



(A California nonprofit 501(c)(3) Public Benefit Corporation)
"Passing the Torch of Liberty On to Future Generations"
Neighborhood Community Center
1845 Park Ave., Costa Mesa, CA. 92627

Minutes of the Meeting of December 11, 2013

Pledge of Allegiance: Col. Jesse Carranza, USA, (Ret.) WWII, Korea

Invocation: CPT. Robert Meyer, USAAC, WWII, Glider Pilot, ETO

Guests Present: (15) Tom Berg, Bob Bolin, Shirley Bolin, Jean Carr, Betty Hayes, Harold Hayes, Ken Hicks, William Koth, LaVonn Larsen, Donna Palette, Carmine Pilichi, Dennis Popp, Pam Reich, Stan Smith, and Yvonne Van Dyke.

Members Present: (64) Bill Anderson, Jim Baker, Victor Bakkila, Rally Bates, Howard Bender, Shep Bentley, Jesse Bequette, Alan Bernstein, Dave Brooks, Jesse Carranza, Jack Cole, Bus Cornelius, Tom Crammer, Andy Cullinane, Bob Davis, Bob Dugan, Tom Egan, Bruce Ellyson, Tom Evans, Eddie Felix, Thomas Gorla, Richard Grabow, James Grimm, Raymond Grissom, Herb Guinness, Ronnie Guyer, Sid Hallburn, Barbara Hallett, Jack Hammett, Arnie Hanson, Dale Hanson, Dwight Hanson, George Hill, William Holiday, Vince Howley, Jack Hubbard, John Hughes, Peter Katz, Michael Knybel, Tom Knybel, Louis Kridelbaugh, Hank Lamm, Dave Lester, Norm Loats, Ted Marinos, Robert Meyer, Edison Miller, Kent Moore, Joseph Mueller, Dick O'Brien, Don Oldis, Don Pageler, Frank Pangborn, Frank Ramirez, Keith Regan, Timothy Richards, Ted Tanner, Allan Thompson, Jim Thurn, Phillip Vinci, Buck Wall, Jack Walters, Scott Williams and Sid Yahn.

Associate Members Present: (25) Celeste Ames, Bette Bell, Cindy Brennaman, Gretchen Coburn, Arlene Cole, Guy Coulombe, Cherrie Danks, Eliza Delpizzo, Teresa Drain, Kay Felix, Geri Hanson, Shirley Hanson, Ramona Hill, Lori Martin, Adrian Michael, Audrey Miller, Betty Mueller, Pat O'Brien, Beth Refakes, Gladys Refakes, Tom Watson, Denise Weiland, Rayman Wong, Rob Wood and Elizabeth Yee.

Special Presentation

The Freedom Committee of Orange County was brought up to date with a presentation from LtCol, **Shep Bentley**, USMC (Ret.). He recently spent a tour of duty with the Marines in Iraq. His duties involved *Counter Terrorism and Counter Insurgency*. When he dealt with the Iraqi civilians, he encountered an overwhelming expression of gratitude and thanks for the US military intervention in Iraq.

The Global War on Terrorism is what certain groups are doing now. They hope to achieve the take down of what is established using fear and terror. Their goals are extreme and impossible to achieve. Yet it is ongoing. As seen on the map, terror groups exist in Africa, India, and Southeast Asia and yes, our United States.

The gathering of Military Intelligence in Iraq that LtCol Bentley experienced included formal intelligence from the Iraqi Police. Informal intelligence was gathered from reconstruction and rebuilding efforts. The US military Civil Affairs units are building a new Iraq. The best intelligence came from the children who didn't want the destruction of their homes and schools. And the troops on the ground that are in daily contact with the terrorist.



Iraqi children

Are we having success against the Terrorists? Lt.Col. Bentley answered a qualified **yes**. The stockpiles of leftover ammunition from the Iraqi military are being destroyed. We figure out how they detonate their IED's, and then they invent a new way. The respect for America on Iraqi terms is at a high value. The Iraqis are expressing gratitude for their freedom. The insurgents who were at a high of 60,000 are now disorganized, their leaders are identified, and they are losing the support of the Iraqi people. The purple finger used for voting is proof of a beginning of Democracy.



LtCol Bentley was in disbelief upon returning to the US and reading how the war on terrorism is being reported. His knowledge is altogether different from having served "in country." He feels the war will continue for some time.

Iraqi Purple finger voter

Announcements

Jack Hammett reminded all the Veterans that the mission of the Freedom Committee is; **"Passing the torch of Liberty to Future Generations"** and that is our prime reason for our existence.

Tom Berg, an Orange County Register Newspaper writer, is considering a weekly column for veterans to tell their stories. He is building a roster of veterans who may be able to have their experiences published.

Buck Wall and **Don Pageler** are putting together a FCOC speakers file. They need a photograph and a biography for all the speakers. **Jack Hammett** announced that there are business cards for **FCOC Speakers**. The Front side is for your personal information and the reverse side has the FCOC meeting information including a QR code for details.

Scott Williams requested that 7-day subscribers to the OC Register fill out the "Gold Charity Check" that will allow The Freedom Committee to get \$50 worth of advertising in the paper for free.

The financial report was read by **Bette Bell**. Copies were available. Bette gently reminded the audience that all contributions to FCOC are tax deductible ... and the end of the tax year is nearing. She will promptly record all contributions and give receipts.

Denise Weiland reported that the Student/Veterans interview would be beginning this month with Back Bay High School and Ensign Intermediate School. The students are excited! Also, Martin Luther King High School usually has its interviews in March, the day following interviews at Corona del Mar.



Jack Hammett announced that he has headed the Freedom Committee for 17 years. *He is passing the gavel.* **Scott Williams** will assume the duties of President beginning in January 2014. Jack will remain as Chairman of the Board of Directors. Jack received a standing ovation for his contributions and leadership of the Freedom Committee.

“WELL DONE, JACK!”

BRAVO ZULU



Bravo Zulu Flags =
“Well Done”

Santa “Singing Frank” Claus visited FCOC today to bring the Christmas spirit and to sing a few songs. Notice his pretty elves?



*Minutes prepared by
Tim Richards*

Approved by:

Jack Hammett
Chairman