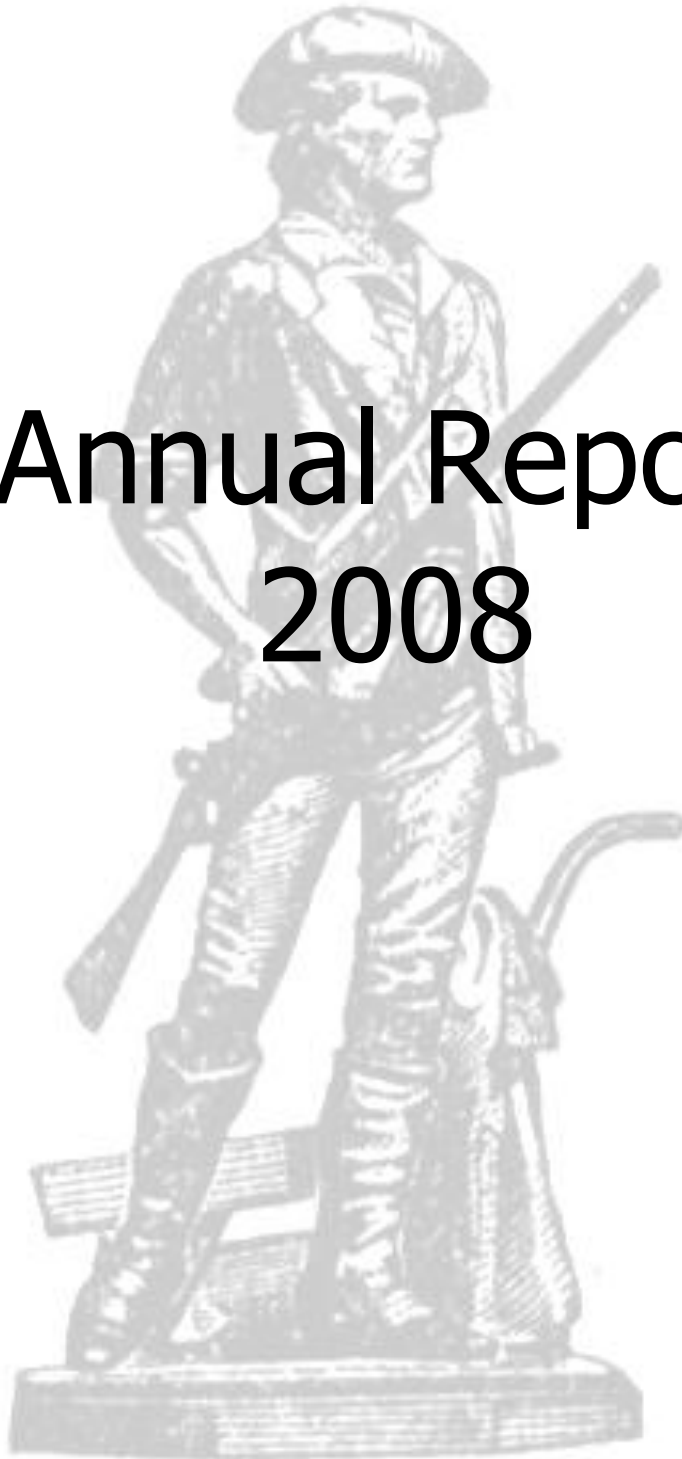


# Guardians of the National Veterans Cemetery, Bucks County

*To advocate for, protect the establishment of, and serve to defend, preserve and support the National Veterans Cemetery, Bucks County on behalf of veterans of the armed services of the United States of America.*

## Annual Report 2008



***Guardians of the National Veterans Cemetery, Bucks County  
Annual Report, 2008***

Officers: Antonio Albano - President  
Joseph Hogan - Vice President  
Daniel Worden - Secretary  
Verne Rider - Treasurer

Board of Directors:

Antonio Albano  
Richard Beresford  
Fred Caldwell  
Frank Dufner  
Brandon Flynn  
Daniel Fraley  
Edward Hackett  
Joseph F. Hogan, III  
Frank O'Donnell  
Verne D. Rider, III  
Larry Rubini  
William Trudel  
Daniel Worden

As of December 2008 there are 172 dues-paying members of the Association. Since inception we have steadily added new members each month. An average of 25 members has attended each monthly meeting.

Our unincorporated Association was formed on July 17, 2007 in support of the National Cemetery in Bucks County.

Our Association formed immediately after the historic vote by the Council Rock School District Board to sell the Melsky tract of land. This critical vote enabled the land transfers that made the National Cemetery a reality in Bucks County.

In the parking lot that night, after that historic vote, a number of veterans discussing the matter realized that the enemies of the National Cemetery would stop at nothing to derail the process. These veterans vowed to organize and to make sure that the voices of veterans in support of the National Cemetery would be heard forcefully in the halls of government, in the media and in the courts.

Thus was born the '**Guardians of the National Veterans Cemetery, Bucks County**' right there in the parking lot outside the School Board in the dark of evening.

Nine men then pledged to organize and form the Association and each contributed twenty dollars for the effort. The name of "Guardians" was suggested by Dan Fraley as symbolic of our mission and our resolve and was immediately and enthusiastically adopted by those present. Mike Fitzpatrick offered pro bono legal representation.

Immediately thereafter, papers were filed with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on July 21, 2007, after our first organizational meeting on July 17, 2007. The Edgar H. Denson American Legion Post 79 of New Hope, Pennsylvania graciously provided us with space for our first and subsequent meetings.

Our founding organizers included: Antonio Albano, Fred Caldwell, Wayne Chapman, Dan Fraley, Ed Hackett, Joe Hogan, Frank O'Donnell, Larry Rubini, and Daniel Worden.

The following Mission Statement was adopted: **To advocate for, protect the establishment of, and serve to defend, preserve and support the National Veterans Cemetery, Bucks County on behalf of veterans of the armed services of the United States of America.**

At our first organizing meeting, the mission statement and membership makeup of the organizing committee was reviewed and adopted by unanimous vote.

Interim directors and officers were elected as follows: Tony Albano - President, Joe Hogan - Vice President, Dan Worden - Secretary, Verne Rider - Treasurer

The following interim directors were also elected: Fred Caldwell, Wayne Chapman, Dan Fraley, Ed Hackett, Frank O'Donnell, and Larry Rubini

Mike Fitzpatrick Esq. agreed to serve as counsel for the new group.

Each member contributed \$20.00 for filing fees, advertising and legal fees. Tony Albano used his name and address for filing papers. The papers will be filed with the State and IRS to obtain 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. General members will be recruited for a nominal membership fee to swell the ranks. Revenue raised will be considered for support of veteran's families for interment purposes.

Dan Worden provided an update on the status of the National Cemetery. Toll Brothers is scheduled to submit development plans to the Upper Makefield Township by July 31. The Planning Commission will begin its review on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Council Rock appointed solicitor is obtaining appraisal experts so that the Court can approve the Melsky sale by the School Board. The Gunser's have written to the Attorney General asking for a review of the Federal Cemetery Ordinance to see if it is in conflict with ACRE legislation. **The legal challenges to the National Cemetery were clear. The Guardians moved into action.**

## Our First Filing Document Read As Follows:

### Guardians of the National Veterans Cemetery, Bucks County

The below listed individuals desiring to associate with each other for a common purpose met as an Organizing Committee at 7:00 PM on July 17, 2007 at New Hope Pennsylvania.

Upon unanimous agreement the Organizing Committee formed a self-supporting association.

Each member personally contributed \$20.00 for a total Treasury balance of \$180.00.

**Organizing Committee**

Antonio	Albano	744 Newtown Richboro Rd.	Richboro	PA	18954
Fred	Caldwell	8 Summit Circle	Churchville	PA	18966
Ed	Hackett	120 Hartford Lane	Newtown	PA	18940
Joseph F.	Hogan, III	44 Mountain Lane	Levittown	PA	19057
Frank	O'Donnell	15 Feather Court	Holland	PA	18966
Verne	Rider	1337 Joan Drive	Southampton	PA	18966
Larry	Rubini	55 Woodstock Drive	Newtown	PA	18940
Joe	Turner	P. O. Box 723	Langhorne	PA	19047
Daniel	Worden	395 Lurgan Road	New Hope	PA	18938

The name of the association is: **Guardians of the National Veterans Cemetery, Bucks County**

The purpose of the association is: To advocate for, protect the establishment of, and serve to defend, preserve and support, the National Veterans Cemetery, Bucks County on behalf of veterans of the armed services of the United States of America.

The mailing address is: 744 Newtown Richboro Road, Richboro, PA 18954

The Organizing Committee unanimously agreed to serve as an Interim Board of Directors.

By unanimous decision, the Interim Board of Directors elected the following officers:

Interim President:	Antonio Albano
Interim Vice President:	Joseph Hogan
Interim Secretary:	Daniel Worden
Interim Treasurer:	Verne Rider

By unanimous decision, the Interim Board of Directors directed the Interim President to expend necessary funds from the Treasury to file papers for an **Application for Registration of Unincorporated Association Name** with the **Pennsylvania Department of State Corporation Bureau** and to engage Legal Counsel to advise the association.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Respectfully: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

# Our First press release stated:

## *For Immediate release*

July 17, 2007  
New Hope, Pennsylvania

Announcing the formation of a self-supporting non-profit, non-sectarian, non-partisan, association founded by veterans whose mission is:

*To advocate for, protect the establishment of, and serve to defend, preserve and support, the National Veterans Cemetery, Bucks County on behalf of veterans of the armed services of the United States of America.*

### Interim Officers

President: Antonio Albano  
Vice President: Joseph Hogan  
Secretary: Daniel Worden  
Treasurer: Verne Rider

The Association is registered as an *Unincorporated Association* with the Pennsylvania Department of State and we have engaged Legal Counsel to advise the Association and begin activity in support of our mission. We intend to make our voice heard in the public arena in support of a National Cemetery in Bucks County.

Please direct all inquiries to:

**Guardians of the National Veterans Cemetery, Bucks County**  
744 Newtown Richboro Road, Richboro, PA 18954

On September 4, 2007 a Board of Directors meeting was held at the Edgar H. Denson American Legion Post 79. The Treasury contained \$230.00 after paying the Pennsylvania State \$70 registration fee for an unincorporated association.

Dan Fraley and Richard Beresford were elected to the Board.

### Board Members:

Antonio	Albano	744 Newtown Richboro Rd.	Richboro	PA	18954
Richard	Beresford	23 Yorkshire Drive	Newtown	PA	18940
Fred	Caldwell	8 Summit Circle	Churchville	PA	18966
Dan	Fraley	827 David Drive	Trevose	PA	19053
Ed	Hackett	120 Hartford Lane	Newtown	PA	18940
Joseph F.	Hogan, III	44 Mountain Lane	Levittown	PA	19057
Frank	O'Donnell	15 Feather Court	Holland	PA	18966
Verne	Rider	1337 Joan Drive	Southampton	PA	18966
Larry	Rubini	55 Woodstock Drive	Newtown	PA	18940
Joe	Turner	P. O. Box 723	Langhorne	PA	19047
Daniel	Worden	395 Lurgan Road	New Hope	PA	18938

Frank Dufner and Bill Trudel joined as new Association members and made the first charitable contributions to purchase our banner.

The By-Laws and Officers were voted on and adopted unanimously.

Mike Fitzpatrick Esq. was approved as counsel for the Guardians.

Dan Worden provided an update on the status of the National Cemetery. Toll Brothers submitted development plans to Upper Makefield Township on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Planning Commission began its review on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Special meetings in Addition to the regular meetings have been scheduled for August 30, September 18, and 26<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Council Rock appointed solicitor will be present at a Court hearing on September 18<sup>th</sup> for approval of the Melsky sale by the School Board. The Township has a legal opinion that it is not in conflict.

**The Guardians vowed to be present at every meeting and court hearing to represent the interest of the veterans for the National Cemetery.**

To date the Guardians have 18 members. Revenue raised will also be considered for support of veteran's families for interment of veterans.

At the Meeting of November 7, 2007 the By Laws approved at the last meeting have been signed by the Officers and are now official. Vern Rider reported our Treasury totals for the month ending 6 November had reached \$2,660.00. Frank O'Donnell reported that the total includes a \$1000 donation from American Legion Post 79, our first corporate charitable contribution. Membership had reached near 80, and we became more active legally and politically in advocating for approval of the National Cemetery.

It was reported that the court hearing concerning the lawsuit challenging the sale of the Melsky property necessary for the Veterans Cemetery is not going well. There has also been a suit filed relating to the Newtown Zoning Hearing Board. The Wrightstown Board of Supervisors is expected to approve a modification to an existing stipulation that will allow two schools to be built on the Howell tract. The VA has increased the purchase price from Toll from \$7 million to \$10.5 million. Verne Rider warned that there will be additional law suits filed.

**The members of the Guardians began to attend more court hearings and public government meetings in large numbers.**

New Business that day established our first Veterans Day event for Nov. 11, 2007 at the future site of the Washington Crossing National Cemetery courtesy of Toll Brothers Corporation who granted us permission.

**Guardians of the National Veterans Cemetery, Bucks County**  
**VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY**

Invocation: Pastor Royer, Ascension Lutheran Church

Colors: Lower Southampton & Bensalem Police Honor Guards

Pledge of Allegiance: Boy Scout Troop, Churchville

National Anthem:

Linda Deis of Holland Middle School, Council Rock School District is an honorary member of the 82 Airborne Division from her birth at Ft Bragg, NC. She will sing the National Anthem in memory of her father, US Army Captain Robert H. Deis, Sr., awarded Silver Star and Purple Heart, served with 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne New Guinea and The Phillipines during WWII.

Welcoming Remarks:

Kimberley Wright,  
Director-Memorial Service Network,  
VA National Cemetery Administration

Keynote Speaker:

Admiral Stephen Chadwick retired after 34 for years of service to the Nation. He began his career as a USMC reservist and was subsequently appointed to the US Naval Academy where he graduated in 1962. After a distinguished service career of numerous naval combat commands including command of Destroyer Squadron 36 and Surface Group Mid-Pacific, he was selected for Flag Rank while serving as the 71<sup>st</sup> Commandant of Midshipmen at the US Naval Academy.

Ceremony to Retire the Colors Guards:

Lower Southampton Police Honor Guard and  
Bensalem Township Motor Patrol Honor Guard

Taps:

by Mike Bolli, Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander

**Nov. 11, 2007**

**Washington Crossing Cemetery Site, Dolington Road**

**Guardians of the National Veterans Cemetery Meeting of December 4, 2007 showed a Treasurers Report** by Verne Rider that our Treasury totals for the month ending 30 November had reached \$4010.00. Expenses for the month related to the Cemetery event were \$769.30. Closing balance was \$3240.70. Membership was over 100 members.

**Our Solicitor's Report showed the need for our members to attend court hearings.** Dan Worden and Tony Albano reported that the court hearing concerning the lawsuit challenging the sale of the Melsky property necessary for the Veterans Cemetery has been continued. An additional land appraisal will be introduced when the hearing is continued. There has also been a suit filed relating to the Newtown Zoning Hearing Board. The Wrightstown Board of Supervisors approved a modification to an existing stipulation that will allow two schools to be built on the Howell tract. **The Guardians attended every hearing at the courthouse.**

**Veteran's Day Ceremony.** By all accounts the event was a tremendous success. The membership publicly thanked Tony Albano for planning and organizing the event. A motion was made by Bob Castor and seconded by Frank Dufner to donate \$100 each to the Lower Southampton Police Department and the Bensalem Police Department Motorcycle Unit as a means of thanking them for their participation in the event.

**Toll Brothers Resolution** Frank Dufner moved that the Guardians pass a Resolution thanking Toll Brothers for their participation in making the National Cemetery a reality. Richard Beresford seconded the motion.

**By Laws** –A proposed Charter in accordance with NCA Directive 3013, VA National Cemetery Support Committees was reviewed by the President and discussed. Verne Rider moved that the Charter be adopted. Richard Beresford seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**New Business** – The President lead the discussion about the need to set up a non profit foundation under a 501(c)(3) provision and set up a separate account for the tax-exempt Foundation. Joe Hogan reported that he has information on Grants that he obtained from Senator Tomlinson's office. Frank Dufner felt that we should seek out as many grants as we can.

Joe Hogan reported that the group from Maine has increased the number of wreaths that they distribute at Christmas and that when the Cemetery is a reality that we should try to become part of the program.

When the organization grows it was felt that we would need our own Honor Guard. Frank O'Donnell agreed to set up a coordinating group to make recommendations. Establishing this and providing uniforms will be a challenge.



Ed Hackett moved and Richard Beresford seconded a motion to send resolutions to Upper Makefield, Wrightstown, Newtown Township, and Council Rock School Board thanking them for their support of the cemetery. Motion passed.

Fred Caldwell was acknowledged for his major effort in getting four union groups to support the Guardians.

Ed Hackett mentioned to the group that it was his understanding that National Cemeteries can not be named after people and are usually names after places. A discussion took place. Larry Rubini moved that the Guardian's send a letter to the VA indicating that we feel that the name of the Cemetery should be "General George Washington National Cemetery" or if that is not possible then "Washington Crossing National Cemetery". Other names discussed but rejected were "Bowman's Tower National Cemetery" and "Dolington National Cemetery". Tony Albano seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Resolution:

The **Guardians of the National Veterans Cemetery, Bucks County**, resolved to support and recommend that the new veterans National Cemetery in Bucks County be named "General George Washington National Cemetery". Should that name not be acceptable to the Veterans Administration, alternatively we support and recommend the name "Washington Crossing National Cemetery".

Ultimately, the name we recommended, **Washington Crossing National Cemetery** was officially adopted by the Veterans Administration, National Cemetery Administration.

With the start of the New Year, our Meeting of January 8, 2008 showed Vern Rider's Treasurers Report for the month ending 31 December, with opening balance \$3,240.70. Receipts for the period \$835.00. Expenses for the period \$200 consisting of a contribution to the Lower Southampton Police Department Honor Guard of \$100 and a contribution to the Bensalem Township Police Department Motorcycle Unit of \$100. Leaving a Closing Balance was \$3875.70.

Membership was now 115 members.

**Solicitor's Report** Ed Hackett reported that the court hearing concerning the law suit challenging the sale of the Melsky property necessary for the Veterans Cemetery has been continued. The judge will hear oral or written briefs at the next court date January

23, 2008. Mike Fitzpatrick reported that the Guardians Association has been granted party status along with the School District in the sale of Melsky. We vigorously participated in, and our President testified, at the court hearings.

**Non Profit Corporation** A discussion about the need to form a non-profit arm of the Guardians took place. Tony Albano moved that the Guardians take the necessary steps to file papers to establish a 501(c)(3) organization. Richard Beresford seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Articles of Incorporation will be prepared and filed. An EIN number will be requested. The group is aware that it could take several months to achieve non-profit status.

**By Laws** –A proposed Charter in accordance with NCA Directive 3013, VA National Cemetery Support Committees was reviewed and discussed. Verne Rider moved that the Charter be adopted. Richard Beresford seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**Cemetery Name Resolution** - The President reported that letters to the VA (Under Secretary Tuerk), Senator Specter, and Congressman Murphy had been sent advocating that the name of the Cemetery should be "General George Washington National Cemetery" or if that is not possible then "Washington Crossing National Cemetery". The name we recommended, **Washington Crossing National Cemetery**, was thereafter officially adopted by the Veterans Administration, National Cemetery Administration.

**Good of the Order-** Ed Hackett reminded members to wear their medals at public functions.

At the Meeting of February 5, 2008 Vern Rider gave the Treasurers Report for the month ending 31 January. Opening balance \$3,875.70. Receipts for the period \$130.00 with no Expenses for the period. Closing Balance was \$4005.70.

Membership reported at 127 members.

**Old Business** –We discussed an Avenue of Flags for Memorial Day and Veterans Day and those activities should be coordinated with the County Honor Guards. The Guardians should consider forming a support committee for families of departed veterans. In addition public awareness should be raised through the creation of a public shrine enlisting the aid of the 58 veteran's posts in the County. Larry Rubini and Verne Rider will meet to discuss what should be considered for a future open ceremony. Joe Turner suggested reaching out to funeral directors. Joe Hogan reported that he has a complete list of all Veteran's organizations. The Disabled American Veteran's Liberty Bell Chapter 96 should also be contacted. Richard Beresford reported that he has received the names of 102 Civil War veterans buried in the Newtown area that could be considered for street names.

**Solicitor's Report** Tony Albano reported that he had talked with Mr. Wanamacher at the VA and that the Justice Department review was proceeding and that an April final contract was expected. Dan Worden reported that the court hearing concerning the lawsuit challenging the sale of the Melsky property was decided in favor of the Council Rock School District.

**Our members made a strong presence at every hearing on this matter.**

At the Meeting of March 4, 2008 Antonio Albano gave an estimated Treasurers Report for the month ending 29 February. Opening balance \$4005.70. Receipts for the period \$210.00 with no Expenses for the period. Closing Balance was \$4215.70.

**Solicitor's Report** Tony Albano reported that he had talked with Mr. Wanamacher at the VA and that the Justice Department review was proceeding. Dan Worden reported that the court hearing concerning the lawsuit challenging the sale of the Melsky property that was decided in favor of the Council Rock School District has now been appealed by Ms Stuckley and Johnson. The Zoning Hearing Board Case is still under review. Under Secretary Tuerk advised Mr. Worden that a Cemetery Director will soon be in place to field questions the process for burial. He also indicated that because there is a statutory ban on the VA naming a facility in honor of a person that the VA was seeking input on the use of Washington Crossing VA National Cemetery. The paperwork for the Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Foundation has been prepared by the solicitor and is ready for signature.

**Old Business** –Discussion continued about the need for The Guardians to consider forming an Honor Guard and members could be paid a small sum to defray expenses.

**New Business** – Marge Weiner a representative of Soldiers for Hope announced that the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Community Packing Day will be on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at Council Rock South High School, 2002 Rock Way, Holland, PA 18966 beginning at 10:00 a.m. 4000 care packages will be sent to our deployed military serving overseas. Larry Rubini announced that there will be a Senior Expo day sponsored by Representative Petri on April 11. He and Wayne Chapman will attend and set up a table on behalf of the Guardians. He also announced that there will be a Memorial Day Event at the Washington Crossing Visitors Park. Fred Caldwell reported that he has been able to obtain veteran's name from all wars. Efforts are underway to name the Richboro Commons after Bobby Dembowski. Joe Hogan reported that there will be a Saint Patrick Day parade on March 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:30a.m.

**Good of the Order**-Wayne Chapman indicated that there will be a "Give Vets a Chance" event in the near future. A DD214 form will be required and it will be a networking opportunity. Tony Albano will distribute information about the event. Frank Duffner reported that there is a great website on Vietnam on the History Channel. GSA approved flag poles are estimated to cost \$2900 each.

The announcement was made at the Meeting of April 1, 2008 that the land for the National Veteran's Cemetery has been transferred from Toll Brothers to the VA. **The room burst out in sustained applause. Our efforts have been successful.** Treasurer Verne Rider gave two reports. February: Opening balance \$4005.70. Receipts for the period \$120.00 with No Expenses for the period. Leaving a Closing Balance was \$4125.70. March: Opening balance \$4125.70. Receipts for the period \$340.00 with No Expenses for the period. Leaving a Closing Balance was \$4465.70.

**Solicitor's Report** Tony Albano described the 501(c)(3) Foundation that has been created.

The name of the non-profit Corporation is **Guardians of the National Cemetery Foundation**. The Corporation shall have an office located at 744 Newtown Richboro Road, Richboro, Pennsylvania, 18954 and at such other places as shall be designated by the board of directors from time to time by resolution.

The Corporation is organized to conduct business, engage in non-profit activities, and raise funds in order to advocate for, protect the establishment of, and serve to defend, preserve and support the National Cemetery in Bucks County on behalf of veterans of the armed services of the United States of America.

The Corporation shall qualify as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service and all applicable law. This Corporation is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. To this end, the Corporation shall at all times be operated exclusively for charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as now enacted or hereafter amended, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as now enacted or hereafter amended. All funds, whether income or principal, and whether acquired by gift or contribution or otherwise, shall be devoted to said purposes.

Funds raised by the Corporation are specifically earmarked for charitable and educational purposes related to the mission of the National Cemetery in Bucks County.

- A) Funds will be provided for supplementary programs of the National Cemetery in Bucks County.
- B) Funds will be provided for beautification and memorial programs of the National Cemetery in Bucks County.
- C) Funds will be provided for design and construction of memorials at the National Cemetery in Bucks County.
- D) Funds will be provided for beautification and memorial programs of the adjacent Bucks County Veterans Memorial Park.
- E) Funds will be provided for limited support and financial assistance for immediate family of departed veterans for purposes of funeral services or transportation for interment of persons eligible for interment in the National Cemetery in Bucks County.
- F) Funds will be provided for other charitable and educational purposes as determined by the Board of Directors and consistent with the mission of the National Cemetery in Bucks County.

**In accordance with NCA Directive 3013, VA National Cemetery Support Committees, this Corporation intends to qualify and be recognized as a "support committee", therefore our group's charter and bylaws state its purpose as:**

- (1) To advocate for, protect the establishment of, and serve to defend, preserve and support, the veterans National Cemetery in Bucks County on behalf of veterans of the armed services of the United States of America;
- (2) To support the attainment of national shrine status for the National Cemetery in Bucks County through beautification endeavors on national cemetery grounds (ex. create and maintain an Avenue of Flags);
- (3) To improve public awareness of the mission of VA national cemeteries by assisting the staff of the National Cemetery in Bucks County in the planning and conduct of major ceremonies or special events at the National Cemetery in Bucks County; and by assuming the responsibility of planning and executing Veterans Day and Memorial Day activities and other such days deemed necessary commemorating and honoring those who served or are serving in the United States Armed Forces, or those interred in that national cemetery; to promote a unified and constructive interest of all veteran's organizations, veterans auxiliaries, and any other concerned organizations in the celebration of patriotic holidays with such ceremonies as may be appropriate;
- (4) To provide limited financial assistance to immediate family for purposes of funeral services or transportation for interment of departed veterans eligible for interment in the National Cemetery.

By unanimous vote, the President was authorized to pay the \$175 filing fee. Now that we can pursue donations, corporate sponsors will be identified.

### **Old Business**

- Discussion continued about the need for the Guardians to form an Honor Guard.
- Verne Rider indicated that we should look into contacting "Wreaths Across America", the organization that supplies wreaths and Christmas time.
- Marge Weiner, a representative of Soldiers for Hope, announced that the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Community Packing Day will be on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at Council Rock South High School, 2002 Rock Way, Holland, PA 18966 beginning at 10:00 a.m. 4000 care packages will be sent to our deployed military serving overseas.
- Larry Rubini announced that there will be a Senior Expo day sponsored by Representative Petri on April 11 at Spring Mill from 10A.M. until 2 P.M..He and Wayne Chapman will attend and set up a table on behalf of the Guardians. He also announced that there will be a Memorial Day Event at the Washington Crossing Visitors Park on May 26<sup>th</sup> at the gravesites of the Revolutionary Soldiers. Major General Wesley Craig will be the guest speaker. Process Design is underway to name the Richboro Commons after Bobby Dembowski.

### **New Business**

- It was discussed that the Guardians need to create some committees for various activities. Veteran's Services and Fund Raising were suggested. Fred Caldwell and Larry Rubini volunteered that they would be happy to participate.
- New member Scott Harp circulated a relic of the Civil War in the form of a four inch pair of scissors made from bone that his great grandfather, who was a color bearer in the war, had made in 1863..

**Good of the Order-**Dan Worden reported that an obituary for William F. Clarke who died April 12, 2008 mentioned "internment at Washington Crossing VA National Cemetery at a later date".

Treasurer Verne Rider reported on May 8, 2008 that the Opening balance was \$4465.70. Receipts for the period \$340.00 with No Expenses for the period. Leaving a Closing Balance was \$4805.70. Membership stood at 134 members.

**Solicitor's Report** Tony Albano reported that the 501(c)(3) Foundation is now officially filed with the Commonwealth. The documentation has been sent to the Internal Revenue Service and to the VA National Cemetery Administration for approval.

### **Old Business**

- Discussion continued about the plans for the Memorial Day celebration at the Washington Crossing Upper Park. Larry Rubini announced that there will be a Memorial Day Event at the Washington Crossing Visitors Park on May 26<sup>th</sup> at the gravesites of the Revolutionary Soldiers. Major General Wesley Craig will be the guest speaker.
- Marge Weiner, a representative of Soldiers for Hope, announced that the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Community Packing Day on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at Council Rock South High School was very successful. 4000 care packages were packed and sent to our deployed military serving overseas.
- Mr. Wannamacher at the VA told President Albano that the VA is about ready to disclose the entrance for the cemetery and the architectural plans.
- Larry Rubini announced that the rededication of the Richboro Commons as the Robert Dembowski Veteran Memorial Park will take place at 2 PM on May 26<sup>th</sup> after the Washington Crossing event.

### **New Business**

- Joe Hogan announced that the Disabled American Veterans Lower Bucks County Chapter 117 will hold a Commander's Testimonial Dinner on Saturday May 24, 2008 from 6 PM-11 PM honoring Mike Fitzpatrick, Patrick Murphy, Dan Fraley, and Bill Tuerk for their activities in support of the VA Cemetery. Fred Caldwell moved that \$100 be authorized to pay for a Guardian full-page ad in support of the dinner. Richard Beresford seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Bob Castor has assembled a reference manual on Burials and Arrangements.

At the Meeting of July 8, 2008 Treasurer Verne Rider reported that the Opening balance was \$4805.70. Receipts for the period \$260.00. Disbursements for the period \$700 (consisting of Begley, Carlin & Mandio \$200; US Treasury \$300; The Fife and Drum of the Old Barracks \$100 and DAV Chapter 117 \$100). Leaving a Closing Balance was \$4365.70. Membership listed at 145 members.

### **Solicitor's Report**

- Undersecretary Tuerk hosted a presentation at the Washington Crossing Visitors Center that described the new VA Cemetery plan and layout.
- Mr. Cote volunteered to donate a flagpole for the new cemetery. Larry Rubini made a motion, seconded by Bill Trudel for Dan Worden to write a letter to Mr. Cote

thanking him on behalf of the Guardians after he confirms that the VA will accept the donation.

- Verne Rider reported that one participant at the presentation accused the Guardians of soliciting funds at the Veteran's Day event. This is not true and he warned about any adverse criticism that could sully the Guardians reputation.

### **New Business**

- Discussion with VA to see if they would be willing to store spears and poles and other items for holiday events in one of the historic buildings on the VA cemetery site. Also suggested that the Guardians approach the County Commissioners about naming the County Park after General Washington. A motion was made by Frank Dufner, seconded by Richard Beresford for Larry Rubini and Verne Rider to approach the VA and the Commissioners for discussions.
- Discussion to create a Website for the Guardians and have a newsletter and a membership card.

On August 5, 2008 Verne Rider reported that the Opening balance was \$4365.70. Receipts for the period \$540.00 and there were no disbursements for the period. Leaving a Closing Balance was \$4905.70. Membership stands at 155 members.

### **New Business**

- Ed Hackett reported that the Veteran's meeting at the Bucks County Community College organized by Congressman Murphy was well attended. Kim Wright and Dan Fraley gave presentations as well as other Veteran Support Organizations. Congressman Murphy announced that Darrin W. White has been named as the new Director for the Washington Crossing National VA Cemetery. He will be responsible for all administrative, burial and maintenance operations.
- Verne Rider reported that membership has now reached 155.
- It was also mentioned that the Horsham PA VA site eye clinic and hearing clinic is being expanded.
- Frank Dufner introduced his guest Josh Schaeffer. He is a principal in JS Computers and has volunteered to help us with the development of a website at a nominal cost.
- A Guardians table at Northampton Day is planned for September 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Tommy Tomlinson's Senior Expo is scheduled for September 25 from 10 AM until 1 PM at Kings Caterers. Frank Dufner, Kathy Montonario and Fred Caldwell will attend.
- Fred Caldwell reported that there will be a ceremony honoring Korean War Veterans at the Willow Grove Air Station on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM. Anyone wishing to go has to contact their State Representative to obtain an admission pass to the base.

### **Old Business**

- Larry Rubini and Jack Jameson reported that they have been able to secure two additional flag poles for future Memorial Day celebrations at the Washington Crossing Upper Park. A DVD of the last Memorial Day event will be available shortly.

- A member advised that he has some poster panels if the organization is interested. He also presented his ideas about the value of an honor guard. The creation of a method of identification for members was also discussed

At the Meeting of September 9, 2008 it was noted that the organization is becoming more formal so that ID cards, publications, websites etc., will be necessary. Treasurer Verne Rider reported that there were no transactions for the month. Opening and Closing balance was \$4905.70. Members were 155.

### **New Business**

- Frank Dufner and Bill Trudel passed around a prototype membership card for comment.. After some discussion a motion was made by Joe Turner, seconded by Larry Rubini to authorize creation of a non laminated membership card utilizing part of the Minuteman logo on the card containing a space for an Authorizing Officer
- Two new members were introduced: Barry Pilla and Eric Hutchinson.
- Larry Rubini, Frank Dufner, Fred Caldwell, Wendell Rich, Richard Beresford, Lee Brenner, Kathy Montonario and Wayne Chapman will staff a Guardians table at Tommy Tomlinson's Senior Expo to be held 25 September from 10AM-2 PM at King's Caterers

### **Old Business**

- Dan Worden reported on the VA Consulting Party meeting held August 26<sup>th</sup>. About 50 people attended the meeting because they had seen something about the meeting in the newspaper. The VA consultant asked anyone who attended the meeting to provide feedback and to become a consulting party. They indicated that there may be a need for two more meetings.
- There are three structures on the VA property that need to have a consensus as to their fate since two are in the Historical District (stone house and barn) and one (the log cabin) is potentially an historical structure. A Memo of Agreement (MOA) has to be reached between the VA, the Consulting Parties and the PHMC for the cemetery to go forward. This was to become a major delay in opening the Cemetery.

**The Guardians have applied to the VA for a lease agreement for these historic buildings to be used as Guardians Headquarters and Museum.**



**Our events for Veterans Day, November 9, 2008 were announced as follows:**

**Guardians of the National Veterans Cemetery, Bucks County**

**Veterans' Day Remembrance**

<b>Invocation&amp; Remarks</b>	<b>Pastor Eric Royer Ascension Lutheran Church</b>
<b>Presentation of the Colors</b>	<b>Bucks County Sheriff and Warrington Police Honor Guard</b>
<b>Parade of the Colors</b>	<b>Parade of all posts: Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, etc.</b>
<b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>	<b>Jonathan Stewart Boy Scout Troop 316, Langhorne</b>
<b>The National Anthem</b>	<b>Ms. Scotlyn Brewer, Council Rock High School</b>
<b>Special Announcement:</b>	<b>Kimberly Wright, Director-Memorial Service Network VA National Cemetery Administration</b>
<b>Guest Speakers</b>	<b>Ms. Kelly Fraga Congressman Patrick Murphy</b>
<b>Retire the colors</b>	<b>Taps - Mike Bolli VFW District 8 Commander</b>

**Sunday, November 9, 2008, 12:00 Noon**

**Washington Crossing National Cemetery, Newtown, PA**

In addition we assisted the National Cemetery Administration in planning for the formal Groundbreaking and Dedication of the Washsington Crossing National Cemetery.

We arranged for refreshments, volunteers, honor guards, and the donation of planting arrangement for decoration of the stage area. Mr. Robert Gasper of Gasper Landscaping of Richboro provided Green Plantings.

The dedication was a great success and we have a video record that will eventually posted on our website for all to see.

**Nov 16 2008 Groundbreaking and Dedication  
Washington Crossing National Cemetery**

**Guardians of the National Veterans  
Cemetery, Bucks County**

We are pleased to make this pre-announcement on  
behalf of

The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
National Cemetery Administration

**Formal Dedication and  
Ground Breaking Ceremony  
Washington Crossing  
National Cemetery**

**Sunday**

**November 16, 2008**

**10:30 AM**

830 Highland Road  
Newtown, PA 18940

**For the final Meeting of December 2, 2008** Treasurer Verne Rider reported that during the period 1 October-30 November: Opening balance was \$5235.70 and the Closing balance was \$4943.55. Membership is now 172 members excluding our charitable donors.

- Larry Rubini, Verne Rider and Dan Worden reported on the initial meeting with County Commissioner Cawley and Bucks Co. Parks Director Bill Mitchell concerning their plans for the County Park across from the Veteran's Cemetery. The land has not yet been transferred so planning is still in the conceptual stage. A bell tower and a gazebo may be considered.
- Since there is a vacancy on the Board of Directors Tony Albano nominated Bill Trudel to join the Board. Fred Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously by vote of the Board members present.
- The Audit Committee Chaired by Ed Hackett will audit the books year end.
- The Membership Committee comprised of Frank Dufner and Bill Trudel prepared and sent out membership renewal applications.

We have video documentation of ceremonies on Veterans Day 2007, 2008 and Washington Crossing National Cemetery Groundbreaking 2008. These videos along with hundreds of still photographs by our members will eventually be posted on our website.

We have been invited to sign a memo of understanding with VA to be the Support Committee Washing Crossing National Cemetery.

We have requested leasehold for the historical buildings on the cemetery site as our headquarters and museum.

Our 2008 Year ended with 172 members and a treasury balance of \$4943.55

## **Goals for 2009**

- Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with VA National Cemetery Administration to designate the Guardians as "Support Committee for the Washington Crossing National Cemetery"
- Establish Headquarters and Museum
- Create Commanders Advisory Committee representing all veterans organizations
- Create the Honor Guard to assist at interment ceremonies.
- Organize Events Committee to coordinate commemorative events.

- Organize Fund Raising Committee to begin public fundraising efforts.

The Audit Committee Report certifying the treasury balance and membership is attached. Our organization has grown to become the most feasible entity in support of the Washington Crossing National Cemetery. Our members have pledged to faithfully fulfill the duties of this sacred trust to create this National Shrine here in Bucks County.

Respectfully submitted,

*Antonio Albano*

Antonio Albano,  
President

***REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS***

For the year 2008, the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has reviewed and examined the books and records of the Treasurer of the Guardians of the National Cemetery, Bucks County, an unincorporated association.

The audit committee finds that the books and records of the association are in good order and the Audit Committee certifies them as complete and accurate in every respect.

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Edward Hackett  
Chairman of the Audit Committee

Attest:

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Daniel Worden  
Secretary