

June 24 Teleconference Board Meeting Minutes

The Troop Carrier/Tactical Airlift Association board met through teleconferencing on June 25, 2011 with the following members present – Chairman George Dockery, Vice-Chairman Jim Elmer, President Mike Welch, Secretary Sam McGowan, Treasurer Tom Stalvey and board members Ace Bowman, Jim Esbeck and Ralph Bemis. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dockery and turned over to President Welch to moderate.

In the absence of a financial report, the following is inserted into the minutes: As of June 28, 2011 we have \$6,848.14 in the Association bank account. In addition we have three checks in the amount of \$25.00 each to be deposited, which brings the total to \$6,923.14. Our only expenditure since the election is \$3.07 for postage to mail a golf shirt to a member.

The first item of business was to set a date and place for the 2012 Convention. Tom Stalvey reported on his recent visit to the Museum of Aviation at Warner Robins, Georgia where he met with Boeing employee and retired USAF Colonel Richard Adamson, Mike Welch's co-worker, who has been advising the reunion committee on facilities and other considerations around the area. Tom also met with Karen Ross, the events coordinator for the museum, who gave him a full tour of the facilities which were found to be ideal for an event such as ours. After a motion by Sam McGowan that we set the date for October 19-21, 2012 and several seconds, that date and the place was officially adopted. A convention planning committee consisting of the officers and other members from the Georgia area and Don Hessenflow, who has contacts at Robins, has had one teleconference call and will be having another in the near future.

Our second item of business was to choose a new vice-president from our board to replace Mike Welch, who has moved up to the position of president due to the unfortunate and untimely passing of our president, Dennis Ybarra. Dennis passed away of respiratory problems on May 16 at his home in Roswell, New Mexico. Unfortunately, no one in the organization became aware of his death in time for any representation at his services. Ralph Bemis, who has been with our organization since its formation and is our former treasurer, agreed to accept the office and was elected by unanimous vote.

Other items of business included discussion of organizational committees, of which at present we only have one, the membership committee, currently headed by Andy Vaquera. Tom Stalvey volunteered to help with membership along with Jim Elmer, who volunteered to help with trying to find specific people. Another item of discussion was promotional items, such caps, our existing golf shirts and a patch which can be attached to a blazer. Sam McGowan suggested that all Life Members be given a golf shirt. Jim Elmer suggested that if we do so, such a shirt should have "Life Member" embroidered on it. Sam McGowan mentioned caps with the association logo on it and Mike Welch responded that he has a friend who produces organizational promotional material and will check with him regarding cost. Tom Stalvey commented that he is not pleased with the current logo, which is the logo of the World War II IX Troop Carrier Command, that people ask him if he was in the Army. The board agreed that the logo would be a topic of discussion at our 2012 members meeting.

Several comments were made by members during the call related to attracting new members. George Dockery commented that the Sewart AFB has shrunk considerably in membership and that he has been thinking it should be oriented other than to a specific base. He also commented that the Evreux Alumni Assoc. has disbanded and thrown in with the 317th Association. Mike Welch commented that he

intends to make a push for our organization at the C-123s in SEA reunion later this year. Tom Stalvey suggested that everyone recruit two new members.

George Dockery and Mike Welch recommended that the board have a teleconference call each quarter, and the recommendation was adopted by the board by unanimous vote, with the next conference to be in September.

Sam McGowan mentioned the possibility of having the collection of 315th Air Division "The Airlifter" newspapers published for sale to the public. Jim Elmer commented that someone had attended the most recent 815th TCS reunion who said they had a collection of the newspapers and are looking for someone to purchase the entire lot. According to Jim, the collection covers a wider period than the May 1966-August 1968 period of the papers we currently have access too. The board agreed that Jim should check with the person and see what they are willing to take.

Just prior to the adjournment of the meeting Mike Welch reported the thrilling news that the fuselage of a C-130E that the Air Force had given to Boeing has been presented to the Yanks Air Museum at Chino, California. This particular airplane participated in the November, 1964 joint US/Belgian hostage rescue mission at Stanleyville in the former Belgian Congo and brought the bodies of some of the slain hostages to Leopoldville, where it was filmed by Air Force photographers. Mike learned of the identity of the airplane when he viewed the film clip after a link to it was posted to the Association web site and realized it belonged to Boeing and was lying in field at the facility in Long Beach waiting to be scrapped. He and another C-130 veteran who is on the Boeing staff decided to save it and approached the company about donating it to the museum. Kudos to Mike and his associate for their successful efforts!