

From: RetCMSgt@aol.com **Sent:** Tues, Jun 08, 2004 2:16 PM **To:** Rogac119@aol.com; everettsprous@sbcglobal.net **Cc:** takitus@email.com; Busch791@aol.com; g.sininger@seii.net; raynsue@ptd.net; shadow70@sbcglobal.net; normevans873@cox.net; la448@zianet.com; gadvocate@sbcglobal.net **Subj:** Re: memberships
I agree! BP :{D

From: Bob [la448@zianet.com] **Sent:** Mon, June 07, 2004 8:01 PM **To:** Rogac119@aol.com; everettsprous@sbcglobal.net **Cc:** takitus@email.com; Busch791@aol.com; RetCMSgt@aol.com; g.sininger@seii.net; raynsue@ptd.net; shadow70@sbcglobal.net; normevans873@cox.net; gadvocate@sbcglobal.net **Subj:** Re: memberships

I agree with Rogers. Lets be realistic here & not drag this membership thing on. Thanks Bob

From: Rogac119@aol.com **To:** everettsprous@sbcglobal.net **Cc:** takitus@email.com; Busch791@aol.com; RetCMSgt@aol.com; g.sininger@seii.net; raynsue@ptd.net; shadow70@sbcglobal.net; normevans873@cox.net; la448@zianet.com; gadvocate@sbcglobal.net **Sent:** Mon, June 07, 2004 8:16 PM **Subj:** Re: memberships

EV: I agree with everything except the CHILD of a paid life member becomes a nonvoting life member once the surviving spouse is deceased. I believe the children of Life Members should become paying Family members if they wish to continue with the Association, once the surviving spouse is gone. Life Membership is paid for by the "Gunshipper", and is granted to his surviving spouse, if he predeceases her. Once they are both gone, the "Life Membership" is gone.

Your thoughts on this?? Later, Rogers

From: Everett Sprou [everettsprous@sbcglobal.net] **Sent:** Mon, June 07, 2004 8:51 AM **To:** Ray Barradale; Busch791@aol.com; Norm Evans; Gus; Ron Julian; Bob la rosa; RetCMSgt@aol.com; Rogac119@aol.com; Jim Terry; Wayne **Subj:** memberships

Brothers, read through these messages & recommendations for memberships. Wayne, please, write up a motion & let's vote on it, so I know where to go with it. Let's try to simplify this thing.

Here's my recommendation; If a person was directly involved with the 119 Gunships, on the ground or in the air, they can become a regular or life member, with full voting rights at the annual meeting. A spouse or child, if the spouse is deceased, of a paid life member automatically becomes a life member, without voting rights. A widow of a paid member can become a member, without voting rights, at no charge. Any immediate family member of a deceased gunshipper, whether they were a member of the Association or not, can become an annual paying member, without voting rights. (I propose we call all of this last group Family Members). Associate Members are those not directly involved with the 119 Gunships. I believe we should allow family members of current paid members of the Association to become members & call them Family Members. they of course would not have voting rights. Let's get this thing put to bed please. EV

Greetings guys! Bill Reffner was a member (I saw his membership card) who died in 2002 and the family has gotten involved in his time as a gunshipper (both 119s and 130s) – this includes sons, grand-daughter, wife, etc. I spent some time with the Reffners, and they're coming to the Reunion, will be doing a private ash-scattering with a couple of Bill's old crew-mates, and are very enthused with the support they've been given plus the family they discovered (us).

Bill's widow was allowed to have a membership but the rest of the family were told they did not qualify (they're still coming to the Reunion). I looked at the By-Laws and believe they do qualify but the By-Laws weren't designed for extended family so I propose the following By-Law changes to clarify how we do this from now on:
Section IV-1. Regular: Regular membership is limited to persons who served duty in Southeast Asia with the 71st, 17th or 18th Special Operations Squadrons. Regular Members shall have full voting rights in all Association matters including election of officers and the amending of these bylaws.

Section IV-2. Associate: Associate Membership may be conferred upon persons, not qualified for Regular Membership, but deserving of recognition through rendering service, whether military or civilian, in the establishment, development, training, or support of Shadow and Stinger combat operational squadrons. Applications or recommendations for Associate Membership in the AC-119 Gunship Association shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors by applicants or Regular Members of the Association. A two-thirds affirmative vote of members attending the Association's annual membership meeting is required for acceptance of Associate Members. Associate Members pay annual dues or can become Life Associate Members at fees commensurate with those of Regular Members. Associate Members cannot hold Association Officer positions and do not have Association voting privileges, but do enjoy all other rights and privileges as do Regular Members. (Addition Approved 9-29-02 Membership Meeting).

Section IV-3. Family: Any family member of current Members is eligible for Family Membership. The "next-closest-kin" of Shadow and Stinger personnel killed in action in Southeast Asia are automatically offered Honorary Life Memberships. Family members of deceased Regular or Life Members of our Association may also become Family Members upon application, with the exception that they will not be assessed annual dues. All Family Members have the same rights and privileges as Associate Membership. (Changes Approved 10-4-03 Membership Meeting)

Propose changing the italicized sentence to read: Family members of deceased Regular or Life Members of our Association, and family members of deceased AC-119 persons who would have fit the "eligibility criteria" for Regular, Life, or Associate Membership, may become Family Members (Annual or Life) upon application. Examples of extended Family Members include fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, grand-children, or others directly linked to the deceased person by blood or marriage. All Family Members will have the same rights and privileges as Associate Membership, which include the option for Life Family Membership. Exception: spouses of deceased Regular or Life Members who choose to become Family Members will not be assessed any dues.

Section IV-4. Life: Life Members are Members who have elected to make a single payment of dues in the amount then set by the Board of Directors and as approved by the membership. A Life Member shall enjoy all of the rights and privileges of their respective Membership category. (Changes Approved 11-23-03 by Board to provide consistency with approved changes from 10-4-03 Membership Meeting) **Section IV-5. Charter:** Individuals accepted as Regular, Associate, Family or Life Members, and who also attended the Year 2000 AC-119 Gunship Reunion, have the added distinction of being designated as a Charter Member of our Association. **Section IV-6. Honorary Life:** Honorary Life Memberships include next-closest-kin of Shadow and Stinger personnel killed in action in Southeast Asia, and other specific honorees who contribute significantly to the AC-119 Gunship Association. Honorary Life Memberships for the "next-closest-kin" of Shadow and Stinger personnel killed in action in Southeast Asia is automatic. Other specific honorees are at the discretion and vote of the Board. All Honorary Life Members have the same rights and privileges as Associate Membership. (Addition Approved 10-4-03 Membership Meeting)

The changes reserve the sanctity of our Member and Life Member criteria (71st, 17th, and 18th SOS), but from what I've seen and experienced, the families we've made contact with "belong" and I vote for the changes I outlined. Any edits or discussion? Thanks! Wayne

I don't see any problem with What Wayne is proposing or the changes to the by-laws as proposed. I think we're getting too old to split those kind of hairs now and I think it is great that family members, immediate or extended, want to interact with us.

The fun thing is, it's our association, we get to make the rules and along the way we're meeting some great people. My only regret is we didn't do this 30 years ago. But we've done a pretty damn good job of making up for lost time. Go for it! Bill

EV: I thought we were going to allow the surviving spouse to be a "free" life time member, but the other family members joined as an associate member and had to pay annual dues. Board members: Is this your understanding also, or am I all wet?? Later, Rogers

That was my understanding that all family members except the spouse had to pay annual dues, for associate membership. Jim

How can you become a life member if you were never a member in the first place of the association?

I feel that if a gunshipper was a member then there is no question that the immediate family member can become a life member. But if that gunshipper was never a member then I don't see how we can make them life members! They can join our association and pay dues like any associate member. Does this make sense? Gus

Bill, I think we never got a clear decision on family memberships and the messages keep coming in. Here's what I thought we'd clearly all agreed to:

- Award the surviving next-closest kin of our honored KIA with Honorary Life Membership – automatic award; no dues.
- Award the surviving spouse of a deceased Regular Life Member or Associate Life Member with Family Life Membership – automatic award; no dues.

After that I think it got a little muddy.

The only questions were whether we should only give additional "no dues" Life Family Membership to the surviving spouses or immediate family, and whether extended family should be allowed Life Memberships. I'd like to propose that "no dues" memberships are only for the first two bullets (includes all Honorary Life Members) above.

After that, I'd like to see us open Family Membership to almost anyone in the family of someone who was, is, or could have been an Associate or Regular Member – i.e. a Gunship Brother. Let them join us if they want to. They'll pay dues but they can't vote, **AND** they can keep our heritage alive when we're gone. Is that one of our goals?

Plus it gives people who had a Gunship Brother that was their father, brother, son, uncle, nephew, or grand-father a relationship with the Gunship Family we are – I welcome them not only to our Reunions but to our Association.

Let's try to put this to bed. Here's a summary recommendation to add to the first two bullets above:

- Allow immediate or extended family of an AC-119 Gunship Brother (those qualified to be a Regular or Associate Member, Annual or Life) to be a Family Member with the same rights as Associate Membership – application required; dues apply. This category includes anyone in the immediate or extended family of a Gunship Brother, whether that Brother is or was a Regular or Associate Member or not. This is not an automatic membership and dues are applicable.

I guess I don't think this opens the door to any T, D, or H or some of the other wahoos out there – just those good folks with a Gunship Brother in their family tree. Thanks for listening, and no matter what we decide I'm with you! Wayne

Wayne, I can't remember exactly what I replied before but I think I was in line with your first two bullets and your summary recommendation. I think I was having a little trouble determining where the line is between immediate family and extended family. I'm in agreement that the surviving spouse, or next closest kin, of a KIA should be awarded life membership as well as the spouse/next closest kin of deceased members who were life members... As you point out in your two bullets. I think in my initial reply, I felt the courtesy should/or could be extended to our members "natural" children, his parents, and brothers & sisters and members of the household, if applicable and if they show interest. That would be the immediate family. Beyond that would be the extended family, they would pay for associate membership.

Having re-digested all that, I think your proposed third bullet finishes it up fine for me. I say we go with your proposals. Cheers! Bill

I also think there's some corrections on page two info about memberships - here's what I understood as the plain English version of our discussions that ought to go in the Newsletter (the By-Law wording changes will come later):

Who can join the AC-119 Gunship Association? You are eligible for annual or Life Regular membership if you served with the 71st, 17th, or 18th SOS as an Air Crew or Ground Crew Member, on the AC-119G Shadow or AC-119K Stinger Gunships. There are also Associate and Family memberships available.

How do I join? Obtain.....to the *AC-119 Gunship Association*. We offer annual membership at \$20.00 per year or a lifetime membership for \$119.00 (both available to all membership categories). Surviving spouses of Life members become Life Members automatically.

Same corrections on the Membership application on page 9Please Note: there is no charge for surviving spouses of Life Members. Surviving spouses of Life Members become Life Members automatically. Both annual and Life memberships are available in all categories: Regular, Associate, and Family memberships. Annual dues are only \$20.00 or a lifetime membership for only \$119.00 (available to Regular, Associate, and Family memberships) Wayne

Good Morning to All Though I haven't been flight following all the discussion on "who" can become "what kind" of a member, I'd like to suggest putting the membership rules into some kind of a logic table or logic tree. This would be in addition to Wayne's call for a "plain English" version. The method asks questions about their relationship to the original AC-119 Gunshipper (This includes Maintenance folks, Aircrew, Intel, etc. that had direct connection) and goes from there. For Example, the first question could be "Did you personally fly on or maintain an AC-119 Gunship?" A "yes" would lead you down one branch of the tree and a "no" would lead you down another branch. The "yes" branch would lead to the statement (You are eligible to become a "full" and/or "Life" membership. A "no" answer would lead lead to more questions such as "Did you provide external support (e.g. Intel) to the Gunships?" or "Are you a relative of an original gunshipper? Again, a "yes" or "no" answer to each of these questions will lead you on down different branches. Depending on the genealogical distance from the original Gunshipper, one may get an answer about the member ship eligibility in no more than half a dozen levels. There are undoubtedly other ways to clearly and simply portray this complex task so I'm offering this one without prejudice. I'm not married to this idea so use or toss as you, the board, sees fit. Have a good week. I'm outta here and on my way to Lake Erie for some walleye fishing. Ron

Great idea! Before everyone responds to my e-mail, let me try to put one together. THEN, we can formalize a recommendation that everyone can follow. I've been pushing this so we can move on but I don't think we all have the same agreement on what the details are, so Ron's suggestion will give us a clearer "what am I voting on" perspective. Thanks! Wayne