

2015.10.SAT

55th WING ASSOCIATION

2015 REUNION - San Antonio

BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

SAN ANTONIO EMBASSY SUITES RIVERWALK ROOM TEXAS A

WEDESNDAY 21 OCTOBER 2015

President Jim Thomas called the meeting to order at 1615. Others present were VPres Ricky McMahon, Jim Maloney, George Ross, Paul Jeanes, Pete Glenboski and Max Moore.

Association members attending were Alan Feldkamp and Richard Ray.

Ten directors are required for a quorum, but travel arrangements and delays unfortunately prevented some directors from arriving in time. Thus, no official business could be conducted and the meeting was restricted to discussions.

The president advised that there were no pressing issues requiring official action, but discussions would ensue.

Minutes from the 9 April 2014 BoD meeting were dispensed with, as Moore so moved, seconded by all and carried.

Thomas presented treasurer and membership reports prepared by Treasurer Mike Cook. The organization is in good status finance-wise with prudent management and both short and long term budget planning. The president emphasized that dues paid in advance must be amortized over the out-years.

There is about \$13,000 available for non-budgeted projects. Membership is holding steady with renewals and new members. The active duty member numbers have declined, but is a constant effort for recruiting.

Thomas emphasized that keeping complete and accurate records regarding the veteran status of members is essential for IRS purposes of ensuring the Association's tax exempt status. Some members had inquired about using PayPal to remit dues. Treasurer Cook looked into the matter and determined it was not a financially prudent option for the Association. Cook answered that in the treasurer's report published in the January 2015 issue of the *Videmus Omnia*.

The president related that he had looked into seeking tax exempt status in Texas for the purpose of saving taxes/fees for the reunion hotel. He determined that the red tape gauntlet and risk/reward ratio were not worth completing the process.

He reported that the Association's Award for Excellence has an upgraded technology for future presentations. It is more portable and will be retained by the Assn in custom case. The original trophy will be housed permanently in the Gen Daugherty Conference Center at Offutt. Thomas reported that Assn members in the Offutt area hosted the newest wing commander, Colonel Marty "Moose" Reynolds, at a traditional dinner last July. He is supportive of the Assn and continues the excellent rapport with this organization.

Thomas reported on the reunion status, mentioning what a superior job reunion chairman Jeff Herd had done. The room contract numbers and food/beverage costs were met. Moore related that the number of attendees was the lowest in several years and 'we' need to find out why. Discussion ensued about future reunions, how often, locations, costs, etc. Moore suggested a poll of the membership is needed to gather information. He will head the effort to build a questionnaire for that purpose. Target mailing sometime next calendar year.

Agreement was still to hold to the 18 months time frame, which would look to the spring of 2017, avoiding conflicts with the Wing Birthday Ball, Easter, etc. Richard Ray suggested Tampa, FL, (where he resides) as the next locale, and his willingness to head that reunion. This option was to be put to the membership meeting.

Thomas suggested that the day may come where no one will volunteer to host a reunion, and we may have to turn to the Reunion BRAT planning organization. He has done research into

the organization, which has good recommendations from other military organizations, such as BIG SAFARI, the B-47 Stratojet Assn, et al. Vice Pres McMahon agreed to take a further look at the BRAT organization for potential use.

Pres Thomas then pointed out the Association's Bylaws are in need of administrative and cosmetic updating, mainly to reflect the organizations name change. He called upon George Ross to recap the proposed changes. There was general agreement that the changes were appropriate and should be made.

Thomas noted that an agreement was made at the CSprings to eliminate granting free memberships to key active duty commanders, thus negating the need for Associate Membership-Active Duty (AM-AD) designation.

The election of the Board of Directors will be held at the membership meeting. All currently serving members had indicated their desire to stand for election (either to the president or tacitly) and would be presented as a slate at the Saturday meeting.

The discussion meeting adjourned at 1745.

Respectfully submitted,

MAX R. MOORE

Acting Secretary

55th WING ASSOCIATION 2015 REUNION - San Antonio, TX

55TH WING ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES 24 October 2015

Embassy Suites San Antonio Riverwalk - Majestic Room A

President Jim Thomas opened the meeting at 0900 and noted that notice of the meeting was announced in the July issue of the newsletter, and that a quorum was present.

Other BoD members present: Max Moore, Val Dugie, George Ross, Pete Glenboski, Jim Maloney, Ricky McMahon, Trish Seinwill, and Jeff Herd.

After welcoming remarks he gave the president's report. He shared that his evaluation of the health of Association was that we are in good health. Membership numbers remain steady; due to a monster effort by Mike Cook and Moore who actively remind/encourage folks to keep their dues up to date. Finances also remain sound. The July 2015 newsletter was outstanding covering all activities of the Association.

The Association remains in good standing with current 55th Wing leadership. The relationship with the out-going wing commander, BrigGen Greg Guillot, was strong. The new wing commander, Colonel Marty "Moose" Reynolds, an EC-130 pilot, was the guest of Association at a recent dinner, beginning yet another strong relationship.

The Association picked up the flag of the now-defunct WWII 55th Fighter Group due to its dwindling membership. The Association provides a wreath honoring that group placed annually on Memorial Day at Cambridge National Cemetery by members of the 95th Recon Squadron in Mildenhall AFB, UK.

At the 55th Wing Tales of the 55th in conjunction with the May 2015 55th Wing Birthday Ball, the Association presented a replica of the Palm Trophy. After an exhaustive search of the Wing, the Air Force Museum and the Air Force Historian, it was determined that the original was not to be found. The Association-provided replicas of the plaque and trophy will be awarded the 55th Wing's Recon Crew of the Year award to be administered by the 55th Wing Ops Group.

The minutes of the last membership meeting were published June 2014 newsletter and on the Association website. Moore moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes; motion was seconded by the entire room, and carried.

President Thomas then provided the Treasurer and Membership report prepared by Mike Cook, our very precise treasurer. Thomas noted membership remains strong overall due to the loyal members who are unable to participate in reunions, but continue their strong support of the Association. He also noted that about 170 widows continue to be associates of the

Association. Unfortunately, Active Duty membership continues to decline. Members pointed out that the current active duty members have different priorities than many Association members (do not join clubs, associations, etc.).

The president reiterated that finances remain strong growing for \$6K in 2008 to nearly \$50K as of 1 October 2015; however, dues Paid in Advance to the total of \$35K must be held in reserve over a period of years. Fortunately, this leaves \$13K in surplus funds that are not earmarked for any specific activity. The average budget for the Association is \$14-15K/year; the surplus would allow the Association to continue to operate for three years without any additional funding should that unfortunate happen; and/or support unbudgeted projects.

The president shared that in 2012 several donations and 3-year dues payments, as well as some expenditures were deferred to 2013, allowed for an income bump that year.

Moore noted the outstanding efforts of Cook on managing and balancing the budget. Moore noted that Cook was the first to establish an annual budget to manage the funds.

The president asked the members to keep the Association up-to-date on contact information to allow for Association news. He also shared that the IRS now requires more information to prove veteran status to allow the Association to retain its tax exempt status. Members can assist in this effort by updating their membership forms to document veteran status, and for updating the data base for the Directory.

He also shared that the new Sarpy County Cemetery director came to the Association's informal Tuesday breakfast (at the Lodge in LaPlatte). She informed the group that the Omaha National Cemetery will begin to take burials in the fall of 2016.

President Thomas noted that reunion attendance has been in a downward trend in recent years, and stating that this is the lowest attendance in many years. He stated that a survey on reunions will be prepared and sent to the membership asking members what could be done to increase participation in reunions. An informal show of hands showed continued interest in reunions every 18 months.

It was noted that fall is a good time for reunions as it tends to be less busy

The next topic was the possibility of a reunion for spring 2017. Larry Mitchell suggested Tampa as an opportunity with SOCOM as a host; Val Dugie pointed out the strong presence of the 55th Wing in Central Command. A show of hands showed a majority of members supported Tampa as the next reunion location. Richard Ray offered to host the reunion in Tampa, exact date TBD. He stood to introduce himself and give his background.

The president then opened the floor to questions. Ray asked about the 55th SRW Cold War Memorial at WPAFB. Mitchell shared there was a crack in the back of the Memorial, but that repairs were being explored and it appeared it would cost \$400 to fill the crack. Members noted the special nature of the memorial. Moore noted that Jack Kovacs and Larry LaFlair of Fairborn, Ohio, continue to monitor the condition and care for the Memorial. Both have been awarded Lifetime membership for their dedicated and continued efforts. The Association is fortunate to have such 'caretakers' on-site.

Thomas noted that there will be a section of the Omaha National Cemetery for memorials; a possible smaller memorial for the 55th might be an activity for the Association at a point in the future.

Pres Thomas then brought up the BOD members' election and recognized Moore as the nominating chair. Moore noted that the Bylaws allow for 19 elected BoD members, and that there are currently 19 serving. All current directors had expressed a desire to stand for election.

As the names were read, those in attendance stood for the membership to recognize them. It was moved by Hank Rieden, and seconded by many, that the BoD slate be accepted and elected by the membership to continue as the BoD. Motion carried.

It was noted by the president that Jeff Herd did an excellent job as the reunion chairman. He was recognized and congratulated with a round of applause.

Cliff Lambert complimented the outstanding job that Moore does with the newsletter.

Jim Maloney asked for comments regarding the Assn website and told of newer features. Moore asked anyone who had been taking pictures during the reunion to send same to Maloney for a reunion album on the web site, and to him for newsletter use. It was moved and seconded by many the meeting be adjourned; carried and the president adjourned the meeting at 0955.

Respectfully submitted,
PATRICIA SEINWILL
Secretary

BOD Meeting

Notes from post-membership discussion meeting of the BoD (1010-1030):

In attendance were: Jim Thomas, Max Moore, Val Dugie, George Ross, Pete Glenboski, Jim Maloney, Ricky McMahon, Trish Seinwill, and Jeff Herd.

As no quorum was present (10 are required), the meeting was informal and no official business could be conducted. Thus, it was noted that all serving officers would continue in those positions until such time as an election could occur, as will current appointed positions.

The president asked the BoD members present about the timing of the BoD meetings at reunions. Jim Maloney suggested it be held immediately before the Members' meeting.

Discussion noted that in non-controversial years that would not be a problem, but in years where there were more in-depth discussions, timing could be challenging.

It was suggested the BoD meeting be held later in the day, possibly even with dinner. Several BoD members noted their spouses wished to have dinner together. Final suggestion was to hold the BoD meeting after dinner, around 1930-2130. All members present agreed that might work and that it would be discussed before the next reunion.

Discussion adjourned.