



**Minutes of Meeting of November 2, 2024
Bailey's Bar and Grille, Townsend, MA**

View Our Chapter Website at www.screamingeaglesne.org

Attending: Nine (9) members and guests were present: President Bob Morrissey (via phone), SAA William Blankenburg, Tony Payne, John Mastro, Don Miller, George LeBlanc and guest Brenda Fitzgerald, Greg d'Arbonne, and recording clerk/Zoom Administrator Cathie Clark. Zoom connection was unsuccessful, so proceedings were audiotaped only.

Minutes of the October 5 meeting were circulated before the meeting and all had ample time to read them.

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 pm. After the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer, we observed a moment of silence for our now deceased former President Dick Pockwinse. Ed O'Reilly shared a few words about Dick with us and we appreciated that.

SAA Blankenburg led the meeting on-site, interacting with President Bob via phone connection. The content below was enhanced by transcription of the audio recording.

Financial Report: Bob has been in touch with Kevin Farrell, our Treasurer, who is out of the country travelling (as previously reported in the Middle East) and he reports our funds are in good shape. Kevin said that his safety has been very good so far.

Old Business:

Bob told us a little bit about the presentation of our plaque to Mr. Larimore down in Florida:

"It went well. It was a great little trip. He's 100 years old, soon to be 101. He was the radio operator for the mortar platoon headquarters and headquarters company, on the 1st, at the Bulge. He froze his a--s off, not to mention his feet and everything else. And he's got complications from it. He's got one of those trach microphones you hold up on your Adam's apple when you speak and it's got that funny sound. He's a great guy. He loves the 101st. He wanted me to thank all of you guys for having me come down here. He wanted me to thank all of you guys for everything that we've done for the Chapter as a team. And he wants to make sure we stay in touch. And I've been doing that via his son. Anything we need to correspond with for him, we go through his son, Michael, who, by the way, treated me like gold.

I never had people do so much for me. Instead of driving, I took a plane. It was probably the smartest thing I could have done because the traffic down there, I would have shot somebody. You think it's bad around Tampa, you should see it down there. It's nonstop.

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But they put me in a very nice hotel, and they wouldn't take any money. Took me out to eat twice, wouldn't take a dime. The only meals I bought were breakfast and a lunch.

Mr. Larimore is in an assisted living facility that is very nice. His family put all the pictures taken there on a Google photo page, and I have the link. So they'll be put on the website. But I also downloaded each of the photographs. I think there are nine of them. So if you want, we'll add those to our Photo page.

That's how I found the picture of Dick from the 2022 Cookout with the SMAJ. National wanted a picture so they could put it up in the e-mail version of the magazine. It's a nice picture. For all you guys that knew Dick, you know what a wonderful guy he was. As for Dick's service, we have no information yet. Shirwin said she'd get a hold of me or Blink as soon as she found something out. And they want him buried in Bourne, and I know the place is awful tough to get into. I don't think any of you people will remember when we put a monument down there either. That was back in 92 and 93. It's a pretty nice one. I've got pictures of it. Also, We were out of those condolence cards that we had made a long time ago, So a couple of years ago, I had a whole bunch more made down here, and I did send one to Shirwin and the family. So they got something from us. When we find out what the service is going to be, and if they prefer a donation to a fund instead of flowers, then that's what I'll do. I'll make a donation to whatever fund they're looking to have money go to. So I figured I'd run that by you to get a vote to be able to do that. That would be from the Chapter.”

Blink: “Can I add something, Bob? Getting back to Mr. Taylor Larimore, 100 years old, when I first looked at the photograph of you and him, he actually looks better than you do. (laughter) I'm surprised they didn't fly him out and leave you there!”

Bob: “Well, that was why I went down there, because he's too fragile to get up to Tampa. No, he does look great. He does. And he's got all his faculties too. He was sharp as a tack. And he loved the plaque. He was beside himself. And all the pictures that were taken were put into an electronic frame that rotates through them — his son put up on the wall for him, so he says, ‘I'm going to sit here and watch this all the time.’ And Michael says that he does. He sits there and watches it.

But I want everybody to know how honored I was to go down there and do that. And thank Mr. Blankenburg, because he's the one that got the plaque made. He's the one that suggested it to me. And this was on the heels of Richard Hamilton, who deserved the honor he got too. And everybody joked about it, that he should have got a star on those wings, because this was a combat joke. It was.”

Blink: “While we have everyone here and you listening, so everyone knows, this trip to present this plaque to Mr. Larimore in Miami, Florida, Bob did this at all his own personal expense. The airfare, his meals, the family paid for his hotel down there. But I would like to make a motion that I think we have plenty of money in our Treasury and make a motion that you be reimbursed for your airfare. I'm going to make a motion on that.”

The motion was seconded and passed. The airfare was \$847.95.

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Bob advised us that he looked into Eagle Crest, where we got those coins from, to getting some saying Chapter 101st on it. He'll have a price on what the coins will cost. It'll be something that'll be good to have for the Chapter to give to people, and they'll know where it came from instead of trying to remember. And depending upon what they cost, he'll get a bunch of them. No vote, but unanimous approval on this idea.

Snowbird: It's 12th to 15th February, and Bob and several others already got their hotel rooms reserved and paid for the Banquet. It's good to get away from the cold weather for a little bit, and you'll make some friends down there. And, you know, just to be in nice weather in the middle of Winter is a good thing.

Upcoming Meetings: No meeting in December, but will have one in January. Weather permitting, we can do the fourth. Because of Snowbird, there'll be no meeting in February. And then we'll resume our regular meetings in March again. We'll put all that out in January, and hopefully in January we might have some dates for our Summer Cookout.

Bob thanked all that travel a fair distance to get to our Meetings -- thank you very much. It's much appreciated. He's been hearing through the grapevine that not many Chapters are doing as much as we are. We're not doing a ton, but we're doing it. "And without you guys, it couldn't happen."

Attendee Comments:

AUSA. Greg d'Arbonne is very active with AUSA -- their Regional President. He has all the Chapters from Maine to Delaware, which is approximately close to 90,000 members, under his purview. But, his area is Maine to Delaware, so they're in the head now. The Sergeant Major of the Army announced that if you have the EIB, Expert Infantry Badge, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge, they're making a new badge called the Master Combat Badge or something like that. It'll have a gold wreath instead of the silver wreath around the CIB to distinguish folks who have both medals or awards. And same with the Expert Field Medical Badge and the Combat Medical Badge. This is something that has been talked about ever since Greg joined the Army in 78 and came in as an officer. So that'll be a nice award. It'll look nice, and the goal is trying to get more people to get the EIB which is good.

USAA, and other credit cards for Veterans: President Bob reports that USAA is now hooked up with a bunch of different places, Wal-Mart and Murphy's, which is in SC. Gas stations everywhere. You get points when you use it to buy fuel and stuff. And they give you bonus points for using it at Wal-Mart. And if you have a **Military Star Card**, you can use that at Home Depot now. The discount at Home Depot and Lowe's is 10 percent for veterans. But note: It does not cover lumber and appliances. Too many contractors were giving that discount to all their employees and using the Contractor's card. So they had to limit it, so no lumber and no appliances.

Military Purple Heart: VP Tony reports for anybody with a Purple Heart, they have a form that they'll send you to fill out, that covers quite a few benefits that most recipients don't know about. They have this insurance

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policy through AII – more info is coming. But they cover quite a bit of benefits, medical, other benefits right now that seem new. When he gets more info, we'll share it.

Meeting Minutes: Cathie reports that she and Bob talked this morning, and about the version of the October Minutes that were just circulated. You saw how long they were and how much more detail. But this program that she's using is called Dictate Plus. And it takes the recording and with use of AI it turns it into an MP4, and then translates it into Microsoft Word. Greg confirmed that he has used AI to write letters of condolences, to write certificates of appreciation. It does a pretty good job. You obviously have to edit it.

So the October minutes are the first ones. She brought a copy in case anybody wants to see the actual transcript. There's four pages of it. It's crude like most people talk -- *you know, you know, you know*, and filler stuff it does document that in embarrassing detail. Editing it down makes for a longer, more time-consuming document but provides a more complete record of the meeting and eliminates straight typing. There still needs to be some tweaks, which she will make before they're posted. She asked for input from those present and no one had any, so she asked if the Minutes could be approved. Motion was made, seconded, and approved.

Zoom: We are paying monthly but there have been months that we didn't use it at all, that we paid for it. Cathie wanted to do a test from her home in December to determine whether this location and their type of Wi-Fi connection is causing grief. She has experienced changes made to Zoom during our unused months are difficult to learn on the spot. Daily users would have fewer problems picking up on these. She has also gotten into password hell, where they want your password, then say it's an incorrect password. You can't verify what you're typing in because it's hidden. Greg offered that since he has a Zoom account for his business and an iPad, which connects not to the local, but he can go cellular. So if we have cell coverage here, we don't have to worry about the Bailey's Wi-Fi at all. We could do that. He offered to bring that to our January meeting.

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

Airborne All The Way!"

Respectfully submitted,
SAA William Blankenburg