

*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 in conjunction with the biannual reunion in San Antonio, Texas on 15 May 2019 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. Dick Pietro attended via telephone. All other Board Members and Officers of the SSS were present.
2. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by the SSS President, Tom Griffith at 1400 hours CST on 15 May 2019. The minutes of the 28 December 2018 Board Meeting were previously approved via e-mail and have been sent to the Web Site.
 - a. Board Members Present
 - i. Tom Griffith, President/ Chairman
 - ii. Eddie Bracken, Vice President/Vice Chairman
 - iii. Leo Mansuetti, Executive Director/CEO
 - iv. Dick Pietro, Director-at-Large – attended via desktop telephone
 - v. Jim Williford, Executive Secretary
 - b. Officers Present
 - i. 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. Don Shepperd, former President of SSS
3. **President’s Remarks.** General Griffith welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He expressed that “he was humbled at replacing Don Shepperd whom he has known for some 50 years. He has my utmost admiration and respect.” The learning curve has been steep.
4. **Officer Reports:**
 - a. **CEO, Leo Mansuetti** provided an overview of the reunion activities. The events planned for the reunion should provide ample fun with plenty to do both scheduled

and on your own. One highlight included going to the Rod Lewis aircraft museum and see the *Glacier Girl*, the P-38 which was recovered from 268 feet of ice in Greenland.

- b. **Membership, Dewey Clawson** submitted a report to the Board (attached). Eddie Bracken asked to review our procedures for approving Associate Members. Dewey responded that the individual needed to apply to the membership committee with two active members as sponsors. The criteria is based on “what have you done for/in/about the F-100 lately”. He reminded us that we aren’t trying to build membership – we are a “last man standing organization.” Dewey said the membership committee sent their recommendation to the SSS CEO for his decision. Honorary Membership requires approval of the full Board. Eddie Bracken had conducted a study of Associate Members (directed by Bill Gorton). He looked at other organizations such as the Daedalians and River Rats, concluding that adding associates was not the objective of the SSS. His results were briefed in Dayton and resoundingly approved by the general membership. Dick Pietro stated that the “last man standing” needed to be an F-100 pilot – and that his passing would be the end of our SSS organization. Tom Griffith agreed and found that associate members did not conflict with the “last man standing” concept. Leo stated that he was happy with the current procedure. **It was agreed to “let the current procedure ride”.**
- c. **Chief Information Officer, Win Reither** submitted an extensive report to the Board (attached). In summary, we average around 600 web site visits per week over the year. However, we’ve had some real spikes such as 5800 visits in one day after Shep’s Memorial Day message. These are boosted on Facebook for an even greater viewership. Our Facebook connection essentially triples our Web site viewership – and it’s free. Win then praised MB Barrett for her energy, and excellence as a writer and editor and Jack Paddock for his hard work on the Web site. Eddie Bracken echoed the legacy aspect of the Web site. He said we needed to look to the future and needed to gradually step away from our quest for more and more biographies and strive to reduce our costs with Wild Apricot. Win acknowledged Eddie’s concerns and was working toward that objective. However, changing Wild Apricot would be difficult.
- d. **Intake Publisher, Medley Gatewood** indicated that we are on target with our July issue. The expenses for the *Intake* remained essentially the same year-after-year at around \$22,000. The value comes from the member support through storytelling. Win will take the best stories and migrate them to the Web site bio-link. However, the quality of the photos will be somewhat lost because the Web site photos are compressed. **Intake Editor, JJ Schulz** offered his professional opinion and said our *Intake* magazine was as good and as attractive a product as he had ever seen and he credited it to Medley’s leadership.

- e. **Treasurer Dave Hatten** indicated that we had \$108,500 in the bank. He asked what was the least amount we wanted keep in the bank. The money was NOT collecting any interest. Shep asked if there were any IRS problem with the “rock” donations going to other legacy projects. Dave replied that there was a question about submitting a Schedule B, but that had been challenged as we had no donations above \$5,000 and we should prevail. Pete Collins pointed out that the dues increase to \$50 per year would cover the expected burn rate of approximately \$5,000 per year. Shep said that we should not confuse any collection of money or dues increase with our endowment initiative. **After some discussion, it was agreed to invest \$50,000 in a 1-year interest bearing instrument.**
- f. **Legal Advisor, Pete Collins** passed out a Draft Endowment. The draft recommended three (then dropped to two) funds. The first was a “General Fund” and the second was a “Named Fund”, both controlled by the SSS Treasurer. When we all die, the endowment would transfer to another 501 charitable foundation with the condition that it be used to maintain the Web Site. Eddie Bracken said we needed to think about what happens to the cash we have left outside of the endowment when we all die. **That’s something the Board will have to address. It was agreed that Pete Collins would rework the draft, consistent with IRS regulations, using the \$10,000 general fund and the \$50,000 named fund numbers. He and Dave Hatten would get a CPA review and present the Endowment for the Super Sabre back to the board for final approval.**
- g. **Vice President, Eddie Bracken** had commented throughout and had nothing more to add.

5. New Business

- a. Tom Griffith said he was pleased with the job descriptions which everyone had submitted. He was looking for an end-to-end description of what everyone did to clear up any overlap problems and to be able to leave behind a clear textbook of how we ran the organization. Medley won the prize by submitting a 7-page input. Medley asked if the dues increase was immediate – Yes, effective on 1 January 2020. Dewey asked about “grandfathering” as some members had paid well in advance (some 5 to 10+ years ahead). **It was agreed to grandfather everyone.**
- b. Tom Griffith stated that the MAPS museum was extremely important and that he had intended to visit them earlier but was side-tracked. He also fully supported our relationship with the FSS.
- c. Dick Pietro stated that Hoppy wanted the Toasting Cabinet to be sent to the Udvar Hazy and be put next to the F-100 (#440). **Shep recommended that Hoppy touch base with the museum where he had several contacts and that Tom Griffith as the SSS President send a formal letter with the request.** Eddie said he didn’t think we should be shipping the Toasting Cabinet around because of the

high cost of packing and shipping it. After much discussion, **it was agreed that we will ship the Toasting Cabinet to our next reunion site and simultaneously feel out the Udvar Hazy as its final resting place. If Udvar Hazy agrees, they get it.**

- d. Tom Griffith said the only future expenditures he could see was the idea of developing an F-100 film to memorialize the story of the Hun. He has spoken with Mark **Vizcarra** (son of Vic) who made Thud Pilot for his father. It won several awards and is on Amazon today. Other players include a friend of MB who does the same type of work. Some films about Vietnam have been very negative. You tend to lose editorial control. Additionally, these films are made with the objective of selling them. Shep had tried this with a Misty film and found it to be very expensive.
 - e. Finally, Tom Griffith suggested using a survey with the general membership to get more input. Win and Medley recommended using e-mail for the surveys.
 - f. Leo continued the discussion on the Toasting Cabinet. He likes seeing it at our reunions. However, one of the drawbacks is the expense of moving it about. Eddie said you had to establish “ownership” for the cabinet... Leo said that it is currently held by Crow Wilson who will drive it about. **The decision was made to leave it with Crow Wilson while we contacted the Smithsonian. If and when the Smithsonian accepts the cabinet, the plan is to give it to them as soon as they will accept it.**
 - g. Leo then turned to off-year activities. Flying Dean Cutshall’s F-100 at Fort Wayne has been popular (but he’s not a young man) and other F-100s are hard to find. Other pilots who own airplanes are difficult to schedule. For them it’s a matter of getting in-place wherever we are and then working out the time to build a flight schedule. Many of these pilots also fly for the airlines which also presents a problem. Leo will continue to work the flying aspect. Leo also said there are things other than flying that we could consider.
 - h. Our next reunion site was briefly discussed and will be featured in our first members survey. The previous idea of “every-other-year in Las Vegas” was a discussion only and not a firm commitment.
 - i. Finally, **we voted to stick with professional planners (MRP) to organize our next reunion.** There are just too many little things that go into putting a reunion together.
 - j. Pete Collins said this year’s reunion had been super and thanked Leo for a first-class job. This was echoed by all members present. Hear, hear!
6. Tom Griffith again thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the Board Meeting.