



## BIENNIAL BUSINESS MEETING

**World War II  
315th Troop Carrier Group  
Association - U.S.A.A.C.**



27 AUGUST 2000

President Ray Schwartz called the Business Meeting to order at 9:30 AM in the Theater of The Holiday Inn , Fairborn Ohio on Sunday, 27 August 2000. It was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes. The President announced that anyone wishing to speak during the business meeting should stand and give his name and squadron before speaking.

He then asked if there were any "First Timers" here at this reunion. Four men stood up. He ask them to give their name and Squadron: Ralph James,310th -Richard Ireland,309th -Bob Thorpe,309th Vietnam, Harry Blair,Historian for the 27th T.C.Sqdn.

Next, Treasurers report: Friedman said, we are loaded, and have roughly about \$10,000 in our checking account. He said that we were not all that anxious to collect dues. If some one comes up and asks how much back dues they owe, he does not have to pay it. He said that he receives letters from men who say they would like to receive the newsletter, but they can not afford to pay the dues. His reply to the is: as long as you are interested in being active,you will be on the mailing list for the rest of your life. End of report.

Bernie Brown ,43rd - How are we doing on the cost of the Hospitality Room? President Ray Schwartz said he would explain how some of the expenses were taken care of. The Hospitality Room was provided for at no cost by the hotel. With the contract that was negotiated by AFR, the hotel gave the 315th seven free room nights. Three of these nights went to Friedman, in return for which, he went to the Air Force Base and bought the supplies for the Hospitality Room. Four nights went to Schwartz, who in return will give that amount as a door prize in a drawing tonight at the Banquet. This way he said that no one will benefit unfairly from the free rooms.

Next: Nominating committee report from Bill Brinson: For the new Vice-President to replace Dick Ford : Bernie Brown, 43rd Sqdn. For the Board of Directors: Evelyn Kowalchuk,818 Air Evac Sqdn., and Douglas Watkins,309th Sqdn. The President ask if there were any nominations from the floor,there being none, he asked for approval of the nomination committees report. So passed.

Next -where do we meet for our next reunion. The Board listened to many suggestions and will present the following cities for your selection or rejection: Memphis - Nashville - or Harrisburg,PA. Incoming President Dick Ford was asked to explain why these three cities were recommended. He had contacted AFR and they had sent packages of information on hotels, tours, things of interest and etc. and recommended these three cities as being very reasonable it costs and meeting our past requirements of being centrally located. One thing to consider: AFR will not accept any new business from Unit who do not utilize at least 100 rooms. As they have done business with the 315th for past years, they will service our next reunion if we book 50 rooms and it is in a location that they have served in the past. If for any reason that AFR can not service our next reunion,Ford requested that the

membership give the Board of Directors the option to change the location to a city where we had members who would volunteer to host the reunion. Comments: Bud Pence, 34th. I have a suggestion for future consideration. Branson, MO is an excellent location in either April or October. You have 25 to 30 shows to choose from. Lake with dinner cruise and they are reunion and convention friendly and the costs are reasonable. Bud said he would be willing to help put one on there in the future.

Jake Sternoff, 319th. As we are all getting older and like to see each other, I would like to propose that we have reunions every year. Locations, I would like to see it in Kansas City. The President ask for a vote to see if the members wanted to meet every year. They voted to keep it every other year. Now to select the city:

Memphis - Nashville - Harrisburg - Kansas City - San Diego - were the cities voted upon. As there was no majority for any one city, the top three were voted on again. San Diego - Harrisburg and Memphis. It will be San Diego in 2002 !

If any members wish to get a hat, see Sandy Friedman. He arranges to have them made up and ships them to the members.

Picture will be taken of the different squadron tonight just before the Banquet.

Any new business: Ernie Anderson, 310th. With \$10,000 in the checking account, wouldn't about half of that be enough and put the rest in a CD. Friedman said he would report on that. He said that he could get 2% on a savings account with his bank. Everybody told him he ought to change Banks. ( much much discussion and misinformation followed for some time) Ford made a motion that the amount, and location of the investment, should be approved by 2/3 of the Board of Directors.

After much more misinformation on the amounts needed for Money Market Accounts, Friedman was going to check with Payne-Weber and see what kind of a deal he could get with them on a \$7,000 investment. Ford again called for action on his motion. It was seconded and passed.

Ray Schwarts said that the table sign up sheets for the Banquet, had been left on the table outside of the Hospitality Room. For the people who have not signed up for a table number - see him after the meeting to get your seat. One man said he forgot to put his wifes name down !!!

Group picture will be taken tonight before the Banquet. The first Squadron will start at 6:00 PM. with the others ready to follow right after each other. Friedman said the Hospitality Room will be closed until the tour returns at 3:00. It will then be open until 4:00, when the room has to be cleaned out and closed up.

Our Incoming President said he would like to get an opinion from our members on what time of the year the would prefer to hold the reunion. The weather in San Diego will not be much of a factor for either spring or fall. Bill Brinson said that when the reunions were started again in 78, most of our members were still working.

While there was nothing in writing, it was agreed to hold them the first week after labor day. Now that none of us have children in school, and most are retired, I don't think it makes any difference if it is Spring or Fall. Spring, meaning before June and Fall being September or later. Cloer said that many of the outfits all seem to hold their reunion in August or September. The Commemoration of the Battie of Arnhem is the 17th of September each year. Two of the other outfits that I was in hold their outfits reunion in August and September this year. There always seems to be a conflict that prevents me from going to the others. I would prefer a late April or early May date for San Diego - but that just a personal problem.

Jake Sternoff, 310th. Jake said that the facilities at this hotel had been great and he

hoped that the hotel we get in San Diego would be as good. Said he had been to a few reunions in San Diego that had ended up at kind of second rate Hotels.

Ford asked for a show of hands on how many would like the reunion in the Spring. How many in the fall. A small majority preferred the Fall.

Friedman said that he and Ray Schwartz had worked very hard to put on this reunion. He would like a voice response to see if the members had enjoyed this reunion. Everybody thought it was great !

Bernie Brown, 43rd. Before we adjourn, I'd like to express our pleasure for all the work they have done for this reunion.

Harry Blair, Historian for the 27th T.C.Sqdn. As an outsider, I want to thank you for letting me join in. Although you have voted it down, I think that you would enjoy having a reunion every year. As one of your gentleman said, we are all fading into the sunset. I belong to two outfits that meet every year. You have selected a great town for your next reunion. We met there last year. Last - I want to thank you for letting my wife and I join you for a great reunion. I feel that I have met new friends and hope to stay in contact with you all for years to come.

Bryan Reading, I am an outsider but a product of your outfit. I want to tell you all how proud I am of all of you and what you did. I came with my Father John Reading and hope to come as long as he can.

Frank Klucsarits Jr., I am an outsider too and I came with my father, Frank Klucsarits. I have really enjoyed meeting the men that served with my father. I can tell you that it is the finest group of gentlemen that I have ever met at one setting. I want to thank you gents for keeping our country free !

Ernie Tobin, 310th Sqdn. When we were out at the Memorial Park at the Air Force Museum we visited the tree and plaque that the 310th Squadron dedicated in 1986. I noticed that there are some new walls available that have other Troop Carrier Group plaques on them. Are we going to consider trying to do that for the 315th.

Dick Ford said that he would like to see a 315th plaque placed on the wall. He had made a rubbing of the 310th 's and two of the other T.C.Groups. He would get all of the details and requirements from the Museum. Look into the cost of the project, and then bring it before the membership. It took the 310th about three years from the time they started the project, until it was dedicated. J.W.Way said that his flying class did one last year and it took them only about a year.

Sandy Friedman said that he learned something at the Board meeting yesterday and wondered if the rest of the members were aware of it. If he or Harold Slack were the last two members left - they will not get what is left of the treasure - it goes to a tax free charity. He thought we ought to talk about this and also about lowering the dues. He said when a man come up to him and asks how much does he own in back dues, he tells him you don't owe any back dues, just pay this years.

Dick Ford, 310th. I would like to see if the membership is in favor of spending the money to dedicate a 315th Plaque at the USAF Museum. Bill Brinson said that he would like to make a motion. The new incoming President knows what we want to do. Authorize him to deal with the Museum and who ever makes the plaques to get the project started as soon as possible. Seconded and passed. Cloer suggested that we have a great plaque out on the wall at the Air Force Academy and the molds still be available, if all of the specs are the same. Would save time and money. Friedman ask Schwartz to talk about the dues. The President said that we are building up more money in the treasury that we need. We raised the due to \$20

per year when we needed more money to take care of the cost of the reunion book that Ed Papp published after each reunion. As we no longer need that money, I think we ought to consider lowering or dropping the dues. Cloer said that if you are thinking about spending \$2,000 to \$3,000 for Memorial Plaques, I think you need the dues. I don't think anybody here is hurting for a \$20 bill per year. Lets take a vote. Membership voted to keep the \$20 dues.

Russ Lane, 310th. Wanted to know what was done in the Board meeting about 315th men from the Korea and Vietnam war who would like to attend out reunions. The President said it was never brought up.

Harry Blair, 27th. If I could interjects something. There is no one more interested in what you have accomplished than you family members. We have made every effort to get our younger people involved and to carry on the tradition. At every reunion we have a memorial program that plants a tree in each city. That program is now taken over by our associate members. They also help with the reunions. Try it - it works great!

Jake Sternoff, 309th Sqdn. I rode in on the bus the other day from the Airport with a man that has kept me laughing for years. Over the past 6 or 7 years he has written great stories in the newsletters that were true and at the same time funny. We need more of the fellows to do this. Thank you, Ziggy Zartman!!

Bill Brinson had some questions that Stan Smith wanted him to ask for the newsletter. Was there anyone here younger than 78. A couple of them claimed they were. He went thru each year, asking for a show of hand. Had the oldest one present at 85. Brinson took a hand count of the members who had attended each reunion since the started again in Savannah - Then the hands of the men who had gone over seas with the 315th in Nov. of 42. How many served in Africa with the 315th or the 60th or 62nd - How many are here to day that left Amiens with the 315th.

The reason for all of these questions is to do a little planing for the future of the organization. There will be a point in not to many years when we will not be able to travel in great enough numbers to have these great reunions. We may want to consider smaller get to gethers on the east and west coasts. This is something to think about at our next Business Meeting.

Bill Brinson read a letter from Norm Greene, on how Ray Schwartz had saved his life and that of all the crew and passengers.

Doc Cloer, 34th. The 9th Air Force Association is trying to get more Troop Carrier men to join the Association. They have sent me many applications for membership with the notation, "first years dues are free". The 9th AFA is worthy of our support and I have been a charter member for years. They have a great newsletter and hold a large reunion every year that serves as an umbrella reunion for many outfits.

Each outfit can have its own hospitality room and enjoy all of the tours and programs at a good rate. Next item: At the last reunion I gave out Squadron Insignia Badges to each men that paid his dues. I have a few left to give out this time but I want to be sure that the first timers, or the ones that did not get one last time, get one first. I can no longer get these! Next item: Preserving the history of our organization. Many Troop Carrier outfits are now trying to form the Troop Carrier Historical Society. Many of you have old orders, diaries, log books and etc. that will just be thrown out after you are gone. If any of you have old newsletters that you do not want, please send them to me. Rather than take up anymore of your time, I will have information in one of the future newsletters.

Bernie Brown, 43rd Sqdn. He said that in one of the back newsletters there was a note that Dave Benfield was trying to come up with all of our tail numbers. All of the old crew chiefs could remember the tail number and letter, should send it to Benfield. Friedman said that as he is going to be sending caps to Benfield, send the information to him and he would forward it to Benfield.

Jake Sternoff, 309th Sqdn. I receive many many E Mails from Jan Bos in Holland. I find them very interesting and he is a historian for the Airborne. Jake wanted to send him one of our books. Brinson said they are all gone. Jake had given four to his local library. Someone suggested that we send Bos a cap. Friedman said that if the Board approved, he would send anyone a cap that we thought was deserving of recognition for past services.

Ray Schwartz, There have been some complaints about the cost of taxi from the airport. There is a Van service at only about \$23 if you make your reservations. The hotel will do this for you.

Is there any further business to be covered at this time - - - there being none - - the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.

The following Officers and Board Members will be serving the 315th Troop Carrier Group Association for the next two years.

- \* Ray M. Schwartz - - - Past President
- \* Richard T. Ford - - - - President
- \* Bernard C. Brown - - - Vice-President
- William L. Brinson - - - Corresponding Secretary
- Robert L. Cloer - - - - Recording Secretary
- Sandy Friedman - - - - Treasurer
- Harold Slack - - - - - Assistant Treasurer
- \* Evelyn Kowalchuk - - - Term expires 2006
- \* Douglas Watkins - - - Term expires 2006
- \* J. W. Way - - - - - Term expires 2004
- \* Lawrence Ison - - - - - Term expires 2004
- \* William S. Perkins - - - Term expires 2002
- \* Newman Riechman - - Term expires 2002
- \* Bill Trau - - - - Alternat Board Member
- James (Stan) Smith - - Editor, Newsletter

\* Members of the Board of Directors

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert L. Cloer  
Recording Secretary

Transcribing of 1 hour and 55 minutes of tapes was completed on 5 September 2000. Tapes are on file with the Recording Secretary and are available for review by any member.