



## Northern Virginia Firefighters' Emerald Society Pipe Band

### Board of Directors Meeting

January 11, 2024

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm
- II. Members in Attendance: President Matt Lopez, Vice President Bill Bryce, Treasurer Tom Clappi, Secretary/Webmaster Jim Kraftchak, Member At Large/Quartermaster Cliff Gill
- III. Reports
  - a. Secretary
    - i. Cliff Gill moved to approve the meeting minutes as written, Bill Bryce seconded. Approved unanimously.
  - b. Treasurer
    - i. \$21,086.49 is our current balance.
    - ii. Income
      1. None this month.
    - iii. Expenses
      1. \$175 per night for Tom Cangalosi for instruction for 1 night.
      2. \$131 for Storage
      3. \$269 for various items purchased by the PM from J Higgins
    - iv. There was discussion over how much money the band can have before we have to do a more detailed tax return.
      1. Tom Clappi stated that as long as end the calendar year with less than \$25,000 in the bank then we are OK.
      2. Tom Clappi suggested that if we are over the \$25,000 mark by the end of the calendar year, then we need to get a CPA to do the taxes because it gets far more complicated.
    - v. Bill Bryce motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report and Cliff Gill seconded it. Approved unanimously.
  - c. Quartermaster
    - i. Long sleeve white shirts

1. Cliff Gill provided the following information.
2. Tom Clappi recommended purchasing shirts through Elbeco. However, they do not sell directly to the public, but have several vendors in the area. Below are the shirts they offer:
3. [CX360™ Long Sleeve Shirt](#) -
  - a. This 4.5 oz./sq. yard, **100% polyester** with 16% 4-way stretch fabric offers UVF 50 protection, features a **concealed front zip closure**, flex underarm mesh vents for added ventilation and range of motion, a comms wire pass through under the shoulder strap, a mic loop on the front placket for mic clip or glasses, permanent creases for clean lines, stretch wrinkle-free fabric for all-day comfort and a lasting neat appearance throughout the shift, and is machine washable.
  - b. **Where to buy**
  - c. [Galls](#) - \$61.50 - \$86.10
  - d. [OfficerStore](#) - ?????
  - e. [TheFireStore](#) - ?????
4. [TexTrop2™ Long Sleeve Polyester Shirt](#)
  - a. This 5.0-5.5 oz./sq. yd., **100% polyester** tropical weave fabric features chest pockets with dual-access utility compartments and hook-and-loop closures, flex underarm mesh vents, dual communication wire access openings in side seams, functional epaulets, compatibility with embroidery and silk screening, and is machine washable.
  - b. **Where to buy**
  - c. [Galls](#) - \$53.15 - \$89.99
  - d. [OfficerStore](#) - \$49.65 - \$74.40
  - e. [TheFireStore](#) - \$49.65 - \$74.40
5. [TexTrop2™ Zippered Long Sleeve Polyester Shirt](#)
  - a. This 5.0-5.5 oz./sq. yd., **100% polyester** tropical weave fabric features chest pockets with dual-access utility compartments and hook-and-loop closures, flex underarm mesh vents, dual communication wire access openings, functional epaulets, compatibility with embroidery and silk screening, a false button-front placket with **concealed zipper closure**, and is machine washable.=
  - b. **Where to buy**
  - c. [Galls](#) - \$56.99 - \$85.99

- d. [OfficerStore](#) - \$56.85 - \$91.00
  - e. [TheFireStore](#) - \$56.85 - \$91.00
6. [DutyMaxx™ Long Sleeve Poly/Rayon Stretch Shirt](#)
- a. This 6 oz./sq. yard, **80% polyester/20% rayon tropical weave fabric** with 14% fiber stretch features nano fluid repellency and UV 40+ protection, pleated pockets with dual-access utility compartments, scalloped flaps, hook-and-loop closures, and a pen opening in the left pocket, flex underarm mesh vents for body heat ventilation and increased range of motion, dual communications wire access openings in side seams, a top-fused banded collar with internal stays and two-button tab cuffs with dress placket for roll-up functionality, **badge tab eyelets** with internal support strap, a tapered fit, high-impact melamine buttons, and is machine washable.
  - b. **Where to buy**
  - c. [Galls](#) - \$68.75 - \$109.95
  - d. [OfficerStore](#) - \$69.39 - \$98.80
  - e. [TheFireStore](#) - \$69.39 - \$98.80
7. [Paragon Plus™ Long Sleeve Poplin Shirt](#)
- a. This 4.25 oz./sq. yd., **65% polyester/35% cotton poplin weave fabric** features a banded dress collar with internal stays and two-button tab cuffs, pleated chest pockets with scalloped flaps, hook-and-loop closures, and a pen opening in the left pocket, cross-stitched shoulder straps with functional buttons, **badge eyelets** with internal support strap, stitched-in creases, high-impact melamine buttons, extra-long tails to stay tucked in, compatibility with embroidery and silk screening, and is machine washable.
  - b. **Where to buy**
  - c. [Galls](#) - \$42.15-\$67.45
  - d. [OfficerStore](#) - \$42.59 - \$64.80
  - e. [TheFireStore](#) - \$42.59 - \$64.80
8. [First Responder Long Sleeve Shirt](#)
- a. This 4.9 oz./sq. yard, **65% polyester/35% cotton poplin weave fabric** features DTX fabric treatment for stain, soil, and moisture repellency, a banded dress collar with internal stays, flat pockets with mitered flaps and functional button closures, **badge eyelets** with an internal support strap to secure a metal badge, functional shoulder straps for mic attachment,

adjustable cuffs, a front placket, a straight yoke, pearlescent buttons, and is machine washable.

b. **Where to buy**

c. [Galls](#) - ??????

d. [OfficerStore](#) - \$39.59 - \$62.55

e. [TheFireStore](#) - \$39.59 - \$62.55

9. Local vendors

a. Paragon Defense Solutions Inc., 21351 Gentry Dr. STE 130, Sterling, VA, 20166 Phone: (703) 435-3400

b. Safety Footwear and Apparel, 46859 Harry Byrd Hwy Unit 201/202, Sterling, VA, 20164, Phone: (703) 430-0387

c. Jimmie Muscatello's Washington DC, 2820 Bladensburg Rd NE, Washington, DC, 20018, Phone: 202-393-7547

ii. New Kilts

1. Cliff Gill stated that he's been in contact with Joanne Montgomery from Lochcarron of Scotland regarding our order for three saffron-colored kilts.
2. Cliff Gill Stated that he already provided Jason Allen's measurements and shared Tom Clappi's contact information for handling the payment.
3. We're awaiting William Bryce's measurements, which he'll provide at our next practice.
4. The prices for the kilts are \$326.60 for the Braeraich Hand Sewn 8 yard Kilt and \$330.00 for the 9 yard version. Based on these prices, our total order cost will range between approximately \$979.80 and \$990.00, depending on the specific types of kilts chosen.
5. Additionally, Joanne has requested a reconfirmation of Steve Boulton's waist and hip measurements due to a sizing discrepancy.
6. Cliff Gill stated that he will continue to coordinate the details and keep you updated on the order's progress.

iii. New Caubeens

1. Cliff Gill stated that he has found the following information on where to get new caubeens.
2. <http://www.scotlandproductsonline.com> sells [Royal Irish Rangers Caubeen](#).
  - a. Scotland Products Online also offers the Royal Army Medical Corps Officer / Royal Irish Rangers Caubeen hats in dark green color. The price for each Caubeen hat is £24.99. At the current exchange rate of 1 pound = \$1.27, this

price converts to approximately \$31.74 USD per hat.

3. <http://GlengarryHats.com> has a [Caubeen](#) that includes tail ribbons - \$65

iv. New Scally Caps

1. Cliff Gill stated that he reached out to Boston Scally Co to address the issue of color fading in the Hunter Green Dubliner's scallys previously purchased by the band. In response, Boston Scally Co acknowledged that while their caps typically do not fade under normal conditions, factors such as sun, sweat, moisture, and certain cleaning agents can cause fading. They recommended the use of fabric protectants and color-safe cleaners, advised against machine washing, and suggested storing the caps in a dry place away from direct sunlight to prevent damage. Boston Scally Co appreciated our feedback and has indicated that they will pass this information along to their team for further consideration.
2. There are numerous options for scallies on Amazon
  - a. JANGOUL Men's Cotton Twill Flat Cap Ivy Gatsby Newsboy Hunting Hats - \$9.99
  - b. JANGOUL Men Ivy Cap Cotton Twill Newsboy Flat Cap - \$14.99
  - c. WITHMOONS Simple Newsboy Hat Flat Cap SL3026 - \$27.29

v. Potential replacements if we can't get caubeens

1. Glengarries

- a. In modern pipe bands, the use of dicing on Glengarries to differentiate roles, specifically between drummers and pipers, is a contemporary practice rather than a tradition rooted in historical military origins. It's more common for drummers to wear diced Glengarries while pipers wear plain ones, but this varies widely among bands and is influenced by individual preferences and the unique traditions of each band. This practice is not universally standardized and is more about visual distinction and band identity in the modern context.
- b. <http://GlengarryHats.com> has two glengarries that may be acceptable.
- c. Special Forces Green (plain) for pipers - \$60
- d. Special Forces Green (with dicing) for drummers - \$65

2. Balmorals
    - a. They follow similar dicing approaches as described above. They may be an acceptable bridge between caubeens and glengarries.
    - b. "Special Forces Green" Balmoral Hat - \$60
    - c. Diced "Special Forces Green" Balmoral Hat - \$65
  3. Bill Bryce stated that if we go this way, that we do not get any with dicing because then they can't be worn by anyone other than drummers.
- vi. Storage
1. Cliff Gill stated that it would be a significant matter of convenience to relocated the storage unit closer to his house.
  2. Cliff Gill stated that the current 5x5 storage unit is at capacity and we should therefore get a larger unit.
  3. The following units are available:
    - a. [Public Storage Self-Storage Units at 7901 Centreville Road, Manassas, VA](#) - **Medium 10'x10 - \$1 first month, \$104 (online price)**
    - b. [Extra Space Storage 8130 Oak Street](#) - 10x10, \$108, web rate
  4. Cliff Gill stated that he is willing to personally cover any costs over \$100/month for the storage unit.
  5. Board assured Cliff that is not necessary.
  6. Jim Kraftchak suggested that we purchase shelving for the storage unit if that would help in better organizing and using more of the spaces.
  7. Matt Lopez moved that we go ahead and get the new storage unit.
  8. Tom Clappi amended that motion by adding that the cost not be over \$150/month.
  9. Tom Clappi seconded the amended motion.
- vii. Tunics
1. Cliff Gill stated that he has looked at a couple of places where we could get new tunics.
    - a. <http://www.scotlandproductsonline.com> sells a [Royal Irish Ranger Piper/Drummer Tunic](#).
      - i. Cliff Gill reached out to Scotland Products Online regarding the purchase of 20 customized Royal Irish Ranger Piper/Drummer Tunics, specifically requesting modifications to remove front embellishments and retain only the buttons. They responded with a quote of £150 per tunic, amounting to a total of £3,000, and an additional shipping cost of

£150 to the USA, bringing the grand total to £3,150. For our reference, this total converts to approximately \$3,999.50 USD at the current exchange rate of 1 pound = \$1.27. The cost per tunic, when converted, is approximately \$190.50 USD. The team at Scotland Products Online awaits our confirmation and has mentioned that payment can be made via Card or PayPal.

- b. <http://GlengarryHats.com> has two options that may be acceptable:
  - i. [Canadian Military Style 4 Pocket Cutaway Tunic](#) - Starting at \$159
  - ii. [Green Pipe Band Doublet](#) - Starting \$300
2. Cliff Gill motioned that the band spend no more than \$600 to get examples of the tunics made and in hand so we can see what they actually look and feel like. Bill Bryce seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- viii. Name Tags
  1. Cliff Gill stated that the name tags he showed are plastic, not metal and have a magnetic holder.
  2. The name tags are from Etsy and are \$10 each.
- ix. Cliff Gill stated that Pete Falcone returned his complete uniform kit.
- d. Drum Major
  - i. Bill Bryce stated that the band is struggling with getting drummers.
  - ii. James Lind's mother was sick and now his wife got sick so he'll be out for a while longer.
  - iii. Matt Khale has to work for the next 3 weeks so he'll miss rehearsals as a result.
- e. Pipe Major
  1. Jason Allen was unable to attend the meeting, but Bill Bryce spoke with him and stated that Jason would like the band to be able to play Desi's Set for St. Patrick's Day.
- f. Uniform
  - i. No report.
- g. Membership Committee
  - i. Matt Lopez stated that Mike Voight may start coming to practice.
  - ii. Other than that, not much else is going on.
- h. Fundraising Committee

- i. Bill Bryce stated that he and Jason Allen spoke about the fundraiser, and both agree that February 10 is just too soon and we have too much going on.
- ii. Bill Bryce stated that we should focus on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and do a fundraiser in July sometime.
- iii. Tom Clappi stated that the McMillian concert is currently scheduled for February 10 so we couldn't/shouldn't do a fundraiser then anyway.
- iv. Bill Bryce is going to put together a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary tshirt designe.

#### IV. Old Business

- a. Ed Snyder Challenge Coin
  - i. Bill Bryce stated that Jason Allen the coins in hand.
- b. 40<sup>th</sup> Band Anniversary
  - i. Matt Lopez stated that we should keep the celebration small rather than something huge where we bring in our brother/sister bands.
  - ii. Tom Clappi suggested that we have the party after Emmitsburg however Bill Bryce stated that would not work and we shouldn't do it.
  - iii. Matt Lopez suggested that maybe sometime in August would work. The board discussed and agreed that would be the best time.

#### V. New Business

- i. There was no new business to be discussed at this point.

#### VI. Good of the Order

- a. Loudoun County and Fairfax Country recruit graduation went great.
- b. National Honor Guard is running a class in Loudoun County. Tom Clappi is going to look into seeing if we can play for that.
- c. Matt Lopez reminded the board to prepare an end of year report for the upcoming Annual Membership Meeting.
- d. Jim Kraftchak stated that he needs those report typed up and delivered to him prior to the meeting so that they can be more easily inserted into the meeting minutes.

#### VII. Action Items

- a. Tom Clappi to get monies from the people that still haven't paid for their rooms in Emmitsburg.
- b. Cliff Gill to order sample tunics.
- c. Cliff Gill to acquire a new storage facility.
- d. Cliff Gill to order kilts for Bryce, Allen and Boulton.
- e. 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.



f. All committees are to report to the BOD at the next meeting.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm with motion by Bill Bryce, seconded by Cliff Gill and passed with a unanimous vote.