



NATIONAL DUSTERS, QUADS & SEARCHLIGHTS ASSOCIATION, INC.
NDQSA Annual Business Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2025 San Antonio, Texas

The chairman, 1st vice-president Rick Liebendorfer, opened the 2025 annual membership meeting of the National Dusters, Quads & Searchlights Association, Inc. at 9:02 a.m. EST on Saturday, June 7, 2025, in the Holiday Inn Riverwalk Hotel, San Antonio, Texas. President Joe Belardo was unable to make the reunion due to temporary medical travel restrictions. The meeting began with The Pledge of Allegiance. The secretary conducted a membership rollcall, and fifty-seven (57) members were present at the meeting.

Secretary's Minutes: The 2024 annual membership meeting minutes were provided to all members in the March 2025 newsletter and are on the website. These were approved by last year's minutes committee. There were no corrections to the minutes offered from the floor, so they stood as written and approved of by the special committee. After soliciting for member volunteers, the minutes approval committee for 2025 will be Phil Hosey (chairman), Dave Byers, and Eddie McCann.

Treasurer's report: Allan Penwell gave the treasurer's report. Last year was an amazing year in terms of financial progress and planning. We ended the year with \$91,000 in the bank and established the NDQSA Trust for preservation of our monuments at Fort Sill, OK. The Trust had over \$16,000 invested in securities, and that figure has climbed to \$25,000 since the beginning of the year. The trust invests in two Charles Schwab securities: a Vanguard U.S. stock dividend fund and a Vanguard U.S. stock large cap fund. Our members were generous last year with \$4,800 in general donations, \$2,700 for our reunion Good Works project, \$11,000 in donations to the Trust, and \$21,000 in dues and life memberships.

Good Works Committee: Bruce Geiger reported that every year NDQSA donates reunion collected money to some military veterans' type organization. This year a charitable \$3000 donation is going to the Joint Base San Antonio Fisher House at Brooke Army Medical Center.

Membership Committee: Richard Burmood reminded the meeting that, in accordance with the By-laws, dues are legal obligations and by policy are required to be paid by 1 January to remain active. That is the date he changes member status from active to inactive if their dues are not paid. Every year there are a lot of late payments as members see they have become inactive when they get their first newsletter. You do not want to be in that group come 1 January because the biennial roster will be published and mailed only to those who are active on 1 January 2026. So, pay your dues ahead.

Future Reunions: Rick Liebendorfer announced that next year's reunion would probably be Louisville, Kentucky.

- Bruce Geiger reported that it is getting very difficult to make arrangements for the kind of hotel venue we need. In addition to Louisville, he is looking at Pensacola, Florida. Choosing a location is influenced by a lot of factors, including having a major airport, weather, local attractions, and of course cost. Locations are moved around to give members the opportunity to drive.
- There was objection from the floor that the membership did not get to vote on location anymore and that the wives were not consulted. Bruce reflected that the time for recommendations cannot be during the meeting because of how long it takes to put a successful reunion together, so please contact him any time with suggestions for future sites. San Diego was suggested with some membership enthusiasm, so could be a possible future location. Most would have to fly, and a good deal might be hard to get. There were questions about dates and time of year for the next reunion. The board affirmed that planning was aiming at fall 2026, probably September or October. The membership will be kept informed. By a show of hand, an overwhelming majority prefer to drive to reunions.
- Richard Burmood obtained the floor to clarify that the policy of NDQSA is that reunions are the glue that holds this organization together. There are a lot of other moving parts, but what makes all this work is getting together once a year, seeing each other, telling stories, and sharing our friendship. This all started with six men in a living room and if it ends up with four in a living room, it is still going to be like a reunion. He advised them not to walk out thinking that we only have

a few years left, because that is absolutely not true. The important thing to take away is that we are going to have a lot more reunions and the association will operate for a lot more years. Reunions may not all look like this one or the next one, but they will be someplace we get together with each other in the spirit of Together Then – Together Again. To resounding applause, Luke Clark, who is 93, put out the challenge that he would attend the last reunion.

Nominating and Election Committee: Dave McCray was the committee chairman and read the teller’s report to the membership. It is entered into the minutes as follows:

Number of votes cast 254

Necessary for election (Bylaws require 10% of active membership) 43

Votes received: Bob Cuce 209, Bruce Geiger 233, Roger Giza 184, Paul Hanson 211, Phil Hosey 161, Gary Severin 185, Ed Tidwell 176, Raymond Villanueva 159, George Walko 150

There was one write-in vote Lionel Morales

illegal votes seven invalid ballots – voted for more than seven candidates.

Chairman, 1st vice-president Rick Liebendorfer, announced the results of the election. The seven directors for 2025-2026 are Bruce Geiger, Paul Hanson, Bob Cuce, Gary Severin, Roger Giza, Ed Tidwell, and Phil Hosey.

Luke Clark moved that the ballots be destroyed. Motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Old Business: Because of last year’s annual meeting discussions, Joe Belardo prepared some information about “What to do when a Veteran Dies who is Receiving VA Benefits” and it is available as a handout up at the front table after the meeting. Bob Lauver reinforced how important it is to put together a plan with your wife for what to do when you pass away. Information on this sheet goes a long way in providing that structure. There was discussion by the membership about how valuable CHAMPVA is in providing wives of 100% disabled veterans with lifetime medical and pharmaceutical care at doctors of their choice. Approval can take up to a year right now.

New Business: Rick Liebendorfer introduced the membership to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) *In Memory* program. The *In Memory* program enables the families and friends of those who came home and later died the opportunity to have them be forever memorialized. That someday will include all of us, so get yourself registered. More information is available on their website <https://www.vvmf.org/In-Memory-Program/>

Meeting Closure:

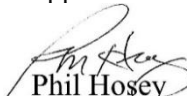
- First-time meeting attendees were recognized. Don Pryor B-29 SLT (68-69), Max Hill C/1/44 (66-67), Ken Aldrich D/1/44 (67-68), and David Byers A/1/44 (68-69).
- Paul Hanson moved to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded and then approved by the membership.
- The NDQSA 2025 annual business meeting ended at 10:34 a.m.

Minutes compiled by:



Richard Burmood
Secretary, NDQSA

Approved: 25 June 2025



Phil Hosey
Chairman, Minutes Approval Committee