

**FRIENDS OF THE SPRINGFIELD ARMORY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
OCTOBER 16, 2019 2:00pm**

Teleconference Number: 866.726.4072 #3920448

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members in attendance: Jim Controvich, Roger Johnson, John Diffley

Board Member who called in: Neil Daboul,

Board Members absent, but with Proxies Provided the President: John Langevin,
Peter DeRose

Board Members Absent: Wayne Phaneuf

Springfield Armory Staff in Attendance: Alex MacKenzie

Eastern National staff who called in: Mary Price

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The review of the minutes from the September meeting was deferred.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Johnson presented the September Fiscal Reports. He indicated that the September beginning balance for the regular account was \$17,502.60, with receipt of \$605.12. Expenses were \$4,767.13; of which \$3,250.90 was for 799 challenge coins and \$755.97 was for wall wrap for the Friends wall. As a result the ending balance was \$13,340.59. A new section was created to reflect funds related to the friends, but not controlled by the Friends. It includes the Endowment and Grants managed by the Armory. The George and Rose Daboul Endowment increased \$3,000 to \$25,000. The Veterans Education Project – Summer Writing Camp has a balance of \$250 and the Shelbourne Farms Resources – School Bus Grant has a balance of \$1,400. Both of these grants are managed by Armory staff. **The members voted approval of the Treasurer's Reports as submitted.**

Mr. Johnson indicated that in approximately 1 ½ months the bookstore has sold 100 challenge coins. After deducting the coin costs, the Friends will receive \$10.30 per coin, which translates to \$1,030 of revenue so far in coins sales.

Mr. Johnson discussed the Massachusetts Non-Profit Network, and recommended that we renew our membership for a cost of \$75. He also discussed pursuing insurance for the Friends, at an estimated cost of \$1,000 to \$1,200 a year. **Both of these were approved by the Board.**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Ms. Fellner discussed the National Park Foundation Grant. The Grant is designed to help National Park non-profits improve. Items that could be pursued could include board development and revenue generation. Mr. Johnson asked permission to study the request for proposals and to get back to the board.

Ms. Fellner reported that she has been making contact with local business groups to advance Western Mass as a tourist destination and has also been in contact with Bus Tour groups to use the Armory as a museum stopping point. Mr. Johnson noted there are so many reasons to stop at the Armory chief among them it being the only National Park presence in Western Massachusetts.

Ms. Fellner has expressed enthusiasm for the work going forward with the 2020 work plan and noted the Armory received nearly \$10,000 in book store sales during the M1 Garand convention, one of the highlights was Mr. MacKenzie parading Garand #1 at the event, it was reported that the members were seen with great emotion as this priceless treasure was presented to the Collectors. Mr. McKenzie and Mr. Johnson agreed the event created much good will.

Shays Rebellion event is coming together very well. It looks like a minimum of 6 speakers will be in attendance. January 25th is still the date for the event with the possibility of repeating the event from time to time. Mr. MacKenzie feels this could grow to be a periodic event. It looks like we will get some excellent speakers. Mr. Diffley had researched food service options for the event and will keep the Board informed on how food and refreshments will be handled.

Mr. MacKenzie discussed the need to look at the status of the 2019 Annual Work Plan and develop a 2020 Work Plan. The status of the action items in the 2019 work plan were briefly reviewed. Mr. Johnson indicated he would add a column to the 2019 plan on the current status of each item and would draft a preliminary plan for 2020 to be discussed at the next meeting.

PRESIDENTS REPORT Mr. Contravich identified the following areas we should look to improve for the 2020 Work:

- Stronger recruiting of new members
- Larger and broader Board Membership
- Improve access to our Social Media engagement
- Increase grant writing
- Armory Day planning

Mr. Johnson made a suggestion that we could use the workplan from last year, modify it for this next and following year. Mr. Johnson is going to look at how well our last plan did so we might adjust our goals for 2020.

Next meeting is Wednesday, November 13th at the Armory, 2:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned 3:00pm

Neil Daboul
Secretary