

# 18<sup>TH</sup> AND 54<sup>TH</sup> AVIATION COMPANY OTTERNEST ASSOCIATION

## 2017 Reunion Meeting Minutes / September 23, 2017 / Bloomington MN

Called to Order by President Ron Haugen

Open with Pledge of Allegiance

Chaplain: Offers opening prayer

Tom Fetsch: Itinerary for the day – starts after meeting, with luncheon cruise. Meet at 9:45 am. For 10:00 departure for Luncheon Cruise. Return about 3:45. Meet at 5:00 in Plaza 1, for cash bar and dinner.

Thank you to Mr. Fetsch for leading reunion committee. Recognized his underlings – Larry Podany, Rick Pomeroy and Don Quigley.

President Haugen thanked the Board for the past year, VP Jack Ritchie; Sec. Gene Brockman; Treasurer Tom Fetsch; Chaplains (Wayne Jones & Peter Cranford were unable to attend). Acting Chaplain Don Quigley; and Sgt. at Arms Doug Nicholson.

Secretary Brockman presented 2016 minutes. (Recorded by Margaret Bickerton).

Treasurer's report: while Mr. Fetsch is treasurer, he is still not a signature on checking account. List of checks written from last year's reunion until last week – (moment of silence) (0) any questions? As of last week, our balance \$13,578.72. Thanks to Dickie Gonsoulin for financial status and solvency of the 18<sup>th</sup>/54<sup>th</sup> Assoc. Activity in account since last week, check for approx. \$827 to pay for 18<sup>th</sup>/54<sup>th</sup> shirts, deposited \$890 for shirts presold. Since then have received approx. \$500 which will cover expenses – snacks, soda, beer, etc.

Jack Ritchie: motion to approve minutes as read by Sec. Brockman seconded Val Hoey. Approved.

Treasurer Report: motion to approve by John Holihan, seconded by Mr. Hoey. Approved.

Old Business:

Bylaws – updates are open for discussion, etc. Dues, no dues? Open for discussion.

James Sullivan –suggested that Chaplain should send Sympathy Cards to family of members who pass.

Pres. Haugen indicated that we'll need to approve funding for Wayne Jones to purchase cards that have the 18<sup>th</sup>/54<sup>th</sup> on them and postage. Motion by Mike Edgerton, second by Lindsay Perkins. Jeff "BIC" Bickerton mentioned the TAPS page on website – tries to it keep current with pictures and Obituary. Please remember to notify "BIC" and the President of the passing of any of our members.

Pres. Haugen remembered to recognize "BIC" as webmaster, and all the behind the scenes work. Followed by a round of applause.

Motion to order Cards identifying the 18<sup>th</sup>/54<sup>th</sup> Organization to be sent by the Chaplain. Comment about adding to the motion to read names at meeting. President Haugen reminded that names are read at the banquet. Called for any other comments. Motion carried.

No further old business.

New Business:

To decide on whether to have 2018 reunion, if yes, when and where?

Then election of new officers.

Mr. Sullivan asked if anything was discussed at Friday afternoon's open discussion meeting about holding 2018 reunion. Answer: yes, and suggested that it would be held same weekend 9/20/18 to 9/23/18. Three locations: San Antonio, TX; Pensacola, FL; or Dayton, OH. Strongest feeling from discussion was Dayton, OH. Debbie Holihan suggested that everyone write their preference and see where the majority would like to go. Pres. Haugen replied that he preferred we just have discussion and that if we have to get down to writing things down, that becomes rather cumbersome. Pres. Haugen went back to decide whether we want to have a reunion. Mr. Sullivan moved to have a 2018 reunion. Seconded by Al Wilson. Call for discussion – Mr. Hoey commented that he put together a reunion several years ago in San Antonio, so if group decides to have one there, while he's still alive, he should still have contacts and all that stuff to help out.

Pres. Haugen restated the motion on the Floor – To have a 2018 reunion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Mr. Perkins – asked if Sept 20 in San Antonio is very hot? Discussion of weather. Yes it is hot.

Pres. Haugen indicated that our biggest concern is where can we maximize attendance. Discussion of possible locations and how many they will attract. Several things to see in Dayton, Air Force Museum, etc. If we use AFRI, they have really good contacts there. They don't really want to do anything outside of the hotel for groups of our size. So if we want to use them we have to go where they go. Any suggestions for activities should go thru our coordinator. Bus trips require a minimum number. After much discussion Pres. Haugen asked for a motion for a City location. John Adler motioned that we vote for the suggested cities by a show of hands. Vote was: Dayton: 15; Pensacola: 4; San Antonio: 11

Mr. Sullivan moved to hold 2018 reunion in Dayton, Ohio, seconded by Mr. Adler. Motion carried.

Mr. Adler moved to request AFRI to shoot for same weekend in September, seconded by Mr. Ritchie. Motion carried.

A motion by Mr. Adler to allow the reunion chair to change the date if necessary. Seconded by Dan Gonzales. Motion carried.

Election OF Officers:

Slate of officers:

President – Jim Sullivan

Vice President – Mike Edgerton

Secretary – Gene Brockman

Treasurer – Ron Hougan

Website communications – Jeff Bickerton

Sgt.at Arms – Doug Nicholson

Chaplains – Wayne Jones & Peter Cranford

Reunion chair – Dan Gonzales

Vice chair for reunion – Jack Ritchie

Mr. Adler motioned that nominations be closed and that current slate are elected by unanimous acclaim. Second by Mr. Wilson. Motion carried.

Congratulations to new board!

GOOD OF ASSOCIATION;

Mr. Bickerton asks if everyone has checked out the website. How it works? He tries to put all the pictures that he takes and some sent to him on slide shows.

Mr. Haugen mentioned that 6 years ago a plan was made of putting a Veterans Memorial in Minnesota Square Park in St. Peter, MN. The 18<sup>th</sup> Aviation Company the "Otternest" name will be on the wall.

A question was. Is the Army Aviation Museum at Fort Rucker worth going to? Unanimous YES.

One of our members has a restaurant/bar "Hanger 33" near the South Gate of Ft. Rucker.

"Intellectual Hour" Open bar at Banquet courtesy Col Bob Luckenbill.

Motion to adjourn by Jack Ritchie, Seconded by Mike Edgerton. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by: Gene Brockman, Secretary

September 23, 2017