

AC-119 Gunship Association

Membership Meeting, Sat. 9/20/2014, Albuquerque, NM

1. Opening Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer of Thanks offered by Larry Hunter, Chaplain
2. Prez. L. Fletcher made a strong pitch to have individual or group video sessions completed by videographer J.P. MacIsaac (Rm 118) – do it, not for us, but for our legacy.
3. Secretary's Report, M. Drzyzga:
Since Sept. 2013, we added 31 new members (20 Life & 11 Annual), for total of 448. There was a small membership increase due to efforts of the Facebook Committee and the Outreach Committee. Membership numbers are basically flat over near term. Plea to make sure that the members update personal data, and provide updates to Sec' or POCs. Also, "Snail" mail is costly as compared to email. If you are not computer oriented, as an option, you can get others (family members) to help with computer and emails.
4. Treasurer's Report -- D. Wohlgamuth: provided a fairly detailed summary of annual expenses and income: Summarily, the Association spends and receive the same each year – budget is flat at about \$15,000. Bank Acct statement is available to attendees to review.
5. LF -- hardy welcome First Timers (*NGs)!!
6. Gus Sininger - Quartermaster: Your ideas for new merchandise should be proposed to Gus for feasibility and Board approval. Gus' shipping costs have doubled. We only have a small profit on each item. Cost of coins is higher due to cost of Gold/Silver. Gus' wants to control/simplify distribution/inventory of merch' with our improved/expanded Web site, everything available will be there, and with pict's.
7. Suggestion from the floor to add Gus' email address to N/L and Flashes.
8. LF: Strong request to all to review and "mark-up" the large printed MCL in hooch.
9. Information Technology (IT) Committee: There was a Special Meeting of the IT and Board 9/17/14 to recommend a new Web/DB developer. W. Laessig provided a thorough and clear history of our current Web site and its problems, our need to auto/simplify Association's manual business processes, and the IT work to solve this. He compared the MCL to the Alpha Roster for clarification. The new Web site will include an eStore, and accept payments by bank check, credit cards, or PayPal. Start up COST is about \$14,000. There is an annual maintenance fee to complete routine back-ups, make coding and operational adjustments, etc, up to \$1K/yr. This includes for (security control) SSL on the eStore and web site "hosting" fees. Note made that the IRS upped the "Tax Free" status to an annual budget of \$50K. Possible means to raise the necessary funds: Sponsored Corp. acknowledgement page (Like GE, Raytheon, Grumman), Pass-the-hat here, and/or ask donations from our members. Although the creation and hosting of our new web site is contracted out, we will need a Web site moderator to verify that it continues to function well. Also noted was that B. Petrie will be the N/L editor (Laessig suggest R Julian as MCL moderator). The time frame is based on Web site modules built in four phases. Fred Rider added that the IT Committee has 75 pgs of evaluations of this project. Also important: We cannot exceed 80% of non-military members, or else lose Tax exempt status – therefore, we cannot only add more Associate members. Ken Stearn vocally supports this project, Ron Hinton offered a \$100 donation and challenged others, Fred Rider challenged Life Members to donate (another) \$119. Send funds to DW for his records. Yes: this donation IS Tax deductible – your check book stub is "receipt". Fletcher recognized the IT Committee by name, and their efforts on this task. Our contractor is: True World Enterprises (TWE) – 5 employees, who provide the AC-47 Association a web site. Do we need a motion for any of this? NO, the Board approved the process – and we do have the funding agreed upon previously. We will keep the fund-raising as a "challenge" to all who can donate.
10. Future Reunions -- **St Louis, MO, 2015**: Ev Sprous and Wade Dunn. Wade provided a great summary of things to do in St. Louis. Crowne Point Plaza, in St. Anne, MO, great location for transportation. **DATE: 9/15 – 22**. Hotel cost: \$99/d includes all fees.

Tours: pick and choose from four tours.

Hotel site to allow making reservations will be up a.s.a.p. Col. Mac was applauded for doing a super job for this reunion!

2016: WL offered outside professional event coordinator (contractor), for Washington, DC, they complete about 80% of the work, Crystal City is close to many attractions. Based on Association processes, we still need a "hands-up" volunteer coordinator. Col Mac was acknowledged and discussed:

(1) return to "home-base" in FWB and,

(2) should we have a reunion every-other yr. He volunteered to co-co-ordinate a reunion in FWB. Cash McCall we have two coordinators for a reunion in FWB already, and no-one for Washington DC. Also noted: In FWB, the reunion could not be at the "Four Points Hotel". There is a NEW Holiday Inn on military leased gov't property next to the Four Points, which is exceptional.

Also, Ken Stearn has been evaluating a Williamsburg, VA reunion-- working with a hotel there, cost is \$99/d, lots to see/do there. Unfortunately, he is 35 miles away, difficult as the coordinator. Nonetheless, we can use a contractor for this location.

At this point, Jim Dunn motioned for a reunion in 2016 at FWB, Stearn 2nd that – FWB 2016 voted on: hands raised almost unanimous.

2017: Julian/Stevens/Heuss for **Dayton, OH**. Stevens gave a review of the Jun. 2014 AC-119 Museum event, as described in the July Newsflash. Available dates are already being taken: WE ARE: 9/28 - 10/1. Heuss provided a background on the 10 yr. process to make a USAF Museum Gunship exhibit a reality, and thanked the Association for supporting that effort. Sprous motion for Dayton; Stearn 2nd that. Unanimous again by show of hands.

11. B. Petrie will continue as N/L *Firing Circle* editor. Anyone with pics should send them to Fletcher or Petrie, PLEASE include names those individuals with faces.
12. Facebook page is wonderful, we have >240 members now, Fletcher: thanks to the Admins.
13. Bruce Byrd, Update on Stinger "850" at TSN: Byrd did a review of the last 6 yrs. efforts of positively ID'ing and determining the condition. Now, he made a contact with a new Freight Forwarder based near "850's" parking area. Current pics shows it still intact, but in very bad condition. It appears to have been moved for preservation. The new "contact" believes "850" will go into a new Museum Bldg. There may be a future possibility to repatriate 850. Laessig reminded us that we can contribute to the VN effort to fix-it based on available knowledge and tooling. Hunter talked about visiting VN as tourist.
14. New Board will continue if wanted, Stern motioned, and it was 2nd. But, new blood is a good thing, and anyone who desires helping should contact Fletcher.
15. Sprous and Laessig report on Spouses' meeting. They are happy with FWB. They did raise two issues regarding this year's reunion which will be handled separately. The spouses would like to be more informed as to Association activities.
16. Col Mac calls for new business: Reunion Shirts or Not? (only Association Shirts in the future?). The Association shirt is available in different styles/colors. Drzyzga asks for hand count to determine what the current attendees think. The Association loses money every year on specific reunion shirts. Clear from hand count: NO REUNION SHIRT going forward. We can make changes to future Association shirts to include pocket AND AC-119 images to better ID ourselves. Gus will evaluate changes. Wayne motioned, Jim M 2nd.
17. John Morrow donated a \$1K check and challenged Chiefs to match.
18. Adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted Oct 3, 2014

M. Drzyzga, Secretary