



GENERAL MEETING
Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2023
Amargosa Valley, California

Officers:

Chairperson: Robert Whipple
Vice Chairperson: David Blacker
Secretary: Janette Jensen
Treasurer: E'va Rene'e Beaty

Directors:

David Blacker
Henry Golas
Janette Jensen
Cal Steibel

Call to order – 1:10 pm

Flag salute Robert Whipple

Invocation Robert Whipple

Intro of guests – Curt Thompson and Fred Lassiter of Longstreet Inn and Casino. Death Valley '49ers presented both with a honorary membership for 2023-24 with thanks for their support and outstanding management during the Encampment.

Robert reviewed Xantera and NPS 2023 contracts. Xantera was not accommodating to host the 2023 Encampment nor any in the future without a lot of restrictions and a huge cost to the organization.

Introduction of new Life Members – Tim and Marla Young

Robert suggested and membership agreed to have February 10th General Meeting at Longstreet Inn.

Robert Whipple opened the meeting up to the members in attendance to share their thoughts on how the 2023 Encampment went, what could be different, how do we make it work in the future? Annual Meeting of the Corporation is postponed.

Leslie Ide – Missed being in Death Valley, gave tour to Kristyn Harris, both places seem to work, Longstreet Inn use as a base camp, consolidated, prices were good, it was too cold for musicians.

Steve Ide – same as Leslie, appreciated how accessible the Inn management was, staff cares, good prices.

Patty Quintera – Understands and appreciates the work that was done to have the Encampment.

Pros: Prices were great, activities close by, staff more accommodating, wifi/cell service, overall nice facilities

Cons: colder than DV, cigarette smoke, uncomfortable seating in chapel, no DV park activities, no picnic tables in RV parking, steakhouse was closed, need place to gather, outside tent may be needed for vendors

Alan Chenworth – coming for 10 years, kids loved Longstreet Inn, in need of more kids to attend, separate events but able to keep most of the activities together.

Carla Perkins – vendor from Pahrump, pros and cons with all types of the events, by far the best event, wind is a nightmare, products were lost, 1945 started coming to DV, went to school in Trona, Furnace Creek craft show attendee, negative to Xantera on how they treated us this year, Longstreet Inn opened hearts and wallets, comeback and bring friends, appreciated the friendliness. Special thanks to Wanda. Reach out to more people who travel and tourists.

Wanda Elmore – Art and Craft Show, Carla Perkins has agreed to help with the advertising for Art and Vendor show, need new people coming in to help. Some vendors outside/inside but with the wind will need a better location.

Lucy Christiansen-Thanks to all that made the event happen. Good location and activities close by to limit extra walking. Need to keep the Death Valley connection.

Buck Allen/Lloyd Martin – Artists Lloyd 10-15 years, Buck first event, like the venue, indoor works for weather, some advantage outside to bring in more people, either way is fine. More advertising, signage on the highway, think bigger, advertise to Las Vegas. TV ads, newspaper ads, population would attend if known about, better outreach for Veterans Day.

Woody Adams – Many good benefits to Longstreet Inn , DV park we don't know if we can come each year now based on weather conditions, it's not Death Valley, shape how we go forward, stay connected to the park, discovered a gem at Longstreet Inn, activities shared at both venues

Linda Allen – vendor, people very helpful and generous, preferred outside vendors for people to come in, more advertising, product is best served in a tent, prefer not to be indoors, appreciate generosity and kindness.

Steve Hofstadt – moving vendors to north side of the Inn may help with the wind issues, enjoyed being a part of the event, willing to continue.

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Don Christiansen – If Xantera changes mind and reaches out, can we ask what we can do for them to make it work? Need to keep a connection with Death Valley, shared venues may work.

Robert Whipple – discussed meeting with Xantera and how they said that we don't bring in enough money, winds/rain are still an issue, building back the volunteer community, talking to grandkids, teaching and learning about history, celebrate event past, current and future.

Henry Golas – Enjoyed the new atmosphere, partnering with other nonprofits in the area was beneficial, sharing community involvement, reconnecting, Longstreet Inn allows flexibility.

Jan Jensen – A lot of work went into making the Encampment happen, value the DVNPS, Longstreet Inn, Amargosa Opera House and Amargosa Valley community support, encouraged that it worked thanks to the people that came and volunteered, we will make it to 75th but only if we have more active members. Suggested 2024 be a hybrid event with activities at DVNP and Longstreet Inn.

2024 75th Anniversary planning – February 10th, elections, Leslie will send out survey, incorporate those that did not attend. Jan Jensen stressed that if members want this event to continue, we must have people to fill the Board of Directors' and officers' positions. Please contact Robert if available to serve the organization.

Auction of Composite Painting - \$200.00 sold to: Jim East

Woody Adams – Scholarship Committee review

Mutual Funds \$604,688

Money Market - \$24,651

Enough to generate what we disperse to students. 2023 offered a scholarship and then stipends to those that applied. Contacts schools in the area. Students currently in the program: Larky White UNLV, Theodore UNLV, Angel Mendoza Texas AM, 2023 Samantha Cal State Fullerton. Working on 2024 online application to go to Woody as Virginia Stockman will be stepping aside but still willing to help. Judy Bedell, Life Member will assist Woody.

Woody is working on a committee to review scholarship applications for 2024 and will make a request for approval of winner(s) by the Board of Directors.

With no further business, Henry Golas motioned to adjourn, seconded Cal Steibel, all approved.

MEETING IS ADJOURNED

Time: 3:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Janette Jensen, Secretary

Approved as submitted February 24, 2024