

Blue Ridge Conference Call - 25 Oct 2011

1. Attendance - The 80th Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association Quarterly Telephone Conference call was held on Tuesday night, 25 Oct 2011 beginning at 1900. The call was attended by Blue Ridge Association officers, President Grant Porter, Vice President Doris Wollett, Secretary Pete Herbert, Treasurer Ed Polonitza, and Board members George Croughwell, Doug Dollar, Paul Hoppes and Member Tony Taylor. Board Members Jim Brown, Erik Imajo and Terry Singleton sent messages they could not call in.

2. Upcoming Events: Grant reported the following: The 80th DVA Reunion is planned for 22-26 August 2012 at the Baltimore, MD BWI Marriott Hotel. I am now the Senior Vice Commander and as such am serving as the Reunion Chairman. The Reunion will run as usual from Weds to Sunday morning and will consist of the usual activities to include a reception on Wednesday and dinners on Thursday, Friday and Saturday night. I am planning on arranging a dinner cruise tour of the Harbor and a day trip to the Annapolis Naval Academy. We may also plan a short stop at the National Aquarium prior to the Dinner cruise if we can swing it. I am about to sign a contract with the hotel that requires a \$10,000 minimum food and beverage requirement. The rate for the hotel is \$100 per night. Dinners average \$35 per night, tips and tax included. I have until 31 October to sign the existing contract so I am about to lock it in. Other hotels considered included the downtown Marriott and Hilton, the BWI Embassy Suites and the Maritime Institute but in all other cases the prices were cost prohibitive. The BWI Marriott offers the best deal in the Baltimore area and is competitive with the Sheraton in Arlington and the Sheraton in Richmond, over the last two years.

During the last Annual Meeting we discussed the option of having our Blue Ridge Association meeting separate from the Division Veteran's Association Annual Reunion. There was interest in keeping the meeting combined with the DVA. Again, the 80th DVA Reunion is planned for Baltimore, MD from 22-27 August at the BWI Marriott Hotel. We traditionally have our Annual Meeting over breakfast on the Sunday and could do so on the 27th. The Marriott has a \$20.00 buffet breakfast and could accommodate our Annual Meeting. There is also an interest in holding the annual meeting in Richmond. During the last annual meeting we held the entire event in Richmond and there was a disappointing showing of local personnel in attendance. There is no guarantee that we would have a greater number of personnel attending an event held in Richmond then there is an event held in Baltimore.

3. Secretary/Membership Report: Pete reported we have 131 Active Members, 63 Lifetime members and 68 Annual Members. An email was sent out to all members soliciting 2012 memberships, both annual and lifetime. Doris attended a picnic at Fort A.P. Hill held by the former "80th G3 Test Team" members. About 30 folks were in attendance and Doris handed out Blue Ridge Membership Applications and told them about our purpose and some of our events. This is an excellent way to spread the word about our Association and gain new members. Anyone who would like a few of our Blue Ridge Pens to give out at a function like this or would like to use our traveling Blue Ridge Display should contact Pete

4. Treasurers Report: Ed reported that our current balance is \$4419.23, and our money market balance is \$10557.68 for a total balance of \$14,976.91. We will owe the 80th Veterans \$1,440.00 on 1 Jan 2012 for 2011 membership dues collected.

5. Army 10-Miler: Grant announced that the Army Ten Miler was completed by six Blue Ridge participants to include Glen Hence, Grant Porter, Andrew Walters, Coretta Lankford, Floyd Lewis and Angela Robey. Each participant received \$25 to help defray their registration fees. Angela is taking her 25.00 in merchandise. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL ON REPRESENTING THE ASSOCIATION & THE 80TH

6. 3rd Annual Blue Ridge Golf Tournament: The Blue Ridge Golf Tournament was a lot of fun for the small group who played. Though we only had two teams, (a foursome and a threesome), it was a lot of fun. Special thanks to Melissa Martinez who provided cupcakes and gift bags and was the Tournament Organizer. The club donated the agreed amount (\$5.00 per person for \$35). I chipped in an additional \$5.00 so there were two \$20.00 gift cards given out for the longest drive and the closest shot to the flag. The two teams tied. The team of Grant Porter, Tom Kochenauer, George Croughwell and Bob Lam birdied on the 18th hole to tie the team of Rod Calhoun, Glen Hence and Lee Richards (?) at 4 under par for the course. MAJ Venable, Colleen Watson, Scott Kallio, and Anne Lewis (PAO) all showed up to support. MG McLaren could not attend and MAJ Venable had a commitment elsewhere but insisted on donating the money he had already contributed. The Blue Ridge Association made \$77 for the event

7. Quarterly Luncheon: Doris gave us an update on our next Quarterly Luncheon scheduled for Thursday, 27 Oct at 1230 at O'Charley's on Jeff Davis Highway (Next to Home Depot). 16 members and guests have said they would attend. This is a great opportunity for catching up on happenings at the 80th and getting together with friends. A raffle of valuable Blue Ridge merchandise will be held to raise funds.

8. Holiday Party: Doris and Pete have been working on plans for our Holiday Party on either Sat, Dec 10 or Sat, Dec 17. Location TBA but we have narrowed in down to last year's Location at the Oasis Sports Park or the Holiday Inn on Belles Road. Last year we had over 40 members and guests. Again this year we are planning a great dinner, a fun Christmas Raffle and a great time: LOOK FORWARD TO MORE INFORMATION SOON!!

9. Scholarship Fund: George reported that his committee is tweaking the announcement memo for the Annual \$500.00 Scholarship that the Association will be awarding starting next year. George suggested the scholarship should be open to immediate family of Blue Ridge Members. The criteria and details will be announced in a future email that will be sent to all members. We hope in future year to be able to award more funds for this purpose.

10. Blue Ridge Fun Run: Tony gave Six dates: 7 Mar, 25 Apr 16 May, 11 July, 2 Oct, 5 Dec. (Wednesdays) that would be unavailable for a Fun Run Dates but all other Wednesday are available on DCSR and Wednesdays was a suggested day of the week that we could get plenty of assistance from the DCSR Staff. Members have offered up several causes and charities that we could dedicate the event to and raise funds for; more discussion at the next teleconference. Members Tony will contact fellow member Denise Chavis, who was instrumental in organizing a Fun Run to promote Sexual Assault Awareness, to get some assistance in coming up with a plan.

11. Other New & Old Business:

Coretta Lankford was nominated to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors and she has accepted; WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER: CORETTA!

The Board voted to spend up to \$300.00 on a Blue Ridge Holiday Ornament (Total cost for 100 Ornaments) The ornament would be given out to members who attend the Holiday Party in Dec and would also be sold to members as a fund raiser.

Doris mentioned that she had made a road trip with Blue Ridge Members MG Henderson and SGM Vernon King, along with former 80th CXO Ron Horton to visit retired 80th CSM Bob Reilly to Johnson City, TN.

Member Barton Campbell had emailed members recommending that we stagger membership dues by age; The Board decided to take that up at the annual meeting.

Doris reminded everyone that the 102nd Division would be having a Change of Command, with COL(P) Thomas Evans taking over from Blue Ridge member BG Paul Benenati.

MG(R) Doug Dollar commented on how well the Blue Ridge Association was doing and stated that he had a great trip to visit Pete up in Maine.

12. Wrap-up and last call for input - The teleconference ended at 2000. The next scheduled conference call will be on Tuesday, Jan 24, 2012 at 1900.