

**10\_13\_2021 reunion minutes**  
**AC-119 Gunship Association**  
**Reunion Business Meeting**

President called meeting to order at 9 AM.

Meeting proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer from Larry Hunter.

Mike Welcomed and introduced 1<sup>st</sup> timers

Paul Beagley with son Mark

Greg and Debbie Blackmon

Van and Dorothy Criswell

Mike and Mary Alice Kimmel

Buck and Linda McCant

- Reminder was made to please do your video bios as scheduled and if you have not done so please sign up with JP.
- Gus with the help of Larry Hunter did an amazing job putting this reunion under such difficult circumstances.
- Survey forms in the Hootch, feedback is important
- Also please update the Master Contact List in the Hootch. Kudos for Ron Julian who updates the MCL as needed.

**Membership: Everett Spouse.** Everett does an amazing job during the year collecting annual membership and giving life membership certificates out. We currently have 591 Association membership! Membership changes daily, received a new Life Member that morning. Our annual membership has been leveled many are paying for the life membership of \$119.00. Reminder was made that all family members can join to become Associate Members. Ev also does our outreach program through “people finder” and always reaches out to those who may not know about the Association.

**Treasures Report: Doug.** As of the past Monday our operating account has \$24,884.13. All sub accounts were listed in the PowerPoint presentation. Reunion costs are going to run approximately \$19,000-\$20,000. We are hoping after attendee donations, and with our auctions, we will have approx. \$10,000.00 in our operating account. Any questions you may have reach out to Doug. We may in the future reduce the PayPal transactions due to their rising costs. Website expenses were also talked about with the Site really being a depository for our history. Up keep is expensive. Dream Host is the website we use which allows us to build our website.

**Website: Wayne Laessig.** Wayne spoke a little about the beginning of our website which Bill Petrie started. Everything that the Association does is on the website: pictures, and books, Bio’s. It does take time to maintain.

**Quartermaster: Gus Sininger.** Everything that is in the Hootch, please buy it all. Past reunion T-shirts are \$10.00. Gus is always looking for new items in the store; please contact Gus if you have any suggestions. Thank you Gus for what you do best.

**Newsletter Editor: Don Luke:** Kudos to Don for getting out 9 newsletters during this past 2 years. The goal is to keep it within 8 pages. Also thanking the POC's for getting the Newsletter distributed! Jim Alvis handles the 71<sup>st</sup>, David Voisey the 17<sup>th</sup>, Everett Spouse the 18<sup>th</sup>, Andy Bright retired for the Maintenance/support POC -- our new contact is Bruce Muller, and Wayne Leassig works with the Honorary/KIA Families! Thank you all for all you do!

**Facebook Update: Administrators are Everett, Jim Mattison, Roy Davis, Terry Sarul , and Andrea Drzyzga.** We have over 700 people on our Facebook page. They all did a great job trying to keep political posts off of our page. Our Website also has a link to our FB page. Another good Facebook page is Air Force Gunners, which Everett created. Also for Veterans, Jim Mattison started News You Can Use.

**Association POC's for our legacy squadrons.** 17<sup>th</sup> Cannon AFB is George Renfro, 18<sup>th</sup> Hurlburt is Gus Sininger, Norm Evans or Mike the 73<sup>rd</sup> at Hurlburt, Col Mac 16<sup>th</sup> at Cannon and Jim Alvis 71<sup>st</sup> at Kirkland.

Col Mac had a chance to speak about the Agent Orange registry. You must go to any VA Hospital and find the person/agent who does Agent Orange claims. Also make sure that you always have a corrected DD214. Make sure that your awards and decorations are correct and updated. Any special orders that you may have especially if they have other crew members names on them please make copies and send them to Everett they help us find missing 119er's and/or possibly their families.

Bruce Muller: **Please make sure that all of your email addresses are correct.** Bruce accepted the POC for the Maintenance/Support POC position

### **Upcoming Reunions;**

Jerry McDonald is the Reunion Coordinator in Branson MO, from September 29<sup>th</sup>- October 2, 2022. Hotel is picked and activities are being planned.

Where do we go from here?

Dan O'Leary from Hawaii contacted Mike to possibly having the 2023 reunion in Waikiki Beach; some suggestions of resorts were submitted. Pros and cons were discussed, mostly the cost of travel to Hawaii and the time. Expense and distance were the major cons.

Mike also presented Washington DC for the 2023 and hiring an Event Coordinator to plan the 2023 reunion. Pros and cons were discussed. Cons were the extra added expense in DC. Pros are it is the first time a reunion would be held in the North East, also the luxury of having actual guides take us to all the different areas. Also, too much work for a reunion coordinator. We would need boots on the ground or

interested to take on this task. Probably the same event planners as the AC 47 have had with great success, Wayne spoke a little about the AC 47 proposals for the same events that they have had in the past costs were a little less.

Gus motioned going forward we hire professionals. Larry Hunter Second the motion.

**Majority vote was taken; approximately 60 members and associate members were in attendance.**

About 1/3 of the membership voted in favor for a Hawaii reunion in 2023.

Gus Motioned to accept the 2023 DC reunion and hiring a Coordinator for that reunion and possibly going forward. Larry Hunter seconded the motion.

2/3 members ship was for hiring and event coordinator and for Washington DC in 2023. Someone still needs to be a reunion coordinator.

Albuquerque could be up for 2024 reunion, which would be on the table until the 2022 reunion.

**Voting:**

During these past 2 months, 2 of our board members, Jenna Laird and Jim Dunn, asked not to continue. These are our current Board of Directors. The current Board has agreed to stay on in their current positions, however, any one of these positions is open for nominations from the floor. We also need nominations to fill the two Members at Large. Our by-laws do not state that the Vice President is "president elect".

President Michael Drzyzga

Vice President Roy Davis

Treasurer Doug Wolgamuth

Secretary Andrea Drzyzga

Quartermaster Gus Sininger

Board member at large John Wolf

Board member at large

Board member at large

Mike nominated Terry Sarul to be added to the Board Member at Large. Terry accepted the nomination - all were in favor.

Andrea nominated Ron Dorazio to fill the second Board Member at Large. Ron accepted the nomination - all were in favor.

Larry Hunter motioned to have the board members stay as listed for the next year. All accepted the motion.

Wayne did made a plea as we enter the year ahead: please consider stepping up to be on some committees and also becoming a Board Member to give those long-term existing ones a break! This will help with our Association to continue on. Also Associate Members can hold a position on the Board, our kids and grandkids can take the Association into the future.

**Announcements:** All Board members meeting, 10 AM Sunday morning, this room.

Questions concerns or Comments;

Peggy Craig: spoke a little about having your spouse's DD214, copies should be certified. (Including your family members) This will help with funeral benefits from the VA. Also, instead of a late Sunday BBQ, perhaps in the future we can have a farewell luncheon instead a dinner.

Andrea Drzyzga: in the past, many of the spouses have helped with the silent auction. This year Peggy pretty much did everything herself, and I helped when I could. It was a lot of work and took a little longer. Anyone who would like to help next year, please reach out to either Peggy or myself.

Our next Board meeting will be the second Tuesday of January, (maybe sooner if necessary). Information will be emailed out as usual.

Benediction offered by Larry Hunter at 10:10 AM

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Drzyzga  
Association Secretary  
Nov. 3, 2021