

**AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION**  
**Annual Association Business Meeting Minutes**  
**2 October 2004 Hope Hotel Dayton, Ohio**

Association President Rogers Stevens called the Annual AC-119 Gunship Association Business Meeting to order at 0830. Chaplain Larry Hunter presented the Invocation and President Rogers Stevens led the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

1. Members unanimously approved the Minutes of the October, 2003 Annual Association Business Meeting held at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Ft. Walton Beach, FL.
2. Treasurer Doug Wohlgamuth presented a preliminary reported \$6,165.00 in our Operating and \$30,087.76 in the Reserve Account. Due to the large number of financial transactions that take place at the Reunion, he presented a Preliminary Report. Doug said he would have a final Treasurer's Report to the Association Board by 15 October 2004. Signature Cards for the Association Checking Accounts will be changed to show Doug Wohlgamuth and Gus Sininger as the individuals authorized to sign Association checks. Members approved the Treasurer's Report.
3. Ev Sprous filled in when Ray Barradale needed Membership/Secretary help due to health problems. Ev reported 321 members, with 175 as Life Members and more signing up each day at the Reunion.
  - Ron Julian offered to assist the new Association Secretary with creation of a "Master" Excel spreadsheet formatted to show contact and other info for Members and others associated with the AC-119 program.
  - Wayne Laessig asked members to confirm or correct the Association Roster in the hootch.
4. Newsletter Editor Ev Sprous reported he sends the majority of newsletters electronically. This drastically reduces newsletter printing and postage costs. Ev asked members to prepare articles for the newsletter.
5. WebMaster Bill Petrie reported the website will continue to improve this year as his health is also improving. Cost to maintain the web page is still \$219 for the year. Bill said the web site required daily maintenance to remove "junk stuff" from the Guest Book entries.
6. Jeff Duford, Research Historian at the United States Air Force Museum, discussed the Museum Donation Program for items, pictures, documents, etc. Jeff detailed the donation process, the availability of the donated items should anyone wish to see the items (approximately 3-day lead-time request), and said about 80% of the donated items are in preservation storage.
7. Dr. Larry Fletcher donated his two books "Shadows of Saigon" and "The Shadow Spirit" to the Air Force Museum, and Jeff accepted them on behalf of the Museum.
8. Stinger Monument Co-Project Officer Bill Petrie presented an update on the proposal to place a permanent Stinger Monument at the Hurlburt Field Memorial Air Park. Last year, the Association authorized \$3,000 to place a bronze Stinger aircraft model on the existing Memorial Plaque dedicated by the Association in October, 2003. Co-Project Officers Gus Sininger and Bill Petrie researched this and costs were over \$25,000.00. Both felt the better way to proceed was to place a black granite monument with a colorized laser-etching of the Stinger aircraft and the 18<sup>th</sup> SOS patch, along with a written description of the Stinger Mission. Details:
  - Monument placed to the right of the Shadow aircraft and Memorial Plaque in the Memorial Air Park.
  - Overall cost estimate is \$9,325 (with \$3,000 already approved).
  - Members approved remaining funding and authority to proceed with the Stinger Monument, with a goal to dedicate the Monument during the next Reunion's Memorial Service on October 1, 2005.
9. Steve Mac Isaac presented our program for "lost/missing" Awards and Decorations (A&D). He described the process and the role the Board will have in reviewing applications for an award.
  - Applicants MUST prepare the paperwork request for the award. The A&D Board reviews applications, suggests additions, corrections, etc. to improve chances for award approval.
  - Applicants then submit final applications to the Air Force for consideration. Award Application Forms will be published on the Web Site, or may be obtained from A&D Board Members.
10. By-Law changes: members voted that Association Regular Membership eligibility includes anyone associated with the AC-119 Gunship program. Membership summary:

- Regular Memberships (Annual or Life) include any air or ground personnel associated with the AC-119 program, either SEA or stateside. As an example, this includes our Lockbourne C-119 instructors and maintainers from our phase I training.
  - Honorary Memberships (Life) include next-of-kin for those we lost in SEA and others deserving this recognition – both as designated by the Association Board.
  - Associate Membership (Annual) is available to all others.
11. Wayne Laessig described our History and Reunion CD projects:
- Reunion Highlights CD/Videotape and a History CD/Videotape with both year-group and individual inputs. CDs will be like a DVD where you can go to a menu and specific subject.
  - Members signed-up for individual interviews and to attend their year group's scheduled interview.
  - Videographer will edit raw footage, embed pictures or other documents, send draft CDs for Board changes or corrections, and finalize a master CD and videotape. CDs and videotapes will be available to members, with copies donated to the Air Force Museum, Nation Archives, and Maxwell AFB.
12. Association Officers for 2004-2005. Several individuals volunteered to remain on the Association Board and other roles. Members voted unanimously for all the following:
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Doug Wohlgamuth - Treasurer                 | Rogers Stevens - Board Member at Large |
| Ev Sprou - Newsletter Editor                | Bill Petrie - WebMaster                |
| Jim Terry - Next-of-Kin Locator and Contact | Gus Sininger - Reunion VI Coordinator  |
- Newly elected Board Members filled open positions as an executive committee, with roles as follow:
- |                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Craig Corbett – President | Buck Buchanan - Vice-President |
| Jim Alvis – Secretary     |                                |
- Wayne Laessig asked Members about the degree of decision and funding authority the Board should have and the members provided a loud vote of confidence for the Association Board to continue using decision and funding authority as they have been doing, with major decisions such as the By-Laws and Monument voted on in this meeting.
13. Gus Sininger had to stay in Florida on hurricane repairs but sent his Reunion VI Coordinator report:
- Reunion VI will be held on September 30<sup>th</sup>, October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005 in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida.
  - Since the Four Points suffered hurricane damage and may be sold, we're investigating additional options. We will post Reunion VI info on the website and in the newsletter as soon as we know.
14. We owe a lot to all the volunteers and board-members who work on our Association and Reunions. The Association Board wanted to recognize several who deserve special appreciation for their efforts in making our Association, our Reunions, and our heritage a reality. With a standing ovation, the Association presented Shadow and Stinger lithographs to:
- Our Founding Fathers: Fred Graves (accepted by Karen Graves), Bill Petrie, Jim Bennes, and Norm Evans
  - Past Presidents: Chuck James, Larry Fletcher, Gus Sininger, and Rogers Stevens
  - Reunion Coordinators: Gus Sininger and Ron Julian.
- Sierra Hotel and heartfelt thanks to these great men!
15. We asked attending Members to complete Reunion Critiques to identify how to improve future reunions.
16. Bill Dudley, former employee of Fairchild Hiller Aircraft, followed the meeting with a presentation of the process the company went through to convert the C-119 into an AC-119 Shadow or Stinger and the delivery process. His presentation commenced immediately after the conclusion of the Annual Business Meeting.

There being no further business to bring before the Association, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the Annual Association Business Meeting at 1040.

Respectfully submitted,

Rogers Craig Stevens, Jr.  
AC-119 Gunship Association, President