

## MINUTES OF BRANCH 9 JULY 2013

Shipmate President Bonnett called the meeting to order at 1906. S/M MAA John Bocchicchio introduced visiting Shipmates East Coast Regional President Don Hoover, Past Regional President EC Paul Dix, FRA National Executive Director Candidate John Davis and National Vice President Candidate John Ippert. After appropriate opening ceremonies, the meeting was declared convened. Pres. Bonnett initiated Shipmate Anthony Discuss - Welcome Aboard Shipmate!

The minutes of the 11 June 2013 meeting were provided. A **Motion** for approval as distributed was made - **2<sup>nd</sup>/Approved.**

The minutes of the 2 July 2013 Board of Director's meeting were provided. A **Motion** for approval as distributed was made - **2<sup>nd</sup>/Approved.**

**Treasurer's Report:** No bills need to be paid. The new Fiscal Year began on July 1, 2013.

**Communications:** Annual branch committee reports are due. East Coast Convention is the last week in July at the Westin in Falls Church, VA. Four (4) resolutions were received from Branches 166 and 141 for the ECR convention; available to review on Branch clipboard.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Americanism/Patriotism:** The Branch hosts multiple events throughout the year; we need help! Veterans Day and Massing of the Colors are annual events. The 2013-14 Americanism essay theme, "The Bill of Rights and Me" is now open for your student's submission. For official rules visit [www.fra.org/essay](http://www.fra.org/essay)

**Audit, Budget and Finance:** Shipmate Jack O'Neill passed out the final budget for FY 2013-14. The new fiscal year runs from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. An audit was performed through 31 May 2013. It was found all books are in order and Maryland State taxes have been filed. A **Motion** was made to accept the audit/budget as presented - **2<sup>nd</sup>/approved**

It was suggested by President Bonnett that we need a budgeted line item for the joint Christmas party.

**Bylaws:** S/M Paul Dix announce the Branch Operating Guide is available at the Br. 24 website.

**Public Relations:** S/M Diana Lendle is our new chair.

**Hospital, Welfare, & Rehabilitation:** S/M Ron Gray is recovering from an illness; a card signed by Branch members will be sent.

**Legislative Services:** S/M Jim Duffy discussed the MD retired tax relief. Ron George is a cosponsor to remove tax from military retiree pay.

**Membership & Retention:** Branch 24 membership is down to 1950. We hope to retain all current members. Nationally, there are 63,000 members

**Youth Activities:** S/M Hoover reported the results of the annual Soap Box Derby. Children's games will be hosted at the September 21st FRA/Auxiliary/FRC Picnic at Greenbury Point in Annapolis.

**Contributions:** NTR

**Adopt-A-Highway:** Chairman Fred Grady has a clean-up is scheduled for this month -weather permitting.

FRC: A FRC Corporate meeting will follow the next Branch meeting; a vote for new/replacement Board Members cannot take place unless 25 corporate members are in attendance. This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt to gather a quorum.

The FRC is part of the Save Annapolis Coalition. The Proposed City plan will take away downtown parking spaces and add a 3 story building where Fawcetts is currently located along with removing the traffic circle and changing it to a 3-way stop light.

There are still raffle tickets available to "pay down the FRC mortgage", please buy a ticket if you haven't already from the manager, Brian Porter.

**Treasurer's Report:** A Motion was made to accept the treasurer's report as presented 2<sup>nd</sup>/ **unanimous.**

**New Business:** The Branch working calendar will be posted online.

**A Motion** was made to purchase a \$400 ipod/ipad for the picnic raffle 2 / **disapproved.**

**Old Business:** The annual Branch/Unit 24 Picnic will be held on Saturday, Sept 21st at the Bay Room on Greenbury Point from 1300-1800. The cost will be determined based on volunteer help. If you have anything that can be auctioned off for a raffle, please contact picnic chairman, Marisol Maloney, [marisolmaloneyfra24@gmail.com](mailto:marisolmaloneyfra24@gmail.com)

**TWO BELL CEREMONY:** The Two Bell Ceremony was conducted in memory of the following shipmates now serving on the staff of the Supreme Commander: Past President Michael Wagner; Past President Kenneth Carter; James Allen; Donald Cruse; Thomas Duignan; Martin Fisher; Henry Fulkoski; Richard Heckhaus; Sammy Netherland; Frederick Singer; Joseph Sparagna

**GOOD OF THE ORDER;** There is a CLC meeting at Br 93 on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2pm, Pax River. The ECR Convention will be held in Falls Church VA, July 26-27. An interesting sidelight; a new member indicated that not too many Shipmates welcomed him into the Branch, at which time S/M President Hoover asked him to stand and introduce himself followed by several other new members. This is something we as a branch must embrace if we are to keep our members.

Shipmate John Ippert spoke about his candidacy for National Vice President. Shipmate John Davis spoke about his candidacy for National Executive Director. Branch 24 appreciates their visit to Annapolis.

**AWARDS:** Membership awards were presented to S/Ms ECRP Don Hoover, PRPEC Paul Dix, Keith Henderson, Jennifer Flowers, John Bocchicchio, Gene Rasmussen, Jack Thibodeau, and Jim Duffy.

**ADJOURNMENT:** After appropriate closing ceremonies, the meeting adjourned at 2030.

Submitted:

Approved:

Valerie Reed  
Secretary/Treasurer

Richard Bonnett  
President