

Meeting of the New England Brigade Board of Directors – 1/23/2021

Treasurer's report by Deborah Martin (see attached)

Insurance policies

- Thanks to the work of Deb Martin, the insurance carrier agreed to not charge the NEB for 2020's liability insurance. The insurance will need to be paid before the first on ground event for the NEB.
- As the Board was still very active during the 2020 season and the NEB corporation did not stop functioning, Director's and Officer's insurance still needed to be paid.

New Business

Dues – The units that paid dues for 2020 are listed in an attached document. After a great deal of discussion, the Board agreed we could not in all good conscience charge dues for this coming season. We collected dues for last season, and the season was cancelled because of the pandemic. The coming season is filled with possibilities but few specifics; therefore, we do not want to charge dues to those units that paid in 2020. If you did not pay in 2020 and wish to return to the NEB as a voting member, we would ask that you pay the 100.00 dues from 2020.

Even though the NEB is not charging member units for 2021, the NEB still has bills to pay, e.g. Director's and Officer's insurance, and we have no guaranteed paid events therefore, we ask and would be grateful to any unit that is willing to contribute to our coffers for the coming year. This is not required but will certainly be appreciated.

The issue will be on the ballot.

Elections – Last year was the official beginning of the NEB as an official non-profit organization. Accordingly, we held elections that were somewhat unique to our normal way of business but were in line with our new Bylaws and Rules. Those elected were:

- Officers/Directors
 - Military Commander (2-year term) – Todd M. Bryda
 - Reminder: the military commander's position also come with a seat on the Board of Directors. Although I hold 2 elected officer/Board positions, I will have only one vote on the Board.
 - President (for initial 1 year) – Todd M. Bryda
 - Vice President (2-year term) – Ken Sellers
 - Treasurer (for initial 1 year) – Deborah Martin
 - Secretary (2-year term) – Thom Page

Additional Directors

Civilian Coordinator - Wendy Benedict (1 year)

At Large - Matthew Cronin (1 year)

At Large - Tom Bierly and Steve Raff (2 years)

Because of the cancellation of the 2020 season, the Board members would like to retain these positions and terms as if the year never happened. We will be asking the member units to approve this action.

Civilians – a very productive discussion occurred surrounding the reorganization of the New England Civilian League. The Board recognizes that most civilians are tied to and dues paying members of military units, but we also recognize that there are civilians who are unattached to military units. The Board has actively sought to support the efforts of our wonderful civilians. For example, we made sure that the new Bylaws required that one director be a civilian, and we automatically include the Civilians' Facebook page in all conversations and notifications. We believe that the next logical step would be to provide a home for all unattached civilian reenactors so that they can receive the benefits of NEB membership. Rather than create an entirely new unit with its required paperwork, we agreed to resurrect the New England Civilian League and grandfather their membership. Wendy Benedict and Todd Bryda will be encouraging the involvement of all interested reenactors in the coming months.

Memorial and honorary gifts: Once again finding ourselves in new territory, the Board made several purchases during the 2020 season (see attached Treasurer's Report). In honor of their years of service to the Brigade, the Board purchased 2 reproduction Army of the Potomac medals for Gus and Sue Gallagher before he left us for South Carolina. The Brigade also saw the passing of two longtime and beloved members, Paul Parisi of the 28th Mass., Co. H and Benny White of the 54th MA. To honor their memory, we made a donation in their names to the American Battlefield Trust. There was also a purchase to the Bryda family in honor of a family member passing. The Battlefield Trust and Bryda donations were made from funds donated by members for such purposes. No dues money was used.

We had a great deal of discussion about this. On one hand, we wanted to honor those members who have faithfully served the NEB. On the other hand, we do not want to put the NEB in awkward position of singling out specific individuals. We decided that in the future we will not use Brigade money for gifts such as medals for service to the Brigade. If we wish to do that, we will take up an individual collection instead. As to honoring our departed members, the NEB wants to send a \$100.00 donation to American Battlefield Trust in honor of all the members who have passed. We will be asking for a vote from the membership on this yearly expense. We also agreed that the NEB will provide a donation box for every NEB event in the future asking for donations from the public and members alike for this noble cause. Monies collected will be given their own line item in our treasury.

Insurance Waivers – A member asked about insurance waivers for events that the NEB does not specifically support but those in which member units still wish to attend. Apparently, some regional/national units allow member units to apply for a waiver/coverage for their units to attend events outside those specifically supported thus still retaining the liability insurance coverage for the member unit. We discussed this at length and decided that the danger to the NEB far outweighed any other considerations. We feared that if a member unit went to an unsanctioned event and needed to invoke our insurance policy, the NEB would share liability and costs for events over which they have no control. Our premiums could rise for accidents beyond our control. Regrettably, we decided to err on the side of caution and encourage units who need such waivers to seek them individually.

Events for 2021: We all know that given the uncertain nature of the pandemic this list is speculative at best, but Marc Bassos has put together what he has so far:

- April 17-18 160th Manassas event in Gettysburg, PA
- June 12-13 Abington, MA battle weekend (Island Grove Park)**
- June 19 Wallingford Parade (paid event)**
- July 3-4 Gettysburg battle weekend
- July 17-18 Genesee Country Village, Mumford, NY**
- August Hillsborough, NH
- Aug 28-29 Fort Adams battle weekend, Newport, RI**
- Sept. 18-19 Antietam, Sharpsburg, MD
- End of Sept./early Oct. Eastleigh Farm battle weekend**
- Oct. 16-17 Cedar Creek battle weekend

Marc also is in negotiations with the **American Heritage Museum in Stowe, MA** concerning a battle weekend. Several of our members attended an invitational timeline event last October which went very well. They want us back for a full battle weekend. We are suggesting that they choose Aug 13-15 or Sept. 10-12. Once we get confirmation, we will inform everyone.

The NEB will support those events in **Bold type**.

As soon as these events are confirmed and are looking for registrations, we will notify you.

FYI – “the Northeast Topographical Engineers” will henceforth be known as “the Northeast Topographical Engineers/Corbin’s Battery.”

Voting Issues: All dues paying members from 2020, are asked to vote on the questions below. These minutes are being emailed to each unit’s contact person. Each member unit is allowed one military vote and one civilian vote. We ask that you provide the name of the person in whose name the unit is voting (both civilian and military).

Question #1 – The NEB will not charge dues for the 2021 season to members units who paid in 2020.

Yes No

Question #2 – The terms of all officers and directors will continue as if the 2020 season did not occur. All elections will carry over into the 2021 season.

Yes No

Question #3 – The NEB will allocate \$100.00 per year to the American Battlefield Trust in honor of all members who have passed away.

Yes No

Donations:

Do you wish to make a general donation to support the NEB for the 2021 season? If so, how much?

All donations may be paid through Paypal or mailed to our Treasurer, Deb Martin, P.O. BOX 192
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01061-0192.