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

**Philadelphia Club – June 13, 2017**

(Final 9-4-17)

The following minutes of the quarterly luncheon meeting of the Society of the War of 1812 at the Philadelphia Club on June 13, 2017 were prepared by Secretary, Richard S. Sperry

**Present:** **Robert Van Gulick, Jr, Richard S. Sperry,** **Jeffrey G Bell,** **Jefferson Moak,** **Robert Marvin,** **Peter Hill,** **Francis T. Adams,** **John Thomas Showler**, **Eugene Bolt,** **Clayton Ames,** **William Bodine,** **Richard Pagano, Andrew Sullivan**

**General:** President Van Gulick called the meeting to order at 12:05p.m. and the Society’s chaplain, Clayton Ames, gave the opening prayer. Past President Showler led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**The Minutes:** Secretary Sperry introduced the minutes of the prior December 12, 2016 quarterly 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.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Jeffrey Bell presented the Treasurer’s Report for the period ending March 31, 2017. The net assets of the Society as of March 30 were $141,846 consistent with prior quarters. Year to date disbursements have slightly exceeded receipts by $2305 but are within budget. 19 members have not yet submitted their dues for the new fiscal year. A second letter sent before the annual meeting to those (33) who had not paid resulted in $1000. We are better off than last year at this time.

Jeff Bell re-confirmed his resignation as treasurer as of June 30, 2017. The board accepted his resignation and approved William Bodine as new Treasurer effective June 30, 2017. Mr. Bell is moving to South Carolina, but stated his intent to remain a member.

**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 86 are regular dues paying members with 53 non-PA and 115 in PA. He reported that he had found two (2) lost life members in Craig Willard who was in a nursing home in Reading, but who is almost assuredly deceased, and Harold Zell who is now living in Arizona.

We will keep them on the rolls, as we do not want to establish a precedent of dropping Life Members.

Mr. Moak read a letter from the General Society which stated that we must have the approval of the Society in another state if they have a member who wishes to join the PA Society. We should also make sure to use the most current approval forms by the general Society.

Mr. Moak noted the resignation of Adam Corbet Taylor and moved that the Board accept this which was done.

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.

**Church Service – Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church:** Peter Hill summarized this delightful event consisting of a tour by Ron Shafer, the Color Guard led in by Marshall Steven Mark. Tee Adams took copious photos for the “The War Cry”. This was our first service there. Gene Bolt gave a nice review of the life of Captain Sutherland and will have a write up for Tee Adams for the War Cry.

Rob Van Gulick asked for suggestions for the service next year. The Chapel at Valley forge was cited as a possibility. Other suggestions for a service included the Lutheran Church in Ardmore.

**General Society:** Vice President Bob Marvin read his report which included the following. He presented a General Society medal to a Temple ROTC student cadet this past spring. 19 members of the PA society attended the Old Pine Street Church Service with a wreath laying for Joel Sutherland, a former President of the National Society. Eugene Bolt gave a very fine talk. Ron Schafer, Old Pine Street historian gave a tour of the graveyard. A fine German lunch followed the service at the Brauhouse Schmidt on South Street

Bill Bodine said he would send a report on the Old Swedes Church Veterans Commemoration to Tee Adams.

Two plaques will be dedicated at a service at St. Thomas African Episcopal Church for Bishop Absalom Jones and James Fort who mobilized free blacks during the war in building key defenses as Gray's Ferry in Philadelphia. We will join the Bucks County Chapter of the Captain Willian McGill Chapter of the National Daughters of the War of 1812 in sharing half the cost of the plaques which total $2,208.

The Triennial meeting of the General Society will be held in Plattsburgh, NY in September. Andrew Sullivan noted that we give approximately $2000 to the General Society each year. Further, that we are able to request reimbursement for appropriate projects. We should remember to ask about this.

We need to appoint our representatives to the Triennial meeting. Tom Showler had been the representative for four states. Bob Marvin offered to be a VP representative again. If interested contact Rick Hollis, new president, at the General Society. The District Deputy needs to attend the State events. Bob Marvin was appointed VP of the General Society with the ability to vote. We are allowed to have up to five members to vote at the Triennial. Bob Marvin, Tom Showler, Francis Adams and Jefferson Moak were approved and authorized to vote on our behalf.

Tom Showler said that Rick Hollis will be sworn in as the Secretary General of the Society. He has asked us if we would host the Triennial meeting in September 2020. During our last hosting, attendees stayed at the Essington Holiday Inn, near Marcus Hook. Tom Showler and Peter Smith helped plan 2007 in Essington. We need to start planning now for 2020.

The General Society has up to 30 Grave Markers that we can purchase. We will order a grave marker for Captain Charles Stewart, one of the six heroes at Woodlands Cemetery. Eugene bolt will give the detail on this to Rob Van Gulick.

**Color Guard:** Steve Mark (in absentia) reported that there has been no activity on the part of the Color Guard since the last meeting….generally little activity in the fall.

**Membership:** Andy Sullivan and Jefferson Moak said that Alexander Baker was applying, having been proposed by his brother. The application has been submitted. There was a motion and approval to accept Samuel Alexander Baker into membership. Andy asked for clarification on the admissions process. New members receive a letter from us, but no certificate.

**ROTC Awards:** There was no report on ROTC awards since during the fall there were no major ROTC commissionings or graduations.

**Publications:** Tee Adams provided 18 medals at 16 colleges last year. He added Clarion College and proceeded to thank presenters such as Bob Marvin and Peter Hill. We need photographs and articles for the next newsletter for the end of September.

**Grave Identification and Commemoration Report:** Bob Marvin circulated a Grave Marker Commemoration Certificate for the service…for Bishop Absalom Jones and The Rev. James Forten at St. Thomas African Episcopal Church on July 16, 2017. He said the National Daughters of the War of 1812 were organizing the presentation. We would like to have our color guard for that ceremony. It will be their service more than ours. Eugene Bolt and Tom Showler will attend on our behalf. We will have enough people to carry 3 flags including Andy Sullivan. The Daughters of the War of 1812 is organizing and running the ceremony. Tee Adams will send a notice to our membership.

Eugene Bolt reported that the 1812 Veterans Grave database added several hundred new listings and now includes over 2,400 1812 veterans.

**President’s Report:** President Van Gulick thanked the Board for attending the meeting.

Robert Van Gulick had previously 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. McHenry and that Cannonball House is connected to the War of 1812. He committed $250 to the Flagship Niagara on Lake Erie.

**Next Quarterly Meeting:** The Next Fall Meeting – Tuesday, September 5th at the Philadelphia Club