

**G.A.R. Memorial Board of Trustees**  
Minutes  
February 21, 2012  
National Guard Armory, 50 Skyline Drive, Worcester, MA 01605  
Meeting begins at 5:31 p.m.

**Present:** Daniel McAullife, Reynaldo Rodriguez, George Maple, Robert Grogan, James Mirick, Tim Boucher

The minutes of the December 6, 2011

**Old Business:**

1. Two letters were received from Congressman G.K. Butterfield addressed to Congressman James McGovern and Mayor Joseph M. Petty expressing appreciation of the Board of Trustees loan of three Confederate flags and the bell from the C.S.S. Albemarle for exhibition in North Carolina.
2. The future storage of the Regimental flags currently located at the National Guard Armory Museum was updated. The Board will need to draft a letter of intent addressed to the Massachusetts State House where the Art Department has accepted the flags. The letter will stipulate that no money has been exchanged nor favors and that they flags are being sent there for proper storage. The Board has authorized Tim Boucher to work with Chairman McAullife to draft the letter.
3. Secretary Reynaldo Rodriguez is still working on a master files binder(s) for storage at the Armory. Will present the completed project at the April meeting.

**New Business:**

1. Chairman McAullife described his trip to North Carolina. There he met Tom Harrison, the person who drove all day to Massachusetts to drop off the bell of the CSS Albemarle for the 150<sup>th</sup> Civil War Commemorations. While at the Port of Plymouth Museum McAullife saw a replica launch of the one used by Lt. W.B. Cushing when he sank the Albemarle. McAullife was given the opportunity to cut the ribbon for the members of the Museum of the Albemarle where the flags will be on display. About 180 or so showed up for the private ceremony and then as many as 2300 arrived during the official ribbon cutting ceremony. While there McAullife was thanked by many for the loan of the flags. McAullife happily reported that one of the flags is located directly at the entrance to the museum. McAullife toured places like Ft. Sumter and had the opportunity to find out just how the bell of the CSS Albemarle possibly made its trip to Massachusetts. According to McAullife it was possible that while Reverend Horace James was working with the Freedman's Bureau on the island of Roanoke he was given the bell as a gift. Reverend James's unit, the 25<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry was involved in battles located in North Carolina.
2. A new member book was discussed. Robert Grogan presented the Board with a list of frequently asked questions that should go into the book. The various questions will be looked at and answered by all Board members to narrow down the answers. The idea of the frequently asked questions is so that new members can understand the role of the board as well as how to accomplish tasks. During the discussion Mr. Grogan pointed out that the city website in regards

to the Board might be mistaken. On it, it explains that the Board oversees a Hall. Since there is no longer a G.A.R. Hall under the control of the Board, the mission should be reevaluated and that information removed. According to Chairman McAullife, about 2 years ago he had that line changed. Somehow it was put back into the description of the Board which is misleading. Mr. Grogan proposed that the Board define the mission to help potential members understand.

Secretary Rodriguez has been tasked to create a member's manual that each member of the board will have. In it, it will answer all the questions that a member, especially a new member may have. Also inside will be details on various items such as the major artifacts like the bell of the CSS Albemarle, the 3 Confederate flags, Bible, and the plaques in the G.A.R. Hall. The book will identify where to find information on the other artifacts located the Worcester Historical Museum. Also included will be how and where to use the G.A.R. funds. Minutes will not be in this book as well as correspondents, Rob's Rules, etc... but mandatory items like the ethics law which is required will be inside. A rough draft of a book will be presented to the Board at a future meeting to discuss what should be added or deleted from the book.

3. Chairman McAullife presented the Board with the idea of term limits for offices so that members can have an opportunity to hold offices as well as to not remain in an office too long. The idea is to keep the Board fresh and to continue to be successful. Ideas were discussed such as November as the ideal meeting for elections etc... Secretary Rodriguez made a motion to proposed ending the terms of all offices (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary) at the November meeting and then hold a new election. The motion was tabled to allow a more formally drafted proposal to be presented to the Board for discussion and/or vote. Secretary Rodriguez will have a proposal detailing his motion at the next meeting.

Being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6:32 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday April 10, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the National Guard Armory.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reynaldo Rodriguez  
Secretary, G.A.R. Memorial Board of Trustees