

**SWI General Business Meeting
Paris Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada
October 8, 2016**

Meeting Commenced: 10:00 A.M.

Pledge of Allegiance: Valerie Roffe

Reading of “Those Flown West” and Reading of the Names: Valerie Roffe

Sammie Bahruth	Cindy Cross
Mogens H. Pederson	Ruth McGuire
Gordon Briers	Pat Grey
Mary Ann Faubert	Marlene Trice
Brigitte Kriwalsky	Nancy Wisdom Altieri
Maggie Van Meter	Sharon Grashuis
Beverly Vance	Marty Sublette Freeman

Reading of the Minutes: Valerie Roffe: Secretary Valerie Roffe provided copies of the minutes from the 2015 Business Meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Stephanie Byrne presented a full Statement of Income and Expenses which will be attached to the minutes. She said that SWI received a \$9,000.00 rebate which was the down payment placed when the 2015 cruise on Royal Caribbean was booked. She also indicated that the “Other” item listed on the statement was income from JoAnn Pastori who sold jewelry in the Crew Room on the cruise. She gave a percentage of her sales to SWI. Stephanie also noted the Corporation Fee which SWI pays every April to the state of Arizona where SWI was originally incorporated. The treasurer’s report was approved by the membership.

Charity Report: Pat Perona announced that to date, \$8250.00 had been collected for the charity, but it is still possible to donate until the end of the year. All monies collected will be evenly divided between the Flight 800 Memorial and the TWA Museum at 10 Richards Road. Deanna talked about our visit to the Flight 800 Memorial this past July to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the downing of Flight 800. She talked about how inspiring the ceremony was and how beautifully the memorial is landscaped and maintained. She mentioned that memorial pins and bookmarks will be available for sale in the Crew Lounge with all profits going to the memorial. The cost is \$10.00 for both. We were told that the spotlights which light the memorial at night need to be constantly replaced due to the salt air which corrodes the lights. We learned that almost all the labor to construct the memorial was donated and much of the present maintenance is done for free. Suffolk County donated the land where the memorial was built and the spot was chosen because many personal items from those on board had washed up on the shore. Last year \$17,000.00 was donated to the charity by SWI.

Vice-President's Report: Vice-President, Chapters Katie Norvell announced the forming or changes in several of the chapters. Betty Ford will now be chairing the LAX Chapter, and Sharon Sequeira will take over the Sacramento Chapter. Erica Ruitenbach will organize the new Palm Springs Chapter and Paulette Fazio will chair the Pittsburgh Chapter. Linda Kay Taylor will be retiring from the Atlanta Chapter.

Web Manager's Report: Web Manager Anita Ridpath introduced the new web site which went on line during the summer. Anita spent many, many hours working with the web host to incorporate the necessary information from the old site and create a more pleasing and user friendly site. She received a huge round of applause for her past and continuing efforts. She mentioned that if you have forgotten your password, there is now a "Forgot Password" icon on the site and all you have to do is click on it and they will send you a new password. Anita also stressed the importance of providing her with any information changes so that she can keep the online directory updated. DO NOT try to make the changes yourself. Any chapter information should be sent to Anita so that she can keep the chapter page updated as well. Her last comment was to those members who have AOL as their email provider. Be sure that SWI mail does not go into the spam folder.

New Business: President Deanna Ayers asked all new SWI members to stand and be recognized. She then asked the Las Vegas Committee, Lena Eriksson, Kay Hopkins and Jan Shadowen, to stand and be recognized for their hard work in creating the centerpieces for the banquet, handling the numerous supplies boxes that were sent to their home and hotel, and organizing the amazing memorabilia that is in the Crew Lounge. Deanna also wanted to recognize Ladonna Piper (non-member) who volunteered every day in some capacity to help the convention run smoothly.

Achievement Awards: Deanna presented awards to:
Ursula Smith – Former Treasurer
Beth Holcombe – Former Secretary (4 years)

Election of Officers: Deanna announced that the following members would be running for SWI Board and Charity Co-Chair positions. She asked for other nominations from the floor. There being no further nominations, the following members were elected by acclamation.

Beth Holcombe – President
Valerie Roffe – Secretary
Anita Ridpath – Web Manager
Priscilla Harrison – Charity Co-Chair

TWA Museum Director: Director of the TWA Museum Pam Blaschum spoke about the new acquisitions for the museum. She said that the museum is classified as a 501(c)3 for charity purposes. They now have a Flight Simulator, an Education Center, and a Library and are in the

process of reconstructing an Ambassador Club. She announced that an anonymous donor had donated a Lockheed Jet Star 2 which will be set up as a “static display,” that will be used for

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parties and private affairs. The museum also received the Wings of Pride from American Airlines and the Lockheed donor has provided funds to establish the “Scout Room” which will be used for STEM Education. The membership of SWI voted to buy one plaque with a star to be placed on the armrest of a seat on the airplane and will be engraved with Silver Wings International. The cost of the plaque is \$750.00

Karen Lantz-Feith: Karen volunteered to be the Facebook Chair for SWI. She has set up a closed group on Facebook for SWI members to chat or access information. The group can be accessed through the SWI web site or by inputting TWA(space)Silver(space)Wings(space) or TWA Silver Wings. You must join Silver Wings in order to access the group. If you have joined the group and are not a member in good standing of SWI you may be “unjoined” from the group. No decision has yet been reached on that issue. Karen also mentioned that Google has classes to learn how to navigate Facebook. Look for classes in your area. She suggested that this would be an excellent way to attract retired/active employees who do not know about SWI.

Silver Wings Future: It was brought to the attention of the Board regarding the cessation of the annual convention. Deanna noted that we currently have 982 active members and of that number approximately 200 come every year plus up to 50 more come depending on the location of the convention. For example, Ann Whelan who lives in London, came to Las Vegas. The issue was put up for vote and was vetoed unanimously by the membership. The annual convention will continue as planned.

Convention Cities – Large or Small: Deanna asked for suggestions for future convention cities. She noted that the TWA Seniors will be going to San Antonio from Wednesday-Friday leaving on Saturday. Popular sights to visit are the Alamo, Riverwalk, and the Mission Trail. Jan King suggested Denver while Jeanette Moynier suggested Santa Fe. Deanna commented that Santa Fe is too small and does not have large hotels with adequate number of rooms to accommodate our group. Ellie Schaub suggested Reno with a day trip to Lake Tahoe. Ludie McIntosh suggested Memphis and San Diego was also mentioned. Jan Ellis suggested Minneapolis, Joan Martling, DC and Betsy Fisher, Tulsa. The question of moving the convention up one day earlier to Tuesday-Friday was brought up but Pam Wood mentioned that this would be a hardship on working people. Carol Holler noted that often hotels are cheaper on weekends than during the week due to business travelers. Carol Schmidt asked if the Philadelphia and Kansas City conventions could be moved up one day, but that is impossible because the hotel contracts have already been signed.

Directory Printing Cost: The issue of continuing to print the directory was brought to the attention of the Board. It costs approximately \$4,000.00 to print the directory which would

mean a great savings if discontinued and the online directory is always more updated and accurate. Pam Blaschum suggested printing only revisions but that would be extremely difficult

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for the Web Manager, Anita Ridpath. Patty Scheel noted that this idea had failed before. Treasurer, Stephanie Byrne commented that we had tried before to put a check off box on the dues envelope for those who did not want to receive the directory and only about 15 members checked it off. Most wanted to receive the directory. Jan Ellis suggested a cheaper version and Valerie Adlam suggested printing every other year but Anita said that the formatting of the directory would be too expensive to do every other year.

Questions and Comments from Members: Diana Nelinson asked if another cruise were possible, but Deanna answered that it could be expensive. Eddie Monteserin noted that if a Caribbean Cruise were booked in the fall that the prices would be cheaper. He suggested San Juan as a convention destination as it has large hotels that would be cheaper in the fall. However, September and October are still hurricane months in the Caribbean and could impact attendance as it did in Tampa several years ago. Jan Ellis inquired about a cruise to Panama but Deanna said it might be too expensive for our members. Newsletter Editor, Lee Ann Weise reminded members that if you send photos of chapter meetings to please include names with the photos. She reminded the membership that the deadline for information for "From the Wings" is October 15. Deanna urged the membership to visit the Crew Lounge as there are quite a few logo items still available. Gun Godbeer requested that if you have any unused hotel bars of soap that she would be collecting them to give to the homeless shelter in her area. Betty Ford reminded members to shred the directory so that personal information will not be stolen. Carol Schmidt-Pennavaria suggested putting a "T" next to the phone number in the directory and online to indicate that the number can be used for texting.

President's Farewell: Outgoing President, Deanna Ayers, was presented with a Silver Tiffany Key Chain adorned with a world charm in honor of her eight years of service to SWI. She mentioned how rewarding it had been to be on the Board and urged the membership to volunteer to work for the organization.

Future Conventions:

- 2017 – PHL – September 13, 2017-September 17, 2017 – Wyndham Hotel - \$159.00 + tax
- 2018 – MCI – September 26, 2018-September 30, 2018 – Marriott Hotel - \$169.00 + tax

Additional Comments: Anita pointed out that Stephanie Byrne was wearing a navy blue scarf printed with the Silver Wings logo which will be a logo item for sale at the convention in PHL. The cost of the scarf will be between \$20-25. Beth Holcombe, incoming president, said she will maintain an open policy and welcomes any and all questions to which she will promptly respond.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:37 A.M.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Roffe

Valerie Roffe
SWI Secretary