



NATIONAL DUSTERS, QUADS & SEARCHLIGHTS ASSOCIATION, INC.  
NDQSA Annual Business Meeting Minutes  
July 1, 2023 Cleveland, Ohio

President Dave McCray opened the 2023 Annual Business Meeting of the National Dusters, Quads & Searchlights Association, Inc. at 9:08 a.m. EDT on Saturday, July 1, 2023, in the Embassy Suites by Hilton Cleveland Rockside, Independence, Ohio. The meeting began with The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Secretary conducted a membership roll call. Fifty-one (51) members were present for the meeting.

**Secretary's Minutes:** Last year the membership approved using a committee to review and approve the meeting minutes. There were no membership objections or recommended corrections to the minutes as recorded. After soliciting for member volunteers, the minutes approval committee for 2023 will be Joe Belardo (chairman), Bruce Geiger, Mike Dunkerly, Barry Willever, and Ed Tidwell.

**Treasurer's report:** Allan Penwell gave the treasurer's report. NDQSA remains in good financial health with available cash of \$75,000. There were unexpected expenses due to the publication of four newsletters in 2022 compared to the usual three. Conference calls were also \$1,500 higher due to more board meetings. Declining dues are an expected trend and are considered in financial decisions by the board. There was a floor question about the cost of producing and mailing printed newsletters. Allan reported it is about \$3000 per issue.

**Membership Committee:** Following discussion about the cost of mailing the membership rosters, the floor approved making it a biannual report instead of annual. The old format was based on unit of assignment and year in Vietnam. The membership debated and approved changing that to alphabetical. If an active member desires a special report, by content and structure, contact the secretary for support.

**Web Site Committee:** Dave McCray explained the decision to create a new NDQSA.COM website as part of preserving the heritage of our members and the units they served with in Vietnam. It also serves as an association operations site where members can go to get current information about ongoing activities as well as archiving past activities and newsletters. The webmasters are Rick Liebendorfer and George Walko assisted by Allan Penwell and Richard Burmood.

**Finance Committee:** Paul Hanson, as chairman, organizes and coordinates the work of the volunteer independent accountants Bill Sturgeon (Lead CPA), Warren Pennington and Chuck Swank. They perform the actual independent records review by inspecting our financial books, records, and processes and then report their findings to the board at least annually. Bill Sturgeon was introduced and provided a report to the membership stating that NDQSA keeps good records and has excellent internal controls.

**Nominating and Election Committee:** Rick Liebendorfer stepped in to head up the directors election count due to the absence of Bob Cuce, the committee chairman. He read the teller's report to the membership.

It is entered into the minutes as follows:

Number of votes cast - 286; Necessary for election (Bylaws requires 10% of active membership) - 40.

Votes received: Phil Hosey - 273, Garry Severin - 271, Bruce Geiger - 271, George Walko - 270, Roger Giza - 270, Paul Hanson - 267, and Al Martin - 272. There were four write-in votes with one vote each: Jackie Carver, David Thompson, Phillip Pettice, and Patrick Johnson. There were no discrepancies or rejected votes this year.

- President Dave McCray announced the results of the election. The seven directors for 2023-2025 are Bruce Geiger, Paul Hanson, Al Martin, George Walko, Garry Severin, Roger Giza, and Phil Hosey.

- Dave McCray announced that the next election will be for the officer positions. Anyone who is interested should submit their names to Bob Cuce. Dave informed the membership that he will not run for reelection next year so that the organization can benefit from new leadership.

**Historian:** Joe Belardo is going back to the old newsletters and extracting the member stories. Then he will associate them to their Battalion unit as well as location and time. This will provide searchable personal histories that will be shared with the Vietnam Center and Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University and with Dave Christenson the ADA Branch Historian at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

**Good Works Committee:** Bruce Geiger reported that NDQSA often makes its charitable donations to a Fisher House near the reunion location. When we disband, any residual money we have in the treasury will go to the Fisher House Foundation.

**Future Reunions:**

- The proposed 2025 reunion choices put forward by the Board of Directors are Denver Colorado, San Antonio Texas, San Diego California, and Savannah Georgia. Ranked choice voting was used to determine the most preferred location. The results of the first count were: Denver - 0, San Antonio - 7, San Diego - 12, and Savannah - 31. Because Denver received zero votes and neither San Antonio nor San Diego could gain enough votes to overcome the popularity of Savannah, the run-off was terminated. Vince Tedesco moved, and Mike Wise seconded that the 2025 reunion be in Savannah, Georgia. The motion passed by a raised hand majority.
- Joe Belardo will lead the reunion committee efforts for next year's reunion in Washington DC and has done this venue previously. Dates from late April to early June will be negotiated. There will be two trips. One to go to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial that will include some sort of ceremony. The other will be to the new Army Museum at Fort Belvoir.

**Old Business:** Dave McCray gave an update on the Memorial Brick Project at Fort Sill. A special oversized brick has been ordered for Mitchell Stout, our Medal of Honor recipient. We are also purchasing a stone bench honoring him that will draw attention to the whole memorial area. Members who are interested in personal legacy bricks can contact the ADAA at (580) 919-2174.

**New Business:**

- Barry Willever informed the membership about The Veterans Crisis Line (1-800-273-8255) and updates on VA presumptive Agent Orange health conditions.
- Dave McCray informed the membership that the association was bringing legal action against Paul Kopsick. Mr. Kopsick resigned from the association last year over disagreements with the board of directors but did not return all the NDQSA property he had in his possession.
- Dave McCray informed the membership that the panels honoring the Vietnam fallen have become a storage and transport problem. The curator of the ADA museum wants them and will place them prominently near the equipment displays. This is exactly the kind of heritage preservation we are working to achieve over the next few years before we disband.

**Meeting Closure:**

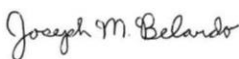
- There was a moment of silence for those who passed away this last year.
- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Pat McLaughlin, seconded by John Huelsenbeck, and approved by the membership.
- The NDQSA 2023 annual business meeting ended at 11:45 a.m.

Minutes compiled by:



Richard Burmood  
Secretary, NDQSA

Approved: 31 July 2023



Joe Belardo  
Chairman, Minutes Approval Committee