

## **Board Meeting: Friends of the First Company Governor's Horse Guards**

Date: 09-16-2015

Location: 1 GHG Avon, CT 18:42 hrs

### **Present:**

Board Members: CPT Ken Nelson, Anna Bongiorno, Andrew Arsenault, Mary Ellen Diot

Absent: CPT William Cowell,

Guests: MAJ Chris Miller, FPC Louisa Krause (Trooper Liaison); Deborah Key Mundair

The Friends of the First Company Governor's Horse Guards held a Board Meeting on September 16, 2015 to review its financial standing and conduct any other business that may come before the Board.

### **Minutes:**

Minutes of the last meeting held on August 11 2015 were reviewed and approved with one minor correction (Deborah Key Mundair, not Debra Keys). Minutes were accepted by Andrew Arsenault and approved by Mary Ellen Diot.

### **Financial Report, including:**

CPT Ken Nelson reported there is \$63,000 in the current account.

### **Agenda Items:**

#### **1. Summary Report for "La Trot" Fundraiser:**

CPT Ken Nelson advised approximately \$1,600 was raised from the FundRaising Dinner at La Trattoria on August 27 which was attended by 84 people. Thanks to PFCs Louisa Krause and Paula Deutz for organizing this event.

#### **2. Board Members:**

Former MAJ + Commandant Mike Downes has been proposed by MAJ Miller and will be invited to the next meeting. Deb Key will contact John Caruso. Friends are asked to consider other people or businesses who have been supporters in the past.

The Friends still requires a leader following the resignation of MAJ Stephen Meltzer in August 2015. Volunteers for this role are welcome to step up.

#### **3. Fundraising:**

i. Avon Day. 1CoGHG will have a tent space on Saturday Sept 26, 2015 since this is an opportunity to build ties with the people of Avon

ii. November event: A Comedy night has been planned by PFCs Krause and Deutz for Nov 12, 2015 in Hartford with a Reception at 18:30 hrs followed by a Show at 20:00 hrs. It will be open to the public and Troopers will be asked to sell a minimum of 4 tickets in advance to ensure more than 100 participants. Prices are expected to be \$35-45 range and finalized shortly after menu selection (5-6 appetizers per head). A \$1,000 deposit is required to book the comedians.

As it is a fundraising and PR photo opportunity it will be a Uniform event. There will be GHG banners and signage. PFC Deutz is designing the flyer and tickets. PFC Krause offered her personal phone number for ticket sales and enquiries from the public since that was not offered

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for the previous fundraiser. Publicity can commence on the website now and a Constant Contact email campaign will commence at the next meeting 1 month out (Oct 14, 2015).

Prizes will be considered as an additional fundraising activity without the added work inherent sourcing donations for silent actions. A 50:50 draw could be done with 10 tickets for \$10 or 25 for \$20 with half the proceeds going to the Friends1CoGHG account and the balance being divided in staggered sums for 1st, 2nd and 3rd winners.

To thank past supporters or build relationships with new prospects, complimentary tickets might be offered to the following groups:

- \* Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
- \* Shop Rite
- \* Town of Avon representative (eg, Brandon Robertson)
- \* Miller Foods

2CoGHG offers Pony rides for the Sandy Hook community which raises over \$2,000. Other possibilities were discussed later in the meeting.

iii. Horse Show. An additional Horse Show for October 2016 has been requested and MAJ Miller is finalizing this with Cynthia since it is an excellent fundraising opportunity.

### **4. Other Business:**

MAJ Miller confirmed arrangements for Saturday Sept 19, 2015. First Formation for the Tolland Parade is 08:00 hours for 12:00 hrs step-off and 13:00 hrs Formation for the Battalion Review which commences at 15:00 hrs at Bushnell Park, Hartford.

PFC Jeandell and CPT Tolisano met with Deb Key on Sept 16 2015 to review her original proposal for a program at the Avon Town Library. Jeandell has formally re-submitted the request to the Library and the Avon Historical Society for programs in Fall 2016. Key has reserved the Historical Society's glass display cabinets for 2 months (Sept-Oct 2016).

Holiday party will be Dec 17, 2015 (details TBA).

A Picnic and Ho-Down Dance has been agreed as a joint fundraiser for April 30 2016. Capri Frank, Louisa Krause, Deb Key and Avon Historical Society President Terri Wilson will form part of the Working Committee. The Friends will need to submit a request to use the Drill Hall and 1CoGHG property for the shared event.

An Event Schedule for 16 months was tabled by Deb Key as a framework to planning publicity and getting press releases approved months in advance. MAJ Miller confirmed it is ok for Deb Key to submit photos of GHG events to local press to raise the profile since she is a Friend and not a serving Trooper.

Meeting adjourned @ 20:30 hrs.

Submitted, Deborah Key Mundair (acting Secretary for the evening of Sept 16, 2015)

**Next meetings:** Wed Sept 30 at 18:30 hrs for Board at 1CoGHG  
Wed Oct 14 at 19:70 hrs for all Friends, including guests