

WAC B&G MVT MEETING JANUARY 21, 2017

Aboard the SS John W. Brown. / Baltimore MD

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Taylor at 1050 hrs.

Members Present: Bob Amos, Lewis Amos, Tom Buonaugurio, Art Buker, Bob Buker, Dean Hansen, George Hopkins, Jo-Ann Hopkins, Eric Littlewood, Fred Lutes, Rich McCommack, Denis Mengele, Clive Rowley, Anja Taylor, Bob Taylor, Mike Tideman, Warren Watt, Bill White.

New Members Present: Eric “Merlin” Hanson and Jon Huddleston. **WELCOME!!**

Pledge of Allegiance: All persons present offered respect and loyalty to our great nation by reciting the pledge facing our American flag.

Welcome by President Taylor: President Taylor welcomed the members present. She expressed appreciation from the club to Denis Mengele and the crew of the SS John Brown for hosting this event.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Mengele reviewed the details regarding today’s meeting location and the security concerns involved. He reviewed the latest financial report. The club has about \$45,000.00 held in two interest bearing checking accounts. He compared last year’s financial report to the current amount. He mentioned that the club donated \$6000.00 last year. The club is ahead \$250.00 at this time.

Secretary’s Report: Secretary Watt reported on the membership numbers. There are 85 Regular members, 7 Life members, 2 associate members and 1 honorary member. Members paid through 2017 are less than half but it is early in the year. Dues are due in January each year. Members who do not pay dues have their names removed from the membership list on April 1st.

Event Coordinator’s Report: Wayne Miller, Coordinator for Virginia events was unable to attend. Tom B. spoke about helping out on Maryland events until a volunteer steps up. Currently, Wayne maintains a list of all events and Tom sends them out via email.

Any members who are not receiving the calendar via email should contact Wayne at www.bristowranger@msn.com . Also, any member who wants an event added to the calendar should contact him.

Tom spoke about the MVPA national convention in Ohio in June 2017. He also spoke about the Indiantown Gap WWII event the following weekend.

Jim Schindler is taking care of organizing the DC Memorial day parade.

George Hopkins is registering vehicles for the Severna Park Memorial Day parade.

Bob Buker spoke about the Eisenhower Farm’s all era MV event on September 16th.

Treasurer Mengele spoke about two cruises aboard the SS John Brown in 2017. May 6th and September 9th. The September cruise will celebrate the anniversary of 75 years of successful launches. Visit www.ssjohnwbrown.org for all the details. The crew is looking for military vehicles for this event.

Old Business: Bob Buker spoke about the 2016 trail ride. The turnout was good. There was a good variety of vehicles. It was dusty. There is a possibility of expanding this event into an overnight in July or August 2017.

Donations: \$6000.00 given in 2016. President Taylor addressed the Donation Committee chairman Rowley and the members present regarding the possible reduction of donations and investing in membership recruiting efforts. Someone mentioned that the club is only obligated to donate 5% of the net proceeds which would be \$1500 + or -.

New Business:

Website: President Taylor is currently maintaining the site. Members are encouraged to visit the site at www.washingtonbluegray.com. Members are urged to send pictures and stories to wacbgmvt@yahoo.com.

New Email Address: [www.wacbgmvt@yahoo.com](mailto:wacbgmvt@yahoo.com)

Rally – Updates 2017:

President Taylor: Vendor reservations and checks for spaces are coming in.

Two vendor rows have been eliminated near Camp Stogie.

HQ / Registration tent has been moved across the lane to help the flow of traffic.

Tim Ketchum has agreed to set up the port-a-pots again.

Tom Buonaugurio: Tuesday May 9th is the first day we are allowed on the lot. Looking for people to set up tents, mark spaces, etc. All volunteers are invited to a luncheon provided by the club directly after the set up. Advertising is everyone's job. Flyers are available today and electronically – “**do your part**” contact Tom B. for flyers.

Tom will not be pre-arranging hotel reservations for the club anymore. Make your own reservations.

Aberdeen is having a “live fire” event on May 20th. They have asked the club for Military vehicles to display as part of this event.

President Taylor suggested giving a free space to members who volunteer at the Rally. A motion was made, seconded and carried to provide the free space.

Board of Directors: President Taylor spoke about the by-laws language found in Article II, Section 1. It states, “There shall be a Board of Directors comprised of these officers, (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) two members at large from the current full membership, and the immediate past president of the club”.

Nominations for the Board were taken and voted on. Fred Lutes was elected as a Board member. He will serve on the board through the fall of 2018.

Donation: A motion was made, seconded and carried to donate \$100.00 to the Salvation Army in memory of the late George Mele.

Club Activities and Workshops: President Taylor spoke about the need to establish MV related workshops. Any and all good ideas are welcome.

Denis – He is willing to speak to the members about technical / mechanical matters at these events. It is possible to increase interest via more club activities.

Merlin Hanson - He is willing to set up an event at his restoration shop in Gambert/Finksburg MD.

Fred Lutes – He is willing to participate / host a workshop. Contact with other members for technical help is very important.

Bob Amos – He is willing to do canvas repairs for the club.

Flyers, Advertising, Promotions, club name:

Fred Lutes – spoke about the recent effort to produce a flyer or tri-fold handout which would promote the club and build membership. A table could be set up at the fall museum of the American Soldier. He asked for suggestions on content for this tri-fold. All in attendance agreed to fund the production of the tri-fold.

Tom B. – The Baltimore antique gun show would be a great place to hand out tri-folds. A motion was made, seconded and carried to provide the funds to produce the tri-fold.

Anja T. – Randy Fishbach promotes the club on Facebook. Anja has updated the club's Facebook page. The new website, using Instagram and Facebook will help in getting younger persons interested in the club.

Fred Lutes – He suggested giving something to new members. A discussion followed. A motion was made, seconded and carried to give new members a club hat (one time).

Denis will order an additional 40 hats for this purpose.

Anja T. – Spoke about efforts to increase the membership.

Fred L. - Asked if the club could purchase a banner for display at events. A motion was made, seconded and carried to spend up to \$500.00 on a banner and posters.

Bob Buker Jr. – Suggested lowering the dues to \$10.00 per year.

A discussion ensued. It was decided to keep the dues at \$20.00 per year.

Bob Buker Jr.- Spoke about feedback he has heard from re-enactors. They do not join local clubs. The Rally lot is paved and they would not be able to set up tents.

Fred L – All are welcome. Can the club specifically invite re-enactors to the Rally?

Bob Amos – There is room for re-enactors in the judging area.

Anja T.- Re-enactors are already given some preferential treatment at the Rally.

Bob Buker Jr. – Will ask the staff at the Fort Indiantown Gap event about their interest in attending the Rally and report back to the club.

Cliff Ellis – The club should contact the Mid-Atlantic Air museum at Reading PA for a list of re-enactors groups for the purpose of inviting them to the Rally.

George Hopkins – Spoke of the benefits of inviting re-enactor groups to the Rally.

Dean Hansen – We need to attend different events as a club. We need a better name for the club. It is too long.

Anja T. – If the club is going to change its name, it needs to be done quickly before the need to print up the new tri-fold and other things like tee shirts comes up. A discussion on changing the club's name ensued. It was decided that since not all agree, it is too soon to take a big step like this. There are a lot of things that will need to take place (legally) if the club undertakes a new name. Name changes on bank accounts, 501 C3 filing, shirts, hats, and advertising to name a few. The idea to change the name was tabled. **Suggestions for a name changes will be solicited throughout calendar year 2017 and discussed / voted on during the September meeting.**

Fred L. – He spoke about the newsletter not being produced anymore. Can the club keep some of the donation money and pay someone to produce the newsletter?

Bob T. – The newsletter is now going to be posted on the club website. Updates can be posted quickly, photographs can be numerous and in color. Members are encouraged to submit content and photos to Anja at this time.

Next Meeting Location and Date: The next regular club meeting will be held in April. Location TBD. Members will be notified beforehand.

Adjourn Having no further business to conduct; President Taylor adjourned the meeting at 1220 hours.

Denis Mingle led interested members on a private tour of the SS John W. Brown's engine room and several other spaces. A rare glimpse of history few get to see!

Respectfully submitted,
Warren Watt / Club Secretary