



Armed Forces Heritage Museum

Post Office Box 324, Wrightstown, New Jersey 08562

www.afhmus.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

August 2016

Col. Bob von Barga, USAF Retired

AFHM is moving rapidly on several fronts. This report will provide you with a "How-goes-zit".

Fund Raising

- Fund Raising, under the leadership of Roy Plummer, has been at the forefront of our activity this summer. A Grant Writer has been engaged and we are actively pursuing grants from several organizations. Our objectives will not be accomplished without a major increase in funding. The mobile museum project alone will require an initial investment of \$40,000. BigMO, the large tractor-trailer will require upwards of \$500,000 to obtain ... and then an operating budget of several hundred thousand annually. Needless to say, these monies will not be raised without the active support of the membership
- **Annual Dinner** – The Annual Dinner, a major fund raising event, will be held on Saturday, November 12, at the Deerwood Country Club in Westampton, NJ. General Dutko is chairing the committee planning for this event. *Please save the date and be prepared to assist in the fund raising activity related to this dinner.* You will be provided the opportunity to optimize the fund raising potential of the commemorative journal by soliciting advertisements and purchasing a booster entry and getting others to become a booster. However, what this event needs most is have members attend and participate in the festivities.

Mobile Museum

- **MiniMO:** A Request for Quote has been sent to two fabricators to submit bids to outfit the exhibit space in the 32 foot trailer that will be AFHM's entry into mobile museums. The exhibit space has been designed to afford inexpensive and easy change out of exhibits. Four exhibit sections will be viewed from the side of the travelling museum: Living History/Virtual Education video; 100 year history of Camp Dix; Military Technology – Past, Present & Future.
- AFHM extends sincere thanks Frank Grochal and General Dutko for their contributions that were utilized to refurb the trailer and affray fabrication and construction expenses.



- **BigMO:** A mobile museum that will be housed in a 53 foot tractor trailer, remains AFHM’s ultimate objective in taking the message to the public. Al Buchan has volunteered to chair the committee to develop the exhibits for BigMO. We have held several meeting with Steven Edwards, CEO of the New Jersey Hall of Fame, to gain knowledge and develop fund raising ideas and exhibit design concepts. Recently Steve visited JBMDL and conferred with MGen Rick Martin, Commander of the Expeditionary Center.



*Pictured (L to R):
Nino DePasquale, Roy Plummer, Bob von Barga, MGen Rick Martin, Steven Edwards with his daughter,
Frank Grochal, BGen Bob Dutko)*

Virtual Education

- A documentary on Air Force Ravens featuring Senior Airman Kristine Glen – one of only 15 women to be Raven qualified. Ravens are an elite Air Force Security Force who supplement flight crews when airlift missions transit hostile regions.

Living History

- Congressman Tom MacArthur, NJ3, introduced the new Ernest Kaufman video. Ernest, age 96, was born in Germany, was imprisoned in Dachau during “Crystal Nacht -- The night of the broken Glass”. His family was able to arrange for his release and Ernest was one of the last of the Jewish people to escape Nazi Germany in 1939. Ernest’s accomplishments as an Intelligence Officer in the US Army during World War II have the makings of an Academy Award Movie. His video is available on the website: afhmus.org
 - A screening of the Ernest Kaufman video at the Katz Jewish Community Center in Cherry Hill is scheduled for Noon on Thursday, October 6th at Noon. Lunch will be provided.

Communication

- **Website upgrade** - Nino DePasquale has totally revised the outlook of the AFHM website. The new website is crisp, modern and user friendly. Please take a moment to visit www.afhmus.org and familiarize yourself with the new look!
- **Facebook** – AFHM’s page on Facebook documents the organization’s activity. Members are asked to provide photographs and narrative to Oren Carrol for posting on the website.
 - AFHM is seeking a member to manage input into Facebook and other media outlets. (Twitter, Pinterest, Historypin, etc.) Please contact Oren Carrol (oren.carrol@comcast.net) to discuss your availability.
 - The objective here is to determine the best way to reach our target audience. AND ... how to tailor the message to reach the largest group with the greatest comprehension.

Commemoration – From Camp Dix to Joint Base MDL - (1917-2017)

- Colonel Thaden, Joint Base MDL Commander, has initiated formal planning for the Centennial Commemoration. He appointed Colonel Marty Kline, Deputy Base Commander and Commander of the Army Support Activity at Dix, to lead the effort. There have been two meetings to begin the planning process. Stand by! This is going to be a year of distinctive remembrance!
Photo taken at initial planning meeting.



Chamber of Commerce membership

- AFHM has joined The Mid-Jersey Chamber of Commerce and the Burlington County Regional Chamber of Commerce. Networking with Chamber members has resulted in funding opportunities and a most positive introduction to the business community. We look forward to expanding our interaction with local industry leaders as we become more involved in community affairs.

Annual Dues goes to calendar year

- Member dues has been changed to a calendar year basis. If your membership dues was in arrears you received a notice to advise you of your renewal status. At this time Marilyn Griffiths is doing the follow up with members who have not responded.

Networking and partnering with other museums

- AFHM is a member of the Burlington County Historians Roundtable. The Spring meeting of the Roundtable was held at JBMDL and hosted by Colonel Pavey, Commander of the 514th Air Mobility Wing.

Members are encouraged to attend monthly meetings

- The board meeting was combined with the monthly member meeting to eliminate redundancy. I fear that members feel that they are not invited to attend the third Friday meetings at the Deerwood Country Club. Be assured that member participation is essential to the success of the organization. PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING THE MONTHLY MEETING!

- **FUTURE MEETING DATES/UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Board of Directors Meeting – Members are encouraged to attend – Deerwood Country Club, 845 Woodlane Road, Westampton, NJ at 10:30 AM.**

○ August 19	○ Sept 16	○ Oct 21
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- **Screening of the Ernest Kaufman video at the Katz Jewish Community Center, 1301 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, NJ – Thursday, October 6 at NOON.**
- **Annual Dinner – Saturday, November 12 – Deerwood CC in Westampton – at 5:00 PM**

FEEDBACK REQUEST

*Your suggestions and ideas are welcome. What recommendations do you have to improve the effectiveness of AFHM? What should we do more? What should be done less? What should be changed? Your input is important to the furthering the mission. Your thoughts?
Please respond to vonbargenr@aol.com*

PLEASE NOTE:

As you can see from reading this report, AFHM has very ambitious goals! However, they will not be accomplished without raising money and having the people to achieve them. Your participation is essential, welcomed and appreciated!

“Vision without execution is hallucination”

Thomas Edison