



Northern Virginia Firefighters' Emerald Society Pipe Band

Board of Directors Meeting

June 13, 2019

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:25 pm
- II. Members in Attendance: President Mike Lacey, Vice President Matt Lopez, Treasurer Tom Clappi, Secretary/Webmaster Jim Kraftchak, Board Member at Large/Pipe Instructor Jim Ryan and, Drum Major Bill Bryce.
- III. Reports
 - a. Secretary – Previous BOD meeting minutes reviewed. Matt Lopez moved to approve as written, Mike Lacey seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - b. Quartermaster – Not present and no written report provided
 - c. Treasurer
 - i. Current balance stands at \$15,651.48
 - ii. Deposit over the last month of almost \$5,000
 1. \$1,900 in donations and event payments
 2. Closed out the BB&T account and discovered a large sum of money sitting there
 3. \$225 payment from Ride of the Patriots
 - iii. Expenses of \$563.72
 1. PJ Skidoos luncheon - \$382.72
 2. Storage Unit - \$90
 3. VACorp for 501C3 certification - \$25
 - iv. Tom Clappie provided checks of all donations to Jim Kraftchak so that donation thank you letters can be sent out.
 - d. Uniform Committee
 - i. Gary Winemiller submitted the committee report electronically to Jim Kraftchak
 - ii. Looking to change the uniform inspection
 - iii. Planning to schedule classes on various uniforms
 - iv. Working with the By Laws committee on proposed changes that will address the uniform manual.

- e. By Laws Committee
 - i. By Laws have been mailed out to all band members with a note to respond by the end of June.
 - ii. Committee members are:
 - 1. Chair – Matt Lopez
 - 2. Tom Clappi
 - 3. Steve Boulton
 - 4. Jim Martin
 - iii. Once all input from the band is received, the committee will compile and review all recommended changes and by the July or August BOD meeting bring forth the recommended changes.
- f. Membership Committee – Louis Santano was not present and provided no written report.
- g. Fundraising Committee
 - i. Bill Bryce is still working on getting a summary of funds raised at what event.
 - ii. The possibility of moving the after parade party on July 4 from the Aulde Shaubeen to Patriots Pub and Grill was mentioned for 2020 as it is just as close as the Aulde Shaubeen and we might be able to get better accommodations. Matt Lopez will contact the union to see if they might be interested in the venue change for next year.
 - iii. Open rehearsals are available at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern in Herndon and Patriots Pub and Grill in Fairfax anytime we want to do one. Jimmy's will just need a week notice.
 - iv. Doing an open rehearsal anywhere inside the beltway is very hard to do because of parking.
 - v. Grafton Street Pub in Gainesville would probably be up for hosting another open rehearsal.
 - vi. Beckett's in Shrilington would be a great place to do ½ way to St. Paddy's Day gig and fund raiser
 - vii. Beckett's on the Warf is ours every year for the same weekend as the Manassas St Paddy's Day Parade. They will still provide the bus from Manassas to downtown and back.

IV. Old Business

- a. SSL for the website
 - i. Jim Kraftchak purchased 2 years for \$130
 - ii. SSL has been installed and is working properly on the website now.
 - iii. SSL encrypts transmission of data between the site and uses so that any data they send can't be skimmed by hackers.
- b. Virginia Fallen Firefighter's Memorial
 - i. Between NVFESPB and other service bands in Virginia, there was an excellent showing at this event.
 - ii. Everything ran very smoothly unlike in previous years.

- iii. The Honor Guard was very happy with the performance and gave us props for doing a great job.
 - c. TeamSnap
 - i. Let it be known that Jim Ryan downloaded TeamSnap and is now signed up!
 - ii. Everyone needs to be using TS so we can accurately predict who will attend what events.
 - d. Pipe covers and cords
 - i. Jim Kraftchak looked into the cost of purchasing cords and bagpipe covers so that we all look uniform.
 - ii. Cost of a velvet bag with fringe, Velcro closure on the back and non-slip pad is \$51.
 - iii. Cost of silk cords is \$30.
 - iv. After discussion it was decided that the bag and cords are the responsibility of the individual however the band will pay to have the band logo embroidered on the bag.
 - e. Donation Plaque
 - i. Was determined that this is a lower priority that originally thought so nothing has been done on it yet.
 - f. Music Rewrite and Videos
 - i. Jim Ryan and Steve Boulton need to sit down and determine what changes are needed.
 - ii. After the changes are done, Jim Ryan will make videos of them being played.
 - iii. Upon completion of both of those, Jim Kraftchak will get them updated on the website.
- V. New Business:
 - a. Firefighter/Police Pipe Band Workshop for Virginia service bands
 - i. Would be good to have something similar to KTA here in Virginia.
 - ii. Venue, instructors, timeframe would have to be found.
 - b. Summer Break
 - i. Steve Boulton is working on determining when the summer break will happen this year.
 - ii. Tom Clappi recommends that no break be taken because we are getting better as a band and taking that break will only mean going backwards in progress.
 - iii. Mike Lacey feels we need the break to work on the By Laws and other items that require attention outside of rehearsals.
 - c. Procurement of Supplies
 - i. The band needs more chanter reeds
 - ii. Matt Lopez motioned that we allocate not more than \$600 to purchase a new batch of chanter reeds. Jim Kraftchak seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- iii. Need to determine how many band chanters we have left and why if we've had folks leave the band, we haven't gotten the chanters back.
 - iv. Discussion on purchasing tuner came up and Jim Ryan stated that we are not at the point where we need fancy tuners and the Korg C-35 that most folks have, will work just fine for now and not to purchase tuners.
 - d. June 26 Special Meeting
 - i. 35th Anniversary
 - 1. What do we want to do?
 - 2. How much should the band pay for?
 - ii. By Laws
 - 1. If you haven't, provide input now.
 - 2. What are some recommendations for change?
 - 3. Why are we addressing this?
 - iii. Time Off
 - 1. Do we want one?
 - 2. If so, when?
 - iv. Committee Workshops
 - 1. What is each committee up to?
 - 2. What more do they have to do?
 - e. Recruitment Videos
 - i. Discussion was had about potentially hiring a professional videographer to make 4 or 5 1 minute recruitment videos that then could be sent out to departments to help with recruiting members.
 - f. Change of BOD Meeting Time
 - i. Matt Lopez made a motion, that due to traffic and other concerns, the BOD meeting start time be moved from 6:30 to 7PM.
 - ii. Tom Clappi 2nd the motion and it passed unanimously.
 - g. Eastern United States Pipe Band Association (EUSPBA) Service Band Class Competition
 - i. Tom Clappi mentioned that now that we as a band are sound a lot better thanks to Jim Ryan's instruction, he thought that we should compete at least once a year.
 - ii. Matt Lopez stated that EUSPBA has recently rewritten its bylaws to have formalized rules for service bands where before it was looser on how they were judged.
 - iii. This will be added to the special meeting agenda for the band as a whole to decide on.
 - iv. If the band decides to pursue this, then everyone will know what is needed in order to play in the competition band.
 - h. 35th Anniversary Questionnaire
 - i. Add a question as to how much people are willing to pay to go to the event.

- ii. Add a box that can indicate that someone is not interested in having a 35th anniversary event.
- iii. Suggest that we add that the band will be willing to pay X for the event and that the membership will make up the difference in cost.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm