

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

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the **Super Sabre Society** was held by teleconference on 28 December 2018 pursuant to the provisions of Article III, paragraph 9 of the By-laws of the **Super Sabre Society**.

1. **Roll Call.** Roll was taken by Jim Williford, Executive Secretary. All Board Members were present.
2. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by the SSS President, Don Shepperd at 1330 hours CST on 28 December 2018. The minutes of the 19 June 2018 Board Meeting were approved.
  - a. Board Members Present
    - i. Don Shepperd, President/ Chairman
    - ii. Eddie Bracken, Vice President/Vice Chairman
    - iii. Leo Mansuetti, Executive Director/CEO
    - iv. Dick Pietro, Director-at-Large
    - v. Jim Williford, Executive Secretary
  - b. Officers Present
    - i. R. Medley Gatewood, Publisher and “Editor Emeritus” of the *Intake*
    - ii. JJ Schulz, Editor of the *Intake*
    - iii. Win Reither, Chief Information Officer
    - iv. Dewey Clawson, Membership Committee and Election Committee Chair
    - v. Dave Hatten, Chief Financial Officer
    - vi. Pete Collins, Legal advisor
  - c. Others Attending – (at the invitation of the President)
    - i. Tom Griffith, incoming President of SSS
    - ii. Bill Gorton, former President of SSS
    - iii. Hoppy Hopkins, former Executive Director/CEO of SSS
3. **President’s Remarks.** General Shepperd plans to quietly ride into the sunset on 1 January 2019. He’ll be sending out two final messages. First will be an update on the “rock” with some pictures. Next is a “look ahead” which will be run by Tom Griffith and back by the board then sent out. Shep will not be sending any more communications to the Board and anything he wants to add will go to Tom Griffith. Shep then introduced both Tom Griffith, our President 1 Jan 2019, and Leo Mansuetti, our current CEO, to the Board, and welcomed them.

#### 4. **Officer Reports:**

- a. Membership, Dewey Clawson submitted a report to the Board (attached). In the last six months we've lost about six (6) members and are still looking for around 85 who have not yet paid their dues. He expects to see a continued drop of about 20 to 30 members this year.
- b. Chief Information Officer, Win Reither submitted a report to the Board (attached). He reported that the "rock" donations now totaled \$27,710. Jack Paddock did a great job setting up the donation procedure. MB has 951 bios completed – truly remarkable. Win recommended a year-end bonus for both which was voted on and approved.
- c. **Intake** Publisher, Medley Gatewood said he was on schedule for issue #39 which would be out in two months. There were plenty of inputs for the issue and it remained very popular. **Intake** Editor, JJ Schulz indicated that issues would be available to the public on whatever schedule the Board decided. However, the **Intake** would be accessed through a link with a preamble which clearly clarified what was contained. Shepperd indicated that we would have a full and open discussion on the procedures for making issues of the **Intake** public. This would be done in the coming year under Tom Griffith.
- d. Legal Advisor, Pete Collins stated for the new Board members that we had D & O insurance coverage for all Directors and Officers at a cost of about \$995 per year. This is the standard and recommended coverage for our organization. For events such as the Fort Wayne flying, we bought additional coverage through Dean Cutshall policy.
- e. Treasurer Dave Hatten revised the "rock" donations upward to over \$28,000. He said we now had \$124,640 in the bank with \$92,714 in unrestricted assets.

#### 5. **Old Business:**

- a. Shepperd reported that the elections were completed. In a very classy move, Tom Griffith called both Les Frasier and Herk Herculson to thank them for running and received their full support as we move ahead.
- b. The next elections coming up are for Vice President, Eddie Bracken who will be stepping down after 8 years, and Dick Pietro who will also be stepping down. The election will occur in two years. Both positions are very important. Dewey indicated that Wild Apricot had some problems during our Presidential election that he will work on.
- c. The rock project cost is around \$5,000 and we collected \$28,000. Shep recommend we use \$10,000 of the excess and donate it to the MAPS specifically to support their F-100 initiatives. We will work with the FSS to determine the best procedure and timing for this donation which will be Tom Griffith's first initiative as our President. The Board approved the \$10,000 donation. Leo then talked about his recent visit to the museum. He was accompanied by Mike and Linda Dean from the FSS on a two-hour tour conducted by Ken Ramsey. He was very impressed and pleased with what they had done. Medley commented that MAPS was one of five museums across the country that received a copy of every **Intake** magazine. Shepperd then explained that the Friends of the Super Sabre (FSS) was started by Bob Dunham with the goal of building a museum in Texas. The museum was beyond their reach and they have moved their assets to MAPS. However, they will be the organization who will carry on our legacy when we are finally gone.

6. **New Business:** Don Shepperd

- a. Don Shepperd and Rose met with Tom and Ginger Griffith in Phoenix. Shep provided a “dump” of everything SSS which along with Bill Gorton’s earlier “dump” has given Tom everything he needs to know about the SSS. This is a lot and Tom will need some time and help from the Board to digest it all.
- b. The “Way Ahead” from Shep provides a stretch goal for enhancing our legacy. It envisions biographies from all members, including photos, video interviews, and links to *Intake* articles and books, etc. Shep will work the Tucson area, Butch Viccellio will cover the northwest/Washington area, and Shep and Pietro will work Phoenix. This will go a long way toward the stretch goal and set an example for others. Dick Pietro said that the Smithsonian Wall of Honor includes a paid-for biography and photo for everyone on the wall...we need to follow-up on this area.
- c. Budget forecast has been pretty simple up to now. We’ve got the *Intake* and the Web site which run about \$24,000 each plus some small corporate expenses. But our income is coming down.
- d. Shep will propose in his Way Ahead message that we raise the dues to \$50 per year beginning in 2020. In addition, he will propose a capital donation of \$100 for sustainment of our funding.
- e. Adding minutes to the Web site has not been on the radar although we agreed to do it some time ago. In the spirit of transparency, we should begin to include our Board of Directors minutes on the Web site. We will start with the minutes from this 28 December 2018 meeting. Since no one has asked to see any of our minutes in the last four years, we won’t go backwards to retrieve older minutes. (Incoming President, Tom Griffith concurred with this position). Win Reither suggested that we use a pdf format that cannot be changed or tampered with.
- f. Discussion about putting copies of the *Intake* on the Web site was wide-ranging. In summary, Medley is on board with adding issues in an orderly manner, recommending holding copies of the last six issues on a rolling basis. Medley, Win and Tom will have to resolve the process. Eddie Bracken asked to be included in these discussions.
- g. Leo discussed the San Antonio reunion. The main issue involved the seating capacity for dinner at the Menger Hotel. The dining room can handle 28 tables of ten persons each = 280 seated for dinner – we normally expect 300 to 350 attendees. Ray Casey from the Military Reunion Planners seems to have dropped the ball on this one. Leo has looked at other venues within walking distance, but that almost doubles the price. He’s checked at Randolph AFB, but transportation is an additional \$20 per person and the facility requires some expansion at additional costs. The Lackland “All Ranks” Club is said to be inadequate for a number of reasons. Expansion at the Menger to the foyer and moving chairs into the banquet area for entertainment is an option that is being further evaluated. At the current time we have no speaker. These and other issues are still being worked.

7. **Adjourned to Executive Session:**

8. **Reconvened to Open Session:**

- a. It was agreed that the Board Meeting in San Antonio would be held on Wed, 15 May at 1600 local.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 1519 CST.

