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55th WING ASSOCIATION Crown Plaza Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO
55TH WING ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
5 SEPTEMBER 2012 CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

Meeting was called to order at 1607 by Pres Thomas.

Board members present for a quorum: President Jim Thomas, Vice President Ricky McMahon, Secretary Kevin Todd, Max Moore, Errol Hoberman, Bill Ernst, Robb Hoover, Jim Maloney, George Ross, Fox Censullo. Also present were the Reunion chairpersons: Sandy and Al Feldkamp

Members not present: Treasurer Michael Cook, Denny Haun, Larry Utle, Don Kelly Pete Glenboski, Don Griffin, Sam Pizzo, and active duty representatives: Lt Col Paul Rehome and TSgt Jennette Johnson

Moore moved to dispense of reading BoD meeting minutes from Allen, TX, reunion in May 2011. McMahon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Moore then moved for approval of last minutes. Seconded. Motion carried.

President's report

- More units participated in Heritage week this year prior to Tales and Ball.
- Joe Siniscalchi was inducted to Hall of Fame. Use of the AF Weather Agency auditorium for the induction ceremony was much better than venues at Wing HQ building. AFWA is next to the Airmen Leadership School where the *Tales of the 55th* is held. It is convenient for folks who attend the induction ceremony to walk over to the *Tales of the 55th*.
- There were 970 in attendance at 55th Wing Birthday Ball. A record turnout by nearly a hundred!
- The 55th Wing change of command from BG Don Bacon to Col John Rausch occurred on June 28th. Both individuals are great allies of the Association.
- A lithograph of General's Row was presented by the Association for the Wing Commander's quarters.
 - Ernst provided a recap of how it all came about. It was donated to the 55th Wing Commander, via Don White through the Association.
 - Maloney showed a picture of the dedication which is posted on the Association web page. Members of the BoD and the original artist were present at the ceremony.

Membership report by Mike Cook presented by Jim Thomas.

- There are 603 dues paying members of which 43 are active duty.
- Hoberman suggested we provide a self-addressed envelope for members to use to remit dues and/or changes of address. Discussion commenced and most members thought this was a good idea.
 - Moore noted that the next mailing in January/February will be the newsletter and membership directory in a single large envelope. It will be mailed first-class vice third. It was suggested to put the Association self-addressed in large folder with the newsletter and directory.
 - Ernst moved this be done. Ricky Mac seconded. Motion carried.
- Al Feldkamp commented on "why is membership dwindling?" He gave the B-66 organization example which is a mission that is no longer in effect. The 55th is a "now" mission.
 - Discussion ensued. Although the numbers drop is not significant, the importance of constant recruiting of members was stressed.
 - Thomas commented that Col Rausch says "troops are busy doing other things. Maybe when they retire they have the time"

-- Todd stated he thinks there is an issue with his and Ricky Mac's peer group. This is the area upon which we need to focus. Pres Thomas agreed and named VP McMahon to spearhead the recruiting effort.

Treasurer's report by Cook presented by Thomas.

- Current balance is \$34,400.00 (rounded).
- We are "holding our own" right now with regard to members renewing.
 - Renewals and new memberships help the Association to meet the projected annual budgets now and into the near-future.
- "The budget is doing ok. We don't have deep pockets, but are doing well."
 - Projected outlays of dues indicate continued/same level of activities into the near-term.

Reunion report - Sandy Feldkamp

- We have received sales tax relief from Colorado - at the hotel we did not have to pay \$1503 in taxes!
- As of 4 September - 140 coming to reunion. 152 was the high count. Twelve dropped for various reasons. Some late comers are expected. More dinner and tour sign-ups are anticipated when attendees sign in.
- The minimum room requirement was dropped by the hotel just minutes before this meeting began. Therefore, there will be no additional cost for hotel rooms although we didn't meet the minimum number.
- The Association provided \$2000 for seed money.
- Sponsor Donations noted were:
 - \$500 donation from Nelson, Van Denburg & Campbell Wealth Management Group (Dutch Van Denburg.)
 - SNC ISR Division - Jon Burgoyne - gave \$1000 and Kathleen Welo (Jon's executive assistant), volunteer time at registration.
 - L3 Communications Integrated Systems - Joe Siniscalchi - \$1000
 - Wine covered by donations - 2 bottles at each table
 - Sam's Club - ice and soft drinks, coffee, munchies, bottled water
 - Pepsi Beverages Company
 - Security Services Federal Credit Union, Wells Fargo - handouts
 - Walmart - various supplies
- President Thomas presented Sandy and AI with a gift from the Assn for all their hard work.
 - The BoD approved the gift from the Association to the Feldkamps.

Historian report - Robb Hoover

- A visit to USAFA Cadet Squadron 11, which is aligned with the 55th Wing, has been set-up in coordination with LtCol Brandon Johnson, Sqd 11 commander, for Thursday. Presentations will be made by four 55th alumni on their operational experiences to the cadets during a history session. (Intro to be by Thomas with Hoover, Dubuy, Moore and Major Chris Shannon attending.)
 - - Cadet escorts will meet the group who will join the entire corps for lunch prior to the briefing session in Arnold Hall Sqd 11's dayroom.
 - Bill Gerber is attending the reunion. He was never in 55th, but was in 544th Intel Wing. He is researching information on RB-47 *United Effort*, drone operations in SE Asia and Vietnam SA-2 collections. Documented by him, this is a 4-5 year project. He will be talking to folks at reunion. He wants to eventually put a display at AF museum or SAC museum.

- Glen Duer, the last member of RB-47 aircraft flights over Russia in *Operation Home Run*, is at this reunion.
- *We See All*, Bruce Bailey's book, has been formatted for Kindle and iPad. If you want to be a Beta person. Send Errol Hoberman an e-mail for access.

Web Report

- The president gave accolades to Jim Maloney for maintaining and upgrading a great web site for the Association.
- Maloney gave overview of web site status to the BoD.
 - Talked about questions on web site and how that works.
 - "Members Only" link has been established for future use. The user name and password will be released as appropriate. Probable items for that link will be future issues of the newsletter.
 - Facebook page now up and running. There have been several "likes" on page.
 - Google analytics shows how much action our web page has. It indicates a good amount of activity on web page.
- Maloney suggested putting banners/logos for donors/sponsors on the web site.

Old Business

- At the last reunion BoD meeting in Allen, TX, it was approved to make the Fisher House foundation the official charity for the purpose of the annual Association donation. The wisdom of that continues as the Foundation remains rated A+ by the American Institute of Philanthropy.
- A new name plate was placed on the Award for Excellence trophy with the current name of "55th Wing Association".
- Newly acquired Assn flag was shown to BoD. Has "55th Wing Association" on it. Cost was \$350. Thanks to Ernst and his BIG SAFARI contacts in Korea for acquiring same.

New Business

- BoD election will be held at Membership meeting. Ernst read the slate consisting of all current BoD members since they chose to stand for re-election. Ernst will present the slate to the membership, ask for nominations from floor and conduct the vote.
 - Hoberman asked if should there be an attendance requirement for BoD members at the reunion.
 - Discussion ensued. While the consensus was that there should be a reasonable expectation for members of the BoD to participate as often as possible, there is the potential for conflicts of health, family and other commitments. No action was taken to alter current status.
 - The president commented that he would refine the method of soliciting BoD nominations.
 - The president will also look at filling BoD vacancies before next reunion. He will appoint
 - a nominating committee to look at this.
- Maloney gave a FACEBOOK presentation for the web page.
- Non-Federal Entity (NFE) information from the president stated that the Association under current Air Force guidelines, should not issue 'gratis' nor 'honorary' memberships. This fact was confirmed in a discussion with the 55th Wing commander by the Association president. Thus the policy of giving same to key wing personnel will be rescinded. All members present agreed with this action.
- A copy of newsletter committee report was distributed to the BoD. Discussion ensued on publication of the newsletter on the web site in order to save mailing costs. It was agreed by

all members present that this was a prudent idea, and that the methodology should cause minimal additional workload. The methodology was discussed and concurred upon by those present.

--The membership will be informed of this process in the next newsletter. Also the president's message will address the subject.

---Those members wishing to get the newsletter electronically on the Association web site vice hard copy, will inform the webmaster and the membership chairman via the webmaster link at the bottom of the home page. The membership chair will update the membership roster (data base) to reflect that newsletters will not be mailed to those members electing not to receive hard copy.

---The webmaster will insure that each affected member has the current user name and password to access the Members Only section of the web site. The web page will highlight when a newsletter is newly published and available to those wishing to read/download it electronically.

-- It is anticipated there will always be some members who will receive the newsletter via USPS (*unless it goes belly-up*).

- A discussion of the low attendance numbers for this and the last two reunions was opened.
-- Many opinions were offered, but of course, no single cause nor remedy could be pinpointed.

- A new active duty member for the BoD nominated by the 55th Wing Commander is TSgt Jeannette G. Johnson. LtCol Mo Krishna, who has served for nearly three years, left PCS to attend advanced military school.

-- Moore moved to approve TSgt Johnson as an active duty representative to the BoD. Seconded by Ernst. Motion carried.

- New item: Errol suggested the next Assn directory be sent electronically to as many members as possible.

-- Discussion on the subject was negative due to many issues, primarily privacy.

-- Hoover said the newsletter/directory committee discussed this and thought it was not a practical plan for several reasons. A published directory mailed to all dues paying members was considered the best situation.

There being no further business, Hoover moved to adjourn the meeting. Ricky Mac seconded. Motion carried. Adjourned at 1817

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Todd, Secretary (Editing assists by Max Moore and Jim Thomas)

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2012

CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

0815L- Meeting called to order by President Jim Thomas. Convened per notice given in May 2012 Association newsletter. Quorum present.

Minutes from previous membership meeting at the reunion in Allen, TX: Max Moore moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes (which had been published in the post-Texas reunion newsletter of July 2011). Seconded by Jim Arbuckle. Motion passed.

The president mentioned that it was still possible to purchase bricks for the Cold War Memorial patio and those who were interested in doing so should see Bill Ernst.

Membership report provided by Michael Cook for presentation by the President. He announced there were 603 dues paying members (a snap shot of an ever changing day-to-day

number) of which 43 were active duty troops. This is a slight decrease as members whose dues expired at the end of 2011 have been slow to renew in spite of various forms of reminders. However, extraordinary efforts by Cook and Moore did manage to retrieve approximately 70% of the members whose dues expired in January 2012.

Thomas reiterated the dues timing process of all dues expiring at 31 December of the year through which a member is paid. But, that there is a grace period until 1 April of the ensuing year until a person is declared delinquent and removed mailing list.

Treasury report from Michael Cook presented by the President: the current balance is \$34,400. In short "we are holding our own" with regard to members renewing and new members signing up to remain 'solvent' and meet the Association's projected annual budgets now and into the near-term years.

The president then opened the floor to Bill Ernst, the Board of Directors nomination chairman. Ernst announced the slate for the BoD as all the current incumbents: Jim Thomas, Ricky McMahon, Michael Cook, Kevin Todd, Sam Pizzo, Don Griffin, Max Moore, Robb Hoover, Bill Ernst, Errol Hoberman, Jim Maloney, Dennis Haun, Larry Utley, George Ross, Fox Censullo, Pete Glenboski, and Don Kelly. He also announced that the active duty representatives previously nominated by the 55th Wing Commander and approved by the sitting BoD, were LtCol Paul Rehome and TSgt Jennette Johnson, the latter being approved at the most recent Board meeting, 5 September, replacing LtCol Mo Krishna who left for a school assignment on short notice in August. (*Further note: the volunteer active duty members of the Board are not elected by the general membership. They are nominated by the 55th Wing commander and approved by the sitting Board.*)

Ernst opened the floor for further nominations. There being none, Moore moved to close the nominations. Motion seconded by several. Motion carried. Ernst then said he would entertain a motion to elect the nominees by acclamation. Bill Simon so moved. Motion seconded by many and carried.

Pres Thomas retook the podium and opened a discussion on how the Association could improve the recruiting of new and 'younger' members. A few members offered suggestions and opinions, but it was generally agreed that recruiting is a member-wide responsibility. Additional efforts will be made, and possible actions taken, by the Board before the next reunion to target new members from a 'lost generation' of 55th veterans.

The next subject opened was for the 30th reunion in the spring of 2014. Thomas announced that BoD member Don Kelly had volunteered to chair a reunion in Omaha/Offutt area the exact date TBD. Discussion ensued on pros and cons, logistics, costs, attractions in the area, etc. But it was generally agreed that the main purpose in holding a reunion at Omaha/Offutt periodically was to reconnect the membership with the active duty 55th Wing, and vice versa, for the reciprocal exposure.

Thomas asked if there were any other volunteers to host a reunion at any other sites. There were none.

Ernst moved to hold the next reunion at Omaha/Offutt in 2014 in conjunction with the Birthday Ball week (*late March, early April*), if feasible. Motion seconded and carried.

It was noted that the past three reunions attendance was at about 150-160 per, which is below the previous average of about 210. A short discussion ensued as to what may be the reasons such as locale, costs, health issues, advertising, et al; but of course, there was no definitive answer.

Elvio Palmeri, the appointed enlisted member liaison, addressed the need to attract more former and current enlisted people into the Association membership.

President Thomas gave his overall report on Association activities during the past year to include the several interactions with the 55th Wing. He emphasized that the current 55th Wing commander, Col John Rauch, had multiple past tours in the Wing and was knowledgeable about and supportive of the Association.

Thomas detailed how the Wing Hall of Fame and the Association's Award for

Excellence, Heritage Week and the Birthday Ball are examples of how the Association continues to contribute to the Wing. Ernst elaborated that the Association administers the Hall selection process, which ensures appropriate inductees are honored. Moore also commented on how the Award for Excellence is accepted as a prestigious recognition for the active duty personnel who receive it.

It was announced that the re-elected Board of Directors would meet immediately after this meeting in order to elect officers.

There being no further business, the President adjourned the meeting at 0903.

Respectfully submitted,

Max R. Moore, Acting Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2012

CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

Members present for a quorum: President Jim Thomas, Vice President Ricky McMahon, Bill Ernst, Errol Hoberman Robb Hoover – Jim Maloney – George Ross – Fox Censullo – and Max Moore (acting secretary)

Absent – Sec. Kevin Todd – Treas Mike Cook – Denny Haun – Larry Utley – Don Kelly – Pete Glenbosky Don Griffin – Sam Pizzo – active duty reps. LtC Rehome – TSgt Jennette Jonson
Meeting convened and called to order at 0857.

Pres Thomas asked VP McMahon to 'study' improving the recruitment of his peer group and younger generations of 55th'ers in such 'target' areas as the DC/Virginia/Maryland area, Denver/Colorado Springs, Dallas/San Antonio as the centers of expanded areas.

Moore then moved that the incumbent Association officer holders be re-elected to said positions.

Motion seconded by several. Motion carried.

--- Thomas then re-appointed members to positions and committee chairs currently serving.

- Meeting adjourned at 0903.

.....Respectfully submitted, Max R. Moore, Acting Secretary
