

Blue Ridge Conference Call - 24 April 2012

1. Attendance - The 80th Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association Quarterly Telephone Conference call was held on Tuesday night, 24 April 2012 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, Keith Brisson, George Croughwell, Carolyn Deverell, Paul Hoppes and John McLaren.

2. President's Report:

a. Grant reported on the Annual Meeting survey sent out in early March. Eighteen Members responded to the survey. Half of the respondents said they would attend the annual meeting in Baltimore in conjunction with this year's Veterans Reunion. Grant announced we would therefore hold the Annual Meeting in Baltimore, in conjunction with the 80th Division Veterans 93rd Reunion at the BWI Marriott Hotel.

b. The 80th DVA Reunion is on schedule for 22-26 August 2012 at the Baltimore, MD BWI Marriott Hotel. The Reunion will take place from Weds to Sunday morning and will consist of many activities to include a reception on Wednesday and dinners on Thursday, Friday and Saturday night. Plans have been finalized for a dinner cruise tour of the Baltimore Harbor on Thursday night. Packets are being mailed out this week. Blue Ridge Post 50 members are encouraged to attend all the events; however, those who can only attend the Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast and business meeting will be waived from paying the registration fee. The Blue Ridge Association Annual meeting will take place on Sunday, August 26 at 0800. This would be a breakfast meeting similar to last year which was held in Richmond.

c. The Winner of the 2012 Blue Ridge Continuing Education Scholarship Fund was announced. Emily Hardy, daughter of LTC @ William E Hardy will be awarded a \$500.00 scholarship for her attendance at Washington & Lee University. Grant proposed we start working on next year's Scholarship Program and perhaps expand to an additional award. Many thanks to George Croughwell for his chairing the Scholarship Committee.

d. Planning needs to begin on the 2012 4th Annual Golf Tournament. George Croughwell will head up the Planning Committee. We are looking at dates and locations in the Richmond area from Mid Aug - until the end of Sep.

e. At the August Annual Meeting we will elect four new officers (Pres, VP, Sec & Tres) and eleven Board of Directors. Grant asked all Officers and Board Members to consider if they want to continue and to respond to him. We will send out an email in the next few weeks soliciting anyone who is interested in serving or continuing as an Officer or Board Member.

2. Vice President's Report:

a. Our Quarterly Luncheon was held on 28 Mar 12 at Kings Korner Restaurant, Chesterfield County Airport. There were 16 in attendance plus two guest. The lunch was a delicious buffet and everyone seemed to enjoy it. In fact some stated we should come back again. The two guests we had were from USA Dance, Richmond Chapter. They would like to honor the Veterans of the 80th by inviting us to one of their events. The date is 2 June 12 at Moody Middle School, 7800 Woodman Road. There will be refreshments served. A one hour dance lesson will be offered from 1930 to 2030 followed by open dancing 2030 to 2230.

Next luncheon is tentatively scheduled for 27 June 12 at a location tbd

b. Visit to CSM(R) Robert "Bob" Riley

On 2 April 12 I met SGM(R) Vernon King (former G2 SGM) and MSG(R) Joe Covolo (former PAO) at the home of MG(R) John Henderson (former 80th Division Commander) in the west end of Richmond very early in the morning. We then drove west on Interstate 64 to meet MG Henderson in Staunton, VA. After picking him up we headed south on Interstate 81 to meet CSM(R) Andrew Cassell (former 2nd Bde CSM) in Abingdon, VA. We had lunch and then headed further south to Johnson City, TN to visit CSM(R) Bob Riley (former 80th Division CSM). When we arrived at the hotel in Johnson City we were met by SGM(R) Ron Horton (former 80th Division CXO and G1 SGM). Not wanting to waste any time we then proceeded to the home of CSM Riley. He was tickled pink to see us all. He knew we were coming and welcomed us with open arms. Being a true southern gentleman, CSM Riley had snacks ready for us, which no one turned down. We sat around and talked about the way things were in the "old days" and then I brought them sorta up to date with how some things had changed and how the 80th is now a national command. After a little while we headed out to dinner to the local Logans Steakhouse. Knowing we were coming, CSM Riley had coupons for us to save on our expenses. We enjoyed a delicious dinner and solved more problems and talked about Soldiers that we had not seen or heard from in a very long time. This was a great evening. Not wanting to keep our dear friend out too late, we drove him back home and said good night.

The next morning after checking out of the hotel, we met CSM Riley for breakfast at Shoneys which is just up the road from the hotel. We all had plenty to eat and shared in more comradere. After breakfast we said our good bys and headed home.

We are looking forward to our next visit which we hope to be in the fall.

3. Secretary/Membership Report: Pete reported we have 147 Active Members, 78 Lifetime Members and 69 Annual Members. We have 26 annual members who have not renewed their 2012 memberships and our by-laws require they be removed from the active rolls. Our complete list of members is on our website at www.80thblueridge.us

4. Treasurers Report:

a. Ed reported \$4909.39 in checking, \$10558.39 in money market, total is \$15467.78. YTD receipts are \$2800 from dues, merchandise sales, raffle. YTD expenditures are \$4029 as follows: \$1830 to 80th Vets, \$699 for Christmas party (offsetting deposit made in 4Q 11 for \$740), \$1500 for soldiers of year.

b. Al Usher conducted an annual audit which was reviewed by the Board. One suggestion from John McLaren was that we track the inventory of our merchandise on a quarterly basis and review the sales, give-aways, etc during each Board meeting. The Board unanimously agreed to this suggestion

5. New Business

a. A motion was made, seconded and approved to support the 80th Tng Cmd Family Day, on Sat Aug 4, with \$100.00 for the purchase of Prizes for the kids who attend. The Association will set up our display, and like last year, have

several games for the kids. We are looking for volunteers so please email Pete if you would like to help. As usual it will be a great meal and a chance to meet some new and old friends.

b. A motion was made, seconded and approved to spend up to \$1,000.00 on merchandise to have as giveaways, prizes and gifts. Also some of the merchandise will be used for giveaways during the Holiday Party and to members when they renew their memberships. Doris and Pete will be working on the project, if anyone wants to assist or make suggestions please contact Doris or Pete

c. John McLaren announced he would like to sponsor the ad for the Blue Ridge Association, Post # 50 in the 80th Veterans Reunion Booklet. We will have a ½ page ad similar to last year; cost is \$80.00 and thanks to John for his sponsorship.

d. Attached is a letter that Doris referenced in her Quarterly Luncheon notes. This is the invitation to Members of the Blue Ridge Association to attend a dance on Sat, 2 Jun hosted by the Richmond Chapter of USA Dance, Inc. Look it over, if you have any questions call me and if you plan on attending send me an email so I can pass the information to the USA Dance.

e. John McLaren proposed holding the 2013 Golf Tournament in Virginia Beach, in conjunction with the 80th Veterans Reunion, on Sat, Sep 7 (date tentative). He was checking on the Golf Course at Little Creek and Rod Calhoun has agreed to Chair the event.

f. Keith Brisson said he would be attending the funeral at Arlington for MSG Nolan, an AGR soldier who was assigned to the 80th HQ and died in Jan 2012. Chaplain Bill Manning, the 80th AGR Chaplain and Blue Ridge Member would be participating in the Service.

6. Wrap-up: The teleconference ended at 2100. The next scheduled conference call will be on Tuesday, 24 July 2012 at 1900.