**2019\_10\_8 AC119**

**AC119 Gunship Association**

**Board Teleconference Minutes**



1. Conference call was called to order at 2000, those in attendance were: JHester, RDavis, ADrzyzga, DWohlgamuth, MDrzyzga, GSininger, JDunn, JWolff, JLaird, DLuke, WLaessig, ESprous and CWilliams.
2. Opening comments from President Jerry Hester. *This is a Special Meeting with a limited agenda due to some issues that came up after the reunion. For those who were unable to attend the Salt Lake City reunion, the membership voted to allow Associate Members to have the same privileges as Regular Members, including voting and holding office. This will be the first meeting with Associate Members on the Board. As the newly elected President, I’m glad to welcome the three other new members to the Board:*

Roy Davis, Vice President

Andrea Drzyzga, Secretary

Jenna Laird, Member-at-Large

In addition, Mike Drzyzga replaced Larry Fletcher as the Past President (or Past Board Member). All other Board positions remained the same.

1. Jerry asked for Board Correction, Acceptance, or Disapproval of the Board Minutes for August and September. The minutes for the meeting on Aug 13, 2019 should have stated that the Board approved the minutes for the meeting on Jul 9, 2019 (not Aug 13, 2019). MDrzyzga made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected and DWohlgamuth seconded the motion. All in favor. No corrections were identified for the Sept 8, 2019 minutes from Sunday Morning meeting in SLC, RDavis motion to approve, and JWolff seconded. All in favor.
2. Treasurer Report Doug Wohlgamuth. Filed with the IRS and the filing was accepted. We have $11,002.62 in the operating account andthe Quartermaster account has $4,907.95, for a total balance of $15,910.57. SLC hotel deposits totaled $15,000, and the final payment was $23,331.17,total cost of the hotel was $38,331.17. Reduction fees from the reunion were $602.00, only seven people cashed the checks that were refunded. Refunds for those who could not attend due to unforeseen circumstances was $1,795.00, JP MacIsaac was given $2,100 for all of his work on the Videos. Monthly payment was made to DreamHost for $43.75, we are paid up to 3 years. Jim Dunn motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report, Andrea Drzyzga seconded. Report was accepted.
3. Salt Lake City Reunion XX Close out Status Chuck Williams. Jerry Hester is working on Thank YOU letters to the Hotel and to the Catering staff. Other people who should be recognized at the Hotel or group of individuals. The group who was at the reunion for the Military Academy, TY’s will be sent to the instructors and students. Wayne suggested Jonathan Bakker, Sales Manager, and Sophia Grzeskiewicz, Convention Services Manager. Andrea Drzyzga mentioned the Concierge Stephanie, who helped tremendously with the Park City Tour. Chuck had all the information and will be sending it Jerry Hester. Final thoughts from Chuck Williams, he felt that it was a successful reunion, everyone had a great time. He also wanted to thank Everett for all of the hard work that he had done during the reunion, he was always at the Hootch, always ready to assist where needed between the videos, and all that he does for this organization.
4. Membership Coordinator: Everett. Jerry spoke about this being the main reason for this meeting. During the reunion, Terry Brandfass, was supposed to give a VA briefing, but worked out to be a Personal Health Items that she sold, she also signed up as an Associate Member of the organization. Our By-Laws state***: Associate Membership may be conferred upon persons not qualified for Regular Membership but deserving of membership. This includes spouses or extended family. Applications or recommendations for Associate Membership in the AC-119 Gunship Association shall be submitted in writing to the Membership Coordinator by applicants or Regular Members of the Association.*** It does not say that membership is only for spouses or extended family members. Also, on our membership application it states: ***Family members of those who served in or directly supported AC-119 or AC-47 units, and others not meeting Regular Membership eligibility, may apply for Annual or Life Associate.***

**Jerry Hester’s** opinion, he feels that she is qualified to be a part of this organization. Jerry opened this issue up for discussion. Should we decide that Terry will be allowed to stay in the Association he will address a letter to her and cc Bob Reese adviser her that we found her activities in selling her items inappropriate and letting her know that her membership is to solely promote the 119ers not her to sell her products that do not pertain to us.

Jerry does believe that we need to add another category of membership, it has been discussed and now it needs to be done.

Board member’s thoughts and input:

**Roy Davis** agreed with Jerry that she is a legitimate member. **Everett Spouse**: she is not the first person who is not connected to any 119er to be an Associate Member.

**Mike Drzyzga** felt that according to the By-Laws and Application she is a member, but perhaps the Membership Coordinator should not be the soul person to decide upon membership. Perhaps the Membership Coordinator should bring a questionable application to other board members.

**Jenna Laird** perspective is not to limit the amount of members, if people are willing to be respectful of our association and continue on with our legacy.

**Everett Spouse** feels that with our new vote that allows associate members to become board members and be able to vote on association affairs, this will allow total outsiders to become a board and voting member. We could be leaving ourselves open for serious problems down the line. Ev feels that we need to come up with another membership category.

**Andrea Drzyzga** we do understand that we would like people to join to keep the organization alive, but if members are not connected as we are as a family of the 119ers, that is where we are going to get lost. Should we choose to leave Terry Brandfass , we truly do need to create another category of membership and rewrite the associate member category to eliminate the line ***Associate Membership may be conferred upon persons not qualified for Regular Membership but deserving of membership*** and add that line to the new category that we will create. Keeping the Associate Membership contained to the spouses and extended family members. This will allow them to be members but not have voting rights or able to run for office.

**Wayne Laessig** Our by laws are set up to support our Non-Profit criteria. It requires us to maintain 80% Combat Veterans to be able to maintain our Non-Profit Status. If we fall under that 80%, we would lose our Non-Profit status and would have to reapply which is not a terrible thing. We are in a gray area by voting in the Associate Members as members with voting privileges should we want to do a Scholarship or something significant down the road we would probably want to go in and change our Non-Profit status. As we were adding the other groups, the 71st, the Maintainers etc., Jim Alvis years ago had mentioned adding a membership category of “Affiliates” and this is what Jerry is probably going to refer to. We don’t want this to elevate to and IRS level to have to reapply (at least not now).

**Roy Davis** we have to get back to the vote did Everett according to the By Laws, appropriately, legally sign up Terry as an Associate Member?

Jerry Hester asked to have a motion made to allow Terry Brandfass to remain in the organization Mike Drzyzga made the motion and Doug Wohlgamuth seconded. 1 nay…Motion passed Jerry Hester will move forward with communication to Terry regarding her selling products. Terry is an annual Associate Member…not as Associate life member; she has to apply for renewal.

1. Proposed three New Committees
2. By-Laws Chair Roy Davis, Everett Spouse, Ellen Hester, Michael Drzyzga volunteered. Jerry would like to stream line them and make them easier to read and understand.
3. Outreach Suggestions: Roy Davis suggested Everett Spouse for the Chair of the Committee other committee members are: Roy Davis, Jenna Laird, and Becky Hester
4. Sponsorship Chair Bruce Byrd was suggested by Jerry, he will get in contact with him. Other suggesting pending on Bruce’s acceptance, discussion was tabled until November conference call.
5. Ft. Walton Beach Reunion XXI. November 2020: Gus needs to work on the Saturday night Banquet…just a few details to finish up. Gus will do the T Shirts and get in touch with Liz & Wayne to put them on the web-site store. They will be ordered and payed for, Gus will distribute the T Shirts ordered during the reunion at the reservation desk. Jerry reviewed the hotel and banquet room contracts and gave the go ahead, Gus should continue on what he does the best! Gus will send current info to Don Luke to add to the “Firing Circle”.
6. Newsletter “Firing Circle” Editor Report: Don Luke. Jerry asked that anything that goes into the Newsletter be submitted to Don by Oct 15th. There will be extra pages to the newsletter due to the addition of the SCL reunion pictures etc. Increase postage should we have a larger newsletter. .55 cents for a 1 oz. newsletter in an envelope for a larger newsletter an additional .15 cents on a 2 oz. Over a 137 newsletters “snail mail” are sent out between the POC’s, have not heard from the 17th or the maintenance side to see how many newsletters they send out. The cost is roughly about $200 with the extra oz. We can do a 6 page double pages, which is 12 pages of info 8 ½ x 11. Printing costs may go up a little. All Board members agreed to have the larger newsletter to incorporate all the info from SCL reunion. Everett will contact all POC’s to let them know a bigger newsletter will be going out in Oct.
7. The following updates/reports will be deferred to the November conference call:
8. Quartermaster Report: Gus
9. Website Report: Wayne
10. Media Manager: Ev
11. Facebook Page Report: Ev
12. We will have one more regular conference call in Nov, skip Dec to relax and enjoy the Holidays and start back up in Jan. There were 2 surveys sent out, one from Liz Buss and the other from Jenna Laird. Please review them and let the board know which one you prefer. Jerry sent out the new Board+ Contact List prior to the Conference call, if there are any corrections or additions, please contact Jerry so the List can be updated.
13. Last orbit around the “Firing Circle:
14. Roy Davis: JP is just uploading the 20 oral histories from the SLC reunion, as soon as they are completed Roy will reach out to Wayne and Liz to upload them and let the people know that they can be reviewed.
15. Mike Drzyzga 3 things:

1. About a year ago Earl Farney and Larry Fletcher wrote an article to the curator of Dover AFB about the AC‑119s. We have not heard back, Mike will follow up on the status of the article.

2. Wrote a letter to the Hill AFB Museum giving some insight to the AC-119 Gunship Program and that it was missing in there.

3. Bob Lyall gave Mike $50.00 to update the Associations business card, and look into making the cards out of some nice card stock. Before Mike could say anything Bob walked away, so he would like to talk about these three things at the next teleconference.

1. Jenna Laird asked to share the Video that was made on her personal Facebook Page…Go for it with everyone’s blessing!
2. Media Manager Ev. We are sending the video out…we are not charging for it because we want to get it out to as many people as possible. Lots of positive feedback. Thank you Roy, Chuck, and others in the Association for putting together an excellent Video of the AC-119 Gunship story.
3. Ev also asked if the By-laws and Outreach Committees can do teleconferences. The conference call website can be used for as many calls as we need during the month for up to 15 participants per call. Use Andrea as a gatekeeper to ensure not overlapping in dates and times.
4. Wayne wanted to let Gus and Jerry know that he has 7 of the hard-bound History books. Recommend that between Gus and Jerry decide whoever they may want to give a hard bound to through Donation or anything that comes to mind, Wayne has them. Wayne will bring them to the next reunion or mail them to whoever you tell him to. John Wolff recommended to sending one to Hill AFB. Reunion coordinators guide needs to be updated. Wayne would like to see the guide cleaned up with the lesson’s learned and incorporated into a new guide. Would like Jenna Laird to consider taking over the POC for the Families & Friends, due to focus on second generation, something to consider? Jenna accepted and Becky Hester volunteered to help.

Conference call ended at 2105 hours

Next Conference call is Tuesday November 12, 2019 at 2000 hours EST

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Drzyzga Jerry Hester

Secretary President