

October 4, 2003 AC-119 Gunship Association Membership Meeting

1. President Gus Sininger opened the meeting and last year's minutes were approved. Reports followed:

a. Secretary Ray Barradale Membership Report: Over 280 Members

- 125 Life Members as of this meeting (up from 50 in 2002)
- 152 Regular Members, 1 Family Member, and 4 Honorary Members as of this meeting

b. Treasurer Art Perry Financial Report

Reunion 2003 Costs	- \$7,598.00
Account Balance after last Reunion	\$22,664.77
Project expenses: Plaques, Unit Flags, Printer for Newsletter, etc	- \$6,314.00
Merchandise expenses: Hats, Shirts, Patches	- \$1,967.00
Income from Merchandise	+ \$4,301.00
Dues and Reunion	+\$11,645.00
Account Balance as of 21 Sep 03	\$30,329.77

NOTE: IRS limits us to \$25,000 at end of year. Reunion expenses/approved projects will assure that.

c. 2003 Web Manager Bill Petrie Report

- Website valuable in preserving AC-119 history
 - 80,000 hits to website informing members about reunions and activities and recruiting new members Since 1998, website hosting fees paid by donations. Association will fund as donated funds get depleted, with normal yearly expenses of \$300 for website host and domain registration Website
- Management: Macromedia's Dreamweaver for HTML coding and webpage design & layout; Adobe Photoshop used (preferred) for posted photos; and Microsoft Word to write and edit content and stories.
- Project Volunteers wanted:
 - Project Volunteer to track deceased members & update the Final Flight list (Jim Terry volunteered) Project Volunteer to locate additional AC-119 gunship info and fine-tune content already on website's main pages. Research and/or locate info on gunship, equipment, and operations for website plus authenticate/verify info already posted on site (Doc Fletcher volunteered) Project Volunteer assist photo processing for site. Need strong Adobe Photoshop skills, or if can use another program compatible with or comparable to Photoshop, we can discuss (Dan McDuffie and Duane Hampshire volunteered)
 - Project Volunteer to edit/prepare stories for site. Must know Microsoft Word and be a good proofreader (Craig Corbett and Doc Fletcher volunteered)
 - Project Volunteer for history section and each squadron. Could be same as #2 (Doc Fletcher volunteered)
 - [Association voice vote approved purchase of software for volunteers to assist \(\\$400 5 sites\)](#)

d. Newsletter Editor Ev Sprous Report

- Since Reunion III, published 2 newsletters.
 - Reunion III wrap-up sent April-May 2002; second was Reunion IV information.
 - Mailed 200, approximately 70 via email. Saved money by sending newsletters electronically. Can read using Adobe Acrobat Reader (free download)
- Helped Ray Barradale with membership: sent renewal notices; ordered the Brass Life Membership Cards or made membership cards and sent them to the new or renewing members; kept the member rosters up to date and sent updates to the Board. Board previously approved basic printer and scanner; paid \$200 for printer and \$130 for scanner. Web Master Bill Petrie generously built and donated a PC to EV. Editor requested a new professional printer and digital camera to keep photo album, to take shots at the reunions both for the album and Newsletters. The camera, printers and scanner will be the property of the Association. [BOARD NOTE: the Board pre-approved these requests and the new printer and scanner are already being used in the hootch. Association voice vote approved providing Paper cards for Life Members](#)

e. Vice President Wayne Laessig Report

- Brass Memorial Plaque in place at Air Memorial Park honoring Squadron Members lost in SEA Family members of those lost in SEA are our Honored Guests. Anyone who knew the lost members, TALK to their families! Teddi Alves, wife of Maj Moses Alves, and family: Jim Terry Escort
 - Robert Knopic, son of Lt Col Bernard Knopic, and family: Gary Gourley Escort Dewight Fage, son of Staff Sergeant Robert Fage, and family: Jim Terry Escort "Contact Roster" in hootch for members AND those who were in our units or involved in AC-119 Gunships: everyone please update it!
- Memorial Fund is in place and used when Association Board is notified of Member deaths, new Gunship videos and "AC-119 Gunship" license plate holders are in the Hootch
- FLIR Technology presentation by 'Sundog' FAC Tom Milligan in hootch Saturday @4:30 and [Sunday@2:00](#)

f. 2004 Reunion Rogers Stevens and Ron Julian Report

1. WHY Dayton and Wright-Patt Area?

- Site of original gunship development
- Near our 434th Provisional and 71st SOS sister Reunion Groups (Evansville, Indiana and Columbus, Ohio)

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- Goal: get our AC-119 role into the AF history books and increase the visibility and recognition of the AC-119 role in history
 - Influence the premier air museum in the U.S.
 - Speaker, Col Ron Terry 'Father of ALL Gunships'
 - Add the 434th and 71st Groups' participation = everyone at one location

2. 2004 Reunion Facilities and Access

- AF Museum – new hangars; IMAX; Waynesville (antiques); German Village in Columbus (BEER); 100th Yr of Flt Celebration. Dayton Coordinator will check Family Camp details
- Hope Hotel Next to Wright Patterson AFB
 - 125 rooms set aside, with Hospitality Room no cost. Can bring in own refreshments to Hospitality Rm
 - Meeting Room (Saturday a.m.) and support to all three evening meals with Banquet Rooms set aside
 - Use Hope Hotel cash bar at meals (Friday & Sunday)
 - No breakfast on site but many close by
- Good Airport access: Dayton, Columbus, Cincinnati
 - Easy access to AF Museum, golf, restaurants and shopping; Air Force Museum Facilities reserved
 - Lots of transport available from Airports

3. 2004 Reunion Estimated Costs

- Hotel \$82 per night
- Friday Gathering and Social \$23
- Saturday Dinner in Museum \$35 (Includes Museum Fee)
- Sunday Golf \$24 - \$35
- Sunday Farewell Buffet \$27

Total \$167 (excluding golf) Note: 2003 Cost Comparison: \$121 (excluding golf; including Museum Fee) However, we were also told to expect FWB rates to go up in 2004 as well. Air Fares usually a little less into Dayton area.

4. 2004 Reunion Recommendation

- Survey responses favor Dayton for 2004 then return to Fort Walton Beach for 2005 >95% = Dayton in 2004 and >5% = only Ft Walton Beach ever
- [Dayton as presented for 2004; returning Fort Walton Beach for 2005 approved by Association voice vote](#)

g. USAF Gunship Association Report

- Tabled last year - lots of Pro's and Con's.
- Tim Shaeffer, Spectre Gunship Association
 - We ARE mostly well-aged, over 55, dudes with superb experience and savvy. Long-term we ARE getting older, fewer, & all are fixed-wing Gunshippers. Louder "voice" by working together, with more support to current troops 4th, 16th, 19th (schoolhouse) SOS's & families from their heritage (us old farts)
 - Vision: "Chapters" to maintain identities with umbrella group to help administrative stuff
- Association believes there are more benefits to stay as we are for now. We're still growing and still trying to define our specific AC-119 niche as a Vietnam-era gunship. It is critical to maintain our focus on putting the AC-119 into the Air Force and Vietnam history. Recommend continue discussions & participation in each other's annual Reunions (Norm Evans) & revisit again next yr.
- [After discussion Association decided to continue discussions and participation in each other's annual Reunions \(Norm Evans\), with new Board working with Tim and report next year.](#)

2. Board's By-Law Recommendations

- ADD: Webmaster and Newsletter Editor as 'Voting' positions
- ADD: new board 'Voting' position: Past Board Member to increase continuity of past board actions and strategies; reduce 'LEARNING CURVE' for new board members. Impartial voter with no specific role. Incoming board selects from outgoing-board volunteers
- CHANGE: Membership Renewal to annual cycle based on 'date paid' (calendar year from date paid)
- ADD: "Honorary Life Membership" for next-closest-kin of members lost in SEA and for other specific honorees who contribute significantly to Association: next-closest-kin of members lost in SEA is automatic; other specific honorees at discretion and vote of board; all with same membership rights as Associate Members
- ADD: 'Any' family member can apply for Family Membership with same rights as Associate Membership
- [Proposed By-Law additions and changes approved by Association voice vote](#)

3. Brass AC-119K 'Stinger' Model recommendation to place 'Stinger' model on pedestal at Hurlburt Air Park Memorial

- Current Air Memorial plaque references AC-119G/K and both Shadows and Stingers; AC-119G 'Shadow' Display Aircraft; no AC-119K visual; and 'completes' Memorial. Estimate approx \$3000 to bronze 'dip' wooden model and install for 2005 Reunion

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- b. [Brass AC-119K 'Stinger' model on pedestal at Hurlburt Air Park Memorial approved by Association voice vote.](#)
NOTE: Gus Sininger will be POC but **need someone to get another wooden model to Gus** (like one for speaker)
4. **Shadow and Stinger Paintings and Lithos**
 - a. Paintings of both aircraft depicting each one's traditional SEA combat operation will be donated to the Air Force Museum (pending new Board's confirmation they will not be put in storage)
 - b. Overall painting costs of approximately \$4000. 100 numbered, signed Lithographs of each are included and will be offered to Members for purchase. Lithograph sales (approximately \$35-\$50) will recoup all costs. Col Terry can sign them at the Dayton Reunion.
 - c. [Proposal to authorize painting and lithograph purchases approved by Association voice vote.](#) NOTE: Litho price will be determined by new Board.
5. **Association Board Authority**
 - a. Your Board designs, plans, and completes Reunion preparations that includes:
 - Hotel: coordinate rooms, Mixer food selection/quantities, Meeting room, Comm System, BBQ, music, register members, Set the hootch up: plan and get soda, beer, water, wine, munchies – and track it all
 - Order and sell T-Shirts, hats, license holders, patches, pins
 - Coordinate Memorial Service at Air Park with Protocol, Honor Guard, Guests, Wreath, Transportation, media, plaque coordination w/CE to build pedestal and install it, music, speakers, speeches
 - Coordinate Banquet location, meals, ROTC Honor Guard, awards, gifts, servers, busers, greeters, tickets, music, speakers, speeches
 - b. Throughout year, your Board also:
 - Maintains web content/structure/costs/stories/pix/Guest book
 - Designs and publishes Newsletters (purchase and maintain PC/Printer/Scanner/supplies/mailings).
 - Coordinates memberships and cards, tracks and manages ←\$\$→, maintains rosters and makes contacts
 - Purchases and sends flowers for Members' families at deaths
 - Makes policy decisions like 'no one should pay Association-related expenses out of their pocket' and authorizes prepaid annual web costs, merchandise accounts, Newsletter supplies, web hook-ups, and lots of other stuff
 - c. And your Board does not ask 'may I' or for a vote on stuff like that. Your Board believes the Members expect them to do that. So, your Board manage and spend a fair amount of \$\$ and time for the Association. They believe you voted them in to do that.
 - d. Your Board does ask Members to decide on Reunion locations, big investments and things that reflect the Association like Memorial plaques and models, Gunship paintings and Lithos, By-Law changes, etc.
 - e. So what's the big deal (you ask)..... Your Board wants to know Members agree they're exercising the authority needed (as volunteers) to do all this! [By a loud voice vote, the Association gave the Board a vote of confidence to continue exercising the authority to do the kind of things just described to plan, decide, and spend Association \\$\\$, and to bring the bigger things like those just described back to Members for a vote.](#)
6. **Awards & Decs Report: (Steve MacIsaac)** Air Force DP info will be on Website and in Newsletter. Lost, forgotten, etc can be reviewed; some get awarded (30 out of 260 last year). Info we provide will give you the details needed to get submittals approved Like a letter or memo from AC, flight orders for mission, mission log, frag order, awards that others received, etc. The better the package, the better the chance. Can go through Congressman if all that fails.
7. **Nominations for 2004 Association Board were opened.** [The Association elected the following by voice vote:](#)
 - a. President: [Rogers Stevens](#)
 - b. Vice-President: [Bob La Rosa](#)
 - c. Secretary: [Ray Barradale](#)
 - d. Treasurer: [Doug Wohlgamuth](#)
 - e. Chaplain: [Larry Hunter and Leigh Norstrum](#)
 - f. Prior-Yr Board Mbr: [Wayne Laessig](#)
 - g. Newsletter Editor: [Everett Sprou](#) (no vote required)
 - h. Webmaster: [Bill Petrie](#) (no vote required)
 - i. Dayton Reunion Coordinator: [Ron Julian](#) (no vote required) with primary Museum Curator POC: [Rogers Stevens](#) + Doc, Milo, Wayne
 - j. Contact Coordinator: [Jim Terry](#) (no vote required)
 - k. Reunion VI Coordinator: [Norm Evans](#) with Frank Zemanick, Larry Hunter, Jim Bennes, Gus Sininger
8. **Business from the Floor: ADD to the Registration (web/Newsletter): want to split a room?**
9. **Adjourned and moved to Memorial Service at Hurlburt Air Memorial Park**

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Barradale
Secretary, AC-119 Gunship Association

Gus Sininger
2002-2003 President, AC-119 Gunship Association