



HMGS EAST

# Eastern Chapter Historical Miniatures Gaming Society

Tax ID # 52-1463458

3/18/2006

## Minutes of the General Membership Meeting March 18, 2006

On March 18, 2006, the Membership of the Historical Miniatures Gaming Society met for the General Membership Meeting in the Alta Vista Café of the Lancaster Host Resort & Conference Center located at 2300 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, PA.

### Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by President Fred Hubig at 8:06 am.

### Directors Present:

President Fred Hubig  
Executive Vice President Pete Panzeri  
Vice President for Convention Operations and Dealer Liaison Fred Haub  
Vice President for Promotions and Communications James Mattes  
Treasurer James Curtis  
Secretary and Vice President for Member Services Bill Rutherford

### Quorum Determination:

Secretary Bill Rutherford reported that there was no quorum of at least 40 members present, with 24 members in attendance.

### Introduction

Fred Hubig welcomed the attendees to the meeting.

### Cold Wars 2006 Report

Walt O'Hara reported:

- Convention attendance was strong, with 1,467 registered attendees as of close of business Friday night.
- He was offered – and accepted – the position of Cold Wars 2007 Director.
- The proposed theme for Cold Wars 2007 is “The Road and the Wall – Critical Feats of Military Engineering”.

### Historicon 2006 Report

Bob Giglio reported:

- The events timeline is:
  - 3/20/06: GM events registration opens
  - 4/17/06: GM deadline for event inclusion in PEL
  - 5/17/06: GM deadline for event inclusion in the printed Program
  - 6/23/06: GM deadline for event inclusion in printed Program Insert.
- Theme is: “Africa’s Independence – The Wars of Africa, 1905 – 2006”
- Several guest speakers are “in the works”, including potentially:
  - Steve Zaloga, well-known author and 20<sup>th</sup> Century warfare expert
  - Mike Blake, well-known 54mm gamer
  - Duke Seifried, well-known hobby personality



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- Advertising is well under way, with advertisements appearing in **Wargames Illustrated**, **Historical Miniature Gamer Magazine**, and others.
- Lodging:
  - The Host is sold out
  - Several other nearby hotels have been contracted to provide blocks of room at special group rates – see <http://www.historicon.org/lodginggroup.htm> for more details.
- Convention Layout:
  - Historicon 2006 will comply with local Fire Codes and Americans with Disabilities Act requirements as regards table and exhibit placement.
  - The net effect of compliance is that – convention-wide – the number of event tables will decrease by about 20.

### **Nominations for the 2006 HMGS East Board of Directors Election**

Fred Hubig introduced new Director James Curtis to the membership.

The following candidates were nominated for election to the HMGS East Board of Directors, in order of presentation:

- Fred Hubig, nominated by Mitch Osborne and seconded by Neil Brennan.
- Bob Giglio, nominated by Pat Condray and seconded by Neil Brennan.  
Bob thanked Pat, but declined the nomination solely on the grounds that if he accepted the nomination from Pat “that civilization as we know it would end!”
- Bill Rutherford, nominated by James Thomas and seconded by Mitch Osborne.
- Don Manser, nominated by Don Effinger and seconded by Bob Nedwich.
- James Petri, nominated by Neil Brennan and seconded by Bruce Bowman.
- Richard Wright, nominated by Bob Nedwich and seconded by Don Effinger.
- Pete Panzeri, nominated by Don Perrin and seconded by Jim Petrie.
- Dudley Garidel, nominated by Ruth Torres and seconded by Bill Rutherford.
- Heather Blush, nominated by Pete Panzeri and seconded by James Mattes.
- John Snead, nominated by Pete Panzeri and seconded by James Mattes.

**Bob Gilgio made and James Mattes seconded a motion to close the nominations.**

Passed by unanimous consent of those members present.



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## Secretary's Report

Bill Rutherford reported:

- Draft minutes from the 2005 General Membership Meeting and the 2005 Annual Meeting of Members cannot be voted on at this meeting due to lack of quorum. They will be, quorum permitting, voted on by the membership at the 2006 Annual Meeting of Members at **Historicon 2006**.
- Due to unusual circumstances for which he accepted full responsibility, he did not – in violation of the HMGS Bylaws Article IV, Section 1d – distribute a meeting notice for the 2005 General Membership Meeting. There were two lessons to be learned from this:
  - All Directors need to have back-ups in their roles so that one Director's unavailability would not result in critical tasks not being performed.
  - There is a critical need for an Operational Calendar laying out Board and Convention tasks on an annual basis so that when a task's deadline looms, more people are aware of it than just the person(s) responsible for the task.
- Membership Numbers:
  - As of COB on March 17, 2006, HMGS membership stood at 1,708, down 17.8% from the Friday night of Cold Wars 2005.
  - A likely reason for this is that there was no member pre-registration discount for **Fall-In 2005**, when many members renew their memberships for the coming year. As a result, membership renewals at **Fall-In 2005** were down but as those memberships would remain current until the end of FY 2005, this hiccup in membership renewals would not be apparent until early FY 2006 when those memberships lapsed.
  - Membership activity for **Cold Wars 2006** has been quite healthy; there have been 409 convention-related membership transactions as of COB on Friday and 96 of those are new HMGS members.
  - As the fiscal year runs on, many of the 2005 members who didn't renew before the end of the year should, especially as the member pre-registration discount has been placed firmly back into place.
- Membership Database and Lost Members:
  - The number of current HMGS members with invalid mailing addresses is down from FY2005. There's room for improvement but things are getting better.
  - If you move it's important to let HMGS know – the post office will forward some mail but it's better to get newsletters, etc., properly addressed from the start.
- Membership Data Listing Permission:
  - It is HMGS policy that members only appear in the annual membership listing if they want to be included.
  - Permissions for both mailing and e-mail addresses will be validated during the coming year, so heads-up!
- PayPal: PayPal usage for convention registration remains relatively constant at 48% for **Cold Wars 2006** pre-registrations.



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### Treasurer's Report

James Curtis reported:

- At the end of FY2005 HMGS had a net income for the year of \$37,499.
  - Cold Wars 2005 net income was \$27,039.
  - Historicon 2005 net income was \$44,956.
  - Fall-In 2005 net income was -\$4,917.
- Basis of HMGS operating reserve:
  - James described the rationale for maintaining a funds reserve, i.e., to weather fiscal adversity.
  - Rick Egtvedt noted that HMGS is a non-profit organization but *is* allowed to make a profit from its non-profit work. The profit, however, needs to be used in furtherance of HMGS' mission.
  - Pat Condray noted that solvency should *not* be treated by HMGS as a curable disorder.
- HMGS financial reports are posted in the files area of the HMGS Issues Forum Yahoo Group. This group is open to all current HMGS members. The most recent reports will be uploaded in the next week or so.
- A member addressed from the floor the possibility of using the HMGS scholarship program as a promotional tool. James Mattes advised the member that the scholarship program had been ended.
- Fred Hubig briefly discussed the various History Day competitions around the country and how HMGS supports them.
- Neil Brennan applauded HMGS' work on making its membership database more accurate and noted that some past convention attendance figures, for example, may have been a bit inflated due to double-counting, etc.

### Director Jim Birdseye

Fred Hubig advised the attendees that Jim suffered a stroke in mid-February, that he is recovering, and that HMGS is keeping him in our thoughts.

### VP for Promotions and Communications Report

James Mattes reported:

- Themes:
  - Making more effective use of themes in promotions.
    - The Fall-In 2006 theme will be "The Citizen Soldier 1607 – 2007"
- Audio Reports: These were used for the first time on the **Cold Wars 2006** website with conderable success.
- HMGS Newsletter – Expect to see two new issues by the end of May.
- Exploring "During the convention" on-line reporting with possible live convention feeds to the internet.
- Other on-line promotion opportunities being pursued.
- HMGS is providing outreach support to other conventions, e.g., **Bayou Wars**.



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- HMGS support to affiliated clubs is generally limited to providing support with mailings for their events.
  - HMGS needs input, however, to support these mailings.

## VP for Convention Operations and Dealer Liaison Report

Fred Haub reported that:

- HMGS' conventions are doing well.
- Events Management: Fred is the chair of an Events Management Requirements Committee that is working to establish functional requirements to allow automation of much of the events management process.

## Executive VP Report

Pete Panzeri reported on his work with:

- The events registration automation effort.
- The HMGS Awards Program.
- The effort to bring to currency the HMGS bylaws, policies, and SOPs.
- The convention site search, including the Pros and Cons of various sites.

## ThemeCon

Fred Hubig briefly presented a project to:

- Combine the American Civil War weekends that he's run in the past with the Napoleonic Wars weekends that Pete Panzeri's run in the past into an HMGS ThemeCon weekend.
- Featured Battles would be the First Bull Run and Jena-Auerstadt.
- Tentative date of September 22 – September 24, 2006.
- ThemeCon venues discussed.

**Bill Rutherford made and Pat Condray seconded a motion to adjourn.**

The motion passed by acclamation at 9:20 am.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_  
Fred Hubig, President

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Rutherford, Secretary

DATE \_\_\_\_\_