

**18<sup>th</sup> Aviation Company – Otter Nest  
Business Meeting  
August 3, 2013**



The business meeting of the Otter Nest was called to order by Ron Haugen as Association President. The meeting began at approximately 9:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee.

Ron Haugen acknowledged the gift of a new TV by Dickie Gonsoulin for use by the Association.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made.

The 2012 Minutes were read.

Old Business:

The organizational by-laws: Jim Wittel distributed to each table a three page draft of the proposed Association by-laws (attached). After discussion, a Motion was made by John Heathcock and seconded by Robert Burgess to have the Board review Jim's draft of the by-laws and present a formal recommendation at the 2014 reunion for approval by the membership. Ron Haugen will create an initial draft of the by-laws.

Newsletter: Jim Wittel suggested that the newsletter be posted on the website. The information should be sent to Jim, after approval by the President and other Board members before posting. The newsletter should contain current deaths, news of members, reunion updates, etc. James Sullivan volunteered to assist.

New Business:

The first order of new business was to decide if the Association would have a 2014 reunion. A Motion was made by James Sullivan and seconded by John Heathcock to have a 2014 reunion. The Motion was carried.

After much discussion, a Motion was made by Mike Edgerton and seconded by Jim Wittel for the 2014 reunion to be held beginning Thursday, July 31, 2014 with departure on Sunday, August 2, 2014. Since Armed Forces Reunions has opted out of assisting with the planning of the 2014 reunion, it was decided to have the 2014 reunion in Nashville, Tennessee as there is already a working relationship with Holiday Inn Airport management, dining room manager, etc. The Motion was carried with one nay by John Neel.

A future reunion committee was formed. Pete Morales volunteered to chair the committee. Jack Ritchie, James Sullivan, Mike Edgerton, and Sandra Denney volunteered to assist Pete.

Robert Burgess made the suggestion to include the 54<sup>th</sup> in the annual 18<sup>th</sup> Aviation Company reunion. The 54<sup>th</sup> was another Otter Company in Viet Nam. Cliff Pufpaff was concerned that inclusion of the 54<sup>th</sup> would dilute the current Association. After much discussion, a Motion was made by John Heathcock to include the 54<sup>th</sup> and seconded by Jim Wittel. Motion carried.

The next order of business was the election of Officers. A Motion was made by Jack Ritchie and seconded by James Sullivan to re-elect Ron Haugen as President and re-elect Jeff Bickerton as Executive Vice President. Motion was made by Jim Wittel and seconded by John Heathcock to re-elect Jan Heathcock as Secretary. Motions were carried. After much discussion regarding 501C status, tax number, tax exempt status, the IRS, etc. the vacant Treasurer spot on the Board was appointed and filled by Ron Haugen.

It was decided that a Reunion Chairman was needed for the 2014 Reunion. Thomas Fetsch was appointed Chairman and Pete Morales would be his assistant. Wayne Jones was appointed Association Chaplain.

Jeff Bickerton addressed the need of purchasing a search engine to enable the search of other 18<sup>th</sup> veterans. Wayne Jones agreed to purchase the search engine. Dickie Gonsoulin will allow his company's resources to be used as needed. Jim Wittel has \$55.00 left from the donations made at the 2012 reunion. John Neel brought up the point as to how to deal with expenses. Dickie Gonsoulin offered to donate \$1,000.00. The hat was passed for donations. Ron Haugen will open up a checking account to handle expenses.

Jim Wittel wanted to discuss the standardization of the tee shirts. Ron, as President, agreed that the tee shirts should be standardized. Jeff Bickerton addressed the number of patches. The tee shirt issue was tabled and to be discussed outside of the business meeting.

John Neel discussed the need of standardization of the letterhead, stationery, etc.

John Neel and James Sullivan won the raffle. Greg Ferguson, John Heathcock, Cliff Pufpaff, Mike Close, Joanna Cranford, Frank Ordiway, Dickie Gonsoulin, John Neel, Bobbie Abbott, Jeff Bickerton won hats.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Heathcock,  
Secretary