



483RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION

(1943) Ephrata, WA – MacDill Field, Tampa, FL – Steparone, San Severo-Pisa, Italy (1945)

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NUMBER 4

President's Message



Is it as hard for you to believe that we are quickly coming up on the end of 2014 as it is for me? Where in the world did this year go? We have just celebrated The Holiday Season is fast approaching. Amazing!

I so enjoyed Col. (Ret) Pat Bartness's presentation on the Museum of Aviation and Foundation at our New Orleans Reunion. In my mind his being at the Reunion did much to smooth over the negative feelings so many of us have had with the Museum and the handling of the 483rd Bombardment Group's archives, displays and lack of knowledge about them from some of the staff. Pat and I have been corresponding and are working on creating a new agreement with the Museum. I will definitely give you reports of our progress in coming newsletters.

Good news! The website for the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Reunion Association (www.483rd.org) is being built and it is my intention that it will be functional the first or second week in January.

Next I'd like to give you the statistics from our New Orleans Reunion. To the best of my knowledge we had 13 Veterans, 2 Wives, 4 Widows, 25 Friends and 19 Guests. Our newest Friend member is a lifetime member and the great grandson of J.D. Coogler! He even had his picture taken with the Veterans.

Our next reunion is going to be in Albuquerque, New Mexico and our Reunion Chair, Jana Coogler, "hit the ground running" immediately following our New Orleans Reunion and now has a date set (October 13 thru October 17, 2015), signed a contract

with the Sheraton Uptown in Albuquerque and has set the wheels in motion for our activities. Thank you Jana for taking on this big job! By the way, have you ever wondered what Albuquerque means? It is said the name developed from one of several Spanish forms of the Latin *albus quercus* or "white oak". However, Western folklore offers a different explanation, tracing the name Albuquerque to the Arabic 'Al-Barquq', meaning "the plum", and the derivative Galician word 'albaricoque', the "apricot". The apricot was brought to New Mexico by Spanish settlers, possibly as early as 1743. As the story goes, the settlement of La Ciudad de Albaricoque was established near an apricot tree. As frontiersmen were unable to correctly pronounce the Spanish (Galician) word, they pronounced it as Albuquerque.

In closing, I would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah!

Sandee West Maeda

Note from the editor -

In case you're wondering about the newsletter format change from booklet-style to letter-style, at the New Orleans reunion the Board of Directors voted to use the letter format to reduce cost of printing and mailing. It contains a little less content, but I trust you will still enjoy reading it.



TAPS – Deceased Members Not Previously Reported in Newsletter			
Name	Squad	Date	Reported By
ANEMA, THEODORE	816	07-21-14	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
BAUM, ROBERT E	815	07-21-14	DRISTINE D BAUM
CLENDENIN, JARREL A	815	02-02-14	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
CUDDY, NORMAN J	483	09-06-96	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
DEAN, DAVID E	817	06-03-14	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
FINDLEY, JAMES G	816	11-04-14	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
GAGANIS, MICHAEL J	840	12-18-13	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
GRASSMAN, CHARLES	815	02-01-14	GINNY GRASSMAN
GROGNET, CLEMENTS J JR	483	01-14-14	EUNICE GROGNET
HABER, MARTIN W	817	05-17-14	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
HESS, CHARLES J	816	04-03-14	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
MCCANN, ARTHUR	817	06-06-12	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
MCPETERS, HANNIBL E	815	10-26-14	BRIAN MCPETERS
MILLER, ANTHONY J	815	10-04-13	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
O'DONNELL, JOSEPH P	815	09-23-14	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
OLSEN, PERRY A	815	05-16-09	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
PFLIEDERER, GEORGE	840	08-14-14	ANTHONY ZUELSDORF
RUIZ, RUDOLPH	817	05-18-14	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
SPIVEY, JAMES A	840	09-30-14	CONNIE WALKER
WARREN, JIM D	817	00-00-00	POST OFFICE
WELD, WAYNE K	816	06-22-98	GUY VENIER (OBIT)

Membership News

Dear Comrades:

I have tried to contact a few members but I find that their phone numbers are not valid or disconnected. It is imperative that the Association have a valid number of our members since it is the only way we can contact some one at a moments notice.

It also appears that many members have switched their landline phone to a cell phone and that is why many have non-valid numbers. I have counted approximately 107 members who have no phone numbers listed in the roster. I have asked this before; to make sure I have their phone numbers. Members who are off the mailing list are not an expense to the Association but the members who receive newsletter should have a valid address and phone number. I don't know how many newsletters are sent to the non members and discarded. So please check the roster and fill in the empty spaces.

Thank you and have a nice winter.

Guy



Publicity Director's Message

My publicity director's message is a day late for submission, but I will write it anyway. Maybe this habit of putting things off can be blamed on old age. The utilities companies don't honor that excuse, they just shut off the lights and telephone, so I pay up; so here is my message:

The weather here is rather windy and a little chilly, but that didn't stop 47,000 football fans from watching the Ducks destroy the Beavers in their annual Civil War football game here in Corvallis.

The Oregon Ducks were ahead by 30 points at halftime and most of the fans left at that time.

The month of December is reserved for the Holidays, but come January and into the New Year, I will turn my attention to Albuquerque. The first order of business is to learn how to spell the host city's name in the state of New Mexico and a little history of the formation of this area. In the meantime, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2015.

Sincerely,

George



**483rd Bomb Group 35th Annual Reunion
Minutes of the Business Meeting
September 13, 2014
New Orleans, LA**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Sandee West Maeda at 9:03 A.M.

II. INVOCATION

President Sandee West Maeda gave the invocation.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of allegiance was led by President Sandee West Maeda.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Leon Waldman reported as follows:

As of September 1, 2014,

Vanguard Mutual Fund	\$24,324.00
Treasurer's Checking Account	\$2,235.00
Membership Checking Account	\$3,518.19
PX Account	\$160.00
Clipped Wings	<u>\$434.00</u>
GRAND TOTAL	\$30,671.19*

*The above does not include the reunion account.

V. APPROVAL OF THE 2013 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Minutes approved as published in December 2013 Newsletter

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Chaplaincy

President Sandee West Maeda reported that Rev. Bryan Jones has resigned.

B. Membership

Chairman Guy Venier reported as follows:

Reporting Period: September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014

BEGINNING BALANCE \$3,339.17

Income:

Life Member Dues	\$600.00	
Regular Member Dues	\$1,375.00	
Account Interest	\$0.00	
Misc. Donations	\$2,845.00	
TOTAL INCOME		\$4,820.00

Expenses:

Stamps	(\$95.00)	
Postage	(\$36.32)	
Supplies	\$0.00	
Misc.	(\$89.66)	
Bulk Mail Permit Fee	(\$420.00)	
Bulk Mail Postage	\$0.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		(\$640.98)
TRANSFER TO TREASURER		(\$4,000.00)
ENDING BALANCE		\$3,518.19

Membership Totals:

Veteran/Spouse Honorary Life Members	121	
Veteran/Spouse Life Members	184	
Veteran/Spouse Active Members	37	
Veteran/Spouse Semi-Active Members	11	
Veteran/Spouse Inactive Members	281	
TOTAL VETERAN MEMBERS		634
Friend Honorary Life Members	1	
Friend Life Members	164	
Friend Active Members	4	
Friend Semi-Active Members	5	
Friend Inactive Members	88	
TOTAL FRIEND MEMBERS		262
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP		896

C. Clipped Wings

Chairman Sheryl Norton reported as follows:

There are six clipped wings writers and 24 recipients. Contact Sheryl if you would like to become a Clipped Wings writer.

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$483.00
Stamps	(\$49.00)
ENDING BALANCE	\$434.00

D. Publicity, PX, Archives

Chairman George Stovall reported as follows:

Publicity:

George is a Clipped Wings writer and believes writing for Clipped Wings is the best way to publicize.

Archives:

George visited the Warner Robins archives and was unimpressed with the current 483rd display.

ENDING BALANCE	\$160.00
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E. 2014 Reunion

Chairman Sandee West Maeda reported as follows:

There are 67 attendees at this year's reunion of which 14 are veterans. Sandee stated that she was working with the hotel to reduce the additional room charges for the group rooms based on actual booked room and food credits. At the time of this meeting, the reunion is close to breakeven.

F. Newsletter

Chairman Bruce Coogler reported as follows:

Five newsletters were printed this year and this year's roster addendum was printed as a supplement to the December newsletter. Future newsletters will be six pages and mailed as a letter to save additional costs. Over the past year, there were 2,201 newsletters sent in U.S. mail and 204 that were e-mailed. Contact Bruce if you would like to be added to the electronic newsletter distribution list.

Expenses:

Printing the newsletters	(\$2,231.55)
Printing the roster addendum	(\$413.61)
TOTAL EXPENSES	(\$2,645.16)

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Combined Reunion

President Sandee West Maeda reported that the potential for a combined reunion is no longer worth pursuing.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Chaplain Vacancy

The chaplain vacancy will be filled by Richard Flaherty.

B. Future Reunions

1. Number of Days

The 2014 reunion was reduced by one day. The option to reduce future reunions by one more day was discussed. Removing the additional day will not greatly affect hotel negotiations, but it would assist in individual and tour costs. Regardless of whether the number of reunion days is decreased, attendees have the option to come early and/or stay later at the group rate. Dennis West motioned to keep the reunion days from Tuesday through Saturday, Harold Chubbs seconded. **The motion carried (2 opposed); the 2015 reunion will stay Tuesday through Saturday.**

2. Day Room

The cost for the Day Room is roughly \$400-500 per year. For some hotels, this room cost can be deferred if the reunion meets its negotiated hotel room quota. In addition, some hotels prefer groups not to bring their own food, therefore future Day Rooms may offer only beverages.

C. Location of 2015 Reunion

Jana Coogler will chairman for the 2015 reunion. Dennis West motioned to accept Albuquerque, NM as the 2015 reunion location, Harold Chubbs seconded. **The motion carried (1 opposed); the 2015 483rd Bomb Group reunion will be in Albuquerque, NM.**

D. President-Elect

Dennis West nominated veteran Ken Hoffman as president-elect, Kathy Hetrick seconded. Ken stated that the group will have to make some tough decisions moving forward. **The nomination carried (1 opposed); Ken Hoffman is the new President-Elect.**

E. Donation to Warner Robbins Museum

The Board of Directors again received disconcerting feedback regarding the Warner Robins archives and museum exhibit. In the original agreement with the museum, the 483rd agreed to pay Warner Robins \$25,000 for the maintenance of a 483rd Bomb Group exhibit and an archive. Leon Waldman stated the 483rd has given Warner Robins at least \$68,000 over the past 20 years. Due to unease regarding the archives last year, Dennis West invited Col. Pat Bartness (Museum of Aviation Foundation at Warner Robins) to be the speaker at the 2014 reunion banquet dinner. Sheryl Norton mentioned that regardless of a donation, Dick Roberts (Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame) said the museum foundation will still maintain the 483rd exhibit and archives. The possibility of splitting the archives and the exhibit, sending the archives to Maxwell Field and keeping the exhibit at Warner Robins, was also discussed. Dennis West motioned to allow the Board of Directors the discretion to send up to \$2,500 to Warner Robins after discussion with Col. Bartness, Mark Halebsky seconded. **The motion carried (2 opposed); the Board of Directors has the discretion to send a donation up to \$2,500 to Warner Robins after discussion with Col. Bartness.**

F. Scholarship Awards for Cadets

Leon Waldman motions to give the cadets \$1,000 each at this year's and next year's banquets, Dennis West seconded. **The motion carried; the cadets will be given \$1,000 this year and next year.**

G. Other

i. Reunion Badges

Charlie Flaherty recommended printing badge information on both sides of the badge.

ii. Thanks

Don Robinson thanks President Sandee West Maeda for her leadership.

Kathy Hetrick thanks the Cooglers for their Day Room contributions.

iii. 2013 Reunion CDs

Contact Mark Halebsky if you would like a CD of his 2013 reunion photographs.

iv. 483rd Bomb Group Website

President Sandee West Maeda is speaking with people regarding the 483rd Bomb Group website.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Sandee West Maeda at 10:27 A.M.

2015 Reunion – Albuquerque, New Mexico

October 13 – 17, 2015

Mark your calendars now for our 2015 reunion! It will be held October 13 - 17, 2015 in Albuquerque. The reunion team has already been busy getting the hotel secured, planning the activities, and selecting the tours and attractions for the week.

Our host hotel will be the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown, located at 2700 Louisiana Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM, 87110. The room rate is \$105 per night and if you would like to extend your time in Albuquerque, the rate is valid for the 2 days before the reunion and 2 days after. Complimentary breakfast will be available Thursday morning through Sunday morning. If you would like to make your reservations now, you may do so by calling the Sheraton at 800-325-3535 and state that you are attending "483 Bombardment Group Reunion" or online at:

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/483rdBombardment>.

We have a full agenda planned, including these tours and attractions:

- Albuquerque City Tour
- International Balloon Museum
- The Indian Pueblo Culture Center
- National Museum of Nuclear Science and History

- Sandia Peak Tramway and sunset dinner at the base of the Tramway
- More tours are still "in the works"

There are many more fun things to do in Albuquerque (including the Balloon Festival the week before our reunion), so you may want to spend some extra time before or after the reunion to see some of the attractions we are not able to see during the reunion.

2015 will mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and this will be an important reunion for all 483rd members and friends to attend. As was discussed at the business meeting in New Orleans, future reunions will be voted on year-to-year during each reunion. As Ken Hoffman reiterated at the business meeting, we will have a tough decision to make at the Albuquerque reunion - whether to continue having reunions or to call this one our last. Please plan now to attend this reunion and let your voice be heard regarding the future of the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association and its future reunions.

Sincerely,
Jana Coogler

YOUR 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PAST PRESIDENTS

Phillip A. Luetke (Deceased) 1980
William A. Haskins (Deceased) 1981
James V. Reardon (Deceased) 1982-83
Lynn M. Borders (Deceased) 1984
Joseph W. Gauthier (Deceased) 1984
M.L. "Bob" Hoffman 1985 (Deceased)
Harry K. Keller (Deceased) 1986
Donald R. Speegle (Deceased) 1987
James "Russ" Heflin (Deceased) 1988
Evan M. "Jack" Edwards (Deceased) 1989
Ralph H. Simpson (Deceased) 1990
Harry P. Millnamow 1991
William P. Dunn (Deceased) 1992
Edward T. Cotton (Deceased) 1993
Harry D. Wase (Deceased) 1994
Ray H. Whitaker 1995
Harold D. Leyseridge 1996
William I. Jeffis (Deceased) 1997
George F. Stovall 1998
John A. Campbell 1999
Verne H. Cole 2000
Benjamin H. Adams Jr. (Deceased) 2001
Robert W. Mitchell (Deceased) 2002
John P. Nobel 2003
Curtis B. Clark 2004
Fredric A. Hicks 2005
Wilfrid Hebert 2006
Stanton "Mike" Rickey 2007
Ellis Maxey (Deceased) 2008
Jim Ashley 2009
Dennis West 2010, 2011, 2012
Sandee West Maeda 2013, 2014