

AC-119 Gunship Association

Membership Business Meeting

Saturday, 10/29/2016, Ramada Plaza, FWB, FL

1. Started at 8 a.m. Opening Pledge of Allegiance lead by L. Fletcher, President (LF) and then Prayer of Thanks offered by Larry Hunter (LH), Chaplain. Secretary M. Drzyzga projected a PowerPoint presentation following LF's agenda. Reminder to "silent" cell phones!
2. LF made a strong pitch to have individual or group video sessions completed by videographer J.P. Mac Issac (Rm is 1150) – Col. Mac. and W. Laessig spoke and strongly encouraged all to do it, not for us, but for our legacy. If you are timid, pull a group of co-fliers and friends together.
3. LF -- Warm welcome given to THIRTEEN 1st timers!! Called the names, and those in attendance were recognized.
4. Secretary's Report, M. Drzyzga:

Since Sept. 2015, we added 27 new members (14 Life & 13 Annual), for total membership of 465. There was a small membership increase due to continuing efforts of the Facebook Committee and POCs out-reach. Membership numbers are basically flat over near term, but maybe we can keep the increase going next year. MD urged that the members update personal data, and provide updates to Sec' or POCs. Also, "Snail" mail is costly as compared to email, Stamps costs \$0.47 ea. now. Small printed version of the MCL is in the Hootch for you all to review.
5. Treasurer's Report -- D. Wohlgamuth: provided a brief verbal summary of annual expenses and income: A detailed slide has it all, so that everyone can see how we spend the Association's money. Summarily, we started the tax year at \$41,737, reunion cost were about \$15,000, with near to \$1,500 in Hootch supplies. We will end the tax year at \$24,000. Doug is available to answer any detailed questions. LF said that our future ability to gathering at such reunions will depend on careful money management. He thanks all those who contribute to the Associations success.
6. IT Committee report, W. Laessig: WL provided a detailed "refresher" on why we exist and how hard all worked to get this Association started. Re Web Site: We underestimated what we needed to get the new site up and running. It is not simple. We will have a comprehensive business functional site. We are now 99% done. MD went online to the NEW site and projected the Web site as WL went to almost every drop down menu and showed how easy it is to find lots of info. Info can be downloaded and printed (no editing). Link to our Facebook page. LF is looking for a K dash-1 to upload to the new site. R. LaRosa offered his for scanning. The new Web Site should be up and running beginning of 2017. LF introduced the members of the IT Committee: WL (lead), Ron Julian (new database), Jim Mattison, Bob Dydos, Mike Drzyzga, and early on Fred Rider and Carl Shook.
7. Gus Sininger - Quartermaster: Gus will be trained on new Web Site e-commerce function. Also, we have spiral bound History Books, \$25 is a bargain now.

8. *Firing Circle* Newsletter: MD has accepted this task with a ton of gratitude to Bill Petrie for his past efforts. MD is simply using MS Word, not a Publishing Software package. Input from others Board members was used to create meaningful content. We distributed SIX for the past yr. Not much difference between FLASH and full NL. Flash is more topics narrow and distributed promptly. MD requested that members should provide suggestions for inclusion. Please thank your group POC for handling distribution. Again, stressed cost of hard mail vs. email – 18th POC Ev Sprous does about “80 envelop stuffing” for the USPS. MD accepted a shout out from LF for donating NL postal and office costs to the Association. Col Mac pointed out that public internet access is available, such as public library, often with help available re: computer use. WL suggested that some spouses may be more computer savvy, and help those less techie with email.
9. Media Manger: Ev - Ev is consolidating all the pictures that were collected over time, plus reconcile the videos that JP made over 13 yrs. He can “burn” them to DVD if members request them.
10. History Book Project --Terry Sarul: He is now gathering new stories and biographies. There is no guarantee that this costly book project will go forward, but the more submissions we get, the more likely we can move forward. There is a Bio Form available in the Hootch for your easy submission. And his name, mailing address and phone number is in a recent NL – he can send you a Bio Form, just request one from him. He will also promote this in future NLS and at Dayton next year. History Book is now on the Web Site, and maybe these additional Bios/Stories can also go there.
11. Association’s Facebook page is continuing successfully: administrators Terry Sarul, Andrea Drzyzga, Lee Wolfe, and Jim Mattison are recognized. LF recognized that they are doing a great job for us.
12. Legacy Squadron updates from POCs:
 - A) Al Heuss and Col. Mac Issac - 71st SOS at Kirtland AFB, ABQ, NM. They are stable, very busy with training; they have added a gun capability to one Osprey. It is not a gunship per say.
 - B) Col Mac and Bob La Rosa – Limited 73rd SOS at Cannon, TX with AC-130“W”s formerly named Stinger IIs, They are now 16th SOS. They are busy out there, still flying the “W”. Waiting for the J models to arrive..
 - C) John Morrow -- 17th SOS, Combat Shadows in Kadena, Japan were replaced with MC-130J, Combat Commandos: All those MC-130Ps are gone. The unit command has changed again, the key personal are often deployed, and John reports that he has been ineffective keeping in touch. He asked to be relieved of this responsibility. Don Craig accepted the POC for the 17th SOS going forward. And Don and John will work on transition.
 - D) Gus -- the 18th FSTS (Hurlburt): L. Hunter reported in Gus' absence that our Contact, Lt. Col Leeds has been working with us for a year to plan a great day later. We will get on board an AC-130J Ghost Rider. The Commander and DO will attend our Banquet this evening. All of our memorabilia is on display in the units 2nd floor hallway for us to visit. And the large model of the 119K is hanging in the entry foyer!!

13. Unit/Group POCs recognized: LF thanked Jim Alvis for the 71st, Dave Voisey for the 17th, Ev Sprous for the 18th, Andy Bright for Maintainers/Ground Support, and W. Laessig for our KIA families, Honorary Members, and out-reach efforts. These are the folk who distribute newsletters to you all.
14. Awards and Decorations, POC, Col. Steve Mac Issac: Reports that he is finally receiving copies of a few old Orders. Copies of Orders are very important to help correct DD214s. Sometimes orders can have from 1 – 25 names on them. He wants to scan these into digital format. We need as many as we can collect from the membership. Mac gave a great example of a flier's DD214 that does not show a 2nd DFC, but he obtained copies of orders for that person for the 2nd DFC. Next you can now correct the DD214.
15. Future Reunions – 2017: Ron Julian: (Roger Stevens, A. Heuss, Vern Hanson, Jim Alvis) for Dayton, OH. Locked in for: **9/28/17 – 10/1/17**, at the Holiday Inn, Col Glenn H-way, with easy access. Hootch planned open on Thur. FIVE hotels were reviewed. We have room cost with tax about \$120/nt. MD projected Ron's PPT. Plan on two days to see the entire museum. The first hundred to register for the Fri. 29th special tour will see the Museum's "Restoration Shops" on base. On Fri. afternoon there is a dedication of the new memorial bench that LF spearheaded. There is a Fri. evening "Meet & Greet". Col Mac suggested that the tour be restricted to members only, no spouses, children, or guests, so that more of the members can attend. Not everyone agreed with Mac. MD added that the tour is a working area, with little or no seats, and it's an 1 hr. long walking event. Sat. evening will be the banquet at the museum. Sun. will have a golf outing, and a social tour of some historic local OH areas. Then a farewell event. Gus questioned the delay in obtaining quotes for catering food costs – but there are only two caterers allowed to serve the museum: The Club and Hope Hotel.

2018: Ev Sprous suggested he can coordinate for 2018, in Tuscan, AZ. Membership accepted Tuscan as a reunion location. Ev can assemble a committee from 119ers in that area.

16. Memorial Bench Project – LF: The bench was already placed a year early, Sept. 2016. We still need donations to cover the total cost. MD projected images of both sides. Donation Forms were distributed to those in attendance. Team included Gus, Gary Arnt, Jim Rash, Al Heuss. Bench Cost is \$4,873, plus \$500 for perpetual care. We still own about \$2000. This is a TAX deductible donation, ask Doug W. for a receipt. Howard Reid challenged all in attendance for Life Members to donate \$119. Jim Dunn asked about the sales tax we paid --- we get no exemption in OH. We are a 501(c)(19) Veterans Org. Is AZ tax exempt? – Ev will discover.
17. New Board for 2016-2017. LF introduced the extended "new" Board members. Most of the Board is willing to stay another year to keep the continuity – with the following exceptions: Mike Drzyzga, President; Ralph Lefarth, Secretary; Phil Deal will stay on as Historian but relinquishes his role as Board Member at Large. MD nominated Terry Sarul, who accepted as new Board-member at Large.

Photo Op will be planed for tonight's Banquet before we scatter, and Sun. morning at 9:30 am will be a new Board meeting in the Senator Room (Rt. of Lobby), next to Ambassador Room.

18. LF opened the agenda to questions/comments from the attendees on the floor:

A. Pat Carpenter and Bill Patterson from the Spectre Association spoke about his efforts to publish a book "50 Years of Gunships". All first person stories – better than the old dry military reports. They really want our stories. Congress officially commemorated 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War celebration, to be held at the Eglin Armament Museum, Nov. 16. Lastly, Bill has 100 pens and Congressional letters that can be logged out to a Vietnam Vet by signing a log sheet with Biographical info. Stop at his table in the rear.

B. Jerry Hester: Paul Campbell is remembered as "Uncle Sam". He is living in Las Vegas. Paul loves to have gunshippers visit. JH is planning a visit in Jan. 2017 to take Paul on the Ferris Wheel attraction. Anyone wanting to visits Las Vegas in Jan. and participate should contact JH.

C. Sam Gallo asked that: if we receive more money in donations than we need, where will the money go? Answer: General Funds.

Meeting adjourned ay about 10:00 a.m. – everyone is gathering in the Lobby to car pool to Hurlburt for a memorial service at the Air Park..

Respectfully submitted Nov. 20, 2016

M. Drzyzga, (out-going) Secretary