

## Minutes of the 10 Sep 2007 Firebird Planning Meeting for the 2008 Reunion

Bruce Huff called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. The following members were present:

Bruce Huff	President
Alan Anderson	Vice President
Warren Miller	Secretary
Bob Mattingly	Treasurer
Jerry Livingston	Past President
John Parker	Past President
Nolan Bailey	Historian
J. C. Arrington	Computer Support
Betty Huff	Special Assistant to the President

**Minutes:** Warren Miller read the minutes from the 2006 reunion held at Branson, MO.

### Old Business:

**Memorial Plaque at Wright Patterson:** J. C. Arrington showed us a copy of the plaque from the 61<sup>st</sup> Squadron. It would cost from \$1500 to \$2000 to have it made and installed in the memorial gardens at Wright Patterson.

**A/C 57-493:** Jerry Livingston was asked about the status of A/C 493, which was reported at our last reunion, to be at the display site but not having any skis installed. Jerry had asked Dick Tinney to update him, but he hasn't. Jerry will get back with Dick Tinney for an update.

**Sunshine Fund:** During the 2000 reunion, it was approved for the Board, at their digression, to donate up to \$20 to the Air Force Aid Association as a memorial to deceased members. The family would be notified of this donation. Bruce Huff was having a hard time in receiving information of deceased members in a timely manor. Nolan Bailey will forward information on deceased members to the President.

### New Business:

**Life Time Membership for Wife's of deceased members:** The following members have died since the last reunion.

John Wright, 1517 Cloverhill Road, Mansfield, TX 76063  
Donald Thompson, 77 Fort Sullivan Circle, Dazell, SC 29040-9216  
Charles A Walters, 1716 Hayshed Road, Charlotte, TN 37076-6309

Warren Miller will send a letter informing them of their status as a lifetime member if they so desire.

**Firebird Newsletter:** Dan O'Mara has resigned as the author of the Firebird Newsletter. J. C. Arrington volunteered to write future newsletters.

**Change over of new Officers:** Bruce Huff stated that the last change over of Officers was in November after the reunion in Branson. He stated that we would continue that tradition and it would occur the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the next month following our next reunion.

**Dues:** It was discussed not to collect back dues on members that had let their membership lapse. We would continue to collect dues in 2 year increments.

**Operation Deep Freeze:** The Air Force Historian had contacted Nolan Bailey about Operation Deep Freeze. This was a 61TCS mission with the C-130-D's. Jerry Livingston will get with Col. Will Turk and contact the Air Force Historian to give them the information that they desire. Nolan said that he had all of the old mission reports.

**Web Site:** Nolan Bailey was tasked to update the web site on Sam Arnold's condition.

**Reunion Memorabilia:** It was pointed out that Bernie Warren had any old memorabilia if there was any. Tom Summerville was working on a source for new Firebird Ball Caps.

**109<sup>th</sup> Representative:** This position on the board has been vacant for quite a while. Jerry Livingston will make a connection with the 109<sup>th</sup> and try to get a new member. It was discussed that we all so need a representative for the 417<sup>th</sup> in Alaska.

**Iron Mike:** Bruce stated that this was a President's responsibility and he would present our miniature Iron Mike over to our incoming president Alan Anderson at our next reunion.

**Sam McGowin:** Sam had put us in connection with the Galveston Visitors Bureau so we could check out Galveston for a possible reunion site. It was recommended that he be invited to the reunion and that he pass the word of our reunion to his Airlift Association. "B" Huff will take care of this.

**Vice President Responsibilities:** It was suggested that Alan Anderson pick his Reunion Committee as soon as possible. Also the Nomination Committee should be picked as soon as possible. It was also pointed that nominations for Board Members should have a desire to serve. Bruce Huff had started a list for the Nomination Committee. Those on the list included:

Honi Garvin, Bob Mattingly (accepted), Joe Reed, John Parker (accepted), Dalton "Bud" Hall, Chuck Lavoie (accepted) Robert Mearns, and Ronald Farrell.

**Rules for election of the Board of Directors:** There is nothing in the By-Laws stating how long members serve, how to replace them as well as how many board members there are. Nolan Bailey suggested that we submit a change to the By-Laws at our next business meeting spelling all of this out. Nolan volunteered to make a proposed change and will submit it to the current Board of Directors by email for approval.

**Next Reunion Site:**

**Bossier City, LA:** Our motel (Roadway Inn) of Bossier City was discussed as a possible site. The group felt there were too many negatives for this location. Also some other hotels in the area were looked at and we felt like this was probably not the best location because we had two other locations that looked more promising.

**Galveston, TX:** With the information we had, we felt this might be our best location. Betty & Bruce Huff checked out the Baymont. It is a new 3 story motel with 89 rooms. If we book 80% of them (72 rooms) we would have the motel to ourselves. Room cost would be \$70.00 per room per day plus tax. It has a 500 sq ft meeting room that was capable of being locked and across the lobby there is a breakfast area of 1100 sq ft would be available after breakfast was served. There is no problem us bring in food and beverages. A Golden Corral is located next door and has a large room we could use as our Banquet Room. The Visitors Center will sponsor two people to come down and stay for free to check out this place. Nolan Bailey and John Parker will arrange with the Visitors Center to take them up on this offer and revisit the Baymont.

**Biloxi, MS:** Chuck Lavoie visited about 26 facilities in Biloxi. He felt there was one that fit our requirements. It is the brand new Super 8 located just east of the old Holiday Inn Express. They have a large Hospitality Room that can hold our group and can serve as our Banquet Room as well. There is a good catering business that will serve us with a cost of between \$16.00 and \$27.00 per person. Room cost would be \$49.00 per room per day plus tax. It would have to be mid week in late March or early April. Bruce and Betty Huff will swing by Biloxi and check out this location and see if all of our requirements can be met.

**The Final Choice:** After the above visits have been made, a conference call to all of those present at this meeting will be set up by Alan Anderson, and the final decision will be made by all of the Reunion Planning Group as to the location and time.

Respectfully submitted by,

Warren Miller  
Secretary