



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

Minutes of the Biennial Members Meeting
held April 11, 2015

A Biennial Meeting of the Members of the SUPER SABRE SOCIETY, duly noticed, was held on April 11, 2015, as scheduled, at the CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL in Dayton, Ohio, 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 Don Shepperd, President of the SUPER SABRE SOCIETY and Chairman of the Board of Directors, at 1500 hours, EDT.

2. Quorum Determination. Acting Executive Secretary Dewey Clawson verified a quorum is present.

A. Board Members Present.

Don Shepperd, President/Chairman
Eddie Bracken, Vice President/Vice Chairman
Robert (Hoppy) Hopkins, Executive Director and CEO
Richard (Dick) Pietro, Director at Large

B. Officers Present.

Dave Hatten, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer
R. Medley Gatewood, Editor and Publisher of *The Intake*
Win Reither, Chief Information Officer
Jerry (Killer) Key, Historian

C. Others.

Duane (Dewey) Clawson, Acting Executive Secretary
General members

3. Opening Remarks.

President Shepperd welcomed everyone and introduced the Board Members and Officers. He made a power point presentation (Attachment 1.) on the State of the Society: We have about 1400 members. About 70 per year fly West and this year it may be closer to 100. Our average age is around 77. We are getting around 100 new members per year due mainly to Dick Pietro and his connections with the ANG. We have around \$122,000 in the bank with dues generating \$35,000 income. It is spent on The Intake - \$7,000/issue, Calendar & web site totals about \$33,000 expenses. We have spent \$20-\$30,000 on the web site in an effort to get it into a format that will not only last forever but will be easily searchable and available to the public. In addition to the web site we have Toss Bombs sent out by Les Frazier. We have the PIF. President Shepperd cautioned members participating in the PIF to exercise good taste and judgment in what they post. Our "Store" will be changed to just a link to the appropriate site that is actually selling the items. We will not handle any sales.

1 Our Mission Statement: To preserve the history of the F-100 Super Sabre and the men who flew the
2 aircraft. That is easily said but How do we do it? The Web site is a large part of this answer. Shep
3 asked everyone to complete their biographies. When you write or update your bio, send it to Win or
4 use the generic “contact us” from the web site and it will go to the correct folks. We are going to
5 look at adding a video interview to the bios. If you are a published author, we can list your book on
6 the web site. President Shepperd is seeking ideas from some noted authors on how to preserve our
7 history; How to preserve the records of the most important war in our history. The one we didn’t
8 fight. The Cold War. If everyone would contact one buddy that flew the Hun and recruit him, we
9 would have the numbers necessary to accomplish our goals. The ANG is going to be the largest pool
10 of prospective members and these guys will be the “last man standing” in the coming years.

11
12 We do not need to increase dues at this time but the \$25 per year has never changed and we need to
13 take a hard look at our revenue stream in the coming years and the cost of the projects we would like
14 to complete. President Shepperd talked to the heads of several other veterans organizations,
15 Dadaelians, River Rats, etc. and they all reported that opening up their membership to the public has
16 drastically changed the character of their organizations. They no longer serve the purpose their
17 organization was originally organized for. Shep suggested that we need to firm up our relationship
18 with the Friends of the Super Sabre (FSS) and the Military Aviation Preservation Society (MAPS)
19 and they will be the long term survivor. The SSS will remain an organization for Pilots, Bears and
20 Flt Surgeons who flew the Hun.

21
22 President Shepperd set the following goals for 2015:

23 Pursue increasing membership. Each member sign up a member.

24 Firm up our relationship with the FSS.

25 Establish a formal relationship with MAPS. They can store, catalogue and display our memorabilia.

26 Establish a “last man standing award”. Anyone with ideas for this, please submit them.

27 Increase the number of Biographies. Add videos to the bios.

28 Add a video of the month to the web.

29 Investigate producing a documentary on the Hun.

30 Establish the web site store links.

31 Establish an “Author Assistance” for budding authors. This would be a resource for help in
32 publishing your books.

33
34 Next reunion Site: Attendance has generally gone down the last 3 reunions. There are possibly many
35 reasons for this. Las Vegas has many advantages, cost, convenience, “home of the Fighter Pilot” etc.
36 Some of these are not perceived as advantages by some folks, so members’ input will be sought later
37 in the meeting.

38
39 President Shepperd stated his biggest priority is ending the rancor in the organization. Shep has met
40 with those involved and, so far, results have been very positive. His second priority is establishing a
41 firm relationship with the FSS and the MAPS. We need to make the MAPS the official destination
42 site for storing our memorabilia.

43
44 President Shepperd reported on his meeting with Les Frazier and his efforts to end the rancor in the
45 organization. Shep felt that the five hour visit was very productive. Shep came away liking Les very
46 much. He felt that Les has the interests of the SSS at heart and is very concerned with preserving our

1 history and traditions. One thing that he (Shep) has failed to do in his short time as President is to
2 keep Les informed. This is a courtesy to our Founder and Shep pledged to do better with this.
3

4 Shep and Hoppy visited the MAPS on Wednesday before the reunion. Shep reported that this is a
5 very good museum. They are well established and approved by the NMUSAF so they are able to
6 display aircraft and other items obtained from the NMUSAF. They have a large hanger for many of
7 the 35 aircraft on display and are well into a fund raising campaign to build another hanger.
8

9 **4. Officers and Directors comments.**

10 **a. Vice President Eddie Bracken**

11 Eddie started in the Hun then flew the Thud for a while then back to the Hun in testing at
12 Eglin. He expressed his opinion the President Shepperd is the right guy at the right time for
13 the SSS. He has the vision to carry the SSS into the future and turn it back into the strong
14 organization it needs to be.
15

16 **b. CEO/ED Hoppy Hopkins**

17 Hoppy reported on slight procedural changes for dinner. He reported that the honor bar was
18 working out very well. It appears that we will make a small amount from the donations and
19 save the membership a considerable amount on the cost of drinks. Hoppy announced that
20 Mary Ann Burns, Sally In the Alley, and Adeline Schmidt would be serving Blabber Mouth
21 Punch after the meeting.
22

23 **c. Director At Large Dick Pietro**

24 Dick thanked everyone for presenting him the Outstanding Member Award. He particularly
25 mentioned Hoppy Hopkins Win Reither and Dewey Clawson in helping him recruit
26 members. Dick mentioned that he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Gordie
27 Peterson, who has flown West. Dick mentioned that his appointment was especially
28 appropriate because Gordie started his career with the Sioux City, IA Guard and Dick also
29 started his flying career with the IAANG when they deployed to Phu Cat. Dick summarized
30 his career, having started as an enlisted Army Green Beret, Commissioned in the Army
31 Guard, transferred to the Atlantic City ANG, volunteered to go to VN with Sioux City then
32 back to ACY.
33

34 **d. CFO/Treasurer Dave Hatten**

35 Dave announced that those few folks who had dues questions should see him after the
36 meeting and he can answer their questions.
37

38 **e. CIO Win Reither**

39 Win mentioned that he was the RAFSOB for the SC ANG at McEntire when they started the
40 transition from F-102 to the A-7D. Win thanked Bill Gorton for his help in getting the new
41 web site operational. While the old web site was logging about 18 visits per week, the new
42 web site is over One Million visits in the last year, over 100 visits per day. The most popular
43 area on the web site is the memorial area. This area is permanent and will be available for the
44 world to see forever. We are using the most widely used web language for our site, Word
45 Press. 23% of the sites on the web use this language. Next year the entire 1000+ pages of the
46 history section will be digitized so it will be searchable on the web. The following year we
47

1 will look at the feasibility of digitizing The Intake. The Biographies are in the process of
2 being digitized now so if you don't see yours, be patient. If you have a change/update, send it
3 to Win and it will be posted. Win thanked Medley Gatewood for his assistance with the Web
4 site. He encouraged all members to record a short video and send it to Win and he will add it
5 to your bio.
6

7 **f. Acting Executive Scty/Membership & Elections Committees Chair Dewey Clawson**

8 Dewey gave a brief summary of his career: F-100 out of UPT, Tuy Hoa and Phan Rang, A7D
9 in Tucson, Linebacker II from Korat, 3 year paid vacation in HI, 8 years in the A10 in
10 Syracuse with the Guard then 3 years in the F-16. His last military flight was from Al Kharj
11 to Syracuse coming home from Desert Storm. He volunteered to help Ron Doughty with the
12 web site/PIF about 5 years ago and again to help at the registration desk at the 2011 reunion.
13 He is always available by phone or email if anyone has any membership questions.
14

15 Dewey reported that our membership had been dropping slightly until about two years ago
16 when that trend was reversed, largely due to the efforts of Dick Pietro. Dewey showed some
17 statistics for the membership. Those numbers are in Attachment 2.
18

19 **g. SSS Historian Jerry "Killer" Key**

20 Killer reported that he is the SSS Historian, not the F-100 Historian. All your F-100 related
21 memorabilia should go to the MAPS or the FSS, not to him. He is also keeping copies of
22 Members' stories related on the PIF.
23

24 **h. The Intake Editor & Publisher Medley Gatewood**

25 Medley added his pleasure at having Shep at the helm. He reiterated that he also thinks Shep
26 is the right man, at the right time. Medley recognized Ray Kleber for receiving the
27 Congressional Gold Medal for his achievements in organizing the Civil Air Patrol in WWII.
28 This is the highest civilian award given by our Nation. Congratulations Ray. Medley briefly
29 discussed some of the options for containing costs. He asked for a show of hands from all
30 those who like the SSS Calendar and would like to continue receiving it. Nearly everyone
31 raised their hand.
32

33 One member asked if we are considering an electronic method of distributing The Intake.
34 Medley reported that this is under consideration but will take some work.
35

36 **5. FSS COO Mike Dean**

37 Mike gave a short presentation about our relations with the FSS and the MAPS. Mike took over the
38 reins at FSS when Bob Dunham flew West a year ago. Bob Weston is the CIO, Ken Ramsey is the
39 MAPS liaison and Linda Dean is the Treasurer. The FSS is asking all the SSS members to consider
40 donating any artifacts memorabilia they might have to continue to preserve the legacy of the F-100
41 at MAPS. The F-100 should be remembered in time, not lost in time.
42
43
44
45

1 **6. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes.** A motion to approve the Minutes, as submitted, of the SSS
2 Membership Meeting held April 11, 2013 was received from the floor and a second was also
3 received. There was no discussion. The Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
4

5 **7. Bylaws Changes.** Elections Committee Chairman Dewey Clawson passed out copies of 5
6 proposed changes to the SSS Bylaws. These changes are in Attachment 3, Needed SSS Bylaws
7 changes. Each change was explained and discussion and questions were asked for. One member
8 asked if the recall petition signatures had to be in writing and it was explained that they could be in
9 any format, electronic or hard copy. There being no other discussion, motions to approve each
10 change in turn were received from the floor, seconded and approved unanimously by voice vote.
11

12 **8. Les Leavoy Capt America Award.** This year the Les Leavoy Capt. America Award is presented
13 to our oldest member, 94 year old Perry Lusby. Perry was able to attend this year but his award will
14 be sent to him.
15

16 **9. Members Comments.** President Shepperd asked for comments from the floor about the location
17 of the next reunion. He proposed holding the 2017 reunion in Las Vegas and then considering
18 alternating between Vegas and another location every two years. He pointed out some of the
19 advantages of Las Vegas: We can better gauge the membership reaction to changes in location, it
20 decrease the rancor in the organization, the Gold Coast has been remodeled, The rooms are relatively
21 inexpensive, airfare is cheaper, we can compare the Gold Coast to other hotels before making any
22 decisions.
23

24 Al Strasser voiced his opinion that we should rotate between Vegas and other locations.
25

26 Joe Vincent requested that more reunion time be allowed for visiting with friends.
27

28 President Shepperd asked for comments regarding increasing the dues at some point in the future.
29 One member expressed his concern that this might drive away members and we would have a net
30 loss in income. Dave Hatten mentioned that all those who have paid ahead would then be
31 “grandfathered” at the current rate for those years.
32

33 Ron Miller suggested that we look at a Life membership option. Shep replied that that is a good idea
34 and we should also query some other organizations about their experiences with Life Membership
35 programs.
36

37 John Schulz suggested we get a general sense of the membership as to how many are in favor of
38 raising the dues. This was done and a show of hands showed a wide support for this.
39

40 Bill Barnitz commented that he would not have been able to get to the NMUSAF and meet such a
41 great bunch of folks had the reunion not been in Dayton. He expressed his opinion that moving the
42 reunion around and raising dues was a very good idea.
43

44 Frank Miller commented that he had trouble paying his first dues and that system needs to be
45 adjusted. He also suggested that shortening the time between reunions might be advisable.
46

1 Ken Ramsey Commented that MAPS has a Life Membership program but does not encourage it
2 because the income stream stops.

3
4 Darryl Hubbard commented that the reunion attendees list was not available on the web site, even
5 though there was a “clicker” to call it up. Medley pointed out that “clicker” downloaded the list, but
6 did not display it. You then have to go to wherever your computer puts downloads to access the list.
7

8 A former TWA pilot commented that the TWA pilots had to raise their dues because they had a
9 program similar to a Life Membership program and despite many cost cutting measures, they did not
10 have the income to cover expenses.

11
12 One member suggested a multiple tier dues program, Silver Gold, platinum, etc. where each higher
13 level would entail a higher dues payment.

14
15 President Shepperd once again thanked The BOD for their work and especially thanked Hoppy
16 Hopkins for his work as CEO/ED/Reunion Organizer.

17
18 **10. Adjournment.** A Motion heard from the floor to adjourn the meeting received a second and,
19 there being no discussion, passed by unanimous voice vote. Accordingly, President Don Shepperd
20 adjourned the meeting at 1622 hours EDT.

21
22 Attachments:

- 23 1. President’s power point
- 24 2. Membership history as of 6 Apr 2015
- 25 3. Needed SSS Bylaws changes

26
27
28 **Respectfully Submitted:**

Approved and Adopted:

29
30
31 _____
32 **Jim Williford, Executive Secretary**

Donald Shepperd, Chairman

33
34
35 _____
36 **Date**

Date