



The Stow Minutemen

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Captain's Notes...the view from the front

Warmest Greetings and Happy Holiday Salutations

At this time of year we look back at the past activities of the Company and also look forward to the upcoming season for 2009. We had a very busy year. There were events where we were the host and others where we were guests of other units or entities. The Trail March wasn't rained out as it was in '07. Hartwell in June and OSV in August were excellently orchestrated with everyone pitching in to help. We had parades, encampments and demonstrations that we've done for years and a couple of things that were brand new to us. All in all I'd say it was a pretty good year.

2008 also saw the Company becoming incorporated with the Commonwealth. This is a huge undertaking and it was something that I've wanted for us for a very long time. The next step will be for us to get our Federal non-profit status squared away and that will take some work by those in the Officer corp of the Company to finalize. Once we are established with this designation we'll no longer be taxed for goods purchased for the Company. Also certain things that individuals buy to use with the Company they can take the cost off on their own tax filing. We need to get someone involved (an Account or Tax Attorney) in this process who has been down these roads before to make sure that we do it right.

Another topic that we will certainly discuss at the Annual Company Meeting in January will be our Scholarship program. For each of the next couple years the Company will have several qualified Members graduating High School and hopefully heading onto college. So we may want to look at the current Scholarship program and how it may change going forward.

Speaking of the Company Meeting; if any Members out there are interested in helping the Officers with their tasks and perhaps eventually becoming Officers themselves I am interested in talking with you about that. I will not be Captain forever and several of the other Officers have mentioned that they would like to see new blood coming forward in the running of the Company. And while the By-Laws do not mention Term Limits of Offices held, I think that it is a good thing for the life and longevity of the Company if there are some different people in the different positions every couple years or so. Each of the Offices holds its own special challenges and there is a certain amount of work involved, but it is not hard work and I have found it very fulfilling. So, if you're thinking that there is more you would like to do for the Company and are interested in what is the next step for you, please talk with one of the Officers about it.

I remain your most humbled and obedient servant,

Rick Lawson, Captain

Member Notes

Gary Langenwaller, our Northwest contingent, completed his Masters of Theological Studies at Boston University this September. Congrats, Gary!

Annual Meeting

**Saturday, January 24, 10:30am:
Stow Library**

Future Events

(More detailed event info can be found at www.stowminutemen.org)

January

Sat 24th - Stow, MA - Annual Company Meeting

April

Mon. 20th - Trail March to Concord

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