

International Comanche Society, Inc.

Spring Board Meeting Minutes – Amended July 10, 2010 ***

April 11, 2010 - Orlando , Florida

Roll Call: Board Members Present:
President Bernie Mazurek,
Vice President Dick Kuszyk
Treasurer Don Nelson
SC Tribe Rep Bruce Thumann
NC Tribe Chief Jerry Jesion
SW Tribe Rep Mike Foster - On Skype
NW Tribe Rep Shirley Nelson,
SE Tribe Chief Sally Williams
NE Tribe Chief Keith Johnson
EU Tribe Rep Ben Ayalon - On Skype
CFF President Frank Sargeant
Past President Dave Fitzgerald

Absent Excused

Secretary Alan Burrows
MS Tribe Chief John Johnson
EC Tribe Chief Stewart Campbell
AU Tribe Chief Ian Thomson
WC Tribe Chief Don Ostergard
SA Tribe Chief Russell Knowles

Member Guests :

EU Tribe Kate Burrows,
SC Tribe Chief Bob Cretney
SW Tribe Chief Kristin Winter
SE Tribe Doris Click
NE Tribe Scott Ducey

QUORUM: The meeting opened with 11 voting board members present.
President Bernie Mazurek called the meeting to order at 8:15 am.

1. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

11 Board Members present. 5 ICS Member Guests.

2. Acceptance of Agenda

- **Motion** to Accept the Agenda as presented proposed by Shirley Nelson and Seconded by Sally Williams. Motion Carried Unanimously.

3. Presidents Opening Remarks

The President, Bernie Mazurek presented his opening comments welcoming everyone to the meeting.

He had no further remarks and asked that the meeting commence.

4. Previous Meeting's Minutes

Motion to accept the old and new board meetings minutes that were on the website was proposed by Dick Kuszyk and seconded by Sally Williams. Motion was carried unanimously.

5. Treasurers Report

Treasurer, Don Nelson, said that the 2009 accounts were not yet available for review. 2008 had been a hugely profitable year. He was now doing accrual accounting. This shows that 2009 has \$20,000 profit but this was due to 2 items. The bookkeeping has not yet been contracted out and this was budgeted \$12,000 for 2010. Also the Dayton convention contributed \$11,000 to the ICS funds.

He cautioned the board to spend any monies wisely as the membership is declining on a trend. The economy is hitting everyone and the ICS is not immune. He recommended a dues rate increase. The bylaws say that the rates can be raised by 5% and the last rate increase was about 2-3 years ago.

Dick Kuszyk said that the ICS has the highest dues of any GA organization. Don Nelson responded by saying that 50% of the dues go to the magazine production. Previous years it was 45-48% and last year it was 54%. \$180,000 is spent on the magazine but \$100,000 is received in advertising income.

Kristin Winters asked, if the membership is down, why are payments to Village Press increased?

Bob Cretney asked if there had been any discussions with Village Press to reduce costs for producing the magazine. He also mentioned that there have been comments about informational content in the Flyer and that it is much less than in previous years. He said that maybe we need to look at more interesting content.

Kristen Winter said that back in 1987-1989 there was lots of technical information put in the magazine by Maurice.

Scott Ducey asked if it did not concern the board how much the flyer costs. Don Nelson replied that it was not a concern as it is the primary way to sell the society and to keep the social and non-flying members in the society.

Scott Ducey said that he thought that the costs were excessive and the advertising does not cover the costs. He asked if we could see if anyone could do it cheaper or increase the advertising rates. Dick Kuszyk said that this economy is not good for increasing the rates.

- Motion to accept the Treasurers report by Dave Fitzgerald, Seconded by Dick Kuszyk. Motion unanimously carried.

6. Bookkeeping

Shirley Nelson said that they were checking with accountants for quotes on bookkeeping. However Village Press does the bookkeeping at the moment. They put the membership income into QuickBooks, they send out renewal notices, send a monthly report to the Treasurer, arrange the Flyer advertising billing and receipts, send a monthly advertising account report to the treasurer, maintain inventory sales, give a monthly sales report to the treasurer, track new member and expiring member lists and send a number of other reports to the treasurer.

They now get a bank statement to reconcile and they will also send a report about CFF donations.

If we hire a separate bookkeeper they will be redoing what Village press is already doing. The treasurer is getting all the reports and is keeping a watch on what they are doing. Our recommendation is to let Village Press continue rather than get an outside bookkeeper. She also asked that ICS get an ICS computer so that Village Press and ICS can use it for the accounting and bookkeeping rather than keep using Shirley Nelson's computer being left on all the time.

Don Nelson said that services would be paid for on an hourly basis estimating \$300 per month for the bookkeeping services.

- Motion to give Village Press a 6 month trial for bookkeeping made by Dick Kuszyk. Seconded by Sally Williams. Motion unanimously carried.

Bob Cretney asked if it would be worth just having Village Press do what they have been doing all along and do one annual audit. Don Nelson said that no, it would be more expensive and it is better if we keep a handle on it on a monthly basis not an annual basis.

- Motion to budget \$1200 for a laptop and to update the bookkeeping program and make backups made by Dave Fitzgerald. Jerry Jesion seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

7. Tribe Reports

All submitted Tribe Reports are on file with the Secretary

N W Tribe: Shirley Nelson said that the NW tribe chief was in Europe at this time. But that the tribe needs to make the NW more active and have more fly-ins.

8. Committee Reports:

Marketing Report: Dick Kuszyk said that airworthiness would be the next big marketing program.

Standing Reports: No changes

9. 2009 Convention:

The car rental was a great success as was the breakfast with the vendors. Seminar videos are now online and well worth watching.

10. Young Member Advisory Council:

There are 25 members throughout the country broken into 4 groups. They are focusing on Airworthiness and parts supply and also where ICS should go from here. Dick Kuszyk is mentoring this program and is handing over assignments. He asked if responses could be put on the website.

11. Golden Circle Award:

Dick Kuszyk talked about the Golden Circle Award. This is for lifetime achievement. 30 days before the Old Board convention meeting the Board of Directors will get on the private BOD website and vote for nominees.

12. Insurance:

Kristen Winter said that she had no hard estimates for the insurance for the ICS and the Board. It was not classed as an Aviation risk. Most exposure was to be on the ground at Fly-ins. Directors and Officers insurance will not cover problems at a convention or fly-in. She said to look at basic general liability insurance and get rid of the Directors and Officers insurance. We have coverage for stuff we are not doing (no stockholders or employees) and no coverage for stuff we are doing.

Don Nelson said that he would go to the Insurance Company and get a quote for General Liability Insurance. He will ask the broker if he needs both General Liability and Directors and Officers together.

13. Airworthiness:

Kristen Winter asked where the organization is going for type support. We need someone contracted to provide tech support. Losing members is a trend because the feeling is that the ICS is going in the wrong direction. We can make inroads in Comanche Owners not in the ICS but the comment is that there is not enough type support, parts availability and a lack of airworthiness focus. The feeling is that the magazine is too social and maybe we should put technical information online for members only.

Change is required to survive long term. Maurice did a lot of tech and type support and that has now gone and cannot be replaced on a volunteer basis. Most people with the technical expertise are trying to make a living and can't do it all for free. She proposed that a technical oversight committee should be created with 5 members. There should be a budget of \$50,000-\$100,000 and we should discuss how to raise the funds.

Keith Johnson said that probably what Kristen Winter is suggesting is the way to go but I think the remuneration is too low. It will probably cost \$150,000-\$200,000. I think it needs to be sold to the membership.

Kristen Winter said that it should be an IA with Comanche experience and they are not getting \$200,000 per year. I think up to \$100,000 is more realistic.

Dick Kuszyk said that the Village Press have helped turn the ICS around and now you are proposing changing it all again. We have Zack Grant, Lucky Louque and Cliff Wilewski and we should stay volunteer.

Kristen Winter said that she agreed with the technical committee but doubted if they would have the time to take ICS forward on the Airworthiness Issue. You will not get the people on the Tech committee to commit to the amount of time required.

Shirley Nelson said that she thought is a good idea for the future but that she did not think the ICS could afford it in this economy.

Scott Ducey said he did not think it needed to be done all in one fell swoop. Making \$20,000 per year is not great. We should look at expenses we are paying \$185,000 on the magazine. We should cut it down.

Kristen Winter said there are different companies that do what Village Press does so we don't need the Magazine by Village Press to keep the rest of the services. Dick Kuszyk said that Village Press does the marketing and everything else as well.

Bruce Thumann said I have a maintenance seminar for later this month. I have Matt Kurke and Cliff Wilewski and some other big hitters but I only have 65 people coming and 7 of them are presenters. No-one is signing up for the seminar so where is the interest? He said he had been advertising this seminar for the last 6 months.

Don Nelson said we need to have the technical committee move into a technical oversight committee. We need the technical committee to look into the future issues and then maybe we can look at a part time co-coordinator. Scott Ducey said the numbers are not sustainable over the next 10 years.

Dave Fitzgerald said that not all new members are young. The numbers are unsustainable. This is a dying society but it will take about 15 years to die. 1800-2000 members are magazine members only, they do not participate and are only there for the magazine. There are issues with the aircraft but people step up when there is an issue, not before. We already have all the Flyers available on the website but will put a link on the home page to make it more visible. He thanked Kristen Winter for all her work and for coming to make the presentation to the Board but that he was not sure that we can afford what Kristen Winter recommends. He thought a technical oversight committee should be started.

Keith Johnson asked what the Technical coordinator would do. Maybe it should be a DEA rather than an IA. Sally Williams said she strongly believed in Kristen Winter's concept. She liked the idea of the Technical oversight committee and the Technical coordinator but we need to look at how we can fund it.

Frank Sargeant asked how we are retaining members, either retaining or retention if we disregard Kristen Winter's idea how many members would we lose or gain. I don't think we can afford it right now. Don Nelson said we don't have enough information to go to the membership with it. We do need to form the Technical oversight committee. The power of volunteers is tremendous.

Bernie Mazurek thanked Kristen Winter and Scott Ducey for the presentation. He prefers the magazine in a paper format. He said the technical committee format is working and the ICS could not afford a paid individual as a technical coordinator. Bruce Thurman said that he did not think that \$100,000 would work. We want technical services that we can afford. Maybe we should look into technical services on a volunteer basis.

Shirley Nelson said that we cannot afford to hire someone at this time but we do need to go forward but still with volunteers.

Bob Cretney said that he echoed what everyone else said, Kristen Winter and Scott Ducey have done a great job to bring to our attention the need for a way forward. Scott Ducey said that this was not a simple solution. Increasing expenses, decreasing revenues and membership should all be taken into account. Kristen Winter said that she thought that at least getting a Technical oversight committee to look at the options and to look at a proposal for a technical coordinator. Dick Kuszyk said that she should get her committee to get a researched plan to present to the Board of Directors.

14. Stabilator Horn

Dave Fitzgerald said that to date 108 stabilator horns had been inspected, 80 singles, 1 single 400 and the rest twins. 16 of the singles had cracks. A new horn for a single is \$310 and \$348 for a twin. The new production horn is not yet available. Discussions are in effect with Piper. A new horn will have to be put onto a new torque tube as it will not fit onto the old torque tube. FAA is impressed by ICS stepping up to the plate to tackle the problem.

15. Webco Fund

Don Nelson said that there was \$16,000 in the Webco Defense Fund. \$8,000 has been sent to Webco so far. He asked if he should send the rest. The BOD said no, not until asked. Don Nelson also asked if he should make another request for money. Dave Fitzgerald said at some point yes, do a letter and an email.

16. Sun n Fun

Sally Williams said that the 2010 Sun n Fun report was in the Tribe Report.

17. 2010 San Diego Convention.

The San Diego Convention planning is well under way. It will be held September 7 thru 12. The booking form is in the April Flyer.

18. Flagship Competition

Flagship rules will stand like they were last year.

- Motion to accept Cliff Wilewski's Flagship Rules was made by Jerry Jesion. Seconded by Shirley Nelson. Motion carried unanimously.

19. New Business:

Dave Fitzgerald said that there had been mention of Military personnel having their dues suspended whilst they were away on active duty. He suggested that when the military go abroad that they should still pay, reason being that we will inevitably miss some and that might cause hard feelings but it might be better to get a letter of thanks on their return. Don Nelson suggested that each case should be treated individually.

Bernie Mazurek said that Sally Williams was up for a third term as Chief of the South East Tribe. Don Nelson said that according to the rules there is no longer a 2 year rule for Chiefs and she did not need board approval for the third term.

2010 CFF donation. Bernie Mazurek asked about the 2010 CFF donation. Don Nelson said that due to budgeting issues he did not recommend a donation this year. Kristen Winter suggested that if the ICS gave in marketing rather than money that would help increase the CFF income. Dave Fitzgerald said he agreed that CFF seemed to disappear between the board meetings. They need to market themselves and make themselves more visible. Bruce Thumann said that the BOD had said if CFF brought reports on what they were doing ICS would donate each year but no-one is doing what they promised.

- Motion to donate \$3000 to CFF made by Bruce Thurman. Dave Fitzgerald seconded. 3 agree, 5 against. Motion failed.

Village Press Contract Renewal. Don Nelson said that in June the Village Press contract was up for renewal. He has talked to Village Press and they do not need a rewrite of the contract. They have the ability or right to increase costs by 5% but they have not increased costs in 5 years. The costs of the Flyer should be the same. The Officers of the board should review the proposal and we should be able to go ahead with the contract renewal.

- Motion for officers of ICS to negotiate the contract with Village Press made by Shirley Nelson, seconded by Sally Williams.

Kristen Winter asked if there was a get out clause as 5 years is a long time. Maybe we should negotiate a different get out clause. Don Nelson responded that there is a get out, as after the first 5 years, the contract is a year to year implied contract.

8 agree, 1 against. Motion carried.

Nominations. Sally Williams said that Bruce Ladrie indicated that there were nominations for the posts of President and Vice President but the nominations for Secretary and Treasurer were open. Bernie Mazurek asked that all Chiefs get nominations into the nominating committee.

Communications. Dave Fitzgerald said that Monica Rehkopf wants to be relieved of her position as chair of communications due to time constraints. Dick Kuszyk suggested that the ICS should be on Twitter and Facebook. Don Nelson said that Dave Fitzgerald should take over the Communications Chair.

- Motion to appoint Dave Fitzgerald to Communications Chair made by Sally Williams. Seconded by Keith Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

ICS and Raven. Shirley Nelson said that Phil Role is very interested in the Raven and he would like to see the Raven incorporated with the Comanches. Bruce Thumann said that he would like to get ICS approval / blessing as many people in the ICS do not own or fly Comanches and he would like to go to the Raven Management and welcome them into the ICS as they are technically the same as the Comanche only smaller. Bob Cretney agreed that we should incorporate them as the new Plastic Comanche equivalent, competing with Cirrus etc. And it would bring in younger pilots. Dick Kuszyk said that Bruce should go ahead and talk to them. Bernie Mazurek said that the consensus was to go ahead.

20. Other New Business.

Shirley Nelson said that the accountant needs a "conflict of Interest" clause in the by-laws otherwise we may lose our not-for-profit organization status. IRS requires this in the by-laws. She said she would ask what wording is required. Don Nelson said that the by-laws committee would look at the wording and put it to the board as soon as possible.

Don Nelson said that we need to increase the dues by 5% which comes to about \$3 for US and a bit more for overseas. Dick Kuszyk said that the economy is growing so maybe we should wait 6 months until the economy is a bit stronger.

- Motion to make a \$3 increase for USA and Canada and \$4 for overseas made by Dave Fitzgerald. Seconded by Keith Johnson. 7 agree 1 against, motion carried.

Shirley Nelson said she was concerned with losing members due to the economy. Don Nelson said that this was for 2011 and people can renew for 2 years at a time at anytime up to December 31, 2010

Budget. Don Nelson said the budget was still being drafted.

- Motion to put the draft budget to the members in the ballot was made by Sally Williams. Seconded by Jerry Jesion. Motion carried unanimously.

Bernie Mazurek asked Jerry Jesion to investigate Skype or Go To Meeting and also to price up an omni directional microphone so that Skype attendees can hear the proceedings.

Bruce Thumann said that emails are bouncing and asked if we could make it simple for tribe officers to both download email addresses and also to make it easy to update.

Kristen Winter asked what about the airworthiness committee. Bernie Mazurek asked Kristen Winter to form a committee including the technical committee people. Kristen Winter to chair and the committee to be called the Fleet Airworthiness Committee.

- Dick Kuszyk made a motion to discontinue the Fleet Airworthiness Steering Committee and made his thanks to all who did the work. This was seconded by Sally Williams. Motion was carried.
- Dick Kuszyk made a motion to initiate a Fleet Airworthiness Committee to be chaired by Kristen Winter. Shirley Nelson seconded. Motion was carried.
- Motion to adjourn was made by Dave Fitzgerald. Seconded by Dick Kuszyk. Motion was carried.

Spring Board Meeting was adjourned at 1820.

Respectfully Submitted

Alan Burrows
Secretary
July 9, 2010