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

**Corinthian Yacht Club – Mar 11, 2017**

**Prepared by Richard S. Sperry)**

**(Final 3-10-18)**

The following minutes of the Annual meeting of the Society of the War of 1812 at the Corinthian Yacht Club, March 11, 2017 were prepared by Secretary, Richard S. Sperry

**Present:** Robert R. Van Gulick, Jr., Richard S. Sperry, Jeffrey G. Bell, 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

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Jeffrey Bell presented the Treasurer’s Report for the period ending Dec 31, 2016 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 12/31/16 report attached for further detail)

**Registrar’s Report:** Registrar Jefferson Moak submitted his report for the year indicating that the Society had 82 life, 84 regular annual members for a total of 166 members as of March 11, 2017. We welcomed new members Charles William Lentz, Jeffrey Robert Smith, Adam Corbett Taylor and Joshua John Weickert during the past year.   
The Registrar also reported the passing of the following members of the Society – Richard Dana Smith, Sr., Robert James Fenner, Sr., Francis Thomas Adams, Jr. (Registrar’s 12/31/16 report attached for further detail)

**Membership:** Andrew Sullivan presented the membership committee report mentioning the four men named in the Registrar’s Report and recommending for election the following - James Leon Baker, James Daniel Baker, Timothy Brian Hennessey, Kyle Lee Miller.

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 2017-2018. (Membership 12/31/16 report attached for further detail)

**Color Guard:** Marshall Steven Mark reported that he had presented the colors at a grave marking ceremony at St David’s. Otherwise, he reported that there has been no activity on the part of the color guard since the last meeting….generally little activity in the winter.

**Historian:** There was no report from the historian

**General Society:** Bob Marvin reminded us of the triennial meeting September 7-9, 2017 in Plattsburg, NY on Lake Champlain to mark the Battle of Lake Champlain where the British fleet was rebuffed.

He reported that our PA Chapter of the War of 1812 will join the Bucks County Daughters of 1812 in presenting plaques on Jul Sun, Jul 16 at St. Thomas African Episcopal Church to commemorate Bishop Absalom Jones’ and James Forten’s contributions for Philadelphia’s defense in Sept. 1814. He proposed that the state society pay for 50% of the plaques at St Thomas. He also stated that the Flagship Niagra and the Flag House Museum in Baltimore were something that we had traditionally supported.

(Vice President General’s 3/11/17 report attached)

.

**Budget and Finance:** No added report was provided. The budget consisting of $9525 in receipts and $11, 840 in disbursements for a net loss of $2315 for the next year was voted on and approved. (the budget for the year ending 12/31/17 is attached)

**By-Laws:** Rick Di Stefano summarized proposed changes in the bylaws which included eliminating Junior Life Membership, indemnification of officers, allowing the electronic notice of meetings. Mr. Di Stefano provided a written summary to those present. The revised bylaws were approved with all in favor.

(a 2/6/17 summary of the changes to the by-laws is attached

**ROTC Awards:** There was no report on ROTC awards since during the fall there were no major ROTC graduation, commissioning or other activities.

Tee Adams reported that we were well organized for the 2017 season. He had received the medals that treasurer Bell 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 2017 at 0830; Bucknell U Friday, March 31, 2017; 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 were coming 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 to give 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 will 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 are to include 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.

Tom Showler looked for 15-star flags but could not find any. They need to be 12” x 18’ for the graves, but these are hard to find. He has visited many cemeteries and Pine Street is the best. Ron Schaeffer is head of the Pine Street Conservancy. We need to verify and finalize our list of 28 of 1812 veterans buried there by February 28th. Under Gene Bolt we have doubled our graves list.

**Nominating Committee:** Bob Marvin presented his nominating report for the four new members who were voted on and approved. These included James Leon Baker, James Daniel Baker, Timothy Brian Hennessey, Kyle Lee Miller.

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 Robert Van Gulick, Jr; Vice President Eugene Albert Bolt; Secretary, Richard Sperry; Treasurer, Jeffrey Bell; 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

**President’s Report:** Rob Van Gulick summarized the major accomplishments of 2016 contained in The President’s Report which is attached. He also thanked Tee Adams for our newsletter and the Christmas cards which had been sent out to all members. He asked if we could get a list in advance of ROTC services. Tee said he would try to organize that. The mailing list is relatively current, though we need to continue to review and update our member numbers.

**Guest luncheon speaker:** The Annual Meeting guest speaker this year was Marcos Salaverria, Education Director of the Lewes Historical Society in Lewes Delaware. Mr. Salaverria spoke extensively about the museum’s extensive collection of objects, archives, photographic images and library materials that document life in Lewes and on Lower Delaware Bay since 1692. With the many works of art, furnishings, papers, photographs, small wooden crafts, books and everything in between, the Society’s collections aim to be encyclopedic when it comes to “The Saltiest Town in Delaware.” The Society is Lewes’s memory: its oldest pieces dating from c.

**Meetings:** Next meetings of the Board of Direction are scheduled for June 13th, September 5th and December 5th. 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

- 12/31/16 EOY financials

- 12/31/17 annual budget

- registrar’s 3/11/17 report

- members elected ’16-‘17

- membership committee report 3/11/16

- board nominations ‘17-‘18

- board members ’16-‘17

- proposal to amend constitution/bylaws

- commemoration of james forten

- commemoration of Absalom jones

- VP General’s Report

- Presidents Report 2016

-