

April 30, 2011, 10:24 AM

Meeting Participants: Walter Hansen, Richard Tucker (Quartermaster), Leo Tucker (LHA President), Gretchen Harbour (Financial Officers), Betty Murphy (Vice Chair), James Dassatti (LHA Executive Director), Michael F. Heenan (FGTRIP 419, RIR 234 Chairman LHA), Scott Greb (RIR 234), Shane Krahenbill (GR 914), Thomas Sheridan (GR. 914), Jesse Holschuh (Black Watch of Canada [not a current member of the LHA yet]), and Steven Kapodas (GR. 914).

Committee of Modern Interpretation: Charter Discussion

Richard: We already did our welcome and introduction except for Jim Dassatti. We also went through the goals but Jim was not here. What I would love to see happen. We have presented the idea before. We need to run for committee for (1 or 2 years? SOP). The way I would like to happen is run one year for the petition and draft our charter, we submit the charter for the acceptance for the board, and then we run for a year with the charter, and then run for the department status. Jim Dassatti indicates we can expedite the process. My goal by the end of this year (October) we would like the charter to be accepted and voted on and accepted by the board. I also would like to have an election at the general membership meeting.

Richard: The purpose of this is to be all encompassing of other eras. Before the Department was exclusively WWII and now we can have other modern eras. We can host events with the LHA and bring in more membership. It is difficult when you belong to other eras and don't have a place to belong to if you don't fall into that category which will give them a place to go rather than floating.

Jim: We should inform the people who have not shown up for the meeting about what happened at the meeting. i.e. any of the modern interpretation reenactors who did not come to the meeting.

Mike: This meeting will not be discussed with other units primarily because there has been a problem in the past because of people's other interest. We are not going to be pushing to support our own interests.

Richard: We are about to start the read through. I based this on the Revolutionary Department and the WWII Committee when drafting the document. The documents had a lot of the same language and same points. As we go through this we will do it section by section. We can stop when we have changes or discussion. We will start at the general statement of operations. Anything anyone wants to change?

Leo: It says 1911 to present. We should change to current. If we pick someone from Afghanistan we are covered.

Richard: As time goes on if it gets to broad we can chop it up.

Jim: We should change it 1898 because we have the Spanish American War. Because of the fact that we are looking at portraying the military we are also looking at civilian aspects as well. With that in mind under D. should we included the words display? Or motor vehicle show?

Richard: Can we incorporate that into historical educational displays under D? Will that be a little bit more encompassing? Is that what you are looking for?

Jim: I will write that down now.

Richard: The reason I use education because it ties into the mission statement.

Jim: If I was a motor vehicle enthusiast I wouldn't see it that. Should we put that in parenthesis?

Leo: I don't think we need to add that, we would have to add everything else in.

Jim: Let's leave it as is. If we were doing a marketing piece it would be different. I don't have anything else.

Richard: I didn't think of the motor vehicle show.

Walter: And medical displays will fit in?

Richard: Yes.

Leo: I guess we are on membership.

Scott: The only thing I see that is missing is aircrew.

Richard: They are not motor transport I am trying to figure out how they would fit in. There is too much to mention to cover everything. It will be covered in any other educational display. I guess we can move on to departmental representation.

Mike: I am confused about A. In my organization I have 5 units. That means that each member unit has one vote meaning 5 votes, and one site, and each every individual in my unit and there is a vote there. This would be a nightmare to figure out. I don't know how that is going to work. Either everybody that is a member of the unit as a part of the committee has a vote or there can be a representative of each unit can have a vote.

Jim: We probably need to change it.

Leo: We probably should drop "cite" and "member" and we should have a unit representative.

Mike: because I am the chairmen of the board I am not on the committee. But I am the (unit name?) but I can't represent both at the same time. (he has multiple units).

Leo: That is why I said we should drop cite and/or member. Each person can come into the department meeting and participate.

Richard: It says each member of the department shall have one vote. You'll see that committee is where department should be written. When we do attain department status we will change it via word on find and replace. Just in case anyone is wondering about that. Anything else?

Jim: We can't leave anything to question because of the political issues before.

Richard: We will continue onto meetings, section 5.

Mike: On D notification on members prior 30 days. It should be no later than 30 days. DO you want to get rid of the 60?

Leo: A minimum of 30 days that is what the LHA says.

Walter: Should it be earlier because it gets lost in the mail?

Leo: 30 days should be fine to arrive in standard mail in time.

Richard: We will get rid of the 60 days. We are going to pause for a section and go back in time and quickly recapitulation. We have changed the period to 1898 to cover the Spanish American war to present where we can change it to present or when time goes on, etc. We have also changed part D. for motor vehicle, medical, and other educational displays. Section 3 (membership) had no changes. Section 4 now reads each member of the committee, each member has one vote. We are now currently discussion section 5, the meetings. Notifications of meeting should be mailed out no later than 30 days. It was 60 days but that has since been dealt with.

Leo: Let's give them a section to catch up.

Jim: On meetings on section F. copies of the meeting should be given as a part of the committee should be given but it needs to say every member of the LHA.

Richard: I have snagged that from the Rev War charter so maybe we need to change that.

Leo: At the membership board meeting.

Mike: Section B we need to change the corrum of 5.

Leo: An executive committee is a Chair, Vice Chair, and secretatary.

Richard: What should we call this? So we need to discuss the emergency meeting then?

Leo: The executive committee at 3 officers to call an emergency meeting. Actually it can be called by any officer of the department.

Jim: That is right; you can't leave too much power in the hands of one person.

Richard: Does that sound good?

Mike: I personally, if I was a member of the committee and I was a committee member without a role (not a treasurer, chair, etc.) They could call the meeting if they don't like me personally there could be a possibility of misunderstanding that we try to avoid, maybe in reading too much into this. If there is any hint of anything going behind the back of any members there is a possibility of someone overthrowing someone else.

Leo: We could say any member of the department are allowed to attend. You can still go to that meeting either way.

Mike: If there is an emergency meeting it means something important will happen. All members must be contacted.

Jim: We haven't had to do this in the LHA. Sometimes there is no way to get a hold of someone. We probably should change the wording so we can prevent this from happening.

Richard: Since you are concerned how would you word this?

Leo: We are going to go back to the original statement. Emergency meetings can be called as needed. All meetings must have a 48 hour notice to all committee officers.

Richard: Let's move on to officers of the department. Before everyone leaves we need to write down everyone who was at the meeting to put in the minutes. Who has questions?

Jim: I was on E. where it says PR officer. I would say add LHA HQ or webmaster for news or photos. One of the things we have been short on.

Richard: Anything else for changes and wording? Okay, committees. Once we retain department status we can make small committees. By setting up committee by era (WWII, WWI, Korea, and Vietnam, etc.) With some overlap does seem redundant but at the same time it is also helpful. Do you think it would work or not work?

Leo: When we get department status we should have committees regardless if there is overlap or not. Now what I would like to see happen, once we get departmental status I would like to have each member of the committee be on the department. Each person has an input and also to have direct responsibility and notification as well as not thinking someone is going behind your back and having everyone known to every committee and member. It gives everyone a voice.

Mike: I don't want to see this section put in because I don't want to see the WWII committee to come back again and cause the problems from before. I just don't want any misunderstanding. If the committees get to big they might request a subcommittee within that. We still have another year and we are not rushing things.

Leo: Anything that department does have to be voted on. Anything that has major changes we will need to do at a major meeting. We will have to do this at an annual meeting. Each committee need equal representation.

Mike: Anyone who is reading this document should not be able to misunderstand or let the things happen again which were problems before. What have we decided?

Richard: We are cutting A completely and keep the original statement. Are there any changes that anyone wants to make?

Mike: I can see perhaps sponsors but I am wondering how grants of corporations getting in the way of the organization.

Jim: Corporate sponsors are just based on the needs.

Mike: Isn't that based on the LHA board of directors?

Jim: That would be allowing them to be an organization and be a part of our organization. They are a non-profit organization within our non-profit organization. They report at the annual meeting of finances and

expenses. They would be allowed to do the grant if they report it to the general membership meeting. The grant must be legally expended and must have to do with the organization. The grant cannot be used for personal business i.e. if a meeting had a lunch that would be allowed but going to the movies after the meeting is not allowed. They need to keep good records to be in compliance for the IRS.

Richard: We are going to leave C as is from what I am hearing.

Jim: Maybe we should put a statement in for officers of the (committee) department are fiduciarily responsible for the finances.

Leo: Part of the treasurer's responsibility is to have a report of finances for the LHA for tax purposes. The LHA is responsible for all the money that is used in any committee and department.

Mike: I have a suggestion because there are individual units and organizations not a part of the LHA. Any discussion on that?

Richard: I am not familiar with that being a Rev War Reenactor. We should add organizations to that part of the document with units.

Leo: Description of the site which is directly taken from the Rev War charter and we have never done this.

Mike: It is just grammatically incorrect.

Steve: The description is designed to attract people for adverting purposes.

Jim: Most of the time we have been doing events for 30 years there is no need for describing the venue. I would suggest we would create an F category as well. The organization will not approach an event when another organization is already hosting an event, I would suggest doing an event at another time at that location or at another location. The committee can assist units if necessary if and when they request assistance.

Steve: Include unit.

Jim: Committee will not approach event sites, towns, or any hosting body of an activity that involves reenactors when that activity is already hosted though a different reenactment unit or organization. The committee will create its own events or will assist units or organizations host events when those units or organizations request assistance.

Mike: We don't want to be anal on the wording so we can't do anything. But we don't know what people's common sense is.

Leo: This also comes from the Rev War for one era. We shouldn't have to get approval from the committee chairs. The each era should be able to send information out about their own events. There seems to be too many layers to ask permission to be able to do that. We don't want that anyone of the committee members can approve it where others may disagree.

Jim: We let this evolve and see what you can have. If you over engineer this it's going to get complicated and people are not going to like it.

Richard: Here is what we are going to do, we are going to cut that entire section and add all official committee correspondence to that.

Mike: I am confused by the way it is written (section 11). You don't need to describe what the use of the funds; it is just too much wording.

Leo: I agree but the LHA should be put in including all LHA membership because LHA dues and unit dues are separate.

Mike: Number 3 on page 5, according to the host unit and the LHA representative. An example having a unit needs LHA help and there is agreement it must be upheld and it must be in writing. Number 4; get rid of LHA treasurer and executive director of the LHA. The only time it is required is at the general membership meeting (the way it is written they need to tell the LHA everything they get money.)

Jim: Number 5, that line need to be struck out, either they are or they are not. We shouldn't force the pretence upon them. If we don't like what we have we should vote them out, it's just too much of a heavy handed statement.

Leo: I would like to make a suggestion to change the wording a modern interpretive committee rather than WWII or any other era.

Richard: We should just do a revision.

Leo: I see no problems with this as board safety officer. We just need to change where it says WWII to modern interpretive committee.

Richard: can you (Leo) and you (Steve) go through and see any changes that need to be made and also report back to me before the general membership meeting. The bylaws say the committee can run for one year where a charter has to be completed. We have a charter and we just need to make amendments to it. But we need temporary roles for now until an official election. I would like to do it now, put the roles in place for the remainder of the year until we have an official election. We just need points of contact and feel like it's a real committee if we do that. Should we do this or not?

Jim: Yes.

Mike: What are the criteria for becoming a member of this board besides being a member of the LHA.

Richard: We are appointing, not electing. This is just temporary. I am going to turn this over to you because you are the chairmen of the board so I don't have to get in the way.

Jim: Why don't you call nominations?

Mike: Okay. I wanted to thank Leo, Rick, and Gretchen who have done a wonderful job. At this time I would like to ask for nominations for the temporary position of chairman, vice chairman, and secretary.

Leo: We don't need the rest of them.

Jim: If you need a treasurer, I can act as treasurer but I don't think we will need that we don't have any money currently.

Mike: Do have anyone for chairman.

Jim: Richard Tucker.

Leo: Richard Tucker.

Mike: Should we do a raising of the hands vote? Raise hand in favor and oppose. Thank you. The next one would be the vice chairman. It is a very important position.

Richard: Especially when I am in school.

Jim: It seems best to nominate Leo Tucker for all he has done but because of politics I am not doing that. I would like to nominate Mike Hennan.

Mike: Can I be a chairman of the board and the vice chairman at the same time?

Jim: Yes you can.

Mike: Last position at the time is secretary.

*it has been concluded that the chair is Richard Tucker, the vice chair is Mike Heenan, and the secretary is Gretchen Harbourt, Leo Tucker as safety officer, and the LHA board of directors as treasurer.

We should have a safely officer.

Mike: we would like to nominate Leo Tucker.

Jim: I would like to nominate the LHA board of directors to act as the treasurer.

- The meeting had a brief 10 minute break.

Mike: With the conclusion I will turn it over to Richard Tucker where we will have an official election by October of 2011 at the general membership meeting.

Richard: Can we find ways to make some money for finances for the organization?

Leo: A USO show?

Mike: Maybe we want to brainstorm ideas and submit suggestions at another time

Leo: Maybe do a modern interpretive timeline here or something. I would like the modern interpretation get an insurance policy rather than each unit have to have to come up with 300 dollars. We are allowed as many people as we want among each policy.

Mike: It is a good way to offer insurance and keep costs down.

Steve: I had a question with the funds for the old committee. The funds are still in the bank while the organization has fallen apart.

Jim: We have thought of borrowing the money and pay it back later for a storage area but I wanted to see what we can do with that but the board is dealing with that. Regardless the money will go back to WWII not to committee either way. Also on the insurance if you are paying 325 dollars and you only have 10 members you are wasting a ton of money rather than get a 10 dollar plan where you pay what you get and get something out of the insurance.

Leo: I think in the future we would like to open up the insurance down the road for having the modern interpretation have a policy.

Mike: Don't get the 1 million dollar policy do the 2 million dollar policy for a few cents more.

Richard: Should we look at getting an umbrella policy for the modern interpretation committee in the future?

Leo: Let's wait until we have department status.

Richard: Should we do that at the general membership meeting.

Jim: Give me some time to put something together.

Mike: An accident could happen at anytime though.

Jim: Anyone one participating need unit and LHA insurance. If someone would call me on the phone and wanted to host an event I would be able to extend our policy to them if they are me members.

Steve: I am working on the finances right now, if the committee does this insurance, it would really help me with finances.

Richard: How can we market this?

Leo: Word of the mouth is the best way.

Jim: I have an internet newsletter. Between one way and another we will get the word out.

Leo: I am looking at something right now just to give a 50 % of the membership for a Unit to join is 50 dollars; a family membership is 30 dollars and 12.75 a person. And then you come up with your 53 member unit based on that, it should be cheaper than 325 dollars.

Jim: We can probably put 4 dollars of each member towards each member where 4 dollars goes back to the committee which is only 50% of the me members and the other 50% still get inexpensive insurance.

Mike: The 2 million dollar insurance is for the event. You are insured through the trip to and from an event no matter where you go and at the event. You are covered anywhere you go not just the LHA.

Jim: You have to at least abide by our safety rules and comparable but nothing lesser.

Richard: We are going to look into the insurance which it will not take effect at least a year. I wanted to run an informal meeting at the timeline to get interest for people running for the board of this committee.

Jim: Can we go to another event to promote this at all?

Mike: It's a bad idea right now.

Steve: I think we should hold off until we know what is going on.

Mike: My take on it is this. I want to see how things go next weekend without mentioning the organization at all (The Wounded Warrior Event). I wanted to get back on working together again. I don't want to touch on any raw nerves. I would like to not mention anything to test the waters. We should say it's a brand new organization, new goals, new ideas, new people, I think that is the best way. I don't want a door slammed in our face before we start. I don't want anyone be alienated. I am going to the meeting this weekend, I am not mentioning the LHA and if it gets brought up to me I will answer briefly. Please do not mention anything about the LHA at that meeting.

Richard: All I am asking at this meeting. Then when you go home think of someone you think would be good for the position and at the timeline mention names informally to get an idea of who would want to be on the board for this committee and then ask them. We should ask someone who is favorable to our cause.

Leo: Section four we should table it until the annual meeting.

Richard: Does anyone have anything else.

Jim: It was brought to my attention, on the charter we should add. Section 9 page 3 in the first line. You can't have a person on the committee what the contract might be but you cannot build a contract without the vote of the committee. They cannot go outside of the committee and do what you want.

Richard: Committee members can approach sites but they cannot do anything without discussion with the committee chairs.

Leo: We are dealing with apples and oranges and we will have several eras. It's too much for the day to day running, i.e. way too micromanaged.

Richard: I guess what he is saying is not approval but notifying the committee that this is happening.

Leo: Once we get the department set up that is when the SOP is written when we decide what we can and cannot do. The only time you can conclude is when we have a department run or a modern event.

Richard: Maybe we can't run departmental events without approval of the committee.

Jim: We must include that this committee has several time periods.

Conclusion of the meeting ended at: 1:19 PM

