



# BAND OF BROTHERS NEWSLETTER



## The Villages, Florida

## March 2023

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### FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PRESIDENT

I am pleased to announce that former Vice President-South, Jack Orr has accepted our invitation to serve as Public Affairs Director (PAD) with responsibilities outlined in our Bylaws. Thank you, Jack, for your continued service and contributions to the Band of Brothers.

As you are aware from recent newsletters and conversations at our socials, we will be revising our Bylaws to be subject to, and governed by, the Non-Profit Corporation Act of Florida. As our organization is growing, we need to assure its continuity, and governance for the generations to come. We are currently evaluating required verbal changes to follow the state of Florida as well as operational changes which will make our processes smooth, coherent, and reasonable to follow.

Our current bylaws restrict voting to those members who are REGULAR Members. Regular Members are described as those who must be military veterans who were either retired or honorably discharged from active duty, Reserves or National Guard and who must have a permanent/full-time residency within a 50-mile radius of The Villages. This is what the bylaws say, and this is how we must proceed with any vote to revise or change the bylaws.

The template for new bylaws will refer to all voting members as members of the Board of Directors. It reads as follows – ***“The Organization shall be governed by a Board of Directors (the “Board”), which shall have all the rights, powers, privileges, and limitations of liability of directors of a non-profit corporation organized under the Non-Profit Corporation Act of Florida. The Board shall establish policies and directives governing business and programs of the Organization and shall delegate to the Executive Board, subject to the provisions of these Bylaws, authority, and responsibility to see that the policies and directives are appropriately followed.”***

That said, I will authorize our secretary to contact each of you by email to confirm your residency within a 50-mile radius of the Villages. A simple YES or NO is requested in response. If your answer is NO, have no concerns about being removed from our membership list. You have served our country well and are always considered a brother or sister of the Band of Brothers. The issue of residency restrictions will be brought to vote when we recommend revisions to the bylaws. You just will not be able to vote on that outcome. If you feel strongly about opening the radius of votes, please discuss this with your fellow brothers and sisters and let us know how you feel. Keep in mind that many of our members are not permanent residents of Florida and some who are Florida residents live outside the 50-mile radius of The Villages.



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Please pay attention to future newsletters that will address proposed changes to the By-Laws, which include, Quorum requirements, potential to extend the Treasurer position to honorary members in good standing – which has already been done for the position of Secretary. This will expand our talent base to include members who have not served in the military, but who have the qualifications and understanding of the Band of Brothers methods of operation. To give the Color Guard a budgeted subsidy for the expenses of outfitting a member and paying for expenses such as gas and dry cleaning of uniforms; and increasing the spend limit for expenditures without membership approval from \$250 to \$350 and allowing for higher amounts to be paid for the purchase merchandise for the BX to sell at our stores. Also, to be considered is the staggering of officer's term expirations to enhance continuity of leadership. If any of you have other suggestions for revisions, please email me directly at [usmc-vietnam-grunt@att.net](mailto:usmc-vietnam-grunt@att.net).

You can find a copy of our current Bylaws on our website – [bobintv.com](http://bobintv.com)

I welcome your participation in this process.

***Tony Carlidge, President***

**WE SHOULD ALWAYS HONOR THE SERVICE OF ALL VETERANS AND LET THEM KNOW WE APPRECIATE ALL THEY HAVE DONE.**

**“Greater love hath no man than this - that a man lay down his life for his friends.”  
John 15:1**

### **FROM THE DESKS OF YOUR VICE PRESIDENTS**

#### **Vice President, North – Bill Costello:**

The raffle for the quilt will take place on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at the Brownwood social at City Fire. Thank to Karen Marcus for her talented and thoughtful creation of this memorable quilt. The winner will have a cherished work of art. Good luck to all.

The St. Patrick's Day parade will be held on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and our Band of Brother's Color Guard will be marching. If you plan to join the march, please meet behind the old Rialto Theatre at 3:00 p.m. **See Color Guard Details below.**

Our next quarterly meeting for members will be held on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Defender Room at Lake Miona Recreation Center. Please be available to have your voice heard. Many items of importance will be discussed, including approval of language designed to keep us in compliance with the State of Florida 501-c-3 guidelines.



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**Vice President, South – Joe Marshall:**

The Band of Brothers Color Guard presented the colors at a polo match benefiting the Wounded Warrior Project. The event was held at the Ocala Polo Grounds. We were warmly welcomed and given our own staging area. We will make you aware of future Color Guard participation in events of this nature and hope you will join us in representing our Band of Brothers members and supporters.

**A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SECRETARY**

A very touching Thank You letter was presented to us on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, through our brother, Vinny Scala. The note is from a neighbor who resides in Citrus Hills with her husband who is a Vietnam Veteran. See the separate attachment to the Newsletter, titled “THANK YOU”. Soon to be found on our BoBinTV.com website.

**NEW MEMBERS IN FEBRUARY**

Earl	Bartell	-	ARMY
Bob	Bonnici	-	ARMY
Jeremy	Creel	-	NAVY
Jack	Crowley	-	NAVY
Diane	Crowley	-	NAVY
Robert	Dawson	-	ARMY
James	Decatur	-	NAVY
Carol	Dickerson	-	NAVY
Stan	Dudzik	-	MARINES
John	Dudzik	-	NAVY
Joel	Jurman	-	NAVY
Jill	Kloock	-	ARMY
Francis	Macek	-	NAVY
Tony	Marasco	-	NAVY
Bob	Sharp	-	ARMY
Dennis	Sullivan	-	NAVY
Brian	Thomas	-	AIR FORCE
Jim	Zantop	-	AIR FORCE



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Rosemary	Davison	-	Honorary
Tina	Jeffers	-	Honorary
Linda	Johnson	-	Honorary
Mary	Rhame	-	Honorary
Dale	Sedlock	-	Honorary
Angie	Sedlock	-	Honorary

***WELCOME TO THE BAND OF BROTHERS***

**SICK CALL AND BEREAVEMENT**

Celebrate the lives of recently deceased brothers, Jann Schmeichel, Robert “Mike” Duffy and Ruth Bourgeois, wife of Pat and longtime members and friends of the Band of Brothers. Your lives were a blessing to us. Plaques have been ordered.

Recently in hospital and ill are brother Jerry Sonnier and sister Gina Buell. Flowers and best wishes for a speedy recovery have been sent. We understand Gina is doing well and in recovery mode. We have not had a status report on Jerry.

Please keep all our members and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

If you are aware of any brother or sister who is sick or has passed away, please contact our Sick Call and Bereavement Director, Pamela Collins @ [collip03@gmail.com](mailto:collip03@gmail.com) or telephone her at 810-305-6759.

**COLOR GUARD**

Saint Patrick’s Day event coming up on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at Spanish Springs Muster up behind the old Rialto Theater at 3 p.m. You might want to get there a bit earlier as parking is at a premium. For those members who need to ride in a golf cart, see Commander Larry Miloscio. We are allotted six passes. The walk is only one half of a mile.

A Welcome Home Veterans Day Parade will take place on Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Park in Spanish Springs. There will be a short parade walk from the Hacienda Recreation Center over the bridge to the Memorial Park for the ceremony. Parking will be available at either the Hacienda parking lot or at Veterans Memorial Park. All veteran organizations and walkers will muster up at the Hacienda Parking lot.

Let’s support our Color Guard by attending and participating in these events.



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## **TIPS OF THE MONTH**

### **What are Aid and Attendance Allowances with VA Compensation?**

An aid and attendance allowance is paid to a veteran on claim with compensation of at least 30% or more due to the need of a spouse needing aid and assistance. A form of aid and attendance or housebound income is also available with Service-Connected Compensation (SMC). For further information follow the link to: <https://veteransaidbenefit.org/what-are-aid-and-attendance-allowances-with-va-compensation.htm> (to open the hyperlink – right click on it and choose – open hyperlink)

### **2023 VA Disability Pay Chart**

Veterans receive different pay rates depending on the type and number of dependents. To determine your 2023 rates, see the 2023 VA disability pay chart at the link: [https://cck-law.com/blog/2023-va-disability-pay-rates/?utm\\_source=Facebook&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=2023%20COLA%20Campaign&utm\\_content=2023%20COLA%20Ad%20Set&utm\\_term=COLA%202023#additional-compensation-for-qualifying-dependents](https://cck-law.com/blog/2023-va-disability-pay-rates/?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=2023%20COLA%20Campaign&utm_content=2023%20COLA%20Ad%20Set&utm_term=COLA%202023#additional-compensation-for-qualifying-dependents) (to open the hyperlink – right click on it and choose – open hyperlink.)

A big thank you to Tony Cartlidge, President for these valuable tips.

## **BLOOD DRIVE 2023**

John Salmon has notified us of the dates for the Blood Drive for 2023. See the Calendar of Events for dates and locations. A big thank you to John for securing these times and locations for us.

## **TICKET SALES - INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Our July 4th celebration will be at Gary's Ranch on Saturday, **July 1<sup>st</sup>**. Tickets are on sale for \$27 per person. Menu includes Pulled Pork, BBQ Chicken, Rolls, Macaroni & Cheese, Cole Slaw and Baked Beans. Banana Pudding will be served for dessert.



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 16, 2023      **Quilt Raffle Drawing** – note: moved to 16<sup>th</sup> so not to conflict with St. Patrick's Day Parade  
City Fire – Brownwood Social
- March 17, 2023      Saint Patrick's Day Parade.  
Color Guard Event. 3:00 p.m.  
Spanish Springs
- March 28, 2023      March Birthday Celebration  
Sumter Landing Social  
BX open for Shopping at Sumter Landing
- March 29, 2023      Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day  
Color Guard Event – 10:00 a.m.  
Hacienda Recreation Center to Veterans Memorial Park
- March 30, 2023      March Birthday Celebrations - Brownwood Social  
BX open for Shopping at Brownwood
- April 19, 2023      Quarterly Membership Meeting  
Lake Miona Recreation Center  
Defender Room, 7:00 p.m
- May 11, 2023      Blood Drive, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm  
Eisenhower Parking Lot
- May 12<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023      Band of Brothers Group Cruise  
See **REPRINTS** below for info **and Transportation Logistics.**
- July 1, 2023      July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration at Gary's Ranch – Tickets on Sale  
\$27 pp – See Diana or Bill Fanelli for your reservation(s).



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(continued)

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|------------------|--|
| July 19, 2023    | Quarterly Membership Meeting<br>Lake Miona Recreation Center<br>Defender Room, 7:00 pm |
| August 10, 2023  | Blood Drive, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm<br>Laurel Manor Parking Lot                             |
| October 18, 2023 | Quarterly Membership Meeting<br>Lake Miona Recreation Center<br>Defender Room, 7:00 pm |

Social Meetings are held at City Fire, Lake Sumter Landing, every Tuesday, 2-4 pm and at City Fire, Brownwood on every Thursday, 2-4 pm.

## REPRINTS FROM PAST ISSUES

Once again, Cricket Cruise & Travel, LLC is coordinating a Band of Brothers Group Cruise scheduled for **May 12-20, 2023** at a mid-balcony, double occupancy rate of **\$2914.98 for 2 individuals**. We have attached a flyer with additional information for you to review. Kindly direct all questions to LeAnne, the contact on the flyer for questions regarding the Cruise.

**Transportation** has been arranged by Barbara Dasinger. Barbara has hired a bus to transport all to Port Canaveral the morning of the cruise, Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Departure will take place at Lamers Bus Property in Wildwood. You will be able to park your car at the Lamers property, free of charge for the 8 days we are gone – it is a gated and locked facility. Please arrive by 8:15 a.m. to begin loading. The bus will depart at 9:00 a.m. SHARP – If you are late, be prepared to see us waving as we drive by!!! The bus will pick up us at the port on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> for our return home. The cost will be \$60 per person, round trip. Cash or check will be accepted by Barbara Dasinger. This must be paid to Barbara by April 7<sup>th</sup>. Barbara Dasinger contact information: 2475 Tartan Lane, The Villages, FL 32162. Phone 334-324-3583.

*Please note: This is not a Band of Brothers sponsored event.*



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## **REPRINTS FROM PAST ISSUES**

*(continued)*

A priceless coin has been found at the City Fire location in Sumter. The coin reads – “**Brigadier General – Air Force – Rich Moss**”. We do not have Rich Moss on our membership roster. If anyone knows him or of a possible relative who may have carried it, please contact the management at City Fire. It is locked in their safe. This may be a “challenge coin”.

## **FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

The Band of Brothers Birthday Cake for all members who have birthdays in the month of **March** and **The Band of Brothers PX** will be held on **Tuesday, March 28th at City Fire, Sumter** And **Thursday, March 30<sup>h</sup> at City Fire, Brownwood**. The BX will be opened in its entirety on both dates. Thank you, Diana and Bill Fanelli and Tim Trebil, for your tireless efforts in bringing great merchandise and sales to the BOB.

The Band of Brothers sells 50/50 tickets at each social meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning at 2:00 pm. To obtain your tickets, see your Sergeant-at-Arms. Cut-off for ticket sales is at **3:15 pm**. We have three (3) prizes each week pending the amount of funds collected.

Band of Brothers Members: Our main way to communicate with membership is via email. We try to send out minimal emails per month. One in the form of a Newsletter; however, there are other emails for emergencies or important announcements that need to be sent out immediately. If you do not wish to receive emails from the Band of Brothers or do not wish to continue your membership, please let us know. You can unsubscribe at the bottom of any email you receive from us and you will be eliminated from the Club Roster.

**The New Organizational Chart for the Band of Brothers** is attached and can be used to contact the Officers and Executive Board members. It includes the names, positions, photographs, and email addresses and telephone numbers. If you have a question about a particular area, please refer to the chart and its accompanying roster. A big THANK YOU to former VP-North, Mario Bautista for his continued help in updating this information for us.