

## 1715 Fleet Society Member Meeting

Date: October 31, 2022

Location: Bonfish Restaurant, Vero Beach, Florida

Attendees: See listing

The 1715 Fleet Society President Ben Costello called the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M.

Old Business: No old business for discussion at this time

New Business:

- There are now 171 members
- There are now 5 Board Members
  - Ben Costello, President
  - Phil Flemming
  - Craig Grella
  - Meredith Hoppe
  - Steele Stenger
- Advisory Board Listing
  - Phil Flemming
  - John de Bry
  - Dave Crooks
  - Jorge Proctor
  - Charlie Winn
- At the present time, the treasury shows around \$22,000. Discussions were held regarding RMD availabilities for donations to increase the bank account. People can donate RMD to society for educational programs
- The new structure of the 1715 Fleet Society was discussed. The Society is now a 501 C3. The new status gives new funding opportunities to the 1715 Fleet Society.
- The status allows for grants which can be used for other areas of increased awareness for society. i.e., McClarty Museum
- Need to reach out to local businesses for support
- Discussed the website and the possible need for increased social media for new members
- Current membership represents many areas in the US and other countries. How do we keep connected?
- A discussion was held regarding 5 regions, Western, Central, Florida, Southern, and Northern. They would have regional directors and could have regional meetings
- Open discussion on the taxability of business donations, frequency of conferences, speakers, and the possibility of utilizing Zoom meetings.
- Discussion regarding increased social media and its impact on the younger generation.
  - Ideas included Boy Scout merit badge, working with local community businesses
  - Facebook, YouTube, and other sources of social media
- Discussion continues regarding the division between Archaeologists and treasure hunters (salvors)
- The second book is not ready to be released until around January.
- There may be a Second edition of the 1<sup>st</sup> volume for those that missed the opportunity to get the 1<sup>st</sup> edition.
  - After much discussion, the meeting was adjourned by Ben Costello at 8:50 P.M.