



Thailand – Laos – Cambodia Brotherhood

TLC Brotherhood, Inc.

P.O. Box 343, Locust Grove, GA 30248

Minutes of February 3, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting

Board of Directors meeting called to order at 1911 by President John Sweet.

Board Members present:

President John Sweet
Vice President Les Thompson
Treasurer Paul Lee
Secretary Jim Closs
Chaplain Deb Stein
Member-at-Large William Peterson
Member-At-Large Gary Beatty
Member-At-Large Mike Potaski

Board Members absent:

None

Board Members excused:

Member-At-Large Bob Wheatley

Committee Chairs present:

Assistance Chair Les Thompson
Membership Chair Gerry Fraizer
Communications Chair Jerry Karnes
Brotherhood Exchange Chair Bill Tilton
Public Relations Chair William Peterson
History Chair John Lorenzen

A quorum is present.

OPENING PRAYER offered by Chaplain Stein: “Gracious God, we ask that you guide our work this night. Bless all that we do on behalf of our brothers and sisters, and bless those we serve. Be with members not able to attend today's meeting for whatever reason. For this, and those things that only you know that we need, we pray in Jesus name. Amen.”

Previous Meeting Minutes. Reading of the Minutes from previous meetings was waived because they are not complete due to work-load of Secretary Closs. The minutes will be presented as soon as they are prepared.

SECRETARIAL INFORMATION: Secretary Closs presented the following:

Fellow Board Members,

As many of you know, last summer I began an extensive and complete restructuring of my doctoral program with an aim at accelerating the process. The changes went into effect with the beginning of a new quarter on December 2, 2013, and as the time has proceeded into this quarter, it has become more and more intense (more intense than I had anticipated). I suspect the intensity is in direct proportion to the acceleration of the overall program.

As a result, I have spent a lot of time giving consideration over the last couple months concerning different options regarding my continuing as Secretary. As it sits right now, I am falling further and further behind in my Secretarial duties. After tonight's meeting, I will have four sets of minutes to write and I don't see when I'll get to them. I also have not had the time to even order the official copy of the Articles of Incorporation, and I have not finished the work associated with the change in the bylaws (approval was announced at the 2013 reunion). As a result, I have appointed (with the immense help of President Sweet) an assistant Secretary in the person of George Shenberger, who joins us this evening in that capacity.

I do not see my situation getting any better, and feel it is in the organization's best interest that I step aside until after the doctorate is completed and then I can come back with a lightened burden. Another element at play here is that the PhD is costing me money, whereas doing the bidding of the TLCB is voluntary. I had been considering waiting until the 2015 annual reunion when I'm up for re-election, and then just decline re-election, but now I realize the right thing to do is get the position advertised for an election at the 2014 reunion which means I need to act immediately. Once I reached that decision, I also debated whether I should remain in office until the 2014 reunion or resign now, and am torn on that point, but am feeling more and more pressure from the studies and am leaning toward an immediate resignation. President Sweet and I spoke about this a couple times over the weekend, and he convinced me to stay on until the elections, but I am placing a caveat on that agreement: the number of meetings between now and then. I cannot continue if we hold more than one more meeting between now and then, and that is only recognizing that we must meet to officially accept the panel of candidates assembled by the nominating committee, to allow the official slate to be announced in the June MEM and then allow the candidates to provide their bio if they so desire.

I don't want my departure viewed even remotely as coming from any negative position or opinion, I have because it is not – I continue to be committed to our Brotherhood, but must accept the reality that I cannot continue with both the Secretarial duties and my studies and then dedicate the necessary time to each. Once the doctorate is conferred, I am willing to return in any capacity (except President or Vice President), including Secretary. I have thoroughly enjoyed being the Secretary, and would embrace returning to that position in the future.

I hope everyone understands where I am coming from, and I want to encourage everyone to accept all input from George whenever that input is necessary, and the same holds true for my formally elected successor. **As a correction, the position is not open for election until 2015. Our by-laws call for Presidential appointment to fill the vacancy. President Sweet appointed George Shenberger as the new Secretary – assistant until the 2014 reunion, and then full Secretary.**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: President Sweet transferred the meeting chair to VP Thompson (President Sweet is up for re-election, so he opted to remain out of the discussion concerning nominations). VP Thompson announced the 2014 Nominating Committee consists of Ken Schmidt, Ed Miller and Bob Santos, with John Duffin as Trusted Agent. Chaplain Stein

offered: "I officially ask for God's blessing on their work together on the behalf of TLC." Since this is an appointed committee, no motion nor second is necessary. Secretary Closs officially certified the following positions are open for election: President, Treasurer, and 2 Members-at-Large. The following incumbants are eligible for re-election: President Sweet, Treasurer Lee, Member-at-Large Peterson. The following incumbent is ineligible for re-election: Member-at-Large Wheatley. MAL Beatty made a **motion** to recognize the period of April 1-30, 2014 as the official period open for nominations, **seconded** by Secretary Closs. The motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MAL Peterson reported that the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary exploratroy committee has already met once and will meet again immediately following tonight's (2-3-2014) meeting. President Sweet added that research has revealed we do meet the criteria for partnership in the endeavor. **Item Open.**

CLOSING PRAYER offered by Chaplain Stein: "O, God, the presence of your son among us offers us peace and salvation. Thank you for blessing the work we do for the members of TLC. Guide us as we leave this virtual meeting place, and keep us in your care wherever we are and wherever we go. Amen."

Motion to adjourn made by Secretary Closs, **seconded** by Chaplain Stein. With no objections, **President Sweet adjourned the meeting at 2008.**

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES W. CLOSS
Secretary