

Second Battalion Fourth Marines Association, Inc.
Annual Business Meeting Minutes 2 April 2022
San Clemente, CA

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a. m. by Vice President Joseph “Pete” Gannon.

Board members present were Vice President Joseph “Pete” Gannon and Secretary Manuel Travassos.

Opening remarks.

Vice President Joseph “Pete” Gannon began the meeting by stating that we don’t have a quorum of Board members so this meeting will be a fact finding meeting of what we want to do, where we are going in the future, and what we want to accomplish in the future as far as getting things done, ie, getting more people in and getting the younger generation of members involved and taking on a more active role in the Association to help move it forward in the future. Pete went on to say that elections are coming up and asked when they start. Secretary Manuel Travassos stated that ballots for the upcoming election of Officers will be sent to the members via electronic communications and USPS on 7 May 2022 and must be returned by 7 June 2022. Mike De Maio asked that the candidates who are running include their vision for the Association so that the membership can know what they stand for. Pete then recognized Becky Valdez and Brooks Wilson for the magnificent effort and tremendous amount of work that they put in to bring together all the events, venues and management of the logistics that were required to host this reunion. The members congratulated them with a round of applause.

Pete, then, turned the meeting over to Manuel Travassos to give the financial report for the Association.

Officer and Staff Reports.

Secretary Manuel Travassos read the Financial Report sent by Treasurer David Capizzi. The report covered 1 July 2020 – 5 April 2021 and 6 April 2021 – 24 January 2022. The Association balance as of 5 April 2021 was \$33609.13 and, due to expenses incurred during the last few years in regaining the Association’s IRS 501 (c)(19) Not For Profit status by the Association’s attorneys and accounting firm, the balance as of 24 January 2022 was \$12,954.53. The attorneys’ and accounting firm’s fees were in of \$19,000.00. (A copy of the complete Financial Report is attached to these minutes and can be viewed on the 2-4 Association website.)

Manuel, then, went on to say that, since the Association is now funded only by donations and there should be an annual fund raising/donation campaign by the Association. He stated that, since the Association’s Fiscal Year begins 1 July of each year, this would be the best time to send solicitation letters to the members of the Association. In the letter it would explain that, because the Association no longer requires dues to be a member, the Association’s only funding is through donations from the membership. It would further explain that the donations could be a one-time donation or a reoccurring donation of as little as \$25.00 a month. This is already set up on the website and, if only a fourth of the membership donated \$25.00 a month, which would be an annual income of more than \$126,000 a year. This would help to fund the annual Battalion awards that the Association buys every year. It would, also, make it possible to help our Bastard community, both inactive and active duty, as needed. Manuel concluded with, if anyone wants to help or has ideas to carry this forward, please, contact any member of the Board or Brooks.

Brooks Wilson stated that when free membership was proposed by Scott Huesing, it was because the Association was a 501 (c)(19) organization and we could get corporate & private funding so that the Association could help more with veterans and active duty. We could do more if we had more. However, the Association lost its nonprofit status and that killed that because no one wants to donate if they can’t get a tax credit for their contribution. Brooks then said that we need to look for people who have experience and expertise in fund raising.

Mike De Maio asked about the leadership and his concern about absenteeism of the President.

Frank Valdez noted that the President is not the boss of the Association and that he would like to see more accountability because money is being spent and we don’t know what for.

Ray Del Rio added that any organization takes money to operate and most of us could contribute \$100.00 a year and that would help keep us funded. However, he would like a hard copy of the financial report so that he could see where the money goes. He asked if there was a way to make a reoccurring donation and Kristen Day, the Association’s Web Mistress, told him that there is a donation button on the website and that reoccurring donations can be made on it through PayPal. Kristen said that we could put the Financial Report on the website or we can send it out to the members via an email blast.

A few members stated that they are not getting the emails from the Association and Kristen said that it is a mass email and that sometimes they go to spam. She suggested that each member should periodically check their spam folder.

Steve Wilson related some of the history of the Association and exhorted our early leaders such as Bill Weise, Fritz Warren, Jim Livingston, and Dave Jones. He talked about Doc Swann and how well he kept the finances until he became ill and was unable to do the job anymore. Steve says that we need to help the Marines and families. Manuel Travassos said that we need a Discretionary Committee. Mike DeMaio said that most organizations have a

Service Officer. Manuel stated that we do not have one. Mike said he knows how to set it up and he was asked to present his written proposal to the Board so that the Board can act on it. Steve Wilson then called out the Board to make sure that awards and programs that have been set up and mandated by the Association's By-Laws are carried out as prescribed by the By-Laws.

Vice President Pete Gannon took over the meeting and commended all of the good ideas and suggestions that the Board can review and act upon. He talked about some of his frustrations and that hopefully we can resolve these concerns that have been voiced in the meeting. He is going to schedule some Zoom meetings with the Board and he will send out emails invitations to the membership so that they can join the meetings and offer their input to the Board. He said that it was their Association and their voice should be heard.

Manuel said that the membership needs to be able to contact Board members and Kristen suggested that a complete roster could be sent to each member or, since the website has a Contact Us form, the members could contact the Board members that way.

Pete Gannon asked if there was any more business and Brooks suggested that we discuss future reunion locations. Pete said he could host the one for 2023 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Frank Valdez said that Donald Greengrass could hold the next one in Wisconsin Dells, WI. Manuel Travassos said that he would contact Donald Greengrass to confirm that he can host the 2024 reunion. Brooks stated that on the website is a "How to Host A Reunion" pamphlet. Becky Valdez volunteered the Ullibari's to host in New Mexico for the year after.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:31.

Secretary: Manuel G. Travassos Date: 30 April 2022
Manuel G. Travassos

Vice President : Joseph P. Gannon Date: 2 May 2022
Joseph P. Gannon