

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

**KERRVILLE, TEXAS**

**SEPTEMBER 10, 2011**

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

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was given. President Moore asked for a moment of silent prayer for the victims of 9/11, and those affected by the wildfires in Texas and across the USA.

Debbie LaLanne, as head of the 2011 Great Peppers Committee welcomed all to the event and thanked all those on her Committee who made it happen. President Moore recognized all those who helped with the work involved in putting on this year's event.

**Credentials Committee Report**

Sherry Davis, Chairman of the Credentials Committee stated they reviewed paperwork from 4 Pods who did not meet the requirements of the CASI by-laws. The Committee recommended that a letter of reprimand be sent to the two Pods who were in violation of CASI Article 13.

Secretary Foltz called the roll for the Pods. 65 Pods were present. **(Addendum A)**  
A quorum was present

The following Pods were not in attendance:

ALAMO AREA POD; CHILI HAWG POD; COWBOY CAPITOL CHILI POD; DESERT BREEZE; MO-KAN POD; SAN ANGELO COOKERS ASSOC.; THOUSAND TRAILS LAKE TAWAKONI.

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

Renee Moore, President  
Ed Blair, Vice-President  
Roger Foltz, Secretary  
David Sexton, Treasurer  
Janice Miller, Executive Director  
John Goforth  
Darin Jester  
Dana Plocheck  
Dorathy Williams  
Jenny Windsor

Absent:  
Robert Schrade

**MOTION** by Earl Gorham, Piney Woods Pod, to accept the report of the Credentials Committee. The motion was seconded by Debbie LaLanne, Hill Country Pod.

*Motion passed: Unanimous*

ED Miller advised there were no new Pods to be seeded at this meeting. Miller did recognize the State of Alabama Pod for continuing to be a viable Pod in that State.

### **Approval of Minutes of 2010 Great Peppers Meeting**

A copy of the Minutes of the Great Peppers Meeting held in Salado, Texas on September 11, 2010 was distributed to all.

**MOTION** by Mel FitzHenry, North of Brazos Pod, to approve the minutes from the previous Great Peppers Meeting. The motion was seconded by Gary Brignon, Top of Texas Pod

*Motion passed: Unanimous*

### **President's Message**

On behalf of Debbie and Steve Ashman, J.D. and Lisa Dugan, Mike Park, Joe Trigo, and Randy and me, we give you our heartfelt thanks for the emails, texts, phone calls, posts and prayers during this trying time of the Bastrop Complex Fire. The outpouring has been unbelievable. We have all been extremely fortunate in that we've suffered no personal losses while so many have.

To see firsthand the assistance to the area from so many avenues is truly unbelievable. It's a shame it takes a disaster and adversity to bring out the best in everyone. It seems when everything is going good, we're not as tolerant or patient and sometimes become apathetic.

What is apathy? It is the absence of interest or enthusiasm for things generally considered interesting or moving; a lack of enthusiasm.

I witnessed apathy this year as it came to the CASI Board election. We have four very talented individuals who stepped up to run for the Board. I applaud them but also wonder why our membership has no more interest in the organization. If apathy is allowed, our organization is in trouble!

I've had several pessimistic members tell me that CASI will never see its' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I sincerely hope that is not the case. Arthur Gordon said, "Some people confuse acceptance with apathy, but there's all the difference in the world. Apathy fails to distinguish between what can and what cannot be helped; acceptance makes that distinction. Apathy paralyzes the will to action; acceptance frees it by relieving it of impossible burdens".

Let's put apathy aside and work for the good of the organization.

I have heard much talk over the years particularly when individuals become disgruntled with actions of the Board. The most often heard comment is "the Board needs to run TICC, which is their only job". Article 5 of the ByLaws states, The Board of Directors is responsible for providing direction for the affairs of the organization. This responsibility will include the organization and promotion of the annual CASI Terlingua International Chili Championship".

The Board is not perfect; mistakes are made which is part of life. Criticisms aren't all bad, but please, try to be part of the solution, not part of the problem. Never look down on someone unless you're helping them up. Your Board needs and wants your input and assistance.

I have enjoyed my 11 years on the Board and leave knowing I've tried to do the best for the membership that I've served. Despite comments to the contrary, your Board does get along and are not in open warfare. There is no shouting, cursing, or pointing of fingers. The Board is composed of a diverse group of passionate people with minds of their own. Not one can be accused of not listening to everyone's comments, even if they disagree. As each of you are allowed a vote, so, too, are each of the Board members. They have been elected to serve you and do so to the best of their ability. The Board is united and will remain so.

I would like to thank all those Board members with whom I served during the last 11 years. They are all extraordinary people who only want the best for CASI. Thank you to all who have stepped up to assist when I asked. I could never name you all, but you are truly appreciated. And last, but certainly not least, a special thanks to Randy. He shared me with this organization and allowed me to serve. He saw the laughter, the tears, the frustration, and yes, even sometimes the anger.

Thank you all for being a very special part of my life.

### **Report of Nominating Committee**

Connie Collier thanked the members of her committee, Pat Krenek and Candy Knight. She advised that after review of all applications the following candidates for election to the CASI Board of Directors were qualified: Jim Ezell, Lee Kroencke, Glenda Vrba, and Jenny Windsor.

President Moore advised that there was a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors on September 9, 2011 to make a change to the bylaws to solve a problem now and in the future on the election of Directors. (Minutes of that meeting were prepared and published separately) The result of that meeting was the following bylaw change:

#### **Bylaw Article 5.02c**

In the event that there are the same number of candidates for election to the Board that there are vacancies on the Board, an election will be held as follows:

A ballot containing the names of all candidates will be distributed. Delegates will only vote for the two candidates they desire to receive 3 year terms.

Ballots that do not contain two (2) votes will be declared invalid and will not be tallied. In the event that the balloting results in a tie vote, refer to Article 5.02b above.

### **Executive Director Report**

Janice Miller reported she continues to update the CASI web site with new information about TICC as it becomes available. Miller indicated that the new building behind the stage was very helpful for registration at the 2010 TICC.

She advised that the blog format was changed to an easier to read format.

She still wants Pods to provide their history so it can be posted in the History section of the web site.

Miller followed up with several requests for public relations information, and advised of several articles written about CASI and our champion.

This year, I received a larger number of requests for information on the process of applying for the CASI Scholarship. Those Great Peppers who have students in their area applying for this scholarship did a great job reviewing and ensuring that all the information required was in each packet.

I have good news. I have been working with Bill Heslop to resurrect the Alabama Chili Pod. They have submitted their Annual Report and are represented at this Great Pepper's Meeting. Bill has already planned the Alabama State Open and it has been approved.

### **Vice President's Report**

Ed Blair reviewed the plans for the new Administrative Building, to be constructed prior to the 2011 TICC, and discussed the multiple functions of the building. He advised that we did put the plans out for bids, and the winning bidders were the same contractors who had built the new building behind the stage the previous year.

Blair advised that the IRS Form 990 was being prepared for the tax year 2010, and would be filed shortly.

### **Treasurer's Report**

David Sexton reviewed the copy of the Treasurer's Report distributed to all the Great Peppers and Directors. He reported that total income for 2010 was up slightly over 2009, and total expenses were down, resulting in a 13% increase in ordinary income. He indicated he expected total assets to be greater than \$500,000 for the 2011 year. **See Addendum B, attached.**

## **Membership Report**

Darin Jester reported that membership was down over 300 members from September 2010. Total chilis cooked are 13,828 to date. Jester advised that there are always renewals prior to TICC and at registration at TICC.

## **TallyMaster Report**

Jenny Windsor reported that as of August 15<sup>th</sup>, there were 8 fewer cookoffs than the previous year, and chili's judged was down, but the number of qualified cooks was just about the same. The number of qualified Show Teams was down by 13 from the same period last year, but the amount of money raised was \$103,182 higher than the previous year.

## **Upcomings**

Dorothy Williams reported that 574 cookoff packets had been mailed through August 15<sup>th</sup>. She has ordered merchandise for the 45<sup>th</sup> annual TICC, and prepared pricing signs for the concession area. She indicated all Friends of CASI signs and Corporate Member signs will be displayed in the concession area the week prior to TICC.

## **Public Relations**

Roger Foltz advised that during the past few months' current TICC Champion Tom Dozier has been to cookoffs in Arizona, Illinois, and Mexico. He will attend the California Open in October. CASI has received good publicity from our champ's attendance at these State & Regional Opens. Articles about CASI and the Terlingua cookoff have appeared in several publications, most recently the American Automobile Association monthly magazine. We have had meetings with a Public Relations firm, inquiring about cost of hiring the firm to promote CASI, and possible ideas for promotion of CASI and Chili.

## **Krazy Flats Report**

On Wednesday at TICC there will be a celebration of the life of Bruce Smith, remembering the years with Bruce. The Krazy Flats charter member breakfast will be Thursday morning, which is also the day of the BBQ Contest.

## **Ranch Report**

John Goforth reported that minor repairs to City Hall have been made, due to vandalism earlier this year. Also the extreme freeze in February 2011 caused damages to the piping on the rain water catchment system, and those repairs have also been made.

We have a bid for trash pickup at TICC of \$4,743, plus gas surcharge. This is about \$100 more than last year.

The bid for portable restrooms is \$19,800. This is an increase of \$120 for the lights in some units, and an increase in delivery and pick up charges of \$1,400 over last year.

At the request of the Brewster County Sheriff Department, the speed limit for 2011 TICC will be 5 MPH. New signs will be posted.

John reminded all that trash pickup does not begin until Wednesday and asked that we refrain from overfilling dumpsters.

### ***Terlingua Trails***

Dana Plocheck advised publishing costs average \$725 a month, which is the same as last year. Between 2,000 and 2,500 copies of the *Trails* are mailed each month. She reminded all that boxes containing 25 issues can be mailed to the large cookoffs for distribution to the public. Delays in mail delivery are all the fault of the Post Office. She reminded all that the *Trails* are available online. She asked that people preparing advertisements for cookoffs be aware of the size limits and reminded that sizes limits for all ads are in the *Trails* each month. She reminded all that one of the conditions in granting free advertisements to Regional and State Opens, Men's and Women's Opens was that they send photos and a report to the *Trails* following the cookoff. Dana reviewed the policy of reimbursement for the current TICC Champion to travel to various prestigious events throughout the country. She commended current TICC Champion Tom Dozier for his representation of CASI at various events he has attended across the country and in Mexico.

Dana previewed the poster for TICC this year, and recognized the designer of the poster, Susan Armand of Houston.

### **Sponsorship Report**

Jim Ezell advised that 2011 was a record year in many ways for CASI. We have received a second Legacy Sponsorship of \$25,000 from Bruce Foods to name and underwrite a new pavilion at the Ranch.

We have retained all Gold Sponsors (\$10,000 level) from 2010, and added a seventh Gold Sponsor in Western Spirits.

Our goal regarding Brewster County Sponsors has always been to 'give', and not 'take', but we do accept commitments and association if asked. This year we have a record level of participation from Terlingua Area Sponsors for which we are grateful.

The Friends of CASI level of sponsorship has continued to grow, after underwriting all the awards for the 2010 TICC, and giving a \$4,000 scholarship.

This year the winner of TICC will receive a record number of gifts in addition to the travel allowance initiated last year.

Ezell advised that Sponsorship will assist in underwriting the 2012 Great Peppers Meeting as the Board takes over that task.

This year we have 45 sponsors, and a key to the program is retaining sponsors through communication and work with the sponsors, and support of the goods and services of the sponsors by our members. To date Sponsorship has raised \$176,050 in cash, and goods and services toward the 2011 TICC.

### Scholarship Report

Program Administrator – Barbara Herrin (2009-June, 2012)

Committee members –

Nancy Klug (2010-2011)	Bob Horan (2011-2013)
Pat Krenek (2010-2012)	Shelley Kroencki (2011-2014)
Pat Irving-King (2010-2012)	Julie Netser (2011-2014)
Nancy Hewlett (2010-2013)	Connie Collier (2011-2015)
Dick Wagner (2010-2013)	

#### Status on Current Recipients

Granting year	Name	Proj. grad date	Encumbered money	Comments
2007	Westerman, Kurt	2011	\$2000	Unencumber money in Fall 2011
	Acevado, Brinlee Dowling	2011	\$2500	On full scholarship In Oklahoma
2008	Brockman, James	2012	\$2500	Unencumber money in Fall 2011
	Christensen, Jerad	2012	\$1000	
	Foster Tatum	2012	\$ 500	
	McAdams, Lauren	2012	\$ 500	
	Romeo, Tom	2012	\$ 500	
	McAdams, Lauran	2012	\$ 500	
	Sievering, Samantha	2012	\$ 500	
	Sotkovski, Luke	2012	\$ 500	
2009	Tenneson, Joshua	2013	\$1500	
	Longabaugh, Erik	2013	\$1500	
	Wampler, Jessica	2013	\$3000	Student now on full scholarship
	Talamentes, Joseph	2013	\$1500	
	Guy-Anzaldua, Candance	2013	\$1500	
2010	Bennett, Preston	2014	\$4000	Deferred until spring 2012
	Christenson, Jerica	2014	\$2500	
	Heng, Kim	2014	\$2500	
	Karaff, Kolby	2014	\$2500	

	McDonald, Justin	2014	\$2500	
	Scarborough, Balli	2012	-0-	Complete
	Sadler, Teffany	2012	\$500	Graduate school
2011	Ellis, Shelby	2012	\$1500	Trade school
	Falting, Brian	2012	\$2000	Unencumber Fall 2011
	Hard, Matthew	2015	\$3500	
	Hinh, Kimberly	2015	\$3500	
	Jowers, Kendra	2015	\$3500	
	Naff, Megan	2015	\$3500	
	Nash, Elizabeth	2015	\$2000	Trade school – defer until Spring 2012
	Nguyen, Jaclyn	2015	\$3500	
	Scarborough, Kelli	2012	\$ 500	Graduate school
	Smith, Shelmon	2015	\$3500	
	Wallace, Austin	2015	\$3500	

Tex Schoenfield				
2008	Stark, Helena	2012	\$500	
2009	Flippo, Brendan	2013	\$2000	
2010	Smith, Ayla	2014	\$3500	**No grades-no check
2011	Briana Melinda Sweeney	2015	\$3500	

**Note:** I placed an article in the May and June Trails asking the above scholarship recipients to furnish me with contact information and grade requirements so I could verify their scholarship status. I also placed an article in the ED's Blog asking for the same information. \*\* I emailed and left messages on her cellphone asking for information. I received no response from this student. I also asked K. Killingsworth, Supt. of Schools, to assist me in obtaining information from this student.

### **REPORT OF DONATIONS (Sept 1 – August 31, 2011)**

190 donations –\$9763 (memorials and donations to Scholarship Program))

48 donations –\$2125 (Texas Ladies State)

238 total \$11,888 total (An increase in both number of donations and amount of dollars donated. )

Of this amount six pods donated \$1606.01. Tips from the ice truck at TICC netted \$220 with \$50 coming from the Terlingua Teapots.

Cost of correspondence



Cards	\$195
Postage	\$167
Return address stamp	\$ 25
Total	\$387

### SELECTION PROCESS

- Feb. 1 received 100 applications by mail – This was down from last year, but only 7 were incomplete or lacked a Pod Representative signature. This was also lower than last year. Therefore, 87 academic applications and 6 trade/technical applications were sent to the committee for review.
- Feb. 17 copied applications and mailed to committee members requesting results by March 29th.

#### Cost

Copying	\$ 526.56 (down from \$588.24 in 2010)
Postage	\$ 130.00 (down from \$136.24 in 2010)
Total	\$ 656.56 (down from \$724.48 in 2010)

The decrease in cost was due to a decrease in the number of applications received, but the applications received were complete and had a Pod Representative signature.

- Mar. 29 tallied results and ranked top 12 academic applicants and 6 trade/technical applicants in rank order
- Mar. 31 requested additional \$1000 to be added to amount that had been allocated by the Board for 2011 scholarships
- April 7 emailed ED with a request for her to email the Board with the recommendations to award 8 academic and 3 trade/technical scholarships
- April 25 mailed letters of congratulations and regret to applicants

#### Cost

Copying	\$ 18
Postage	\$ 44
Total	\$ 62

- April 27 informed Great Peppers and/or Pod Representatives of their applicant receiving a scholarship
- May listed winners' names in Blog  
listed winners' names in Trails

#### **Observations from the selection process**

One hundred (100) applications were received with seven (7) being incomplete leaving ninety-three (93) applications for committee review.

Applications were received from the following states and pods:

State	Applications	Pod		
Arizona	13	High Desert Pod		
	1	Chili Appreciation		

		Society of Arizona		
Indiana	6	Indiana Pepper Pod		
Kansas	1	Gladiator Chili Pod		
Maryland	1	Mason Dixon Pod		
Montana	1	State of Texas (Ken Rodd)		
Nebraska	2	Pepe's Pod		
Texas	36	DAM Pod		
	1	Tall in Texas		
	3	State of Texas		
	4	Piney Woods Pod		
	8	SAP Pod		
	2	North of Brazos Pod		
	1	Purgatory Creek		
	2	Rose City		
	1	Texas Hill Country Pod		
	4	Concho Valley Chili Pod		
	3	Highland Lakes Pod		
	1	Alamo Area Pod		
	2	Houston Pod		
Virginia	1	Alamo Area Pod		
	1	Capitol Pod		
	93 total			

Of the 87 academic applicants, the selection committee chose 45 different applicants. Of the 45 applicants who were chosen, 22 applicants received votes from only one committee member. Twenty-three (23) received multiple votes. The top 10 applicants received votes from 2-6 committee members. The committee members listed their selections in rank order. I assigned a numerical value to the rank order of all of the top twelve (for example- a 1<sup>st</sup> place received 10 points, a 2<sup>nd</sup> received 9 and a 10<sup>th</sup> received 1 point) I then totaled the number of points each applicant received and placed the top ten in rank order. The top eight received scholarship awards.

The top three trade/technical applicants received votes from all committee members.

### Recommendations

1. A presentation certification is being designed to be used by anyone presenting a scholarship award to a new recipient.
2. This is a reminder that the term for the current Scholarship Administrator ends June, 2012.

## Old 320 Report

Ralph Hay, Alcalde for the Old 320, advised that in 2010 there were 236 cooks cooking on the Old 320 site, out of the 328 registered cooks. The winners of the raffle for Wendell Rankin painted stoves at 2010 TICC were Jeff Netser and Doris Greenlees. He reminded Old 320 members to register at TICC and get their name badge when registering for chili and show. Hay asked any cook who wishes to cook in the Old 320 area, and is not an Old 320 member, to contact him and he will get an unused site for them to cook. He asked all Pods having Old 320 sites to advise him who will be cooking on their site. He asked for volunteers to help with marking the Old 320 site on Wednesday morning, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Old 320 Meeting will be on Friday November 4<sup>th</sup>, immediately after the award ceremony for the Scholarship Day events.

Hay has contacted all the Old 320 members who aren't active anymore, and as a result has had 13 sites turned back in for sale to those on the waiting list.

## Great Pepper's Committee Report

Ed Blair reported that the Committee members were: Jenny Windsor, Co-Chairman, Adrienne Grant, Alan Dean, Bill Pierson, Diane FitzHenry, Gil Hewlett, Jim Ezell, John Montgomery, and Mel FitzHenry. The Committee agreed on 12 criteria to be met by the selected site. The site selected for the Great Pepper's Meeting for the next 3 years is the DoubleTree Hotel at 4441 W. John Carpenter Frwy, Irving, Texas. The negotiations with the Hotel were primarily handled by committee members, Mel and Diane FitzHenry, and John Montgomery. The Hotel is large enough to accommodate us, but not so large to have multiple events to create confusion. Blair advised 'host pods' are needed to provide on-site manpower for registration, hospitality rooms, and meeting room arrangements and decoration.

Blu Daniels asked all to bring school supplies to their camp site at TICC for distribution to the kids at Terlingua School.

Janie Bauer suggested a Road Runner Award be established to recognize the person(s) who traveled the farthest to get to TICC each year. She suggested a \$100 gas card be awarded.

Vicki Childers asked all to bring an unwrapped Christmas toy for the Terlingua kids.

## New Business

- A. **Show Entrants Registration Sheet:** The current Show Team Entrant sheet we currently use has never been formally adopted.

**MOTION** by Gary Brignon, Top of Texas Pod, to adopt the Show Team Entrant sheet as an official CASI document. The motion was seconded by Happy Hinman, ACES Pod.

*Motion passed: Unanimous*

- B. **TICC:** Renee Moore reviewed the fire restrictions in place in Brewster County, and the Waiver granted by County Commissioner Kathy Killingsworth. All cooks are encouraged to cook in the Old 320 area. Highway cleanup will be held Thursday morning at 8:00am, volunteers are needed. Veggie cutting will take place Thursday morning; volunteers are needed for this also. Diane FitzHenry will be head judge again. Pam Clark will be head show judge. Back stage protocol is that winners are allowed one person on stage and back stage with them. All trailers should be parked on the lower part of Cindy Lane to provide room in the cooks' area. Rio Bravo Security will begin on Tuesday evening again this year. All are asked to keep the lanes open in the Old 320 area on Saturday in the event someone needs help, access is vital.  
Moore asked all to review the schedule in their packet, as registration times have changed somewhat. Bruce Stewart advised that Academy does sell 8' x 8' Ez-Up canopies which will fit perfectly in the Old 320 area.
- C. **Rule Proposals:** Please see **Addendum C** attached for all the proposed Rule Changes and the outcome of the voting on each.
- D. **Request for Opens (State, Men's & Women's):** Request to hold the State of Alabama Open was approved.
- E. **Insurance Issues:** Janice Miller advised that any requests for insurance certificates need to come through the Executive Director, in order to keep up with changes in personnel at the insurance carrier.
- F. **2012 Great Peppers Meeting:** Ed Blair advised that Top of Texas has stepped up to host the hospitality room.

President Renee Moore announced the results of the voting for the Board of Directors:

Jim Ezell - 64 votes, receives a 3 year term.  
Jenny Windsor - 45 votes, receives a 3 year term.  
Lee Kreoncke – 38 votes, receives a 2 year term.  
Glenda Vrba – 3 votes, receives a 2 year term

The Board of Directors adjourned to elect new officers.

While the Board was adjourned, Joe Braden, Great Pepper of the Houston Pod reviewed the election process for the Hall of Flame, and requested nominations be mailed to him

The Board returned to the meeting and Janice Miller announced the following officers for 2011 - 2012:

President – Ed Blair  
Vice President – Jim Ezell  
Vice-president – Dana Plocheck  
Secretary – Roger Foltz  
Treasurer – David Sexton

There being no further business to come before the meeting, **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting was made. The motion was duly seconded. There being no objections, the motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

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Renee F. Moore, President

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Roger B. Foltz, Secretary