

AC-119 Gunship Association

Annual Meeting Minutes, September 26, 2009

1. Association President Gus Sininger called the annual meeting to order at 0905 hours, with Larry Hunter offering the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Jim Alvis presented the Secretary's report
 - a. Membership decreased for 1st time.
 - b. Newsletter mailings cost over \$500 annually; updating your e-mails can save us some \$\$!
3. Doug Wohlgamuth presented the Treasurer's report:
 - a. Expected "carry-over" balance is expected to be close to \$6,000; lower than usual. Additional book & Litho sales can increase the Association's working funds significantly.
 - b. Raffle & auction items really help; Paul Campbell suggested 50/50 drawings at events.
 - c. Between History Books & Lithos, we have over \$25,000 in "inventory" but we need cash!
 - i. We purchased an extra 100 hard cover plus an extra 100 spiral cover History Books; the printer liked the book a lot & made extras that we purchased at ¼ normal cost. As a benefit to Reunion attendees, History Books are \$5 off "at" the Reunion. Gus stressed the importance of selling our history books, & encouraged members to buy an extra copy, or two or three, & donate them to local schools, libraries, museums, etc. Your grandkids, nieces, & nephews can use one for their school 'show & tell sessions', which can open the door for some great awareness & interest from our next generations.
 - ii. Shadow & Stinger lithographs are reduced to \$25 each, 2 for \$40.
 - d. Members voted to raise reunion fees by \$5 to help offset what the Association pays for like Hootch beverages & snacks, Association Awards, Speaker Models, deceased member donations, mailings, videography, website, History Book donations, & other sunk costs.
Reunion Fees will be \$20 beginning next year.
4. Wayne Laessig discussed our Association communication tools:
 - a. Website & Newsletter:
 - i. We will update website to show the names of guys that we have contact info for, & a 2nd list of guys we have no information about.
 - ii. Tony Pakutinski sent our 4 Newsletters – super work!
 - b. Active Duty Squadron Liaisons:
 - i. Jim Alvis will send our History Book to the current 71st SOS at Kirtland AFB
 - ii. Gus will present a History Book to the 18th FLTS at Hurlburt
 - iii. John Morrow volunteered to make first contact with Lt Col James Brandenburg, current 17th SOS Commander at Kadena (they fly the MC-130P Combat Talon) & will present the 17th with a History Book, our 17th SOS coin, & an Honorary Membership to the Commander (same as we've done for the 71st & 18th SOS).
 - iv. The 4th SOS is reactivated & using the 'Spooky' name; Norm Evans confirmed he is the AC-47 current squadron liaison (4th SOS)
 - c. Master Contact List (MCL): Bob Dydo is working with Ron Julian to create an expanded database that will add flexibility to the current system. Anyone who uses our MCL for mailings, e-mails, name tags, etc, please send a copy of whatever "report" or format you use to Bob.
 - d. Points of Contact (POCs): may revise their role, with Secretary sending "all" e-mails and POCs in primarily a "new contact" or helping folks contact each other mode. Snail mails TBD.
5. Gus presented Campaign & Battle streamers for our 3 AC-119 Squadron Flags to representatives of each of the AC-119 squadrons at Friday's Meet & Greet. Many thanks to Gus & Mac MacIsaac for coordinating with the 18th & 71st Commanders, who donated all 3 Squadrons' streamers for us. Sam Tollett is working on getting the AC-47 Squadrons' Campaign & Battle streamers.

6. JP Maclsaac is again doing video interviews at our reunion. He & Ev Sprous prepared & sold DVDs of all prior video interviews. We now have two-DVD sets for the 17th, 18th, & 71st SOS. We will continue to do reunion interviews & sell the DVDs on the website & at reunions.
7. Gus needs feedback about the history book – positive, negative, anything. Send comments to Gus. Larry Juday will use your comments for a “why buy one” publicity message.
8. The AC-119 Stinger Monument at Hurlburt is repainted; stone replacement will be a final solution.
9. Next Reunions:
 - a. Wayne Laessig provided Reunion XI update, which be held September 17-19, 2010 at Fairfield, CA. Fairfield is near Travis AFB & between Sacramento, San Francisco, & wine country. Room rate is \$119 & includes full hot buffet breakfast. Wayne reviewed historical reunion costs for 3 room nights, average airfares, & the 3 major reunion events:

ABQ - 2006	Destin - 2007	Branson - 2008	St Aug - 2009	CA - 2010
\$640	\$885	\$735	\$702	\$749
 - b. Jimmy Ward volunteered as reunion coordinator for Reunion XII in 2011 in Charleston, SC. Mac Maclsaac volunteered for Albuquerque & Jerry McDonald volunteered for Branson.
Members voted for Charleston & Reunion XII will be there in 2011.
10. Election of officers for 2009-2010:
 - a. President: Association members nominated Gus, Wayne, & Mac. Wayne & Mac declined; Wayne is Reunion XI coordinator & Mac opted for 2011 board. **Gus accepted a consecutive term & members voted him in.**
 - b. Vice-President: Association members nominated Jimmy Ward & Larry Juday. **Jimmy Ward was selected by a majority vote.**
 - c. Secretary & Treasurer: **Jim Alvis will continue as Secretary for a final year, & Doug Wohlgamuth will continue.**
 - d. Past Board Member: Association members nominated Larry Fletcher, Chuck James, & Vern Hansen. **Larry Fletcher received the majority votes.**
11. Bruce Byrd made an excellent presentation about the discovery & possible recovery of the only known AC-119 gunship, #53-7850, a K-Model. Bruce offered three options for consideration.
 - a. Do Nothing, Let a 3rd party attempt to acquire it, or Have the Association pursue acquisition.
 - b. A major consideration – is it worth acquiring, for display only, based on condition. Bruce’s preliminary costs include \$30,000 to disassemble, \$30,000 to transport, & \$20,000 to reassemble (estimates did not include restoration costs). A total cost could be \$250,000 or higher, with almost all funding from external sources like the Commemorative Air Force, Air Force Museum, History Channel, possible documentary, grants, & even private donors. Bruce proposed the next step: send an appropriate person to Ho Chi Minh City to meet with people to determine if we can acquire 850, & if it is worth acquiring. Much discussion ensued.
 - c. **Steve Mac Isaac made the following motion that was carried:**
 - i. **Contact the Air Attaché office to first to determine if there is a remote possibility of acquisition based on the aircraft’s condition. The Association will ask the Air Attaché to make that assessment & provide us with as much details as they can.**
 - ii. **If the Air Attaché assessment determines there is an acquisition possibility, call for personal pledges to raise funds, only to send representatives onsite for a final determination if the aircraft can be dismantled and reassembled for display.**
 - iii. **No Association funds expended without membership approval; only personal pledged \$\$\$, & only if Air Attaché assessment is that 850 can be dismantled & reassembled for display.**
12. We closed the annual meeting at 1130 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
James R, Alvis, Secretary