AC-119 Gunship Association

Board Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting, Part 2, continued from October 8, 2024 Meeting

October 13, 2024 at 7:30 PM EDT

Minutes transcribed by Karen Petrie

**Recorder On**

**Members Present:** Mike Drzyzga, John Forbes, Roy Davis, Gus Sininger, Lloyd Froelich, M E Froelich, Bill Petrie, Wayne Laessig, Terry Sarul, Bob Safreno (new secretary)

**Members Absent**:

Doug Wohlgamuth

Dave Voisey

**General Business:**

**The Treasurer Report** was previously approved in part 1 meeting.

**The Membership report** by Dave Voisey was very good.

Bob asked a question about how to get to the membership database list. Ron Julian has a copy and Bob should get with Ron Julian to get contact information. Wayne advised Bob he doesn’t do anything with new membership or the Master Contact list (MCL).

**Agenda Item 4C – new secretary**. Mike has a word document on how to set up a zoom meeting. Mike will send Bob and will get with him before November and walk him through how to do it. The secretary is responsible for setting up zoom meetings.

**Newsletter/Flash:** Mike said to John: goal was to put President’s message into next newsletter. But emails have suggested it just go out as a flash. A question was raised about changing the heading of the current flash or using the old one. Bill stated that if it’s not broken, why mess with it. The decision was made to continue with current flash style. Mike asked John if he could take the old flash message and insert Bills presidents’ message into it. Wayne made a few edits to the letter; however, new approval is not needed prior to sending it out. John will send it out in Word and PDF format. Wayne will send the most recent format of the letter to John.

Gus joined the meeting at this point.

**Quartermaster Report**:

Coins: 18th SOS - out of stock

Association – 16 in stock

17th SOS – 27 in stock

Hats: 18th SOS – out of stock

17th – low on stock

Gus needs to order coins for 18th SOS and Association. Lowest amount to purchase is 50 of each coin.

Mike said we need financial analysis before ordering.

Wayne reminded everyone that we don’t have reconciliation from AFR because Hotel is behind on getting them the invoice. Once done, we should get a refund including Royal Gorge deposits and difference between comps and etc. Should get $6K to $7K back. We are easily in as good a shape as all years on this year’s carryover.

Wayne suggested we should wait until we get the refund before ordering. Gus and Doug should work together to authorize and make the purchase.

**Agenda Item 4H**. FWB Reunion Hotel Contract for Florida: Gus needs someone to tell him to go. He sent an email for all to read. Wayne did send some comments pertaining to wording in the contract that need to be changed. Example: cutoff date, get rooms at the reunion rate, and beer and wine allowed by us. Need AFR and hotel to agree that we can bring our own Beer and Wine. We had that in the contract for Embassy Suites and then it was changed at the last minute. We need to get AFR and hotel to agree we can bring our own beer and wine.

Gus states there are also Two breakfast vouchers per room per night added.

**T- Shirts:** There are 2 options available for reunion:

1)Custom Ink or 2) the Flowery Hotel Hawaiian Shirt with gunships, which are very expensive at almost $40.

Gus says flat no to option 2. The vote would be to stick with Custom Ink. Wayne stated to keep it simple. We have lots of options on what to wear. We do not have a dress code.

Gus suggested having Roy order the T-shirts. All ship for free to Gus. $17 a shirt and sell for $20

Use Design by New President. Sell them for $20 and make $3 a shirt.

Bill stated his design was off the table. He was told he only gets to vote in cases of a tie.

Mike reminded the board about the warehouse full of T-shirts and Gus had to handle them.

They went to Custom Ink so Gus wouldn’t have to deal with them. Gus said he will handle them this year because they can make money for the Association. Mike suggested they look at shirts made by Karen that say something like Granddaughter of, etc. Using Karen, they would order directly through her and association makes no profit off of them.

Wayne asked Gus is $300 profit worth all the time for him to handle all T-shirts

Bill is concerned about the copywrite for design from software. Bill also wanted to know if they should use the 25th reunion in the design of T shirt.

Wayne likes Bills brothers design and brought up a concept of a then and now design**. Bill will try to come up with something**. Roy said T-shirts need to be designable on the Custom Ink website. **Bill will get with Roy.**

Motion to use Custom Ink and use Bills design.

Gus seconded the motion to go with Custom Ink for T-shirts for the FWB Reunion.

**Website:** Wayne can schedule a zoom meeting to go through website page by page to show how to use it and how to put information on it. Wayne will send out an email and anyone that wants to can attend the zoom training session.

**Reunion Recap: Lessons Learned**

1. Need Someone assigned on site with authorization – for Fort Walton, Gus is authorized.
2. On site AFR Representatives. Local person doesn’t have auth to make changes. But this year we will have Gus available.
3. Beverages – wine and beer not allowed at last minute
4. Tweaking the report and forcing AFR to use our template for name tags and wallet card
5. 30 days without hotel invoice and no reconciliation. This is unacceptable.

* Wayne said if we don’t get reconciliation soon, we may have to tell AFR goodbye.
* Bill asked if we had any others available if that should happen.
* Wayne stated that there is a list of 3 – 4 organizations available to use along with Cities.
* Project was given to M E and Lloyd to put list together. We can use this list to give AFR showing them we have others interested in working with us.
* We had also told AFR we thought around 200 people and have been averaging around 130 people. Hoping for 150 for Fort Walton.

**Action Items:**

1.Wayne can send info to M E and Lloyd - Fort Walton finalized contract, old Colorado Springs Contract and lessons learned, and list of other organizations to research if we need to use other organizations.

2.Name Tags and Lanyards: not happy with AFR. Ev made them more professional. Terry asked about the success of people bringing their own lanyards or turning in the lanyards from previous reunions. Bill has a box of lanyards that were left over. Bill needs to count them to see how many might be needed for FWB.

3.Bill asked about reimbursement for Terry. Terry spent $115 that needs to be association funded.

Suggestion made to reimburse Terry. Doug was going to take care of it at the end of the reunion. It wasn’t in the Treasurer Report. Terry spoke with Doug about this, and Doug wanted to have the board vote to refund money. Terry mentioned the by laws state if it is under $300 is treasurers’ responsibility. However, the board had already to spend that money anyway. Gus says the President has the authority to say to do it. Presidents says yes reimburse Terry.

Terry gave the board background info on this. Originally an association check for $115 was written to give to Ryan, because he didn’t want Ryan to think it was a donation. Then Terry wrote a check to the association to cover until the funds were available. If Doug hasn’t deposited the check, then just cancel the check. Otherwise, Terry needs to be reimbursed. Need to find out if Doug has cashed the check. **Bill to contact Doug**.

**Special Project:** M E and Lloyd Foelich. Nothing has been done at this point, but they are eager to start. Waiting to get information from Colorado Springs Reunion and Fort Walton Beach reunion. Wayne said they have a spreadsheet with numbers from each reunion (attendees, meet and greet, rooms, dinners, tours, etc) and **Wayne will send it to them and also to Bill**.

**Documentary: Roy – Lead with Jason Starme** – Roy talked with him a few days ago. He was Interested in when JP was getting oral history videos up on website. JP to get them up this weekend. Jason wants to look at our website videos and what he has from the reunion. Roy suggested to Jason that a good format for the documentary is to read *Spooky, Spectre and the Man: Gunships*. This was published for Mike Friel and is available on Amazon.

Wayne stated that at the 1st Dayton reunion we did group videos by year and squadron, crew position. 5 or 6 videos will give a good flavor of differences between 17th and 18th and years.

Individuals talking and will get good information.

Roy will steer Jason in that direction as well.

**Old Business**

Mike was asked by Dr. Roy Dowdy, a historian from AFSOC, to provide slides and pictures with missions and pictures out of the airplane. Mike will send these and let AFSOC have them.

**New Business:**

Letter head has been updated. Letterhead updated to show the new board member names. Update sent to board and POCs. Took off Terry, Wayne and Mikes name as co-leaders. Mike added Bob as secretary and Bill as President. A question was raised by Bob about the need for phone numbers and addresses on the letterhead. Mike says they have a board plus list with names and phone numbers. Wayne says maybe the letter head needs a contact number at the bottom. Bob clarified that the phone numbers should be added. Wayne suggested at least a contact number should be added. Bob agreed at least a contact number should be added. Mike stated that the letterhead is mostly used for correspondence outside of the association and letters of appreciation post reunion

Mike agreed a contact number is a good suggestion. Bill agreed to have his number added to the letterhead**.**

**Mike to update letterhead with contact number.**

**Liz also needs to update the website**

**POW table was done by ??? need to send out a letter of appreciation to him**.

Bill thinks his name was Scott Williams.

**Media** – all pictures are put on association 5 TB hard drive by Mike

Mike will send pictures of the reunion to John for the newsletter once he formats them. Terry is writing a recap for *the firing circle*. Terry could use the pictures for his recap. Mike will send them to Terry.

**Letters of Appreciation**:

1. Need to Send appreciation letter to Lt Nolan and Ryan Whipman. They Spent entire day with us. Terry will get correct names and spelling and send it to Mike and to Bill. **Bill to send out letter**. Wayne suggested letters should be sent to their commander.
2. Colonel Mac was very instrumental in putting together the Academy Tour. He deserves a formal thank you letter of appreciation
3. Color Guard also needs a letter of appreciation Colorado Springs. FWB Color Guard got coins. But DC color guard did not get letter. Need name and mailing address for Color Guard in DC.
4. POW Table Reader – Scott Williams ?

**Around the Firing Circle:**

**Gus** –

1. Association coffee pot. He has an email from Saturday Dec 14, phone with Everett Sprouse, St Louis, 15th reunion. No longer need to find a coffee pot for the Hootch. We now own a coffee pot. Wayne says we can’t use it because most hotels will not let us use it. Who has the coffee pot? It’s been lost to progress. Everyone agreed not to worry about who has it at this point.
2. Metal Craft Mint, Inc.
   1. 2/15/24 - Invoice for $735.95 for 50 coins
   2. Do we need Made in America? Probably not
      1. Cost is $25 for 50 coins
   3. Numbers? Wayne says we did two ways on edge or on face. Face cost more.
      1. Cost is $100 for 50 coins

Can save about $100 or so on the cost if these are left off the coins.

$10.83 a coin. Shipping cost $40.64

Regular coins – 17th as Made in America but the 18th does not.

Gus also mentioned If we change companies, we can lose our dyes. They are not cheap.

Board agreed to leave Made in America off the coins.

Motion made to leave numbers off the coins, because we are so high in numbers, it doesn’t really matter anymore.

**Summary****: Made in America and numbers will be left off the coins.**

**Motion made and passed.**

1. Letterhead, Gus will need it to get Beer, Soda and Chips.
   1. All board members will get updated letterhead

**Bill –** nothing at this time

**Roy** –

1. Stinger 41 - Secretary Peters had a face to face meeting with the current Secretary of the AF Kendall about the Awards for Stinger 41. Talked to Mark Tarpley at AFA meeting convention and will call Sec Peters to find out results of that conversation.

Sec Peters is putting a lot of pressure on them. Also 24 generals are involved. Hope to know something within a week. Bill will put this on the next agenda.

**John –** will get the Presidents flash out by end of week. When will the next Firing Circle be going out? Mike thinks about the first part of November. John will be out of town during the last week of October but should be able to hand getting it out.

**Bob –** nothing at this time Bob does have board contact list and Mike will email the other information. History by year is something Bob needs. Mike will send it to him.

**Terry** – working on Firing Circle Reunion recap. He should have done it this week and will send it out for approval.

**Wayne** – feed back on by laws corrections. Will correct and send out and then send to Liz. Would like an article for the *firing circle* about the Robecks. They are wrapping the trailer with the same paint scheme as the trike and if anyone wants to donate. Will talk to Doug about using our QR code.

Need 2 things for FWB.

1. Need Article in *Firing Circle* about when, where, and what rates and what included. Something broad.
2. If Stinger 41 comes through, it will be huge for FWB. It could warrant some big changes and structure for the FWB reunion.

Also, could somebody have Doug send Liz a payment. Gus says Doug already sent a check for $1350. Wayne will verify with Liz that she got it.

**ME, Lloyd** – ask that her email address be added along with Lloyd. Mike will have an update made to Excel Spreadsheet. Need to have both emails on contact list.

That’s a wrap!!

Next meeting will be Tuesday, November 12th at 7:30 PM EDT.

**Recorder OFF!**

**Recap**

**Motions made and approved:**

1. Motion to use Custom Ink and use Bills design.
2. Made in America and numbers will be left off the coins.
3. Treasurer Report Approval
4. T-Shirt Vendor Selection – Custom Ink
5. Reimbursement for Terry Saurl

**Action Items**:

1. Mike will send Bob the Word Document which explains how to set up a zoom meeting and will get with him before November and walk him through how to do it.
2. John to send out Flash with Presidents letter. He will send it out in both PDF and Word format.
3. Gus and Doug will work out money details as to when Gus can order coins and hats.
4. Finalize FWB hotel contract amendments. Gus and Wayne
5. Bill will come up with a design for the Reunion T-shirts and get with Roy
6. Wayne to schedule a zoom meeting to go over the web site.
7. Wayne to send a list of reunion organizers, the final FWB contract, Colorado Springs Contract, and lessons learned to M E and Lloyd.
8. Bill to count number of lanyards left over from Colorado Springs to determine how many need to be ordered for Fort Walton.
9. Bill to contact Doug to discuss the reimbursement check for Terry.
10. Wayne to send a spreadsheet containing the number of attendees, meet and greet, rooms, dinners, tours, and etc. to M E and Lloyd.
11. Mike to update letterhead with contact information
12. Liz to update website
13. Bill to put together letters of appreciation for those listed in the minutes
14. Terry is working on *Firing Circle* Runion Recap. Mike will provide him with pictures.
15. Mike will email History by year to Bob
16. Wayne to correct by laws and will send out and will send to Liz.
17. Wayne will talk to Doug about QR Code to be used for donations for the trailer wrap
18. Mike to update Excel Spreadsheet contacts to include email for both M E and Lloyd