

2005.03.SanDiego

55th STRAT RECON WING ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

9 MARCH 2005 - SAN DIEGO, CA

EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM - RED LION HANAIE HOTEL

President Bill Ernst called the meeting to order at 1800.

Present were: Vice Pres Robb Hoover, Treasurer Errol Hoberman, Secretary Max Moore, Don Griffin, Sparky Adams, Sam Pizzo, Joe Gyulavics, Jim Thomas, and Jim Maloney. Also present were San Diego Chairman Bill Lewis and Assn member George Miller. Not present: Mike Cook, Charles Waters, Dennis Haun, George Ross, LtCol Will Hampton and Capt Beth Kelley Horine (deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, and going PCS thereafter).

Ernst called for reading of the minutes from the Board meeting of 6 September 2003. After Secretary Moore did so, Adams moved that the minutes be approved as read. Pizzo seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer Hoberman presented his report (attached) showing that the Assn has total liquid assets of \$20,972, and 1067 members in good standing. Moore moved the report be accepted. Seconded by Griffin, Motion carried. The president asked Maloney and Ross conduct an audit of the treasurer's records and report before or at the membership meeting on 12 March.

There was a short discussion urging that the Board and the membership place an emphasis on membership renewals and recruiting active duty personnel.

Ernst gave a comprehensive report on the past year's Association business. He noted that the Cold War Memorial is complete in all phases and that all the bills had been paid. He also made comments on his decision to retire as president and assume permanent status on the Board, stating "it was an honor to serve", but "it was time to pass the baton".

VPres Hoover reported on the renewed effort to produce a sequel to Bruce Bailey's book, "We See All" due to the interest by the current 55th Wing leadership. He heads a committee (Ernst, Moore) working with the 55th Wing Historian and Chief of Staff's offices in securing research data and in getting materials declassified. (Ongoing.)

Hoover also related on the scenario and success of the fifth edition of the "Tales of the 55th" (18 February), as being the highest attended (250+) so far, attesting to the enthusiastic reception by the active duty wing. He said the tradition would continue, but that Jim Thomas had volunteered to assume the responsibilities for that event. Hoover stated that he would continue as the Association Historian.

Ernst suggested a copy of the original "We See All" be retained by the Assn in perpetuity. In recent years a copy of the book has been given to incoming 55th Wing commanders and that supply is nearly exhausted. He mentioned that Bailey had consented to turn over the copyright for the book to the Association, and thanked him for doing so. Pizzo commented that publishing a few copies of the book should be considered, in that technological advances now allow publishers to produce books at lower costs. Hoover stated he would look into the matter.

The president expressed high praise for Awards Chairman Cook in conducting the Hall of Fame and Award for Excellence processes. He noted the induction of Warren "Pappy" Cole and Thomas "Loose" Lane at ceremonies 18/19 February; and that TSgt Terry C. Hunt of the 55th Medical Group was the 2004 recipient of the Award for Excellence.

Ernst added that the 55th Wing leaders were pleased with the results of the Hall of Fame process since the Association assumed that responsibility the past two years.

Webmaster Griffin announced that Maloney had volunteered to begin the training and transition to assume the duties and responsibilities of maintaining the Assn web site. Griffin will remain webmaster, and Dave Johnson will continue to assist, until such time as Maloney

is fully “checked out”. Griffin suggested that Maloney should enlist an assistant/back-up in the long term to help in running the site.

In the “haberdashery department”, Moore gave a short report on sales of Assn polo shirts and caps as being “sporadic”. He added that a new order of 15 shirts and 12 caps had been made to keep the items available for members. Thomas reported he had a new batch of “regimental” ties and sales were steady up the reunion. Both men expected “decent” sales during the reunion.

San Diego Reunion Chairmen Lewis gave an extensive analysis on the event’s status. He noted that the Red Lion hotel staff were completely cooperative, responsive and professional in every way possible. They did a superior job in making the reunion go smoothly in room reservations, the hospitality room and banquet. He added that the success of the events were a direct result of those actions by the hotel staff. He stated that about 280 were registered for the reunion. Lewis also praised the cooperation and flexibility of the tours group in handling those areas.

President Ernst and the assembled members of the Board expressed their appreciation to Bill and his wife Carol for their outstanding efforts in planning and orchestrating a successful reunion.

A discussion was opened on the subject of amending the Association Articles of Incorporation to revise the wording of Article VIII regarding “a single class members”. This action was deemed necessary by Board member Cook, who has pointed out that the Board over the years, and with the very best of intentions, had granted and/or authorized gratis membership to twelve 55th Wing command positions, dues-free life membership to the widows of members in good standing, and life membership to high dollar donors to the Cold War Memorial fund. That contradiction needed to be rectified.

Various proposed solutions were offered by Cook, Pizzo, Moore and Hoover in e-mails and/or during the discussion. Pres Ernst appointed Hoover to chair a committee with Hoberman and Thomas to meet at 0700, Saturday, 12 March, before the membership meeting, to prepare a proposed amendment to Article VIII. *(That meeting was subsequently rescheduled for a more convenient time on 11 March. Action pending.)*

Nomination Committee Chairman Pizzo announced the slate of nominees for the Board of Directors: for re-election: Moore, Hoberman, Griffin, Gyulavics, Cook, Haun, Thomas, and Ross. Plus, nominees for first time election: Ricky McMahon, Fox Censullo, Kevin Todd, to make up the maximum allowed eleven elected Board positions. Pizzo added that he, Adams and Waters would remain as permanent Board members, with Ernst, Hoover and Maloney opting for that status, each having been elected four or more times. The active duty representatives from the 55th Wing, as approved by the Association Board, are LtCol Will Hampton, 338thCTS Commander, and LtCol (Col-sel) Jay Strickler, 55th Wing Chief of Staff. There being no further nominations, Maloney moved to accept the slate as presented. Hoberman seconded. Motion carried.

Ernst commented on the need to continue the dissemination of Board duties and responsibilities; for instance, separating the secretary duties and newsletter editor. Discussion then moved to where to hold the next reunion in the fall of 2006. Tucson, Omaha and Washington, DC, were mentioned as possibilities with various reasons for each. It was noted that there were no volunteers to chair a reunion at any of the mentioned locales (or any other). It was agreed that the options would be presented at the 12 March membership meeting to ascertain if other locations and/or volunteers would be forthcoming. *(Action pending.)*

Adams moved the meeting be adjourned. Hoover seconded. Motion carried at 1955.

Respectfully submitted,
Max R. Moore, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**12 MARCH 2005 - SAN DIEGO, CA
RED LION HANAIEI HOTEL BALLROOM**

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Ernst at 0800. He welcomed the assembled members and then introduced the current Board of Directors in attendance: Vice Pres Robb Hoover, Secretary Max Moore, Treasurer Errol Hoberman, Webmaster Don Griffin, Joe Gyulavics, Jim Maloney, Jim Thomas, George Ross, Sam Pizzo, Sparky Adams. He also recognized those not in attendance: Charles Waters, Mike Cook, Dennis Haun, LtCol Will Hampton, LtCol (Col-select) Jay Strickler, and outgoing member Capt Beth Kelley Horine (deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, and going PCS to RAF Lakenheath, UK, thereafter), for their service to the Association.

Ernst called for the secretary to read the minutes from the 6 September 2003 Dayton reunion membership meeting. Thomas moved that we dispense with the reading. Darrel Kirbie seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer Hoberman gave the Association financial report stating, "the Association is still solvent" with liquid assets of \$20,972 in checking and savings. He also reported that there are 1097 members in good standing (a gain of 33 since 1 October 2004), which included 164 widows and 43 associate members. The president noted that Maloney and Ross had completed the required audit of the treasurer's records and found "all to be in order".

Ernst then gave a comprehensive report on Association business in the past year: the Cold War Memorial financial commitments have been met, and the brick patio is essentially complete to include the replacement and/or addition of any bricks that were incorrect, defective or missing, and that trees were planted behind the memorial.

The Association made significant donations to the Air Force Memorial (\$1000 in January 2004), the 55th Wing Birthday Ball fund (\$1000 annually), and to the Tuskegee Airmen Reunion held in Omaha in August 2004 (\$600).

He also gave explanations of the 55th Wing Hall of Fame and the Association Award for Excellence processes, and recognized the leadership of Awards Chairman Cook in those endeavors. He stated that the 55th Wing leadership was pleased with the results of how the Association had conducted the selection process since assuming the responsibilities the last two years.

Ernst made comments regarding his retirement as Association president, acknowledging it was time for new leadership and a fresh outlook. He also had high praise for the all the Board of Directors members he had worked with in his nine-plus years' tenure. He stated it was his great honor and privilege to have served the Association, and that he would continue to do so. VPres Hoover reported that the current 55th Wing leadership re-ignited interest in producing a sequel to Bruce Bailey's book, "We See All". The new book would cover history of the 55th from the late 1960s to the current times. A core committee of the Association is working with the 55th Wing Historian's office on this effort. (Ongoing.) Hoover noted that Bailey had passed to the Association the rights to the original book for publication, and expressed the Association's gratitude to Bailey for that action. He then recapped the most recent "Tales of the 55th" event (18 February), and said the tradition would continue next year and that Thomas has volunteered to assume the responsibilities for organizing that event.

Webmaster Griffin stated that the effort to find "new blood" to maintain the Association web site resulted in Maloney volunteering to begin assumption of those duties and responsibilities once he passes a 'stand/eval.'

Ernst recognized Nomination Committee Chairman Pizzo, who announced the slate of nominees for the Board of Directors: for re-election: Moore, Hoberman, Griffin, Gyulavics, Cook, Haun, Thomas, and Ross. Plus, nominees for first time election: Ricky McMahan, Fox Censullo, Kevin Todd, to make up the maximum allowed eleven elected Board positions. Pizzo

added that he, Adams and Waters would remain as permanent Board members, with Ernst, Hoover and Maloney opting for that status, each having been elected four or more times. The active duty representatives from the 55th Wing, as approved by the Association Board, are LtCol Will Hampton, 338thCTS Commander, and LtCol (Col-sel) Jay Strickler, 55th Wing Chief of Staff.

The floor was opened for nominations from the floor. There being none, Adams moved that the slate of nominees be accepted and elected by acclamation. Norm Paul seconded. Motion passed by voice vote of the members.

President Ernst commented on the new members' qualifications and long affiliation with the Wing and this Association, and he noted the movement toward younger leadership as being a positive and needed action for the Association's future. He then announced that the newly elected Board would meet in the area of the podium immediately following the adjournment of the membership meeting.

He then recognized the reunion organizers, Bill and Carol Lewis, for their superior, dedicated hard work in orchestrating a superb reunion, and "for doing such a terrific job." The membership responded with a well deserved, rousing standing ovation.

The floor was opened for discussion on where to hold the next reunion in the fall (Sep/Oct) of 2006. Omaha, Tucson and Washington, DC, were all suggested, but no one volunteered to lead at any of those locations (or anywhere else). It was noted that the last gathering in Omaha was in September 1996, and that perhaps it was time to return to 'Recca' for the exposure and reconnection to the active duty troops of the 55th Wing at Offutt. Also mentioned was that DC would be hosting the dedication of the Air Force Memorial and Air Force Association national convention in September 2006.

A straw poll showing of hands that Washington, DC, led in the voting, with Omaha a very close second. It was determined that the Board would have this as open for further action. Once a decision is reached, announcements will be made via the Assn web site, newsletter, and e-mails to spread the word as quickly and widely as possible.

Moore commented on the pending arrival of an RC-135 aircraft from Offutt, and the planned static display tour, being coordinated via cell phone by Thomas. He stated that further information and details would be announced/posted in the Hospitality Room.

He also took the occasion to elaborate on Pres Ernst's leadership and the many significant contributions and milestones which occurred during his time in the presidency as the Association grew in numbers and function, and as it became a more solid and relevant organization. The membership again responded with a standing ovation.

Griffin moved the meeting be adjourned. Bill Simon seconded. Motion carried at 0938.

Respectfully submitted,
Max R. Moore, Secretary

55th STRAT RECON WING ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

12 MARCH 2005 - SAN DIEGO, CA

GRAND BALLROOM - RED LION HANAIEI HOTEL

President Bill Ernst called the meeting to order at 0842.

Present were: VPres Robb Hoover, Treasurer Errol Hoberman, Secretary Max Moore, Don Griffin, Sparky Adams, Sam Pizzo, Joe Gyulavics, Jim Thomas, Jim Maloney, and George Ross. Not present: Mike Cook, Charles Waters, Dennis Haun, Kevin Todd, Ricky McMahon, Fox Censullo, LtCol Will Hampton and LtCol (Col-sel) Jay Strickler.

Motions to dispense with the reading of the last Board meeting minutes and Treasurer's report were made by Hoberman and Moore respectively. Both were seconded by Adams and passed unanimously.

Robb Hoover reported that his committee had offered the proposed amendment to Article VIII of the Association Articles of Incorporation regarding membership in the Association:
ARTICLES of INCORPORATION of the 55th Strat Recon Wing Association
ARTICLE VIII-MEMBERSHIP (last sentence) as reads: The Corporation will have a single class of members, each required to pay the approved annual dues to remain a member in good standing. Recommended change to read: The Corporation will have classes of membership as shall be specified in the Bylaws.

The recommended Articles amendment will be presented to the entire Board of Directors for approval to go forward for the legal change. Once that is completed the following recommendation was made for the By-laws to read:

BYLAWS of the 55th STRAT RECON WING ASSOCIATION

Add Bylaw 7. MEMBERSHIP.

7.1 Additional classes of membership include widows of 55th SRWA members. Widows shall be granted lifetime memberships with no dues. Honorary and life memberships shall be as determined by the Board of Directors.

**7.2 Copies of the 55th SRWA newsletter may be distributed to selected members of the 55th Wing staff and other persons and organizations for the benefit of the Association
(These actions are pending further consideration to be finalized.)**

Webmaster Griffin announced that Maloney had volunteered to assume the duties and responsibilities of maintaining the Assn website, and would begin the necessary training and transition process. Dave Johnson will continue to assist, as needed.

Pres Ernst opened the floor for nominations for Assn officers. For President, Adams nominated Jim Thomas, Moore seconded. *(Ernst asked Thomas to excuse himself for the officer election process.)* Moore moved nominations be closed, Griffin seconded.

For VPRES, Hoover nominated McMahan, Moore seconded. For Secretary, Adams nominated Moore, Ross seconded. For Treasurer, Griffin nominated Hoberman, Adams seconded. After each nomination was closed in turn, the president conducted voice voting, and all officers were elected unanimously.

Hoberman remains membership chair, Moore as newsletter editor, Hoover as Assn Historian, and Cook as Awards Chairman.

Hoberman encouraged the Assn to seek incorporation in Nebraska since many of the officers and members of the Board resided there. Retiring-President Ernst said the process would be researched and considered for action. (Open)

Moore moved the meeting be adjourned. Ross seconded. Motion carried at 0900.

Respectfully submitted:

Max R. Moore, Secretary
