

Blue Ridge Conference Call - 23 April 2013

1. Attendance: The 80th Blue Ridge Army Reserve Association Quarterly Telephone Conference call was held on Tuesday night, 23 April 2013 beginning at 1900. Call Participants were President Grant Porter, Vice President Doris Wollett, Secretary Pete Herbert, Treasurer Ed Polonitza, and Board Members; Jim Brown, George Croughwell, Skip Goodwillie, Charlie Elam, Paul Hoppes, Erik Imago, Coretta Lankford, John McLaren, and Colleen Watson.

2. President's Report: (Grant)

a. We will hold our 2013 election of officers during our annual breakfast meeting on Sunday, 8 September 2013 at the Virginia Beach Resort and Conference Center in conjunction with the 80th Division Veterans 94th Annual Reunion. Grant announce he would not seek another term as President and Pete announced he would only serve as Secretary until Jan 2014 unless a new Secretary is elected at the 2103 meeting. Board Members whose two year terms expire in September are Erik Imago, Coretta Lankford, Terry Singleton, J.R. White and Colleen Watson. Grant requested anyone interested in a Board or Officer Position to email him at gpmailtime@yahoo.com

b. Grant asked John McLaren to give us an update on the Reunion Plans. John said all dinners, tours, etc including trips to the General of the Army Douglas MacArthur Memorial and the battleship USS Wisconsin are all set. The Golf Tournament on Friday, 8 September at Eagles Nest Golf Course at Little Creek/Virginia Beach Area and the Blue Ridge Annual Breakfast Meeting on Sunday, 8 Sep will be emailed out soon.

2. Vice President's Report: (Doris)

a. Our next Quarterly Luncheon is scheduled for 15 May 2013 at 1230 at the Holiday Inn on Belles Road. Please email or call Doris or Pete if you are attending. The luncheons are a great time to catch up on 80th happenings so bring a friend. At our last luncheon on 27 Feb we had 22 in attendance (Hi-lites in the Spring 2013 Blue Ridge Magazine); make sure you don't miss this one.

b. On 1 April 13 I met SGM(R) Vernon King (former G2 SGM) 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 to Staunton, VA to meet and pick up MG Henderson. Back on the road we drove south on Interstate 81. We made our usual stop at Cracker Barrel in Abingdon, VA for lunch and then headed further south to Johnson City, TN to visit CSM(R) Bob Riley (former 80th Division CSM). We arrived at the hotel in Johnson City, checked in and then headed over to CSM's home. When we got to the house, CSM wasn't there!! He had gone to do some banking but returned shortly. His daughter, Jane greeted us and took over the

duties that CSM normally performs, providing the hungry travelers with snacks and beverages. This trip was different from previous trips. After we visited a short while with CSM, the four of us went on a road trip to visit SGM(R) Ron Horton (former 80th Division CXO and G1 SGM). We had been talking about taking the CSM with us to see Ron's home for the past couple of visits. It was a beautiful ride through the mountains to Newland, NC. Ron met us in town and we followed him to his home. Ron has a beautiful home in the mountains which is beside the National Forest. Ron's wife Sandy was waiting for us and the two of them showed us around their home and property. They have a beautiful view of the mountains. Ron said on a clear day you can actually see downtown Charlotte, NC. We sat around and talked about the way things were in the "old days" and tried to remember all sorts of former Soldiers. We shared laughs and had a great time. As the sun was beginning to go down we decided to head out for dinner. It was a lovely drive through more mountains. Sandy said if we had come a couple weeks later that the rhododendrons would be in full bloom. They grow wild out there. We drove a few miles to Famous Louise's Rock House Restaurant located in Linville Falls, NC. This restaurant is located at the intersection of four counties. The food is cooked in Avery County but the waitresses pick it up in Burke County. Dining is in either Avery or McDowell County. We all enjoyed delicious meals of home cooked foods topped off with dessert!! The evening was getting late so after some more great conversation we decided it was time to get the CSM back home and said good night.

The next morning after checking out of the hotel, we met CSM Riley at Shoney's, our usual breakfast spot. We all had plenty to eat and shared in more comradere. After breakfast we said our good bys and headed home. As we were leaving the parking lot, CSM stood in front of his van and rendered a salute to MG(R) Henderson. That brought tears to our eyes but made us all feel the pride that CSM was feeling.

3. Secretary/Membership Report: (Pete)

a. Pete reported we have 121 Active Members, 88 Lifetime Members and 33 Annual Members. Our latest Lifetime Members include: COL Shelly Balderson, formerly in the 80th G6, COL Brydon Jackson, Acting Commander of the 2nd Bde in Charleston, WV and Diane Hunter McLaren, Wife of John McLaren. Our Current membership numbers are the same as they were last year at this time.

b. The 80th Dining out is scheduled for May 4 here in Richmond. The event will be private so it is not open to everyone thus the Association will not be presenting our Annual Awards at this time. Pete and Colleen will determine who the 2012 Award Recipients are and forward the names to Grant who will discuss a proper Awards venue with CSM Wills, current 80th Tng Command CSM and Blue Ridge Member.

4. **Treasurers Report:** (Ed) We have a Checking account balance of: \$7450.15, in our Money Market we have: \$10562.74 for a total of: \$18012.89. Our Checking Account has increased \$1457 YTD based on receipts of \$3578 (dues and payment of \$500 from 80th Vets Assn) and expenditures of \$2121 (payment to Vets Assn of \$2115 and \$6 bank fee). Our Money Market is up by 26 cents due to interest received. Grant wondered if we should look at a different investment option for our Money Market funds to see if we could make more money. Ed noted we could move our money to a more risky investment that would yield more return but are we really trying to make money or just use it to support our civilians and soldiers. John McLaren said he thought we should keep the Money Market fund because it is low risk.

6. Old Business

a. Jim Brown had suggested we purchase some 2 ¼ pins we could use for giveaways or we could sell. Pete sent out a mockup the pin and will go back to the vendor with a few changes and send out a final mockup ASAP. The Board voted to purchase 500 pins once they approve the final art work. John McLaren said the Veterans would purchase 125 pins for the reunion in September.

b. **Scholarship:** George announced he was pending the receipt of only one application for our 2013 Scholarship program. Application deadline is May 1. Grant suggested we relook at our program for next year to see if we can get more applications.

c. George Croughwell has accepted a Department of the Army Civilian Position with AR-MEDCOM at Camp Park, California. George has family in the area and his wife Becky is excited about the move. George will be leaving at the end of May for his new position but will remain as a Board Member. George will be missed for great work he has done for the Association including serving as Golf Tourney Chairman and Scholarship Committee Chairman for the past two year; GOOD LUCK!!

d. Skip Goodwillie announced he would be retiring in June of this year with 30 years of service. He is currently the ADCS G3 at the 94th Division at Fort Lee. Details will follow in the next Blue Ridge Magazine. Our thanks to an outstanding Officer, Soldier and Friend.

5. New Business

a. The Board approved funding the same ad for the 80th Division Veterans Reunion Booklet at a cost of \$80.00.

b. Pete needed to verify the day of the 80th HHD Family Support Day and the Board approved funding for the event at 2012 level (\$100.00-\$125.00)

c. The Board approved the purchase of new ink pens. Ed will research how many pens we purchased on our last order and we will purchase the same number.

d. John McLaren inquired about any pending 80th Deployment. Colleen said the only thing on the table is the 80th has been tasked with providing a 15 Soldier Security Force Assistance team to deploy to Afghanistan tentative for January 2014.

6. Wrap-up: The teleconference ended at 1958. The next scheduled call will be Tue, 23 Jul 2013.