Another year is in the books following the Spectre Association’s annual reunion in October 2017. This reunion celebrated the 50th anniversary of the AC-130, a significant event in the evolution and history of the side-firing, fixed-wing gunship. The reunion was held 5-8 October in Ft. Walton Beach at the Sheraton Four Points hotel. There was a good turn-out with the usual suspects in attendance. We also had a visit from the effects of Hurricane Nate that impacted the golf and fishing events planned for Sunday. Our guest speaker was Lt Col (ret) Jim Lawrence. Jim was assigned as a pilot in the late 70’s and took part in the Iranian hostage crisis in 1979. He spoke of his experience of the events that took place when AC-130s were deployed to Guam to rehearse for the hostage rescue. The deployment began with the non-stop flight from Hurlburt FLD to Andersen AFB, Guam made possible by the in-flight air refueling capability of the gunships. The flight set a record for the longest flight (29.7 Hours). The flight of four gunships required four in-flight refueling sessions to make that deployment.

This year we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the stand-up of the 16 SOS. The reunion will be held this year at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. Wright-Pat is the birthplace of the AC-130 and we will have the opportunity to see one of the AC-130 test-bed aircraft that is on display in the AF Air Museum. The reunion will be held 4-7 October. Information is available on the Spectre Association website. We’re looking forward to seeing a good turn-out of our members that live in the mid-west to take part in this year’s reunion. Visit our website for information on reservations. Don’t wait until the last minute. So, come out and take part in this celebration.
BUSINESS MEETING

SATURDAY, October 7, 2017; 0900 CDT

Bernie Frakes, President
Bill Allen, Vice President
Bill Patterson, Treasurer
Bill Walter, Historian
Ed Rodriguez, Quartermaster
PJ Cook, Web Developer
Jerry Michaud, Board Member
Ski Gonsowski, Board Member
Celia-Danny Pagan, Board Member
Duane Spencer, Board Member
Mike Skerrett, Board Member
Darren Vitalo, Board Member
Barry Gossman, Board Member
Norm Evans, Board Member
Dick Vancil, Secretary
Special Guests:
Reunion Attendees

CALL TO ORDER
Bernie F conducted and chaired the meeting. Bernie called the meeting to order at 9:00AM CDT. He led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. All board members were present.

OLD BUSINESS
READING OF 43RD BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Bernie requested reading of the previous year’s minutes. Dick V read the minutes from last year; hearing no objections, Bill A made a motion to accept the minutes and Norm E seconded it. The matter was voted on and passed with two nays. Bernie advanced to the Treasurer’s and Annual Budget Report.

REPORTS:

TREASURER’S REPORT

Bill P reported the following:
**Proposed Budget for 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Revenues</th>
<th>Estimated Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dues Annual - $500</td>
<td>Membership Mailings Postage - $160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life - $1,000</td>
<td>Supplies - $400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>Printing Supplies - $400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Sales - $17,000</td>
<td>Store Inventory Replenishment - $2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations - $1,600</td>
<td>Merchandise Shipping - $1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Office Supplies - $500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Web Maintenance - $1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest $1,500</td>
<td>Warehouse Fee - $1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Post Office Box Fee - $160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phone Conferencing Fee - $360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Refunds - $400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Liabilities**

- Scholarships - $3,000
- Credit Card - $5,000
- Donations - $400
- Hotel - $7,000
- Armament Museum - $250

**Total Estimated Revenue** $25,100

**Total Estimated Expenses** -$24,030

**Capital & Assets**

- **Bond**
  - Life Fund $25,000.00
  - Gunner Jack Fund $10,340.05
- **Scholarship Fund** $15,287.82
- **Special Operating Account**
  - Life Fund $27,523.61
- **Checking Account** $14,095.48
- **Inventory On-Hand (Approx)** $34,259.00
- **Computer** $200.00
- **Telephone** $50.00
Capital & Assets as of 4 Oct 2017
$126,755.96

- Bill P made a point to recognize Ed’s great efforts on the accurate store inventory.
- Bill P also noted that approximately $1600 was donated to the Pat Carpenter Memorial Fund. Bill P said the interest on the Bond was OK; however, the other interest rates were very low.
- Bill P said that there were to be three scholarships for $1000 to be awarded this year. He went on to explain that there were not a whole lot of outside donations.
- Bill P explained all of the expenditures, and the estimated budget for 2018. All funds were briefed (see above breakout). Bill P requested approval for a new computer.
- After Reunion expenses $111,831.55 was available in the treasury. The chair made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report, Jerry seconded the motion and the vote passed with one dissention.
- Bernie requested New Business

NEW BUSINESS

NOMINATIONS
- Vice President, two board members
  • Bill Allen, Vice President
  • Celia-Danny Pagan, Board Member
  • Barry Gossman, Board Member
- Ski and Vito were nominated by acclamation to refill their own vacancies for another term.
- Jerry nominated Gary Thompson
- Jerry made a motion to close the nominations which was seconded by Norm and passed.
- The ballots will be provided to the membership for their vote as soon as possible.
NOMINATIONS FOR 2018 REUNION SITE

- Off-site locations in last year’s minutes were corrected to include WPAFB, OH, which was erroneously omitted.

- Kevin Moyer had a question about keeping the reunion at FWB. Much discussion ensued.

- Vito explained the BYLAWS and the process needed to change them.

- Bill A explained the way the general membership meeting was conducted and the vote was taken on the nominated locations.

- Bill W addressed how the board composition and BYLAWS get changed.

- PJ suggested that the off-site rules be changed.

- Gary Thompson and Johann Behnken made and seconded a motion to change the off-site location which was not supported after discussion.

- Bill Allen again clarified the process for selecting the off-site location and the timing.

- Vito read an extract of the old BYLAWS which require an off-site every four (4) years.

- Bill W recommended tailoring John B’s motion to move the decision on the location of the off-site reunion to this meeting.

- Duane S asked for a poll of all of the attendees on the off-site reunion location. Poll was taken and there was overwhelming support for WPAFB, OH. Great discussion followed.

- Bill W and Norm Evans explained previous arrangements that were made at WPAFB and the support received from the Museum staff.

- Ed Metz explained the AC-119 reunion success and outstanding assistance received for the reunion at WPAFB.

- Gary Thompson recommended overriding any interpretations to the contrary and proceeding with the WPAFB selection.
- Following vote, Bernie agreed to announce the WPAFB site selection after tonight’s reunion banquet.

**Selection of POW/MIA Table Representatives**

- Selections were made for the “Missing Man” Table. They were: Roger Dale, Bob Turik, Ron Fritz, Ron Bienias, Doc Dority, and Edwin Whitteman.

**SCHOLARSHIP DRAWING**

- Bernie and Bill A explained $1K scholarships for three primaries (two Spectre and one Carpenter) with two alternates. Sealed envelopes were selected in front of the attendees and the winners were marked and provided to the treasurer for safe keeping until the banquet.

**SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES**

Jessica B. Eheridge  
Gage A. McNeish  
Mark W. Patterson  
Katherine Miller

**OPEN FORUM**

- Alice ensured wine would be on the tables at tonight’s banquet.

- Grace and Bill W noted a need to honor Gunner Jack at tonight’s festivities.

- Bernie asked Vito to introduce the revised BYLAWS. Vito started by saying the BYLAWS are not in effect until ratified by the membership. He went on to explain the ratification process and the need for revised and dated BYLAWS. Non-local board members were a glaring issue that needed BYLAW inclusion.

- Jerry insisted that the new date be added to the BYLAWS.

- Bill Walter questioned the mass mailings and preferred to review and use the computer to send out Ballots and BYLAWS for action.

- Vito explained the BYLAWS revision which changed very little content, mainly sequence and deleting term limits. No real edits outside of structure.

- Hutchinson discussed how to propose changes.

- Norm explained that we had a list of 14 Spectres who did not have access to email and that we should only mail hard copies of the Ballot, Spotlight,
BYLAWS, and etc. to members on that list … all others should use the digital processes.

- Bill Patterson explained the need for dated and ratified BYLAWS as well as a brick and mortar location for the non-profit Spectre association.

- Bernie thanked Vito for taking on this BYLAWS update project and said the BOD would decide the best way to send out ballots. Vito received a round of applause.

- Bernie turned the floor over to Dennis Calik who thanked the board for doing what they do. Dennis C noted that our numbers are continuing to decline and he proposed a potential action item regarding working with the Air Commandos (mostly Viet vets) – he wants to explore the opportunity to grow our Association. Much discussion followed; no action just lots of discussion.

- Bill Walter offered a follow-on regarding the ACA; he explained the connection to the new J’s and that the new Spectre drivers want to connect with the old Spectres to build on the official history and learn from it. Bill W is working on the “official history”. Bill W has the original records. Our combat photog, Bill, explained about the NDA he had to sign limiting disclosure.

- Don Beardsley discussed the many ineffective efforts in the past to increase membership.

- Bill W explained that new folks are not “joiners”. Hutchinson said Spectre association advertisement is basically non-existent.

- Jerry talked about fruitless ACA efforts in the past. Bill W explained the ACA actions. Gene Eller noted that as a “Splinter Organization” within the ACA that the Spectre Association would disappear/cease to exist. His advice was to go to the ACA but not to join… “Move with Caution”. Gary Thompson explained past efforts to get more members had little to no effect.

- Don Beardsley wants honorees from current group of Spectres recognized.

- PJ intends to try and take aerial photos of the reunion group outside of the “First Lady” … it will depend on the base and the FAA.

- Chris of “Danger Close” is offering a 20% discount to Specters who use “Dead on” as the new discount code.

- Bernie explained the recent copyright issue regarding the use of our Spectre Logo. Actions are underway to secure the copyright, again. Bernie also discussed the wall of “SEA” at the Air Force Academy and our effort to place a plaque in honor of the AC-130 Gunships in the AFA “Wall of SEA” facility.
- Don Beardsley requested more info on the AFA project.

- We received $245 from the sale of rings on the website.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Norm and seconded by Steve that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 10:36 AM Local.

Dick Vancil – Secretary

**HURRICANE WARNING**

Hurricane Nate in the Gulf of Mexico
Okaloosa Fishing Pier

Nate washes out fishing charter

Beach

Golf tourney washed out on Sunday
SPECTRE REUNION PIX

THAI NIGHT:

FRIDAY EVENING
GUEST SPEAKER

JIM LAWRENCE

SUNDAY BBQ