

Draft
The Golden Eagles Membership Meeting
San Diego, CA
1400-1530, 29 April 2017

Pilot's Opening Remarks: Pilot Howard DeCastro called the meeting to order at 1400. He announced the new members of the Board of Governors and thanked the outgoing members for their service.

He then thanked West Flight Leader Gil "Duster" Rud, and his team for the excellent planning, communication, and preparation in putting this year's reunion together. He complimented the team for making this reunion so wonderful to this point, and looked forward to the Banquet tonight. Great job! He then thanked all of the Members of the Flight Deck and the Members of the Board of Directors for their support and advice during the year and for their prompt concurrence on transfers to Emeritus.

Pilot also thanked the Flight Leaders for their hard work during the year to coordinate funeral arrangements, communicate the status of their Flight Members, provide input for inclusion in the Quarterly Reports, and for arranging their mini reunions and luncheons.

He conveyed a special thank you to the Flight Leaders for establishing the "Wingman" program. It allowed the Association to pick up two Golden Eagles who had made their Last Take Off in previous years and it is keeping us informed of other Emeritus Members in a timely manner. Rabbit Campbell gets credit for recommending the "Wingman" program and therefore deserves another thanks and pat on the back. We have had a lot of transfers to Emeritus and every time we make a transfer it requires selection of another Wingman.

Pilot then welcomed the 16 new Golden Eagle Members and encouraged all members to seek them out and welcome them to the Association.

Chief Pilot's Remarks: Chief Pilot Bill Knutson complimented West Flight and Flight Leader Gil Rud for organizing a successful Reunion. He gave praise to Pilot DeCastro for his communication to the membership and for working so hard to keep everyone informed throughout the year.

Co-Pilot's Report: Co-Pilot John Mazach thanked the Chief Pilot for his remarks and repeated the thanks to the Pilot for keeping the lines of communication open and keeping the membership well informed.

"Tommy Tomlinson" Award announcement: Pilot DeCastro introduced Don Boecker and asked him to report on the presentation of the annual award. Don Boecker reported that he presented the annual "Tommy Tomlinson" award and wrist watch to LCDR Will A. Nuse, USN. LCDR Nuse was the lead Development Test Pilot for the P-8A aircraft to include Aerial Refueling, flutter tests, stalls, crosswind landings, and he worked on high risk dynamic minimum controllability airspeed tests which required engine shutdown at maximum thrust.

Navigator's Report: Navigator Jay Campbell addressed the Minutes of the 2016 Membership Meeting, held on 23 April 2016 in Orlando, FL, reminding they were posted on line on the Association website, and requested any corrections or modifications be made prior to acceptance.

He then made the following report:

- The Golden Eagle Membership now includes:
 - 199 Regular Members
 - 47 Emeritus Members
 - Three Honorary Members

- During the Year:
 - Sixteen members were accepted into the Golden Eagles
 - Seventeen Members (fifteen Emeritus and two Regular Members) made their Last Take Off (Col. Paul German, Emeritus, will be included in next year's Memorial Ceremony so his wife, Lola, can attend.)
 - Fifteen Members transferred to Emeritus
 - Five Golden Eagle Ladies passed away

At the Pilot's request a motion was made to accept the Minutes of the 2016 Membership Meeting and the Navigator's Report. The motion was made, seconded, and passed.

Radio Officer's Report: Radio Officer Gary Vangysel presented the Financial Report covering the period from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

- All IRS reports and accounting were submitted for 2016.
- Annual dues were collected from all Regular Members, netting \$10,125 to the treasury
- The Tomlinson Award wrist watch was purchased at a cost of \$266.75
- West Flight collected a total of \$17,500 to help defer member cost for this year's reunion.
- South East Flight turned in \$6,700 as proceeds from the 2016 Orlando Reunion.
- As agreed at the 2016 Reunion, a total of \$20,000 will be provided to North East Flight to offset the cost of the rooms at the Lansdown Resort for the 2018 Reunion.
- Receipts exceeded disbursements by \$12,000.
- The treasury finished the year with \$72,329.62 in all accounts and with 211 miniature wings worth \$10,128 the total net worth is \$82,457.62, up from \$59,959.42 on 1 April 2016.
- As directed by the Board of Governors, the Association will contribute \$2,500 to the National Naval Aviation Museum, and \$2,500 to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society in the coming fiscal year.
- Radio Officer Vangysel requested that all Flight Leaders provide detailed reports of all Industry contributions to The Golden Eagles, both to maintain an accurate record and to allow him and the Pilot to thank the contributors.

Radio Officer's Financial Report			
1 April 2016 ending 31 March 2017			
Beginning Funds (all accounts 1 April 2016)			\$ 59,959.42
Less CD (Beginning)			(20,505.67)
Beginning Cash			\$ 39,453.75
Receipts			
Chronolog Sales		\$ 420.00	
Reunion Operations			
Donations Received	\$ 15,000.00		
Reunion 2016 Net	6,249.66		
Total		21,249.66	
Membership Dues/Fees		11,047.00	
Wing Sales		144.00	
Interest CD	225.75		
Interest NFCU	63.81	289.56	
Total Receipts			\$ 33,150.22
Disbursements			
NNAM		\$ 2,500.00	
Annual Tomlinson Award		266.75	
CD Reinvested Interest		225.75	
ChronoLog Expenses		473.53	
Directory		1,555.42	
GE Web Site		-	
Shipping & Postage		407.09	
Printing & Reproduction		57.56	
Reunion Advances (NE Flight 2018)		500.00	
Reunion Pass Thru		15,000.00	
Supplies & Materials		19.67	
Total Disbursements			\$ 21,005.77
Net Change in Operating Funds			\$12,144.45
Ending Operating Funds 31 March 2017			\$ 51,598.20
Assets			
NFCU Svgs/Ckg	\$ 51,598.20		
Less Not Cleared Activity			
Ready Cash on Hand		\$ 51,598.20	
NFCU CD		20,731.42	
Total Funds			\$ 72,329.62
Wings Inventory/Value/On Hand	211	\$ 10,128.00	\$10,128.00
Total Assets			82,457.62

At the Pilot's request, a motion was made to accept the Radio Officer's Report. The motion was made, seconded, and passed.

Engineer Officer/Historian Report: Engineer Officer Robert Shumaker reported that this was our 57th Regular Reunion. There also are Mini-Reunions listed in the Membership Directory, conducted in 1974 and 1977 at Patuxent, Pensacola, and San Diego; and 1979 at Oceana and San Diego.

He reported that this year there were originally 169 members/widows signed up to attend the 2017 Reunion, 11 members having cancelled after signing up. At last count, 145 regular , 7 Emeritus members and 4 widows are in attendance and currently, there are 303 total guests scheduled to attend tonight's Banquet. The requirement for attending at least one of the last four reunions has been met by all members at this 2017 Reunion.

- There are no Members who will be in violation if they do not attend the 2018 Reunion.

He also reported that 194 biographies of our members have been collected, with 6 yet to be submitted: four by members only recently selected, and two by members who have been regular members for over a year.

Nominating Committee Report: Committee Chair Don Boecker provided the following list of candidates for service.

Board of Governors

- VADM Marty Chanik, USN (Ret), Northeast Flight
- Colonel David T. Seder, USMC (Ret.), Northeast Flight
- Captain Lonny K. McClung, USN, (Ret.), West Flight
- VADM Michael L. Bowman, USN, (Ret.), West Flight

These four new members replace the following Board Members who have served their two year terms:

- MGEN Joseph T. Anderson, USMC (Ret.), Northeast Flight
- RADM Joseph J. Barth, USN (Ret.), Southeast Flight
- Captain John R. Davis, USN (Ret.), West Flight
- Captain Larry L. Ernst, USN (Ret.), West Flight

Flight Leaders

- Captain Dennis W. Irelan, USN, (Ret.), West Flight Leader
- Captain James W. Ryan, USN (Ret.), Central Flight Leader
- Captain William C. McCamy, USN (Ret.), extended as Southeast Flight Leader
- Colonel Larry Adkinson, USMC, (Ret.), extended as Northeast Flight Leader

Membership Selection Committee report: Committee Chairman Fred Lewis reported that the Membership Committee selected nine Navy and three Marine Corps nominees for induction into The Golden Eagles as slots become available. He thanked Committee Secretary Jack Batzler for his "well organized" process that helped the committee come to a decision quickly.

Chairman Lewis stated that this year there were 34 USN and 12 USMC candidates, and that after selecting 12, there were 6 candidates who had been in the nominating pool for 5 years who would be dropped from further consideration, leaving only 28 total now in the pool for further consideration, the

lowest number is recent years. He requested that the membership submit some strong well-written nominations to augment the pool in the coming year.

Lastly, he reported that a procedure has been established in which the Membership Selection Committee Secretary or the Pilot will contact the nominator and seconding nominator, so they can inform their nominee that he will no longer be considered for membership.

Site Selection Committee Report: Flight Leaders

- **Northeast** – Colonel Larry Adkinson provided a briefing on the status of the 2018 Reunion at Lansdown Resort and thanked the Board of Governors and members for the vote to support the Reunion with funds to offset the cost of rooms.
 - He then related the details of the Arlington funeral for Col John Glenn in which the Northeast Flight Honorary Pallbearers were personally recognized in the ceremony by the family. He stated that the Honorary Pallbearers have a wonderful reputation and strong relationship with the personnel at Arlington National Cemetery.
- **Central** – Captain Rasmussen was unable to attend, but future Flight Leader Jim Ryan indicated that the 2019 Reunion is most likely to be planned for the “Cradle of Naval Aviation,” Pensacola, FL.
- **Southeast** – Captain Bill McCamy started his remarks by acknowledging a common theme, “please, no more Orlando.” He indicated that the Southeast Flight is considering sites such as Savannah, Charleston, Myrtle Beach and Nashville for the 2020 Reunion. He stated that searching for an affordable venue is the key pacing issue.
- **West** – Captain Gil Rud deferred to the incoming Flight Leader, Denny Irelan, for the 2021 Reunion, but “tongue in cheek” offered the Marmont Hotel in Olangapo, P.I.

Old Business:

Pilot DeCastro reminded that last year, Chief Pilot Jerry Zacharias recommended that The Golden Eagles add a Dissolution Clause to our by-laws and that recommendation was approved by the Board of Governors. The wording was researched and recommended by Radio Officer Vangysel, approved by the Board of Governors, and will be added to the Association by-laws in the 2017-2018 Membership Directory as a separate Article XII, titled “Dissolution Clause. The current Article XII, Amendment, will be renumbered Article XIII. This issue is closed.

Almost every year the Association discusses our contributions (Naval Aviation Museum, Navy/Marine Society, and the Tommy Tomlinson Award) and reconfirm our approach. Pilot DeCastro opened the floor to any discussion regarding contributions. No further discussion was offered. This issue is closed.

Pilot DeCastro reported that the Board of Governors once again addressed the issue of women as regular members, citing that many have reached or are approaching 60 years of age. He reported that the Association policy confirms that any candidate, male or female, nominated and selected by the MSC will, in turn become a regular member. This issue is closed.

The Pilot solicited recommendations to be sure we are made aware of the passing of Golden Eagle wives. It is especially difficult to maintain appropriate contact and continue to keep track of widows

after their husbands have made their Last Take Off. Discussions followed, with some likely procedures, but no decision was reached. This issue remains open.

New Business:

Pilot DeCastro reported that members had suggested it may worthwhile to recommend having one of our Annual Reunions aboard a cruise ship out of Galveston or Orlando. The following points were the result of research into the possibility:

- Four day cruises are available from Port Canaveral and Galveston and a three-day cruise is available from Port Canaveral to Nassau.
- Rates range from \$406.35 per person for a double occupancy interior cabin to \$664.43 per person for a balcony cabin.
- Everything is included in the price except alcohol which must be purchased at standard prices. Each individual is allowed to bring one bottle of spirits or wine on board but those may only be consumed in the private cabins.
- There is an auditorium that holds 290 people that is available for a Memorial Service.
- It is possible that one of the several bars on board could be set aside as a Ready room but that would have to be negotiated.
- There will be approximately 2,900 guests aboard those cruises which means we would represent about ten percent of the total.

The membership agreed that the expense was high and the venue did not provide the accommodations they would desire.

Pilot DeCastro mentioned the Memorial Service as a key activity for each Reunion, and cited the lack of a bell at this year's Memorial Service to toll after each eulogy. Member Jerry Breast stated that he has a ship's bell from a decommissioned Battleship that he will donate to the Association.

Member Roger Carlquist mentioned that the single list of attendees posted in the Ready Room was difficult to access and read. He made a recommendation that a list of attendees be included in the registration package for everyone at all future Reunions. By consensus of the membership, it was agreed that future Reunion registration packages will include a list of attendees.

Member Bill McCamy announced that he had a number of Vietnam Veteran lapel pins available for those who may want them, and briefed the membership on the mobile Vietnam Memorial.

Member Tom Hayward provided the membership with an update on the health of member Duke Hernandez, who is suffering complications from Parkinson's Disease. He praised Southeast Flight Leader Bill McCamy for stepping up to help Duke's wife Sherry get VA medical assistance after she had difficulty arranging for it.

Pilot DeCastro introduced member Smoke Wilson who gave the brief for Flight photographs.

Adjournment: Pilot DeCastro called for a motion to adjourn, the motion was made, seconded and passed at 1452.