

LOUISIANA MILITARY MUSEUM MEETING MINUTES

(MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2013)

Board Members

Jake Barge, Lynn Clark, Richard Gentry, Randy Goodwin, Tony Jurkus, William Rutledge, Leon Staples, and Pete Theodos

BUDGET ISSUES

Ernie Stevens recounted his efforts to raise funds as the Museums is in continual need of donations. Fund raising ideas were entertained including a raffle and the possibility of hosting a dinner and dance. Most members thought the latter activity to be beyond our capabilities at present.

STATE OF THE MUSEUM (State involvement, donated property on the interstate , and the energy plant the city has been promoting as a possible relocation site)

The State has been a great partner, and Secretary of State Tom Schedler is a committed supporter of our efforts. The State, however, is gripped with budgetary problems; thus, earlier plans and promises of funding for a new museum facility are necessarily put in abeyance for the foreseeable future.

A move to the city power plant location is one potential option for the museum. While the city has displayed great interest in such a move, in recent months little progress has been seen in developing the site and building. We await developments.

Keeping the donated property for the eventual construction of a new building for the military museum at the interstate site is another potential option.

The board is somewhat divided on the issue, most siding with the director in advocating the city location. The board chairman is amenable to such a move, but there is some advocacy of the longer view; holding out for a better location and newer facility. Most members agree that the millions of dollars required to accomplish this are beyond our immediate capabilities. Without state support for a new facility the interstate location option is considered by most to be millenarian, a fantasy according to the chairman. Here too, we await developments and better economic times.

BOARD COMPOSITION, OFFICERS AND VACANCY FULFILLMENT

The board is in continual need of leadership. Therefore, all members should continually be considering potential candidates.

PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

The chairman discussed the need to engage in efforts to develop and solidify the museum as an institution in the region and the state. Community involvement was said to be key to that development. The involvement of women in the museum and on the boards was discussed. Members were asked to identify potential female candidates for involvement. Such involvement is an element in institutionalization. The chairman also mentioned considering temporary displays such as standing bulletin boards and a few mobile cases(first floor meeting area) to highlight the contributions of community groups not traditionally a part of the museum's focus.

Groups such as emergency responders (police units, fire units, etc) would be ideal to include as these groups would have a great interest in promoting their own organizations. By hosting displays for such groups numerous citizens would be drawn in to the museum. Many members of such organizations are also veterans who may not have been previously drawn to the museum.

For example, a week-long (or possibly month-long) and weekend display celebrating law enforcement might involve the following: display cases and boards with paraphernalia related to the state police and local law enforcement units (unit patches, equipment, some historical documents, firearms utilized and other equipment. Police vehicles brought to the museum on a given date could visually add to the event, attracting large numbers of citizens. Later, firefighting organizations or medical responder units might be considered for separate honor and displays. As members of such organizations and their family members are hosted and host the events of the week or weekend, the museum will begin receive more recognition and community stature (institutionalization).

Of perennial concern have been the subject and the state of our outdoor displays. Broached as a topic has been the idea of advocating community group adoption and sponsorship of specific outdoor artifacts. Routine upkeep and maintenance is labor intensive, and some displays should be earmarked for specific refurbishing according to an annual plan or calendar. Let's develop such a program. The chairman and others should supplement our director's efforts at speaker meetings of community groups at which our adoption program can be explained and promoted.

Respectfully submitted

A F Jurkus

Board Chairman