

MINUTES  
PAGE COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL  
WAR COMMITTEE  
JULY 27, 2009  
REGULAR MEETING

**Members Present**

Rod Graves – Luray Caverns Corporation - Chairman  
Sharon Sampsell – Page County Department of Recreation – Liaison and Secretary  
Karen Riddle – Luray/Page County Chamber of Commerce  
Art Candenquist – Summers/Knootz Camp of Confederate Veterans  
Terry Heder – Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation  
Emily Campbell – Luray/Page County Chamber of Commerce  
Gary Drum – Appalachian Outdoors Adventures  
Shelby Hartman – United Daughters of the Confederacy

**Call to Order**

Rod Graves, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 11:10 AM on July 27, 2009 at the Luray Caverns “Stalactite Café”.

The agenda was adopted with a motion by Art Candenquist, seconded by Karen Riddle.

The minutes of the June 15, 2009 regular meeting were approved. Motion by Art Candenquist, seconded by Karen Riddle.

New member, Shelby Hartman, was welcomed,

**Old Business**

**Sesquicentennial Committee Newsletter:** Newsletter was handed out and reviewed by all. Corrections were suggested and Sharon will make sure they are done. There was a discussion of how often to do a newsletter, who to send to, etc. Emily Campbell suggested having folks sign up to receive at our booth at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Winchester Reenactment. Karen Riddle suggested providing a link on the Chamber, County and Caverns web-sites. No decision was made on how often to distribute a newsletter however quarterly and every other month was suggested.

**Update from Terry Heder:** Terry Heder announced that there would be a second round of Virginia Tourism Marketing grants in late August or early September with probably a November or December deadline for submission. The grant amount has been increased to \$5,000 but it is still a matching grant needing at least three partners. Rod Graves added that we should contact Steve Galyean to get specifics on what we needed to change/correct in our submission to improve our submission.

Emily Campbell announced that Terry would be the guest speaker and the Chamber’s Business Networking Breakfast on October 8, at 8:00 am at the Mimslyn and suggested

that our committee members attend. This would be a good opportunity to present our committee to the Chamber members.

Terry reminded the Committee of the Regional meeting on August 20 in Lexington and hoped that we would have a member present. He said that Steve Galyean and Cheryl Jackson would be in attendance.

Terry indicated that Page County had done a great job with our local committee. We were ahead of many localities in getting started on the commemoration. The Valley was off to a great start with Page, Shenandoah, Warren and Winchester doing many things. He added that the kick off event in Harpers Ferry went very well and that Virginia was far ahead in the Nation.

**Kiosk at Caverns:** Rod said that all was going well with finalizing the designs for the kiosk at the Caverns. Karen Riddle said that the Chamber board had approved their involvement. Rod hoped that the LDI and Chamber could have their designs complete by August. Karen said that Wes Porter of Artisans is also helping and that she was planning to meet with Catherine Stewart of the LDI. Rod added that a PDF version of all designs will be sent for approval.

**Treasurer/Checking Account:** Sharon advised the Committee that we could not set up an account through the county due to how money was handled from budget year to budget year and the committee's need to access the account. Art said that he would take with BB&T and find out what is needed to set up an account. He would front \$100 himself if necessary to set up a basic checking account. He will advise the Committee at our next meeting of what needs to be done.

**Rededication of Summers-Koontz Monument:** Terry and Rod congratulated Art and the Summers-Knoottz Camp on the success of the rededication event.

### New Business

**Driving Brochure:** All corrections to the driving brochure have been made. Karen provided a copy of a letter received from Dr. "Bud" Robertson congratulating the committee on the brochure and giving his support. He also stated that we had set a role model for other localities to follow. Rod asked that 500 copies be provided to the Caverns as soon as possible. Sharon said that copies were at the Chamber of Commerce, Town of Shenandoah and had been requested by the Hardesty Higgins House in Harrisonburg.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Winchester Reenactment:** Rod advised that all is looking good for the reenactment on Sept. 11-13. Sharon updated the committee on conversations with Donna Whitley-Smith at the school board in granting permission for all 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> to attend the Civil War Camp sponsored by the Sesqui Committee and the PC Rec Dept. on Sept. 11. Rod said that he would meet with Jeremy about the living history events. He was looking at having living history demonstrations of camp life, medical and women's roles. Sharon added that she would have a tent specific to Page County Civil War history using the driving brochure of historical Civil War sites and telling "Do you know stories" such as Page County's connection to Abraham Lincoln, the Fighting Chapmans, the Summers-Knoottz story, etc. Rod said that he would have special speakers on the evening of 9/11

with fireworks to follow. He asked Sharon to ask Dr. Robertson if he would be our main guest speaker. He also asked Sharon to use the Recreation Department's portable stage.

Sharon will confirm with Donna Smith regarding the school field trips to the Reenactment on 9/11.

### **Discussion**

Art Cadenquist provided a copy of the Civil War News for review. He has sent in information regarding the Summer-Knootz rededication, the establishment of our committee and about the 3<sup>rd</sup> Winchester reenactment. He has also provided information to the Civil War Courier. He told that committee that the January issue will run events for the whole year if we have them available to submit. Art suggested sending photos of the reenactment for publication.

Art told the committee that he had talked with Deloris Judy at the Page News & Courier about running a weekly piece beginning in November of 2010 about what was happening "at this time during the Civil War".

Rod, Art & Terry discussed various people to invite to the Reenactment. Art even suggested Robert Duval who lives in The Plains.

Terry reminded the committee of the next Cluster meeting on September 2 at 2:00 PM at the New Market Valley Museum

The next meeting date was discussed. Rod had concerns with his schedule and therefore it was decided to have our meeting on Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM at the same location.

### **Closing**

Rod Graves adjourned the meeting at 12:36 PM