

OKC BOARD MEETING MINUTES – 5/18/2024

95TH INFANTRY DIVISION FOUNDATION

➤ Welcome – Rob Geiger, Chairman/Executive Director

- Welcome and Introductions – 10:30 a.m. - Present for the meeting: Rob Geiger, Mike Flora, Clif Twaddle, Marsha Flora, Nancy Bubb, and Judy Hindman.
- Minutes/notes from October 2023, Board Meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

➤ Reports and Board Business

- Review of Financials – Mike Flora presented a detailed financial report. Highlights included:
 - a.) Current balance = \$218,835.16.
 - b.) Foundation Fund = \$64,020.88; Organization Fund = \$53,409.20; Scholarship Fund = \$101,405.08.
 - c.) Foundation checking account balance (as of May 2024): \$35,136.01.
 - d.) The annual dividend from OCCF is rolled into the Scholarship Fund. It was about \$3,000 in 2023.
 - e.) It is our understanding that we can't withdraw funds or transfer funds between accounts. We are not clear about the distinction between the Organization Fund and the Foundation Fund. Deposits can go into any of the funds or to checking, based upon the donor's preference. We discussed the possibility of increasing the scholarship amount or adding a second scholarship. We currently contribute \$2,000/year to awarded student.
 - f.) Judy volunteered to visit OCCF to discuss our questions with them face to face. It would be helpful to have more than one set of ears - could Doug Dollar join Judy? We need to prepare questions for Judy.
 - g.) Once we have a clear understanding of how the funds work, we can address the issue of expanding the scholarship.
 - h.) Some of the questions:

- > Can OCCF automatically provide info on the number of scholarship applicants (both past and future)?
- > Can OCCF automatically provide info on the recipient?
- > What is the purpose of each of the three funds?
- > What are the rules regarding transfers, deposits, and withdrawals?

g.) David Meyer update. Work continues. No invoices received to date.

i.) Putting our info on the cloud. Terry is ready to start on the next phase (website design and architecture). Terry suggests the the first step is for Mike and Jim to define they envision. The second step is for Clif & Terry to determine how to make it happen. Also, Mike notes that Joe J's family has a digital version of his book, and they are ok with having it online. Also, Marsha/Mike's history movie and 3D tour.

j.) Talked about getting a dropbox for Terry to start receiving material from David Meyer. This was accomplished.

k.) Discussed getting started on the Big over All project to incorporate all of our projects into a website. We have many completed projects that we can use to start to build a website with. Further talked about contacting a website manager, and submitting an application to OHS for funding in 2024 for website creation.

- Fundraising for the Foundation

a.) Mike reported continued success with donations, continued sales of coins and plates. Mike reported he had ordered 300 coins about 4 years ago, about \$10 each. All are now gone. Mike proposed a new design, will explore and order as approved. Mike reported that he still has a good stock of plates (65).

- b.) Mike suggested that we consider ordering caps to take to France for the 80th Anniversary celebration. Foundation would purchase. Mike to explore style, cost and quantity.
- c.) Odyssey maps? The Porter's found a number of original prints. Mike now has about 30. Sell some at OKC (encouraging people to come to the reunion). Possibly take others to France as gifts to dignitaries.
- d.) The 2023 letter writing campaign for Foundation donations and Associates Dues was once again successful. *The Requisition* was particularly effective. Promote through website, Journal, etc.

- Upcoming/Ongoing Expenditures & Projects

- a.) Fort Indiantown Gap Monument was relocated adjacent to the National Guard Museum on the base. Needs restored including some type of paving stone pad. Rob and Jim will identify contractor to refurbish the monument. All other monuments appear to be in good condition and not in need of work in 2024.
- b.) Discussed progress being made with the Interview/Log/Time-Coding Project with David Meyer.
- c.) Made a decision that we should prepare and submit a grant application to OHS for 2024. Clif will spearhead.
- b.) We currently do not have a Memorial Housekeeping Plan. Terry suggested that we recruit Theresa Bunn to check in on the Memorial in 2025 to ensure that all artifacts are in good order. Theresa is a self-starter, lives in OKC and is familiar with the Memorial and the 95TD.
- c.) Clif confirmed that Virtual Memorial Tour has completed several hotspots to provide enhancement for VT viewers. He thinks both the quantity and quality of hotspots needs improvement. Clif will update some of the existing ones and add new ones but will likely need additional funding. An additional grant from OHS will help fund these enhancements.
- d.) Rob noted that the Memorandum of Agreement ("MOA") and Loan Agreement for the Memorial is scheduled to expire in July 2025. Rob to reach out to Erik Kroph to discuss 3 year extension.

Terry mentioned that the 95TD is not meeting their commitment to post Memorial visitation information on their website. Rob noted that this provision is a contractual obligation. Terry noted that Eric Kropf will likely have to handle this issue for 95TD. This topic will be raised with 95TD in 2023.

- The 2023-2024 95th DIV Foundation scholarship was awarded to Hailey Hunt. Hailey is from Grandfield, OK and will be a freshman at OSU in Stillwater. Hailey is the great grandchild of a 95th DIV member, F Company, 378th.
- New Initiatives – New website design
 - a.) Discussed feasibility of having a new website created that would incorporate both Foundation and Association sites. A new website may be the means to launch the Online Research Center (ORC). The Association's website lacks the capability to add a Foundation tab. To reach out to Light Alive Marketing or some other vendor to determine if such a website could be created and maintained, and associated costs.
 - b.) A new website could provide us with the ability to include the following;
 - uses multiple media types (e.g., photos, documents, recordings);
 - content would be searchable (e.g., "Bauer");
 - accessible to a much wider audience;
 - on-going maintenance would hopefully be minimal and additional costs to add new content should be predictable.
 - Potential items to be included in a new website are as follows;
 - a.) 95th DIV Memorial and the 3D 360-degree virtual tour.
 - b.) Monuments and Plaques located throughout the United States and various locations in France.
 - c.) Numerous Movies and Films
 - d.) Archival Maps, Photos and Artifacts.
 - e.) Books/Biographies
 - f.) David Meyer's Audio Recordings of our Veterans.

g.) Victory Belles, with their significant contribution to the 95th DIV Legacy Association.

h.) Section dedicated to the CLVMA for honoring and promoting the legacy of the 95th DIV, including photos of their motor pool, and military vehicles.

i.) The 95th's contribution during the Gulf War (Afghanistan, Iraq).

j.) Searchable Resources (95th Veteran's names, 95th Journals, etc.)

- New Business - Discussed upcoming 80th Anniversary Celebrations in France, November 2024 to include;
Thionville - 8-13 November
Crehange - 15-20 November
Metz - 22-24 November
- Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.