



# 28<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, Company B

2023 Annual Business Meeting  
February 11, 2023  
Amy's Restaurant, Falmouth, VA

## Minutes

### Attendance

Abernathy, Joe  
Barker, Jay  
Calhelha, Robert  
Davis, Jason  
Davis, Justin  
Fitzpatrick, J  
Forbes, Jo  
Harvey, Aaron  
Heath, Bob  
Lapham, Hal  
Lynes, Jerry  
Madole, Rolf  
Mahaney, Barney  
McEntee, Court.  
Mordin, Josh  
O'Connell, Dennis  
Pankey, Joe  
Paquette, Mike  
Seaman, Olaf  
Smylie, Charles  
Tuohy, John  
Voelkner, Bill  
Voelkner, R  
Wantland, Chase

**I. Welcome and Opening Remarks.** The 2023 Annual meeting of the 28<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry (28<sup>th</sup> MVI), Co. B took place on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Dennis O'Connell called the meeting to order at 9:20 AM.

**II. Roll.** 24 Members were in attendance; their names are noted in the inset. No known members represented by proxy. The members present represent approx. 2/3rds of the membership so a quorum was established for the purposes of conducting unit business.

**III. Opening Remarks/Chairman's Report.** Chairman Dennis O'Connell opened the meeting. The Chairman then requested the group to approve the 2022 minutes, and stated the minutes were posted on the Members Portal of the Company Webpage and available to all members to review. A motion was made to accept the minutes and membership voted to approve the minutes.

After distributing an Agenda and copies of the Chairman's Report to those in attendance, Chairman O'Connell addressed the membership and stated that our company successfully met our three unit goals over the previous year despite the any restrictions imposed by the pandemic or weather cancelled events.

The goals of the 28<sup>th</sup> MVI are:

1. To field and accurate recreated 28<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Vol. Company for the dual purposes of public education and recreation;
2. To accurately portray the Civil War era (1861-1865) US volunteer infantry unit for the dual purposes of public education and recreation;
3. To educate the public about the history related to all aspects of the military and non-combatant experience related to the American Civil War, Union soldiers, the Irish Brigade and the 28<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts in particular.

The 2023 USV Meeting was briefly discussed. Captain Pankey, Jerry Lynes and the Chairman were able to attend the USV Congress in Gettysburg. New members were asked to introduce

themselves. John Touhy was recognized for his many years of service to the unit. For additional details (see 2022 Chairman's Report).

- IV. **Captains Report.** Captain Joe Pankey provided a synopsis of his written Captain's Report. (See 2022 Captain's Report). Captain Pankey expressed appreciation for the cooperation he received this past year given the many events for 2022 as we recover from the pandemic.
- V. **1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant's Report.** 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Rolf Madole provided a synopsis of his written 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt's Report. (See 2022 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt's Report). This report also detailed Company attendance at 2022 events. The unit conducted fourteen scheduled events, an increase of three events from the previous year. A total of 154 participants attended these events.
- VI. **Secretary's Report.** Bill Voelkner provided a status of enrollments so far. Two notices were sent out so far by the Secretary plus additional announcements from company leadership. Enrollments were progressing and a number of members completed their enrollments at the meeting. Prior to this meeting, 21 Memberships are so far enrolled for 2023, consisting of 12 Regular, 7 Family, and 2 Associate memberships – 21 individuals in total. Additional memberships are forthcoming.
- VII. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer John Tuohy provided a synopsis of his written Treasurer's Report. (See 2022 Treasurer's Report.) John discussed the proceeds, income and expenses to date.
- VIII. **Quartermaster's Report.** Quartermaster Hal Lapham provided his QM report. (See 2022 QM Report). Six complete loaner kits are available for use by prospective members. No reports were provided on the status of the Company's organizational property (Canvas and camp gear nor the Company's Drum kit.
- IX. **Signals Report.** Webmaster Jerry Lynes provide his report on the status of Company Signals efforts (see 2022 Signals Report). Membership conformed that the Company email list is for "members and prospective members only." (Exception: 35-year former member Kevin Air). "Rules of the Road" for the Company email list were also confirmed. Membership in the Company's private Facebook Group is not limited to the above – any member can add interested parties.
- X. **Acceptance of Reports.** By acclamation, the membership accepted the reports detailed in paragraphs IV through IX above. (All reports are posted in the Member's section of the Company webpage.)
- XI. **Company Elections.** The Chairman conducted elections. Joe Abernathy and Bob Health were elected to the Board as members at large replacing John Fitzpatrick and Barney Mahaney. The at-large Board positions expire in Feb 2025. Additionally, Aaron Harvey was appointed the new Unit Treasurer in relief of John Tuohy. John was thanked for his more than two decade service as Unit Treasurer.
- XII. **Review and Vote on 2023 Events.** Captain Pankey led the discussion from a strawman list provided to all in advance of the meeting. . The following events were selected by the membership for the 2023 campaign year:

**Primary Events** – Maximum attendance requested

- 11 February – Annual Meeting
- 4 March – Alexandria Saint Patrick’s Day (Parade)
- 25-26 March – Spring Drill (Camp of Instruction)
- 22 April – Fairfax History Day (Living History)
- 5-7 May – 160<sup>th</sup> Antietam (Battle Reenactment) (3<sup>rd</sup> USV primary Event)
- 10 June – Fort Ward Camp Day (Living History)
- 1-2 July – 160<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg (NPS Living History) (3<sup>rd</sup> USV primary event)
- 20-22 Oct – 159<sup>th</sup> Cedar Creek (Battle Reenactment) (3<sup>rd</sup> USV Primary Event)
- 18 Nov – Remembrance Day (Ceremony)
- 9-10 Dec – 161<sup>st</sup> Fredericksburg (Ceremony)

**Secondary Events** – Attendance at individual discretion.

- 11 March – Manassas Saint Patrick’s (Parade) (Co B lead: Joe Abernathy)
- 5-7 May - 160<sup>th</sup> Antietam (Battle Immersion) (Co B lead: Joe Abernathy)
- 23-25 June – 160<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg (Battle Reenactment) (Co B lead: Aaron Harvey)
- 7-9 July – 159<sup>th</sup> Monocacy (Living History) (Co B lead Joe Pankey)
- 28-30 July – Receding Tide” (Battle Reenactment) (Co B lead: Joe Abernathy)
- 26-27 Aug – 161<sup>st</sup> Kettle Run (Living History) (Co B lead: Joe Abernathy)
- 13-15 Oct – 160<sup>th</sup> Bristoe Station (Living History) (Co B lead: Joe Abernathy)

Note: No primary or secondary event was selected for September 2023, although a number of members express interested in road-tripping to a north Georgia Chickamauga reenactment the weekend of 22-24 Sept.

Events will be listed on the company web page. It was reminded that Primary and Secondary events are covered by the company’s “one time use” insurance policy. Any member can propose a new event for the Company at any time – if enough support (e.g attendees from the Company) are garnered, the organizer can request to the Board that the event classify the event as a Primary or Secondary event.

**XIII. Old Business**

1. The status of the Fredericksburg Irish Brigade statue effort – transferred to the local Sons of Union Veterans (SUV) Camp in 2022 -- was discussed by Bob Heath, a member of both the 28<sup>th</sup> MVI and the SUV. The current statue fund budget is \$75,000 with \$2,000 on hand. Location for the proposed statue is at the Fredericksburg National Battlefield Park. Bob Heath was asked and he consented to provide a written report to the 28<sup>th</sup> Mass, Co. B membership.
2. Inventory of company property was discussed. Inventories of loaner kits and cook gear was completed in 2022. Tentage and the Drum kit have not been inventoried for some time. The Quartermaster agreed to research the feasibility of a storage facility to store all Company property. Chairman O’Connell said he would follow-up re the missing inventories.

**XIV. New Business:**

1. Captain Pankey discussed the need for a company loaner gear policy given the challenges of increased new membership and a full event schedule for 2023. Such a policy will be developed by the Military leadership.
2. Captain Pankey discussed the initiative of having Fresh Fish roll rounds for their use at their initial events, an initiative that was tested in 2022 and had the memberships full support. Jerry Lynes made a motion to reimburse the Military Cadre for caps and rounds for new members given the increased costs. The motion was seconded and approved.

**XV. Adjournment.** Chairman O'Connell thanked all again for attending and their participation. A motion to close the meeting was made and accepted by membership. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Your Obedient Servant,

*Dennis O'Connell*

Chairman, Executive Board

I. The Recreated 28<sup>th</sup> MVI, Co B