



## Northern Virginia Firefighters' Emerald Society Pipe Band

### Board of Directors Meeting

February 2, 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, Pipe Major Jason Allen, Band Manager Garrett McKenzie, Quartermaster Cliff Gill
- III. Reports
  - a. Secretary
    - i. Bill Bryce moved to approve the meeting minutes as written, Matt Khale seconded. Approved unanimously.
  - b. Treasurer
    - i. \$19,304.35 is our current balance.
    - ii. Income
      1. None this month.
    - iii. Expenses
      1. \$100 for Storage
      2. \$269 and \$295 for various items purchased by the QM
    - iv. Tom Clappi stated that all outstanding monies from Emmitsburg have been collected.
    - v. Bill Bryce motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report and Matt Khale seconded it. Approved unanimously.
  - c. Quartermaster
    - i. Purchased 2 different types of caubeens and 2 different types of tunics to get examples to see where the board wants to go.
    - ii. Garrett McKenzie stated that if we replace all uniform items with something more affordable, then we'll all be uniform.
    - iii. Bill Bryce asked what we would do about the badges for the caubeens. The metal badges look best but are hard to get.
    - iv. Long Sleeve White Shirts

1. Cliff Gill stated that long sleeve white shirts are \$25 and then an additional \$25 to remove the epaulet stitching and add the band patch.
  2. Bill Bryce suggested that we have everyone fitted for one and we order them.
  3. Jason Allen stated that it's best to order everything and get the band patch added and the epaulet stitching removed. Individuals should be responsible for adding the department patch or US flag.
  4. Cliff Gill will purchase one shirt of each size with zipper closure so that everyone can try it on to determine what sizes are needed.
  - v. Cliff Gill will get a list of links pulled together where uniform items can be ordered so we have a single source.
  - vi. Cliff Gill ordered kilts for those that need them and will look into the cost of purchasing another bolt of kilt fabric as we are just about out. It will take 6-8 weeks for the kilts to be made.
- d. Drum Major
- i. Bill Bryce stated that there is not a lot new this month.
  - ii. Bill Bryce stated that it looks like Matt Bickert will be returning to the band for a while.
  - iii. Bill Bryce stated that he is talking to Johnny B to see if he is interested in rejoining the band in a non-marching position. He has currently joined the George Mason drumline so may not be able to.
- e. Pipe Major
1. Jason Allen stated that we need more reeds so that we can get around 18-20 playable reeds from the batch.
  2. The band is in a good position as people are working hard.
  3. Jason Allen stated that he will continue to push the band by adding new tunes.
  4. Shepard reeds are getting harder to get.
  5. New reeds
    - a. Jason Allen stated that we need 50 more reeds at a cost of about \$600.
    - b. Bill Bryce motioned to purchase the reeds for \$600 and Tom Clappi seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
  6. Tom Cangalosi Instruction
    - a. Jason Allen stated that he needs Cang to work more with the band.
    - b. Jason stated that he is looking how best to use his resources.
    - c. Possibility is to get a chanter only instructor but that would cost around \$350/month.

- d. Jason Allen stated that he is just investigating the different possibilities.
- e. Cliff Gill stated that the Border Patrol would send students to the Balmoral School but that was pretty expensive.
- f. Matt Lopez stated that will 6-7 students, instruction is not needed all night and he could help to instruct the students.
- g. The suggestion was made that maybe we have a piping class so that everyone gets on the same page.

7. Dues

- a. Jason Allen suggested we raise pipers' annual dues to \$150 to help support the cost of instruction.
- b. Matt Lopez stated that this change would require a change to the Bylaws.
- c. Matt Lopez also suggested that instead of just raising pipers' dues, we raise everyone's dues since haven't had an increase in quite a while and we do a lot more than we used to do.
- d. Cliff Gill stated that we need to properly communicate any dues increase and that it should be for all band members.
- e. Matt Lopez decided to table further discussion of dues increase for another meeting.

f. Band Manger

- i. Garrett McKenzie stated that we have the potential for the following gigs upcoming.
  - 1. Alexandria St. Patrick's Parade with meeting at Red Rocks
  - 2. Manassas St. Patrick's Parade
    - a. American Legion will pay us for playing there afterwards.
  - 3. Bunnyman Brewery
  - 4. Bill Bryce is to contact Baltimore band about Annapolis St. Patrick's Parade and will let Garrett McKenzie know by next Wednesday.
- ii. Garrett McKenzie stated that he still needs to get rooms set up for Emmitsburg this year.
- iii. Garrett McKenzie stated that we should create a list of yearly gigs that we know we will be doing every year and are board approved.

g. Uniform

- i. No report.

h. Membership Committee

- i. No report.
- i. Fundraising Committee
  - i. No report.

#### IV. Old Business

- a. Ed Snyder Challenge Coin
  - i. Jason Allen stated that he has the coins in hand and showed the board the final coin.
  - ii. Jason Allen gave Jim Kraftchak a coin so that he can take pictures of it and get it onto the band's website shop.
  - iii. Question was raised as to when we want to start selling the coins? The answer was we will start selling them after the Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade as that will officially mark the beginning of the band's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
  - iv. Jason Stated that he would like to give Ed Snyder's family 12 of the coins and this was approved by acclimation.
  - v. A suggestion was made that all remaining original band members should get one coin free of charge and this was again approved by acclimation.
  - vi. Bill Bryce stated that price for the coin on the website should be \$12 to help cover shipping and \$10 in person.
- b. 40<sup>th</sup> Band Anniversary
  - i. Matt Lopez stated that he sent the board information on Maggiano's and the board members should review it.
  - ii. We need to set a date for when the celebration will be held.
  - iii. Next board meeting we need to be ready to say yes or no to Maggiano's.
  - iv. We want to have veteran members who have been in the band but are not active now to be able to attend.
  - v. Bill Bryce stated that Maggiano's states that there is no cost but there is a cost due to the way they structure the requirements like food and drinks. Bill Bryce also believes that we should be able to play if we want to.
  - vi. Matt Lopez stated that this should be an internal celebration and not have outside bands join us because that gets to be a pain to coordinate.
  - vii. Bill Bryce suggested that maybe we have two different events. One where don't play and one where we do and have other bands join us.
  - viii. Tom Clappi is concerned about the cost of Maggiano's. \$2,500 to rent the facility and with catering and booze we are over \$6,000.
  - ix. Garrett McKenzie suggested that we have a social event that costs and then a free event where we can play and pass the boot.
  - x. Best time to do it would be a Saturday night.

- xi. Committee will consist of: Matt Lopez, Bill Bryce, Garrett McKenzie and Jason Allen.

V. New Business

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

VI. Good of the Order

- a. Open Rehearsal
  - i. Matt Kahle suggests doing open rehearsals at a firehouse.
  - ii. Volunteer firehouses might be better than career houses.
  - iii. Matt Lopez stated that Matt Kahle and Matt Bickert should look into setting up some open rehearsals at volunteer firehouses and we can use this as a way to recruit.
- b. John Snyder's daughter, Logan, is now starting recruit school in Loudoun County and might be interested in learning the pipes once she settled in the job.

VII. Action Items

- a. Cliff Gill to find the cost of a new bolt of kilt fabric.
- b. Jim Kraftchak to put the new 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge Coin on the band's website shop after the Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade for \$12.
- c. Matt Bickert and Matt Kahle to look at volunteer firehouses to setup an open rehearsal for recruitment purposes.
- d. BOD to review Maggiano's proposal for the 40<sup>th</sup>.
- e. Jason Allen to purchase 50 new reeds.
- f. Cliff Gill to purchase one of every size white long sleeve shirt with zipper so that we can have people try them on to determine sizes needed.
- g. Bill Bryce 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.
- h. All committees are to report to the BOD at the next meeting.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm with motion by Matt Kahle, seconded by Bill Bryce and passed with a unanimous vote.