

MINUTES
AIR FORCE RECRUITING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
American Legion Post 593
326 Legion Drive
Converse, TX 78109
April 19, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Jerry Nelson, President, called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. This meeting was held at American Legion Post 593 in Converse, TX.

2. QUORUM CHECK:

PRESENT:

Jerry Nelson
Stan Staples
Andy Coppi
Brian Erickson
Dave Frutchey
Dale Ullrich
Candy Moore
Bob Cantu
Don Haygood
Ron Lajoie
Tony Wilenchik

3. OLD BUSINESS:

Andy Coppi reviewed the minutes from the last meeting, January 18, 2009. Each item was discussed briefly after which Dale Ulrich recommended and Brian Erickson seconded a motion to approve. Motion carried.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Newsletter: The first published newsletter, The Bag Dragger, hit the streets and emails in March and it was a very well organized, informative publication. Everyone had high praise for Tom Strack, who has done an excellent job of putting it all together. It is a professional newsletter, both in appearance and content. Kudos to Tom, but, as discussed in the meeting, he needs help from everyone with content and information. Some suggestions were to send in old photos and have a "Where are they now" section. Any human interest story involving alumni would be welcome. We still need some emphasis on "Taps" and most agreed we should list any deceased alumni we are aware of regardless of when they passed away. Anyone with information in any of these areas is encouraged to contact the association or Tom Strack directly.

- b.** Recruiting School Graduations: We need some help until the end of the FY in presenting the Top Graduate Award. Jerry gave the attendees the graduation schedule and asked everyone to pick a date to make the presentation. Jerry told group that getting the name of the Top Graduate on the certificate is somewhat of a challenge because of time. By the time we know who the Top Graduate is and the time we can actually get the name on the certificate and into the hands of whoever is doing the presentation, it pretty much gets down the wire. Some discussion took place as to whether we should just make it a certificate without the actual name but most felt it very important to make sure the name was on the certificate. Don Haygood, who has been a presenter, says the graduate loves the name recognition and we should continue making every effort to get the name on the certificate. There seems to be very little fanfare at today's graduations as compared to when most of those present graduated so any individual recognition is very important. Everyone agreed.
- c.** Randolph Memorial: CMSgt Vance Clark, Recruiting Command Chief, is still working with AETC on the proposed Recruiter Memorial. He has taken the bull by the horns on this issue and is working it hard. What started out as a statue or plaque has evolved into a full-fledged storefront. This will, naturally, require considerably more funding but he feels confident we can have enough fund raisers to get this done. There can be no funds from the organization so it will require heavy fundraising. We will need a letter to AETC to pick the spot in the park. Some discussion again on what the storefront should look like and the consensus is "High Hope". The structure will be brick so Dave Frutchey recommended and Dale Ullrich seconded a motion to sell bricks to help fund this project. It was also recommended we search for a corporate sponsor to help with funding.
- d.** Blue Suit XXX: Operation Blue Suit, the week of 23 – 28 Feb 09, went off without a hitch, as reported by Bob Cantu. He said our participation was very much appreciated and all hope our support of this function will continue.
- e.** Website: Our website continues to evolve and as we increase information on the site, our Webmaster, Karen, works harder. In our discussions with her, she is still OK with what we require of her without any additional compensation at this point. We are always open to new ideas and should ask the membership via the website for any thoughts on areas of improvement.
- f.** Annual Membership Meeting: The actual location and time for the General Membership Meeting will be announced as soon as it is firmed up. The Golf Tournament is September 25, 2009, at Lackland AFB, TX

and will kick off that afternoon approximately 1:00 PM. This should be a fun event as it normally is and more information will be forthcoming on the tournament as well as the Membership Meeting. As discussed at a previous meeting, this is election year. Jerry suggested a new position be created to support all new Presidents and that position should be a non-voting position and should be the previous President. This would make the transition smooth for the incoming President and give that individual some much needed help. All present agreed that this would be a good idea. Again, all members are encouraged to get involved and consider holding an office. Volunteers/nominations will be solicited in July and August as the elections will be held in September.

- g. Membership:** Membership in our Alumni Association is still of great concern. Several issues have recently been brought up and discussed. The first is our membership continues to decrease with exact numbers not at our fingertips as dues continue to come in but how do we increase our renewals? We do not have the capability to “e-blast” our membership to encourage renewal so it would basically require a one-on-one call or email to contact those former members. Additionally, with the realignment of the Groups, our current Regional Representatives now overlap so we have two in one Group and none in another. So, all agreed that we need to align our Regional Reps to mirror the Groups, and, more importantly, get these Reps involved with soliciting members from within their respective areas. Candy is the Membership Chairman but this is not a job for one person and Brian Erickson, Dale Ullrich, Dave Frutchey, and Andy Coppi, as well as Jerry Nelson, agreed to help her organize an effort to increase membership. She will schedule a meeting in the near future with these volunteers to outline a course of action.

Another membership concern is a proposal by CMSgt Clarke to open membership to Active Duty and other individuals currently assigned to Recruiting Service. Brian Erickson voiced the opinion that no Active Duty should be allowed to join and most in attendance were not in favor of this recommendation. It would involve changing the charter for starters but generally there doesn't appear to be much support for this recommendation. However, this is an issue that should be brought up to the membership and voted on so that will be the course of action. Jerry has put this proposal out in email form and has had no positive response so far. He will read any letters from the membership to everyone, both pro and con once we get them. The general discussion at this meeting was that while it might increase membership and, therefore, more money, it would also significantly increase the workload. Most feel this is not a good idea. There was also discussion on the geographic location of our current membership and how to increase our “other than San Antonio” numbers. Word of mouth is always good but we need to get the word out and will need active participation from our Regional Reps to do this. A

brief discussion on meeting with these individuals face to face to map out a plan but, of course, travel would be involved and the cost associated with that could be prohibitive. More thought and ideas is needed in this area.

5. TREASURER REPORT:

- a. Stan Staples, Treasurer, reported that we need to add two categories to our budget, mostly e-mail expenses and money for the hard copies of the Bag Dragger. He also reported we spent \$583 more than we brought in and our account balance as of 19 Apr 09 is \$2381.85.
- b. Stan told the committee that tax time is here but if our association has less than \$25,000, no form is required so that is good news.

6. MEMBER ITEMS:

None at this time.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, Ron Lajoie motioned and Candy Moore seconded a motion to adjourn. Jerry Nelson, President, adjourned the meeting at 4:30 P.M.