



**Minutes of Meeting of October 4, 2025
Bailey's Bar and Grille, Townsend, MA**

View Our Chapter Website at www.screamingeaglesne.org

Attending: Present: President Bob Morrissey, SAA William "Blink" Blankenburg, John Mastro, George LeBlanc and his guest Harold (HP) Marshall, Ed O'Reilly, George Durfee, Don Miller, and recording clerk/Zoom Administrator Cathie Clark.

A prayer was offered by Don Miller and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

The Meeting was called to order at 1:25 PM.

Sick Call: Brenda Fitzgerald is down with something – few details but it had something to do with eating fish stew on a boat. Best wishes, Brenda. Also, Bob shared that long-time member Richard Walsh, who has never attended a meeting due to one ailment or another from his service in Vietnam or his 20 years with Boston FD, responded as he always does to the email notice saying he is still not coming today. Ranger Rob responded that he himself was well enough to come today and was bringing some USAF Vets who may want to join, but this morning he and Marla both are not feeling well, so all have cancelled. Tony Payne still has issues with his knee, leg, and lower back. Kevin Richardson is in the same boat. So if any of you know him and you want to wish him well, please do. Nobody has talked to Tom McGall or Elaine since they came to the Cookout. Cathie agreed to attempt a phone call.

Minutes: The last Meeting Minutes were from April and May. They were circulated, and voted upon and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Kevin could not be here, but he sent his report to Bob, who has it on his phone. Basically, we are in good financial shape. Incidentally, we had a plaque made for Kevin also. Because over the years, he's had a heart attack and quadruple bypass. And while he was involved with that, he still did what he could to take care of the business. And then he broke a leg. And he still took care of business to get things done for us. He files our income taxes, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Annual Corporate Report. Even though we are the New England Chapter, it was started and incorporated as a 501(c) non-profit in MA. So it has to be continued as such, and the Clerk has to be somebody from here with an address in Massachusetts. So that's Tony. He takes the part of the Clerk. The plaque was passed around. And at the next meeting, it'll be awarded to him. Thanks were expressed to Blink, who is our plaque guy.(picture) Blink handles this responsibility willingly and asked that if there is a member or an associate of the Chapter that any of you feel is worthy to recognize, and you want to



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have a plaque made up, write a little narrative about it and email it or mail it to Bob.

New Business:

SENE Laptop: Cathie has been the keeper of our Lenovo laptop, which let us know it was running out of juice just as we got to this part of the meeting. It has been difficult to use and heavy to carry around. It may be a candidate for the berm in Bob's backyard since it originally ran on the Windows 7 operating system and was updated to Windows 10 right before we bought it used for \$314. W10 this month is scheduled for obsolescence by Microsoft in favor of their latest and greatest, Windows 11 -- which everyone hates. This unit has finally hit the wall and is not upgradeable to W11. Bob, Cathie, and Greg (our iPad/Zoom user) are comparing notes about which way to go forward and we welcome input from anyone else who wants to share info. MS is offering a W10 Extended Support option if the computer itself qualifies. Cathie will investigate.

Website Contract Renewal: There are no changes from last year's contract except Cathie's writing and formatting work on *The Screaming Eagle* magazine, of course, is no longer needed. The mag is now online in digital format only. They promise to post anything we send, but we haven't asked her to do that. Instead, we have been putting everything on the website. For new members who never received it, Bob shared the history and evolution of *The Screaming Eagle* in print.

Cathie submits an annual Activity Log of her website work, which Bob has (all 5 pages and 32 hours of it). She logs the work as she performs it, with software. So we know what she been doing. And this contract has no change in price, despite the increase in hours worked over last year. Motion was made to renew the contract. The Motion was seconded, and passed. Cathie thanked everyone and expressed her pride in the work she does for us.

Old Pictures: Bob brought some old snapshots from 2005, now showing deceased members. They were passed around. John Mastro says he has some also and he will scan and send to Cathie for inclusion on the website. Cathie mentioned that our PHOTOS Archive (2010-2016) pages had crashed during a server upgrade at GoDaddy a few years ago. She offered to restore those pages before anybody went to lots of trouble scanning and sending photos we already have. The photo files are still online in our data file. Bob deferred a decision on that for the time being.

Old Business:

Membership: Guest HP Marshall was recognized as being interested in becoming a member. He served with the 101st and is vouched for by George LeBlanc and Brenda. He is filling out an Application and everyone welcomed him aboard. Conversation followed about the difficulty in attracting new members, even in just having guests at our meetings. Members who visit the Clear Path facility meet great vets they want to invite, but Joiners they aren't. President Bob also shared that we have to fight to keep our older members involved; case in point (coming) 102-year-old Taylor Larimore, who sadly wrote us that he can't participate in Zoom meetings anymore because the computer is too difficult for him to manage alone. Bob is hoping Taylor's son can help him stay in touch. He will keep trying not to lose contact.

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There is an extensive background article on our HOME page about him. Bob reports that he had an inquiry from a Vet in Petersburg NY, but attempts to follow up have not been answered.

Annual Cookout: The Clear Path facility was a great deal. We will try to schedule there for next year – at their convenience and schedule. We had a good turnout – some people brought their families, and that is good! Bonus is that we don't have to break-down and clean up afterwards, although some did help in that regard. Everyone should have their Membership Cards by now. If not, reach out to Bob or Treasurer Kevin Farrell. The plaque that we gave Gary Soldato is now hanging on the wall at Clear Path and looks really good! We also had a plaque prepared for 101st Exec Randy Underhill, but his absence at the Cookout prevented a presentation, so we still have it. Plan is now to do that at Snowbird 2026.

Snowbird: Once again in Tampa February 18-21. We had extra 2026 Registration forms for anyone who wanted one. Fact-Sharing of experiences from those who went this year:

You have to get a hotel reservation. It's \$199 a night at the West Shore Marriott at 1001 North West Shore Boulevard, Tampa, Florida. It's only about 15 minutes from MacDill Air Force Base. And they've got nice facilities there, PX, whatever. They've got a gas station, gas is cheaper there. And if you're retired or a disabled veteran, you've got a VA card, you should be able to get on the base and use the facilities. Just if you've got a veteran on your driver's license, they'd rather see that. You'd have to register yourself if you have the VA ID card. They only give you a year on it, so if you don't go back another year, you can't use it. But it's a good time. They put on a good thing. And it's good to get out of the cold weather for a while, you know. It's two and a half miles from the airport. You can see it from the fifth floor, about a mile away.

Blink and Diane always drive down and see Bob and Laura in South Carolina. Whatever they're doing at the table, the registration, bringing stuff out of the stock room, whatever. John brings his lovely wife Fran, and they all sit together. Sometimes they have Freddie Behrens sitting with them. Last year they put the cadets that they bring in that are getting ready in school to carry on with a military career. Some of these kids have more badges than John Wayne. The food's pretty good. Dress code is preferably slacks and a coat with a shirt. No t-shirts, no baseball hats.

Don't show up for the banquet like you're going to work on your car. I mean, a little common sense. They do have people show up like that. Jacket and tie. If you want to wear a uniform, a class A uniform, or a dress blues, that's fine. Field uniform? No. There was a photo of all the generals on one of the headsets.

What happens is you get in. You register. You get a little bag full of goodies. You get a tag to put on yourself saying, Hi, I'm here. There's a hospitality suite. It's all included in the price you pay, including the banquet on Saturday nights. They've got a golf tournament. They've got a painting class if you want to take that. And sometimes they even have a jump. Anybody who wants to jump, they go over to Zephyr Hills. They canceled it last year due to unforeseen complications.

On Thursday night, Outback Steakhouse comes in with a nice buffet of chicken and steak, and vegetables, potatoes, rolls, dessert. That might be worth going down just for that. Last year it got canceled because

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somebody didn't coordinate something with the manager of Outback with Valentine's Day weekend. So then the Friday nights, the pizza in the hospitality room, so they had that Thursday night. Then the pirates come. That's a cool thing. They come around, the women are up there, and they put beads around your neck and all that good stuff. It's funny. It's fun. They were trying to do a helicopter ride last year, but that got canceled, too. (Somebody grouched "I don't want to ride in a goddamn helicopter.") Everyone laughed. Next year should be a hoot.

T-Shirts. Bob reported he has a new supply and sold some at the Cookout.

Our next meeting is on Saturday, November 1 at Bailey's, with lunch at noon. President Bob will be attending by Zoom. An invitation will be sent on Saturday morning to join the Zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Airborne All The Way!"

Respectfully submitted,
SAA William Blankenburg

Note to Readers: As many organizations are doing, this document contains information from an AI-translated audio recording of the meeting and is (believe it or not), highly edited for brevity, organization of topics, and clarity of speech. The AI transcription document is 10 pages long, error-prone, very rough, and speakers are not identified. However, it can be made available upon request.