

January 30, 2017 Officers Teleconference Notes

Officers Present – George Dockery, Mike Welch, Bill Kehler, Sam McGowan, Ralph Bemis

Reunion Committee Members Present – Ray Snedegar, Jack Brankamp

Meeting commenced at 1800 C.

1. Mike asked Bill if he had any comments; Bill declined. Mike began discussion of reunion banquet. Advised that due to the museum having withdrawn their invitation to have the banquet “Under the Wings,” he has contracted with the Holiday Inn to have the banquet there. (This will save the membership a considerable amount of money.)
2. There was discussion of having a lunchtime event at the museum prior to the memorial presentation. The reunion committee reported that this is not a good idea. No luncheon will be held; members will be free to eat on their own.
3. Discussion of memorial. There was agreement that we should accept Dodd Monuments proposal with a walkway around the monument. This will bring the total cost to \$32,850, including \$23,500 for the memorial, \$7,000 for the walkway and \$2,350 for a maintenance fee to be paid to the museum. We presently have \$15,595 in the memorial fund, with another check for \$1,000 on the way and \$500.00 promised. (Actually, Ralph Bemis has also promised \$500.00.) This brings us to \$17,595 + \$20.00 cash contributed by Warren Saha, a total of \$17,615. This means we need to raise \$15,235. This money needs to be raised by no later than September 1, 2018. We will be paying a deposit of ½ the cost of the monument to Dodd Monuments upon signing of the contract. **COMPLETE 2/1/17 -\$15,750**
4. Mike Welch will be preparing a “letter of intent” for the museum. He will list himself as the contact and have George Dockery or Bill Kehler sign as the authorizing officer. **COMPLETE 2/4/17**
5. Mike brought up fundraising and the necessity of devoting a maximum effort to this endeavor. A few officers and board members have made sizeable contributions. Sam McGowan has attempted to contact the C-7 Caribou Association, the Air Commando Association and (since the call), the Air Force Association. We have received a positive response from the president of the Air Commando Association - he will put notice of our effort in the organization’s electronic newsletter. Mike Welch has posted the reunion flyer on 14 Facebook groups of which he is a member.

6. Sam McGowan suggested and Mike Welch authorized that we set up a PayPal account so potential donors can make contributions using credit cards. Sam is in the process of setting up the account – Due date of February 5. **COMPLETE 2/3/17**
7. Member Roger Greuel suggested issuing a “challenge” to the members to contribute \$100 based on their military pay grade. Roger will be contributing \$500.00 (included in the numbers mentioned previously.)
8. Jack Brankamp advised that he is involved with the Ohio Veterans of Foreign Wars and that they have a sizeable fund for charitable purposes. He will present our memorial project to them and request donations. Several other possible means of raising funds were suggested.
9. George Dockery made mention of the UK project to place a memorial for victims of a C-47 crash, and how EXERCISE EAGLE, the operation during which the men were killed, is mentioned in the book INTO THE VALLEY.
10. Sam McGowan suggested contacting member Dr. Allan Gropman and inviting him to be our banquet speaker. Dr. Gropman is a retired USAF lieutenant colonel and former navigator with a PHD in history. He authored the booklet THE AIRLIFT EVACUATION OF KHAM DUC. (I have sent an Email to Dr. Gropman advising that we would like to have him as the speaker.
11. Jack Brankamp and others mentioned several possible speakers.
12. Ray Snedegar mentioned the program at Wright State University called Veterans Voices (or something similar) and how it would be a good idea to allow them to come to the hotel and interview individual veterans.
13. Sam McGowan suggested we invite other airlift-related groups with benches at the museum to relocate them to our pad if they so desire. There was some discussion with some thinking it is a good idea with others thinking other groups would have no interest in doing so.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1910C. No votes were held; this is notes of the meeting rather than minutes.

Sam McGowan, Secretary