



The Octofoil

April-May-June
2020

Volume LIV, No. 2

President's Message

"If we don't remember, who will?"



Greetings from Topeka! I know there has been a lot of uncertainty in our lives but please know that the Association is moving forward as best we can.

A letter regarding our upcoming August 8 general membership meeting has gone out to you all. Though we will not have an in-person Annual Meeting and Reunion this year, the online meeting (in our 75th year!) is important for the organization to complete. The agenda, as for other general membership meetings, will include various reports (including plans for the 2021 Annual Meeting/Reunion), nominations and other business. We may also send out an email reminder regarding the meeting date and info you may need to access the meeting. Thank you for understanding the decision to make this adjustment in light of the current uncertainties.

In my early June letter, I introduced you to our new website - 9thinfantry.org. We really needed a Ninth Infantry Division Association site as our 'digital' home. If you have not seen it yet, I invite you to visit it and to become familiar with its many sections. It includes a section where you can renew your membership. If you have any problem renewing online (or just don't want to bother with electronic renewal), please use the printable form on the site or complete the form on page 11 of The Octofoil.

Speaking of membership, Clare Irwin and her Membership Committee of Dennis Bonkowski, Kathy Tapelt and Jan Sewick have been starting to reach out to past members who have not renewed, in hopes that they will come back. Clare also has been updating the member database and has improved the membership renewal form for web online and printable versions as well as for The Octofoil. This is one key to our future growth, and I thank Clare and her committee for their work. That reminds me, if you know of any 9th Infantry vets (especially our Vietnam veterans), members of your family or friends who would benefit from joining our cause, please direct them to become members. Thirty-five dollars annually for membership and The Octofoil is a great deal!

The Board of Governors met by phone on May 19 to review and approve a budget for the next fiscal year (beginning in July). We will be able to use this as an internal financial guide. Just so you know, we use the accounting firm of Mize Houser to prepare quarterly financial statements and guide our monthly income and expenses. Our Treasurer, Mary Cooper, does a great job of listing every transaction on a spreadsheet which, along with bank statements, are sent monthly to Mize Houser and me.

This past year, we have started to develop our organization as a 501(c)3 non-profit, working on various fronts - digital, legal, membership and accounting, just to name some. Over the next year, we can add to this success by seeing if we can get contributions from outside the association. I know this is a volunteer organization and I am humbled by the commitment you all have to moving our group forward!

Have a great summer! I hope many of you can join us for the August 8 digital meeting.

Pete Stern, President

9th Infantry Division Men Going Home (see pg. 9 for related story)



PFC Leslie Shankles



PFC Clarence Brotherton



SST Raymond C. Blanton



Private Walter Reuter Jr.



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OUR MISSION

This Association was formed by the officers and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the *esprit de corps* of the Division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively by means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau about the 9th Infantry Division.

TIP OF THE HAT

We thank the following members and friends for remembering the Memorial Fund and our buddies who have answered their last Roll Call.

Kaye Olson **in memory of Clyde LaBrenz**

The following people have donated in memory Of Paul Schumacher

- Linda Jorden
- Charles and Janet Bonney
- Doris Brammer
- Mary Cooper
- Linda Jorden
- Kathryn Potter
- Janet Schnall
- Peter Stern

Children of Walter Ricker:
 Jeannie Ricker Higgins & Family
 Linda Ricker Kennedy & Family
 Mary Ann Ricker Monk & Family

The current balance in the TOH fund is \$6,550.
 If you would like to donate, please make your check payable to:

Mary Cooper, 11218 Timberline Rd., Houston, TX 77043

THE OCTOFOIL

The official publication of The Ninth Infantry Division Association Inc.. Published four times yearly, January-March; April - June; July - September; October - December. Material for publication must be received by the publisher according to the following schedule:

- December 20 for the January publication
- March 20 for the April publication
- June 20 for the July publication
- September 20 for the October publication

Effective July 1, 2018, the annual fee for membership, which includes The Octofoil, is thirty five dollars (\$35.00) and must be sent to the Membership Chairperson by check or money order made payable to:

The Ninth Infantry Division Association.

Send payment to: **Clare Irwin**
Membership Chairperson
155 Jastram St.
Providence, RI 02908

Telephone: 401-855-3760
Email: clareirwin@hotmail.com

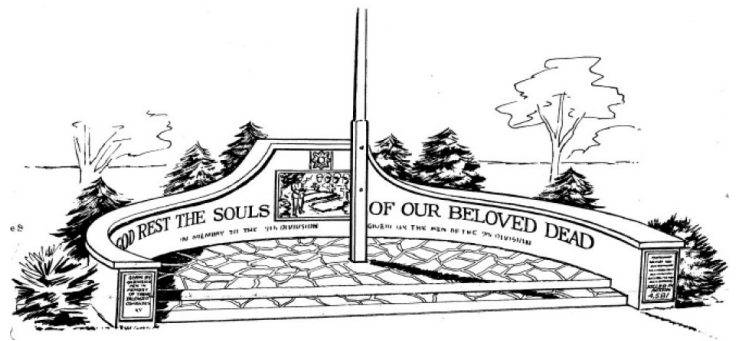
The Ninth Infantry Division Association Inc. is a registered 501(c)3 Charitable Organization of the Internal Revenue Code in a determination letter dated October 26, 2018. Contributions are tax deductible.

Volume LIV, No. 2 April-May-June 2020

Balance in all sub-accounts as of June 15, 2020

Account	Balance
General	13,902.17
Octofoil	9,091.06
Library Project	587.29
Memorial Fund	6,550.00
F.F.C.F.	5,029.95
Reunion Insurance Fund	5,000.00
2015 Reunion	3,062.49
2016 Reunion	2,591.86
2017 Reunion	4,406.78
2018 Reunion	76.44
2019 Reunion	-934.11
2020 Reunion	-1,050.00
Vets Travel Fund	5,070.99
TOTAL	53,384.92

Respectfully submitted,
 Mary Cooper, Treasurer



Friends of Father Connors Fund

The Friends of Father Connors Fund would like to thank the following new donor for her generous contribution:

Gail Eisenhauer— **In memory of dear friends, Paul Schumacher and Ron Burrus**

The current balance in the FFCF is \$5,029.95
 Continued contributions for maintenance and lighting expenses would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to donate please make your check payable to: **The Ninth Infantry Division Association.** Please note in the memo section of the check "FFCF" and send to :

Mary Cooper, 11218 Timberline Rd., Houston, Tx. 77043.

TAPS SOUNDED

The muffled drum's sad roll has beat the soldier's last tattoo;
 No more on life's parade shall meet that brave and fallen few.
 On Fame's eternal camping—ground their silent tents are spread,
 And Glory guards, with solemn round, the bivouac of the dead.

Bivouac of the Dead by Theodore O'Hare - 1847

9th Infantry Division Medal of Honor Recipients World War II

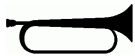
S/Sgt. Herschel F. Briles, Co. C, 899th TD Bn; Near Scherpenseel, Germany; 20 November 1944
 2nd Lieutenant John E. Butts*, Co. E, 60th Infantry; Normandy, France; 14, 16, 23 June 1944
 T/Sgt. Peter J. Dalessandro, Co. E, 39th Infantry; Near Kalterherberg, Germany; 22 December 1944
 Sgt. William J. Nelson*, Co. H, 60th Infantry; Djegel Dardys, NW of Sedjenane, Tunisia; 24 April 1943
 PFC Carl V. Sheridan*, Co. K, 47th Infantry; Frenzerberg Castle, Germany; 26 November 1944
 Captain Matt L. Urban, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Renouf, France; 14 June to 3 September, 1944
 * Posthumous award

Source: U.S. Army Center of Military History

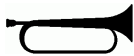
Vietnam War

SGT Sammy L. Davis, Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 4th Artillery; West of Cai Lay; 18 November 1967
 SP4 Edward A. Devore, Jr.*, Company B, 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry; Near Saigon; 17 March 1968
 PFC James W. Fous*, Company E, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry; Kien Hoa Province; 14 May 1968
 SSG Don J. Jenkins, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry; Kien Phong Province; 6 January 1969
 SGT Leonard B. Keller, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Ap Bac Zone; 2 May 1967
 SP4 Thomas J. Kinsman, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Near Vinh Long; 6 February 1968
 SP4 George C. Lang, Company A, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry; Kien Hoa Province; 22 February 1969
 PFC David P. Nash*, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry; Giao Duc District; 29 December 1968
 SP5 Clarence E. Sasser, Headquarters Co., 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Ding Tuong Province; 10 January 1968
 SP4 Raymond R. Wright, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Ap Bac Zone; 2 May 1967
 * Posthumous award

Sources: A Short History of the 9th Infantry Division and www.homeofheroes.com



Daniel Anderson
 Vietnam War



TAPS OBITUARIES

Daniel Anderson 9th Infantry Division Vietnam Veteran

We are sad to announce that on November 29, 2019, at the age of 72, Daniel Anderson of Roseville, Michigan passed away. Daniel was born on October 15, 1947 in Detroit, Michigan. He served our country in the Army with the 9th Infantry Division during the Vietnam War.

He was loved and cherished by many people including his child Kane (Tika); his grandchildren, Sky and Sage; and his brother George.

MAIL CALL

4/19/2020

The enclosed check is in memory of my brother, Paul W.J. Schumacher who passed March 23, 2020. He was a special person and brother. It has left a big hole in our family. He loved his family, his country and the 9th Infantry and a host of friends scattered across the country and Europe.

He is missed every day.

Doris Brammer
 2044 S. 1200 E.
 Oakland City, IN 47660

Explore our new website!

www.9thinfantry.org

IN THE LAST 75 YEARS...

This is the fourth and final article by Terry Barnhart that will trace the history of the Ninth Infantry Division Association as reported in The Octofoil newsletters. Mary Blann Cooper also contributed information and the photo. The newsletters from 1947-2006 can be viewed online at: holycross.edu/archives-and-special-collections/college-holy-cross-special-collections-digital-collection. Unfortunately, as of this time, newsletters since 2006 to present have not been scanned for online viewing.

Passing the Torch

After almost sixty years as a military veterans group, the ranks of the organization were thinning due to age and illness. The 58th Annual Reunion was held in Houston, Texas in 2001. Mary Blann Cooper and her sister, Bette Prochaska, helped their father, 47th I.D. veteran Jack Blann, with the reunion. It was at this successful reunion that they met many other veterans' adult children such as Jim Merrill and John Sabato that the seed of an idea was born. Why couldn't the sons and daughters form their own group to socialize and assist their aging parents at the annual reunions?

The ad hoc group continued to socialize informally, often in Mary Cooper's room, at the next several reunions in Pigeon Forge, TN; Lancaster, PA; Monticello, NY; and Washington D.C. Over the years the group grew and bonded into lifelong friendships similar to their fathers' associates and friendships. Mary Cooper and John Sabato began helping the Women's Auxiliary with the registration at the 2003 Lancaster, PA reunion, which continued for the subsequent reunions. Mary published a brief notice about the formation of the Sons and Daughters group in the January 2004 newsletter, with The Octofoil editor noting support for the group.

The first formal meeting of this group met at the next reunion in Washington, D.C. in 2005. Approximately 165 members joined and the Women's Auxiliary was very supportive and donated \$75 to help the new group with postage expenses. The Board of Governors approved the volunteer group as the second auxiliary organization to the Association. The second meeting was held during the Branson, MO Reunion in 2006. This seems to be the turning point for the group with the establishment of provisional officers (Mary Cooper, John Sabato and William Sauers) and the creation of an Association website with Torry Crass. (In 2010, the website crashed and it was deemed too expensive to try to recover. This would be rectified in future years.)

In 2006, the previous Association secretary and The Octofoil editor, Joe Killen, resigned. Bill Robey was appointed as secretary/treasurer and new Sons and Daughters member, William Sauers, was appointed as provisional Octofoil editor. Sauers and John Sabato worked to redesign the newspaper formatted newsletter into an 8 ½ by 11 booklet to help save costs. It was not overwhelmingly accepted by the Association members at first, but the format survives to this day.

The new Sons and Daughters Auxiliary grew to 143 members in 2007 and Clare Irwin became the secretary. At the 2008 Orlando reunion, discussion was initiated about starting an Octofoil Library Project to preserve and document various published and non-published materials about the 9th Infantry Division which would be useful in learning more about the Division. Many Association members responded by donating money and materials including letters, diaries, memoirs, books, photos, artifacts and newsletters. The Sons and Daughters contracted with RMMI to digitize several thousands of pages to create an impressive library of materials. These documents were later donated to the College of the Holy Cross archives in Worcester, MA in 2013. This was the alma mater of the beloved, late

Father Edward T. Connors.

The Sons and Daughters Auxiliary also began discussion of creating some long overdue memorial plaques that recognize and honor the 9th Division. Terry Barnhart coordinated the design of two bronze plaques, one at the Ludendorff Bridge in Remagen, Germany (2010) and a second at the Huertgen Forest Museum near Schmidt, Germany (2011). Later discussions also began about renovating the Worchester Memorial at the Immaculate Conception Parish.

In 2011, the successful 66th Reunion was held in New Orleans with the Saturday night event held at the World War II Museum. However, months later the Association found itself in financial distress. The secretary/treasurer and reunion chairman had refused to pay reunion bills and embezzled almost \$27,000 going back to 2009. Joe Maiale remained as president and the Association bylaws were changed to allow full membership to Sons and Daughters members and Vietnam veterans. William Sauers was elected treasurer and Clare Irwin was elected Association secretary. The Sons and Daughters then used their separate checking account and over \$2,300 in funds to help the Association through these difficult times. Both Maiale and Sauers worked tirelessly to resolve the financial and legal issues. Later Prince George County (Maryland) District Attorney pressed charges, the defendant pleaded guilty and compensation was eventually recovered from the accused individual. The Association also collected on an employee position bond and all outstanding invoices from the 2011 reunion were paid by early 2013.

Successful reunions at Pittsburgh and Charleston did much to bolster the spirits and to rejuvenate comradeship of the Association. Members of the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary were recognized by the elderly Association members as productive and valued members of the Association.

Under the presidency of WWII veteran, Paul Schumacher, several younger members of the expanded Association were elected to the Board of Governors in 2014. William Sauers resigned as treasurer and The Octofoil editor and Jane Mitchell and Theda Ray were appointed as co-editors. Mary Cooper was elected as treasurer and as a result of the financial crisis, the Association hired a CPA firm to audit the financial books of the Association.

In 2014, the Worchester Memorial was renovated using some of the recovered funds from the New Orleans reunion in time for the annual services lead by the parish pastor Father Riley. The 2015 reunion was held in Warwick, RI, and the entire reunion was bussed to Worchester to see the memorial. The parish conducted a special service for the Association and served a dinner with a play honoring Father Connors and the 9th Division.

Also, at the Rhode Island reunion, the torch was finally passed to the next generation with Terry Barnhart elected as the first non-military president. Because of the changing status of the membership, a resolution was passed to explore the possibility of changing from a veteran non-profit to another type of non-profit.

In 2016, at the Ft. Myers, FL reunion, a new motto was approved: "If we don't remember, who will?" The Association also welcomed our first Vietnam veteran, Col. Charles Bonney (retired). Several other Vietnam veterans have recently joined the Association. A veteran's travel fund was established to encourage 9th Division veterans to attend the reunions. Later, the Association transitioned from a 501(c)19 veterans group to a 501(c)3 non-profit social group, but retained the same purpose to honor and remember the 9th Infantry Division. Janet

(continued on page 12)

The following article was written by 9th Infantry Division in WWII researcher Yuri Beckers. Yuri has been preserving the history and memories of the 9th Infantry Division for many years and has the research website <https://9thinfantrydivision.net/> which provides a lot of great information. He is also writing a book about the 9th Infantry Division's actions in the Hurtgen Forest. His research helped to identify a group of missing soldiers in the Hurtgen Forest, which is detailed in the following article.

9th Infantry Division Men Going Home After 76 Years

On October 14th 1944, a group of 33 men of Company C, 60th Infantry Regiment, went missing in action after attacking a series of pillboxes in the Raffelsbrand area in the Hurtgen Forest.

The battles these men participated in were brutal. Starting out from the forest area near the Deadman's Moor, the 60th Infantry Regiment attacked on the 6th of October 1944 in a western direction. Their objective was the crossroads at the southern part of the town of Germeter, known as Richelskaul. After a couple of days of hard fighting, they cut the main road here and took control of the objective.

From here, they moved south alongside the main B-399 road, dealing with more bunkers as they advanced. After they took the Raffelsbrand crossroad as well, the men of Company C dug in just west of the road, facing a series of enemy bunkers, entrenchments, barbed wire, mines and heavy machine gun nests on the other side of the road. Snipers were in the area as well. During this period, American artillery and air support was throwing rounds of explosives on the area too. The noises were deafening.

The men attacked under tough circumstances. On October 12, 1944, the 1st Battalion captured two pillboxes (above ground bunkers), and moved their lines forward. However, control of the bunkers changed hands a couple of times. Staff Sergeant Blanton and the men of C Company attempted to take more enemy pillboxes, but were met with very heavy resistance. On the 13th of October, the men of C Company attacked another bunker and tried to keep their grounds. The German forces then called in artillery and mortar fire onto their own positions, on top and around the bunkers where the Americans were. A deadly mix of sharp, hot metal and wood splinters from the trees rained down on the men. Explosions, shock waves as a result from these and deadly fire from surrounding snipers and machine guns, all found their way to the men.

Because of the intensity of the ongoing battle, other men could not go out to recover any of the wounded. The next morning, 33 men of C Company were missing. After the war, all of the missing except for four men, were accounted for. The four men still missing were Staff Sergeant Raymond Blanton, Private First Class Clarence Brotherton, Private First Class Leslie Shankles and Private Walter Reuter Jr.

Because of the terrible state the 60th Infantry Regiment was in at the end of October, another Division took over operations in this area. The war moved on, and after the war, the area was searched by foresters and bodies were recovered. Some of these remains were unidentifiable and buried as "Unknown soldiers" at the American Cemeteries in Belgium.

In 2009, a dog tag was found in the area where these men went missing. The dog tag belonged to Private Walter Reuter Jr. No other items or remains were discovered. On the spot where the dog tag was found, a make shift memorial was put

up in the form of a pile of rocks and pieces of concrete of the bunker that was blown up after the war. Several war relics were added, and in September 2011, I added 2 pictures. One of Private Reuter, and one of Staff Sergeant Blanton. Since then, the memorial really started to live, and many people visited the spot since.

Nancy Fraker, the niece of Raymond Carlyle Blanton started her research in 2008 to gather as much information about her uncle as possible. Several years ago she also contacted the DPAA, the Official U.S. Government organization for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and an investigation that was started a few years earlier, was picked up again.

During this time, I also got in touch with Mrs. Fraker, and also started to investigate the actions in the area where these men went missing. After months of studying reports, I too created a detailed report that showed the movements of these men, the last known locations, the bunker positions, I matched up the German eye witness reports, studied map overlays, and created timelines. We also studied the X-numbers. These are the numbers given to unknown soldiers. Reports created upon time of finding the remains contain a lot of information that we could use to determine if any of these might have been one of these missing four men.

After all the research, I contacted DPAA as well, and we matched our findings. It was clear that the combined research of Mrs. Fraker, the DPAA Historian and myself, were conclusive enough to exhume several of the Unknown soldiers' graves from the American Cemeteries and perform DNA tests on. By then, I tracked down families of these four missing men as well, and urged them to contact DPAA and provide DNA samples as well, which they all did.

In 2018, we received the great news that the first man, PFC Leslie Shankles, was identified as a result of our combined efforts. This was wonderful news, and after 74 years, his family could welcome Leslie home again, where he now rests.

At the end of April 2020, we received more great news. Private First Class Clarence Brotherton and Staff Sergeant Raymond Blanton had been identified too. You can imagine how special this is. These men were missing for 76 years, and now have been identified again.

We now keep our hopes up that we will hear positive news about Walter Reuter Jr. soon.

These men fought side by side as brothers, and died side by side. They have forever been connected. We can live in freedom today because of their sacrifice, and we must never forget them.

As custom, a rosette will be placed behind their names on the Wall of Missing at the American Cemeteries.

Private First Class Brotherton and Staff Sergeant Blanton are going home later this year, where they will finally get their well-deserved, last resting place, close to their families.

Let us all remember these men.



**Minutes of the 229th Board of Governors Meeting
Friday, August 2, 2019
Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square
Pittsburgh, PA**

The 229th Board of Governors meeting was called to order by President Terry Barnhart at 3:35 p.m. The president led the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed with a prayer given by Paul Schumacher ,

Board of Governors members present: Terry Barnhart, Glenda Baswell, Dennis Bonkowski, Charles Bonney, JoAnn Bryant, Mary Cooper, Mary Kay Darr, Clare Irwin, Judy Rishel, Janet Schnall, Joyce Schumacher, Peter Stern and Kathy Tapelt. Publishers/Editors of the Octofoil members present: Jane Mitchell and Theda Ray. Advisor present: Paul Schumacher.

The Minutes from the 228th Board of Governors meeting were printed in the July 2018 Octofoil and were accepted as printed.

Octofoil Report,

Janet Schnall suggested that people that present Show and Tell should send a note about their talk to The Octofoil. Clare Irwin talked about items that people have sent to her. These things can all be published in The Octofoil.

Treasurer's Report

The Financial Report for Reunion 2019 was presented. Comments on the report were the following: The Octofoil is self-sufficient, and is doing fine with the money they have been given. Mary Cooper needs a list of Veterans in attendance at the Reunion, in order to reimburse them for their registration. The amount of money for the Friends of Father Connor fund needs to be watched. There will be ongoing repairs that will be needed, so we may need to look into adding money to this fund, maybe from the raffle money. 2013 and 2014 Reunion money was transferred to Account #7 – Vets Travel Fund. Janet Schnall made the following motion. MOTION: To approve the Treasurer's Report as written. Peter Stern seconded and the motion passed.

Membership Report

Clare Irwin has been updating the data base annually from April 2016 till now. She found 1200 -1300 names on the list prior to 2016. In 2016 there were 167 members and last year there were 90. How do we maintain our membership to get us into the future? We need to investigate this further. We might ask at the general meeting for people to call or contact past members. The database is also used for historical purposes, and to record dues. Money will be needed to grow the organization. Mary Cooper stated that things may need to change since we are now a 501(c)3 organization and will make up a budget for next year.

OLD BUSINESS

501(c)3

Accountant will finalize the paper work and Mary Cooper will check with the lawyer to see if there are regulations that we need to follow. We will need to put 501(c)3 on The Octofoil permanently.

Veteran Reimbursement

We have 3 WWII veterans, 1 Vietnam veteran, and 6 new Vietnam veterans in attendance at this reunion. Table discussion.

Facebook

Clare Irwin, Mary Lovell, and Terry Barnhart looked at this to see about working with Torry Crass, but it didn't work out. Another web master, Yuri Becker, from Germany, has written a book. He lives in a town liberated by the 9th and has offered to set up a separate website for us. We decided we need to keep it based in the U.S. We want a domestic website. Terry Barnhart and Clare Irwin will find domain names for future discussion. Table discussion for now.

NEW BUSINESS

Growth of Association

Discussion on using Facebook and Website. After the Website is up and running, we can advertise our reunions. Hopefully we will gain a few new members this way. Posters were made for us to put up in Veterans posts. Charles Bonney will look at his magazines to see how they post their ads. He will also get a list of Publications.

Huertgen Forest

Second and third generations are becoming interested in what happened during WWII. We received about \$1,470.00 from a former member. Are we interested in placing plaques in battle sites of the 9th Infantry in WWII? Committee to investigate possible sites. Paul Schumacher would work on a committee of three or four, formed by Terry Barnhart.

Location of 75th Reunion

Janet Schnall made the following motion.

MOTION: To go to Fayetteville, N.C. near Ft. Bragg for the 75th Reunion. Peter Stern seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The committee will be: Terry Barnhart, chair, Charles Bonney, Mary Cooper, Mary Kay Darr, Mack Darr, Jack Dauner, Judy Rishel, and Janet Schnall.

At 5:00 p.m.. Judy Rishel and Clare Irwin moved to recess and reconvene at 3:30 p.m. on Sat. August 3. All in favor.



Saturday, August 3, 2019

The meeting reconvened at 3:30 p.m.

The Board of Governor members from yesterday were all in attendance with the addition of guest, Janet Casanave, and Advisor, Jack Dauner.

Veteran Reimbursement

We have ten veterans in attendance, Eight paid full price for registration and two paid a partial amount. Judy Rishel made the following motion.

MOTION: To reimburse nine veterans 50% of what they paid for their Registration for the Reunion. Janet Schnall seconded the motion. DISCUSSION: Peter Stern would like to consider paying full cost of registration in a couple of years. Additional comment about keeping past reunion money in Reunion Fund or move it to Vet Travel Fund. We will wait on this. Motion passed with one abstaining vote.

Website

Want to keep website domestic at this time. May need to check on young people for help. Torry Crass would like to help move forward with his site, with some of the domains belonging to us. Peter Stern made the following motion.

MOTION : To assign a committee from the General Membership to research possible people/vendors to present plans and costs for Social Media/Digital presence. This will be reported back to the Board of Governors in six months. The goal is to enhance the association's social media outreach. Janet Schnall seconded the motion. DISCUSSION: Mary Cooper will talk to attorney about regaining domains from Torry Crass. The motion passed unanimously.

Terry Barnhart and Clare Irwin will talk with Torry Crass. Terry Barnhart will tell Yuri Becker thanks for the offer, but we want to go domestically.

Huertgen Forest Plaques

We will table this until next year. We are not sure of financing at this time. There are also German opposition to some American plaques in Schmidt.

Raffle Money

Peter Stern made the following motion.

MOTION: To spend \$2200 from last year's raffle, with \$400 going to Vietnam Vets Inc., \$400 going to Quilts of Valor, and \$1400 going to the Father Connor Fund. Charles Bonney seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee

The new By-Laws under Officers: Article VI, Section 2 say the Vice-President will rotate into the Presidency when the term of the President expires. This is not always how it works. Judy Rishel made the following motion.

MOTION: To strike the sentence from the By-Laws under Officers: Article VI, Section 2, -which states the Vice-President shall rotate into the Presidency when the term of the President expires. Mary Kay Darr seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Nominating Committee will present new Board of Governors at the General Business meeting tomorrow.

FUTURE REUNIONS

We need to start looking for future sites for reunions.

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
JoAnn Bryant

**Minutes of the 230^h Board of Governors Meeting
Sunday, August, 4, 2019
Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square
Pittsburgh, PA**

President Terry Barnhart opened the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Board of Governors members present: Terry Barnhart, Glenda Baswell, Dennis Bonkowski, Charles Bonney, JoAnn Bryant, Mary Cooper, Mary Kay Darr, Clare Irwin, Judy Rishel, Janet Schnall, Joyce Schumacher, Peter Stern and Kathy Tapelt.

Nominating Committee

Clare Irwin presented the new slate for the Board of Governors.

Linda Jordan
Janet Schnall
Theda Ray

Meeting paused at 9:44 a.m. to attend General Business Meeting.



Meeting resumed at 11:17 a.m.

Election of Officers

Clare Irwin presented the officers for 2019-2020.

President- Peter Stern
Vice-President- Dennis Bonkowski
Treasurer- Mary Cooper
Secretary- JoAnn Bryant

Judy Rishel made the following motion.

MOTION: To accept the slate as presented, Glenda Baswell seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
JoAnn Bryant, Secretary

**Minutes of the 231st Board of Governors Meeting
Thursday, May 19, 2020
Via Conference Call**

Roll call was taken at 8:00 PM Central Standard Time by President Peter Stern; Terry Barnhart, Glenda Baswell, Charles Bonney, Mary Cooper, Mary Kay Darr, Clare Irwin, Judy Rishel, Dennis Bonkowski, JoAnn Bryant, Joyce Schumacher, Linda Jorden, Theda Ray, Janet Schnall, and Peter Stern were present.

Pledge of Attendance was led by Peter Stern.
Prayer was read by Dennis Bonkowski.

Budget for July 2020- June 2021

INCOME	Actual 18 – 19	Actual 19 - 20	Budget 20 - 21
Friends of Father Connor Fund Donations	1,000	2,410	700
General Memorial Donations	3,000	1,151	1,200
Membership Dues	4,700	5,700	5,300
Reunion	16,109	700	11,000
Veterans Travel Fund	1,000	300	1,000
TOTAL INCOME	25,809	10,261	19,200
EXPENSE	Actual 18 - 19	Actual 19 - 20	Budget 20 - 21
Accounting	1,950	2,175	2,000
General Donations	1,200	2,200	1,200
Legal (includes filing fees)	20	1,726	300
Membership (includes postage)	365		300
Misc.			350
Octofoil	1,000	1,585	1,000
President	0		50
Reunion	15 810	1,800	11,000
Treasurer (includes postage and Ck Order)	75		100
Veteran’s Travel Fund	750	1,300	1,000
Website			1,200
Worchester Memorial Wreath & Upkeep	140	169	700
TOTAL EXPENSES	21,310	10,955	19,200

NOTE:

Donation of \$750 to Octofoil 2019 – 2020
Actual 2019 – 2020 is incomplete (Aug – Mar)
Membership Dues line item includes Octofoil Subscription

Charles Bonney made the following motion:

Motion: to approve budget as written. The motion was seconded by Janet Schnall and was unanimously approved.
Peter Stern commented that Mary Cooper does a great job each month as treasurer.

Webmaster

Our webmaster is Richard Suls from Johnston, Rhode Island. The website is up and can be found at 9thinfantry.org.
Continue to send pictures to Theda Ray, who will then forward them to Richard. You can also pay your dues through the website.



Reunion

Much discussion on pros and cons of having our reunion this year.

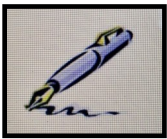
- Supports reunion
- Questions about age group
- Base says everything is still on at this time
- Dad won't be going
- Can't get out
- Travel agents say do nothing till Fall
- Too risky
- No one has asked for their money back
- Would feel bad if someone got sick
- Would want to postpone not cancel

The dates would still be Thursday through Sunday to accommodate Ft. Bragg.

Peter Stern thanked all for attending and said he would send out a letter about the website and reunion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM Central Standard Time.

Respectfully submitted,
JoAnn Bryant, Secretary



Pen to Paper - Letters to Loved Ones



The following letter from his father was submitted by Venard Paul Dean Jr. He is a new member of our Association. We welcome him to our Ninth Infantry Division Association family!

From Venard Dean
From somewhere in Germany
December 25, 1944

Dear Folks:

I received your letter of the seventh, last night, Christmas Eve. It was a real gift to hear from you at that time. I hope you all had a nice Christmas. I'm doing fine, don't worry about me. I heard Mass and received Communion, both yesterday morning and last night at midnight. We had Mass in a tent with the artillery booming all around us. It seems as though, every time, we start a Mass, our boys open up with a barrage, but as long as it's going into the German lines, it's music to my ears. Our new Chaplain, Father Curtis, is very nice, much younger than the other one, and very jolly. He's on the ball, and last night, he had us all singing Christmas carols at the Mass.

I'm glad to hear that you fixed Tony and Mary up with something for me. Thanks a lot. I meant to send some money to Ed and Retta to get something for the kids, but I forgot all about it, when the time came. I'll have to fix them up, later. I sent Mary a little bottle of perfume, from Paris, that one of my buddies got while in there on pass. I thought perhaps I'd be able to get a bottle for Retta, also, but it doesn't look like I'll get a chance, now. They've all been good to me and I don't like to slight anyone, altho, it's a difficult thing, to remember all and get into the spirit of Christmas with a war going on and conditions with me, the way they are.

Enclosed are some more pictures, you should be receiving quite a few for me, by now. I heard Eugene received his camera and is enjoying it very much. Does Paul have one? It's a nice thing to have, especially a small one that is easy to carry around. I'll bet you Eugene is getting his fill of canned rations out there in New Guinea. I put up with the same thing in Africa and Sicily. In fact there were days when even water was hard to get. We're getting fed good over here, I know I'm not losing any weight. Well, I'll sign off again, for now. Take real good care of yourselves. Give my best to all and God bless you, always.

Lots of love.
Venard



**EXPENSES AND NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)-INCOME TAX BASIS
FROM 7/01/19 TO 3/31/20
Prepared by Mize Houser and Co. P.A.**

	CURRENT QUARTER	YEAR TO DATE
REVENUE		
General Fund Income	\$ 960	\$1,960
Octofoil Funds Income	245	2,385
Octofoil Library Project Income	40	40
Memorial Fund Income	0	1,151
FFCF Donation Income	0	685
Veterans Travel Income	0	300
74th-2019 Reunion Income	0	6,837
75th-2020 Reunion Income	2,300	2,300
	\$3,545	\$15,658
EXPENSES		
Office Expenses	\$ 900	\$ 900
Postage Expenses	108	498
Printing and Copies	374	1,423
Entertainment Expense	0	300
Accounting Expense	380	2,525
Legal Expenses	0	1,726
Food/Catering Expense	1,100	10,011
Memorial Services	0	434
Miscellaneous	0	108
Donations	0	800
Travel Expense	200	1,078
	\$3,062	\$19,803
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ 483	(4,144)

STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES & EQUITY-INCOME TAX BASIS 3/31/20

CURRENT ASSETS	
General Fund Cash	\$15,214
Octofoil Subscription Cash	9,439
Octofoil Library Project Cash	627
Memorial Fund Cash	6,360
FFCF Cash	4,505
Veterans Travel Fund	4,671
Reunion Insurance Funds	5,000
70th—2015 Reunion Cash	3,062
71st—2016 Reunion Cash	2,592
72nd—2017 Reunion Cash	4,407
73rd—2018 Reunion Cash	76
74th—2019 Reunion Cash	(934)
75th—2020 Reunion Cash	500
Hotel and Bus Deposits	500
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$56,019
TOTAL ASSETS	\$56,019
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted Net Assets-Beg.	\$60,164
Current Surplus (Deficit)	(4,144)
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$56,019



**Officers and Board of Governors
2019-2020**

Officers

Peter Stern, President 3338 SW Alameda Dr., Topeka, KS 66614	785-213-2968 petetrpt@gmail.com
Dennis Bonkowski, Vice President 17929 Winsome, Fraser, MI 48026	586-533-0343 bonkod@gmail.com
JoAnn Bryant, Secretary 5235 Harter Farms Rd., High Ridge, MO 63049	314-308-2349 jlbryant1@charter.net
Mary Cooper, Treasurer 11218 Timberline Rd., Houston, TX 77043	281-679-0588 ztamkcooper@sbcglobal.net

Board of Governors

Terms Expiring 2020

Terry Barnhart 830 Lotus Way, Broomfield, CO 80020	303-466-9364 trbrnhrt@ix.netcom.com
Glenda Baswell 266 N. Gaston, Ackerman, MS 39735	662-582-0148 jgbasw@gmail.com
Charles Bonney 700 Barton Creek Dr., Dripping Springs, TX 78620	512-858-5609 cbonney@austin.rr.com
Mary Cooper 11218 Timberline Rd., Houston, TX 77043	281-679-0588 ztamkcooper@sbcglobal.net
Mary Kay Darr 4689 Hastings Spring Rd, Walkertown, NC 27051	336-595-3750 karymay925@aol.com
Clare Irwin, Membership Chairperson 155 Jastram St., Providence, RI 02908	401-855-3760 clareirwin@hotmail.com
Judy Rishel 8029 Brightwood Ct., Ellicott City, MD 21043	410-379-5831 jjr5277@gmail.com

Terms Expiring 2021

Dennis Bonkowski 17929 Winsome, Fraser, MI 48026	586-533-0343 bonkod@gmail.com
JoAnn Bryant 5235 Harter Farms Rd., High Ridge MO 63049	314-308-2349 jlbryant1@charter.net
Joyce Schumacher 823 S. Broadleigh Rd., Columbus, OH 43209	614-338-1136 schumacherj16atrr.com@columbus.rr.com
Peter Stern 3338 SW Alameda Dr., Topeka, KS 66614	785-213-2968 petetrpt@gmail.com

Terms Expiring 2022

Linda Jordan 429 Wabash Ct., The Villages, FL 32163	757-450-5623 linjorden@aol.com
Theda Ray 1040 Hickory Ln., Indiana, PA 15701	310-384-0233 thedapearl2014@gmail.com
Janet Schnall 18385 17th Pl. NW, Shoreline, WA 98177	206-542-7774 schnallj@yahoo.com

Advisors to the Board of Governors 2019-2020

Jack Dauner
Clarence Ray

Publishers/Editors The Octofoil

Jane Mitchell 89 Ray Rd., Penn Run, PA 15765	412-289-9892 jane.mitchell49@gmail.com
Theda Ray 1040 Hickory Ln., Indiana, PA 15701	310-384-0233 thedapearl2014@gmail.com



**The Ninth Infantry Division Association
Membership Application**

July 1, 2020 thru June 30, 2021

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____
 9-DIGIT ZIP CODE _____ PHONE _____
 EMAIL _____

**Regular Annual Membership Fee Includes
The Octofoil Newsletter**

	Amount Due
Regular Annual Member (\$35.00 per year) <i>(9th Infantry Division WWII Veterans and 9th Infantry Division Vietnam War Veterans serving in combat or peace time, Widows, Spouses, Lineal Descendants, and any other party interested in the history or the values of the 9th Infantry Division)</i>	_____
Foreign Country Renewals (\$45.00 per year)	_____
Amount Paid	_____

CHECK MEMBERSHIP STATUS:

Veteran _____ *(See Veterans Section Below)*
 Veteran Spouse or Widow _____
 Lineal Descendant _____
 Other _____

The Octofoil Newsletter

Check one only:
 Digital (email) version _____
 Print (USPS) version _____

Veterans Section:

Date of Birth _____
 Company/Battery _____
 Battalion _____
 Regiment _____
 Other 9th unit _____
 Years Active (ex. 1968-69) _____

Make check payable to:

The Ninth Infantry Division Association

Send to: Clare Irwin, Membership Chair
 155 Jastram Street
 Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Rev. 3-24-2020





THE OCTOFOIL

**1040 Hickory Ln
Indiana, PA 15701-2438**

Return Service Requested

History of the Ninth Infantry Division Association (continued from page 4)

Schnall, Mary Cooper and Theda Ray rewrote the by-laws which were adopted in 2019.

Under the direction of the 2019 new president, Peter Stern, a new website and internet presence has recently been established: www.9thinfantry.org bringing the Association into the 21st century.

The Ninth Infantry Division Association has survived for 75 years and continues to honor the veterans of 9th Infantry Division of WWII and now Vietnam. Even though the 75th Annual Reunion scheduled at Fort Bragg, where the division trained for WWII, has been re-scheduled for August 2021 due to the present pandemic, the Association remains strong and growing with the next generations.

**Sons and
Daughters
Auxiliary 2004**

