

## Minutes for the First Federal Division Leadership Conference 2014.

**Date:** 17-19 Jan 2014 at the Hilton Hotel in St. Louis MO

**Saturday** (time are approximate as I was not really watching the clock)

0930 – CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Gen Terry Crowder and he welcomed all. (Really did not watch clock after this so times are not recorded)

### ADMINISTRATION

Col Michael Zimmer went over the administrative items for the conference:

Logistics for the conference

- Rules of engagement
  - During the general session, dialog is only amongst commanders or their assigned representative.
  - Politeness, courtesy and mutual respect is obviously in order.
  - Stay on topic; do not wander or reminisce. There is too much for us to accomplish.
  - There are no specific bathroom or smoke breaks; participants delicately leave and return
- Introduction of participants:
  - Each organization commander and visiting dignitary introduces him/herself and accompanying colleagues.

### PRAYER

Opening Prayer was then given by Mr. Mason Lumpins

### OBJECTIVES

Col Michael Zimmer then went over the meeting objectives.

- Short range objectives and long range goals. (To be discussed by each organization commander). This includes:
- Discussion of the events for which our organizations invest either MAXIMUM EFFORT versus BEST EFFORT. Topics of discussion are:
- Event size (number of participants that can be accommodated)
- Date
- Location
  - Command structure
- Event Minimum Standard Guidelines:
  - Organizational Participation
  - Registration

- Camp set-up
- Scenarios
- Branch Minimum Event Standards for Artillery, Cavalry, Infantry
- General Consensus of issues important to Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery, and organization commanders, obtained through a set of simultaneous workshops
- General Consensus of issues important to the hobby, obtained through discussion as the final meeting topic

### NOMINATIONS

General Terry Crowder called for nominations from the floor for the position of Division Commander.

- Mr. Bernie Biederman nominated Col Bob Minton, seconded by Mr. Len Clarke.
- Mr. Charles Hoskins nominated Col Don Gross, seconded by Lt Col Michael Cheaves.
- No other nominations were given and nominations closed.

### THANKS

General Crowder took a few moments to thank the Division for all of its support over the years and for the strong participation they have shown during his tenure. And for showing the rest of the reenacting community that we are a force to be reckoned with and that we are the best. He was again very grateful and honored to lead the Division and such a fine group of men. He also stated that his staff was fired and that the new commander would need to start his own, and that anyone from the old staff should let the new commander know if they were interested in Applying for their position.

### INCORPORATION

This topic was brought up to see which direction the Division wants to go, whether to stay just a Corporation or to pursue a 501c3 status, the need for one for the protection of the Division. Currently the Division is in an inactive status with its Kentucky Corporation papers. Papers have not been updated since Mark Dolive was commander. Bob Minton stated that it would only take a few hundred dollars (aprox \$190.00) to have the Kentucky papers reinstated. There was much discussion on how to proceed in getting a 501c3 status and the time and paperwork involved (could cost up to \$1000.00 and take as much 18 months or more). It was mentioned that the Division has no money. There was good input from many Bobbie Crisp, Ted Henry, and Trevor Steinbach all of which had 501c3 corps, they were just a few that gave information. It was also mentioned that we could fall under another organization 501c3 umbrella such as the one like Jack King's group has. There was concern that we also find a state for the corporation that did not require the board members to live in the state. It was decided after all of the inputs that this topic should be put on hold for the new commander and that maybe he appoint a committee to resolve and bring back information to him and the board for a decision.

### INSURANCE

The need for insurance for the Division was brought up and a lot of good sources where

mentioned. It was stated by most that most insurance plans do not cover artillery and cavalry, and that the dollar limits have come down (i.e. getting a 2 million dollar policy is not likely to happen anymore). No decision was made on this subject rather it was left for the new commander and maybe a committee to look into it.

### MEMBERSHIP REQUESTS

**Western Artillery Reserves Brigade** - Mr. Len Clarke requested membership status as a brigade. He indicated that they have pulled the artillery groups from the Division together to become a more cohesive group. That this group would then be more involved in the planning and affairs of events the Division did. That they would have an established command structure and all event artillery would then fall under them. He stated that unit would still retain their home unit status but at events they would be Western Artillery Reserves Brigade members.

**6<sup>th</sup> Ohio Cavalry** – Mr. Mike Church requested membership status as a brigade to be known as Minty’s Cavalry Brigade. He stated that they meet the numbers requirement and have fallen in with the Division of Cavalry Brigade before at many FFD events.

**Territorial Battalion** (College Program) - requested membership status as a Battalion. He stated that they meet the numbers requirement and have fallen in with the Division before at many FFD events.

### EVENT PRESENTATIONS

**Red River Campaign, AR – April 5-12, 2014** - Mr. Bobbie Crisp gave a presentation on this campaign and that it would be a great running battle that the men would enjoy as a one of a kind. That they would feel like a real army, being provided with meal and ammo rations, water and hay and that the routes were very clean of modern items. He had no registration cost as that would be determined by the number of people who registered as this would determine the cost of items needed (food, ammo, hay). He provided a web site [redrivercampaign.com](http://redrivercampaign.com) and urged men to sign up. A lot of questions and discussion took place due to the short notice of it and that no fee was already set. Men need to have some idea of the cost they are going to have to pay and plan their vacations.

**Wilderness Campaign, VA May 2-4, 2014** - Col Bob Minton brought this event up for consideration and stated that it was a good event and reliable one.

**Recreation of Lincoln’s Funeral Arrival in Springfield, IL – May 1-4, 2015** - Ted and Dawn Henry gave a nice presentation and had handout on the back table for anyone interested. The event would have a lot of close to real features that would make the event great (replicated coffin, funeral carriages, train and more).

**Prairie Grove, AR – December 5-7, 2014** - Col Don Gross brought this event up for consideration and stated that the event has been around for a while and is a good winter campaign event.

**Perryville, KY – October 1-2, 2016** - Col Chad Greene and Ms. Joni House brought this event in for consideration. It is a good event fought on the actual battle grounds in Kentucky. Joni stated that the preservation group had purchased more land for the park (the Bottoms House area) and that we would be able to use it. That a lot of the modern items have been removed and the park is more like it was then.

**Atlanta, GA – Date??** - Col Lance Dawson brought this event up for consideration and stated that he would love to have the Division join him down there.

**150<sup>th</sup> Franklin, TN - November 14-16, 2014** - Col Lance Dawson gave a report on this event and that the land deal fell through due to massive insurance requirements – Event has been cancelled.

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Break into four workshops for specific discussions pertinent to branch/organization

- Infantry Leader workshop: facilitator:
- Artillery Leader workshop: facilitator:
- Cavalry Leader workshop: facilitator:
- Organizational Commanders/Generals

### BREAK FOR LUNCH

### REPORTS

**Infantry** – The items below were major concerns that the infantry discussed.

- Water, water, water, was the biggest concern, supply and placement in the camps.
- Schedule and its continuous changing, hard to plan when the schedule keeps changing.
- An Officer of the Day would help - to know who to go to for up-to-date information.
- Written orders over verbal one, so less confusion or misinterpretation because the courier failed to give them correctly.
- More time for training and drill.
- Chain of command – having one and using it.
- Order of March – remember infantry is slow than cavalry, and may need to start earlier.
- Regimental assignments earlier so men can purchase the proper attire for portrayals.
- Parades that lead to drill

**Artillery** – What can we do to help the Division? Better communications and pulling the groups together as one brigade. Having more cooperation with the infantry (interacting with the other branches on the field), being able to play in the thick of things.

**Cavalry** – The items below were discussed during the cavalry breakout

- Focus on unifying the cavalry units from around the country.
- Being more in on the planning committee for where we camp and the scenarios to avoid horses tied up in the sun and traveling long distance for a 15 minute battle.
- Cost of coming long distances and then not having any cavalry action.
- Trailer parking (hard to move big rigs in and around cars parked all over.
- Separating registration so all horse stuff can be done at once in one location.
- Better support from event organizers
- Keeping cavalry together (mounted and dismounted)

- Training of horses, troopers, and couriers

**Medical** – Would like a box on the event registration form that states medical impression as this helps with determining who is coming. We would like to do a school of the surgeon and have time to talk to and share with other surgeons.

### REVIEW

General Crowder asked the group if there was anything that needed to be added to the discussions for the day. He also suggested that if anyone could ever make it in to camp days before the events took place they would see some of the logistic nightmare that take place in trying to get everything right for the event. It is very hard and frustrating doing these events when they don't go according to all the planning that you did and they always don't. But we all survive them and generally enjoy them.

General Crowder adjourned meeting until Sunday morning

### BREAK FOR THE DAY

**Sunday** (time are approximate as I was not really watching the clock)

0830 – General Crowder opened morning meeting asking if there was anything from yesterday that need to be rehashed or discussed.

Col Lance Dawson had a few words on the Divisions' way ahead. He stated that we should be looking at where we are going and not where we have been, that we are already a strong force and that we should be building on the future not the past. The Division needs to get out and seek new groups to join the division. Tasking everyone to get out and meet those smaller groups that have no affiliations and bring them into the fold, we cannot wait for folks to just come to us.

### BGA

The BGA was formed to get us through the 150<sup>th</sup> cycle of events and now that they are coming to a close the BGA is really no longer needed. You may no longer see a BGA sanctioned events (the BGA may no longer be putting events on). There is still a chance that the Division may receive money from the movie done a Chickamauga GA, and money received from that goes to the BGA and is split 50/50 with the First Federal Division and Cleburne's Division. This money was not to be used to pay debts. The BGA board will report what goes on in the BGA to the new commander. Don Gross also stated that they are still filming for the movie in June or July this year and looking for some men to come down for three weeks.

### COMMANDER

General Crowder once again thanked the Division for its support and asked them to give the same support to their new commander. Col Bob Minton was here by promoted to the rank of

Brigadier General Commander of the First Federal Division.

General Minton gave a quick statement about the new direction of the Division. It is important for us to be friends first so that we can disagree and still be able to work together and get the mission done. No “Yes” men are needed here the General wants your input no matter how he feels the direction show go all inputs are important. The better the group effort the better we will be. We want to be inclusive as a group rather than exclusive this will bring more new groups into our Division. We need to reach out to old groups and extend the hand of friendship and get back to working relationships. The general is looking for help and will be asking for it to form committees to look at getting the corporation paper file, looking into 501c3 status, and getting insurance. He would also like to see us expand and get a press guy to handle getting us out there for the world to see and market us and doing press releases. Someone to keep the web site and Facebook pages up-to-date, nothing can kill you fast than having a stale or out dated page.

General Minton then asked General Crowder to address the requests for membership.

General Crowder proceeded with the following announcement.

The Western Artillery Reserves Brigade, 6<sup>th</sup> Ohio Cavalry Brigade known as Minty’s Cavalry Brigade, and Territorial Battalion have submitted application to the First Federal Division for full Brigade status. It is hereby acknowledged based on event experience and participation of 2012 and 2013 that they have met all standards for brigade status. And have been accepted into the First Federal Division. The Western Artillery Reserves Brigade Commander shall also serve as the Chief of the Artillery for the First Federal Division. The Senior Division Cavalry Brigade Commander shall retain the title of Chief of Cavalry for the First Federal Division. Also noted was the deletion of the Lightning Brigade and the Western Brigade from the First Federal Division rolls as these groups are not longer viable.

The New Brigade Numbers

Infantry

1<sup>st</sup> Brigade – Frontier Brigade

2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade – Army of the Ohio

3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade – Muddy Rivers Brigade

4<sup>th</sup> Brigade – Territorial Battalion

Cavalry

1<sup>st</sup> Brigade – Division of Cavalry Brigade

2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade – Minty’s Cavalry Brigade

Artillery

1<sup>st</sup> Brigade - Western Artillery Reserves Brigade

## EVENTS

Since there was no major single national event for 2014 it was decide to support two regional events one east and one west for 2014. This was to keep the First Federal Division Name out

there and keep the men together.

East Event is to be **Wilderness Campaign, VA May 2-4, 2014**

West event is to be **Prairie Grove, AR – December 5-7, 2014**

FINALLY

General Minton gave out his email address and his back ground.

[bminton@embarqmail.com](mailto:bminton@embarqmail.com)

PRAYER

Closing Prayer was then given by Mr. Mason Lumpins