

Omaha 2019 Reunion Meeting Minutes

1. BOD Meeting, Wednesday 03 April, 2019
2. Membership Meeting, Friday 05 April, 2019
3. BOD Meeting Friday 05 April, 2019

1. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES - APRIL 3rd 2019 EMBASSY SUITES - LAVISTA, NE

Vice President Ricky McMahon convened the meeting at 1600, as President Joe Spivey was conducting last minute reunion/monument coordination. Attending were: Treasurer Michael Cook, Jim Thomas, Jim Maloney, Val Dugie, Mo Krishna, Don Kelly, Paul Jeanes, Ham Kennedy, Fox Censullo, George Ross, Colonel David Priesman and Max Moore, thus a quorum.

Moore moved to dispense with the reading of the April 2017 meeting minutes as they were distributed to the BoD after the Tampa reunion and are posted on the Association web site. Seconded by many and passed.

President Spivey arrived at 1610 and took the chair. He opened the floor for discussion.

Cook suggested that the number of elected Board members should be reduced and noted the concentration of members in the Offutt area. A lengthy discussion ensued on that topic with no concrete conclusion or action. But, in any event it would take a change of the By Laws to reduce the number of elected directors. Moore provided an oral history of the evolution of the BoD make-up that resulted in a greater number of directors than in the original By Laws which had a maximum of 11 elected directors.

Subsequently, Pres Spivey said he would appoint an exploratory committee to take up the issue and report recommendations. President will appoint leads/members within a month with a due-out to the Board o/a 90 days. (OPEN) Moore was recognized as the BoD nomination chair. He reported all 16 incumbent directors chose to stand for re-election. Bill Ernst added the nomination Bill McKechnie during a previous e-mail session. That filled the maximum number of 17 elected directors allowed by the By Laws. The Board agreed the slate would be presented at the membership meeting. Moore reminded the members that they would meet immediately after the membership meeting on Friday to elect the executive positions.

Colonel Priesman will remain an active duty director as long as he remains with the 55th Wing and/or chooses to do so.

Cook noted there is @ \$76,000 in the Association account including funds from reunion registrations. He presented the 2019 budget, which had been approved via e-parliamentary procedures earlier this year. However, there was one item pointed out by Cook, i.e., that since there no longer was an official 55th Wing Birthday Ball, which had been supported by the Association with a \$1000 donation in previous years to help defray the costs for lower airmen attending, that item was no longer part of the budget. A donation to the Air Force Ball was not included.

Moore suggested it was in the Association's best interest to continue to support the active duty troops by donating to the now Air Force Ball, but with a lesser

amount. Spirited discussion ensued in which points were made, such as the 55th is part of the Air Force, the majority of attendees were 55th, and elements of the Wing Ball were still part of the AF Ball (such as Hall of Fame presentations and the announced awarding of the Association's Award for Excellence.)

President Spivey then recognized Val Dugie who moved that the Association donate \$550 to the Air Force Ball, and \$1000 to Fischer House. Multiple seconds and the motion passed. (The latter donation fulfills the Association's annual charitable donation per IRS stuff.)

Cook then reported on the membership status of 401 members in good standing. He noted 76 members' dues expired on 31 December 2018 and were removed from good standing at the end of the grace period 31 March 2019. Late renewals could still come in after the reunion registration package and during the reunion. A 'friendly reminder' crusade will also be made in the near future to urge renewals. Cook noted there were 13 active duty and one RAF member. Kelly suggested the Association look for ways to 'capture' those 55th'ers separating or retiring, such as offering one year dues free membership. (*Which may require a By Law change.*)

The manner and logistics of accomplishing that is TBD. He also opened a discussion on how to attract more active duty troops to the membership. He, Priesman and others offered suggestions. Pres Spivey then stated he would appoint an exploratory committee to address these issues and make recommendations. President will appoint leads/members within a month with a due-out to the Board o/a 90 days. (OPEN)

The next topic opened by Spivey was when and where to have the next reunion. A tandem discussion ensued on using Reunion BRAT to manage future reunions as it was becoming more difficult to secure local reunion chairs to volunteer locations. There would still be a core committee of the Association to coordinate our agenda desires to the Reunion BRAT representatives.

Spivey noted that 55th Wing Commander Colonel Michael Manion suggested Tucson as the location since the Wing has the 55th Combat Electronic Group at Davis-Monthan. It would give the Association exposure there and the unit could offer support.

Kelly moved the next reunion be held in Tucson, AZ, and that the Association employ Reunion BRAT for the planning, Seconded and passed. Val Dugie volunteered as lead coordinator for the Association. (*Tucson is his home town.*) Dates are TBD, but a suggested target is fall 2020 to spring 2021.

At 1815 multiple motions to adjourn, a chorus of seconds and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed)
MAX R MOORE
Acting Secretary

2. MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES 5 APRIL 2019
EMBASSY SUITES - LAVISTA, NE

President Joe Spivey called the meeting to order at 1640. He made welcoming remarks, announcing that IAW the Association By Laws this meeting notice was provided in the last two newsletters, and that a quorum was present.

Max Moore moved that the reading of the minutes from the Tampa reunion be dispensed with as they were published in the newsletter following the reunion, and are available on the Association web site. Seconded by many and motion passed.

Pres Spivey noted, "As you know, the theme of this year's reunion is "Honoring those who served and serving those who do". "We trust that you have, and will continue to enjoy the events we have planned for you; as well as, the fellowship with *Fightin' Fifth-Fifth* alumni."

Pres Spivey announced that the Board of Directors (BoD) met last Wednesday, and he reported "New Business" items as resulting from that meeting: The BoD allocated \$550 to the USAF Ball at Offutt in September; Allocated \$1000 to Fisher House to support families of wounded warriors.

He also noted that as a result of discussions on these topics, he had decided to launch two exploratory committees on the following subjects: A review of current by-laws with the potential for a re-write, refinement of BoD membership numbers; and on Association Membership recruitment, a reach-out drive with incentives, techniques to expand, deal with aging population, facilitate Association involvement with the active wing, and modernize recruitment/sustainment processes.

The leadership and composition of the committees is TBD, the goal is to appoint the committees by end of this month, and with a 3-6 months due-out recommendation reports to the BoD.

Treasurer Michael Cook was recognized to give reports on the financial situation of the Association and membership update. Cook stated that there was \$76,800 balance in the account, which included reunion registration payments. He stated the organization was in good financial stead. Moore asked what the balance would be after the reunion bills were paid, Cook stated about \$60,000. Cook also explained that dues paid for years in advance had to be pro-rated over those future years.

Members in good standing were at 401. There were 76 members whose dues expired on 31 December 2018 and were dropped from the rolls at the end of the 31 March grace period. It was expressed that some renewals could come in as a result of the reunion package newsletter, and at the reunion. Moore commented that those whose dues had expired would also be contacted with a 'friendly reminder'. Historically, that usually results in about a 30% return rate.

Cook again emphasized that the newsletter address label is annotated with the dues expiration date of each member. Life members and widows are dues exempt. Cook also stressed that all Association correspondence must be mailed to the Association PO box address and not to his home address. This method assures forms and checks go to the proper place for processing.

Cook urged members to continue to recruit new members and encouraged current members to renew in a timely manner. He also recognized Moore for his assistance in keeping the membership data base in good order.

Spivey mentioned that after his two-year tour leading the 55th Wing, Colonel Manion will be replaced this summer, and that the incoming commander, Colonel Gavin Marks has an AWACS background. Vice Commander Colonel Sherri Levan (an RC-pilot) will be going to Texas A&M as the Professor of Air Science. Her replacement will likely come from the EC-130 community.

He noted the Association BoD will be actively involved to shore-up relations with the new Wing leadership to ensure they will be properly informed of the Wing's storied history, and the Association's support. First on that agenda will be the traditional get acquainted dinner by local Association members with the new Wing CC at the earliest date convenient.

Opening New Business, Pres Spivey remarked that at the Tampa reunion we discussed using Reunion BRATS to facilitate future reunions. He also noted that Colonel Manion suggested the next reunion be held in Tucson, AZ, as the 55th Wing has the 55th Electronic Combat Group (ECG) at Davis-Monthan; dual purpose being to give the Association exposure to that unit, and the probable assistance from the ECG.

To that end the BoD decided at its 3 April meeting to have the next reunion in Tucson, managed by Reunion BRATS. Time frame target is October 2020 to April 2021. Director Val Dugie (a Tucson native) volunteered to be the Association's lead coordinator.

Steve Stevens rose to move that the Association donate \$555 to the SAC Museum specifically for the EC-135 restoration fund. Seconded and passed. *(This action was subsequently administratively approved by the BoD, and that the donation would come from the monies paid to the Museum for entry fees, bench cost, and thus, not be a new budget item).*

The president recognized Moore as the BoD Nomination Chair. He reported all 16 incumbent directors chose to stand for re-election and there was one new nomination. That filled the maximum number of 17 elected directors allowed by the By Laws.

The slate of nominees was read and those in attendance recognized: Spivey, McMahon, Cook, Seinwill, Ernst, Thomas, Moore, Maloney, Kennedy, Ross, Censullo, Kelly, Hoberman, Krishna, Dugie, Jeanes, and Bill McKechnie.

President Spivey opened the floor for further nominations. There being none, Terry Murphy moved the nominations be closed. Seconded by many and passed. Murphy then moved the slate be elected by acclamation. Seconded and passed.

Moore noted that Colonel Priesman will remain an active duty director as long as he remains with the 55th Wing and/or chooses to do so. He also reminded the BoD members that they would meet immediately after the membership meeting on Friday to elect the executive positions.

The president reviewed the remaining reunion events, then recognized all the reunion committee members and praised them for their diligent work in

executing a successful agenda of dedications and socials. *(All the names and duties will be in a reunion recap article for the newsletter.)*

It was moved and seconded by many that the meeting be adjourned.
Passed at 1725.

(Signed)
Respectfully submitted,
Max R Moore
Acting Secretary.

**3. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES - 05 APRIL 2019
EMBASSY SUITES - LAVISTA, NE**

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The elected Board members convened immediately after the membership meeting and President Spivey called the meeting to order at 1730.

Those attending were: Spivey, McMahon, Cook, Moore, Ernst, Thomas, Kelly, Kennedy, Krishna, Maloney, Dugie, Ross, McKechnie, a quorum.
Moore moved that the incumbents of the four executive positions be re-elected. It was seconded by many and passed. Those are President Spivey, Vice President McMahon, Treasurer Cook, Secretary Seinwill.
It was noted the president would make re-appointments to positions currently held by Webmaster Maloney, Awards Chair Kennedy, Newsletter Editor Moore, Historian William Sargent; and any other positions and/or committees as required to conduct Association business.

Meeting adjourned at 1740.

Respectfully submitted,
(signed)
MAX R MOORE
Acting Secretary