

Feb, 2016

Dear AC-119 Gunship Association Family,

Did you notice that we are using "Firing Circle" for the title of our "Flash" newsletter? And we have a new letterhead. The Firing Circle newsletter was started in 2002 when I was Association President. Ev Sprous was the first editor of "The Firing Circle." Bill Petrie produced the "Firing Circle" newsletter for years following Ev's retirement from being editor. Then overtime, Association email "Flashes" have been more frequently used to keep members informed with the latest news. The time has returned when brief "Flashes" will only be used for important notifications and/or brief updates that need the immediate attention of our membership. Our Association Secretary, Mike Drzyzga is now the editor for the "Firing Circle."

Our new website is very close to going online. You will be notified when the new website is actually online and operational. Wayne Laessig and our IT Team of Ron Julian, Mike Drzyzga, Jim Mattison, and Bob Dydo have spent countless hours working on this project that began at the Albuquerque Reunion in 2014.

Our reunion this year in Fort Walton Beach, FL will be held October 26-30. It will be another great reunion with Gus Sininger and Larry Hunter as the reunion coordinators. Carol Hinton is coordinating potential activities for the ladies. Again this year, a "blind" auction and an "open" auction will be held to help raise funds for our Association. Cindy Posey and Andrea Drzyzga will coordinate the "blind" auction and our own auctioneer Gus will again conduct the "open" auction after the Saturday night banquet. Auction results at our St. Louis Reunion last year were: Blind (63 items) = \$1,256.00; Open (29 items) = \$2,712.00; 50/50 Drawing = \$370.00; Grand total of \$4,338.00.

Thanks to Ron Soderquist, Cherokee Firearms, a custom-made pistol for our Association is being raffled with proceeds going to our Association. Detailed information about the pistol and the raffle is contained in this newsletter. You can order your raffle tickets today if you like. The winner will be announced at the conclusion of the auction. Now is the time for you to plan on attending the AC-119 Gunship Association Reunion XVII. First, register for the reunion and secondly, make your reunion hotel reservation. All reunion information is contained in this newsletter. Come, reunite with old friends, meet new friends, walk barefoot on the soft sandy beach, watch dolphins, dance and be merry. I'm hoping Stromin' Norman will provide nostalgic music for the farewell bar-b-que.

v/r

Larry Fletcher