



Northern Virginia Firefighters' Emerald Society Pipe Band

Board of Directors Meeting

June 18, 2024

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm
- II. Members in Attendance: President Matt Lopez, Vice President Bill Bryce, Treasurer Tom Clappi, Secretary/Webmaster Jim Kraftchak, Member At Large Matt Khale, Quartermaster Cliff Gill
- III. Reports
 - a. Secretary
 - i. Bill Bryce motioned to accept the minutes as written and Tom Clappi seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Treasurer
 - i. Bill Bryce asked if we have any money outstanding for hotel rooms at Emmitsburg.
 1. Tom Clappi stated that we have a few hundred dollars still outstanding.
 - ii. Tom Clappi stated that Tom Cangelosi is really eating into our budget.
 1. Max spending is around \$2,000 per month
 2. Bill Bryce asked if we cut back on Tom Cangelosi's time if we think we might lose him?
 - a. Tom Clappi said that yes we might.
 3. Tom Clappi stated that he feels we get a lot of Tom Cangelosi for pipe maintenance but feels that Cangelosi might not want to step on Jason Allen's toes as Pipe Major so doesn't step in with the band to help as much as he possibly could.
 - c. Quartermaster
 - i. Cliff Gill asked about where to get polos.
 1. Bill Bryce stated that they are purchased from East-West Embroidery in Manassas.

- ii. Cliff Gill stated that Boston Scally is not responding to any of his emails or calls.
 - iii. Tom Clappi suggested that we get Stillwater Kilts for new people on the street for 6 months of probation and then we can buy them a proper kilt because then we know that they will stay with the band.
 - iv. Tom Clappi also suggested that maybe we go with a vest instead of a tunic for new people as well as this would also save money.
 - v. Cliff Gill stated that maybe the band should consider just going to Stillwater kilts completely. The only difference is that they are slightly darker in color but while our kilts cost around \$600 each, between the fabric and then getting them custom made, Stillwater kilts are \$100.
 - vi. Matt Lopez stated concern about the quality of Stillwater kilts and Cliff Gill stated that he would bring both a band kilt and a Stillwater kilt to rehearsal so that the two can be compared.
 - vii. Cliff Gill stated that maybe we could go with a Balmoral instead of the Caubeen. The Balmoral looks like a Caubeen and is easy to get for a reasonable price.
- d. Band Manager
 - i. No report
 - e. Pipe Major
 - i. No Report
 - f. Drum Major
 - i. Bill Bryce stated that there isn't anything new at this time.

IV. Old Business

- a. Fundraiser
 - i. August 3 or 10 at Patriot's Pub would be a potential good time to have the fundraiser.
 - ii. Bill Bryce will check with Patriot's to be sure that we can do it during that time.
 - iii. Bill Bryce to send out an email to the band to see which date works best.
 - iv. Bill Bryce will put together a list of duties and assignments for the fundraiser so that people can be assigned to doing certain things and Bill doesn't have to do it all.
 - v. Bill Bryce stated that he has some band paperwork that Tom Clappi should fill out and Tom stated that Bill can simply fill it out and submit it.
 - vi. Bill Bryce stated that to get tshirts are around \$2,500 for 200 tshirts.
 - vii. Matt Lopez stated that we need to make around \$6,000 from fundraising to keep the budget going properly.

- viii. A discussion was had about which tshirts we should be selling on the website and the decision was made that once we have the 40th anniversary tshirt, that is the only shirt we will sell.
- ix. Further discussion was held about if one fundraiser would be sufficient, and it was determined that we need to do at least 2 fundraisers a year.
- x. The potential for doing more gigs as a band and/or being paid more for the gigs we do, was brought up to help supplement the budget and Matt Lopez stated that he would speak with Garrett McKenzie about it and see what can be done.
- xi. Dues
 - 1. Jim Kraftchak suggested that we could increase the dues across the board from \$100 to \$150 as we have been at \$100 for at least 10 years if not longer.
 - 2. Bill Bryce stated that we are the only band that charges dues.
 - 3. Bill Bryce asked if could simply charge pipers \$20/month to help offset Cangelosi's costs?
 - 4. Matt Khale stated that while we are the only band to charge dues, all other bands require their membership to purchase their own uniforms.
- xii. Mat Lopez stated that MacMillian has their own tartan and they charged the members for the new kilt tartan.
- xiii. Tom Clappi stated that Wake and District Band has huge amounts of money as they get new uniforms every year. How is that possible?
 - 1. Bill Bryce will check with his contacts at Wake and District to see what they are doing to raise the funds.
- xiv. Tom Clappi asked how Baltimore band gets funded?
 - 1. Bill Bryce stated that the Mission BBQ in Baltimore focuses just on the band and nothing else.
 - 2. Bill Bryce stated that Baltimore gets around \$750 per month from the Mission BBQ in Baltimore.
 - 3. Bill Bryce further stated that the Mission BBQ in Chantilly, while they have supported us, every other service like the Sherrif and Police and Fire for Fairfax found out and they asked for help as well. While that's great, it does us no good and that Mission BBQ is too spread out on it's donations.
 - 4. Bill Bryce stated that he would reach out to Kingstowne Mission BBQ and if they might be willing to support only us.
 - 5. Jim Kraftchak suggested maybe we reach out to the regional manager of Mission BBQ and they could potentially help out.

V. New Business

- a. Upcoming Events
 - i. June 28 – Fairfax Recruit Graduation at Centreville Baptist Church at 10AM. This needs to be put on TeamSnap.
 - ii. July 4 – Fairfax Parade

VI. Good of the Order

- a. Bill Bryce asked what the possibility was of getting somebody else access to the Academy? Matt Lopez stated that it wasn't a possibility and the only reason he had access is he is retiree and they've allowed him to keep keys.

VII. Action Items

- a. Bill Bryce to send an email to the membership to find a date for the fundraiser that works.
- b. Bill Bryce to check with Patriot's Pub to see if either of the dates suggested for the fundraiser will work.
- c. Bill Bryce to create a list of duties and assignments for the fundraiser.
- d. Bill Bryce to contact Wake and District band to see how they do fundraising.
- e. Bill Bryce to check with Kingstowne Mission BBQ to see if they would be willing to focus their fundraising efforts on us alone.
- f. Cliff Gill to bring a band kilt and a Stillwater kilt to rehearsal so that the board can see the differences between them.
- g. Matt Lopez to check with Garrett McKenzie to see about doing more gigs and/or potentially getting paid more for the gigs we currently do.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm with motion by Bill Bryce, seconded by Tom Clappi and passed with a unanimous vote.