



101st Airborne Division Association

**Minutes of Meeting of November 6, 2021
Bailey's Bar & Grille, Townsend MA**

View Our Chapter Website at www.screamingeaglesne.org

Attending: President Tom McGall, Bill "Blink" Blankenburg, CSM Bob Delia, Don Miller, Kevin Richard, Ed O'Reilly, VP Tony Payne, John Mastro, George LeBlanc, Bob Morrissey, Treasurer Kevin Farrell, and Webmaster/Meeting Recorder Cathie Clark.



The meeting was called to order at 1400 by Tom McGall.

Blink had the floor first, and he thanked everyone for attending. He was very happy at the number of members who drove on this Saturday morning to be here with us, especially former President/Treasurer Bob Morrissey who drove the farthest of anybody from South Carolina.

Tom started off by talking about his term as President. "I want to thank everybody for coming. It's been great being your President for the last few years and if for any reason I am needed to do anything, I am more than happy to chip in. I have a lot on my plate – I am still working [his business]. I have some property that I have to take care of. But if anyone needs me for anything, I am here to serve." Someone hollered "four more years!!" which made everyone laugh. He continued: "I want to thank Cathie for everything she has done to help. She's been a great help to me and prodded me to do things I really hadn't thought about. Blink has been with me all the time. I've called him or he calls me explaining what needs to be done. It's been an honor to serve." Tom reminded us that his annual hunting trip to OH/PA will prevent him from attending the December meeting. Someone asked if he was "Jumping into PA" and everyone laughed. "No...." he simply said.

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Tony Payne was asked to offer a prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for bringing us all together ... and protect all military brothers and sisters in foreign lands and bring them home safe. Amen.

The Minutes of the October 2 meeting were read and accepted. The Treasurer's Report was read, with Kevin reporting that the checking account balance is \$2,276.69 and that we have had no expenses during the last three months. The report was accepted.

Screaming Eagles email and Mail-in Ballots. Cathie reported that after the October discussion about mail-in ballots (see 10/2 Minutes), she played with her Outlook email program to see if we could send email ballots for the upcoming election to members who can't attend in person. She promised Tom she would "check it out". She did, and with the responses from her willing-and-able "test members" determined the Proxy template she had used successfully elsewhere would not work for our members who are on Time Warner, Gmail, and AOL. Discussion ensued about 20 years of repeated consideration of this topic (enabling absent members to participate in the Election). Our history has shown it was not a good idea for us. An official motion was made that only people who are in attendance in person on the day of the Election are allowed to vote. The motion was passed. So, no mail-in ballots will be part of our process.

Election of Officers: Tom repeated his position that he really cannot continue as President. He thanked VP Tony Payne for his support and willingness to continue as VP/Chaplain. Tom asked the group if anyone would like to serve as President and no one voiced such interest. He was prepared in that case to announce that former President/Treasurer Bob Morrissey is willing to serve again, working out the logistics in the event he cannot make the trip. Cathie offered to help find a solution — either phone or Zoom. A comment was heard that having remote capability may enable better attendance, especially in the Winter months.

Blink had been asked at the October meeting if he would like to serve as President and he respectfully declined. However, since then — and after talking to Bob — he was made aware that we are allowed to add a "Sergeant-at-Arms. (Ed. Note: Which is defined by Merriam-Webster as "an officer of an organization ... who preserves order and executes commands.) All agreed that the title aptly describes the role Blink has voluntarily performed for us, so a vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to create the new Officer role of Sergeant-at-Arms, to be held by Bill "Blink" Blankenburg.

Continued discussion ensued, fleshing out the following roster:

President: Bob Morrissey
Vice President/Chaplain: Tony Payne
Adjutant/Treasurer: Kevin Farrell
Sergeant-at-Arms: Bill "Blink" Blankenburg

A vote was taken on the above, and was joyfully, unanimously passed. The 2-year Term of Office will run retroactively from October 15, 2021 to October 14, 2023. Outgoing President McGall was presented

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with a plaque commemorating his excellent service and our appreciation. Here's a picture of that presentation —Blink, the plaque designer on the left, Tom on the right.



Next Meeting/Christmas Party: Saturday, December 4 has been confirmed as the date of our next Meeting and we are inviting guests to celebrate Christmas with us at that meeting. Blink has promised to conduct a raffle of some of his very unique 101st Memorabilia that will be of interest to most members. A Meeting Notice with more detail will be posted on MembersOnly.

Screaming Eagle Magazine: Cathie is working on our article for Q3, main topic is Week of the Eagles 2021. She reports that she has been contacted again by Mark Bussiere's widow, Linda, who is still in search of anyone who knew/served with her husband. Cathie asked if she could include a "Call for Comrades" piece to be included in the Q3 article. Permission was granted. Several members offered ideas that she could try, such as Facebook's L Company and Ranger sites. Greatly appreciated, guys. They will be passed on to Linda.

CSM Delia brought and passed out pamphlets from the American Heritage Museum in Hudson MA. They claim to have "the largest and finest museum of armored vehicles in North America..." He encourages all to check it out. Their website is www.AmericanHeritageMuseum.org.

The meeting adjourned at 1440, and some decided to have "one more" and some non-business conversation at Bailey's friendly bar.

Wishing All and their Loved ones good health and safe travels over the Holiday season.

Airborne All The Way!

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Morrissey, President-Elect