

OLD NORTHWEST TERRITORY

February 11, 1999

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday, February 7, 1999.

Roll was read with the following units being represented: 1st US Sharpshooters, Les Knutsen (ONT Commander); 2nd Wis Vol Inf, Gary Van Kauwenbergh; 6th Wis Vol, Pat Kaboskey; 7th Wis Vol Inf, John Rickard; 8th Wis Vol Inf, Dick Tessmann; 10th Ill, Rick Reiner (ONT IG); 15th Wis Vol Inf, Steve Sherry (CWSA Commander and ONT Awards Officer); 66th North Carolina, Eric Platz; 56th VA, John Martin-Mehrl, and 29th Wis Vol Inf, Rickie Schroeder. Other ONT officers present were: Dan Christiansen, ONT Deputy Commander; Jan Hicks, ONT Adjutant; Steve Immekus, ONT Paymaster and Pat Camus, ONT Stats Officer.

The 1st Illinois Light Artillery sent their member roster and dues with Gary Van Kauwenbergh. The 15th Tennessee was not represented.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Jan Hicks. A motion was made by Steve Sherry to accept the minutes as read. Rick Reiner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Steve Immekus read the Treasurer's report. The Commander asked for the report to be put on file. (A copy is attached.)

Old Business:

1. The following shooting schedule was approved for 1999:

May 15-16	8 th Wis & 2 nd Wis Regional	Lake Mills, WI
Jun 19-20	7 th Wis & 15 th Wis Regional	Lake Mills, WI
Jul 17-18	66 th NC & 56 th VA Regional	Stonebank, WI
Aug 7-8	1 st USS & 6 th Wis Regional	Boscobel, WI
Sep 18-19	15 th Wis & 10 th Ill Regional	Bristol, WI
Oct 17	10 th Ill Invitational	Bristol, WI

The regional meeting will be held immediately following the shoot at Bristol on October 17.

Gary Van Kauwenbergh asked if there was a possibility of having two floating dates added to the schedule for cannon shoots, since there are now three cannons in the region. It was suggested that possibly the mortars and miniature cannons could also be shot on those dates. Gary said he will coordinate the dates.

A motion was made by Steve Immekus to accept the schedule. Pat Camus seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Les Knutsen began a discussion regarding whether we should continue on with the CWSA or not. "Gary has expressed some frustration in the last year after dealing with the CWSA for the last five years. I wanted to find out for myself how much of a problem it

was to deal with the CWSA officers. I decided I would try to seek the information that Gary had been trying to get for the past couple of years. I directed the adjutant to send certified letters. The letters were directed to the CWSA Adjutant, CWSA Paymaster, and the CWSA IG. The information requested was: a copy of at least the cover sheet of the CWSA insurance policy; the new artillery rules; the latest CWSA Skirmish rules; an approved arms list; copies of the treasurers report for the last three years; CWSA tax exempt number and a copy of the IRS Form 990 or tax return. I requested the information be sent by January 31, 1999. I told them I would like this information before our February 7 meeting. Being we sent certified letters, we know that everyone received them within a week. They were sent out on October 28, 1998. I have received absolutely nothing as of this date. That's how bad these things are being handled. A lot of members thought the issue was about the uniforms and women shooting in dresses or how the money was being spent. It really isn't that anymore. It is down to the point that we have an organization that no longer has the ability to serve its' membership. When a regional commander asks for information and doesn't get anything from anyone, I don't know what more you can say about something like that." More discussion followed with the commander asking for a motion on how to resolve this issue.

Gary Van Kauwenbergh made a motion to form our own organization. Steve Sherry seconded the motion.

There was much discussion on the positive things that have been going on in the ONT and the options that would be open to us if we formed our own organization. Also discussed were the problems that we have been having with the CWSA as far as getting the necessary information we need. Steve Sherry shared with us the problems he has been having since being notified in October of his election as National Commander. There was some concern that Steve Sherry might feel that we had deserted him. He reassured us that he would not feel that way. In fact, if the ONT withdraws from the CWSA he will also. Pat Kaboskey asked if anyone has been in contact with the TMR. Gary indicated that he has, when he was trying to get the information on the National election. He found out that the TMR let three of their authorized votes go uncast in the election. That was after they had approached Gary and asked him to vote with them on some issues.

The conversation then moved to what we would have to do to get our organization started. We would have to pick a name, get insurance, develop and file our Articles of Incorporation, file for tax-exempt status, adopt by-laws and skirmish rules, and elect or appoint officers. These things could take place in a relatively short period of time. We can basically do whatever we want in our own organization. The issue was raised as to whether the insurance would cover visiting shooters. It was determined that they would be covered as are spectators or anyone else that comes onto the shooting range. All official functions would be covered by the insurance. If anyone takes part in a parade that is not considered an official function, you should make sure that they have blanket insurance for that day. A question was raised about the money that is now in the CWSA fund. That money will stay with the CWSA. Aside from the insurance, we will need about \$185.00 to start the organization.

The commander called for a vote on the motion of forming our own organization. The vote was unanimous.

New Business:

1. We have to come up with a name. I thought that by taking out the word skirmish and making it shooting we would have a lot more possibilities. We could be the American Civil War Shooting Association; we could be the Blue and Gray Shooting Association. It depicts more what we do. We shoot, we don't really skirmish in a sense that we fan out and go forward in a line with artillery, mortars and all of the other things we shoot. We are not really skirmishers, we're shooters, and that would be a more definitive word for what we are. We need to keep a focus on a national organization with an opportunity for growth.

2. The following names were proposed:

- a. Blue and Gray Shooting Association (Pat Kaboskey)
- b. American Civil War Shooting Association (Les Knutsen)

Rich Reiner made a motion to name the new organization the "American Civil War Shooting Association". Steve Sherry seconded the motion. The commander called for a vote on the motion. All members were in favor except Pat Kaboskey and Eric Platz.

3. Gary Van Kauwenbergh will work on the articles of incorporation and the by-laws. We are going to be passing a lot of things around on the e-mail. This isn't going to be a one-man operation. Les will be delegating other duties to individuals as necessary. If you get asked to be on a committee or something, you will need to be willing to help out. There is going to be a lot of work involved in this. We will maybe have to have a committee for by-laws and that sort of thing. There will be a lot of jobs coming up. We really want this to work, we want to get this off on the right foot. We will start with the CWSA By-Laws and go from there. These will all have to be done before the first shoot.

4. Les introduced the idea of possibly allowing youths age 12 and over with a hunter's safety permit to join our organization and shoot. It was agreed that this would be a good idea and that we should go with it.

5. I would like to see us keep the rule of snapping the first cap down range from the shoulder. The second should be fired into the ground. As far as eye and ear protection, we will follow the present by-laws.

6. We will use the 1995 CWSA Skirmish Rules and the 1992 CWSA By-laws as a basis until we get our own.

7. As far as uniforms, the commander would like to see the members wear the ones they were inspected in.

Gary made a motion to include the proposed uniform amendment in our by-laws as it was written when it was voted on last October. John Martin-Mehrl seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There was a question about uniforms for new people coming in. There will be a certain amount of grace period for new shooters. Most teams have enough extra equipment that they can dress someone in a reasonable manner. The grace period has been one year or one shooting season.

The commander said he would also like to see only canvas tarps on the line.

8. One of the things Les brought up was the possibility of having a second class in individual shooting. This could also be used in carbine teams also. The idea is to promote more people winning awards. They could shoot at 25 and 50 yards. The host team would set this. The fun is in winning. The second class would be for new shooters and shooters with scores under 43. We could possibly have the people in the second class shoot at 100-yard targets at 50 yards and 50-yard targets at 25 yards to get used to shooting the larger targets.

9. There was a discussion about inviting guests to shoot with us now that we are not under the 2-shoot limit. Gary proposed that he send letters to people he knows in Minnesota, send an article to the Powder & Ball and to the Western Region to let them know about our new organization and invite them to shoot with us.

10. Rick Reiner made a motion to transfer all of the funds that have been collected this year to the American Civil War Shooting Association. Les Knutsen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

11. Les Knutsen said that he would like to see us continue to have line judges like we started last year.

12. There was a question on paper targeting. Les indicated that we will go with N-SSA targeting. Les is having some targeting printed on used paper. Or as a region we will purchase the targeting that we need.

13. Dick Tessmann made a motion to keep the officers that were elected for the ONT region as the officers for the ACWSA. Gary Van Kauwenbergh seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, Steve Immekus made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pat seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1203 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Hicks

Jan Hicks, Adjutant