



Northern Virginia Firefighters' Emerald Society Pipe Band

Board of Directors Meeting

September 12, 2019

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm
- II. Members in Attendance: President Mike Lacey, Vice President Matt Lopez, Secretary/Webmaster Jim Kraftchak, Board Member at Large/Pipe Instructor Jim Ryan and, Drum Major Bill Bryce.
- III. Reports
 - a. Secretary
 - i. Previous BOD meeting minutes reviewed. Matt Lopez moved to approve as written, Jim Ryan seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - ii. Thank you letters were created and sent out to all who provided donations to the band based on checks received at the June 13, 2019 BOD meeting.
 - b. Quartermaster – Not present and no written report provided
 - c. Treasurer
 - i. Current balance stands at \$15,409.15
 - ii. Expenses of \$500 for chanter reeds
 - iii. Planned expenses of approximately \$750 for 4 bass drum heads
 - d. Uniform Committee
 - i. Uniform inspection will be held on September 25 rehearsal. ALL parts of the uniform MUST be brought and inspected.
 - e. By Laws Committee
 - i. By Laws have been updated with recommended changes and presented to the BOD for review.
 - ii. Jim Ryan motioned that the By Laws recommended updates be tabled until the end of the meeting if there is time. Matt Lopez seconded and motion unanimously passed.
 - iii. Mike Lacey recommended that the next BOD meeting be solely dedicated to the review of the recommended changes to the By Laws so that we can publish them by then 23 of October 2019.
 - f. Membership Committee – Louis Santano was not present and provided no written report.

- i. Matt Lopez has been working to get recruits from the Fairfax Fire and has already gotten one drummer from Fairfax City and has touched bases with a former piper student who will be returning now that she has finished her training. There is evidently also a person who works at the Woodlawn station that currently is playing pipes and brings them to the station to play that Matt is going to go talk to and see if he'll join.
 - ii. Jim Ryan suggested a referral bonus of \$50 to whoever recruits a person who joins the band and passes an audition, gets on the street and potentially performs at X number of events.
 - g. Fundraising Committee
 - i. Bill Bryce is still working the possibility of moving the after parade party on July 4 from the Old Station 4 to Patriots Pub and Grill for 2020.
 - ii. Working to potentially get a ½ way to July 4 fundraiser at Patriots where the local union and us split the profits. Matt Lopez will follow up with the union on this idea.
 - 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. Jim Ryan mentioned that we still need to raise around \$3,000 before the end of the year to meet our \$10,000 goal for the year.

IV. Old Business

- a. Procurement of Supplies
 - i. Chanter reeds have been purchased.
 - ii. Drum Heads – Bill Bryce to purchase 4 bass drum heads for about \$750 total.
 - iii. Band Chanters – This was moved to New Business
- b. Recruitment Video
 - i. Matt Lopez will reach out to Dorothy to see if she would be interested in helping us make a few, since this is what she does for a living.
- c. Eastern United States Pipe Band Association (EUSPBA) Service Band Class Competition
 - i. Decision was to put this on hold for now until we can get the band properly staffed. We don't have enough drummers right now to even qualify to compete.
- d. 35th Anniversary
 - i. After reviewing feedback from the majority of active band members the board decided to abandon this initiative.
- e. Summer Break – Its completed and nothing to add.

V. New Business:

- a. Christina Hayes husband in hospital
 - i. Mike Lacey suggested that we get them a get well card for now and once we know what they need, get them something.

- ii. Mike's wife seems to be able to get hold of Christina so she will find out what is needed.
 - iii. Matt Lopez motioned that we provide \$100 for whatever they need and Jim Ryan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Upcoming Gigs
 - i. NFFM Golf Tournament – September 19-20 at Twin Lakes Golf Course in Clifton, VA
 - 1. Jim Kraftchak motioned that we support this, Jim Ryan seconded and motion passed unanimously.
 - 2. Jim Kraftchak to contact Lisa Heilbraun to have this added to Team Snap.
 - ii. Fairfax Fire Retirement Association Picnic – September 29
 - 1. Class B is the uniform of the day
 - 2. Gary Winemiller has everything coordinated
 - iii. NFFM Weekend – October 4 – 6
 - 1. Jim Kraftchak raised the question if we are going to participate in the Ott House Saturday evening as we have in years past?
 - 2. Decision was we'll ask who wants to go and if we get enough we'll do it and if not we won't.
 - iv. Fairfax Recruit Graduation – October 11
 - v. Private Party honoring first responders – October 19
 - 1. Jim Kraftchak to send out email to band to get a commitment of at least 4 pipers.
 - 2. Once we have a commitment, then we'll ask Lisa Heilbraun to negotiate a fee. Jim Ryan motioned that we ask for \$1000 and accept no less than \$500. Matt Lopez seconded and it pass unanimously.
 - 3. If they will pay what we ask the BOD will approve the event.
 - vi. Vienna Halloween Parade – October 23
 - 1. Lisa Heilbraun needs to get this on Team Snap
- c. Fundraising ideas
 - i. Beckett's and Kirwin's
 - 1. Have Lisa Heilbraun contact the owner to see if we can get together to do fundraisers for us or other events for them that they would pay for.
 - 2. Maybe a 100 days before St. Patrick's Day event?
 - ii. Need to get on the Mission BBQ website as a supported band. Right now Baltimore is the only band listed on the site. Bill Bryce is working on this.
 - iii. Jim Kraftchak to send Chantilly Mission BBQ a thank you letter for the 9/11 gig.
 - iv. Fund raising plaques should be created and put up in Patriots, potentially Beckett's and Kirwin's and potentially Mission BBQ.

- v. Get old bass drum head mounted on wall at Patriots at least and potentially the others as well.
 - d. Committees
 - i. Mike Lacey will be contacting each of the committee chairs to see where things are with their committees.
 - e. Uniforms
 - i. Mike Lacey suggested that we should get name tags to be worn on the white uniform shirt only so we are more in line with Fire Department uniforms.
 - ii. Using the badges we have for the cap pin was also suggested as we spent lots of money on them and only wear that badge on the sweater, which isn't that often. Also the current cap emblems are looking really rough and this would be good solution.
 - iii. Matt Lopez will speak with Gary Winemiller about these suggestions so the uniform committee can investigate doing these.
 - f. Attendance
 - i. We need to have maximum attendance at all rehearsals and gigs. Without it, part of the band is seriously improving thanks to the great instruction by Jim Ryan and another part is not.
 - g. Chanters
 - i. Due to the fact that the Kron chanters that are made now are not exactly the same as the chanters we currently have in the band because that is how the process goes, we need to recover as many unused chanters as we possibly can, since a newer made chanter will most likely not sound like the current chanters.
 - ii. We currently have no spare chanters.
 - iii. Jim Ryan will draft an email that can be sent out to recover any chanters from those that have left the band that those that are currently inactive.
 - iv. This does not mean that those that are inactive are being removed from the band, only that we need to use all the chanters that are available and when inactive players return to the band, they will be given another band chanter.
 - v. Collected chanters will be used for new players getting on the street, returning players that are currently inactive and also for setting up spare chanters for gigs so that if someone has a reed break or go bad at the last minute, we can quickly replace the chanter with one that has an appropriate reed in it and was properly tuned up by our instructor Jim Ryan.
- VI. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm with motion by Jim Ryan and seconded by Mike Lacey and unanimous vote.