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

**Corinthian Yacht Club – Mar 9, 2019**

**Prepared by Richard S. Sperry)**

**(RSS Draft 2-28-19)**

The following minutes of the Annual meeting of the Society of the War of 1812 at the Corinthian Yacht Club, March 9, 2019 were prepared by Secretary, Richard S. Sperry

**Board Members Present:** President Eugene Bolt, Immediate Past-President Robert Van Gulick, William Bodine, Richard S. Sperry, Jefferson M. Moak, Raymond Longacre, Robert Marvin, Peter R. Hill, Francis T. Adams, Ronald Fenstermacher, Jr., J. Thomas Showler, W. Steven Mark, G. Clayton Ames, John Clement, Richard Di Stefano, Stephen Holt, Larry A. Magdy, Richard Pagano, Jeffrey R. Smith, and Andrew R. Sullivan, Austin Lamac,

**General:** President Bolt called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. and the Society’s Chaplain, Clayton Ames, offered the opening prayer. Steven Mark led in the Color Guard and 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 said there were no significant secretarial matters to report.

Tee Adams reported that he was planning the summer Barbecue at Merion Golf Club hosted by Merion member Richard Sperry, that he continues to make updates on the website, and might have a summer newsletter available.

**Report of the President:** Eugene Bolt gave the President’s report including the following. Preparations for the triennial in Philadelphia are underway (Aug 6-9, 2020). The major project at hand is a refurbishing of the statue of War of 1812 veteran Charles Ross at the Old Pine Street church. The hotel for the Triennial will be the Society Hill Marriott. We’d like to have a publication with info on Ross to be handed out to attendees…plus some excellent tours of historic Philadelphia.

(see attached notes of President Bolt for remainder of President’s report)

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer William Bodine presented the Treasurer’s Report for the period ending Dec 31, 2018 The net assets of the Society as of December 6 were $105,583, a slight decrease from the prior year. Year to date disbursements ($11,500) have exceeded receipts ($11,000) by $500. The budget for the next year was voted on and approved. (Treasurer’s 12/31/18 report attached for further detail),

We need to do a better job of collecting dues. Finally, Bill Bodine made a plea for gifting in members’ wills. Our current base of $100,000 is not much and some gifts would help.

A $10 increase in annual dues was recommended and voted on. Annual dues are now $40.

**Registrar’s Report:** Registrar Jefferson Moak submitted his report for the year indicating that the Society had 86 life, 92 regular annual members for a total of 178 members as of March 11, 2019. We welcomed new members Charles Forbes, David Forbes, Tench Forbes, Charles Leith, Edward Toth and James Johnson.

The Registrar also reported the passing of the following member of the Society – Gerald Peppel

**Membership:** Andrew Sullivan presented the membership committee report mentioning the application of James Reed Campbell, Jr for dual membership.

A unanimous vote of approval was taken. The Secretary was directed to send a letter of congratulations to Mr Campbell. Rosettes were passed out to the new members attending the Annual Meeting.

**Report of the Marshall:** Stephen Mark is looking for recruits. Our two flags include “Don’t Give Up the Ship” (Oliver Hazard Perry) and the Fort McHenry flag. We’d like to add two more by the Triennial. He has been in touch with The Flag Lady and is trying to find a flag of “the Pittsburg Blues”. The gravesite ceremonies over the past year have been very impressive

**Report of the Historian:** (Ray Longacre not present) He has asked for any prior documents that cover reports of the Society from its inception.

**Report of the General Society:** Rob Van Gulick reported The War Cry has our info and has finally published it in their latest edition. The next Triennial meeting will be at the Mayflower Hotel in Jacksonville. The history of the GS is on their website and was written by Jefferson Moak. It was founded in 1814.

**Report of Committees:**

**Church Services** (Peter Hill, rob Marvin): Peter summarized the 11a Church Service at the Lower Merion Baptist Church which has 25 War of 1812 gravesites and the fabulous buffet lunch we all had at the Merion Cricket Club.

**Boy Scout Project:** Austin Lamac summarized his Boy Scout project to recognize Eagle Scouts who do a project around the War of 1812. He said he would present an emblem and other materials at the next board meeting and a proposal for implementing the project. Eugene Bolt said we have a nice history with the Maryland Society on boy scouts.

**Gravesite Project:** Gene Bolt reported on his tour of the Hood Cemetery/Lower burial ground in Germantown which we thought had perhaps 3 graves of 1812 members, but we were informed that there were more likely over a dozen buried there. The cemetery was a bit overgrown and it was suggested that this could be a potential project for Eugene Hough and Saving Hallowed Ground.

The Doylestown Presbyterian Church was also visited and it appeared to be very well maintained and that there were many 1812 flagholders present. It is among the top cemeteries that we have visited.

At the Lower Merion Baptist Church, the Harriton High School students had worked to clean veterans tombstones and uncovered two added 1812 veterans graves in the process. One was under a large bush which has been removed. The Church had several writeups about our Church Service and expressed their gratitude.

**Publications:** Tee Adams reported that we presented awards at 15 colleges to 17 cadets. Bill Bodine ordered the medals. Former President Tom Showler moved to western PA and can present awards out there. These will be reflected in our annual report being prepared by Tee. Otherwise we are looking for presenters. Over the next year, we will have a church service, our annual barbecue at the Merion Golf Club.

**Nominations:** A slate of Board Nominations was prepared by Rob Van Gulick and is attached. It was proposed and voted on. The officers are now President Eugene Bolt, Jr., VP Francis Adams, Secretary Richard Sperry, Treasurer William Bodine.

**Guest Luncheon Speaker:** Christopher George spoke on his book “Terror on the Chesapeake”. Key points covered were the atrocities of the British, the Battle for Washington, driving the British from the Chesapeake, the arrogant Admiral George Cockburn, and the defense of Baltimore by Revolutionary War Veterans Generals Samuel Smith and John Stricker and backed by US Navy regulars who held the British at bay and killed British Major General Robert Ross.

**Next Meetings:**

Quarterly Board – June 11, 2019

Quarterly Board – Sept 12 2019

Quarterly Board – Dec 3, 2019

Annual Meeting – Mar 14, 2020

Triennial Congress – Aug -9, 2020

**Attachments**

- 12/31/18 EOY financials

- 12/31/18 annual budget

- registrar’s 3/9/19 report

- members elected ’18-‘19

- membership committee report 3/9/19

- board nominations ’19-‘20

- board members ’19-‘20

- VP General’s Report

- Presidents final report 2019