NATIONAL DUSTERS, QUADS & SEARCHLIGHTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

NDQSA Annual Business Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2026 Louisville, Kentucky

Call to Order: The 2026 Annual Membership Meeting of the National Dusters, Quads & Searchlights Association, Inc. was called to order at 9:05 a.m. EDT on Saturday, October 3, 2026, at the Holiday Inn Louisville East in Louisville, Kentucky. First Vice-President Rick Liebendorfer presided as chairman. President Joe Belardo was unable to attend the reunion due to urgent family medical issues.

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance. Bob Lauver then delivered a memorial tribute honoring our 212 fallen brothers who gave their last full measure in Vietnam. The Secretary conducted a roll call of the membership, confirming that fifty-four (54) members were present.

Secretary's Report & Minutes Approval: Copies of the 2025 annual membership meeting minutes were distributed to all attendees. These minutes had been previously reviewed and approved by last year's minutes committee. No corrections were offered from the floor, and the minutes stood approved as written.

The Minutes Approval Committee for the 2026 annual meeting minutes was designated as follows: Phil Hosey (Chairman), David Vaillancour, John Mowatt, and Eddy McCann.

Treasurer's Report: Richard Burmood presented the Treasurer's report on behalf of Allan Penwell, noting that 2025 was another financially strong year for the association. NDQSA ended the year with $96,000 in the bank and $41,000 in market value within the NDQSA Trust for the preservation of our monuments at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Financial highlights included:

- **Income:** $22,000 from member dues, $6,000 in unrestricted donations, $9,000 contributed to the Trust, and $3,000 raised for Good Works. The San Antonio reunion generated a small profit.
- **Expenses:** General operating expenses totaled $20,000, which covered conference calls, insurance, newsletter production, and miscellaneous administrative costs. A Good Works contribution of $3,000 was distributed to the Fisher House.
- **Net Profit:** Total net profit for the year was $24,000, which included a transfer of $18,000 to the Trust.

Committee Reports

- **Finance Committee:** Bill Sturgeon reported that following a thorough review of financial procedures and internal controls, NDQSA is in full compliance with IRS requirements. The financial books are balanced, accurate, and professionally managed.
- **Membership Committee:** Richard Burmood reminded members to keep paying dues in advance so they don't go inactive at the end of December and lose their newsletter. Because of a shift toward supporting active members via lifetime membership and newsletter distribution, about 100 members were added to active rolls over the last 2 years. This growth uncovered a bylaws weakness: with 515 active members, the 10% quorum requirement for this meeting was 52, meaning the meeting was held by a margin of only two. As members age and travel less, the association must ensure it can legally conduct meetings while protecting housebound members. Sometimes organizations use a flat-number quorum instead of a percentage to avoid fluctuation risks. His research into Indiana non-profit law showed that when a quorum threshold is set low, absent members are protected: "Unless at least one-third (1/3) of the voting power is present in person or by proxy, the only matters that may be voted upon at an annual or a regular meeting of members are those matters that are described in the meeting notice." Amending the bylaws will require a 2/3 approval instead of a simple majority. The bylaws committee will be reestablished using original members to find reasonable, simple solutions to guide future meetings, protect active members' rights, and ensure success until ultimate shutdown. The membership will be updated via newsletters. Potential solutions include allowing proxy voting at the annual meeting (already allowed for board meetings) or allowing backside ballot absentee voting on known agenda items within the annual election ballot packet to maximize participation.

- **Good Works Committee:** Bruce Geiger reported that NDQSA continues its tradition of donating funds collected at the reunion to military and veterans' organizations. This year, a $3,000 charitable donation will be given to the Fisher House at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.
- **Future Reunions:** Rick Liebendorfer reminded the membership that, per last year's vote, responsibility for future reunion selection has been permanently transferred to the reunion committee. This allows experienced members to identify suitable venues while rotating geographic locations so more members have the opportunity to drive. Bruce Geiger reported that a location for next year has not yet been finalized, noting that finding affordable, accommodating hotels has become significantly more difficult post-COVID. Bill Sturgeon, who possesses experience in this area, will be taking an active role moving forward. The committee will continue its search and notify the membership as soon as possible.

Election Committee and the 2026 election of executive officers: Dave McCray was the committee chairman and read the teller's report for the election of executive officers to the membership. It is entered into the minutes as follows:

- **President**: Votes Cast: 364 | Necessary for Election: 182
  Rick Liebendorfer received: 362 | Ted Summerford received: 1 | Invalid Ballots: 1
- **1st Vice President**: Votes Cast: 364 | Necessary for Election: 182
  George Walko received: 361 | Joe Belardo received: 1 | Bruce Geiger received: 1 | Invalid Ballots: 1
- **2nd Vice President**: Votes Cast: 364 | Necessary for Election: 182
  Roger Giza received: 362 | Garry Severin received: 1 | Invalid Ballots: 1
- **Secretary**: Votes Cast: 363 | Necessary for Election: 182
  Richard Burmood received: 362 | Invalid Ballots: 1
- **Treasurer**: Votes Cast: 363 | Necessary for Election: 182
  Allan Penwell received: 362 | Invalid Ballots: 1

Chairman, 1st vice-president Rick Liebendorfer, announced the results of the election. The executive officers, elected by the membership for the 2026-2028 period, are as follows: treasurer Allan Penwell, secretary Richard Burmood, 2nd vice president Roger Giza, 1st vice president George Walko, and your new president is Rick Liebendorfer.

The newly elected NDQSA president, Rick Liebendorfer introduced our directors; Bruce Geiger, Paul Hanson, Garry Severin, Phil Hosey, Bob Cuce, and Ed Tidwell. There is now one vacancy in the seven director positions, which will be handled through appointment at the next board meeting. The serving advisors were recognized as Vince Tedesco, Bob Lauver, and Luke Clark. Chaplain Sam Hopkins and Historian Joe Belardo were absent.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Bruce Geiger reminded members that we will lay our NDQSA wreath at the Wall this Veterans Day. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund honors us every year as one of the few organizations invited to participate in this official wreath-laying ceremony. Typically, attendees arrive the night before and share dinner together before returning home. Anyone wishing to participate is warmly welcomed and encouraged to attend. Please notify Bruce Geiger in advance so that appropriate seating arrangements can be secured.

Adjournment: Bruce Geiger moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership. The NDQSA 2026 annual business meeting concluded at 10:12 a.m.

Minutes compiled by:

Richard Burmood
Secretary, NDQSA

Approved:

Phil Hosey
Chairman, Minutes Approval Committee