

# 15<sup>th</sup> AC-119 Gunship Association Meeting Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

1. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance
2. Secretary, Treasurer Reports
3. Association “Charter” & priorities
  - a. New Web, Database, MCL
  - b. Facebook, Outreach, & Video Sessions
  - c. National Museum Memorial Bench
  - d. Association’s War Chest (\$\$\$)
4. Legacy Squadrons
5. KIAs & Memorial Ales
6. 850 – the Last AC-119?
7. 2015 Albuquerque Reunion
8. 2016 Reunion proposals; D.C
10. 2015 Association Officer Nominations & Election

**Adjourn**

# Secretary's Report Mike Drzyzga

Approve minutes

## Membership make-up & numbers

<u>Members</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Life	192	215	248	275	284	293	306	319	325	364
Annual	131	164	153	124	108	97	81	79	73	76
<u>Honorary</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>28</u>
Total	335	397	419	420	413	412	412	423	453	468

- Since Sept 2013, we added 31 new members (20 Life & 11 Annual).
- Annual memberships continue to decrease as Life members increase
- Contacts & Newsletter **snail-mailing \$1,000** E-mailing = \$0
- Keep your e-mail up to date; we'll have more \$\$ to run the Association

# Treasurer's Report Doug Wohlgamuth

- Expected Annual Costs:

– Mailings, Newsletter, Reunion Advertising	\$ 1,500
– “In Memory of” donations & Association Awards	\$ 600
– Reunion Hootch, KIA Families, Fee Offsets, T-Shirts, Merchandise, Videos	\$11,500
– Outreach, Legacy Squadrons	\$ 500
– Db Support & Web annual costs	<u>\$ 500</u>
	\$14,600 +

- Expected Annual Revenue

– Dues	\$ 1,500
– Reunion Fees	\$ 5,000
– Merchandise / T-Shirts sales	\$ 4,000
– Raffles / Auctions	\$ 3,000
– Inventory: History Books, lithos	<u>???</u>
	\$15,000 +

# AC-119 Gunship Association Charter

## Why do we exist

- Old friendships
- New Friendships
- Get AC-119 into rightful place in History

## How do we do that

- Web, FB, Db (MCL), Outreach, Legacy Squadrons
- \$\$: Merchandise, Raffles/Auctions, Reunion Dues
- History Book & Videotaped sessions
- VOLUNTEERS (who can't continue to do it all)

## What do we need to continue to do it well

- \$\$\$\$\$ for web & database designed to make it easy for YOU and reduce admin hours; ditto for potential National Museum Memorial

# Communication & Outreach Efforts

1. FaceBook: open, real-time communication
  - a. 5 FB Admins & FB Guidelines
  - b. LOTs of new folks joining! Up to \_\_\_\_ Members!!
  - c. Challenges: only helps “IF” you use FB.
2. Outreach contacts: made additional progress this year with hundreds of contacts & we now have a few more emails vs just snail mails
  - a. **Still less than ½ of the AC-119ers who existed!**
3. Newsletter & POC Flash Messages will grow:
  - a. Bill Petrie as Editor
  - b. POCs are critical
  - c. **The only way several hundred of our guys get info!!**

# IT Committee

1. For over a year, IT Committee worked on what we'll need for Web & Database Tools
2. The results: a new user-friendly & modernized Web with online ALPHA, MCL updates, Reunion Registration & payment, merchandise ordering & payment, photo gallery
  - a. Initial design costs high but huge ongoing benefits
  - b. Association's "War Chest" gets us through year-to-year, but not enough to fund large improvements.
  - c. We need "**mak-mak Baht, GI**" to make it happen!!

# What Do We Need

1. A renewed Web with online ALPHA - what our IT Committee & Board worked on for over a year
  - a. Person-to-person contact
  - b. Online & automated MCL management
  - c. Online merchandise ordering & payment
  - d. Online Reunion Registration & payment
2. Volunteers who can spend HOURS looking for, finding, & TALKING to people to find the REST of our guys
3. National Museum Memorial Bench
4. **\$\$\$\$ to fund ALL of that;** we consistently “retain” enough to meet expenses year-to-year. Need another \$15,000 for Web/Db/Outreach, & another \$12,000 for National Museum

# **Active Duty Legacy Squadron Connections**

18<sup>th</sup> FLTS Hurlburt - Gus Sininger

71<sup>st</sup> SOS Kirtland CV-22 Ospreys - Al Heuss

17<sup>th</sup> SOS Kadena MC-130 Combat Shadows - John  
Morrow

73<sup>rd</sup> SOS Cannon AC-130 Stinger II - Mac MacIsaac  
& Bob LaRosa

ALL are VERY interested in seeing, meeting, &  
talking with Ron Terry!!



# KIAs & Memorial Ales

John O'Neal" Rucker's  
Mother Mae is here

Ken Brown's brother Mike,  
sisters Anna & Pam, &  
nephew Randy are here

Memorial Project: Fred  
Rider & Steve Sirois



# **The Last AC-119 (Part of our History Charter?)**

## **Tail # 850 (K model) is at Tan Son Nhut**

- 2009: Do not spend Assoc \$\$; use Air Attaché to determine whether anything recoverable; airframe too corroded/expensive to restore; other AC-119s in Taiwan, China.....
- 2010-2011: No Assoc \$\$ spent, but no Air Attachés for Vietnam anymore, & confirmed no other AC-119s exist!
- 2011-2012: AC jacked & towed; did not fall apart, but risk of destruction or inclusion in “American War” Museum
- 2013 Decision: stay updated on 850’s status. Bruce Byrd authorized to extend business stays in Vietnam to initiate contacts & improve chances to get the aircraft

# 2015 Reunion XV

“????”

1. Coordinator: Ev Sprous
2. St Louis, MO
3. Crown Plaza Hotel – \$115 with breakfast buffet
  1. BIG Hootch, M&G, Banquet, & BBQ in the hotel
  2. Tours and Events
4. Sept 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015

# 2016 Reunion XVI Location Proposals

1. Coordinator Volunteer's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
**(If there isn't one, the buck stops on that location unless there's a contractor doing it for us)**
2. Hotel agreement on Hootch where we serve our own beer, other beverages, etc (NOT hotel rates)  
**(If there isn't one, the buck stops again on that location)**
3. Several with previously expressed interest:
  - a. Washington DC
  - b. Dallas
  - c. Others?
4. Is it time to go contractor support?

# Nominations & Election of 2015 Board Members

1. President: Doc Larry Fletcher
2. Vice-President: Bob La Rosa
3. Secretary: Mike Drzyzga
4. Treasurer: Doug Wohlgamuth
5. Past Bd Member: Gus Sininger
6. Member-At-Large: Jim Dunn
7. Member-At-Large: Cash McCall
8. Member-At-Large: Phil Diehl

**NOTE to New Board: plan to meet 8AM Sunday  
at Breakfast then separate room for an hour**