

4/15/2023

## **Smooth Draft Golden Eagles 2023 General Membership Meeting Minutes**

Pilot Stalder called the meeting to order at 0930 CDT in San Antonio, TX.

Pilot Stalder led the Members in the Pledge of Allegiance

### **Pilot's Report: Submitted by LtGen Keith Stalder**

- Thanks to the Flight Deck for assistance and active participation.
- Thanks to the Flight Leaders.
- Thanks to the Board members and especially the off going board members for comments, questions, votes, and approvals for transitions.
- Thanks to committee members for volunteering to do the business of the association.
- Special thanks to Denny Ireland for outstanding work to publish NOTAMS and Special Notices and to JR Davis for minding our website.
- It has been a terrific Reunion, many thanks to Central Flight and all who have assisted in this effort. ~145 GEs and ~270 plus total attendees, a tremendous showing.
- A quick request: There are donation jars in the Presidential Suite and on a table in the ready room. These are separate from the tips we give to the bartenders. Donations help defray the cost of the reunion. Thank you for your donations and please give generously.
- I'll report on two items of Old Business Board decisions which have been researched, vetted, and voted on by the Board of Governors Email during the preceding year and will be recorded in these minutes.

### **Chief Pilot's Comments: Submitted by RADM Fred Lewis**

My observation over the past year of Keith Stalder has been truly impressive and he has done a wonderful job at Pilot. He's been challenged with thorny issues, and he has handled everyone with aplomb, a gentlemanly manner, searching out root causes and fixing each one. He has done an outstanding job!

### **Co-Pilot's Report: Submitted by VADM Marty Chanik**

Co-Pilot Marty Chanik offered up his thanks to all involved with the reunion, from planning to execution. I'd also like to say that those on the committees and on the boards, a lot of coordination has taken place and the majority of it has been on Zoom. Without any

exaggeration the board work, the flight deck work and the committee work, Central Flight committee planning teams, involved over 30 Zoom calls, and that's on the low side of an estimate, and they were all hosted by our Pilot. That effort involved a tremendous amount of time and so thanks to Shadow for doing that.

**Navigator's Report: Submitted by RADM Matt Moffit**

Navigator Matt Moffit presented the minutes of the Members Meeting held on 7 April 2022. The minutes were posted on the web site a month ago for member review and comment. There were several grammatical changes made to the minutes.

**The Pilot asked for a motion to approve, which was made and seconded. He then asked for a show of hands to approve. The minutes were approved.**

**The Golden Eagle Membership now includes:**

- 194 Regular members
- 60 Emeritus members
- 3 Honorary members

**During the year:**

- 15 members were accepted into the Golden Eagles (West: 2, Southeast: 8, Northeast: 2, Central: 3)
- 14 members (9 Emeritus, 5 Regular) made their Last Take Off
- 16 members transferred to Emeritus (West: 11, Southeast: 4, Northeast: 1)
- 13 Golden Eagle Ladies passed away.
- There were no resignations.

**Radio Officer's Report: Submitted by LtCol Mike Stortz**

This is the final Financial Report of FY 2023. It consists of the following three statements: Income Statement, Cash Flow Statement and Balance Sheet. Fiscal Year 2023 runs from 1 April 22 to 31 March 23. The accounting basis is cash, and all amounts are rounded to the nearest whole dollar and compared to the results for FY 2022.

<b>Income Statement</b>	<b>FY22</b>	<b>FY23</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Membership Dues/Fees	22,625	21,250
Wing Emblem Sales	50	150
Donations	19,700	28,100
Deposit Account Interest	<u>6</u>	<u>31</u>

<b>Total Revenue</b>	42,375	49,531
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Philanthropy (NAMF/NMCRS/CGMA)	6,500	6,500
Tomlinson Award	369	293
Reunion Support	2,000	5,390
Donation Pass Thru	<u>24,700</u>	<u>23,100</u>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	33,569	35,283
<b>Operating Expense</b>		
Directory	2,157	1,151
Golden Eagle Website	346	238
Printing		1,684
Postage and Delivery	<u>153</u>	<u>653</u>
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	2,655	3,725
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	6,156	10,523
<b>Cash Flow Statement</b>	<b>FY22</b>	<b>FY23</b>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	64,105	70,261
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>		
Net Income	6,156	10,523
Investing Additions	<u>        </u>	<u>(65,000)</u>
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	6,156	(54,477)
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>		
Saving Account liquidations (additions)		21,176
Money Market Account liquidations (additions)		(21,176)
CD Account liquidations (additions)		
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>	0	0
<b>Ending Balance</b>	70,261	15,784
<b>Balance Sheet</b>	<b>FY22</b>	<b>FY23</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash & Equivalents		
Checking Account	70,261	15,784
Savings Account	21,136	0
Money Market Account		86,418
CD Account	22,279	22,597
Inventory – GE Wings	<u>5,850</u>	<u>4,950</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	119,527	129,749

## Liabilities & Net Worth

Current Liabilities	0	0
Net Worth	<u>119,527</u>	<u>129,749</u>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Worth</b>	119,527	129,749

## Notes

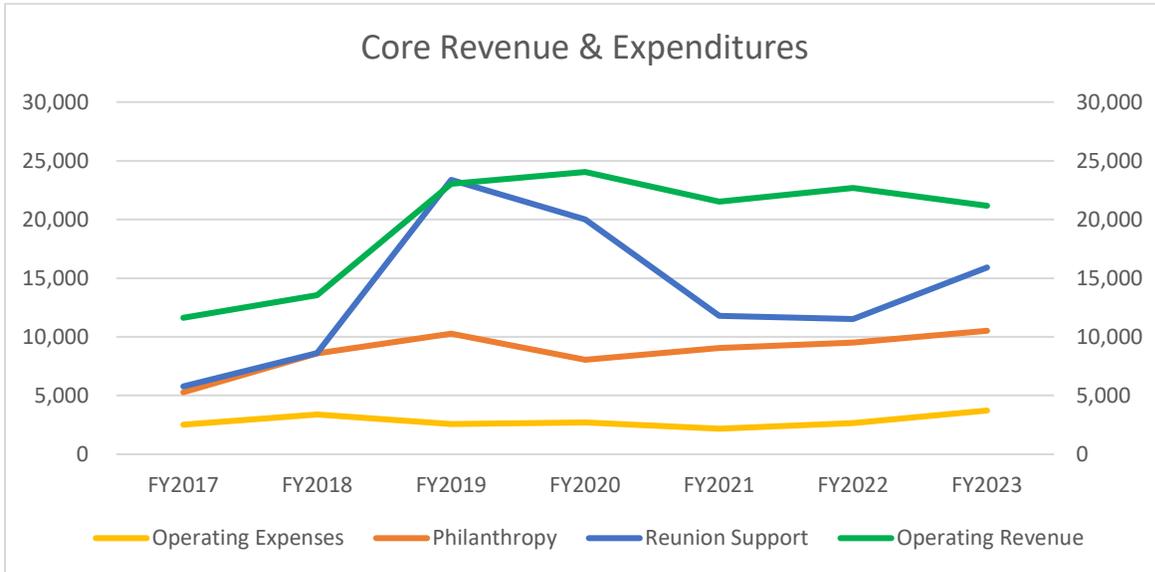
1. There was a \$10K earmark from a previous fiscal year donation that was disbursed to Central Flight for support of the 2023 reunion. In addition to the customary pledge of \$10K from the treasury, there is an earmark of \$5K for SE, W and NE Flights to support upcoming reunion activities. This stems from a generous donation this fiscal year and Central Flight has already received its \$5K disbursement of the donation funds.
2. There is a notable increase in operating expenses due to inflation.
3. The asset values on the Balance Sheet include reinvested dividends of \$282 for short-term funds and \$318 for long-term funds.
4. Notable Changes in Investing Activities:
  - a. Better yield on Deposit Account
  - b. Short Term: Closed Savings Account and transferred funds to a new Money Market Account for a better rate.
  - c. Long Term: Rolled over existing CD early (without penalty) to a shorter term with higher yield.
  - d. Summary of Yields:
 

	<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>	
Checking Account	0.01%	0 to \$9,999	0.35%
		10K to \$24,999	0.40%
		25K and over	0.45%
Savings Account	0.25%	Closed	
Money Market Account		0 to \$9,999	0.95%
		10K to \$24,999	1.06%
		25K to \$49,999	1.10%
		50K and over	1.50%
CD Account	24 mo @ 0.55%	12 mo @ 4.4%	
5. Investment Strategy

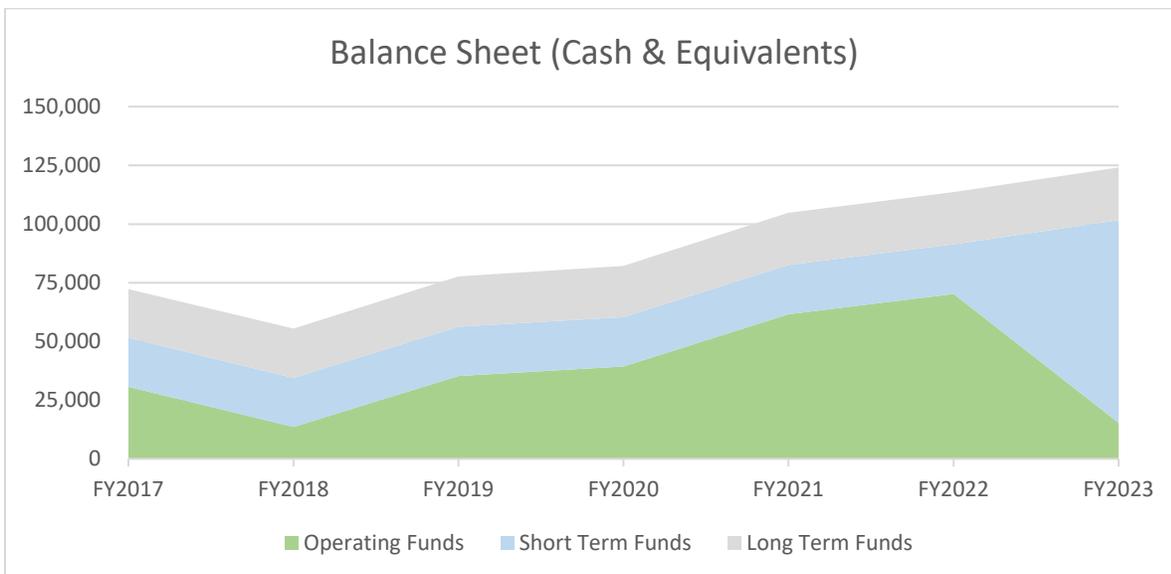
This is a planning outline addressing the balance of funds in Operating, Short- and Long-Term accounts. The goal is to maximize return while minimizing interest rate risk and duration risk. It will take approximately two years to fully implement as the approach to minimizing duration risk is to stagger maturities. The review of the plan, progress toward achieving its goals and any adjustments required will become a part of the Radio Officer's annual Financial Report. This is the initial outline:

- a. Operating Funds: \$25,000

- b. Investment Funds:
  - i. Short-Term: 60%
  - ii. Long-Term: 40%



This 7-year historical graph compares Operating Revenue (Total Revenue less Donations) to the combined expenditures. It reflects the change in dues from \$50/year to \$100/year in 2019 and a corresponding increase in the level of reunion support. It is noteworthy that there is a significant margin of revenue above expenditures; however, two reunions were cancelled due to limitations imposed because of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19).



This 7-year historical graph of the Balance Sheet (less Inventory) shows the distribution of funds. A significant portion of Operating Funds were transferred to Investing Activities to

achieve a better rate of return. There is also an issue in New Business to address investing options and incorporation. This is part of the developing strategic plan to balance Operating, Short- and Long-term assets for a better return.

### **Other Noteworthy Issues**

- Internal Revenue Service

The annual IRS Form 990-N was filed on 1 April 23. Our revenues remain below the \$50K threshold which would otherwise trigger more extensive reporting.

- Dues Collection Process.

Dues become payable on 1 Jan and are delinquent after 31 Jan. More than 15% of the Regular Members (31) were delinquent in paying dues. The last payment was finally collected on 9 March. There is no real consequence to delinquency and the collection becomes a process of cajoling and reminding thru multiple emails and phone calls. There is an issue in New Business to establish a Late Fee to provide a tangible consequence to delinquency.

- Investing activities.

Current bank rates are low in comparison to US Treasury instruments, but they are not available to us because we are an unincorporated association. There is an issue before the Board of Governors to consider incorporation to achieve better returns in investing activities.

- Radio Officer's Duties (per Constitution & Bylaws)

There is an inconsistency between the itemized duties (Article IV, Section 9) and the current practice in dealing with GE Treasury support of reunion activities. There is an issue in New Business to address this inconsistency.

- All GE Treasury records for FY23 are digitized. All financial reports after FY20 are digitized. Records prior to FY20 are destroyed.

### **In Summary**

We are in excellent financial shape based on a positive Cash Flow, no Debt and high liquidity with a substantial Capital Base.

### **Engineer Officer / Historian Report: Presented by Pilot Stalder due to CAPT Bill Young's absence**

The 2022 Continuing History which goes on the Eagles' Webpage is due in April. A couple of lessons to remember:

- When compiling the continuing history, it is very important that the formats are compatible to avoid re-typing originals. Particularly avoid using extensive capital letters.
- There is a summary of each flight's yearly activities from each flight leader which is included in the continuing history beginning in April and ending in March. This is due in April of each year.

This quarter, with the help of "Size" Sizemore, I have updated The Golden Eagles Chrono MS Excel Sheet by moving approximately 55 members to the LTO file and adding 55 new members' information to the active file. Unfortunately, this had not been done in several years and took some time. But, with Size's technical expertise and some perseverance on my part, JR Davis posted the updated Excel sheet on 01 April meeting deadline for the 2023 reunion. This will give me the data to update our chronology history file with all the information that is supplied by our list of biographies. The updated excel sheet will give our members an opportunity to check their individual data taken from their bios and forward corrections to the Engineer. This is a living document of our history as members and as an organization!

Which brings me to my final comment: I am missing three biographies from our last two classes and one from 2017. Over the past three months Dave Kunkel and I have sent five completed biographies to JR Davis to be placed on the Webpage. This continues to be our primary concern. All these members have been contacted several times. Two will probably be reported as delinquent on the continuing history.

### **Nominating Committee Report: Submitted by LtCol Howard DeCastro**

#### **Vacating Member**

#### **Replacement/Current**

##### Northeast

Flight Leader – Col Dave Seder  
BOG - RADM Dave Kunkel

Col Dave Seder (one more year)  
RADM Robert Shumaker  
MGen Charlie Bolden (one more year)

##### Southeast

Flight Leader – CAPT Jeff Harrison  
BOG – VADM Howie Thorsen

CAPT Jeff Harrison (one more year)  
VADM John Lockard  
VADM Jim McArthur (one more year)

##### Central

Flight Leader - CAPT Mike Coats  
BOG – VADM Jerry Unruh

CAPT Dan Gabriel  
CAPT Mike Coats  
LtGen Fred McCorkle (one more year)

##### West

Flight Leader - CAPT Chuck Schroeder  
BOG – RADM Winston Copeland

CAPT Rodger Welch  
Col Mike Kurth  
VADM Brent Bennitt (one more year)

Deputy Webmaster	(TBD)
Deputy Executive Assistant	(TBD)
Photographer	LtCol Robert Knutzen

The pilot asked for volunteers for the Deputy Webmaster and Deputy Executive Assistant.

**The Pilot asked for a motion to approve, which was made and seconded. He then asked for a show of hands to approve. The slate was approved.**

**2022 Tomlinson Award Presentation: Presented by Pilot Stalder due to Don Boecker's absence**

Art Nalls had the honor to represent the Golden Eagles at Pax River, for the Naval Test Wing Atlantic annual awards on the 15th of March. There were over 50 people gathered at the newly opened Flight Deck Lounge, adjacent to the BOQ. The bar had been closed for several years and now back open for business. The FD lounge looks great.

The Master of Ceremonies, Jonathon "Sven" Stevenson, read some notes from previous ceremonies and highlighted the combined statistics of the GE's, such as arrested landings, combat kills, the number of ACE's, astronauts, etc. He said almost verbatim what Art had planned.

Art added the minimum age for membership is 60, the number of active GE's is fixed at 200, and that the primary emphasis for membership is a reputation within their community for exceptional pilot skills.

It was a very good assembly of pilots, NFO's, flight test engineers, and maintainers. Everyone in the flight test team was represented.

For the watch engraving purposes, the winner is:

**LCDR Jonathan C. Happy, USN**

**Site Selection Committee Report: Submitted by CAPT Mike Coats**

The 2023 Site Selection Committee met via Zoom call on 20 February 2023 to review the status of the 2023 San Antonio, 2024 Jacksonville, and 2025 Coeur d'Alene reunions, and discuss proposed site selections for the 2026 and 2027 reunions.

Central Flight: Mike Coats gave a brief status of the San Antonio Reunion. Molly Dey/AFRI says registrations correspond to our previous reunions; we have a very good turnout this year.

Southeast Flight: Jeff Harrison explained that the agenda for the 24-28 April 2024 reunion in Jacksonville essentially remains the same as the cancelled 2020 reunion. Mike Stortz' reunion plan has rolled over as much as possible. The contract with the Jacksonville Hyatt Regency Riverfront Hotel is in place, and the Memorial Service will be held at the Hotel.

West Flight: Chuck Schroeder echoed Jeff Harrison's comments that the planning and agenda for the canceled 2021 reunion in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, has rolled over to the 2025 reunion, scheduled for 23-27 April 2025. The contract with the hotel is in place and the "old" planning team is briefing the "new" planning team.

Northeast Flight: Dave Seder explained that they looked at Annapolis as a possible 2026 reunion site but decided that the Lansdowne Resort looked better. Lansdowne doesn't want to commit until 2024 but Frosty intends to push to obtain a commitment this summer. A hotel location for the Memorial Service is significantly more economical.

Central Flight: Mike Coats suggested that the 2027 Reunion hosted by Central Flight be located once again in Pensacola. Pensacola, the birthplace of Naval Aviation, was the regular Central Flight location for almost 60 years, but it will have been 12 years since the last Pensacola reunion. It was pointed out that the new Director of the National Naval Aviation Museum is Golden Eagle Sterling Gilliam. The Site Selection Committee was in general agreement regarding a 2027 Pensacola Reunion.

#### **Recording of Old Business Board decision:**

- 1. Record the results of the Board decision on the Coast Guard members' desire for a set Golden Eagle selection ratio.** Don Weiss, the MSC Secretary, and Keith Stalder, the Pilot, were tasked at the April 2022 Board of Governors Meeting (BoG) to examine how USCG nominees are considered and selected. During the intervening months, we have done a great deal of research. BoG tasking from the minutes: "Dave Kunkel started a discussion on the selection process for GE USCG nominees. Currently there are two primary nominee categories, USN and USMC that compete within their own categories. USCG does not have a separate category, but rather competes across those two categories. Considerable discussion ensued on how the selection process currently works and ideas on how it should work regarding USCG nominees. It was decided that the MSC Secretary and Pilot Stalder would create a committee to work the issue, with the MSC Secretary in the lead."

Restated tasking: Is the current process best for Golden Eagles and equitable for USCG nominees or should the USCG have a separate category, like the USN and USMC?

**On 25 October 2022 the BoG decided to maintain the current selection process.**

- 2. Record the results of the Board decision on the Emeritus Project Committee.** A review and decision on the work by a committee that Bill McCamy led, and Gary Van Gysel briefed was directed at the last in person meeting of the BoG. **On 9 January 2023 the following recommendations were approved by the BoG:**

**The Pilot, the MSC Chairman, and MSC Secretary continue to forecast and manage nomination and selection requirements using historical data.**

**The Pilot, the MSC Chairman, and the MSC Secretary continue to precept the MSC regarding nominee age considerations.**

**The Pilot and the Flight Leaders continue to identify GEs who, due to mobility or medical issues, may already be contemplating Emeritus transitions, and can be contacted to discuss their desires and plans in that regard.**

**The Committee's intent is already being achieved and can be sustained in the future using existing methods. There is no need to change the Bylaws.**

#### **New Business:**

- 1. Membership dues payment late fees.**

More than 15% of the Regular Members are late in paying dues and the process of cajoling, reminding, and eventually collecting the dues is very time consuming for the Radio Officer and the Flight Leaders. We need an incentive / enforcement mechanism to mitigate this. Propose a Board decision and By Laws change:

1.) A BoG decision was made to permit, at the Radio Officer's discretion, a \$50 late fee for payments 30 days after the date of the annual dues letter.

and to

2.) Amend the By Laws Article IX, Section 1, first sentence to say "Any member who fails to pay annual dues **and any late fees** within 90 days....."

The Chief Pilot's guidance: "Exercise compassion and empathy in the accomplishment of the annual dues collection process".

#### **How this will be implemented:**

The Radio Officer will normally assess a late fee after expiration of the deadline by email and / or telephone call.

If dues and late fee remain unpaid, the Radio Officer may issue a second formal notice to pay. Any member who fails to pay within 90 days of receipt of this second notice, without reason acceptable to the Pilot, may be dropped from the rolls by vote of the BoG.

**The Pilot asked for a motion to approve, which was made and seconded. He then asked for a show of hands to approve. The amendment to the Bylaws was approved.**

## **2. Amendment of the Bylaws Article IV, Section 9, item “d”, duties of the Radio Officer.**

That section currently reads: “Provide advanced funding to the reunion coordinators for upcoming reunions along with accounting procedures for reunion funds. Advanced funding amounts are to be returned to the Association following completion of the annual reunion.”

In practice, the GE Treasury has pledged to support annual reunion activities at \$10K (\$2K advance and \$8K at the closing of reunion expenses) and has not required “advanced funding amounts” in excess of reunion expenses to be returned. This is done as an incentive to promote good financial management by the Flights and works well.

If monies were returned from the flights to the Treasury, they would be recorded as revenue, thus double counting our revenue, and potentially complicating our IRS reporting requirements. Currently, our revenue is below \$50K annually and our reporting requirements are satisfied with the filing of Form 990-N (e-Postcard). Exceeding that threshold requires filing Form 990-EZ which is a 4-page form asking for quite a bit of detail. We do not want to unnecessarily incur that level of detail reporting.

**Recommend that the second sentence: “Advanced funding amounts are to be returned to the Association following completion of the annual reunion.” be deleted from the Bylaws.**

**The Pilot asked for a motion to approve, which was made and seconded. He then asked for a show of hands to approve. The amendment to the Bylaws was approved.**

## **3. Amendment of the Bylaws to allow for the ‘Incorporation’ of The Golden Eagles.**

Radio Officer Mike Stortz provided the pros and cons of business incorporation for The Golden Eagles organization. The discussion identified the significant interest rate and fee advantages for the organization’s finances. The discussion also touched on the legal ramifications of incorporation for the organization and the officers of the organization.

**It was decided the issue would be tabled for a future date so additional research could be done to ensure there were no negative issues for the organization and its leadership. Radio Officer Mike Stortz will provide additional research on the concerns.**

### **Membership Selection Committee Chairman Report: Submitted by VADM John Mazach**

John Mazach opened the briefing with process background. The MSC looked at 14 USMC candidates and 27 Navy candidates. Two Coast Guard candidates were also reviewed. The results of the board were 12 Navy and 4 Marine candidates selected. The most important issue is the quality of the candidates, so write ups need to focus on that. The age span of all selectees was 62 to 82 years. Of the 'last looks,' the MSC selected 2 Navy and 1 Marine.

Those selectees were approved by the BoG on Thursday, 13 April 2023.

### **Membership Selection Committee Secretary Report: Submitted by RADM Don Weiss**

Don Weiss commented that write ups continue to be the most important aspect of the selection process. The Nominators must focus on flying skills. There were write ups that didn't have what was required to get them selected... Write ups are the key to selection in the MSC process.

### **Closing remarks:**

**The Pilot asked the members to be sure to attend to briefing by the Chief of Naval Air Training to follow the members meeting and Flight photos.**

**The Pilot reminded the members of the Memorial Service that commences at 1500 sharp today and requested that all attendees be seated 10 to 15 minutes beforehand in the Hidalgo Room.**

The Pilot thanked all for their attendance and engagement. **A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved.** The meeting was adjourned at 1014 CDT.