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

**Philadelphia Club – Dec 6, 2016**

(Final 6-12-17)

The following minutes of the quarterly luncheon meeting of the Society of the War of 1812 at the Philadelphia club on Dec 6, 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, Francis T. Adams, Ronald Fenstermacher, John Thomas Showler, Eugene Bolt, Matt Dupee, Steven Mark, Clayton Ames

As the meeting started, Christmas cards were signed by the Board for all members.

**General:** President Van Gulick called the meeting to order at 12:05p.m. and 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.

**Secretary’s Report:** Richard Sperry and prior Secretary Tee Adams said there were no significant secretarial matters to report.

Tee Adams distributed copies of the very excellent newsletter that he had produced and distributed November for the membership. Items covered…a Graves Database report, report on annual church services, Battle of New Orleans, Defense of Philadelphia 1814-15, our summer barbecue at Merion Gofl Club, ROTC awards and other items.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Jeffrey Bell (in absentia) presented the Treasurer’s Report for both the December 6 and September 2. The Treasurer’s report dated Sep 2, 2016 was unavailable at the meeting of Sept 6, but is included within these minutes. The net assets of the Society as of December 6 were $138,122, slightly down from September. Year to date disbursements have slightly exceeded receipts but are within budget.

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 record keeping purposes.

35 checks for membership dues have been received to date. Jeff Bell said he would be sending out a reminder to all before the Annual Meeting.

Robert Van Gulick asked for other ideas on organizations to affiliate with and donate to. He mentioned the Flag House in Baltimore which made the flag over Ft. Henry and that Cannonball House is connected to the War of 1812. Jefferson Moak suggested that we invite one of them as speakers for our annual meeting. Bob Marvin had come up with a ‘lost’ report which was accepted subject to audit.

**Nominating Committee:** Bob Marvin read a letter from a 1959 officer on the USS Stickell (DD-88) which fired a salute on July 4th to commemorate the bombardment of Ft. McHenry at midnight. Letter signed by George Mifflin Dallas IV and is available upon request. He is also working on nominations for officers.

**Registrar’s Report:** Registrar Jefferson Moak reported that membership is up since June and that there are 166 members of which 82 are life and 84 are regular dues paying members. Ultimately, we would like to exceed 200 members. In the history of the Society, there have been over 7000 members nationally. Of the 7000, 1300 have been members of the Pennsylvania Society. This compares to a national number of over 40,000 in the history of the Sons of the Revolution. Membership among Pennsylvania residents in the PA 1812 Society has increased during the year.

**Color Guard:** Steve Mark reported that there has been no activity on the part of the color guard since the last meeting….generally little activity in the Fall.

**Historian:** Ray Longacre reminded us that our archives are in good hands at the Sons of the Revolution office here in Philadelphia. Bob said we should donate to support the Pine Street church and passed around a map of the cemetery where Captain Benjamin Wickes is buried.

**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 Tom Showler went to the 2016 meeting in Springfield, IL where he visited various forts and barricades used against Indians and the British and toured from site to site including a Fort north of St. Louis from which Lewis and Clark started their epic exploration.

Bob Marvin had no formal report to provide. Suggested we partner with the 1812 Daughters for some of our functions and theirs. Rob Van Gulick and Tom Showler to meet with them and obtain their calendar.

Bob also read a letter by an officer on the USS Stickell (DDR 888) regarding it’s visit in June 1959 to Baltimore to simulate the bombardment of Ft McHenry. This on July 4rth to commemorate the raising of the1st 49 star flag. Letter attached to these minutes.

**Budget and Finance:** No added report was provided. The budget will be provided at the Annnual Meeting.

**By-Laws:** Robert Van Gulick reported that Rick Di Stefano (in absentia) will be submitting revisions to the By-Laws for approval at the Annual Meeting with a 10 day written notice being given to members as required.

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

**Events, Church Services:** Peter Hill said that he was scheduled to meet at Valley Forge late April-May. Possibly during 1st or 3rd weekends of May at the Old Pine Street Church with a tour of the graveyard and lunch after the service in conjunction with the Sons of the Revolution on April 23. There are numerous 1812 gravesites. Other suggestions for a service were the Lutheran Church of Ardmore

**Grave Identification and Commemoration Report:** Gene Bolt presented a report on the Graves Data Base Committee which is attached to these minutes. The Data Base has grown to 2008 from 1100 since the September meeting. The Committee visited 16 cemeteries during the last quarter.

Gene Bolt reported that Old Pine Street Church is the best local 1812 site and that the sidewalk gets 90,000 visitors per week during the summer. There are three 1812 markers. He showed three, probably expensive, but very nice granite markers…Captains John Ross, Joel Sutherland and Renard. There are 250 graves for the American Revolution there. There are 3 for 1812 veterans. We should attach 1812 flags to ours. Gene Bolt received a list of 28 unmarked graves that are thought to be War of 1812. He suggested markers that for our 3 graves and that we should create biographies of the dead and a brochure. Ron Van Gulick suggested a tour with tour guide (one of us) and the service with a dedication of the markings followed by lunch.

John 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.

**President’s Report:** Rob Van Gulick thanked Tee Adams for our newsletter and the Christmas cards which are being 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.

Rob Van Gulick introduced Secretary, Richard Sperry as President of a private website History 500.com started by him. Sperry mentioned a chronological reading list of 1812 books on History 500 and offered to go ahead and sign up all members of the Board with a user name and password so that they could gain access. He asked for a showing of hands of those interested and all confirmed positively. This was subsequently done. Rob Van Gulick reminded everyone of the Annual Meeting at the Corinthian Yacht Club at 12p.m. on Saturday, March 11.

**Annual Meeting:** Corinthian Yacht Club – 12p.m. Saturday, March 11, 2017