



**Minutes of Meeting of October 30, 2022
Bailey's Bar and Grille, Townsend, MA**

View Our Chapter Website at www.screamingeaglesne.org

Attending: Present were: President Bob Morrissey, VP Tony Payne, SAA William Blankenburg, Tom McGall, Ed O'Reilly, John Mastro, Greg D'Arbonne, Rob Botschafter, Dave Josselin, Don Miller, George LeBlanc, Guest Steve Morrissey and Fiancee, and WebAdmin/Zoom facilitator Cathie Clark.

The only member on the sick call list was CSM Bob Delia, now in the VA Hospice in Bedford MA.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00. Cathie apologized for arriving too late for lunch, but she had been trying to navigate the technical challenges in getting SMAJ on the Zoom call without any luck. He was very disappointed not to be able to be seen and heard at this meeting. Probably he had a lot to say and we only have 30 minutes free from Zoom. She will try to work with the Hospice technical people, who are expected to be on-site on Tuesday, Election Day, so those who actually would like face-to-face with SMAJ will be able to do so. She is planning to visit him in person. Cathie reported that we had no remote participants enter on Zoom, but for the first time we are attempting to record the proceedings. We are still in the learning curve of this tool, so we will jump in and see how it goes! Kind of exciting!

(Editor's Note: This was our second meeting utilizing the Zoom conferencing online tool, but as stated above, it was the first time we recorded the meeting – and we got the whole hour of it because there were no remote attendees. We were not pleased with the video quality which may have been due to multiple factors and the file is too large to email to anyone.

Treasurer Kevin Farrell and his brother, fellow-member Bill, were celebrating their joint birthday and were unable to crash the meeting via Zoom. Happy belated, guys!

A prayer was offered by VP Tony Payne, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Morrissey thanked everyone for coming, and all congratulated his son Steve and fiancee Lizzy on their engagement.

He shared with us his visit with SMAJ, reporting that at the time SMAJ was in good spirits. Since, we have learned that he is hanging in there way past expectations and feeling antsy about it.

A card for SMAJ circulated for signatures.

Treasurer Kevin had not entered the Zoom meeting, so Bob shared with us, as previously reported, that our modest \$3100 in the bank has been increased by a donation from the LTG James M. Gavin Chapter of the 82nd Airborne of \$500. Bob expressed appreciation for the donation. We have their members' emails

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on our list and they are always invited to our events. Some of our members belong to their Chapter as well and we are happy about that and the good relationship we have with the Gavin Chapter.

Someone asked if there are any WWII members still with us, and Bob said there are three: Taylor Larrimore (97 years old this year!) in Miami, William Shorter in the NY tri-state area, and George “Pete” Buckley from Connecticut. Gentlemen all, and Bob occasionally is in touch with them via email and/or phone. He also spoke to Doug Bell in CT recently about SMAJ’s status, Doug is a cold war veteran.

Someone asked about former President Dick Pockwinse, who we were happy to see at our Cookout. Latest report is Bob was told he is doing well, the cancer is in deep remission and he is doing a little bit of work, which is a good thing. He does get a little tired, but don’t we all? He’s 83 next month!

Bob let us know that the Logo Apparel is now back in his possession and he brought it today. If we sold everything he’s got, he would order some more. Let’s meet at his truck after the meeting and see if we can clean him out! (Editor’s Note: We now have inventory listed on our home page, so take a look and see if you can help us make way for new items.)

He asked if anyone has any new business.

Blink expressed appreciation to everyone who came, including Bob from SC. Next meeting is Saturday, December 3 – we are not having a holiday party so Bob wants to turn the December Bailey’s reservation into a social gathering instead of a business meeting. Snowbird is in February so we will not have a business meeting in February. Blink is waiting for the hard copy of *The Screaming Eagle* to come out with Snowbird details. He intends to drive down. Go online for details until you receive the magazine. It’s nice to get out of the cold weather. We don’t expect anyone to come Dec 3 if the weather is lousy.

Ed talked about the 82nd Christmas party briefly. In the past, it has been held at the AMVETS in Natick and we did participate once in recent years. Everyone had a good time. This year they are holding it at Ken’s Steak House, not in a banquet room, so they were not able to invite us. Dick Pockwinse is also a member of the Gavin Chapter, and he and Shirwin are going to try to attend.

Greg D’Arbonne was thanked and a round of applause given for his help and support to SMAJ. He offered to share a call on his cell phone after the meeting if we want.

Don Miller wanted us to know about a program called “Clear Path for Veterans New England. He says: “They’ve taken over the brick building above Willard Field Devens. Every Thursday they have a free lunch for Veterans and they are GOOD. I’ve been going there every week since February. They serve coffee at 8 a.m. and offer space for Vets to sit around and socialize and it’s all free.” Tony says he knew about the place but hadn’t been there. Don adds: “Yesterday they had a big show with dogs -- they train service dogs there -- and are always looking for volunteers to help with that.” (Editor’s Note: Here’s their website: <https://www.clearpathne.org/>.)

Minutes of the September 10 meeting were read and accepted.

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Cathie reminded Bob of two new business items he wanted on the agenda:

- Change in email address. Effective October 12, 2022 our previous email screamingeaglesne.org no longer exists BECAUSE our notorious former Adjutant used it to open a new PayPal account for himself in May of this year. We learned this when we tried to open one ourselves. PayPal was most unhelpful in fixing it and it turns out we are not the only ones to have this happen. Right now there is no penalty for “stealing” email addresses. We tried to pursue it, but at the suggestion of National, we now have a NEW email which is: 101stAirborneNE@comcast.net. Please change your email program accordingly.
- We were approached by Angela Wilson at MemoryCare.com, asking for their site to be added to our Links webpage. We receive many such requests and generally decline. We learned from the Mesothelioma sites that we did accommodate, you put one up and you are buried in an unbelievable number of other such emails. However, Bob looked at this one: <https://www.memorycare.com/veterans/> and felt we should carry it. He put it out for a vote, and all present voted to add it to the website. As you read this, it will be there.

Membership Discussion: The matter of the stated requirement to join National before you can join local Chapters was brought up as a financial hindrance and an obstacle to signing up new members. Bob’s feeling is that if you are in the 82nd or the 101st, and you want to belong to this Chapter, you can without that requirement. We haven’t had an official Membership officer in years. We have had membership inquiries, but when we refer them to National to sign up there first, they never come back to us. Cathie reminded the group that the NE Chapter Membership Application is on our website’s home page (<http://www.screamingeaglesne.org>). No vote was taken on this issue.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 1:57 p.m. and several of us met at Bob’s truck to conduct some apparel sales and possibly get SMAJ on Greg’s cell phone.

Airborne All The Way

Respectfully Submitted;

Robert Morrissey
President