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

**Philadelphia Club – June 14, 2016**

**(Final 9-4-16)**

The following minutes of the quarterly luncheon meeting of the Society of the War of 1812 at the Philadelphia club on June 14, 2016 were prepared by Secretary, Richard S. Sperry

**Present:** Robert Van Gulick, Jr, Richard S. Sperry, Jeffrey G Bell, Jefferson Moak, Raymond Longacre, Robert Marvin, Peter Hill, Andrew Sullivan, Francis T. Adams, John Thomas Showler, Eugene Bolt, Matt Dupee

**General:** President Van Gulick called the meeting to order at 12:10p.m. and, in the absence of the Society’s chaplain, Clayton Ames, read 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. A formal resolution approved at the March meeting appointing Richard Sperry as Secretary and Jeffrey Bell as Treasurer was signed by President Van Gulick, outgoing Secretary Francis Adams and incoming Secretary Richard Sperry. Said resolution was necessary to

provide Jeffery Bell with signatory power for our bank checking account. A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes.

**Secretary’s Report:** Richard Sperry acknowledged this was his first meeting as Secretary and would

be gradually assuming duties from prior Secretary Tee Adams

**Treasurer’s Report:** President Van Gulick presented the Treasurer’s Report which showed an investment funds balance of $141, 159 on June 14, 2016 and net positive balance of receipts and disbursements over the past 6 months of $1,618. The Treasurer’s report dated June 14, 2016 was provided to all present and is included within these minutes.

The full transfer of financial records to Jeff Bell from Steve Holt is now complete and Jeff Bell now has full access to 1812 financial accounts for Treasurer’s recordkeeping purposes.

Only 35 checks for membership dues have been received to date.

The Sons of the American Revolution have asked for a contribution to help fund the marking of a grave of an 1812 participant, the contribution for which was made.

**Registrar’s Report:** Registrar Jefferson Moak reported that there are 163 members of which 81 are life and 83 are regular dues paying members and that ultimately we would like to be at 200 members. Further that there are approximately 7000 members nationally. This compares to 40,000 nationally

in the Sons of the Revolution. PA membership in the 1812 is increasing while non-PA membership is decreasing.

**Color Guard:** Color Guard: At the request of Color Guard Captain Steven Mark, Eugene Bolt presented a brief report on recent two recent Color Guard activities. On May 15, 2016, the Color Guard presented colors at the Society's own well-attended church service at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes) church in Philadelphia with a brief ceremony at the churchyard grave of 1812 veteran Jacob Smith. On June 11, 2016, the Color Guard took part in the Grave Marking Ceremony organized by President Carolyn Jensen of the War Hawks Chapter 358FL National Society United States Daughters of the 1812 at the grave of  1812 veteran Nathan Brooke in St. David's Old Churchyard (Wayne, PA.) The Color Guard was very well received at both events. The Captain requested that Renato DiStefano be added as a full member of the Color Guard roster.

**Historian:** Ray Longacre reported that Jefferson Moak has a book of all 1812 veterans. Further that our archives are being kept of the offices of the Sons of the Revolution in Philadelphia. Unfortunately, in transition we had lost many old files and the applications with them. J.M. Moak has control of our files at the Sons is now acting as curator/historian for our files there.

**General Society:** Bob Marvin had no report to provide. The triannual meeting of the 1812 Society will take place in Sept 7-9, 2017 in Plattsburg, NY to mark the Battle of Lake Champlain.

**By-Laws:** Rick Di Stefano reported that he will be reviewing and making recommendations for revising the By-Laws

**Events, Church Services:** Peter Hill reported that a church service was held on Armed Forces Day, May 15, 2016 at the very historic Gloria Dei (Old Swedes) Church with the Color Guard in attendance before the church service. Next year consideration is being given to the Old Pine Street Church in support of the Old Pine Street Church Conservancy in Philadelphia. The Old Pine Street Church is the burial site of many sea captains and privateers of the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 era. We were all reminded of the summer barbecue this year at the Merion Golf Club on June 26th

Rob Van Gulick reported that we have received an inquiry from Westtown Township in Chester County for Oct 15, 2016 to help honor veterans who fought in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. We have been invited to provide and present 6 grave markers. The Color Guard is being invited as well.

The Secretary should send out invitations as needed.

Ideas for other Events: Matt Dupee suggested a dinner marking Napoleon Bonaparte possibly with

Andrew Jackson’s inaugural menu at a venue like The City Tavern. We would benefit from having

someone knowledgeable about period food to assist.

Eugene Bolt reported that during the reception following the Nathan Brooke Grave Marking Ceremony, Connie Taylor, President of the recently revived Captain William Magill Chapter of the Daughter of 1812 (local chapter), expressed interest in collaborating on some upcoming events with our organization.

**Membership:** Andy Sullivan reported that we had received three applications and proposals for membership…Charles Lentz, President of the Welsh Society, Robert Smith and Adam Taylor who found us via the website. There was a motion to accept the applications and vote for membership.

Tee Adams said there was a young person at church service who had read a poem and asked about membership. Bob Marvin to follow up.

Tee Adams said that we have a membership certificate that we should be using and that he would

provide to Secretary Sperry who should notify our 3 new members.

Matt Dupee said that it would helpful to have a brochure to hand out to potential new members. Rob Van Gulick said that we used to have one that we could/should redo. Bob Marvin commented that he

has a personal Society of the War of 1812 business card that he gives to possible new members.

Jefferson Moak said he would co-ordinate with Secretary Sperry to notify the 3 new members.

**Publications:** Tee Adam provided a schedule for upcoming events including the upcoming barbecue and fall meeting. Further that he was considering putting a collage of photos still on the website, that he was considering a yearbook, and that he would have a newsletter in the late summer-fall.

The mailing list is relatively current, though we need to continue to review and update our member numbers.

**ROTC Awards:** Tee Adams reported that in 2016 we presented roughly 20 medals in 10 separate events and provided a summary of events the Society participated in. This is our biggest outreach program. We are in need of members to help do the presentations at various NROTC events.

Matt Dupee suggested we might try to come up with a challenge coin similar to one the Sons of the Revolution uses at NROTC and other events. This in addition to, but not in lieu of an 1812 medal.

**Grave Identification and Commemoration Report:** Eugene Bolt reported that he had looked at several grave identification databases and website and that the one operated by the Ohio chapter of the Daughters of 1812 had an excellent site with over 10,000+ entries. He had been in touch with the operators of that website (who happens to be the President Emeritus of the Ohio chapter) and they pledged their support and offered some useful guidance for our project. The President Emeritus also recommended investigating the library and archives of the National Daughters of 1812 headquarters and library in Washington, D.C. that might have some useful Pennsylvania information. The goal is to get out database up to 500 entries by the end of the summer.

**President’s Report:** Rob Van Gulick thanked all of those who attended and participated in the church services in which the Society was involved, for the attendance of the Color Guard and Bob Marvin for his referral of inquiries. He said he was encouraged by the increase in participation in our events. He was also most appreciative of the continuing support of the United States Daughters of 1812 (<http://www.usdaughters1812.org/home.html>). We have been inviting them to our events in recent years,

recently adding addresses for their new chapter in Bucks County

**Next Board Meetings:** Sept 6 & December 6 – Philadelphia Club