

The Association of the Century, Inc.  
Minutes of Board of Directors  
12 November 2024 – Ft. Knox KY

1. Call to Order: MSG Gerding, President, called the meeting to order at 1300 hours (EST) 12 November 2024.
2. 2024 Annual Reunion – AAR & Force Majure Review: Following the Pledge of Allegiance and the opening prayer, MSG Gerding made opening comments mentioning the Annual Meeting AAR (After Action Report) published for reference and that COL Able would make additional comments regarding the reunion later in the meeting.

MAJ Platt requested an adjustment in today's agenda regarding the agenda item for the election of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. He said the election is for vacant the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President position as the other Vice Presidents automatically move up creating the vacancy. In addition, elections of the other officers such as Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, will be voted on today. A total of eleven officer positions will require a vote.

MSG Gerding discussed the Force Majure questions regarding the contract with the Convention Center for next year's annual reunion meeting. Discussions prior to the Board Meeting have determined the contract does not need to be amended and the purchase of additional insurance to protect the deposit is not warranted. There were no additional questions or comments from members of the Board.

3. Changing of President: MG Barron recognized MSG Gerding for his term as Board President and presented him with a mint julep cup for his service. MG Barron introduced COL Able as the new incoming President and passed the gavel to him. COL Able thanked MSG Gerding for his service and made several comments.
4. Recognition of Guests: No guests were present and COL Able introduced and welcomed CSM Ned McWhorter and CSM Duard Thomas, to the Board.
5. Election of Officers: MSG Gerding asked if there were any nominations for President. Being none, MSG Gerding asked for a vote to approve COL Able as President. The vote was unanimous for COL Able. MSG Gerding asked for a motion for the approval of the eleven officers of the Board. Motion by COL Butler and Second by COL Williams. Motion carried.

With the advancement of two Vice Presidents, MSG Bohannon from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> VP and LTC Warren from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President becomes vacant. This position customarily alternates between an officer and an NCO each year. MSG Gerding asked if there were any NCO volunteers for the position. Being no volunteers, motion by MSG Gerding to nominate SGT Lamkin as 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President. Second by COL Williams. Motion carried.

6. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the 6 August 2024 Zoom meeting were emailed to the Board by MAJ Holland. Motion to approve the 6 August 2024 minutes as presented made by COL Kapp. Second by COL Starr. Motion carried.
7. Treasurer's Report: Financial statements and Treasurer's Report were emailed to the board by LTC Kapp prior to the meeting. LTC Kapp provided a high-level summary of the 9/30/24 financials. LTC Kapp noted the third quarter is the busiest of the year due to the activity from the Annual meeting.

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With regards to the Certificates of Deposit, he reported CDs are being renewed at promotional rates as they mature at instead of laddering. Promotional rates are typically a percentage point above other rates. He recommends the Board have future discussion regarding laddering or renewing at the most favorable rate. He also suggested discussion about investment strategy with the Certificates. For example, we could consider putting one-half of the balance into the scholarship fund or continue to renew as they mature.

LTC Kapp recommended contributing \$5,000 to the scholarship fund from the General Fund. There is sufficient balance in the General Fund account to meet projected expenditures without causing a liquidity issue. The Community Foundation manages the scholarship fund and can potentially earn more than if held in other deposit accounts. Motion by COL Bland to contribute \$5,000 to the Scholarship Fund. Second by COL Starr. Motion not voted on. See discussion below:

**Discussion:** MG Tindall asked if the \$5,000 should just be given to the Scholarship Committee to use for additional grants. LTC Kapp explained that we have a partnership with the Foundation, who manages the administrative piece of the selection process, the minutes, awards, etc., and any action involving the scholarship grants would have to be reported to the Foundation. MG Tindall suggested tabling the motion and let CW5 Diamond and LTC Kapp check with the Community Foundation regarding the latitude to award additional scholarship grants and report back to the Board. A decision on how best to proceed can be made at the February Board meeting. Motion by MG Tindall to table the first motion. Second by COL Williams. Motion carried.

LTC Kapp reviewed the remaining items in the Treasurer's Report. Motion by CW5 Diamond to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by SGT Lamkin. Motion carried.

8. Website: COL Cobb reported the website is updated and no operational issues reported. The online order link to the Supply Room is closed temporarily until the new merchandise currently on order is received. COL Cobb reported the supplier is having issues fulfilling the order and that he anticipates changing vendors once the current order is received.

A discussion followed about requests from outside organizations/vendors wanting to link to the AOC website for their products or services. Allowing outside companies or agencies to link to the website implies an endorsement for those companies by the AOC. Motion by SGM Zimmerman to not entertain requests from outside agencies to place links on our website. Second by COL Williams. Motion carried.

9. Membership Report: SGM Zimmerman emailed the Membership report to the Board of Directors prior to the meeting and reported receiving three more life memberships since the report was published. All three are paying on an annual installment basis. SGM Zimmerman discussed a suggestion made at the annual meeting to contact individuals paying with the annual payment plan and determine if they needed any financial assistance with paying their dues. The Board's consensus was not to pursue that suggestion.

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10. Newsletter: COL Williams informed the Board that the holiday newsletter is with the printer and scheduled for delivery by the end of November. He encouraged members to provide any input for future articles.
11. Scholarships: CW5 Diamond is making the changes to the scholarship application form as required by the Community Foundation. She will send the revised application to COL Cobb within the week for posting to the website. In addition, CW5 Diamond will have copies of the application available at the December event at Fort Knox.
12. Corridor of the Century: COL Russell informed the Board that this is the time of the year to begin thinking of nominations for additions to the Corridor.
13. Supply Room / Fundraising: COL Cobb reported clothing items to restock the supply room are presently on order. He reported the vendor is having issues fulfilling the order but is hopeful the items will be received prior to the December event scheduled with the 100<sup>th</sup> Division at Fort Knox.
14. Historical Holding Center (Museum): MG Barron reported the museum is in good order at this time.
15. Board of Directors: MSG Gerding reported the board members identified in Tier “C” of the Directors Report have terms expiring in 2025 and will be up for nomination and re-election to the board.
16. SOS Pickle Jar: MG Tindall recalled previous discussions that the Board agreed to hold the \$5,000 on deposit in the account for future Pickle Jar use.
17. Annual Reunion: COL Abel reported the reunion meeting will return to Owensboro, 22, 23 August 2025 and the contract with the Convention Center signed. He has some verbal commitments regarding fundraising but cannot comment further at this time. Discussion took place with suggestions for changes to next year’s meeting. Ideas for the reunion will be considered as planning continues over the coming months.
18. Old Business: No old business.
19. New Business: MG Barron reported on the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> Division event scheduled for 7 December 2024. MG Barron said the Association will donate funds to help defray the cost of the event. MG Barron discussed the proposed agenda, the menu, and schedule of events. MG Barron estimates that up to seventy-five individuals will attend the reception and asked if the food items for the reception were adequate. Funding may come from the SOS Pickle Jar account as this event is consistent with activities that support our soldiers. Motion by MSG Gerding to contribute up to \$1,000 dollars for the food budget. Second by LTC Johnson. Motion carried.

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MG Barron proposed increasing the annual and lifetime dues for membership in the AOC. He suggested \$50 for annual dues and \$250 for the lifetime option. After discussion on the amounts and the effective date for the increase, the Board consensus was \$25 and \$200 respectively to be effective 1 January 2025. Motion by LTC Warren to increase annual dues to \$25 and an increase in the lifetime dues to \$200. Lifetime dues may be paid in full or in four annual and equal installments. The effective date of change is 1 January 2025. Second by SGT Lamkin. Motion carried.

MSG Gerding informed the Board that Ron Moss continues to have medical issues and is at Vanderbilt Hospital if anyone wants to send him a card. COL Able said that he would be adding an item to future agendas to recognize members having serious health issues.

Discussion was held about activities and a theme for next year's annual meeting. Local regulations need to be considered for the raffling of alcohol. MAJ Platt will help or assist the individual who is designated, and authorized, by the Board, to spend the money and fill out the necessary forms.

The Board discussed future meeting locations for the Annual Reunion meetings beyond 2025. SGT Lamkin proposed the Campbell House in Lexington KY as a venue. SGT Lamkin reported the Campbell House has been renovated and he has received a quote on room rates of \$119 a night if the AOC chooses the location in 2026. CW5 Diamond asked if the reunion planning committee was still in existence and there was a conversation that the committee should be established again.

Upcoming meeting dates for the Board are **4 February 2025** (Zoom), **6 May 2025** in person at Ft. Knox, **5 August 2025** (Zoom), and **5 November 2025** in person at Fort Knox.

20. There being no further business, motion to adjourn by MAJ Holland. Second by COL Rowe. Motion carried.

R. Craig Holland, MAJ, (Ret)  
Assistant Secretary