



Super Sabre Society (SSS)
Board of Directors
P.O. Box 341837
Lakeway, TX 78734

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Minutes of the Biennial Members Meeting
held April 11, 2013

A Biennial Meeting of the Members of the SUPER SABRE SOCIETY, duly noticed, was held on April 11, 2013, as scheduled, at the GOLD COAST HOTEL in Las Vegas, Nevada, pursuant to the provisions of Article II, subparagraph 4.a. of the BY-LAWS of the SUPER SABRE SOCIETY,

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Bill Gorton, President of the SUPER SABRE SOCIETY and Chairman of the Board of Directors, at 1500 hours, Pacific Daylight Time.

2. **Opening Remarks.** Bill Gorton welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the SSS Directors and Officers sitting at the platform. All of the Directors who, in addition to President Bill Gorton, comprise the SSS Board of Directors were recognized: Vice President Eddie Bracken (who arrived shortly thereafter), Executive Director Dewey Clawson, Secretary Art Oken, and (in absentia) Director-at-Large Gordie Peterson (who was unable to attend owing to his recent hospitalization). All of the current SSS Officers were then recognized by Bill: Dewey Clawson who, as Executive Director, serves also as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Dave Hatten who, as Treasurer, serves as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Medley Gatewood, Editor of *The Intake, the Journal of the Super Sabre Society*, who serves as the Chief Information Officer (CIO), and Jerry “Killer” Key who serves as the SSS Historian.

3. **Meeting Conduct Rules.** President Bill Gorton announced that Robert’s Rules of Order would apply and asked Secretary Art Oken to review, for the membership, the rules of conduct established by the Board of Directors for this meeting. Art announced those rules, as follows:

- (1) Members are asked to wait until the Chair opens the floor for discussion before seeking recognition to speak;
- (2) Members are asked to wait before speaking until they are recognized by the Chair;
- (3) Members are asked to state their name (for the minutes) when they are recognized by the Chair for the purpose of speaking;
- (4) Only one member at a time will be recognized to speak;
- (5) Voicing any personal attack on another member will not be tolerated.

4. **CEO Report.** Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dewey Clawson began by expressing appreciation to those members who had been helpful in putting the reunion together. Among those thanked by Dewey were Les Frazier (for recommending him to Bill for appointment to the CEO position), Dave Hatten (indispensable in dealing with the financial aspects), Dick Rutan (who ran the paper airplane contest), Bob Fanthorpe (who, among other things, made all the bus arrangements for the golf event and the Hoover Dam tour), Pete Peterson (made all the hotel arrangements), Bill McDonald (keeping Dewey “on the straight and narrow”), Bob & Pam Dunham (for running the “country store” desk), Medley Gatewood (for overall help and guidance), and “so many others.”

1 Dewey next announced the new SSS website password, which will take effect immediately. The old
2 password will also work for a few more days. Dewey will send a notice to this effect out to all of the
3 members on the internet.
4

5 Dewey then discussed the following ongoing projects with which he and the other members leading
6 these efforts are seeking help:
7

8 • **Digitizing Gun Camera Film.** Dewey is seeking gun camera film footage (8mm & 16mm) to
9 digitize (record on DVDs) for preservation and future display. He is working with a professional
10 firm (Lou Reda Productions) which is donating their time and services. All film provided to Dewey
11 for this purpose will, after the content has been copied to a DVD, either be returned to the owner or
12 donated to the **FRIENDS OF THE SUPER SABRE (FSS)**, whichever the owner prefers. Three DVDs of
13 each film will be made; one retained by the DVD production company, one donated to the FSS and
14 one to provide the member who furnished the film. Dewey has about twelve such DVDs at this
15 time. Dewey advised that the production company will digitize Vietnam era home movies and
16 slides, as well.
17

18 • **F-100 Nose Art.** Dewey is seeking pictures of artwork and names painted on F-100 aircraft.
19 SSS member Pete Felts is collecting this and has prepared a book for the SSS displaying what he has
20 received.
21

22 • **Legacy Pledges.** This is a good means by which to donate F-100 related memorabilia (hats,
23 flight suits, etc.) to the FSS for permanent preservation and display after your demise, if you have
24 not earlier done so. Fill out the pledge form and incorporate it into your last will and testament.
25 Please also send a copy to Bob Dunham or any officer of the FSS or SSS.
26

27 • **F-100 Static Displays.** SSS and FSS member Bob Dunham has been trying to locate and visit
28 every F-100 aircraft on static display around the country. Help is sought to take pictures of them,
29 and to help maintain them. Bob is working to obtain (or aid in fabricating) aircraft parts (e.g.,
30 afterburners, pitot tubes, etc.) needed to restore displayed aircraft to what resembles an operational
31 configuration.
32

33 • **F-100 Unit Histories.** Dewey is working to acquire the history of every USAF unit (squadrons
34 and wings) which flew the F-100. He recently spent two days at the USAF Historical Research
35 Agency located at Maxwell AFB, culling their files to identify those CDs and DVDs which contain
36 the information sought. This is time-consuming painstaking work because the cataloging system,
37 although computerized, is archaic. Jim Quick and Russ Violett have produced some useful
38 recordings. Additional volunteers are urgently needed to go on-line and identify the available
39 material (including microfiche) we will need to request from the archives. If a sufficient number of
40 members don't volunteer, Dewey plans to contact individual members and ask them to sponsor a
41 squadron in which they have served, for this purpose.
42

43 • **F-100 Accident Reports.** FOIA request forms must be submitted to recover USAF aircraft
44 reports from the AF Safety Center at Kirtland AFB, NM. This is time consuming. Volunteers are
45 needed to help on this effort.
46

1 ●**Recruiting New Members.** We need ideas on how to identify and attract eligible people who
2 have not yet joined the SSS. Recovery of the unit histories may uncover some names for us to
3 contact. Notwithstanding attrition, our membership is increasing, but not very much. We need to
4 work on this. There are likely to be quite a few eligible potential members out there,
5

6 Dewey then completed his report with some reunion related information.
7

8 ●**2015 Reunion.** Dewey announced that the site selected for the next SSS reunion is Dayton,
9 Ohio. Dates are Thursday – Sunday, 9-12 April 2015. These dates were selected to enable members
10 to attend both the F-86 Sabre Society reunion and the SSS reunion, and because prior bookings had
11 filled the Dayton hotels on other desired dates. Dewey acknowledged that, although most of the
12 current members reside in the west and southwest (Nevada and Arizona, followed next by
13 California), many members reside on the east coast. Dewey noted that a recent membership survey
14 he conducted revealed, among other things, that a majority of those who responded, who had not
15 attended any of the prior reunions, reported that their preferred SSS reunion site was Dayton.
16 Dewey added that he would not be surprised if we returned to the **GOLD COAST** in 2017. Bill
17 Gorton added that, unlike Las Vegas, in Dayton the best rates are on the week-end; Dewey
18 acknowledged that was a factor in selecting the particular dates.
19

20 ●**2013 Reunion.** Dewey reported that table assignments for the banquet were all squared away.
21 Duplicate lists of table assignments are available for all to see. Some seats have not been assigned,
22 to allow for late arrivals and table swapping among members. Everyone who registered for the
23 banquet has a table assignment. If anyone wishes to swap or write their name in where there is a
24 vacancy may do so. There are 45 tables with 9 seats at each table. Dewey requested that at least one
25 table be left with two vacant seats to accommodate a late arriving couple (should that become
26 necessary). Dewey cautioned that one of the seating books, which contained recent write-in
27 changes, had disappeared – members were asked to re-check the listings to ensure that their desired
28 changes were included.
29

30 **5. Capt America Award.** President Bill Gorton recognized SSS member and Historian Jerry
31 “Killer” Key for the purpose of presenting the first of several awards at this reunion. Killer
32 announced that, at this time, he had the distinct honor of presenting the *Les Leavoy “Capt America”*
33 *Award* to the two recipients (SSS members Bill Hosmer and P.J. White) whom renowned and highly
34 respected SSS member Les Leavoy had selected to so honor at this reunion. Killer added that he
35 was standing in for Les Leavoy, as Les was unable to attend for reasons of health. Killer then read
36 aloud remarks written by Les Leavoy for presentation of these awards to Bill Hosmer and to P.J.
37 White, and presented the statuette which commemorates this award to Bill Hosmer. Hoz accepted
38 his award and expressed both surprise and appreciation. As P.J. White was not at the meeting, his
39 award will be sent to him by mail. A copy of Les Leavoy’s remarks is attached to these Minutes at
40 **Attachment-1.**
41

42 **6. Dave Menard Memorial Hypersonic Papyrus Indoor Aircraft Design and Fly-Off Awards.**
43 President Bill Gorton next recognized SSS member Dick Rutan for the purpose of presenting the
44 paper airplane contest awards. Chuck Zeitner won both the time of flight (3 seconds) and distance
45 (22.3 feet) contests. Dick presented the winner with a book award. Entry fees collected from the
46 participants in this competition are being donated to the Wounded Warriors fund.
47

1 **7. Special Award to SSS Founder Les Frazier.** President Bill Gorton announced that, in
2 recognition of the many contributions made by Les Frazier in founding and in serving as the first
3 Executive Director of the SSS, the Board of Directors decided to honor Les in two particular ways.
4 First, Les Frazier would be recognized with the title of “**Founder**” of the **SUPER SABRE SOCIETY**.
5 In addition, the Board commissioned a special award, in the form of a model of his F-100, painted in
6 the colors of Les Frazier’s former squadron, the 531st at Misawa, to be presented to him at this
7 reunion to honor him. As Les was unable, because of a family emergency, to attend this meeting,
8 SSS member Peach Vanek agreed to accept the award on Les’ behalf, and to arrange to forward it on
9 to Les after the reunion.

10
11 **8. CFO Report.** SSS Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Dave Hatten delivered a brief
12 financial report. The SSS currently has \$206,000.00 in the bank, of which about \$117,900
13 constitutes “unrestricted net assets” (i.e., that amount of money which can be spent). First fiscal
14 (and calendar) quarter current income is \$29,000.00; this will be used to pay expenses such as
15 publication and distribution of *The Intake*, and **GOLD COAST** hotel charges accrued during the
16 reunion. A copy of Dave’s financial summary is attached to these Minute at **Attachment-2**.

17
18 **9. FSS Report.** President Bill Gorton recognized SSS and FSS member Bob Dunham who
19 delivered a report from the **FRIENDS OF THE SUPER SABRE** entitled: “*FSS and the F-100 Super*
20 *Sabre Museum. It ain’t as easy as it seems.*” Bob began by expressing appreciation to Bill Gorton
21 for offering him this opportunity to address the SSS membership, and also to all who had contributed
22 to the FSS effort to collect for preservation artifacts and memorabilia related to the F-100. Bob
23 encouraged further donations of artifacts and memorabilia and emphasized that, as the FSS is a tax
24 exempt organization under IRS Code Section 501(c) (3), such donations are usually tax deductible.
25 Bob then issued his report on the nature, history, role, projects, objectives, issues, problems and
26 accomplishments of the FSS in its efforts to organize and develop a permanent dedicated F-100
27 Super Sabre Museum. Bob pointed out that the FSS is the likely successor to the SSS, reported that
28 they are moving forward, and emphasized the need for increased support in commitment and
29 donations. A copy of the slides used by Bob in his presentation is included with these Minutes at
30 **Attachment-3**.

31
32 Bill Gorton thanked Bob for his presentation and all of his hard work. Bill reiterated that the SSS
33 Board of Directors has always viewed the FSS as the organization that will be there when the
34 members of the SSS are all gone. Bill asked all to give serious consideration at this critical time to
35 stepping up and taking a leadership role or otherwise offering assistance to Bob Dunham in this
36 worthwhile effort.

37
38 **10. F-100 at Udvar-Hazy.** President Bill Gorton made reference to the many efforts of SSS
39 members to increase public awareness of our F-100 and the men who flew it, as discussed by the
40 prior speakers. He then related the onset of the extraordinarily successful effort, now close to
41 completion, to get an F-100 aircraft out of the warehouse and onto permanent display in the
42 Smithsonian Air & Space Museum at their Udvar-Hazy Center, located near Dulles International
43 Airport in northern Virginia. Bill recalled that this effort began four years ago when SSS member
44 “Hoppy” Hopkins noticed that a broken-up F-100 in need of extensive repair was sitting at the
45 Smithsonian’s storage facility known as Garber (formerly Silverhill) in Maryland. This was about
46 the time that the Smithsonian was building their new facility later named after its most prominent
47 donor (Steven F. Udvar-Hazy).

1 Bill mentioned some of the many aircraft on display at Udvar-Hazy (some dating back to WWI, and
2 including the space shuttle “Discovery,”) and encouraged everyone to take the opportunity to visit
3 there. Bill then introduced SSS member Robert N. (“Hoppy”) Hopkins, who shared his experience
4 in leading the **SUPER SABRE SOCIETY** successful effort to restore the F-100 aircraft that Bill
5 mentioned (Tail Number 56-3440) and in arranging for its movement to Udvar-Hazy for permanent
6 display.

7
8 Hoppy began his presentation by reviewing the history of the aircraft from December 1957 to
9 August 1978, during which time it was assigned to a succession of USAFE, TAC and PACAF
10 fighter units. The aircraft has flown 6,189 hours (an average of 49 minutes a day for 21 years), was
11 at Homestead during the Cuban Missile Crisis and served in Vietnam. It arrived at Bien Hoa in June
12 of 1965 and flew combat missions (including during the Tet Offensive) from 1966 to 1969. After a
13 number of subsequent stateside assignments beginning in 1970, it was released from active duty in
14 1972, at which time it was assigned to the Michigan Air Guard. In 1978, the aircraft was flown by
15 the Michigan Guard unit to Andrews AFB and then towed to the Smithsonian’s Garber restoration
16 and storage facility in Silver Hill, Maryland where it sat on the ground for thirty-four years.

17
18 Restoration work on the aircraft was begun December 2012; in February 2013 it was moved from
19 Garber (in Maryland) to the Udvar-Hazy restoration facility (near Dulles Airport in northern
20 Virginia) and in March 2013 the aircraft was almost ready for display. It is now in “*preservation*”
21 status (i.e., it looks as it did while it was in operational status), painted and configured as it had
22 earlier been flown at Bien Hoa in 1968-1969; as distinguished from “*restoration*” status (i.e., made
23 to look brand new). SSS member Harvey Stewart (a USAF Major at the time) and his crew chief
24 (then Sgt) Rick Eliason, were identified by Hoppy to have served at the time as pilot and crew chief
25 of the airplane. Hoppy furnished sufficient documentary evidence of that service to satisfy the
26 Smithsonian’s requirement; consequently their names will be stenciled in paint on the fuselage,
27 below the canopy rail, as pilot (right side) and crew chief (left side), for permanent display. The
28 airplane is now on the museum floor and external stores are being assembled or fabricated to
29 complete the configuration for formal dedication and permanent display. A copy of the narrative
30 and visual aids used by Hoppy in his presentation are included with these Minutes at **Attachment-4**.

31
32 At the conclusion of Hoppy’s presentation, SSS President Bill Gorton expressed gratitude to Hoppy
33 for his hard work over the past four years – then requested (and received) a round of applause for
34 Hoppy’s outstanding achievement.

35
36 **11. Les Frazier’s Proposed Motions.** President Bill Gorton reported that he had met with Les
37 Frazier, face to face, for about two hours on Wednesday morning, April 10, 2013, at Les’ invitation,
38 to discuss and try to resolve pending issues. Bill stated that he was pleased to report that those issues
39 were to a certain extent resolved, but Bill agreed to take under consideration some of his other
40 complaints. To that end, Bill Hosmer agreed to stand-in for Les (who was unable, because of a
41 family emergency, to attend this meeting) for the sole purpose of reading aloud a list of “Motions”
42 Les had dictated to Hoz to present at this SSS Members Meeting. Bill stated that, after these
43 proposed “Motions” had been read aloud, he would discuss them, following which he would open
44 the floor for discussion. A list of the proposed “Motions” as dictated by Les Frazier to Bill Hosmer,
45 and as read aloud, verbatim, by Bill Hosmer on Les Frazier’s behalf, at this time, to the assembled
46 members at this meeting, is attached to these Minutes at **Attachment-5**.

1 After Bill Hosmer's verbatim recitation of Les Frazier's proposed "Motions" was completed, Bill
2 Gorton explained that he had shut down Les' access to the SSS e-mail address list when Les, after he
3 left the Executive Director position, had published derogatory statements and personal attacks
4 against other SSS members in his Toss-Bomb messages. This use of the Toss-Bomb messages, Bill
5 pointed out, violated the "mutual respect" provision included in the SSS mission statement published
6 on the SSS website. Bill reported that he had, during his recent meeting with Les, after extensive
7 discussion on the subject, assured Les Frazier that he (Les) would have unfettered access to the SSS
8 membership provided that he did not undertake personal attacks or include personal opinions which
9 included derogatory information directed at other members in his future "Toss-Bomb" messages.
10 Bill reported that Les agreed to those terms.

11
12 As to Les' wish that all future SSS reunions be held at the **GOLD COAST**, the Board of Directors, as
13 announced earlier at this meeting, has decided that the next (2015) reunion will be held in Dayton,
14 Ohio where the NMUSAF is located. Subsequent reunions may be held at the **GOLD COAST**, and
15 Les can advocate for that venue, but the Board has decided otherwise for 2015.

16
17 Bill stated the Board of Directors will take under advisement (i.e., give serious consideration to) Les'
18 request that he be installed as a permanent member of the SSS Board of Directors. Les has stated
19 that he does not wish to be a voting member of the Board; he just wishes to remain informed. Bill
20 stated that the Board will, in any event, do everything it can to keep Les and all of the SSS members
21 fully informed. Bill added that he intends always to use the "NOTAM" to convey to the
22 membership, in brief format, very shortly after the conclusion of each Board meeting, actions taken
23 by the Board. In addition, Bill announced that, in addition, the Board had decided at its most recent
24 meeting (held April 8, 2013) to publish, on the SSS website, the full Minutes of all Meetings of the
25 Board of Directors. Preparation (i.e., drafting) and the review process which precedes formal
26 adoption of the Minutes necessarily takes some time. The NOTAM is intended to fill that gap.

27
28 Bill stated that, with regard to the other issues Les has raised, they all fall under the heading of
29 changes recently made to the SSS By-Laws. Bill pointed out that, when proposed, the text
30 (wording) of all of these changes was distributed to the entire membership, accompanied by a
31 written summary which explained the purpose of each proposed change. Five hundred thirty-eight
32 (538) members voted to approve and adopt these changes. Only seventeen (17) members voted
33 against them. Bill summarized the purpose and effect of these changes as follows. What we have
34 done is to re-structure the corporation to mirror what a real corporation looks like. The conduct of
35 day-to-day operations is now managed by the CEO and the other officers on his staff (the CFO, CIO
36 and the Historian), while the Board of Directors develops policy and maintains financial oversight.
37 That's our new structure. We intend to run the organization like a business, in the background, and
38 hopefully have fun, and get some things that are really meaningful done in the forefront. In
39 summary, Bill stated that the Board would take Les' comments under consideration, but the
40 corporation is now formed as are most corporations, and it will require, as in the past, a two-thirds
41 majority of those members voting to change our existing By-Laws. Bill then opened the floor for
42 comments by the members.

1 **12. Member's Comments.**

2
3 Member Hugh Schoelzel asked if the SSS was a 501(c)(3) organization. Bill Gorton responded that
4 we were not; we were a 501(c)(19) organization. Hugh asked what the difference was. Bill
5 explained the essential difference. [Note. Both IRS Code subsections provide exemption to
6 nonprofit organizations from tax liability on income under the IRS federal tax code, but a 501(c)(3)
7 exemption applies to organizations whose primary purpose is religious, charitable, educational or
8 scientific (and some other purposes which do not apply to the SSS), whereas exemption under
9 501(c)(19) is granted only to organizations a substantial majority (set out as a specified percentage)
10 of whose members are past or present members of the U.S. armed forces.]

11
12 Member John Schultz commented that it was a great relief to hear of the efforts taken by Bill Gorton
13 and Les Frazier to get together to resolve the issues discussed earlier by Bill. John expressed a
14 “thank you” for that effort. Bill Gorton responded by stating that, although there were no
15 guarantees, he would be working behind the scenes rather than on the net, but basically (hopefully)
16 things were moving forward again.

17
18 Member Ron Davis expressed thanks to the entire Board of Directors for the wonderful job all had
19 done on the reunion. Ron also had a question about seating at the banquet.

20
21 Member Allen Strasser stated his view that it was a good move to change the reunion site. In his
22 opinion, Dayton is a good site, near the AF museum where an F-100 is on display. Ron added that
23 we should look wider – by moving it around we’d get more support. Bill Gorton responded that the
24 Board was interested in moving it around while remaining cognizant of cost. Bill commended
25 member Pete Peterson and his team for the great job they have done in organizing arrangements at
26 the **GOLD COAST** and pointed out that in Dayton we will be hiring a professional management team
27 experienced in putting on military reunions.

28
29 Member Rod Beckett expressed his appreciation to the Board for all it does. Rod commented that he
30 had attended the last “River Rat” reunion held at Dayton which was managed by the professional
31 military reunion planners there, and that they did an absolutely superb job. He added that there was
32 a lot to do at the Air Force Museum and he had a really good time.

33
34 Member Bill McDonald commented that, until he attended this reunion, he had no idea what a
35 spectacular group the SSS was. He then pledged his fullest support in the future.

36
37 Member Bill Elander added his endorsement of the professional reunion planners at Dayton. He
38 commented that they do a wonderful job and we can’t go wrong with them.

39
40 Member Lynn Farnsworth asked if we had identified the biggest obstacle to getting additional
41 members into the Society. Bill Gorton responded that we really hadn’t, but had held preliminary
42 discussion on the question of how we could perpetuate the SSS after we were all gone. Bill reported
43 the Board’s intention to undertake a study, headed by Ed Bracken, with members of the Board of
44 Directors and others, to examine how to perpetuate the **SUPER SABRE SOCIETY**. Lynn offered, as a
45 suggestion, that we do some advertising.

1 Member "PK" Kimminau suggested that we get a bottle of whiskey and save it for the last guy alive
2 who flew the F-100.
3

4 Member Ron Standerfer observed that at this reunion we were two hundred down from the number
5 of those who attended the prior reunion (held in April 2011). Ron suggested that everyone who is
6 attending this (2013) reunion go home and contact two members who did not attend – then tell them
7 what a great reunion they missed, and encourage them to attend the next one in 2015.
8

9 **13. Adjournment.** A Motion heard from the floor to adjourn the meeting received a second and,
10 there being no discussion, passed by unanimous voice vote. Accordingly, President Bill Gorton
11 adjourned the meeting at 1645 hours PDT.
12

13
14 Attachments (5)

- 15 1. Written Remarks by Les Leavoy (2013 Capt America Award Presentations), 2 pages.
- 16 2. Financial Summary (as of 31 March 2013), 1 page.
- 17 3. FSS Report (by Bob Dunham), 15 pages.
- 18 4. Briefing by Hoppy Hopkins (F-100D Tail Number 56-3440 at Udvar-Hazy), 24 pages.
- 19 5. Les Frazier's Proposed Motions, 1 page.
20

21
22 **Respectfully Submitted:**

Approved and Adopted:

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27 _____
28 **Arthur J. Oken, Secretary**

William A. Gorton, Chairman

29
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33 _____
34 **Date**

Date