

AC-119 Gunship Association Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Saturday, October 1, 2005

Meeting called to order at 0805 hours by President Craig Corbett.

Invocation by Chaplain Larry Hunter

Association Treasurer Doug Wohlgamuth presented his annual report. A nomination was presented, seconded and approved as read.

Association Secretary Jim Alvis presented the annual report about membership statistics. A nomination was presented, seconded and approved as read.

Ron Julian presented a report on the Master Contact List. Seeks updated info for current and lost/deceased members.

Craig reported 'Final Flight' of association members since last reunion.

and Norm Evans. The six will be presented with special challenge coins at the Saturday evening banquet.

One member suggested a swap of coin numbers to match the member's LIFE membership number. This can be done among members.

A motion was presented to have the official AC-119 Gunship Association record changed to reflect that Larry Fletcher be recognized as a past president of the 2001-02 term. A nomination was presented, seconded and accepted. Larry filled in for the elected president during his absence and effectively led the organization during the entire term.

Discussion ensued about changing the bylaws to recognize the newsletter editor and webmaster as elected positions. The Board of five elected positions will be the only official voting board members. Approved. Larry Hunter was voted to be the Association's designated Chaplain.

President Craig Corbett proposed the establishment of coordinators for each squadron (3) plus all maintenance/support people (a total of four coordinators). The purpose of the coordinators is to assist in contacting and finding lost members and perspective members. Approved.

President Craig Corbett proposes the establishment of a Quartermaster to oversee the purchase and sale of assoc. merchandise. Approved.

Turner Publishing wishes to produce and sell a book about the AC-119 gunship program. Larry Fletcher would be the coordinator on this project. This would be a hardcover book, about 129 pages. Much discussion ensued about the value of the publication. Several Gunship Association members who are/were Air Commando Association members stated they were quite disappointed in the final product. A few also supported the product. At this point, the Association will not pursue the book. Instead, we will attempt to collect the before and after information for next year's reunion to then decide if we are to go forward. The requirements will be posted in the newsletter and website to seek member's input. The vote was to table until next year.

Carryover elected positions for 2005-06 will be Treasurer Doug Wohlgamuth and Secretary Jim Alvis.

Wayne Laessig was nominated for President. Vern Hanson nominated for Vice President. Nominations were seconded and accepted for Pres and VP.

A nomination was made for current President Craig Corbett be elected to the board to fill the Past President position. The nomination was presented, seconded and approved.

Future reunions.

President Craig Corbett proposed a bylaw change to reflect that members attending the annual association meeting would vote to the reunion location two years forward instead of one. A straw hand-count indicated members would like to have a reunion in DC and out west. To move the reunion to other locations, a local reunion coordinator is absolutely necessary. The concern about having reunions at FWB for four more reunions is taxing on Gus and Norm. The by-law change was approved.

Steve Mac Isaac offered to be the reunion coordinator for reunion VII at Albuquerque, NM, home of the recently reactivated 71st SOS. The available dates are Sept 29, 30, and Oct 1, 2006. A nomination was made and seconded to hold Reunion VII at ABQ, and was unanimously approved.

Regarding Reunion 2007, a nomination was made to have Gus and Norm be the reunion coordinators, with assistance from other FWB members. The date would likely be Columbus Day weekend in October. This may be a combined reunion with the Spectre group. The hotel location may be the Hilton at Destin.

Wayne Laessig– we need POC's for the squadrons. We want to continue the DVD project next year. Also, members are encouraged to buy the DVD set.

Steve Mac Isaac– be sure to check out the Awards and Decorations web page. Mac has seven cases pending to acquire awards. One case is nearly completed successfully. Awards were made based on crew-awards rather than an individual basis. For any questions about awards and decorations, contact Steve.

Anybody with mission tapes, please forward them to Larry Fletcher.

Ev is stepping down as newsletter editor, and Rogers Stevens will be his replacement. Ev has volunteered to be the Squadron Coordinator for the 18th SOS.

Sunday Morning Board Meeting

Sunday, October 2, 2005

Present: Wayne Laessig, Craig Corbett, Ev Sprous, Bud Buchanan, Gus Sininger, Rogers Stevens, Jim Alvis.

Absent: Doug Wohlgamuth, Vern Hanson

Discussion ensued regarding individual squadron coins for Reunion VII. Jim Alvis is to let Bud Buchanan know how many 71st SOS only coins to be made. Consider 50 regular coins and 5 special ones. One or two for special people and 3 for raffle. Also, consider additional special and regular coins for the new 71st SOS contact people at Kirtland AFB. Bud Buchanan will pursue procurement of squadron coins.

Wayne suggested Gus and Ron produce their guidelines for reunion hosting to be forwarded to Mac.

Norm Evans will investigate the joint reunion possibilities with the Spectre group for 2007. This will depend on the receptiveness of the Spectre group. Nothing is firm at this point, but the possibility will be investigated.

Have 71st and 18th POC's, need one for the 17th. Wayne will check on the possibly of Chuck James. Jim Alvis volunteered to be the POC for the 71st.

Quartermaster position – The QM is to coordinate purchase and commitment of Assoc. funds for the sale of merchandise.

T-shirts for reunion VII. Gus suggested t-shirts be made at ABQ rather than having Gus handling them. This will be necessary due to the expense of shipping them from FL to NM.

Discussion ensued about the possibility of establishing a scholarship fund for grandchildren. Several issues for consideration include IRS/tax implications, and amendment to the Assoc. by-laws.

Speaker for ABQ. Dr. Head has been invited to speak at reunion 2007. His invitation is on the table at the current time. He has completed writing a book about the AC-119 gunships, and is awaiting publication. The recommendation of Dr. Head came from Larry Fletcher.

Gus - Reunion 2005. 128 signed up, 101 actually attended. About 200 attended the banquet on Saturday night. The hurricanes and high gas prices are the main reasons for the cancellations.

Board communication. The 5-member board gets everything. Supporting positions can elect to be in the loop.

Squadron flags – who will the squadron flags be handed off to for reunion 2006?

Ron Soderquist is offering to hand build a firearm that could be auctioned at next year's reunion. This would be in a beautiful display case, and a one-off creation.

Need to send letters of appreciation to the Elks club, and other organizations that contributed/supported the success of the weekend's functions. Rogers to send last year's letters to Wayne as examples. The actual letters should go out under Craig Corbett.

Respectfully Submitted,

James R. Alvis

Secretary, AC-119 Gunship Association

October 7, 2005