

Members Report NDQSA Board of Directors Meeting September 5, 2023

A regular board of directors (BOD) meeting was held on September 5, 2023. Agenda items include a report by Vince Tedesco on options to preserve and repair the Fort Sill memorial if damaged; receiving treasurer estimates of five-year income and expense stream; review draft updates to the Record of Committee Assignments and Descriptions; receive an update on the memorial bricks project and other committee reports.

Several committees are being reshaped to focus on preserving our heritage rather than day-to-day activities. The Website Committee has shifted over to an action element with people that are focused on action tasks rather than shaping tasks. The Heritage Committee was assigned memorabilia property accountability responsibility, specific NDQSA dissolution planning tasks, and given the authority to accomplish them.

A five-year financial projection was reviewed. Basically, the association is spending about \$10,000 more every year than we are bringing. Projections considered that declining active membership will impact dues receipts. Publications big cost drivers are the newsletters (\$3000 each with three per year), the semi-annual mailed membership roster, and the annual election ballots process. Website costs are harder to predict for lack of past data but will be a vital part of preserving our heritage. Our projected cash will be reconsidered by the board as we move forward to winding down our organization. For now, we can continue to operate as we have in the past.

The memorial bricks are now going to be engraved by a company that uses a laser and powder coating so the engraving cuts will be much sharper and last longer. Brick laying at the Air Defense Artillery Learning Center at Fort Sill should be done by December.

The 2024 reunion will be in Washington D.C. in late May or early June, but the dates are not set until we have a hotel contract. The trip will include a visit to the new Army Museum at Fort Belvoir and a visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The board decided that NDQSA should offer a lifetime membership option for all regular members of the Association. The lifetime membership fee was set at \$250. Information will be included in the next newsletter. Lifetime membership cards will be issued in recognition of their status.

The board continues its investigative work on determining the most viable way of protecting our Fort Sill memorial from weather damage or other catastrophes. Even though it is located on a military installation, they have no responsibility to maintain the site. The two options being pursued are either a charitable trust funded with enough money to directly cover repairs, or a foundation funded with enough money to pay every year for an annual insurance policy. In both cases we anticipate that the Air Defense Artillery Association will operate as the

foundation's manager once NDQSA dissolves. This is a long term effort to preserve NDQSA's heritage.