

MINUTES OF 77TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
9/18/2021

Meeting called to order by Dwayne Fowler, President, at 10 AM, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Members present: Dwayne Fowler (President), John Garcia (3rd VP), Juan Garcia (Past President), Paige Lanier (Liaison 2/77th), John Moran Acting Secretary, LTC Adam Ropelewski (BNCO 2/77th), Bill Bilo, William Brown, Casey Mendenhall, Ron Nichols, Tony Hartley, John Balasa, Dean Phillips, and Jim Russell.

We opened with a prayer, and remembered Aaron Bradley, Barry DiMaria, Steve Glick, Barry Luedke, Manning Shuler, Ira White and Don Yowell, who have died since our last Reunion 2 years ago.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

OLD BUSINESS

John Moran, Acting Secretary, presented the minutes from the last General Meeting in 2019, and the minutes from several Board meetings, which were held via Zoom, and covered cancelling the 2020 Reunion, and two this year, also using Zoom, regarding the 2021 Reunion. The Minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Paige Lanier, who filled in for Ray Kreiner, who was not able to attend. The Treasurer's report was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

It was pointed out that John Moran is still the "Acting Secretary". The motion was made that he be appointed as the permanent Secretary, and the motion was seconded and passed.

The next subject of discussion was to confirm the location of the 2022 Reunion location. It was originally set to be in Florida, as the intention was to alternate east/west of the Mississippi, so as to allow the greatest opportunities for more to attend the reunions. Paige suggested that since we want to grow the Association, especially with younger members, that the best location, with the most Iraq-Afghanistan veterans, would be Colorado Springs/Ft Carson. After vigorous discussion, the motion to have the 2022 Reunion at Ft Carson was put to the vote and passed. Concern is noted that Reunion be held as soon as possible east of the Mississippi. The location for the 2023 Reunion to be decided at the 2022 Reunion.

LTC Ropelewski will check on the best dates for next year's Reunion.

Along with the goal to get new and younger members, primarily from the Active-Duty ranks, it was proposed by LTC Ropelewski that after AD personnel transfer from the Regiment to another AD unit, they pay a membership fee of \$20, which would cover them as long as they are in the military. Upon separation, they would pay \$50 for a life membership. This motion would necessitate an amendment to the Bylaws (Article I, Section 7c). Both the motion and the By-Law change were approved. The rationale for this is that the AD personnel have a small financial commitment to the Association.

Bill Bilo brought up Article IV, Section 7 of the By-Laws, which addresses Honorary Regimental Positions. As noted in the By-Laws, these positions are covered in AR 600-82. Bill volunteered to look into the specifications of this, and report back to the Board.

It was suggested by John Garcia that the Association sponsor some sort of tuition assistance (like the First Cav scholarship fund). This would give another reason for AD personnel to support the Association. Paige Lanier, John Garcia and Casey Mendenhall will look into it.

Election of Officers:

It should be noted that Mark Schwartz, who was elected 1st VP last Reunion (9/14/19), had to resign because of health reasons, and that the other officers moved up, and John Garcia was appointed to 3rd VP.

For this election, Lu Merritt had to decline the position of President for personal reasons, but still wanted to serve the Association. Therefore, the results are:

Bill Capshaw-President

John Garcia-1st VP

Lu Merritt-2nd VP

Casey Mendenhall-3rd VP

There being no more business to be conducted, the General Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM

Sincerely,

John Moran
Secretary