

BOBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

VIA ZOOM

October 25, 2025

Board members present: Madeleine Bryant, Doris Davis, Kristen Faller, Kevin Hinkle, Steven Landry, Gail Larke, Ken Larke, John Mohor, Leon Reed, Mary Ann Coates Smith, Craig Stiegemeier, and Joe Wollet.

Chapter Presidents present: Jim Pennock, Mary Ann Coates Smith, and Leon Reed.

Others present: Marshall Anderson, John Baker, Christopher Churylock, Carol Higgins, Gary Higgins, William Jannace, Diane Landry, William “Sean” Lee, Barbara Mooneyhan, Debbie Starr, Jeanne Thornton, Cathy Wollet, and Joel Lamberty (overseas).

Call to Order: President and CEO, Steve Landry, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Kristen Faller conducted us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Madeleine Bryant gave the invocation. Steve thanked Madeleine for her many years of service to the BOBA Board and the Battle of the Bulge Organization.

Gail Larke asked for approval of the minutes from the Annual Membership Meeting held on November 2, 2024, posted on the BOBA website. Madeleine Bryant made the motion to accept the minutes as presented and Leon Reed seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s report ~ Mary Ann Coates Smith and Steve Landry

Mary Ann reviewed the accomplishments from 2025, which included filing of all 2024 income taxes, transitioning to the fiscal year, and all invoices approved and paid. Our 2025 Reunion held in Philadelphia slightly exceeded our expenses. The silent auction generated \$1,800.00 in income.

Steve reviewed the fiscal year 2025 Budget report which began with a balance of \$112,635.24. We ended the shortened fiscal year with a balance of \$113,841.99.

He also reviewed the current fiscal year through the end of the second quarter (April 1st through September 30th). Our total net income for the first and second quarters is \$23,047.46 and our current balance is \$136,889.45, however approximately \$12,000 in Reunion bills remained to be paid on September 30th. Ken Larke made the motion to accept the Treasurer’s report, seconded by Gary Higgins. All were in favor, and the motion was carried.

VP Membership Report ~ Joe Wollet

Our total paid-up BOBA membership is 570 as of October 25th, 42 of which are WW2 Veterans. Unfortunately, our member losses have outpaced our gains in 2025, as our

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total membership one year ago was 613. Although we gained 78 new members from one year ago in 2024, we have dropped 75 members who are inactive and lapsed their memberships in 2024 and the deaths of 48 Veteran members were recorded. Joe is planning a mail campaign to encourage renewal of memberships before the end of 2025. BOBA is repeating the membership promos that were available in 2024. Both these promos are effective until December 31, 2025, and are not to extend beyond 2028. Carol Higgins thanked Joe for all his hard work and campaigning for memberships. Joe acknowledged many others for their help in recruiting new members.

Marshall Anderson commented that there is no way to check on membership status through the BOBA website. Joe said he maintains an Excel membership spreadsheet, and he will answer any email regarding membership status at BOBAmembership@gmail.com. John Mohor made a motion to approve the report, seconded by Kristen Faller. All were in favor, and the motion was carried.

2026 Commemoration ~ Mary Ann Coates Smith

The dates for the Commemoration are January 21st through the 24th. Reservations have been made at the Embassy Suites in Arlington, VA and include a hospitality room. The Embassies of Luxembourg and Belgium have confirmed their attendance at the ceremonies held at Arlington Cemetery with an invitation for all attendees to attend a reception at the Belgian Ambassador's residence. Bus service to our wreath-laying event has been reserved. Full details and registration on our website are forthcoming. Checking out on January 24th will allow travel time for those who are attending the WW2 Experience in Gettysburg on January 25th. John Baker commented that a block of rooms has been reserved for those attending the event in Gettysburg at a rate of \$88/night at Best Western. Joe will be sending out an Eblast regarding the event in the next week or two.

2026 BOBA Reunion ~ Steve Landry

Tentatively, Richmond, Virginia has been considered as a possible location, but nothing definite in the works as of yet. Steve confirmed that September 20th through October 10th are not possible dates for the reunion, as he & Diane will be away celebrating their 50th anniversary.

Nominating Committee ~ John Mohor

John reviewed the list of candidates for the upcoming election to be held on November 2, 2025. Two additional names have been added to the list of Board Member-at-Large nominees: Carol Higgins and Christopher Churylo. All the necessary paperwork has been

completed for their nominations. Gary Higgins asked if there was a term limit for Board positions. Steve answered that according to the by-laws, the only restriction he is aware of is the President can only serve three years. All other Board positions can serve as long as they wish. John commented that current members of the Board who have been in position for two years (not necessarily contiguous) are the only ones eligible for the to be nominated for the position of President and Executive Vice President.

Election Process and Dates ~ Joe Wollet

Joe explained the voting process, which is the same as last year. Voting will be conducted online using the OpaVote software. An email address is absolutely necessary to cast a ballot, and only one vote per email address will be accepted. The polling period is November 2nd through November 8th. All results will be available no later than November 14th.

Open Forum ~ Steve Landry

Steve noted that any members who contacted Myra Miller at our 2024 Reunion in St. Charles, Missouri) regarding researching their Veteran should contact her as she has had a number of rejected emails due to bad addresses. Her email address is Myra@footstepsresearchers.com. Steve gave Myra a high recommendation from his own personal experience.

Mary Ann commented regarding the eBlast sent out on the sixth annual WW2 event in Glen Allen, VA from November 7th through the 9th. All the rooms that were set aside have been booked, but attendees need to call Bruce Venter, who is the owner of the organization.

Joe Landry has been invited to the American Valor Salute to Heroes and Gala on November 6th, 7th and 8th. We are so proud of you Joe! Doris suggested it would make for a great article for the Bulge Bugle. Steve informed us that this event will be televised nationally on Veteran's Day.

Steve & Diane Landry will be laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Veteran's Day, along with John Wood and Cameron Lee Wood as part of the national ceremony. BOBA is part of what is called the Veteran's Day National Committee that helps work with the VA to plan all of the Veteran's Day events. BOBA is considered an emeritus member due to the fact that so many of our Veterans are deceased.

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Madeleine Bryant thanked everyone for their kind words and support that she has received over the past 15 plus years of service to BOBA. Madeleine especially thanked our Veterans for the privilege and honor of knowing them all on a personal level.

Doris Davis will be in San Francisco on Veteran's Day meeting the prime minister of Luxembourg with a few of our Veterans.

Mary Ann Coates Smith will be at the Virginia War Memorial on Veteran's Day attending the wreath-laying ceremonies.

Craig Stiegemeier called in with the question about the 501©(3) umbrella and chapter status. Steve and Gary Higgins suggested he pose the question back to Alan Cunningham, who may have more information.

Barbara Mooneyhan shouted out to Joel Lamberty from Belgium who is one of BOBA's biggest admirers. Joel speaks to every person he gives a tour to regarding BOBA membership.

Steve reminded the Board members that our next meeting is on November 17th*, from 7 to 9 p.m. The focus of that meeting is the Strategic Plan. The next deadline for the Bulge Bugle is today, October 25, 2025.

Steve adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Larke

BOBA Recording Secretary

* The next BOBA Board meeting date is changed to November 19, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.