

**Minutes of the
Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association
Board of Directors Meeting
January 27, 2023**

Call to Order: Chairman Ashworth called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. EST via ZOOM teleconference.

Roll Call: The following members were virtually present: Chairman Brett Ashworth, Treasurer Phil Ratliff, John Terino, Perry Nouis, John Dorrian, Jim McGuire, Secretary Eric Schnaible, Carla Sylvester, Col Allen Herritage, John Gura, Christine Queen, Jim Hart, Lou Timmons, Jay DeFrank, Art Forster, Dick Cole and Hank Hufnagel.

The following board members were absent, but had proxy representation: Chuck Merlo, Doug Kennett, Judy Bivens, Julie Briggs, Dave Phillips, Greg Smith were unable to join call. A quorum was deemed present with two proxies counted.

Minutes Approval: Brett motioned to accept the minutes from the last meeting. Perry motioned to approve, Lou seconded, and motion passed.

Chairman: Brett welcomed Col Allen Heritage to the group in his new position at the Pentagon as SES Jerry Renne's deputy director at SAF/PA. He advised PA has been busy with the next generation B-21 bomber rollout, the new Space Force CSO Gen Saltzman, recruiting concerns and challenges -- citing AFRS/CC (and former SAF/PA) Maj Gen Ed Thomas' USAF WG/CC support and Community Relations program outreach efforts to assist attract viable recruits.

Art asked if Civic Leader Tours might help build recruiting advocacy and suggested a newsletter input encouraging membership assistance. Jim McGuire cited PA success of the Steve Colbert segment on his visit to Thule AB, Greenland. John Terino asked if a separate SECAF for Space Force is being considered and if AFPAA name is inclusive of Space Force; Col Herritage advised of the Space Force PA function.

SAF/PA update: Lou Timmons advised of good PA support and status of donated wood carved pilot wings plaque for the Dalton Conference Room.

Financial Report: Treasurer Phil Ratliff briefed current budget figures/expenses/taxes and advised we would continue to fund Air Force PA functional badges for DINFOS PA course graduates (\$1,200/year) and AFPAAA scholarships. Art Forster inquired if AFPAA leaders present the badges at DINFOS and Phil advised we do when able given frequent course graduations. Lou suggested we provide a rep for the four PAOC classes, but badges are awarded for all courses. Brett advised he'd ask Lou for a DINFOS POC to support presentations. Perry motioned for annual financial plan approval; Carla seconded, and report approval carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. **Annual Meeting Update:** Perry advised plans for the 26-28 Oct Tampa, Fla. meeting itinerary coming together w/received support from McDill AFB PA (6th ARW, SOCOM and USCENTCOM) and have secured the Alba hotel. Phil advised Lockheed Martin offered unsolicited funds toward awards event. Art suggested past 'Best of the Best' winners do not need to travel to Fla. at AFPAA expense as two are stationed overseas. Jim Hart motioned AFPAAA fund travel for current winner, seconded by Jim. Christine asked if winner spouse travel would be funded. Art advised yes. Jim seconded and motion carried. Meeting registration form to go out soon. Perry advised on-base golf outing would be on that Thursday morning and next annual meeting would be in Spring 2025 (last was 2019) w/possible locations to consider: San Antonio, TX, Los Angeles (Edwards AFB) CA, Tucson (Davis-Monthan AFB) AZ and Washington, DC. John Dorian to be our POC for the President's Award presentation at meeting w/local base to decide whom we'd recognize at luncheon.
- B. **Membership Committee:** Christine Queen reported the annual membership directories (in both .pdf and Word) have been mailed out and six were returned for bad addresses, four of whom were Life Members. 100 renewal requests sent out by Blast (thx to John Gura), 67 not responded, 35 renewed and three joined for Life membership. A new AFPAAA membership certificate prototype was developed and seeking a volunteer to take over program.
- C. **Communications/Newsletter:** Dick Cole advised the newsletter transition from John Terino is seamlessly complete and 1 Mar suspense set for next newsletter issue, which would cover elections and the annual meeting registration form. He advised onward invoices to be sent to Dick vs. John.
- D. **Website:** Jim McGuire provide website updates including four pages on annual meeting, contact button to reach board members via subject interest and updated main menu and folders to update leadership page and post/archive Board meeting minutes. Updating the Dalton Scholarship page w/Chuck Merlo and working w/Art for Hall of Fame input and new oral histories to post.
- E. **Oral History:** John Gura advised oral history w/former SAF/PA Brig Gen (Ret) Ron Rand and Art Forster, both completed by John Terino; more than 40 now completed/posted on AFPAAA website.
- F. **Facebook Page:** Judy not on call, but pre-advised Nothing Significant To Report.

G. **AFPAA Name Change Committee:** Jay DeFrank advised of good feedback received and the name change documents are ready to be sent out to the membership to be ready to vote. Brett will sign out to be sent out following promotional website notice and newsletter article has run. Need to schedule date for vote two weeks after Town Hall meeting discussions. Steve Everett to conduct. Jim McGuire inquired about Town Hall meeting questions to be answered via Zoom chat and cost effectiveness of a webinar (\$80 fee for a Zoom Pro account to host, more if over 100 attendees). Jay preferred the meeting format vs. a webinar chat for better real-time interaction and meeting control. Team further discussed pros and cons/costs of both media formats. Phil thanked Jay for his initiative to see this through.

Old Business:

Update on Hall of Fame: Art Forester sent out to the board seven HoF nominations for consideration and voting. Jim McGuire motioned to approve list; Carla seconded, carried. Art to notify each nominee (or their next of kin) and congrats letter drafted; suggested to invite them to our Tampa annual meeting for recognition (and pay their dinner + guest cost) but not travel. DINFOS HoF wall discussion w/ new leaders there.

Update on Dalton Scholarship: Chuck Merlo was not on call, but his proxy Carla Sylvester advised we awarded six Dalton scholarships in 2022 and the 2023 application window runs 1 Mar-31 May deadline. Board will vote on five scholarships to be awarded. Chuck spoke w/ SAF/PAR's Sherry Medders to better align submissions with SAF/PA desires they first apply for AF Tuition Assistance and nominees are aligned with Air Force Quality Force standards. Two 2022 scholarship recipients have not yet claimed awarded tuition funds.

New Business:

Board Members Health Concern: Board inquired as to President's health status and ability to fulfill responsibilities conduct official AFPAAA duties in Tampa. Brett offered to reach out re: taking over as our next AFPAAA Chairman.

Brett suggested next quarterly meeting for a Friday at end of April (21st or 28th). Art brought up Archives status concern to maintain corporate knowledge of AFPAAA records, including newsletters (archived already on website), historic meeting minutes, directives and office position descriptions. Perry advised he previously spoke w/Tom Dolney a year ago who was "working" on scanning the historic documents in his possession and that he would reach out to him again and report back on our anticipated April 28th board meeting call.

Jim moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Perry and all members voted in favor of adjournment following 2:20 duration call.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Schnaible, AFPAAA Secretary