

MIDYEAR MEETING MINUTES
FRA NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Conference Room
FRA National Headquarters
125 N. West Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2754

National President (NP) John D. Ippert called the meeting to order at 0800 on Friday, April 17, 2015. Following the National Chaplain's prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, National Executive Director Thomas J. Snee called the roll and the following were present:

NP John D. Ippert, Pearl Harbor-Honolulu Branch 46; JrPNP Virgil P. Courneya, High Sierra Branch 274; NED Thomas J. Snee, Navy Department Branch 181; RPNE/NEng Floyd G. Hunt, Iroquois Branch 214; RPEC John J. Willis, Ocean View Branch 60; RPSE Larry L. Cox, Low Country Branch 269; RPNC Curry Sanders, Mo Kan Branch 161; RPSW Agustive A. Hermes, Jr., Chula Vista Branch 61; RPWC Larry S. Briggs, Jr., Silver Dollar Branch 192; and RPNW Michael H. Archer, Cheyenne Branch 59. NVP Roger E. Mitchell was not present (deceased), nor RPSC Michael D. Oliver (due to illness). RVPSC Donald R. Gibson, Lone Star Branch 11, present in lieu of RPSC Oliver.

The NP then introduced National Parliamentarian PNP James C. Eblen, Imperial Beach Branch 289; National Chaplain William H. Hall, Gem State Branch 382; and Finance Officer Stephen R. Cox.

Also present for all or part of the proceedings were the following:

PNP James Scarbro, Chesapeake Branch 40; PRPNC Bob Melson, USS Indianapolis Memorial Branch 130; PRPNE Dave Munday, III, Lakehurst Branch 124; JrPRPNE/NEng James E. Brown, Staten Island Branch 226; PRPNEng Paul F. Loveless, Jr., Pinetree Branch 156; PRPSE Bobby L. Smith, East Tennessee Branch 194; RVPSW Donald Kelley, Imperial Beach Branch 289; RVPNC Marcia Cunningham, Milwaukee Branch 14; PRPSE Jim Robbins, First Coast Branch 91; PNP Larry Boudreaux, Hangtown Branch 275; PNP Gary Blackburn, Vallejo Branch 8; RVPNE/NEng Donna Jansky, North Shore Branch 31; JrPRPSE Frederick Hill, Mayport Branch 290; NEDE Joe Barnes, Navy Department Branch 181; PRPSC Donald Larson, Corpus Christi Branch 94; JrPRPSC Russ Miller, Capital Area Branch 201; RVPSE Dave Davis, Mayport Branch 290; RVPWC Patrick LeClaire, Silver Dollar Branch 192; PRPNW Pete Lazzaretti, Seattle Branch 18; PNC Dana and Richard Wallace, Annapolis Branch 24; PRPEC Paul Gunther, Triangle Branch 182; PRPEC Bob Washington, Sr., Navy Department Branch 181; PRPEC Chris Slawinski, Navy Department Branch 181; RVPEC Penny Collins, Annapolis Branch 24; DLP John Davis, Navy Department Branch 181; FO Stephen Cox; Lauren Armstrong, LAFRA MAL; ADLP Stephen Tassin, Navy Department Branch 181; ADVP Ben Young, Navy Department Branch 181; and DADM Teresa Wiener, MAL.

The National Parliamentarian then reads Section 802(m), C&BL, FRA and informed all present of the procedures for a National Board business meeting.

The NP indicated that the meeting was not being recorded and future meetings will include approval of previous meeting minutes.

A presentation was given by Christian P. Spencer, Partner, and Janet Walsh, CPA, Audit and Assurance Services, Tate & Tryon regarding the 2014 audit (found no “red flags”); followed by a presentation on FRA investments from Honorary Shipmate James H. Webb, II, Capital Financial, LLC.

Next, a presentation was given by Michele Armesto, Mercer Consumer, regarding statistics, marketing plans and insurance; and followed by Bob Wiedower, Executive Director for Military Affinity, USAA, with regards to marketing and sponsorship at FRA National Convention.

NEDE Joseph L. Barnes gave his presentation regarding the FRA Education Foundation. Spoke of solicitations to our affinity partners, (i.e., GEICO, Mercer Consumer, USAA, etc.) and reprinting of scholarship brochures/flyers. Mentioned an \$800,000 estate bequeathed to the FRA Education Foundation? 2014 thru 2015 CFC approved 501(c)3. Change was made to SR-14. Also, requested an NBR be put together regarding FRA Education Foundation mailings.

A presentation was given by Al Avina, National Executive Director, Blind Veterans Association regarding their Association’s mission. (They are the folks that are leasing the 3rd floor of the building.)

Award presentation to PNChap Dana Wallace from JrPNP Virgil Courneya.

Introduction of the FRA National Headquarters Staff given.

NED Snee briefs the National Board of Directors on NHQ staffing and operations.

NBR 22-15 by 11 affirmative votes: *Resolved*, That the 87th Post National Convention NBOD meeting minutes be approved.

NED Snee reported on the status of the Directors’ voting on the National Board Resolutions.

National President Ippert continues with **Unfinished Business**:

NBR 23-15 by 11 affirmative votes: *Resolved*, That Section 811 be amended by adding Sub-Section 811(f) to read:

“”Section 811(f). The committee shall oversee the operation of the Employee 401(k) Pension Plan as provided by law and regulations. The Employee 401(k) Pension Plan consists of contributions from the FRA and employees

participating in the plan and all earnings, profits, increments which accrue therefrom. The committee may appoint a Plan Administrator for the Plan. The committee shall annually report the annual contribution required from the Association and any recommendations concerning the plan when presenting the annual proposed Association budget.”

NBR 24-15 by 11 affirmative votes: *Resolved*, That Article 8, Section 818 be deleted in its entirety; and, be it further *Resolved*, That Section 819 be renumbered Section 818 and Sub-section 819(a) through Sub-section 819(e) be renumbered 818(a) through 818(e); and be it further *Resolved*, That Section 820 be renumbered Section 819 and Sub-section 820(a) through Sub-section 820(d) be renumbered 819(a) through 819(d).

NED Snee: FRA Website Update, North Central Region Discussion (consideration to be looked at, assign to Future Planning Committee? – just for information), Confidentiality Statement, and iMIS access.

JrPNP Courneya: Working on Branch 53 and visiting branches. Follow-up on MALs.

RPNE/NEng Hunt: 7 folks recruited, having members working on personal contacts.

RPEC Willis: Branch members who don't reside in branch areas.

RPSE Cox: Proceed.

RPNC Sanders: Visit to Branch 136, branch officers – 7 years?, and working on weaker branches.

RVPSC Gibson: Proceed.

RPSW Hermes: Proceed.

RPWC Briggs: Proceed.

RPNW Archer: Branch 55 back up in working order, training & red book, accountability, and Navy Week in Cheyenne, WY.

FO Cox: Receiving of Fiscal Year 2014 Audit, Fiscal Year 2014 Audit comments on contents, and 2014-2015 FRA Marketing Plan.

Master-At-Arms escorts the National President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Doris C. Fri, along with LA FRA National Financial Secretary, Christina Murray. She addresses the NBOD and gives the status of the LAFRA National President's Project, Homes for Heroes. \$600.00 was collected for the Home for Heroes project.

PRPSE James “Robbie” and PNP LAFRA Sandy Robbins, Branch/Unit 91, National Convention Site Selection Committee, passed out brochures with hotel information (i.e. Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk Hotel) regarding the 2016 National Convention in Jacksonville, FL. Also requesting funds for research of hotels for the National Conventions. Dates: October 9-16, 2016?

NBR 25-15 by 11 affirmative votes: *Resolved*, That Branch/Unit 91 to host the 2016 FRA National Convention in Jacksonville, FL, be approved.

NP Ippert then calls on chairman of standing and special national committees present for any pertinent reports/information:

National Legislative Service Committee – NED Snee, chairman, reports. A Prezi presentation is given by ADLP Stephen Tassin and ADVP Ben Young.

National Budget and Finance Committee Chairman, Gary C. Blackburn, spoke. Passed clear budget, clear deficit, will not be over budget at end of year.

National President Ippert calls on National Parliamentarian Eblen for any matters on LA FRA and Regional Bylaws/Standing Rules. Nothing received from LA FRA. Received a WCR Bylaws and Standing Rules Amendment; Ratification of to amend Standing Rule (SR-1), Section (b)(3). National Parliamentarian see no conflicts.

NBR 26-15 by 11 affirmative votes: *Resolved*, That amendments to the West Coast Region’s Bylaws and Standing Rules be approved.

National President Ippert calls on each Director for any new business to come before the Board:

NBR 27-15 by 11 affirmative votes: *Resolved*, That Branch 226 (Staten Island, NY) request for permission to sell grave markers bearing the FRA logo, be approved.

NBR 28-15 by 11 affirmative votes: *Resolved*, That the National Convention Committee’s request for permission to use the FRA logo for t-shirts, and other merchandise, etc., to be sold at the 88th National Convention, be approved.

NED Snee: Appointment of a National Vice President (Article 7, Section 705(c)), C&BL, FRA – and- a Junior Past National President (Article 7, Section 706(b)), C&BL, FRA, and reminder of e-mail voting and signed hard copies of NBRs.

JrPNP Courneya: Proceed.

RPNE/NEng Hunt: Harris Connect concerns/questions.

RPEC Willis: Proceed.

RPSE Cox: Question: Why do we have contract with Westin Hotel?, program to receive branch mailing labels by zip code, and FRA newsletter Jan. 2015, Article 4, Section 401(e), conflict in newsletter and C&BL?

RPNC Sanders: Proceed.

RPSC Oliver: Absent. RVPSC Gibson proceeds.

RPSW Hermes: Proceed.

RPWC Briggs: Permission of branch ?

RPNW Archer: Proceed.

FO Cox: Selection of firm for 2015 Fiscal Year Audit (Tate & Tryon), status of FRA Branch "Umbrella" Insurance Coverage (19 branches-501(c)19), FRA Branch Newsletters, 2016 FRA Operating Budget Preparation, and the National Committee on Budget and Finance Meeting in July 2015.

NBR 29-15 by 11 affirmative votes: *Resolved, That Tate & Tryon be approved to conduct the 2015 Fiscal Year Audit.*

The National President now calls for any petitions for chartering new branches, mergers of branches, surrenders or revocation of the charters of branches.

Northeast/New England Region: Proceed.

East Coast Region: Proceed.

Southeast Region: Proceed.

North Central Region: Proceed.

South Central Region: Br. 119 was suspended (NBR 19-14). Letter received from branch president/secretary?

Southwest Region: Proceed.

West Coast Region: Proceed.

Northwest Region: Proceed.

At this time, the two-bell ceremony was given to passing National Vice President Roger E. Mitchell.

In accordance with Article 7, Section 705(c), the NBOD appointed Junior Past National President Virgil P. Courneya to complete the unexpired term of office of National Vice President. National President John Ippert then installs newly-appointed National Vice President Virgil P. Courneya.

National President Ippert then calls upon each Director in turn for the Good of the Order. Many thanks were given to the BOD, FRA NHQs staff, Shipmates and Guests.

National President Ippert calls on Past National Presidents, Past National Officers, Regional Vice Presidents, Standing Committee Chairmen, Shipmates and Guests for comments.

National President Ippert proceeds with the adjournment.

National Chaplain Hall offered the closing prayer, and Salute of the Colors.

The 2015 National Board of Directors Mid-year Meeting adjourned at 1724.

Teresa Wiener
Director, Administration