

Spectre Association, Inc.

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www.spectre-association.org

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
35TH ANNUAL REUNION**

October 11, 2008

Sheraton Four Points, Fort Walton Beach, FL

The 35th Annual Business Meeting of the AC-130 Association was called to order at 0900 by President Pat Carpenter.

Board Members present were: Pat Carpenter, President; Dick Vancil, Vice President; Andy DeMeyer, Treasurer; Roger Betterelli, Kim Coryat, Norm Evans, Barry Gossman, Larry Hickey, Chuck Kaczmarczyk and Recorder, MarthaAnn Kaczmarczyk.

The members of the Organization stood and **Pledged Allegiance to our Country's Flag.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Vice President Dick Vancil summarized the **Minutes of the 2007 Annual Business Meeting.** (Full minutes may be read on line on the Spectre Association Website.) Jerry Appleby moved to accept the minutes as read, and Rich Silva seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Pat Carpenter reported that at last year's Annual business Meeting a proposal to increase our Dues was presented in the form of a By-Laws Amendment to Article XIII.

Recommendation:

1. Raise our Annual dues to \$25.00.
2. Raise our Lifetime rate to \$250.00 for members under the age of 55, \$200.00 for members ages 56 to 69, and \$150.00 for members ages 70 and up.

3. Members who are at least 30% disabled veterans will pay the same annual dues but will pay 1/2 the lifetime rate when they submit qualified proof of their disability.

A motion to accept the recommended Amendment and send it to the membership at large for a vote passed. The proposed Amendment was sent out; and 145 members voted: **127 voted for the proposed Amendment, and 18 voted against the proposed Amendment. The By-Laws were amended effective 15 June 2008.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Pat Carpenter reported that Andy DeMeyer took over as Treasurer after our annual Board Meeting last year. For the first time in the history of the Spectre Association, Andy filed a **Federal Income Tax Return for the Association for 2007**. Andy has been put on notice by the I.R.S. and the State of Florida that they may ask for our tax return for 2006. If this happens, one will have to be filed *late*. Then Andy set out to finally get a **Tax-Exempt Status for use as a Non-Profit Military Organization**. Andy also obtained **Florida Sales Tax Exemption status for the Association**. This applies only to items that the Association purchases and does not apply to the purchase of items from the store by our individual members when these purchases are made within the state of Florida. Andy also obtained a **Bulk Mailing Rate** from the U.S. Post Office. This will save us a tremendous amount of money when we must send out mailings to the entire membership.

Andy presented the **Proposed Budget for FY2009:**

\$28,520.00 TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE:

Annual Dues:	\$ 800.00
Life Dues:	1,000.00
Estimated Sales:	11,220.00
Donations:	500.00
Reunion (100)	15,000.00

\$28,520.00 TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENSES:

Membership Mailings Postage	\$ 800.00
Supplies for Membership Mailings:	200.00
Spotlight Printing:	900.00
Reunion (100)	15,000.00
Store Inventory Replenishment:	5,500.00
Store Merchandise Shipping:	1,500.00

Andy reported that he received no books, no files, and no records when he became Treasurer a year ago. He received two (2) checkbooks – one (1) was labeled Operating Account and one (1) was labeled Scholarship Fund. From those checkbooks, he was able to create a set of books for our organization and then begin the work of keeping a precise account of our finances as well as the work that was previously outlined by Pat Carpenter. Andy reported that when he received the

checkbooks, we were being charged \$35.00 per month service fee by First National Bank. They were not willing to waive this fee, so Andy moved our accounts to Vanguard Bank where we pay no service fees. The Scholarship Fund CD is due to mature in January 2009.

Andy presented his report of Total Working Capital and Assets which amount to \$60,631.15:

CD Vanguard Bank, Scholarship Fund:	\$29,670.00
CD Regions Bank, Gunner Jack Award:	10,159.50
CD Regions Bank, Building Fund:	1,249.00
Checking Account, Regions Bank:	11,558.65
Merchandise Inventory On-Hand:	7,200.00
Computer Projector:	694.00
Laptop Computer:	50.00
Telephone:	50.00

Al Cinko said that he would be willing to help with the Treasurer's duties because he was asked to pay annual dues this year, but he is a Lifetime Member. Andy told Al that he simply misread his reunion application.

Snake Liles stated that he has received no mailings from the Spectre Association during the past three (3) years – no voting notices, no Spotlight, nothing. We have his correct address, so no one can explain this situation.

Jerry Appleby stated that he put a large container of files and records in the storage unit a few years ago. This container had all of the original documents and correspondence that was sent back and forth between the squadron members at Hurlburt Field and those stationed at Ubon RTAFB, who were trying to coordinate the organization of the Spectre Association. Additional paperwork from down through the years was also in this container. Pat Carpenter said that the container has disappeared, and he has no idea what happened to it.

There was a lively discussion concerning the fund that the current Board of Directors has been referring to as the Scholarship Fund. Gene Eller said that the proper name for this account is the “**Lifetime Account**”, because this is the account into which all monies for Lifetime Memberships are to be deposited. Our regular checking account is properly named the “**Operating Account**”. Money for the annual scholarship(s) is (are) to be taken from the “Lifetime Account” and deposited into the “Operating Account” to be paid out as awarded. Jerry Appleby, Gene Eller, and Gary Thompson recalled that when the Spectre Association was first formed, it was agreed among the Charter membership that the Board may use not only the interest on the “Lifetime Account” but also a reasonable amount of the actual funds to help with the operating costs of the Association and even help defray the cost of our reunions. They all agreed that no dollar amount was ever established as to what amount of money must be maintained in the “Lifetime Account”, but that an adequate amount of money must be maintained to perpetuate the awarding and payment of annual scholarship(s).

Andy reported that we lost over \$4,000.00 last year in our dealings with SanDestin Hilton Resort. We got lousy service, pathetic meals, and horrendous pricing from them. Early in 2008, Andy set out to create a budget that would allow this year's reunion to stand on its own two (2) feet and not cost the organization a penny. After meeting with the folks at the Sheraton Four-Points, **Andy developed a budget that would allow us to pay for every penny of the reunion out of the fees that the members paid for registration and meals.** Even though the final figures are not in at this time, it appears that we have been successful in accomplishing this. Some of the members said that they felt they were in the dark about why a \$40 per person Registration Fee was charged. MarthaAnn Kaczmarczyk stated that a full explanation of this cost was outlined in the 8 August 2008 Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting. She encouraged all members to go on line and read the minutes each month. Andy reported that the \$40 Registration Fee was charged to help cover:

- The cost of two bottles of wine per table – one red, one white – that will be used for the toasts during our Saturday night banquet.
- \$125 per night – Friday, Saturday, and Sunday – to set up the bar.
- Guest Speaker's airline ticket, meals, and accommodations.
- \$250 for initial supplies for the Hospitality Room.
- \$200 for Business Meeting Refreshments.
- Cost of Reunion Bars.
- Printing Costs.

Everyone was satisfied with the explanation and many thanked Andy for his hard work on helping to preserve the funds of the Association.

Al Dilts asked Andy about the computer he is using to keep the Association records and what program he is using. **Al then donated \$1,500.00 cash to buy a new laptop computer and the Microsoft Money program to be used to keep the Spectre books.** Gene Eller said that former Spectre Jim Fudge who lives in the area and owns a computer business can give us a good discount on Dell products.

Andy reported that about \$700.00 has been received in donations in memory of Mike Kercheval, and he will soon be contacting Mike's brothers to find out which charity they have chosen for the donations to be sent.

Larry Hickey asked for an explanation of the \$1,249.00 that is earmarked as a Building Fund. Pat Carpenter explained that this fund was started several year's ago after the ACA had told us that we could no longer use part of their building. A few of the guys were talking about our having our own building, and each of them "threw money into the pot to get it started". However, no

campaign has ever been put in force for this. Larry Hickey moved to close this account and move the funds to the "Operating Account". Duane Spencer seconded the motion. The motion carried with Bill Allen and Jerry Appleby being opposed.

Pat Carpenter reported that the on-line store is working great, and that we average about \$1,000.00 per month in web sales. He said that P. J. Cook has done a fantastic job as our Web Master and has kept the store site up-to-date. He encouraged the members to identify themselves with either their Life Membership number of their Annual Membership information when placing an order, and they will receive some small "freebie". Pat Carpenter reported that we lost our Quartermaster soon after last year's reunion when Michael Skerrett moved to Colorado because of his job. Tommy Montgomery was then appointed Quartermaster, and within a couple of months was sent PCS to Turkey. Pat and Larry Hickey took over this job. They inventoried the entire store that is kept in the rented storage unit, organized the merchandise, and set out to fill orders several times per week. They have had no Returns due to Breakage, and only two (2) orders were incorrect. A big Thank You was voiced to these two (2) Board Members.

Pat Carpenter drew everyone's attention to the **Matrix on the overhead projector of the information gathered for the sites suggested last year for our 2010 Out-of-town Reunion.** After reviewing all of the information, a vote was taken to narrow down the off-site reunion to three (3) cities. The vote was as follows:

- **Biloxi, MS: 15**
- **St. Louis, MO: 14**
- **Atlantic City, NJ: 2**
- **Nashville, TN: 15**
- **Branson, MO: 18**
- **Las Vegas, NV: 15**

Because there was a three (3)-way tie between Biloxi, MS; Nashville, TN; and Las Vegas, NV, a run-off vote was taken. The results were as follows:

- **Biloxi, MS: 24**
- **Nashville, TN: 16**
- **Las Vegas, NV: 17**

The three (3) proposed locations for the 2010 out-of-town Reunion are:

- **Branson, MO**
- **Biloxi MS**
- **Las Vegas, NV**

These recommended sites will be sent in a ballot to the entire membership for their vote on where we will travel to for the 2010 Reunion.

The following selections were made for the POW/MIA table at tonight's banquet.

- **Pilot:** None were present at the meeting.
- **Engineer:** **Duane Spencer**
- **Gunner:** **Bill "Worm" Warner**
- **Sensor:** **Barry Wilkins**
- **Navigator:** **Dennis Paul**
- **IO/Load:** **Art Humphrey**

Pat Carpenter reported that **we are awarding two (2) Scholarships this year – our regular, annual scholarship award and an additional scholarship from funds donated by Geri Gowdy in memory of her husband, Clyde Gowdy. We had six (6) applicants for this year's Scholarship.** He asked Bill "Worm" Warner to come forward and draw three (3), sealed envelopes. Two (2) lucky students will be awarded these scholarships and the other one (1) is our alternate recipient.

Pat Carpenter, Dick Vancil, and Andy DeMeyer visited the squadrons assigned to both the 16th SOS and the 4th SOS in an attempt to **promote membership in the Spectre Association.** Several of the 4th active-duty members voiced that they would like to join but they are not Spectre. They are Spooky. "U" Model Gunships are referred to as Spooky. They suggested that we change our Organization's name, and even threw out the suggestion of Fixed-wing Side-firing Gunship Association. Andy DeMeyer said that several of the members of both the 16th and the 4th stated that they were interested in attending our Saturday night banquet since this was the 40th Anniversary of the development and implementation of the AC-130 Gunship, and the 35th Anniversary of the Spectre Association. Andy extended the invitation to them and told them when they needed to have their money in. No one from either squadron signed up to attend tonight's banquet. Several members expressed their opposition to changing our Association's name. Mike Hoffmeister, better known as 3-Finger Jack, said that he has attended all 35 of the Spectre Reunions and stated firmly that he will never attend again if the name changes from Spectre Association. Tom Boknovitz voiced that anyone who shows an interest in the Spectre Association can apply for membership. You do not have to be a Spectre in order to belong to our Association. Discussion ceased.

Pat Carpenter reported that **Dick Vancil, Roger Betterelli, and Barry Gossman, are all ending their terms as Directors. Each is eligible to serve another term, and each has voiced to Pat that they are willing to serve another three- (3) year term if the membership desires them to do so. It was moved, seconded, and voted that those three (3) names be submitted to the membership to serve another term of office as Directors of the Spectre Association.**

Pat Carpenter reported that **thanks to the benevolence of one of the Charter members of the Spectre Association, James "Gunner Jack" Jackson, he is pleased to announce the establishment of an award to recognize those individuals who perform 'above and beyond' to further the ideals set forth in**

the Association By-Laws; show a love of country, patriotism, dedication to the Association and fellow Gunshippers, and who represent the Association to those outside our enclave. A Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$10,000.00 has been opened at the local Region's Bank.

The rules governing the award are as follows:

- Any award made cannot reduce the endowment funding.
- Additional donations can be made to the original endowment through the Association Treasurer.
- Selected award winners will be announced at the annual reunion. If an award winner is not selected in a given year, funds that would have been awarded will be added to the endowment.
- Award funds will be from the earned monies of the endowment.
- The selection process
 - Nominees can be submitted by any member to the Association Board prior to 1 August each year.
 - Each presentation to the Board will be accompanied with a short, supporting narrative, justifying the nomination.
 - The proposed nominee must be a member in good standing of the Association.

Basis for selection

- This award is based on 'Jack's' founding guidelines:
 - Love of Country
 - Patriotism
 - Dedication to fellow Spectre's
 - Dedication to the Association
 - Altruistic endeavors that serve the Gunship and Gunship Brethren.

Submission

- Nominees can be submitted any time during the year but before 1 August to the Association Vice-President. Nominations can be in the form of e-mails or letters.
- Nominations should be for the activities carried on throughout most of the year and not just one (1) event, although an event can be used to illuminate activities.
- Final approval of the award recipient is only accomplished with "Gunner Jack's" concurrence and approval while he is still alive. Thereafter, it will be by vote of the Board of Directors.

Andy DeMeyer reported that he and Larry Hickey began in February of this year meeting with the representatives of the Sheraton Four-Points in planning the accommodations, meeting rooms, and meals. At the time of their first

meeting, the wedding reception that took place Friday night had already been booked. Andy suggested that if the membership is of the opinion that they would like to return to the Four-Points in October 2009, that the Board be authorized to begin negotiations in the very near future.

Mike Hoffmeister voiced that he thinks we should dispense with the **Mini Reunion** that we have put on in the past for the families of the 16th and the 4th. He feels that if they are not willing to join us that we should not waste our Association's money on them. The last Mini Reunion was held in 2006.

Frank Scafidi asked how many active-duty members of the 16th and the 4th remain in Fort Walton Beach after the move of the 16th SOS to Cannon AFB, New Mexico. No one knows the exact number. Al Cinko talked about how the Iraq War is a very different war from the Vietnam War that most of us were involved in. The troops cannot have alcohol of any sort in their quarters. They cannot fraternize with the locals or even with other GI's. Barry Wilkins reported that most deployed members get to speak via the Internet on an almost daily basis with their family back home. Barry said that it will take a mind-set change of the Commanders before conditions change for today's military.

LeRoy "Daddy Hutch" Hutchinson voiced that circumstances have prohibited him from attending a Spectre Reunion since 1984. He said that while costs for airline travel, hotel rooms, meals, items from the Country Store have been more than he ever paid in the past, he truly sees it as "money well spent" in order to once again be able to visit with his old pals. He thanked everyone for the warm welcome they have given to his daughter, Kathy; and said that she is already planning to return with him next year.

The following **Announcements** were made:

1. The 16th, 4th, and 19th Squadrons are having an AC-130 40th Anniversary banquet on Friday, 24 October, at the Emerald Coast Conference Center. The tickets are \$35.00 per person, and the dress is Mess Dress/Semi-formal Dress. Civilians may wear coat and tie and semi-formal dresses. The announcement is on the marquee in front of the Conference Center. This has nothing to do with our banquet tonight, which will be held right here at the Four-Points.
2. The Memorial Service for fallen Spectres will be held at 1300 today at the Hurlburt Air Park. Everyone in every vehicle must have a photo ID in order to get on base.
3. The static display will be held immediately following the Memorial Service at the 19th SOS.
4. The "Country Store" will reopen at 1530 today and remain open until 1800. It will then open again immediately following the banquet.
5. Bring your meal tickets for tonight which are in an envelope inside your Registration Bag. Place these on the table in front of you so that the Wait Staff knows which meal to serve you.

The meeting adjourned at 1045.

Respectfully submitted,

MarthaAnn Kaczmarczyk, Recorder