



# NAVY SEABEE VETERANS OF AMERICA

## MINUTES PRE-CONVENTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OCTOBER 13, 2009-GULFPORT, MS

Minutes of the Pre-Convention National Executive Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at the Ramada Gulfport Airport Conference Center, Gulfport, MS.

Commander Bear Holland called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M., and welcomed all in attendance. He thanked Jon Scott, National Convention Chairman, for all that he and his committee have done to put on this great Convention

Chaplain Pro Tempore Joe Scott gave the opening prayer.

Vice Commander At Large Carl Barrett led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commander Bear Holland recited the Preamble to the Navy S.V.A. Articles of Incorporation and Constitution.

Roll Call of officers indicated a quorum present. The complete roll call sheet is attached.

Commander Holland indicated that a quorum is present and the body assembled is authorized to transact any business that may come before it in accordance with the Constitution, By-Laws, and Standing Rules.

Motion by Paul Sutphin, second by Bob Magic, that we approve the minutes which were previously mailed to all Officers, Departments, and Islands, and concur with the action taken at the Mid-Year National Executive Committee meeting held on February 27, 2009 at Hampton, VA.

On the motion to approve, by voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

National Commander Holland gave an oral report covering his activities since the last National Convention, and stated that he had participated in the many meetings and activities related to perform the duties of his Office as well as representing the Organization on the Veterans Day National Committee (VDNC), as a member of the Board of Directors of the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association (SMSA), and as a member of the Board of Trustees of the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation.

National Vice Commander At Large Carl Barrett gave a brief report about his activities, and said that he was excited to report of the sending of the Dog Tags to Children of Seabees serving our Country in Iraq and Afghanistan. His complete report will be given to the Convention and will be included in the Minutes.

National Secretary Mel Ramige gave the information from his written report, and stated that he would also present it in complete detail to the Convention general session.

National Treasurer Pete Young was not present, but Mel Ramige, Acting Treasurer, summarized the Treasurer's Report by reporting that Income was \$58,635.91 and Expenses were \$52,345.66. This shows a difference between Income and Expenses of \$6,210.72. The balance in the Money Market account is \$102,485.17. It will be covered in more detail at the Convention, and a written copy will be in the Minutes.

Commander Holland stated that we would take care of any business at this time that could not or should not be taken care of under the regular order of business.

Commander Buchanan named the following Convention Committees:

- Rules – Dave Youngs, Chairman
- Credentials – Dave Buchanan, Joe Millette, Gene Roberts
- Auditing – Bob Magic, Chairmen, Ralph Bean, Bill Edwards
- Time & Place – Billy Millican, Chairman; Dave Buchanan will help
- Resolutions (Standing Committee) – Mel Ramige, Acting Chairman; Ted Brodt
- Nominating – Dave Buchanan, Chairman; Jim White, Paul Sutphin, Norm Hill, Dave Youngs
- Membership – Jerry Landcaste, Mel Ramige
- Publicity (Standing Committee) – Jerry Landcaste (Acting Chairman)

During the naming of the Credentials Committee, it was reported that we would again be accepting payment for delegate fees from any that have not been paid for. Theoretically, this payment should be done and in the hands of the National Secretary 15 days before the Convention, but we have allowed those that are at the Convention to be able to exercise their right to vote if they pay their fees.

Correspondence:

1. Letter dated May 18, 2009 from John P. Sarbanes and Phil Hare, members of Congress of the United States, informing us of the establishment of the Veterans' Corps under the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), and requesting our support for funding.
2. E-mail dated September 28, 2009 from Richard K. Sans Soucy, member of the Board of Directors of Veterans First Development Corp., requesting our help in providing assisting in the construction of facility near Boston, MA to house 38 Veterans. Jerry Landcaste stated that he thought that this was a good idea and he asked for the contact information for follow-up. Since this was a regional project, it was assigned to the Department of Massachusetts for liaison purposes.
3. E-mail from Reinaldo Sanchez, Professor of Education at University, Venezuela, requesting a donation of a Navy SVA Commemorative Coin.  
  
Motion by Carl Barrett, second by Paul Sutphin, that this request be honored and we send a commemorative Coin to this Professor. By voice vote, all ayes, no nays, motion carried.

4. Letter from Marine Corps League, National Headquarters, which sent greetings for a successful National Convention and Reunion. Bill Edwards, Secretary, Island X-12, West Palm Beach, FL, reported that they are looking at forming a Seabee League with a 501 (c) (3) classification.

Unfinished Business:

1. Report of the continuing effort to deactivate the Departments and Islands that have become defunct. This has been in process for some time, and is continuing. Several suggestions were discussed, and it was decided that we would continue our efforts.
2. Further discussion pertaining to presentation of proposed projects and the means to finance these endeavors by the National Publicity Committee. This is being worked on and will be forthcoming.
3. Progress of the formulation of a plan to set up a standardized bookkeeping system for all Officers having financial books for audit. After discussion, there were some who felt that we need a Finance Committee or Ways and Means Committee to advise us on the financial aspects of our Organization and to establish a Budget. A proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-10 that was prepared by the National Secretary was available for study and discussion. Most of the line items are mandated by the By-Laws and Standing Rules.
4. Report on the progress of the change to the checks distributed from the funds of the Navy S.V.A. to include the notation about any checks not cashed within 45 days of the date of issuance will become void. Most of the checks that are not cashed are those from the Life Member per capita payout done each year. Gene Roberts, Life Membership Chairman, has checked into the feasibility of the 45 day void provision, and found that it is not legally binding.

New Business:

1. Discussion about revising and reinstating the Seabee Memorial Tri-Fold Brochure project indicated that many people felt that the brochure should be updated to include more information about the Navy S.V.A. and we should pursue further options about getting some printed up for distribution. A brief resume' of the current status of this project was presented by Commander Holland. He requested that all opinions and comments be respected and that genuine discussion be made for the betterment of the Organization.

Many members spoke and expressed their opinions about the merits of the brochure, and others stated that the brochure as currently constituted should be changed to show more information on getting more Seabees to join the Navy S.V.A. There were others who said that we should not be spending money for publicizing the Seabee Memorial Monument.

This brochure project will be brought up for further discussion and action at the general business session.

2. Discussion about the proposed new and revised Navy S.V.A. Brochure, which includes the application blank, revealed that it now is a quad-fold multi color brochure to replace the tri-fold blue on white brochure that we have used for years.

This brochure project will be brought up for further discussion and action at the general business session.

For the Good of the Order:

1. There were no items brought up for discussion because of time constraints.

Chaplain Pro Tempore Joe Scott closed the meeting with a prayer.

There being no further business to be brought up at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:



Mel Ramige, National Secretary  
Navy S. V.A.

NAVY SEABEE VETERANS OF AMERICA  
OFFICERS ROLL CALL - 2009 NATIONAL CONVENTION

OFFICE	NAME	10-13-09 PRE-CONV. EXEC. COMM. MTG.
COMMANDER	BEAR HOLLAND	Present
VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE	CARL BARRETT	Present
SECRETARY	MEL RAMIGE	Present
TREASURER	PETE YOUNG	Absent
NORTH EAST DIST. CDR	JOE MILLETTE	Present
NORTH CENTRAL DIST. CDR	DAVE BUCHANAN	Present
NORTH WEST DIST. CDR	JERRY LANDCASTLE	Present
SOUTH EAST DIST. CDR	SHERRON HAMPTON	Present
SOUTH CENTRAL DIST. CDR	BILL SLOAN	Present
SOUTH WEST DIST. CDR	DENNIS GRAVES	Excused
SECRETARY, NATIONAL ISLAND PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS:	DICK HOFFMAN	Absent
06-08	DAVE BUCHANAN	Present
04-06	JIM WHITE	Absent
2002-04	DICK PARKER	(Deceased 8--18-09)
96-98	ED JONES	Absent
94-96	PAUL SUTPHIN	Present
90-92	NORM HILL	Present
89-90	DON CLAY	Absent
87-88	JOE L. MATTHEWS	Absent
85-87	DAVE YOUNGS	Present
83-85	JAMES C. LINDENMAYER	Absent
81-83	PAUL SIMCOE	Absent
76-77	RICHARD GROVE	Absent
75-76	JACK R. WRIGHT	Absent
NATIONAL TRUSTEES - 2 YEAR	CLARENCE ANDERSON	Excused
	RALPH BEAN	Present
	BOB MAGIC	Present
NATIONAL TRUSTEES - 1 YEAR	BILL EDWARDS	Present
	BILL HENDERSON	Absent
CHAPLAIN	JIM PEDONE	Excused
SERVICE OFFICER	DAVID PHILLIPS	Excused
HISTORIAN	RANDY JUDD	Absent
NATIONAL COUNSELORS:	JOHN DEVER	Present
	RICHARD MOREY	Absent
	BILLY POTTER	Absent
	DAVE YOUNGS	Present
PARLIAMENTARIAN	GENE ROBERTS	Present
STANDING COMMITTEES:	HARRY LENCHITZ	Excused
LIFE MEMBERSHIP	DAVE BUCHANAN	Present
PUBLICATIONS	JERRY LANDCASTLE	Present
CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS	KEN WENDT	Excused
NATIONAL PUBLICITY	BILLY MILLIGAN	Present
RESOLUTIONS	BILL SPANIER	Excused
INTERNET	J. C. HAMPTON	Present
REGISTERED AGENT	ALLEN PALMER	Absent
MASTER-AT-ARMS	HAROLD BEAL	Excused
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN:	TED BRODT	Present
ALABAMA	TOM LINN	Absent
FLORIDA	PAUL SIMCOE	Absent
ILLINOIS	JOE MILLETTE	Present
INDIANA	FLASH GORDON	Absent
LOUISIANA	KEN WENDT	Excused
MASSACHUSETTS	BILLY POTTER	Absent
MISSISSIPPI	JERRY COX	Absent
NEW YORK	GEORGE DODGE	Absent
NORTH CAROLINA	JON SCOTT	Present
OHIO		
WASHINGTON		
NATIONAL CONVENTION CHAIRMAN		