



AIRCRAFT ARMAMENT CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

General Membership Meeting Minutes
8 September 2018

CALL TO ORDER: The AACA General Membership meeting was called to order at 1000 Hrs, 8 Sep 18. Sixteen of the 108 members, <15 % of the Aircraft Armament Chiefs Association members met in general session convened during the 2018 AACA Reunion in Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

The meeting began with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance followed with the introduction of the members in attendance. Zero members kneeled during the pledge of allegiance despite potential offers from NIKE to do so.

Chief Lucchesi welcomed all in attendance and discussed the first night of the reunion and call to members to attend. 19 CMSgts were in attendance at Friday night dinner with many spouses attending.

MEMBERSHIP: Chief Godwin presented the membership report;

132 Members

Life Members: 76

Honorary Members: 2

Annual Members: 51

Withdrawals: 2

Questionable Life/Annual Status (need clarification/awaiting dues): 1

AACA GENERAL STORE: Chief Godwin and Chief Fields presented the new merchandise purchased for the store and quarterly raffles. Items included Whiskey Dencanters with choice of cigar glasses or square whiskey glasses, AACA silver coasters, Cigar humidors/lighter/cutter with AACA logo (hardened case for traveling), new AACA coins and existing inventory of pens, weapons pins and license plates. The coasters, license plates and new coins were the big sellers!

As usual, Chief Godwin requested any person with an idea of what other items might sell well in the store to support award winners, Kebil Scholarship, and other AACA sponsored events, to please send him an email @ aacageneralstore@gmail.com . If you have an idea of merchandise and want to run with pricing/procurement logistics...awesome! Give Evan a call at 808-561-4048 if you have an idea!

TREASURER REPORT: The treasurer, CMSgt Joel Paxton, was unable to attend but provided the following report: \$10, 110 dollars are in the AACA account; however, there is an outstanding balance of approximately \$800 to be paid to Chief Godwin for merchandise purchased.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: CMSGT Mike Lucchesi volunteered for various activities/committees to earn recognition of the AACA, one being a board member of the Air Armament Center. One idea for Strategy Plan was to propose a statue of weapons loaders loading a weapon be placed outside the Center.

Mike reminded everyone of the AACA Facebook site where several members are posting comments to stay in touch with fellow Chiefs, and others. He encouraged all to visit the site and join if a "Facebooker" as another means to stay in contact with some in the AACA.

AACA NEWSLETTER: Chief Keith Hilton continues to produce exceptional newsletters full of 462/2W1 History, current CFM comments, Armament Chiefs Bio's and numerous other articles for the AACA members to enjoy. Please support the efforts of the Keith, and the entire Association to keep all informed by providing articles quarterly for inclusion in the newsletter. All articles are welcome, but subject to review and approval by Keith...Editor and "CHIEF"! Contact Keith at Khilton@glassmile.net or aacanewsletter@gmail.com for questions/details. Thank you.

HISTORY: CMSgt Steve Lebron is soliciting personal stories from all Armorers! Any war story, lessons learned, mentoring tip, etc., is welcomed! Please contact Steve at stevelebron462@gmail.com if you have a story to tell or have questions.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

- Discussion was held regarding where/when next reunion should be held to maximize participation. Possible options discussed were a cruise, joint Weapons/Ammo (WAMMO) reunion in FL; hold in Whiteman, Nellis or Barksdale. Lot's of discussion ensued, but there were an inadequate number of members in attendance to vote so a final proposal was tabled. Additional comments:

- Cruise would be fun and some would attend; however, it should be a separate effort from reunion...don't combine the two.

- Future reunions need to be better coordinated so members have a gathering place Fri night.

- Chief Valencia recommended we may want to consider allowing SMSgts into the AACA to increase attendance and to recognize those SNCOs that may have made CMSgt had they stayed in service long enough or didn't make it for other circumstances? Following much discussion, the decision was not to open the membership to any other than CMSgts and Honorary Chiefs/members as voted in in accordance with existing by-laws. Subject may be revisited in the future.

- The decision was made to convene a Membership Committee to attempt to recruit new members, but more importantly, retain those in the rears or have otherwise decided not to continue membership. Appointed Chairman is Lou Fields and Committee member volunteers include: Bob Davis, Evan Godwin, and Jeff Hamburg. Thanks to all for volunteering your time to this worthy cause.

- Chief Hamburg graciously committed \$20 initial dues payment for any newly selected/promoted CMSgt if members agree to join with a lifetime membership. THANK YOU Jeff for your generous contributions to the AACA and it's new members.

- The AACA presented a \$25 donation to the VFW Post for allowing the AACA to hold meetings in their facility...thank you very much!

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at ~1130 Hrs.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- An additional \$140.00 dollars worth of tickets was sold for the AACA quarterly raffle of the Whiskey Decanter set with two glasses of choice. The ticket was selected by an active duty 2W1 during the Eglin AFB Weapons Fest following the General Membership meeting, 8 Sept/~1400Hrs. Chief Godwin was the winner of the raffle.

- A 50/50 raffle was held during the Eglin AFB Weapons Fest to raise funds for the Gregory Kebil Scholarship Award. \$246.00 worth of tickets were sold; half (\$123) of the money went to an Active Duty member while the other half will be presented to the Schoolhouse on behalf of the AACA and Eglin 2W1s.

Michael Lucchesi
President, AACA