



**Minutes of Meeting of January 4, 2025
Bailey's Bar and Grille, Townsend, MA**

View Our Chapter Website at www.screamingeaglesne.org

Attending: Present: President Bob Morrissey (via Zoom), SAA William Blankenburg, VP Tony Payne, John Mastro, George LeBlanc and guest Brenda Fitzgerald, Greg d'Arbonne, Ed O'Reilly, and recording clerk/Zoom Administrator Cathie Clark (via Zoom connected to Greg's iPad on Bailey's WiFi).

Inquiry was made about Tom McGall. Report is that he had what seemed to be a sore throat, but it might be more serious. He will not be here today.

Lifetime Membership: Bob said some people are interested in becoming Lifetime members. We stopped that before because we weren't taking in any money, and we only had five or six people who were paying dues. He's thinking, with what we have going for us now, we could do that again if people wanted to be Lifetime members. He did the math, and if we had X amount that paid up as lifetime members, it would give us the same amount of money that they paid for five or six more years. And who knows where this thing's going to be in five or six more years. So it's something to think about. But there's a question of whether they are Lifetime members of National? And does it matter? Everyone knows they require you to be a member of National before you can join a Chapter. But a lifetime member of National may be different. A lot of people are, but they don't want to pay money to some other Chapter. If you're a Lifetime of National, that's just for National. Every chapter is self-sufficient. Bob had a gentleman approach him one time who was a Lifetime member of National and wanted to join our Chapter, and felt that it was unfair that he'd have to pay dues to two associations. When we offered it, Lifetime membership in SENE was \$101. National based it on age. Then they went back to just \$101. Now they're back up to \$200 again or something like that. They keep going back and forth depending upon how much money they don't make. We can do that again if people want to do that, because we're fairly well-funded now. It was our Treasurer Kevin Farrell's brother, William, who has raised the question now. Bob told him he'd run it by the membership and we could vote on it. If you don't want to vote on it today, you want to think about it, we can do it in March, the next meeting. We could make an announcement by email, give everybody a heads-up, so that they can vote in March at the meeting.

Snowbird: Everybody knows about Snowbird next month, and we don't know how many might possibly think about going. It's going to be the last one. They decided at the end of the thing last year that they'll do one more and this is it. So. It's a pretty good deal. We have a good time when we go down there. It's usually warm. It's not too late to go there. But you might not be able to get a room at that hotel at this late date. You have until the 18th of this month to do it. So if anyone's interested, that's what you do. Bob is going. Blink will be there. Any of you that haven't gone and might think about it, it opens up on Wednesday with registrations and stuff and the hospitality room opens. It's pretty good if you pay your fee for that. And Thursday, the Outback, they bring in dinner for free. It's usually pretty good. Chicken, steak, potatoes, vegetables, desserts. And they usually have some kind of side show or something. Usually the pirates come and they entertain everybody. That's usually pretty fun. Friday morning is the big buffet breakfast in the main dining room there. And Saturday night's the banquet. And you go do whatever else you want to do in between.

Coins and Apparel: At the November meeting, Bob said he was going to contact Crest Coins to find out how much it would cost to have coins like those we've been using when we have them that say, New England Chapter on them. Status

101st Airborne Division Association

New England Chapter

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is they haven't gotten back to him yet, so it's on the list for this week. And if anybody's looking for hats, we have to get more hats because we sold every one of them. Awesome!

Pockwinse Burial: Ed O'Reilly brought in a few copies of the newspaper for the people who were not able to attend. Bob hasn't had a chance to talk to Shirwin at all since that day. And he figured he'd just leave her be for a while because she was beside herself. It turned out to be a good day weather-wise, a nice thing. The people at the cemetery did a great job.

Membership: Kevin has sent out the dues notices via email to our email members. And I think he might have sent the paper ones out to people that don't have email. But on that note, we lost two of our Chapter members. One was in December, and that was Arthur Brown. He was a combat medic with, I believe, the 501st in Vietnam. He came to two of our meetings we had at the 401 in New Hampshire. Nice guy. And the other was Harry Kageleiry. He got in the military in 1952 and he retired in 1979 as a Colonel. He had a long list of accomplishments. But he passed away over a year and a half ago, and no one ever let us know. If it wasn't for Greg letting us know about Arthur, we wouldn't have known that either. We have those special condolence cards we had made up, so I sent one to each of the families.

But on the other note, on the 25th of this month, our Chapter member Taylor Larimore, who fought with the 101st in Bastogne, will be 101. And if any of you have the list, we have another gentleman who lives in Petersburg, New York. He will be 101 in March.

Army-Navy Game: We got word from National that once again USAA was looking to give tickets to the Army-Navy game and they wanted to get some World War II 101st Bastogne veterans, if there were any around. Because that was the theme of this year's Army-Navy game. I contacted both of them. And they both told me that they weren't physically up to making that trip. And then one Sunday afternoon, I got a call from this guy Dan Cunningham, a retired Navy veteran. He was going, and he thought he could take Taylor Larimore with him because he was having lunch with him in Miami. And the window had already closed to get the tickets. So there was another miss out on that one. But if it comes up again, I'll let everybody know if they offer us tickets. The only thing, you have to belong to National to go and get the tickets. We had a problem with that once already, but that was resolved. So if it comes up again, I'll let everybody know again. I don't know where it'll be.

We noted the status of the flag outside Bailey's as a result of President Carter's passing. This generated a lengthy conversation about President's who had served in the military...from 1803 to present.

Website: Cathie suggested that we might consider (while Bob is making his list of discussion points for the meetings) publishing an Agenda of those items in an effort to attract more members to attend. This suggestion was well-received but there was no decision made on it. Discussion also occurred about the password-protected MEMBERS ONLY page and whether it is still worth protecting, since the password has not changed since 2017. No changes were proposed at this point.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:44.

Airborne All The Way!"

Respectfully submitted,
SAA William Blankenburg