

**CENTER HOUSE ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
1000- FRIDAY, 6 JULY 2007
HILTON ALEXANDRIA MARK CENTER HOTEL**

Meeting attendees- Chuck Akstin, Mike Kessler, Nancy Hurless-Fontaine, Donna Gerlaugh- CHA Board Members

Bob Burge, Jim Cooney, Douglas Davidson, Jack Dougherty,
General Frank Hamilton, Ron Holman, John Hoogerwerff,
Hud Huddleston, Steve Lindblom, Frank Mainzer,
Larry Marousek, Bill McGrath, Roger Patton, Tom Regan,
Bob Rudolph, Jim Van Riper

Discussions- Chuck Akstin chaired the meeting. After introductions around the table, he covered administrative remarks for the remainder of the weekend's schedule. Chuck indicated that General Rice had offered life time memberships to the Association's four 4-star Generals- Generals Crist, Sheehan, Jones, and Pace. He indicated that the upcoming calendar includes possible involvement with the Centennial celebration of the Center House in late September or early October 2007 (Marine Barracks has the lead on this event), and the late March 2008 annual luncheon (which will be the CHA's 10th anniversary). He then turned the meeting over to Board Members for reports.

Nancy Hurless-Fontaine gave the financial report, indicating that the CHA is in fine financial shape. She covered line items of income as well as expenses. She took for action Ron Holman's question regarding limits after which the IRS requires annual reports to be submitted. She explained the mug replacement project, in which the CHA purchased 11 new mugs capturing the names and dates of about 212 officers whose mugs have gone missing. There were no further questions.

Donna Gerlaugh gave the membership report in which she indicated we have 149 active members. She explained the timeline she uses after which an active member is dropped due to non-payment or lack of correspondence. Donna explained that we continue to solicit Barracks officers to join the CHA, especially in years where there are few active participants. Bob Burge offered to help in soliciting these year groups through the 1980s. Bob Rudolph suggested we try to use the Marine Corps Association (MCA) membership directory and even consider placing an ad in the Marine Corps Gazette to generate more members. She also mentioned that the CHA directory has received a warm welcome from the membership. Ron Holman suggested a copy of the membership directory be placed in Center House to get current Barracks officers more exposure to CHA. He also suggested that the cover of the directory be placed on the website with a write-up. Might generate new members. Lastly he suggested we add an alphabetical cross reference at the end of the directory, along with a listing of all officers who have served since 1801. Both ideas were taken for consideration in subsequent editions of the directory.

Mike Kessler provided an update on the Truman Crawford project- which includes soliciting artists to paint a portrait of Tru for presentation to the Barracks and placement in Crawford Hall. There has been a very positive response from not only CHA but also other sources to donate to this project. CHA will accept donations on behalf of the project and will direct the money collected towards expenses associated with the portrait. CHA will set up a separate account for Crawford donations, all of which will go to the portrait project. The goal will be to unveil the portrait at next year's March luncheon. There was a recommendation from the floor to include soliciting commercial sources for donations, especially companies that are related to the Drum and Bugle industry. This suggestion will be considered during the fundraising.

Prior to opening the floor for questions, we asked the membership to consider volunteering in some capacity with the CHA. There is always plenty to do and while there may not be an active project for which an individual may have an interest, offer your name and there could be a future project that may interest you.

During floor questions, Bob Burge asked about the Sgt Aiken Award and what was its status. The Board was not aware of the award but will see if we can find out something about it from the Barracks.

There was a question about the historical seminars. We sensed that the first Evening Parade officers wanted to be sure their stories were captured for posterity. We explained that John Miller had been ill but was anxious to get going again with the project. We also suggested there may be opportunities to provide John assistance in capturing history while he continues to mend.

Adjournment- The meeting ended at 1100, in time for CHA members to board buses for a Marine Corps Museum tour at Quantico.