**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Society of the War of 1812**

**Corinthian Yacht Club – Mar 10, 2018**

**Prepared by Richard S. Sperry)**

**(Final 6-25-18)**

The following minutes of the Annual meeting of the Society of the War of 1812 at the Corinthian Yacht Club, March 10, 2018 were prepared by Secretary, Richard S. Sperry

**Present:** Robert R. Van Gulick, Jr., Richard S. Sperry, Jefferson M. Moak, Raymond Longacre, Robert Marvin, Peter R. Hill, Francis T. Adams, Ronald Fenstermacher, Jr., J. Thomas Showler, Eugene Bolt, Matthew Dupee, W. Steven Mark, G. Clayton Ames, A. William Bodine, John Clement, Richard Di Stefano, Paul Di Stefano, Stephen Holt, C. William Lentz, Larry A. Magdy, James Marvin, Jr., Richard Pagano, Martin Peicker, Jeffrey R. Smith, and Andrew R. Sullivan

**General:** President Van Gulick called the meeting to order at 10:35 am. and the Society’s Chaplain, Clayton Ames, offered the opening prayer. Past President Showler led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**The Minutes:** Secretary Sperry introduced the minutes of the prior meeting and asked for a vote of approval which was unanimously given.

**Secretary’s Report:** Richard Sperry and prior Secretary Tee Adams said there were no significant secretarial matters to report. Tee Adams noted that he was videotaping the meeting and that he would be putting up on the website.

Tee Adams reported that he was planning the summer Barbecue at Merion Golf Club, that he continues to make updates on the website, and might have a summer newsletter available. He also asked for presenters for 5-6 dates for the ROTC awards. 15 Colleges have asked for presenters

**President’s Report:** President Van Gulick provided a recap of the prior year and his term of office. The Society’s annual church service was held at the Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church where Vice President Eugen Bolt gave a presentation on Judge Sutherland. This was followed by lunch at Brauhaus Schmidt on South Street. The plan for 2018 is to return to Valley Forge Military Academy.

Our members joined with the Magill Chapter of the Daughters of the War of 1812 at the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas for the unveiling of historic bronze plaques honoring Rev. Absolom Jones and James Forten. Vice President Gene Bolt spoke to the assemblage about James Forten and the War of 1812.

The ROTC program under the direction of Tee Adams presented 18 cadets with a medal and certificate of appreciation. Tee once again hosted the Society at the Merion Golf Club for its annual barbecue.

The data base of graves of War of 1812 veterans maintained by Gene Bolt continues to grow. Thanks to Bill Bodine for stepping in as Treasurer when Jeff Bell relocated to South Carolina this year. The efforts of Rick Sperry as Secretary are also greatly appreciated. Registrar Jefferson Moak continues to provide needed oversight in the genealogical area. He is also our speaker today.

A full written report of President Van Gulick’s report is attached.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Bill Bodine presented the Treasurer’s Report for the period ending Dec 31, 2017 The net assets of the Society as of December 6 were $141,762, a slight increase over the prior year. Year to date disbursements ($11,506) have exceeded receipts ($9861) by $1645. The budget for the next year was voted on and approved. (Treasurer’s 12/31/17 report attached for further detail)

**Registrar’s Report:** Registrar Jefferson Moak submitted his report for the year indicating that the Society had 84 life, 89 regular annual members for a total of 173 members as of Dec 31, 2017.

**Membership:** Andrew Sullivan presented the membership committee report mentioning the four men named in the Registrar’s Report and recommending for election. We welcomed new members Sam Blake, Joseph Watson, William Watson, Tennyson Ladder. Deceased members included Francis Forbes and Henry Rechner and George Peppel

A unanimous vote of approval was taken. The Secretary was directed to send letters of congratulations to each of these men. Rosettes were passed out to the new members attending the Annual Meeting.

The Registrar commented that the Society’s goal was for 15 new members in 2018-2019. (Membership 12/31/17 report attached for further detail)

**Color Guard:** Marshall Steven Mark reported that he had presented the colors on two occasions – the annual church service at the Old Pine Street Inn and the service for Absolom Jones and James Forten.

Robert Van Gulick reported that we have 4 flags and that we had lost flags at our printer that we might wish to replace.

**Historian:** Stephen Longacre feels good about where our records are being stored. Otherwise, he had nothing to report.

**General Society:** Robert Marvin attended the meeting in Plattsburg, NH. One suggestion was that children be made life members. (Vice President General’s 3/10/18 report attached)

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**By-Laws:** Rick Di Stefano had no report to provide on By-Laws.

**ROTC Awards:** Peter Hill reported that we would be returning to the Valley forge Military Academy for their annual church service on April 15th. We would be presenting a medal to one cadet. Colonel Sykes will handle the regimental review to follow the service. This will be followed by lunch and an optional tour of the museum.

Tee Adams reported that we were well organized for the 2018 season. He had received the medals that treasurer Bodine ordered and met the National ROTC representative at a meeting over Lincoln’s birthday and who gave him the ribbons.

Tee Adams had received 10 replies for 17 programs with a YES which is fairly typical. They have received the certificate to customize and print. He said he would try again for the rest in the coming week.   
He said could start sending medals as well. The last bunch are always very difficult to get on board.

Presenters; Tee stated that we had 5 presenters signed up so far, and 2 repeaters waiting for event details to say if they are free. We could use help at: Drexel 4 May, at 0830; Bucknell U Friday, March 31; Penn State; Univ of Pittsburgh 4/1 for dinner; Wilkes University; Air Force ROTC annual Dining-Out/Awards banquet on 29 Apr from 2000 - 2200.

**Events, Church Services:** Peter Hill said that arrangements for the Annual Church Service at the Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church (Third, Scots and Mariners Presbyterian Church) on Sun May 21 had come along nicely. This is one of the oldest Presbyterian churches in the country and is also known as the Church of the Patriots.

Church Historian Ron Schaefer gave a tour prior to the Service of the historic graveyard where many of the Continental Congress are buried along with many War Patriots. After the tour, our color guard lead the group to Capt. Sutherland's monument for a wreath laying ceremony. The service was slated for 10:30a, with 1812 color guard and wreath laying at 10:15a. Planned activities included a tour of the church by Ron Schaeffer, service led by Rev Jason Ferris, lunch at Brauhaus Schmidt on South Street

Tee Adams reported that the summer barbecue would, as usual, be at the Merion Golf Club June 25 or July 16.

**Grave Identification and Commemoration Report:** Gene Bolt said there were 2256 graves identified in PA a number that is probably lagging since there are 10,000 identified in Ohio. He said that a grave marker is a helpful way to identify graves where the stone has been worn away. He has asked many cemeteries for lists of their veteran and said there is WPA grave inventory from the 1920s and 30s and that he will check the Library of Congress records for it. Finally, he mentioned that the founder of the 11812 Society is buried at the Old Pine Street Church cemetery.

**Nominating Committee:** Bob Marvin presented his nominating report for the four new members who were voted on and approved - Sam Blake, Joseph Watson, William Watson, Tennyson Ladder.

He also presented the slate of officers for the forthcoming year. These were voted on and approved. A list of officers is attached including President Eugene Bolt; Vice President \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; Secretary, Richard Sperry; Treasurer, William Bodine; Registrar and Genealogist, Jefferson M. Moak, Vice President Bob Marvin; Judge Advocate, Richard Di Stefano, Historian, Ray Longacre; Surgeon, William Firth; Marshall, Steven Mark; Chaplain, Clayton Ames

**Guest luncheon speaker:** The Annual Meeting guest speaker this year was the Society’s genealogist Jefferson Moak who gave a history of the the founding of the Pennsylvania Society of the war of 1812. He summarized the history of Joel Sutherland, artilleryman and founder, discussed the various militia companies in Philadelphia before the Civil War and the defense of Baltimore. He noted that the general society had published a roster of all 7000 member of which we have only 200.

**Meetings:** Next meetings of the Board of Direction are scheduled for June 12th, September 4th and December 4th. The next Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 10th, 2018

The meeting was adjourned and lunch was enjoyed at the Yacht Club.

**Attachments**

- attendance list

- 12/31/18 EOY financials

- 12/31/18 annual budget

- registrar’s 3/11/18 report

- members elected ’17-‘18

- membership committee report 3/11/18

- board nominations ‘18-‘19

- board members ’18-‘19

- VP General’s Report

- Presidents Report 2017

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