

Minutes of the Louisville Thruston Board of Governors (BOG) Meeting, August 14, 2021, at Hurstbourne Country Club, Louisville, KY

Attendees: Pres. Bob Silverthorn, 1st VP David Rummler, Sec. Jon Huffman, Treas. Chris Johnson, Reg. Drake Rinesmith, Chanc. Jim Barr, Hist. Doug Collins, and WM, Howard Roberson.

Absent: John Fischer, Jim Jackson, Mike Phillips, & Sonny Smith.

Call to Order: A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by President Silverthorn at 10:05 AM.

Invocation: led by Bob Silverthorn.

Pledge of Allegiance: (in unison).

SAR Pledge: (in unison)

Minutes of the June 19, 2021 BOG were not available.

New Registrar: The appointment of Drake Rinesmith as the new Chapter Registrar by the chapter president was unanimously approved by the Board. Compatriot Rinesmith, a former chapter president, volunteered to take the position previously held by John Bondurant.

Treasurer's Report: Chris reported that the chapter's checking account contained \$14,592.25, and the chapter CD was valued at \$14,491.84. Interest from the CD was currently earning 2.72%, and the interest earned so far was \$290.61. The expiration date is June 21, 2023. Doug moved that the Treasurer's report be approved; David seconded; and motion passed.

2022 Budget: The Louisville Thruston Budget for May 2021 to Apr 2022 was presented and discussion followed. The projected annual revenue was shown as \$4,850.00 (estimated \$4,200.00 from annual dues) and projected expenses were \$4,750.00. The major expense item was \$1,250.00 earmarked for proposed changes to the chapter's website.

Proposed Website Changes: As webmaster, Howard reported on the proposed changes and the estimated costs involved in leaving GoDaddy and going to a new company. The new website would be managed by Blue Crab Software, who will also help with the design. Our domain address will not change. The estimated cost for the first year will be \$295.00 for the service, \$17.95 for domain registration, and \$350.00 for design and installation of the site – a total of \$662.95. After the first year, annual costs are expected to run \$312.00, which is less than we currently pay annually to GoDaddy.

Examples of other websites designed and managed by Blue Crab were shown, including various Home Page layouts, etc. The new site would include a membership portal where items like the Membership Directory, BOG Minutes, and the Treasurer's Report would be made available. Blast Email capability would also be possible (with webmaster permission). 250 MB of storage is included along with 3 GB of file storage. In the future, if we choose for an additional cost, we

have the capability to set up some type of online registration and payment system whereby members and guests could register for meetings and pay online rather than sending checks through the mail.

Following his report, Howard recommended to the BOG that we transfer management of the chapter's website from GoDaddy to Blue Crab Software who will design and manage our new chapter website. Approval would depend upon retaining our same URL address. Chris moved that we proceed with Blue Crab Software, Jon seconded, the motion passed.

Continuing with the 2022 budget discussion, Doug pointed out that around 60 of our chapter members are Life Members and do not pay national, state or chapter dues, and this should be taken under consideration when estimating annual revenue. The State Society does reimburse each chapter \$6.00 annually for each Life Member. Currently an effort is underway to identify and list all our Life Members.

A discussion then followed about the possibility of raising chapter dues which are currently set at \$15.00 annually. It was pointed out that any change in dues would have to be approved by members at the next Annual Meeting in April 2022 and would not be effective until fiscal year 2023 (the fiscal cycle for dues is Jan. to Dec.).

In conclusion, Chris moved that we adopt the 2022 budget as proposed subject to possible revisions going forward and affirm the annual chapter dues once again at \$15.00 per member. David seconded; motion passed.

1st VP Report: As Chair of the Nominating Committee, there was nothing to report. As to the membership committee, Drake was asked to call Jim Jackson for the names of four individuals, a father, son, and two grandsons, whose SAR membership applications were almost complete. As the Chair of the ROTC/JROTC Awards Committee, David will contact the various JROTC commanders of each high school and ask that they identify any outstanding cadets who may be eligible for an SAR award this coming spring. He also encouraged all BOG members to volunteer to be presenters at JROTC and Eagle Scout ceremonies. As to Patriotic Education & Observance, he recommended that our chapter consider having a booth at the upcoming Bowman Fest event, scheduled for October 1st & 2nd. Chris agreed to have members of the Color Guard attend the event to meet the public and talk about the Revolutionary War and promote the chapter.

Doug reminded the Board about the SAR Youth Protection Training Program for members who interact with children under 18 years old. The training is online at the NSSAR website under E Learning and only takes about 30 minutes to complete. All BOG members should do this, especially those who visit schools and/or make youth presentations.

Another issue the chapter may want to consider is some type of insurance that covers members while involved on SAR business, i.e., the color guard at public events, etc. Presently there is no general umbrella protection that covers members while engaged in SAR business.

David mentioned the upcoming Veterans Day Parade scheduled for Saturday, November 6th at S.E. Christian Church in Middletown. Does the color guard plan to participate? The parade will be held again this year as a “reverse” parade like in 2020, where participants are stationary without marching and instead the public drives by to view the various units.

Finally, on Service to Veterans, David plans to check with the Robley Rex VA Medical Center to see what kind of support the chapter can provide to them.

Secretary Report: The membership roster is finally getting in decent shape as far as the names and contact information for members. It was pointed out by Bob that there is no longer a need for a hard copy version of a Membership Directory for distribution, since we will soon have the information available to everyone under the “members only” portal of the new website.

Currently, the chapter has 289 active members with 2 additional pending transfers totaling 291 members altogether. We have valid email addresses for 256 (88%), and the remaining members are being contacted by phone to obtain more. However, in attempting to contact members by phone, it was learned that 16 phone numbers are no longer working numbers, which further complicates the ability to obtain email information. It also appears that many new applications coming into National HQ that do not already have a chapter designation assigned to them are being shunted off to the Gov. Isaac Shelby Chapter. For instance, in 2019, L.T. had 12 new members; in 2020 - 4 new members; and in the first 8 months of this year – only 2 new members. Our new registrar needs to be aware of this situation so he can try and re-establish a viable connection with the genealogy staff at National HQ.

The electronic notice (e-postcard) IRS Form 990 for 2020 for the L.T. Chapter was completed and filed yesterday. The deadline for filing is September 15, 2021.

Chancellor Report: There are no pending legal matters to report. Bob suggested that several members of the Board should review the chapter’s Constitution and By-Laws to see what if any revisions need to be considered, i.e., elimination of the 3rd VP position, and then report back at the next BOG with suggestions.

Historian Report: Nothing to report.

New Business: There was no new business to report.

Old Business: Plans for the upcoming Constitution Week Luncheon were briefly reviewed and discussed. Also, future color guard activities were discussed including participation in the Naturalization Ceremonies normally held monthly at the federal courthouse and other venues.

Christmas Holiday Social: After discussion, the consensus was to hold the event at the Hurstbourne C.C. on Saturday, December 11th, rather than the Louisville Boat Club; to not have the traditional sit-down dinner but instead serve hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, to not have a speaker but some type of entertainment instead, and generally to encourage sociality. Starting time would be early evening around 5:30 PM and last for a couple of hours.

The next BOG meeting will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2021, at which time we can review the final plans for the Christmas Holiday event. This will be a ZOOM meeting.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Huffman, Secretary.