

**MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL GREAT PEPPERS' MEETING
OF THE
CHILI APPRECIATION SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL, INC.**

MIDLAND, TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

President Renee Moore called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

President Moore called for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Patsy Childress, as head of the welcoming committee, welcomed the delegates to Midland, Texas and thanked them for coming.

President Moore thanked Patsy and her crew and the Black Gold Pod for the exceptional work in preparing for the Great Peppers' Meeting, and noted the great dinner and show at the Yucca Theatre the previous evening.

Credentials Committee Report

Darin Jester, Chairman of the Credentials Committee, stated they reviewed paperwork from 72 Pods and are recommending the seating of 71 Pods for the 2009 Great Peppers' Meeting. There were three pods in violation of CASI Article 13. There were two new Pods who submitted requests to be seeded, and one Pod has disbanded. The Credentials Committee members this year are Robbie Swart, David Sexton, and Mike Strack.

The Committee recommended that a letter of reprimand be sent to the three Pods who were in violation of CASI Article 13. The two new Pods requesting seeding are: Gladiator Chili Pod and Cowboy Capitol Chili Pod. These two new Pods have met all the requirements of Article 13 and the Committee recommends they be seated as a CASI Pod. The Committee has also received notice from the Keystone Pod that they have disbanded, and have pledged to assist the Mason Dixon Pod with future events.

Secretary Roger Foltz called the roll. The following Directors were present:

Renee Moore, President
Bill Pierson, Vice-President
Ed Blair, Treasurer
Roger Foltz, Secretary
Janice Miller, Executive Director
Tim Collier
John Goforth
Bo Prewitt
Ken Rodd
Bucky Seelig
Dorathy Williams

Secretary Foltz called the roll for the Pods. 69 Pods were present. **(Addendum A)**

A quorum was present

The following Pod was not in attendance:

KEYSTONE STATE

A representative of Cowboy Capitol Pod was called to the front.

MOTION by Earl Gorhum, Piney Woods Pod, to accept the Cowboy Capitol Pod. The motion was seconded by Barbara Taylor, Desert Breeze Pod.

Motion passed: Unanimous

A representative of Gladiator Pod was called to the front.

MOTION by Patti Watkins, BELCH Pod, to accept the Gladiator Pod. The motion was seconded by Everett Crawford, Green Country Chili Pod.

Motion passed: Unanimous

Approval of Minutes of 2008 Great Peppers Meeting

A copy of the Minutes of the Great Peppers Meeting held in Amarillo, Texas on September 6, 2008 was distributed to all.

MOTION by Darin Jester, Indiana Pepper Pod, to approve the minutes from the previous Great Peppers Meeting. The motion was seconded by Classic CASI Pod.

Ed Blair indicated there was a correction on page 14 of 15 that needed to be made. Under the heading 'Election of Directors' the years for the directors were listed incorrectly. The correct years are 2008 to 2009. With this correction:

Motion passed: Unanimous

President's Message

When I took over as President last year, I knew I had some large shoes to fill of those who came before me, and I thank each of them for the job they did that paved the way.

Having recently read Jim Collins' bestseller "Good to Great", I came to realize that CASI is a good organization, but I know it can be a great organization and, likewise, we have good Pods that can become great Pods. How do we get there?

We need to think of CASI as a bus. The bus needs passengers. These are the CASI members; the driver is the Great Peppers and dispatchers are the Board of Directors.

The question then becomes “Where do we want to go?” If we don’t know where we want to go, how will we know when we get there? As with any organization, there are detours and potholes along the way. We can navigate these hazards, if we come together and work as a team.

Don’t ask the Board “why did” we do something - that’s looking in the past. But question us as to “why don’t” we do something to look toward the future. The Board can’t come up with all the answers or solve all the problems. We can’t give you the answers and solutions and then expect you to follow them.

We need to ask the right questions of you and the membership, and you, as Great Peppers, need to ask the right questions of your Pod membership. I’ve recently become aware of Pods that are struggling; attendance at meetings is low and it seems the same people are doing all the work. That’s not to say that we don’t have some very strong Pods out there, but we have to be cognizant of the problems that Pods experience. If we all don’t provide the proper information and allow for input and accept change from time to time, we’ll never grow. Information is the key to growth and growth is a key element in making a good organization great.

We don’t need to assign blame but search for understanding and learning through a collaborative effort. Pointing fingers and assigning blame does no good and is detrimental to any organization. In the movie “Meet the Robinsons”, there is a recurring theme. No matter the problem, the obstacle or setback, “Keep Moving Forward”. We have all made mistakes in the past and possibly missed opportunities, but looking back is not an option if we want effective results.

I would like to personally thank Bucky Seelig and Ken Rodd for their service to CASI.

Ken is the only Director I know who was elected to the Board and not even present at the meeting when it occurred. When he became the Director of Krazy Flats in 2002, only bare services were provided in the area. Seven years later, we have a large concession building and patio area that are thriving and vendors have been added. We thank Ken for his vision and Yolie for sharing Ken with us.

When Bucky was elected to the Board in 2004 and we were determining who would take certain jobs, Bucky stepped up to the plate and agreed to become Editor of the *Terlingua Trails*, despite having no previous experience in this area. Additionally, he took over the beer concessions in the pavilion area. I think you all will agree that the newspaper has become a great resource for CASI news and information. What many of you may not know is that for the past two years, Bucky has taken the chosen poster submission and formatted it into the two posters that are produced. We thank Bucky for his contributions to the Board and Carolyn for sharing Bucky, as well as her “ice patrol” at TICC for the past few years.

I love CASI as I know you all do or you wouldn’t be here today and want it to be the great organization it can be. My hope and dream is that through all of our efforts, CASI will continue to grow. This is your organization; serve on committees, communicate regularly with your members, share the Minutes of the Board and Great Peppers’ Meetings, volunteer to work at TICC, ask “why don’t” rather than “why did”.

Many of you do these things, but it will take all of us to make CASI great. CASI is worth the investment to ensure it is all it can and should be. Remember that the membership keeps CASI going, and while we may be Board members or Great Peppers, we are all members also.

President Moore explained that C.A.S.I., Inc. was a founding group of CASI, and now a memorial to those founding members would be permanently set in the Old 320 site. The memorial would be placed in Old 320 spaces 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 owned by Ray King, Pat I. King, and Eric York. Moore thanked Ray and Pat for making this happen.

TICC

President Moore indicated people were needed to help with the preparation of the condiments for judging at TICC, and times for volunteers would be posted in Terlingua. She also indicated Donna Conrad has agreed to run the front gate again this year and was looking for volunteers to assist. Diane FitzHenry will replace the retiring Jim Luhn as Head Judge at TICC this year. Last year there were 319 cups of chili judged at TICC by 353 judges. The preliminary round had 160 judges at 32 tables, and the first round was completed by 12:30. Thank you to all who monitored, judged, scored and helped make this a streamlined process.

The SOTOL pod cookoff will again be on Tuesday.

Gate fees will remain \$30 for the week and \$10 for Saturday only. There will be a 50% discount for all with a military ID. We will have a Cadillac Auction this year to raise additional money for the Scholarship Fund.

The highway cleanup will again be on Thursday morning beginning at 8. Volunteers are needed for this valuable service to the county. Please meet Scott Johnson to help clean up the highway.

No traffic will be allowed in the cooks' area after 12:00 midnight each night.

President Moore asked that any extra chili be brought to Bill Pierson and the Chillini Pod in front of the pavilion area to be combined, and given to spectators and guests who would like to taste chili.

Mel FitzHenry, NOB Pod, asked that all chili being judged, that did not advance, also be given to the Chillini Pod for this purpose.

Toys and wrapping paper will be collected for the children, and can be given to Dorothy Williams at the concession stand.

There will be a Candlelight Vigil at the Memorial Board Thursday evening at 7:00pm. Moore asked for all to review the list of those included on the Memorial Board in their packet for corrections.

Moore advised that in the Board meeting the previous day, the Board approved the Pioneer Award as suggested by Richard Knight. The President will appoint a committee to set the requirements for this award, and to review any nominations. It will be a prestigious award given to an individual, or group of individuals, for outstanding service to CASI in the past.

Sponsorship Report

2009 has been a difficult year for our economy. Early in the year, it appeared we could lose some valuable sponsor support that has underwritten CASI's programs. Costs of the Terlingua International Chili Championship have steadily increased with fuel costs. With these things in mind, my goal this year was to try to maintain the status quo and make sure our corporate sponsors understand how grateful we are to be associated with them. At the beginning of the year, growth seemed illusive. However, I had not factored in the additional time that I would have to work on sponsorship, since stepping down from the CASI presidency. I am indeed very happy to report to the membership that we have retained at some level all our previous sponsors for the 2009-2010 year.

Additionally, we have been bolstered by new sponsors Greg Muhlbauer, David Manske, Kyle Adams, Kiowa Casino and West Pecan Farm (Harvey West). Tequila Rose by McCormick Distilling has stepped up to a Gold Sponsorship and is underwriting the barbecue competition. They are also adding to the list of goodies they will be distributing to the TICC participants. Glazers purchased former sponsor Permian Distributing and has moved up to the Gold level. They will be represented by Lone Star, Tecate and Coors Light beers. The new growth from these firms and individuals has overcome any setbacks to others. **This has been our greatest year!!**

There is one other significant item. With more free time this year, I decided to put together a little package. I have asked CASI sponsors and various other corporate members and supporters to put something on a special table for the TICC winner. The support has been tremendous. The winner might need a u-haul to take it all home. There are more items than I can mention and they are still coming in. I will have a complete accounting with stage announcements at TICC.

In closing, I hope you will review the report that follows. I hope you will thank each of these valuable sponsors that provide funding, products, and services that make us what we are. I know I can count on our members.

Meeting break at 10:15.

Meeting reconvened at 10:30.

Tim Collier indicated that in an effort to bolster sales at the gate, CASI was introducing a BBQ contest this year. Collier indicated no BBQ pits would be allowed in the cooks' area or the Old 320 area; any chili cooks that wanted to participate in the BBQ competition would have a place, outside the normal cooks' area, set aside for them to have their pits. Jim Ezell has gotten Tequila Rose by McCormick Distilling to be the sponsor, putting up \$5,000 prize money.

Projected income from the gate, increased concessions, BBQ entry fees, and Sponsor money is \$13,500. Those projections are based on 60 BBQ cooks'. Expenses including prize money to be paid out are projected to be \$6,000. That will leave \$4,000 to go to the Scholarship Fund, and \$3,500 to go to the CASI General Fund.

Executive Director's Report

Janice Miller reviewed her activities since the 2008 Great Peppers Meeting, many of which have been included in the minutes of the Winter Board Meeting, January 25, 2009, and the Summer Board Meeting, June 27, 2009. She indicated that for the most part, the Annual Credentials Reports from each Pod were complete. The biggest problem with the Annual Credentials continues to be Pod officers and Referees who have not paid their dues for the upcoming year.

She indicated some changes were made in the areas assigned to Regional Referees, and there were several new cookoffs in areas of the country where there have previously not been CASI cookoffs.

Vice-President's Report

Bill Pierson advised that he had taken over the ordering of contestants' shirts. After putting out information for bids, 17 companies submitted bids to supply the contestants. After reviewing all bids, the bid from Susie Shaw & Renee Robinson, dba Sagebrush Designs, was the lowest conforming bid.

Pierson stated that at TICC in 2008, several spectators had mentioned that there was no chili available for tasting. This year at TICC a canopy will be set up in front of the pavilion where chili will be given away. All are asked to donate chili from the American Legion CCO on Sunday and the SOTOL Pod cookoff on Tuesday, and any leftover from TICC. Chilis' that don't advance will also be used.

Pierson reviewed the Events Committee, which is to help applicants for Regional Opens get the proper paperwork completed for presentation to the Board of Directors for their approval.

Tallymaster's Report

Pierson reported that for the year to date there have been 487 cookoffs raising \$1,126,301 for charity. There have been 14,609 chili's judged, 401 cooks qualified and 173 show teams qualified as of this date. Indiana and Kansas have had more cookoffs and will be 9 point states for the 2009 – 2010 chili year. He asked for volunteers to help with registration on Thursday and Friday at TICC.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Blair reported that for the previous year CASI made \$7,028.51. He provided copies of the Balance Sheet showing \$454,071.91 in total assets. He also provided a copy of the Income Statement showing income of \$249,628.84, and expenses of \$242,600.33. He indicated that one bill and several sponsor donations came in after December 31,

2007, which is the cutoff date for the accounting data to be filed with the IRS. Those amounts will be shown on the Income Statement and Balance sheet for 2009.

The Finance Committee wants 3 Pods from different states to work with getting a 501 exemption in 2010. He also advised that Bank Statements are now sent to the CASI President and Executive Director each month, so that there are more checks on our financial condition.

Blair mentioned some ideas that could be implemented to make more money at TICC. Those include a facility fee for everyone who comes in the gate to help offset the almost \$25,000 fee we pay each year for porta-potties and trash removal. The fees for an Old 320 site could be raised to \$320.

He also mentioned a way for the CASI Scholarship Fund to increase its available money to award scholarships might be to add a line on the cookoff reporting form for a percentage of the proceeds raised to be given to the CASI Scholarship Fund. Pods might have an extra cookoff to raise money for the Scholarship Fund. He noted that if the money charged a cookoff was raised from \$3 to \$4 it would have put an additional \$15,000 in the Fund this past year, which in turn would let us increase the amount of money we do award, and/or increase the number of scholarships awarded.

Jim Stateczny reported that he had reviewed Blair's financial statements, and after Blair answered one question satisfactorily, he was in complete agreement with the report.

Ranch Report

Tim Collier reported that he attended the Mas O Menos bike races at TICC in February, and that they were very appreciative of using our facility and took very good care of the grounds.

Kathy Killingsworth has advised that the County will need some rock for a proposed road project and will get it from our site. The new water tank at the Crazy Flats building will be installed in the next couple of weeks. Collier reported that there have been 2 break-ins at the Ranch this year. The first was in April, damage was done to two doors, and some beer was taken. Tom & Dorathy Williams completed repairs to the doors. The second one was in August. Our pressure washer was stolen but has since been recovered. Collier is checking on having a security camera donated that would be placed at the entrance gate and would record the license plate of everyone who entered.

Membership Report

Membership Chairman John Goforth reported that annual memberships for the year total 984, life memberships total 794, and corporate memberships total 56. Total membership is 1,534, which is up from 2008. In the last 12 months, we have gotten 278 new annual memberships, 15 new life memberships, and 15 corporate memberships. We need to work on retaining annual members, once we get them involved.

Terlingua Trails

Bucky Seelig, editor of the *Terlingua Trails*, thanked all who sent photos and articles this past year, indicating that it contributed to the overall interest to the reader. He presented the poster for the 2009 TICC, indicating the artwork was done by Wendell Rankin, and was chosen from 8 different submittals.

Upcomings

Dorathy Williams advised that so far this year 668 packets had been mailed out, and starting the new chili year 99 packets have been sent out just for October. Williams advised that volunteers are needed to help fold the sweat shirts, T shirts, etc. that will be for sale at TICC this year. Folding will take place on Wednesday morning. She indicated that this year there will be some smaller sized items for toddlers and children.

Public Relations Report

Ken Rodd advised that the press release for the 43rd Annual Terlingua International Chili Championship has been prepared. A radio 30 second spot has been prepared by Boomer Kingston and distributed to radio stations in West Texas.

We are again having a Pod Newsletter contest this year with the winner to be announced at TICC.

Rodd reviewed the BBQ Cookoff to be held this year and mentioned the Sponsorship of McCormick Distilling, Tequila Rose and Tarantula Tequila, in providing the money for the cash prizes. This year there will be a Happy Hour at Krazy Flats and at the main concession area.

Scholarship Program

Barbara Herrin, Scholarship Chairman, reported two hundred sixty-six (266) applications were received in January, 2009. Of those 266, 150 applicants listed both a Pod and a Great Pepper and 116 listed no Pod or Great Pepper. Of the 150 applicants that listed a Pod, only fifteen different Pods were listed. Some of the applications were incomplete and some of the applicants sent their information in more than one packet.

The committee selected ten top applicants and listed their choices in numerical order from 1st to 10th. From this listing of the top ten applicants, six applicants were chosen to receive a scholarship this year:

Josh Tenneson – Arizona
Erik Longabaugh – Texas
Blake Griffiths – Illinois
Jessica Wampler – Kentucky
Joseph Talamentes – Texas
Candance Guy-Anzaldua – Florida

These recipients are in addition to the twenty-three recipients who are still receiving scholarships from CASI.

DROP-OUT RATE

In 2006 **six** scholarships were awarded. **Five** checks were issued in August (no check for a recipient who joined the military).

In 2007 **six** scholarships were awarded. **Six** checks were issued in August.

In 2008 **seven** scholarships were awarded. **Seven** checks were issued in August.

In 2009 **six** scholarships were awarded. **Six** checks were issued in August.

If we count the recipient who joined the military as a drop-out, **the retention rate is 96% with a 4% drop-out rate.**

DONATIONS

(Feb. 1, 2009-August 31, 2009)

Ninety-three (93) donations totaling \$7,521.00

Cost of correspondence

Cards	\$193
Postage	<u>\$ 88</u>
Total	\$281

I have had very good response from the sending out of cards to notify both the sender and the receiver of the memorials that have been made.

CASI National Scholarship Program Policy is attached to these Minutes as **Addendum B**

MOTION by Preston Shaw, HOT Pod, to accept the CASI National Scholarship Program Policy. The motion was seconded by Mel FitzHenry, NOB Pod.

Motion passed: Unanimous

Old 320 Report

Ralph Hay, Old 320 Alcalde, reported that at last year's Old 320 meeting there were 63 members in attendance. There were 219 cooks cooking on the Old 320 site last year.

Hay asked that all Old 320 members pick up their badge when they register on Thursday and Friday. He asked to be advised if you are allowing someone besides yourself to cook on your 320 site. Hay asked for volunteers to help mark the 320 sites on Wednesday morning beginning at 9:00.

There will be a meeting of all Old 320 members on Thursday afternoon at 3:30. The meeting will be held at the judging pavilion. There will be a drawing this year for a Wendell Rankin painted stove for all who cook in the Old 320 area.

In the past year, eleven sites have been turned back and resold to eleven new Old 320 Members. Hay asked that anyone requesting to be on the waiting list for an Old 320 site, send him an e-mail or written request, with the name, contact phone number and date of the request. Hay advised that information about the Old 320 area, a site map, a list of current Old 320 members, and a document detailing members' rights and privileges' is now posted on the CASI Website, under the Resource Center heading. Hay asked that

each 320 member file out a member profile sheet, and get it to him with current contact information detailed.

President Moore called for any unfinished business.

Ed Blair mentioned that the large 'publicity checks' that are used strictly for photo ops and publicity need to be replaced. He asked if anyone had contacts to get those replaced before TICC this year.

President Moore recognized Karen Bains, Chairman of the Nominating Committee and asked her to report on the candidates for election to the Board.

Bains indicated that after review of all submitted documents the following were presented as candidates for election to the CASI Board of Directors: Dale Reinecker, Jenny Windsor, Dana Plocheck, John Goforth (incumbent), Bill Pierson (incumbent), Kelly Brignon, and Robert Schrade.

President Moore reminded the delegates of the rule that was passed last year that each ballot must contain four votes, one for each of the four vacant Board positions.

Meeting was adjourned for lunch at 11:45.

Meeting was called back to order at 1:30

Blu Daniels, Rose City Pod, announced that they are proud to sponsor the goody bags for the Terlingua School students again this year. They are asking that everyone bring their excess goody bag items received over the past year at local cookoffs. They do not allow any item with a beer or liquor logo. And the Terlingua students are so appreciative of this gift. The bags are sent back to the school with the entertainers who come to the Ranch on Friday morning. Kubota Tractor is providing the bags to stuff. Last year there were 113 bags and the school had 118 students, so we will be prepared with the bags, just need the stuff to put in them. Please do not bring used items that don't even belong in a garage sale.

Dorothy and Chuck Spishock, on behalf of Pasadena Pod and Space City Pod, made contributions to the Memorial Board Fund in memory of Barbara Fox.

A special presentation was made to Herb Ross in recognition of his qualifying for TICC at the age of 91. As far as could be determined, Herb is the oldest person to qualify and cook at TICC.

Winners of the stoves raffled by Black Gold Pod were: Carrie Kinnison, Steve Lopez, and Mavis Nelson. Winners of the money raffle were Sons of American Legion, Odessa

and LeAnn Logan.

New Business

Bill Pierson presented Rules Change Proposal explaining that the proposed rules changes were necessary due to the addition, at the Great Peppers Meeting in 2008, of the National Open. As this is not a rules change year, Proposed Rule Changes may only be presented by the CASI Board. (Addendum C)

MOTION by Bill Pierson to accept the Rules Change Proposal concerning the National Open as presented. The motion was seconded by Janice Miller.

Discussion ensued.

Motion passed: One Abstention

A second rule change proposal was to revise Section VII.E.2 concerning Qualified Show Teams. This proposal does away with tying the number of cooks at a Men's State, Women's State, State Open, Regional or International Open, and National Open to the number of qualifying show teams.

MOTION by Bill Pierson to accept the Rules Change Proposal VII.E.2 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mel FitzHenry , NOB Pod,.

Motion passed: Unanimous

Requests for Waivers

MOTION by Michele Unguarsky, from the State of New Mexico, to hold a Men's and Women's Open during the coming year. The motion was seconded by Pod of the Pass.

Motion passed: Unanimous

MOTION by Janice Miller to have a State Open in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico The motion was seconded by Sammie Plant, San Angelo Cookers Association. Discussion ensued.

Motion passed: Unanimous

A request was made by Preston Shaw, HOT Pod, to allow Tennessee to be a 12 point state for the coming year.

MOTION by Earl Gorhum, Piney Woods Pod, to make Tennessee a 12 point state for the coming year. The motion was seconded by Darin Jester, Indiana Pepper Pod

Motion passed: Unanimous

A request was made by Lee Kroencke, Gladiator Pod, to allow Kansas to be a 12 point state for the coming year.

MOTION by Lee Kroencke, Gladiator Pod, to make Kansas a 12 point state for the coming year. The motion was duly seconded.

Motion passed: Unanimous

Preston Shaw, HOT Pod, held a drawing for two entries to the Parker's Crossroads Cookoff , and either 2 nights at a hotel or gas, if the winner comes in a motor home. The winner of the drawing was Hill Country Pod.

Dee Hay reminded all that nominations for the Houston Pod Hall of Flame need to be submitted by October 1, 2009.

Election of Directors

Renee Moore announced the results of the election.

For the 2009/2010 CASI year, the following Directors were elected:

The following are elected to 3 year terms:

Robert Schrade	63
Dana Plocheck	60

The following are elected to 2 year terms:

John Goforth	51
Jen Windsor	51

Others receiving votes are:

Dale Reinecker	50
Bill Pierson	33
Kelly Brignon	20

Moore announced the formal part of the meeting will recess while the Board convenes to elect officers.

During this interlude, Donna Conrad was called to make her presentation concerning the 2010 Great Peppers Meeting to be held in Salado, Texas.

Patsy Childress presented the Great Peppers' Meeting banner to Donna Conrad, representing the 2010 Great Peppers' Meeting Committee.

Janice Miller announced the following officers for 2009 - 2010:

President – Renee Moore

Vice President – Tim Collier

Secretary – Roger Foltz

Treasurer – Ed Blair

President Moore recognized Mel FitzHenry, Preston Shaw, Guy Smith, Jim Ezell, Harvey West, Myrl Coultas, Jimmy Taylor, Vickie Childers, John Caffey, Ralph Hay, Ray and Pat King, Preston Nickle, Jim Stateczny, and Mike Strack, as past Directors present for today's Great Peppers Meeting.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, **MOTION** by Earl Gorhum, Piney Woods Pod, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded. There being no objections, the motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Renee F. Moore, President

Roger B. Foltz, Secretary