

the HOF CONNECTION newsletter

July 2003

EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD – Tom Bryson

Last September The Association held a Reunion in Hof, Germany, that was exceedingly successful. The occasion fulfilled the purpose of reunions in every way: to renew old friendships, to perpetuate the memory of our service in that region, to promote fellowship and friendship among all of us interested in the Association and to educate dependents and relatives as to the importance of our time there during the Cold War.

Imagine the pride and satisfaction on the part of each of the Association's officers in being an active participant in such an outstanding "job well done."

Officers serve from Reunion to Reunion—including the Secretary. To provide Association stability, The President moves to the Executive Advisory Board and the 1st Vice President moves to the position of President unless he is un-able to serve. In that case, the 2nd Vice President will assume the position of President. The 3rd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chairman and any vacant positions are up for nomination and election each reunion.

These positions need to be filled by competent, responsible and intelligent individuals with the ability to get their arms around a difficult concept and mold it into a cohesive, living organism — an improved Association and the next Reunion. If you are that kind of individual; in the words of Uncle Sam: "WE WANT YOU!"

Do your part in improving and perpetuating the Hof Association and all it stands for. Seek office and serve well if elected. If you are willing to allow your name to be placed into nomination for any of the above positions, please send me an email <Tbryson101@aol.com>. Be assured that previous Officers will be available for direction and advice if necessary.

PRESIDENT – Tom Nickerson

We are nearing "Crunch Time" for another great reunion of "Hofers." If you haven't already made plans to attend our upcoming event and sent in your registration fees, we urge you to do so immediately. There will never be a better time for us to gather as a group and revive the memories of "The Price of Vigilance" than the present. Take advantage of this opportunity to join old friends, honor our nation, and recognize those colleagues that have made the 'Final Flyby.' Las Vegas promises to be the best Association Reunion of all, including the magnificent get together in Hof last fall. "We pass this way one time" and nobody knows how many more chances we will have to come together as a group. Those of you that are unable to attend Las Vegas can send a short message to me <Tnick123@aol.com> and I will post them so your former colleagues will know you are still thinking of them.

1st VICE PRESIDENT – Jim Patterson

Seems like we just returned home from the magnificent reunion in Hof/Saale, Germany. Time does fly when we are having fun. Eadie and I are excited about the up coming get together in the entertainment capitol of the world. We hope to see at least 500 smiling faces at the Stardust Resort in Las Vegas, October 6, 2003. Based upon our last 3 Hof Reunions, we can safely promise all of you the time of your life at this event.

2nd VP - Bruce Orr

Future reunion sites have been given a great deal of attention over the past six months. The cities nominated for consideration by the Association membership are Orlando, FL, Branson, MO, San Antonio, TX, and Biloxi, MS, and they appear on the enclosed 2004 ballot. Orlando has a lot to offer the Association membership during the month of October and early November and I will give a short briefing on the advantages of holding a reunion in Orlando at our general membership meeting in Las Vegas. Jim Beard attended a seminar by the "Branson Veterans Task Force" and he will give a briefing on that program. Bennie Hopper will

represent the Lone Star State with a briefing on San Antonio. Branson, Orlando and San Antonio are the leading contenders for the 2004 and 2005 Reunions. We need a volunteer from the Biloxi-Gulfport region to give a briefing on Biloxi. Hunter Dews nominated Biloxi but due to his work, is uncertain if he can attend our gathering in Las Vegas.

3rd VP – Dick Obidinski

My Frau Evi and I have been privileged to attend two previous Hof Reunions; the Colorado Springs event in 2000 and the outstanding Hof/Saale Reunion in 2002. We have been blessed with new friendships, the comradery of old confidants, and experiencing the fellowship, kindness and benevolence of former Hof colleagues. We want to share these joyful experiences with you. We're looking forward to meeting you in Las Vegas.

TREASURER - Nate Sparks

Our Association is recognized as a nonprofit, tax exempt, charitable organization under Internal Revenue Code, Section 501 (c) (19) and our accounting period is from Oct. 1 to September 30 each year. Under the IRS Non Profit rules, each year we should make a contribution to a charitable cause such as the Enlisted Widows Foundation, Shalimar, FL. This matter must be voted on by the membership in Las Vegas. The books have been closed for FY 2002. Copies of the 2002 report and a "to date 2003" report will be available at Las Vegas. The normal membership dues pay the bills, so if you haven't sent in your 2004 dues, please do so. A membership renewal form is enclosed with this newsletter.

The Master Hof Roster is mailed to new members upon receipt of initial membership and upon each renewal of membership. A copy of the Constitution & By-laws are attached to this newsletter.

SECRETARY - Chuck Wilson

If you have an Internet Provider and are **not** receiving the Association **Update** every week, we probably don't have your current email address. We request all members be sure to send <HofReunion@aol.com> a note containing your name and new email address when you change providers. Your attention to this matter will be appreciated and keep you current on Association activities.

Members that paid FY02 dues (**PM1** on the Master Hof Roster) during the October 2001 to September 2002 time frame but let their membership expire on December 31, 2002, will receive a copy of this Newsletter. If the \$15 membership fee will create a financial hardship, please let us know because, the Board of Directors can provide a **FREE** membership. It is important that you renew your membership immediately or request a FREE membership now. If you are uncertain of your membership status, you can email <HofReunion@aol.com> or call 916-366-1811 and we will tell you what our records reflect.

Members that have paid FY03 dues, October 2002 to September 2003 (**PM2** on the Master Hof Roster) should have received a copy of the Master Hof Roster. We will mail you a new Master Hof Roster upon receipt of your FY04 dues (**PM3** on the Master Hof Roster.)

Many of you have paid advanced membership dues and are identified on the Master Hof Roster as a **PM3, PM4, or PM5**. We thank you and ask that you discontinue paying advanced membership fees.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR - C.A. Russell

Our Association roster has grown by over 500 people in the last year, to a current level of 2800 plus, including the Final Flyby list. Many of the new finds are a direct result membership participation and old orders contributed by some of you. Thank you. Due to the hectic administrative workload generated by the upcoming Las Vegas Reunion, Chuck & I have agreed to curtail searches for former colleagues for a couple of months. We'll concentrate on making the Las Vegas Reunion an event that will live in the hearts and minds of all participants. **Please continue to send old orders to me:** C.A. Russell, 1206 Achord Road, Dublin, GA 31021-0715 or <russca@bellsouth.net>.

WEBMASTER – Barry Springsteen

A poll was placed on our website in January 2003 and all members were asked to complete it. The results of the poll are now available and will be used to determine future website development and direction. A total of 40 people responded to the poll. 76% of those responding had visited the site more than 6 times before taking the poll.

The CHAT Room and MESSAGE BOARD services are no longer offered by our ISP and have been removed from the website. Also, no new services were requested or suggested during the poll. All areas showed a high level of interest except for the LINKS and MEMORIAL pages that only showed moderate interest. The NEWSLETTER page, although not used very much, showed enough interest to receive additional development time.

Members can suggest new services and features or improvements to the LINKS and MEMORIAL pages by sending an e-mail to HofReunion@att.net. Complete results of the poll are available on the website <http://hofreunion.home.att.net/>.

SERGEANT AT ARMS - Bob Alekson

Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experiences to savor, not endure. . . I'm not "saving" anything for "someday." If it's worth seeing or doing, I want to do it NOW. I'm not sure what others would've done if they had known they wouldn't be here for "the next reunion" that we all take for granted. I'm not going to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and luster to our lives and friendship. Every day, every minute, every breath truly is a gift from God. At my age, I don't believe in Miracles. I rely on them. Life may not be the party we hoped for but while we are here we might as well dance. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in Las Vegas.

PROPOSED CHANGE TO BY-LAWS OF ASSOCIATION: Chuck Wilson

We will be voting on this issue at the general membership meeting in Las Vegas.

Article I – Membership,

Paragraph 7 – Classes of Membership

ADD: sub-paragraph d. Widow.

A widow of any colleague who's name appears on the "Final Flyby" list will be known as a "Widow Exempt." They shall have the same rights and privileges as a regular member except the right to hold office and they will not pay dues.

The Hof Reunion Association
(A non-profit organization)
P.O. Box 276883
Sacramento, CA 95827-6883

Hof Reunion Association Officers and Staff

Permanent Executive Board Advisor: Tom Bryson

Executive Board:

President	Tom Nickerson
1stV.P.	Jim Patterson
2ndV.P.	Bruce Orr
3rdV.P.	Dick Obidinski
Treasurer	Nathan Sparks
Secretary	Chuck Wilson
Membership Chairman	C A Russell

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Publicity Chairman	Ted Bey
Newsletter Editor	Phil Murray
Web Master	Barry Springsteen
Photo Site	Mike Becker
Chaplain	Francis Fukumoto
Sergeant at Arms	Bob Alekson
	Tony Donofrio

Reunion Site Committee

Bennie Hopper
Jim Patterson
Jim Beard

Las Vegas Reunion Committee:

Leo & Ilse Root
Eulice & Vera Row
John Orr