



## Northern Virginia Firefighters' Emerald Society Pipe Band

### Board of Directors Meeting

September 26, 2023

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm
- II. Members in Attendance: President Matt Lopez, Vice President Bill Bryce, Treasurer Tom Clappi, Secretary/Webmaster Jim Kraftchak, Member At Large Cliff Gill, Band Manager Garrett McKenzie
- III. Reports
  - a. Secretary
    - i. Bill Bryce moved to approve the meeting minutes as written, Cliff Gill seconded. Approved unanimously.
  - b. Treasurer
    - i. \$22,274.04 is our current balance
    - ii. Expenses
      1. \$175 per night for Tom Cangalosi for instruction
        - a. \$700 so this month alone
      2. \$131 for Storage
    - iii. Tom Clappi stated that he has been paying Tom C out of his own account accidentally.
      1. Still have not reconciled instructional payment coming from wrong account yet.
    - iv. Matt Lopez stated that he has received a check from the Fairfax County Firefighters Retirement Association and has to get that check to Tom Clappi.
  - c. Quartermaster
    - i. Cliff Gill stated that nothing much has changed since our last meeting.
    - ii. Our normal uniform supplier J. Higgins doesn't seem to be that interested in helping us out with costs. As a result, Cliff Gill will be looking at other options.
    - iii. Cliff Gill stated that he will be purchasing a single caubeen from a supplier to see if it will work as the band is out of caubeens.

- iv. Jason Allen, Bill Bryce and Steve Boulton all need new kilts as their current kilts are getting threadbare.
- v. Cliff Gill stated that in speaking with Gary Winemiller a few weeks ago that some of the Irish bands out there have nice looking Glen Gary hats and we should look into getting them in green if we can. Garrett McKenzie provided a website that has green Glen Gary hats and caubeens to Cliff Gill to look into.
- vi. Matt Lopez stated that we should look at the current Irish Rangers Pipe Band uniform and see what they look like and maybe look to changing our uniform to match what they look like now.
- vii. Matt Lopez asked Cliff Gill look into long sleeve white shirts with the patch to potentially replace the short sleeve shirt with tie look.
- d. Drum Major
  - i. Bill Bryce stated that Pete Falcone has quit the band and that we've also lost a student drummer as well.
  - ii. Bill Bryce stated that he will contact Matt Bickert and let him know that Matt Khale is being promoted to Drum SGT.
- e. Pipe Major
  - i. Jason Allen was not available as he was working and as the meeting started, he got a call.
- f. Uniform
  - i. No report.
- g. Membership Committee
  - i. Matt Lopez stated that he was working hard to get the word out, but the younger generation doesn't seem to want to participate.
  - ii. Matt Lopez has spoken to piping student Marissa from the Fairfax County Police trying to get all the piping students to pay their dues and join the band since its costing us money for Tom Cangalosi to teach them.
- h. Fundraising Committee
  - i. Bill Bryce stated that there is nothing new at this point.
  - ii. Bill Bryce stated that he keeps in touch with all the locations and that we can pretty much do what we want when we want at Patriots.
  - iii. Matt Lopez stated that we should start planning the pre-Super Bowl fund raiser now so that we are ready to go.

#### IV. Old Business

- a. Ed Snyder Challenge Coin
  - i. Bill Bryce stated that he believes that this has been completed and will reach out to Jason Allen to see where it is.
- b. 40<sup>th</sup> Band Anniversary

- i. Matt Lopez stated that he has already been scoping out locations for the celebration.
    - 1. Maggiano's is a possible location, but they are very expensive and require a lot of upfront money.
    - 2. Centreville VFD Bingo Hall might be a good alternative and have Mission BBQ cater.
  - ii. Matt Lopez stated that we want to do something on a Saturday in April.
  - iii. We need to set a date before the end of October and look to have between 120 and 150 in attendance.
  - iv. Matt Lopez stated that we will also be inviting our sister bands to join us in celebrating.
- c. Name Tags
- i. Due to the issues we have with the current name tags, Cliff Gill will be looking into the costs for getting new ones made that will hopefully hold up much better.

## V. New Business

- a. Ride of the Patriots
  - i. Bill Bryce stated that they are going to want the band to perform again this year.
- b. Website Issues
  - i. Garrett McKenzie stated that he is not getting any emails from the website even when he has done a test message.
  - ii. Jim Kraftchak to look into the issue.
- c. Piping Instruction
  - i. Bill Bryce motioned that instruction continue from Tom Cangalosi at the rate of 2 times per month, as needed, until the next General Membership Meeting. Tom Clappi seconded the motion.
  - ii. Discussion was that instruction should be more focused on the band members rather than students.
  - iii. The motion was passed unanimously.

## VI. Good of the Order

- a. Garrett McKenzie stated that he still needs some guidance on how to properly manage gigs.
  - i. He believes that he should be soliciting for gigs.
  - ii. We need to revisit the pricing structure because the current structure is far below what even a single piper could reasonably ask for.
  - iii. We need to determine how many gigs the band should be doing.
  - iv. Pricing policies need to be created so there is a standard for how much we will charge for a specific type of gig.
  - v. Garrett McKenzie stated that he will work on putting a strawman together for this by next board meeting.

- b. Garrett McKenzie stated that he would like to add the band link to his website. The board decided that would be acceptable.
- c. Cliff Gill stated that he was going to look into other storage options to try to reduce the storage costs to the band.

#### VII. Action Items

- a. Jim Kraftchak to review website and determine why emails are not coming through the contact pages.
- b. Tom Clappi to provide Jim Kraftchak with the amount of payments made from the wrong account.
- c. Tom Clappi to get monies from the people that still haven't paid for their rooms in Emmitsburg.
- d. Matt Lopez to follow up with PWFd on status of Assistant Fire Chief.
- e. Cliff Gill to look into other storage facilities.
- f. Cliff Gill to look into other possible options for hats for the band.
- g. Matt Lopez to get check to Tom Clappi.
- h. Bill Bryce to check with Jason Allen to see if the Ed Snyder coin is completed or not.
- i. Garrett McKenzie to put together a strawman for the band on pricing policies.
- j. Bill Bryce to start working on pre Super Bowl fund raiser.
- k. Cliff Gill to look into new name tags.
- l. Cliff Gill to look into long sleeve white shirts.
- m. Bill Byce or Tom Clappi to set up a Venmo account that is connected to the band account and get that information to Jim Kraftchak so he can update the website.
- n. All committees are to report to the BOD at the next meeting.
- o. Jason Allen to move forward on the Ed Snyder coin.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm with motion by Bill Bryce, seconded by Tom Clappi and passed with a unanimous vote.