



Northern Virginia Firefighters' Emerald Society Pipe Band

Board of Directors Meeting

August 13, 2020

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm
- II. Members in Attendance: President Matt Lopez, Vice President/ Drum Major Bill Bryce, Secretary/Webmaster Jim Kraftchak, Pipe Major/Quarter Master Jason Allen, Band Manager Lisa Heilbraun.
- III. Reports
 - a. Secretary
 - i. Previous BOD meeting minutes reviewed. Jim Kraftchak moved to approve as written, Bill Bryce seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - b. Treasurer
 - i. Tom Clappi was not in attendance but sent a report that Jim Kraftchak read.
 - ii. Currently have \$12,688.88 in the bank
 - iii. \$97 for monthly storage fees
 - iv. Bill Bryce motioned that we accept the report as read by Jim Kraftchak and Jim Kraftchak seconded it. Approved unanimously.
 - c. Quartermaster
 - i. No changes from last month and nothing sent out to band members.
 - d. Uniform
 - i. Gary Winemiller was not present and did not submit a written report.
 - ii. Matt Lopez spoke to Gary Winemiller about getting standard clip on ties for the band so we all look uniform.
 1. Gary had asked Steve Cochran to check with USCG clothing sales and got no response.
 2. Gary then asked Matt Bickert to check with Army clothing sales and got no response.

3. Gary was going to try contacting Jim Martin to see if he could get them from USCG clothing sales.
 4. Bill Bryce stated that he would look into seeing about getting some ties and what they cost. Looking on Amazon during the meeting he found them for \$10. He'll do some more research to see if we can get them cheaper.
- iii. Do we want to get a NVFESPB tie tack for everyone?
1. Matt Lopez again spoke to Gary Winemiller and Gary doesn't believe its worth getting a tie tack.
 - a. Pipers will cover them up with their pipes.
 - b. Drummers can't wear one because of the harness.
- iv. Name Tags
1. Jim Kraftchak reported that last year's Board of Directors did not approve name tags because there were only four voting members present and it was a two to two vote.
 2. Matt Lopez will talk with Gary Winemiller and have him put together what a potential name tag would look like and cost by the October board meeting.
- e. Membership
- i. Matt Lopez stated that nothing much has happened due to the lockdown.
 - ii. Volunteer Fire Departments
 1. Matt Lopez stated that he met with the head of the VFD Commission and let him know that volunteers can join our band. The commissioner was not aware that volunteers could join the band and was going to let the volunteers know this.
 2. Matt Lopez stated that VFD Bingo halls have started back up so maybe they won't be available for indoor rehearsals. Matt will still check.
 3. Prince William VFD might have a hall that we could get since both Amy Hoffman and Matt Bickert volunteer there.
 - iii. Louis Santano, who was the chair of the Membership Committee, has let Matt Lopez know that he is going to take about 6 months off from the band so can be the chair.
- f. Fundraising
- i. Bill Bryce stated that he has kept in touch with the pubs that we were going to do the pub crawl at to ensure they are still up for coming when we can.
 - ii. Rest of fundraising efforts are on hold for now.

- g. Bylaws
 - i. Matt Lopez stated that a meeting was held with Steve Boulton and Gary Winemiller and they are all in agreement that the verbiage needs to be changed in the section that states the PM or DM must have a fire service background to include “or EMS background.”
 - ii. The updated language will be available for the board to review for the September board meeting.
- h. LODD Support Committee
 - i. Nothing has happened yet on this committee.
 - ii. A question was raised about recording Amazing Grace and maybe a few other tunes in case we can’t make a funeral.
 - iii. If we decide to make a recording and attach our name to it, it should be done somewhat professionally and not just recorded on someone’s phone.
 - iv. Bill Bryce stated that he might have someone who could do the recording for us and will look into it.
 - v. Matt Lopez suggested that if we do a recording that only the Honor Guard would get a copy of it so they could play if we can’t make the funeral for whatever reason.
- i. Budget Committee
 - i. Jim Ryan and Tom Clappi were not present and did not provide a written report.

IV. Old Business

- a. Payment to Instructors
 - i. Treasurer Tom Clappi was to issue the checks has not done this yet.
 - ii. Matt Lopez to follow up with Tom Clappi to ensure he does it.
- b. Policy for Instructor Payment
 - i. Matt Lopez as President was to establish a committee to look into this but as of yet has not.
- c. Pub Crawl Bus Fee
 - i. Tom Clappi not present so no information is available.
- d. Drumheads
 - i. Lisa Hielbraun stated that until we get tenor drummers on the street, while we need new tenor heads, there is no need to get them right now.
 - ii. Cost for new tenor heads with the logo on them is around \$60 each.
 - iii. Lisa Hielbraun also spoke with John Bideganeta about the snare drum heads and he stated that there was money already allocated so that he would handle getting new snare heads.
 - iv. The board is unaware of any monies allocated to John Bideganeta to purchase snare heads. The only monies the board has authorized at this point is \$1000 to purchase snare

- cases. Bill Bryce will contact John Bideganeta and see what monies he is referring to and report at the next meeting.
- e. Storage at the Fairfax County Fire Academy
 - i. Matt Lopez looked into this and there is nothing available that we could use.
 - f. Missing Reeds
 - i. Jason Allen stated that Steve Boulton still has the reeds that Jim Ryan had thought were missing.
 - g. Drum Major Manual
 - i. Bill Bryce has not created this manual yet.

V. New Business

- a. Rehearsals
 - i. Matt Lopez stated that we have not been able to get any bingo halls as of yet. Matt is waiting on the VFD to determine if one might be available.
 - ii. Rehearsals for the foreseeable future will be:
 - 1. Chanter practice at Patriots Pub with a Zoom meeting for those who do not wish to go to the pub one week.
 - 2. Centreville VFD Station 17 in the parking lot for work on big pipes the other week.
 - 3. Both rehearsals are strictly voluntary at this point.
- b. Upcoming Gigs
 - i. Fairfax Country Firefighters Retirement Picnic – September 25 at Brandy Station Firehouse has been cancelled.
 - ii. National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend in Emmitsburg has been cancelled.
 - 1. There will however be an unofficial voluntary band event to occur the same weekend in Gettysburg and Emmitsburg for those that wish to attend.
 - 2. Details are still being worked out, but it would be the full weekend (Friday night meet and greet through Sunday morning).
 - 3. Lisa Hielbraun stated that the deposit for the hotel rooms were due last week however they are good and will work with us but she needs to know soon how many rooms we will need.
 - 4. Bill Bryce suggested that we reach out to our band and see how many will participate and then reach out to other bands to how many rooms they may need.
 - iii. Manassas Ancient Order of the Hibernians (AOH) tentatively has their halfway to St. Patrick's Day event scheduled for September 17 or 18. More to follow as this develops.
 - iv. Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk has been cancelled.

- v. Since the Chincoteague Christmas Parade falls on the same day as the Scottish Christmas Walk and that has been cancelled, we could potentially do the Chincoteague parade this year instead.
- vi. Mission BBQ on 9/11 – PM states that if you want to play you must attend rehearsals.

VI. Good of the Order

- a. Lisa Heibraun to send out a reminder about the Mission BBQ gig and see how many are coming.
- b. Something will be happening in Emmitsburg in place of the Memorial Weekend but it is still in flux at this point and more details will be coming later.

VII. Action Items

- a. Gary Winemiller and/or Bill Bryce to find a source for ties and the best price we can get.
- b. Gary Winemiller to design and price uniform name tags by the October board meeting.
- c. Bylaws Committee to prepare new language for PM/DM requirements for review at the September board meeting.
- d. Tom Clappi to pay instructors.
- e. Matt Lopez to form a committee for creation of a policy for payment of instructors.
- f. LODD Support Committee formed consisting of Jim Ryan, Bill Bryce, Lisa Heilbraun and Tom Clappi. This committee still needs to meet.
- g. Bill Bryce to look into potential availability and costs for recording of funeral tunes in the event the band cannot attend.
- h. All committees are to report to the BOD at the next meeting.
- i. Bill Bryce to speak with John Bidegeneta to determine what monies he believes he has allocated for snare drum heads.
- j. Tom Clappi to investigate what monies went where for this event and ensure that the deposit and contract belongs to the band and not Phil Nannery.
- k. All board members to review the Budget Committee's report contained in last month's meeting minutes and provide input to that committee by our next board meeting.
- l. Matt Lopez to follow up with Tom Clappi to ensure instructors are paid for 2019.
- m. Matt Lopez to follow up with VFD stations 5 and 13 about the use of their halls for rehearsals.
- n. Bill Bryce to create a Drum Major Manual.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm with motion by Bill Bryce, seconded by Jim Kraftchak and passed with a unanimous vote.