



91st Infantry Division League

MINUTES of BOARD MEETING

The Meeting was held Via Zoom on Wednesday, 4 May 2022

1800 – Call to Order

- Attendees: MG Balough, Chair; CSM Moore, Vice Chair; COL Jim Bonato, Chair Scholarship Committee; Ms. Janice Heller, Admin Officer and COL Otto Padron Board Member. Absent: COL Lou Lallo, Treasurer; COL Tamara Frattalone, Board Member.
- Fundraising and Associated Activities for Calendar Year 2022. **The Voices of D-Day" Project and Fundraising Opportunity.** The League has an exciting new opportunity to help preserve history and assist schools and civic groups around the country. The Normandie Institute and Board Director, COL (R) Otto Padron is working on an educational movie/video that will be available to be shown or streamed by any interested organization. "The Voices of D-Day" film is an extraordinary walk-through time with the voices, feelings and emotions of the original D Day veterans at the sites in which they fought on 6 June 1944. These preserved first person narratives, are a priceless insight to the truths of combat and its effect on the participants-much now lost to time. The film will be available to the Service Academies, high school and college classes and ROTC and Active Duty, Reserve and Guard units.
The League has signed on to be a sponsor and charter supporter of this project. Our goal is to contribute \$5,000. The Board believes that we should encourage League members to support this worthy project. Donations can be earmarked for the Voices of D-Day project in an effort to reach our \$5000 goal. In any case, we will endeavor to contribute as much as is prudent to this amazing project.
- Discussion of Scholarship Program. COL Bonato announced that the 2022 winner of the 2022 91st IDL Scholarship was Ms. Shelby Beachamp. Shelby is the granddaughter of CSM (R) Bobby Beachamp. COL Bonato said there were three well qualified finalists and it was a good competition this year.
- 91st IDL Event(s) for 2022. A barbeque/picnic at Camp Parks and a Holiday Lunch in December were discussed at the last meeting. The BBQ will not happen because of optempo and personnel turnover in the Division. The Board will confer with new 91st CG in August to determine if a joint Holiday Lunch or Dinner is possible. If not the League will hold it's usual Holiday event, time and place TBA.
- Review of Current Activities
 - Flowers – wreaths will be sent to the Florence, Italy American Military Cemetery, the Flanders Fields, Belgium, American Cemetery and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC on Memorial Day and also on Veterans Day in 2022.
 - TAPs Program – CSM Art Moore is working with COL Wells to invigorate this program. This may include solicited obituaries or memorial comments from fellow alumni, family or friends for deaths that are reported to the League.



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- Website Overhaul – COL Ron Packer with the help of COL Jimmy Wells is spearheading the effort. The Board desires that the new design include a connecting with Old Comrades/Connecting Alumni Program feature. We also desire to provide links (URLs) on the Homepage to other 91st Division oriented organizations like the USAR unit, the 91st Division in Italy and the 361 and 363 regimental Associations.
- Cooperation/Coordination with Current 91st Division.
 - A new Division Commander will be in place in August. COL Padron will ensure we get early access to him/her.
 - CSM Art Moore will be introduced to the new Division CSM by COL Padron to get the League message to the field through the NCO corps.
 - COL Bonato also volunteered to make himself available to discuss the scholarship program with Division soldiers and League members..
 - The Board feels that the sole joint League/Division activity this year (see above) should be either a Holiday lunch or dinner, not both. The consensus is that a lunch is preferable unless the Division is prepared to host and plan a more formal (and complicated) dinner affair.
 - As another way to connect with the current USAR unit it was suggested that the Division award a perpetual plaque for the Soldier and NCO of the Year awards. This could also include a Junior officer award if there is one. The plaque would be awarded each year with the recipient's name inscribed thereon. The winner would also receive a savings bond. This action has been approved by the Board. We need to coordinate with the 91st and to determine a bond denomination.
- Other Business – none

1900 – Meeting Adjourned at 1843 hours