



USS Lafayette Association

Business Meeting Minutes

Jacksonville, FL – June 5, 2015

Call to Order: by President Tom Tinney at 2000

Opening Prayer: Chaplin John Fornicola

Pledge of Allegiance: by Herb Wise

Meeting Minutes of 2013 Reunion: Read by President Tom Tinney, moved/seconded/voted to approve

Financial Report: The financial report by Treasurer Joe Geiger

Description	Debits	Credits	Balance
Balance reported on 5/1/2013			\$23,894.00
2013 Reunion Final Payments	\$14,191.00		\$9,703.00
2014/15 Website	\$340.00		\$9,363.00
Dues/Donations/Late 2013 Payments		\$4,377.00	\$13,740.00
2015 Reunion Member Deposits		\$17,415.00	\$31,155.00
2015 Reunion Payments	\$17,286.00		\$13,869.00
Balance as of 6/1/2015			\$13,869.00
Expected unpaid Reunion Expenses	\$5,925.00		\$7,944.00
Expected Post Reunion Balance			\$7,944.00

Election of Officers:

- **President:** In accordance with the bylaws, the previous Vice-President typically fills the position of President for the coming two years and the next reunion, **Gary Christopher** was nominated as President. Nominations from the floor were opened; having none, Gary Christopher's nomination was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.
- **Vice-President: Mike Bellantoni** was nominated to fill the position of Vice-President. Nominations from the floor were opened; having none, Mike Bellantoni's nomination was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.
- **Secretary:** Three candidates were nominated for Secretary: Mike Hodges, John Nuno, and Tim Cole. Mike and John were not present. Voting for secretary was as follows: Mike Hodges received 4 votes; John Nuno received 1 vote; **Tim Cole** received the remainder of votes cast, winning by a clear majority.
- **Treasurer:** Joe Geiger announced his intention to resign as Treasurer to the Board of Directors prior to the reunion. **Mike Skivington** was nominated to fill the position of Treasurer. While not present for the voting, Mike had agreed prior to the meeting to serve as Treasurer if elected. Nominations

from the floor were opened; having none, Mike Skivington's nomination was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Appointments:

- Chaplain – **John Fornicola** agreed to continue as Association Chaplain for the next two years.
- Storekeeper – Contact with present storekeeper is sporadic and unreliable. **Jim Dzaidul** volunteered to serve as storekeeper for the next two years.
- Webmaster – Bill Fraser announced his intention to resign as webmaster prior to the reunion. **Dave Seeschaaf** was appointed to fill the position of webmaster.

1. Committee Chairs appointed:

- Membership – Roger Alsaker
- Newsletter – Tim Cole
- Historian – Bob Porter
- Bylaws – John Sherman

2. Board of Directors:

- Chairman – Tom Tinney
- Members –
 - Current officers
 - Dennis Lauze, former chair
 - Joe Geiger, new member
 - Herb Wise, continuing
 - Lynn Watson, continuing

Membership on the Board of Directors was approved by the membership.

3. Votes of thanks were extended to Bill Fraser, Carl Brown, Jr., and Joe Geiger, for their service as Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, and Treasurer, respectively.
4. President Tom Tinney proposed that Bill Fraser be granted Lifetime Membership in the Association. Jim Dzaidul moved, Dennis Lauze seconded, motion passed unanimously. Secretary tasked with sending a letter to Bill thanking him for his service to the Association and informing him of the decision by the membership.
5. President-elect Gary Christopher reviewed the proposed sites for the present reunion made at the 2013 reunion, which were: Boston, MA, Jacksonville, FL, San Diego, CA, San Antonio, TX, and Las Vegas, NV.

The Board of Directors proposed the following options for the 2017 reunion: San Diego, CA, San Antonio, TX, and Las Vegas, NV. A further proposal from the floor was to have a sea cruise as the next reunion.

The idea of a cruise was further explored. Members John Johnson and Bob Howell are professional travel agents. Bob advised us that we need to consider the following factors in planning of a sea cruise: Location, Duration, Timing, and Cruise line availability. The Board of Directors will work with John Johnson, Katherine Johnson, and Bob Howell to determine the feasibility of a sea cruise. Membership will be polled electronically once proposals have been explored and details are available.

Timing of the next reunion was discussed. Early to mid-June was determined to be the best time for most individuals present.

Membership voted to have the Board of Directors investigate San Diego, San Antonio, and a sea cruise from/near one of those sites. The Board of Directors will explore each of the options proposed and call for an electronic vote by the membership prior to December 1st, 2015.

6. A question from the floor on reunion locations was posed. Joe Geiger reported that a gentleman's agreement was made at the 2007 (Charleston, SC) reunion to rotate future reunions among East, West, and Central locations. Subsequent reunions were held in Silverdale, WA (2009), Branson, MO (2011), and Groton, CT (2013). At the 2013 reunion, the agreement was not mentioned when the Jacksonville, FL, site was proposed for 2015. Thus, two consecutive reunions were held at East Coast sites (2013, 2015).
7. A further question was asked about the residences of the current membership. Gary Christopher reported an informal statistical analysis of present membership revealed 39% (882) of members on the Association website live in the Eastern Time Zone, 12% (262) in the Central Time Zone, and 11% in the Mountain (87) and Pacific (150) Time Zones. This leaves about 38% (854) of our roster with no reported residence. Joe Geiger reported that only about 10% of the 1384 members who have reported a residence pay dues.
8. An informal request was made to examine the location policy for future reunions to provide a better balance of sites based on where the bulk of members live. The Board of Directors will take up this issue following the selection of the 2017 reunion site.
9. Due to the forward-deployed status of the Lafayette during her service, first in Rota, Spain, and later at Holy Loch, Scotland, the idea of a foreign reunion was presented. Due to the expense and logistics involved in such an endeavor, the decision to visit either of the foreign sites was left to the individual membership.
10. Herb Wise reported that, for the 2011 reunion in Branson, MO, an event planner was hired to take care of all the minutiae involved in planning the reunion. The planner charged \$15 per person service fee for their services. Herb recommended that we investigate tour companies as an alternative to having the reunion committee do all the leg-work. The Board of Trustees agreed to take the recommendation under advisement.
11. Bob Porter raised the possibility of having reunions on a different schedule, perhaps at 3 or 5 year intervals. John Fornicola raised the issue of the aging membership and that 23 members had passed away since the 2013 reunion. Thomas Tidd indicated that he attends 4 boat reunions and they are all on 2 year cycles. The membership agreed to keep the 2 year timing.
12. Members were introduced to Spencer Dayton, grandson of John and Katherine Johnson, who is attending the reunion and has volunteered to assist the Association. He was applauded for his interest in keeping the memory of Lafayette alive.

Benediction: by Chaplain John Fornicola.

Meeting Adjourned: at 2115.