed to appear at a panel discussion. No word yet from Dr. Ed Ayers. Commander Sawyer asked if Commander Ray had heard yet from Paul Gramling, who is the coordinator of reenactors for the national rally; Commander Ray said he had not heard from him yet.

Commander Rose asked for a report on Heritage Defense. Coordinator Davis reported there is to be a rally in Lexington on Thursday, September 1st at 6 p. m. in advance of the city council meeting later that night. Commander Sawyer reported that we lost the Barton Street Monument case but ended up getting what we wanted anyway, though at a hefty cost in legal fees. The monument is scheduled to be moved on August 17th. We may be able to obtain a partial reimbursement from national heritage defense funds; a conversation with Heritage Defense Chief Hiter is in the offing.

After a short break, Commander Rose moved to a discussion of old business by asking Commander Clary for a report on the Sam Davis Youth Camp (SDYC). Commander Clary reported it was "super successful". There were 39 campers, 13 from Virginia, and 10 girls. The national SDYC staffers reported this Woodmen of the World facility is the best they have ever used. Before the end of the week, a commitment was made to return during the same week next year.

Commander Rose asked Quartermaster Chiesa to report on the situation regarding our representation at the state fair. The dates are 29 September through 9 October. A booth has come available; if we want it, the \$850 rent is due tomorrow. We would need to find a coordinator (or two or three), add inventory, and purchase both attendance and parking passes. The idea of a traveling information kiosk was brought up again. Commander Sawyer made a motion to spend money on a kiosk and postpone our participation at the

fair until next year. Quartermaster Chiesa seconded the motion, which then passed by voice vote.

Archivist Ray briefed the council on the Camp Handbook he had assembled, which included at the front the abbreviated, quick answer handout compiled by Adjutant Pullen, followed by a similar Frequently Asked Questions type handout produced by HQ, then a Camp Handbook also produced by HQ, followed by the Division Constitution and Policies and Procedures Manual, and concluding with the National SCV Constitution and SCV Standing Orders. Archivist Ray pointed out that all the items listed above are available in electronic form and could easily be added to the Division website and/or their links emailed to anyone as desired. Suggestions were made to add both the Division Convention Planning Guide and the Outstanding Camp Award information.

Lt. Commander Thomas briefed the council on the Welcome Packages idea he had been working on. They would include a welcome/congratulations letter to newly elected camp officers. Someone suggested including the Adjutant Handout compiled by Adjutant Pullen.

Lt. Commander Thomas next discussed the Division Color Guard idea and the need to recruit team players from each brigade. Treasurer Wright mentioned we could also use a Division Honor Guard. The ensuing discussion addressed the communication challenges involved. Commander Clary interjected that a hard copy of the ODV would help to effectively communicate with our members. Someone pointed out that the excessive cost of producing a hard copy newsletter is the reason we went electronic only. Inspector Blanks asked “shouldn’t the Brigade Commanders be filling in the gap as the communications conduit between us and the members?” Chairman Ellis reminded us that there had been a discussion at the Division Convention about adding an optional subscription for those members who want a hard copy ODV.

Lt. Commander Thomas briefly discussed the issue of our occasional difficulty in achieving a quorum at convention. In fact, we did not achieve a quorum at this year’s convention. Commander Rose said he will work with 1st Lt. Commander Thomas and Past Commander Sawyer to recommend amendments to our Policies and Procedures Manual that can alleviate these difficulties.

Adjutant Pullen reminded everyone about General Order Number One. Virginia is lagging far behind in compliance.

Commander Pruiett asked for a more prompt distribution of DEC meeting minutes in order to enhance the Brigade Commanders’ ability to pass along pertinent information to their constituents in a more timely fashion. Archivist Ray said he would do his best to distribute the minutes more quickly.

Under New Business, ANV Commander Earnest announced a meeting of the ANV to be held in Gettysburg on 24 September 2011.

Compatriot Alex Ray, son of Archivist Edwin Ray, a Life Member of Camp 1343, and a Life Scout in Troop 715, BSA, made a brief presentation about his proposed Eagle Scout Project to install grave markers and a battlefield monument at Buckland Farm near Warrenton. Upon the recommendation of Compatriot Lee Hart, one of his project advisors, he asked the council to donate one of the two remaining footers recovered from the renovation of what is now the National Theater at 700 East Broad Street in downtown Richmond for his use as a Monument to the Battle of Buckland Mills. After a few questions and a brief discussion, a motion was made and seconded to grant the requested donation. The motion passed by voice vote. Treasurer Wright asked if Chairman Hart had any plans for the last remaining footer to be used at Oakwood Cemetery. He said he could certainly come up with such plans and thought it was a good idea. Treasurer Wright then made a motion that the council go ahead and commit the last footer for use at Oakwood. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Compatriot Jim Cochrane of J.E.B. Stuart Camp 1343 made a brief presentation and asked if the council would be interested in collaborating with him and the Hanover County Sesquicentennial Committee in hosting a reenactment of the Battle of North Anna at his farm in Rockville. Commander Rose indicated he thought it was an excellent idea and encouraged Compatriot Cochrane to prepare a more detailed presentation with all relevant facts and figures for the next DEC meeting.

Commander Kevin Parker, Chairman of the Time and Place Committee, briefly discussed the draft Convention Planning Guidelines. Treasurer Wright suggested that the guidelines make the host camp responsible for ensuring that registered attendees are in good standing. Chairman Parker nominated Compatriots Ken Parsons and Edwin Ray to join him as members of the committee. A motion to accept the nominations was made, seconded and passed by voice vote. Council members still having not fully digested the proposed guidelines with time beginning to run short for today's meeting, Commander Rose suggested we postpone further discussion until the next meeting.

Commander Rose next announced and distributed some of the following national awards from the convention in Montgomery: Dixie Club – Michael Thomas, Ken Parsons, Robert Proffitt, Mack Oscar Gentry, and Lowell Wallace; Graves Award – Kenneth Fleming; Distinguished Service Medal – Brag Bowling, Tracy Clary, Frank Earnest, Everette Ellis, Lee Hart, Kevin Parker, Michael Pullen, Edwin Ray, Ron Rumberg, John Sawyer, Michael Thomas, Joseph Wright.

After a five minute break, Commander Rose called on the council to move into closed session. Commander Earnest made a motion to move into closed session. There were various seconds to the motion, which then passed by voice vote.

Upon the resumption of the open meeting, Commander Rose called for a benediction by Chaplain Smith and then adjourned the meeting at 6:07 p. m.