ATTENDING:
Russ Stephenson, President
Steve Miller, Vice President
Tommy Towery, Newsletter Editor
Dave White, Webmaster
Bob Harder, Member (Scholarships)
Douglass Seward, Member
Tim Hurst, Member
Clif Banner, Secretary

Not Present:
James Hooppaw, President Emeritus
Rich Nelson, Treasurer
Jim Bradley, Membership
Steve Amato, Member (Memorials)
Steve Brown, Member

AGENDA/Secretary’s Minutes:
Russ Stephenson brought the meeting to order at 1702 CST. The previous meeting’s (4 Oct 2021) minutes were read with no changes suggested. Doug Seward moved to accept; seconded by Dave White. Minutes were approved.

FINANCIAL STATUS/Treasurer’s Report:
During the previous meeting, Rich Nelson presented that the Association is in good financial condition. Contact Rich if you’d like additional information.

OLD BUSINESS:
COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES AT USAF MUSEUM MEMORIAL PARK:
Initial designs have been submitted by Steve Amato to the reviewing authorities to install two additional benches, one dedicated to the cold war, and one dedicated to Southwest Asia operations. Dennis Thibodeau (Past President) suggested in a separate e-mail. We should consider Benches reflecting the contributions of the Maintenance and Security folks (the Field Maintenance Squadron (FMS), Avionics Maintenance Squadron (AMS), Munitions Maintenance Squadron (MMS), Operational Maintenance Squadron (OMS) crews and security personnel) that have maintained the B-52 and its training and wartime operations. Tommy mentioned that the Crew Chiefs have an active Facebook page. He will do some more study
into that media, and Clif Banner said he would look more into the Together We Served (TWS) social media site(s). Russ Stephenson discussed the brochures the Museum produces for the Memorial Park and will look into modifying them for the B-52 memorials and benches, to ensure the brochures correlate reality with the Museum map.

ASSOCIATION WEBSITE:
Dave White will look into means to send blasts to the membership about important postings to the website. This would include notifications, ability to email from the website, as well as interactions with the Association membership.

FUND-RAISING THROUGH INCREASED WEB SALES:
Russ Stephenson put forth some thoughts on increasing association revenues through increased website sales of clothing, patches, memorabilia, etc.

He discussed several companies and presented pros and cons of each. These included “Prior Service” in Cockeysville, MD, (hosts many veterans including the Distinguished Flying Cross Society (DFCS), “Logos at Work” (specializes in clothing), and “Image Mark”), which are in the vicinity of Wright Patterson AFB. The general opinion was: if the Association could earn additional dollars per item sold, that may pay off in the long run. “Image Mark” has a contract requirement but will also support the Association on consignment or similar basis. Russ will check on contract requirements to deal with these sellers. In some cases, the companies would host links to our Association website as they are selling paraphernalia to the public.

B-52 STRATOFORTRESS ASSOCIATION DONATIONS TO CASTLE AIR MUSEUM:
Bob Harder delivered the inventory of Association materials donated to the Castle Air Museum. There was some discussion about establishing a room at the Castle Air Museum. Russ Stephenson will take the lead, and the BoD assented to this idea. Douglass Seward described some of the materials.

NEW BUSINESS:
50th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF VIETNAM – COMMEMORATIVE PARTNER PROGRAM (CPP):
Russ brought up this subject. Steve Miller mentioned that there should be some specific activities around Veterans Day 2022. Tommy brought up the possibility of
engaging with the CPP and related speaker bureaus for selected talks during the 2022 Rendezvous. More information may be found on the CPP website.

2022 RENDEZVOUS:
The Board discussed the progress and timing for the next in-person membership convention—the 2022 Rendezvous. It is noteworthy that we’d have the Rendezvous right around 18 Sept 2022, which is the 75th Birthday of the US Air Force and the 70th Anniversary of the B-52 aircraft.

The BoD approved the location to be in the Northeast region, most likely near Bradley Airfield near Hartford, CT., or Providence, RI. We had looked at the Seattle WA area, New England, and Tinker AFB area. The hotel rates are expected to be $114-129. There was some discussion on “attrition rates.” September 8-11 looks like the best dates. Trish Blanton, Reunion Brat, will look into the details.

MEMORIAL AND SCHOLARSHIP PLANS:
Bob Harder discussed his thoughts on the Association Scholarship Program.

In the October 4th BoD meeting, Clif Banner mentioned his Order of Dandelions Flight #15 has a scholarship. He said he will arrange an introduction between his Dandelions Flight Scholarship chair, Maj Gen Eric Nelson, USAF (ret.), with Bob. Maj Gen Nelson had come down with some illness, so this discussion is still on hold.

Bob envisions a committee of 3, with Chairman. A contest could be announced via the Newsletter and may consist of an Essay Contest (500 words or so) on “How I can best serve my country,” with the candidates identifying any relationship to current Association members, and including the author’s academic record, desired goals and schools to be attended, demonstrating financial need and other factors.

The fund, once created, would need to address how it could sustain itself through growth; envisioning ability to maintain principal based on amount of the scholarship and grants. We might look to corporate sponsorship (e.g., Rolls Royce, Boeing, etc.) and matching funds.

NEWSLETTER:
Tommy will be looking for various historical data that would supplement the current Association accounts. These may include AL/YT (already combined with the Association), Society of SAC, Combat Crew, and Air University history sources.

NEXT BoD MEETING:
Friday, February 4, 2022, 1400-1500 CST / 1500-1600 EST.
ITEM OF INTEREST:  
**Incidental Discussions on Obtaining Flights on Historic Aircraft:**  
At the start of the meeting, Russ had inquired about the Secretary’s source of a background image on his Zoom session; he had asked for more information about the P-51 Mustang flight opportunities.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The BoD meeting ended at 1600 CST.

Respectfully submitted,

Clif Banner  
Secretary, B-52 Stratofortress Association