



FIREBIRD ASSOCIATION



Minutes of the 2008 Reunion General Membership Meeting (April 8, 2008) Galveston, TX:

Bruce Huff, president, opened the meeting at 10:00 hours. The current Board of Directors is as follows:

Officers:	President	Bruce Huff
	Vice President	Alan Anderson
	Secretary	Warren Miller
	Treasurer	Bob Mattingly
Other Board Members:	Past Presidents	Jerry Livingston
		Jerry Baird
		John Root
		John Parker
		Dick Henry
	Enlisted	Sam Arnold Vacant
	109 th Representative Historian & Webmaster Newsletter	Vacant Nolan Bailey J. C. Arrington
Committee Chairs	Computer Support	J. C. Arrington
	Golf	Alan Anderson
	Hospitality	Jerry Livingston Brian Gaskill Dick Dodge

Minutes: Warren Miller read the minutes of the Branson October 11, 2006, reunion. The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was given by Bob Mattingly:

Prior to receiving reunion funds:	\$4,497.28
As of March 27 there was a total of:	\$5,966.57
To be deposited:	\$1,577.00
Estimated costs to be paid:	\$3,204.00
Refunds:	\$ 405.25
Transferred from savings:	\$5,000.00

Estimated funds available after costs and income are posted	\$ 8,015.78
Also available in savings account	\$ 9,000.19
Estimated total available	\$17,015.97

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Galveston: Bruce Huff briefed the members as to why Galveston was selected as the reunion site, since it differed than those listed in the minutes from Branson, MO. After the Branson Reunion, it was left up to the members to research the three suggested locations; Dayton, OH, Nashville, TN, and Abilene, TX. The members were to give inputs to the Newsletter editor and then members could vote. No inputs were given, so the Board did the research and decided on Galveston, TX.

Old Business: **A/C 57-493:** Jerry Livingston announced Dick Tinney reported that A/C 493 has been moved to a display spot at Davis- Monthan AFB, AZ. The skis are not installed but are sitting beside the aircraft. Since we have had an interest in this project before, Jerry Livingston said he would look into the situation. Jerry will bring this up with several Generals at the Air Lift Convention.
Open!

Firebird Memorial Monument: J. C. Arrington stated that at a recent AF reunion at the USAF museum at Wright Patterson, he noted that they had a memorial garden with monuments from different units. He asked if we were interested in having a Firebird monument. He was asked to check into the procedures and cost and to present a report at this reunion. J. C. stated that the only place available was not in a desirable location and that we should not do this. Closed!

Newsletter Expenses: To ensure that all members were aware of their membership status, a postcard will be sent to them with the label showing their membership expiration date. This post card would also serve to tell of a posting of a newsletter on the web site and any other important news. Members that do not have access to a computer will have to advise the Newsletter Chairman, and they will be sent a copy of the newsletter. J. C. Arrington briefed that 300 postcards were sent out and that 18 people requested a mail copy. We will continue this! Closed

New Business: **2010 Reunion Location and Dates:** Following the discussion on Galveston, a discussion on the location and time of the next reunion followed. Chuck Lavoie briefed the status of Biloxi and that things were improving. Restaurants were still limited but more are opening all the time. A new Holiday Inn Express is in the progress of being built in Galveston and should be open by 2010. Jim Sarros stated he would be a contact point for Biloxi. Galveston is still an option, but there was some question that the location was the cause of reduced attendance (only 61 members were in attendance. Spouses and friends brought it up to 104). After much discussion and with a briefing on the status of Biloxi, it was decided that the Board would decide on the location. The following will be considered. 1. Dayton, Ohio (Wright Patterson AFB Museum), 2. Nashville, TN, 3. Galveston, TX, 4. Biloxi, MS. and 5. Schenectady, NY. The Board will make a final decision, and the dates will be dependent upon the availability of the location.

By-Law Changes: The following was brought before the membership to be voted upon: "The Board of Directors shall consist of fifteen members. In addition to the Officers of the Firebird Association, which include the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Newsletter Editor, the Board of Directors shall include the last three immediate past presidents, and six (6) Directors at Large. All members of the Board should reflect the general make-up of the active membership, and each shall have one vote. The Executive Board shall include, but not be limited to, the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Newsletter Editor. "

After a discussion, Alan Anderson made a motion to recommend approval. This was seconded and the change was passed unanimously.

Election of Officers:

President: Bruce Huff stated that he will be replaced as President, and Alan Anderson, the current Vice-President, agreed to accept the position.

Vice President: Bruce stated that there was a requirement now to elect a new Vice President and he or she should have been an enlisted person. Sam Arnold was nominated.

Treasurer, Secretary and Historian: Bob Mattingly will continue as treasurer, Warren Miller will remain as secretary, and Nolan Bailey will retain the position of Historian and Webmaster. John Parker made a motion to accept all the officers by acclamation. The motion was seconded and approved.

The 2008 - 2010 Board of Directors will be as follows:

President	Alan Anderson
Vice-President	Sam Arnold
Secretary	Warren Miller
Treasurer	Bob Mattingly
Historian and Webmaster	Nolan Bailey
Newsletter Editor	J. C. Arrington
Past Presidents	Bruce Huff Jerry Livingston Jerry Baird
At Large Board Members	Dick Dodge Tom Noel (109 th AW NYANG) Jay Walker Bill Wilburn Sid Marcus John Parker

Standing Committees: (Not part of Board.)

Golf	Alan Anderson
Hospitality	Tom McNamara

Lack of reunion participation: A discussion came up about the lack of participation at Firebird reunions. It was suggested that a questionnaire be sent to all members asking what would make them want to attend. Is the location most important? If so, where would they want it to be? It was suggested that postcards be sent as a reminder. It was pointed out that 320 cards were sent out before the Galveston reunion, and that 40 were returned due to change of address. Betty Huff has said that she will still do this if it is desired. The Board of Directors will continue to work this problem.

Accolades: Jerry Livingston pointed out that he could not think of a better run reunion with all the posters and handouts. He recommended a round of applause for Bruce and Betty Huff. A standing ovation followed.

109th Activities: Tom Noel briefed that the unit was still active on the Greenland Ice Cap. Dye 2 and Dye 3 are now partially covered in snow. Denmark wants the U. S. to tear the Dye Sites down and remove them from the Ice Cap. The 109th aircraft may receive the new 8 bladed propellers. In addition, they may receive new Rolls Royce engines. They had hoped that they could have a static display at the Galveston reunion, but they encountered problems since the first application had been disapproved as a

fly over. It was pointed out that it was supposed to be a static display. Rules would not allow a new application if one has been disapproved. Tom had 2 DVD's of 109th missions that he wanted to show, but they had problems with the projector. A new South Pole building was dedicated on Jan 12, 2008 and all the material was delivered by the 109th. Tom stated that the 109th commander, Col. Anthony German, wanted to host a reunion. A discussion followed that the DVD's should be copied and made available for sale to Firebirds.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1112 hours

Respectful Submitted,

Warren Miller

Warren Miller

Secretary