

## General Membership Meeting, 18 May 2019

A meeting of the General Membership of the Super Sabre Society was held on 18 May 2019 in conjunction with the San Antonio Reunion. The meeting took place in the ballroom of the Menger Hotel.

The SSS President, Tom Griffith called the meeting to order. He expressed his thanks to the members for attending the reunion. He said he was humbled and proud to have been elected the President of the SSS. Further he was honored to replace Don Shepperd. Tom then presented Don Shepperd with a plaque commemorating his service to the SSS. Tom thanked him for his great leadership and the many things he had done to further the organization. Don said “it had been a distinct honor -and sometimes a pleasure – to serve as your President”.

Tom’s vision for the future was to continue Shepperd’s efforts to strengthen our legacy – in telling the world what the F-100 was and who the guys were who flew her. We want to pass on what we did and how we did it to our kids and our grandkids down the line. In addition, he wanted to increase the input from our members by using a series of surveys to communicate. We’re going to be asking a lot of questions of you our members.

Turning to finances, Tom reminded us that we had an ever-declining membership and consequently our income from membership dues is decreasing every year. The fix is to raise membership dues to \$50 per year. This small \$15 from each member would off-set our annual burn rate of around \$5000 and would keep the organization healthy. The dues increase will begin on 1 January 2020. If you’ve paid ahead, you’ll be grandfathered.

Audience input: I’m blind and can no longer read the *Intake*. I plan to stop the magazine. I will need some sort of reminder about dues and other matters that come up. Answer from Dewey Clawson, Membership Chairman: We’ve got lots of ways to keep in touch with our membership. For those who fall delinquent in dues our committee follows up with e-mail, letters, and phone calls. We normally find everyone – some are in retirement homes and some are in hospitals and some have flown west. We do a pretty extensive search...we can find you.

Audience input with a little levity: Have you projected what the dues will be for the last man standing?

We’ll also be setting up an Endowment (a General and a Named) with the help of our lawyer, Pete Collins. This is a place where you can designate some of your estate to go. We’ve already taken in three \$1,000 donations. Of course, we’ll take donations at any time. We’re a “Last man standing” organization and the Endowment money will go to the Friends of the Super Sabre (FSS-another 501C organization) and MAPS for the express purpose of keeping our web site up to date and running in the years ahead.

Audience input: Are we a 501C organization? Answer: We’re a “501C-19 Veterans, tax exempt organization”.

Don Shepperd then took the floor to talk about the “Rock” at the Fighter Weapons School at Nellis AFB, NV. He thanked everyone for their help in funding the monument. It sits right across the walk from the F-86 rock as you walk into the FWS. Now all the kids (FWS students) who walk into the school will see our memorial. It’s a great memorial and is in a great location. He then introduced MB Barrett, our writer, editor, historian for the web site and who is critical to our legacy. She’s worth her weight in gold. MB said she is looking for stories – stories about you and the men you flew with – where you were and what you did. She’ll help you write them and she’ll get them published on the web.

We’re looking into making a film about the F-100 and the guys like us who flew it over the years. It was the first of our supersonic fighters and carried the war in Vietnam. I’ve contacted Mark (Vic’s son) Vizcarro who made the movie “Thud Pilot” for his father. He and his brother are world class film makers. You can find “Thud Pilot” on Amazon. The Quiet Birdmen and Joe Ashy have both offered to help.

Audience input: How many members do we have right now? Answer: 1289; and we’ve lost around 15 this year.

Our next reunion site will be one of the survey questions.

Audience input from Bob “Herk” Herculson: We talked a little about this issue at the Rock ceremony and I’m familiar with the issues surrounding the Gold Coast. I know Michael xxxxx, a really pro-military supporter. He owns the Sub Point in Las Vegas which could be a great location. It’s a little farther out which would probably help with the costs.

Our CEO, Leo Mansuetti has recently visited the Military Aircraft Museum (MAPS) in Canton, OH. It’s very impressive with lots of restored aircraft, a great maintenance section, a simulator and classes for kids. They are building a ballroom and a dining room which should be finished next year. It will be right next to the F-100 area – the SSME (Super Sabre Memorial Exhibit). It going to be around for a long time. It’s first class and a good place to put our energy and our money.

Win Reither our Chief Information Officer and keeper of the web site stated that our web site was unique – unlike anything else. The main draw is lots of pictures and first-person stories from our members.

Eddie Bracken, the SSS Vice President, echoed Win’s comments. He said it’s going to carry on our legacy. It takes about \$26,000 a year to keep up. That’s why we raised the dues. The future of the SSS is the web site. We’ll use the Endowment that Pete Collins is setting up to keep the web site going in the future.

JJ Shultz our *Intake* editor is looking for stories to put into the *Intake*. The stories will continue into the web site. Leo said he’s trying to get his wife to write a story...there’s a lot of interest there and a lot of stories to tell.

Tom Griffith said the ***Intake*** was a world class magazine. He thanked Medley Gatewood and JJ Shultz for their tremendous efforts.

Joe Ashy then took the floor for a few comments. He focused on matching our mission to that of the Joint Staff. The F-100 has served for over 40 years. What have we contributed? What is our legacy? Have we supported the Joint Missions of the United States? We need to get credit for what we've done. There are four main missions for the Air Force. Here is how we tie in to the bigger picture.

1. Air-to-air combat – our initial mission in the 50s was air defense
2. Deterrence – our nuc alert from England, Germany, Italy, and Turkey
3. Interdiction – that's what our *Mistys* did along the Ho Chi Mien Trail, and what some of us flew in Cambodia and Laos – we killed 16,000 VC in our interdiction sorties!
4. Air support to land maneuver forces – most of our over 350,000 hun missions in the south were close air support of the Army

Finally, as a drone the F-100 did missile training and advanced missile testing  
We made a real contribution. These were manly times...manly jets, manly missions, manly men flying them! This is a starting point. We need to develop our story from here with your inputs.

Tom Griffith adjourned to Happy Hour!