

Meeting Minutes
IDAHO MEDAL OF HONOR COMMISSION

Tuesday, November 18, 2008
2:00 P.M. MST

Office of the Idaho Attorney General
Attorney General's Main Conference Room
Joe R. Williams Building, 2nd Floor
700 West State Street
Boise, Idaho

Chairman von Tagen called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 p.m. (MST).

1A. Chairman von Tagen took roll. The following Commissioners were present:

Bill von Tagen, Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
Greg Bower, Ada County Prosecuting Attorney
Ron Anderson, Chief, Meridian Fire Department
Jeff Black, Executive Director, POST (participating via phone)
Doug Borah, Idaho Peace Officers Association
Blair Olsen, Jefferson County Sheriff
Joe Rice, Chief, Soda Springs Police Department (participating via phone)

The following Commissioners were absent:

Dia Gainor, EMS Bureau Chief, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
Bob Wells, Office of the Governor

Others present: Melissa Ward, Chairman von Tagen's secretary, taking minutes.

1B. The agenda was reviewed and amended by Chairman von Tagen, who inserted a new agenda item: Review of Relevant Statutes.

2. Most of the Commissioners from the previous term (2004-2008) have been reappointed by their respective agencies/organizations to serve on the Commission for the term that began this July (2008-2012). Chairman von Tagen introduced two new Commissioners: Jeff Black, representing the Idaho POST Council, replacing outgoing Commissioner Mike Becar, and Greg Bower, representing the Idaho Prosecuting Attorneys Association, replacing outgoing Commissioner Bill Douglas. Chairman von Tagen noted that it was Kootenai County Prosecuting Attorney Bill Douglas who, in 2004, brought forth and lobbied for the legislation that established the Idaho Medal of Honor.

3A. The minutes from the June 26, 2008, meeting were reviewed. Mr. Bower identified a typographical error on the header: The year in the listed date of the meeting was typed as "2006" and should be "2008".

3B. Chief Anderson made a motion to approve the June 26, 2008, meeting minutes with the correction identified by Mr. Bower, and Sheriff Olsen seconded the motion. All in attendance voted that the motion should pass, and the June 26, 2008, meeting minutes were approved.

4. NEW AGENDA ITEM: Review of Relevant Statutes. Chairman von Tagen provided copies of the Idaho Medal of Honor statutes (Chapter 88 of Title 67, Idaho Code) to those in attendance. The statutes were reviewed. There were no questions. Chairman von Tagen noted that Idaho Code § 67-8805 requires the nominating agency to bear the cost of any medals awarded to its nominees and commented that the Idaho Peace Officers Association and Idaho Fire Chiefs Association have generously come forward to purchase the medals and fund the framing costs over the past four years.

5. The 2008-2009 timeline was reviewed. Chairman von Tagen noted that the nomination deadline, award selection meeting date, and the date by which the medals should be ordered have all been moved up from previous years, as the medal vendor now requires more time to fulfill the Commission's order. Mr. Black stated that the Idaho Peace Officers Memorial ("POM") Board, at a recent meeting, changed the date of the annual POM ceremony in 2009 from Friday, May 15th, to Thursday, May 14th. This was done to accommodate those families who may be traveling to attend the National Peace Officers Memorial Service in Washington, DC. With this information, as the Idaho Medal of Honor ceremony coincides with the Idaho POM ceremony, Mr. Bower made a motion to change the date of the 2009 Idaho Medal of Honor ceremony to May 14, 2009. Chief Rice seconded the motion, and all present agreed. The motion passed, and the 2009 Idaho Medal of Honor ceremony was scheduled for May 14, 2009. Chairman von Tagen suggested another post-ceremony "huddle", as was done directly after the 2008 ceremony, to meet on location with all Commissioners present at the ceremony for a quick debrief. Chairman von Tagen inquired of Mr. Black as to whether Governor Otter had been confirmed to attend and participate in the 2009 POM ceremony. Mr. Black indicated that he did not know but would find out and report back.

6. Chairman von Tagen asked Mr. Black if he would assume the medal-ordering duties that his predecessor had always handled in the past. Mr. Black indicated that he would.

7. The proposed budget was reviewed. Chairman von Tagen indicated that he did not believe that an appropriation for the Medal of Honor Commission was included in the Governor's budget for the current year. He suggested that, if this is the case, perhaps the Commission could inquire of the Governor's Office as to its support for a budget proposal brought forth to the Legislature by a legislator. Sheriff Olsen suggested removing all travel costs from the budget and asking the various associations connected with the Commission to split the cost of the medals and framing evenly. He commented that he could bring this up at the Idaho Sheriffs Association meeting in December. Chief Anderson indicated that he would also be willing to discuss it with the Idaho Fire Chiefs Association. Mr. Bower said that he would mention it to the Idaho Prosecuting Attorneys Association but that they would not be meeting again until February. He suggested that maybe he could convene a special meeting before February, via phone, to discuss this idea. Chief Rice said that he could speak with the Idaho Chiefs of Police Association. Mr. Borah indicated that the Idaho Peace Officers Association will continue to step up as needed. Chairman von Tagen estimated that it might cost each association approximately \$400 per year. He stated that he hoped to have some information from the Governor's Office in a matter of days.

8. The Commission having concluded all of its business, Chief Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which motion was seconded by Mr. Bower. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:40 p.m.