Minutes from July 24 meeting for Lee’s Final Retreat 1865: The Rear Guard Action from Amelia Springs to Saylor’s Creek

Attending: Mike Hendricks, Mike Rippl, James Owens, Paul Penrod, Lester Schumacher, Donna Nangle

March Route/Camps: Lester reported that Mr. Poore has contacted all but 2 of the landowners. The site for the Federal Saturday night camp and Tom T. Hall. The Confederate Saturday night camp site has been secured. He also spoke to James (on Selma Rd) about walking a possible route to the park. He also got the contact for placement of Confederate Artillery on Selma Rd. where the troops come out (Bruce & Mary Brudge at 804-561-6583).

Water: Dan Morgan from the 10th VA said he could provide cases of bottled water. It was discussed that a water tanker would be better than water buffalos from Ft. Pickett.

Wagon/Mounted Artillery: Mike Graff (4th VA) will be providing one wagon. James will give Mike H. the contact for a wagon from Roanoke. Haymaker-static gun for Confederated. Mounted Confederate artillery – James (Kevin Yarzo) & Lester (group from Alabama) will give Mike H. contact information.

Confederate Mounted: It was discussed that a small contingent of Confederate mounted would be useful.

Communications:
- It was discussed that there is a need for someone to be the POC for forums on the Internet (Authentic Campaigner, Zwabo). Jerry Todd was suggested as a good person for this task.
- Rob Westbrook will be Jerry’s backup on the website.
- Take out announcements in Camp Chase Gazette & Civil War News.
- Have articles on what the event will do for the park (burying the power lines) in the CW News & Camp Chase Gazette (work with Dave Born).

Registration:
- Rob Westbrook will be using the same post office box open for Burkittsville for LFR.
- Have a direct mail campaign along with the registration material in two formats on the website (Word/PDF).
- Have both Unit and Individual registration options.
- Have registration at two fees based on date - $30 then $35.

Insurance: Mike R. said that the policy we were going to use as a holding policy is not available. James is going to follow up with the Potomac Legion about using their’s as holding policy. The committee will send a letter spelling out the use. Mike R. also suggested that policy be worth $2 million and include liability to protect the public & landowner.
Federal: James said that he’s asked Bill Sterner (83rd PA) to command the Eastern troops. He’s also suggesting Dom DelBellow or Steve Dunfee for overall command.

It was also discussed to give Bill Watson a role on the committee. It was suggested that he be asked to write press releases because of his background.

Committee Leadership: Committee leadership was discussed – there are reports out in the community that less support of the event will be given if James & Lester’s names are prominently attached to LFR. It was decided that Mike Hendricks and Paul Penrod will be the “public face” of the committee.

Mike H. will follow-up on the Campaigner Event Meeting. If nothing is done, he will set it up.

Traffic Control: Need to arrange for police to block off Selma Rd. from the bridge to Confederate campsite on Saturday during troop movements on the road. (Note: need to notify residents in advance).

Civilians: No clear role – they would need to identify where they would be and what they would be doing. Note: house on Soapstone Rd. and Saturday campsites. Emmanuel Dabney would be the primary POC with Cheryl Parlati as backup.

March Route: Mike H., Mike R., James, Lester & Paul went over the march route Starting from the Friday night camp site through all but the last segment. Notes were taken about where improvements need to be made. For example where the trail needs to be widened or where the river crossing needs to have the banks opened and grated. Maps need to be available for the next walk through.

Questions to answer:

Route from Selma Rd. to park
What is the minimum amounted needed to be raised to support the event (insurance, johns & food)
Advertising the event

Goals/Event Overview:

Goals

(1) Providing a campaigner style event.
(2) Battlefield preservation and interpretation.
(3) Public education.
Event Overview

Lee’s Final Retreat 1865: The Rear Guard Action from Amelia Springs to Saylor’s Creek

LFR is a campaigner style event recreating a small portion of the retreat to Appomattox.

The forces involved will be comprised of two to three Battalions on each side. Including attached artillery, cavalry and wagons.

The action will occur over an 8 mile stretch, to be covered in 2 days, with no more than 4 miles per day. This will be completed in a country-side relatively unchanged since 1865.

There will be two engagements each day. The event culminating with a recreation of the engagement at Hillsman Farm and the capture of the Confederate troops. A joint memorial service will be conducted at the battle monument.

Saylor's Creek 1865 - Committee Members

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