

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

ARLINGTON, TEXAS

PENDING APPROVAL

SEPTEMBER 7, 2013

President Ed Blair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was given.

President Blair recognized the CASI Great Peppers Committee; Jim Ezell, Gil Hewlett, Gary Brignon, Bill Pierson, Donna Conrad, and Richard Knight; and thanked them for their work in putting on the 2013 Great Peppers Meeting.

Credentials Committee Report

Richard Knight presented the recommendations from the Credentials Committee. Alan Dean Chairman of the Credentials Committee, Steve Lopez and Lyman Wilkinson Members

Knight stated the follow:

- Spice Up California Pod – Allowed to be seated, but suspended voting privileges during the GPM. Pod on Final Probation
- Heart of Tennessee Pod – Placed on probation with seating at the GPM
- Pacific Pod – Pod on probation with strong reprimand letter
- Mason-Dixon Pod – Pod on probation, letter of reprimand with seating at the GPM
- Mo-Kan Pod – Pod to receive a letter of reprimand
- Yavapai Chili Society – Placed on Probation
- Pepe's Pod – Probation, letter without seating at the GPM
- Desert Breeze Pod – Suspension for two years
- New Mexico Chili Society Pod – Suspension for two years
- Alpine Chili Society Pod – One year suspension
- Empire Pod – Probation but allowed to be seated at the GPM

Vice President Darin Jester called the roll for the Pods. 65 Pods were present. (**Addendum A**)
A quorum was present

The following Pods were not in attendance:

Empire State, Yavapai Chili Society, Alpine Chili Society, Comin Up Tough, Pepe's Pod

Vice President Jester called the roll for Directors. The following Directors were present:

Ed Blair, President
Richard Knight – Executive Director
Darin Jester – Vice-President
Jim Ezell, Vice-President
David Sexton, Treasurer
Lee Kroencke
Robert Schrade
Jenny Windsor
Glenda Vrba
Rand Duke
Mary Ellen Gillen

Approval of Minutes of 2011 Great Peppers Meeting

A copy of the Minutes of the Great Peppers Meeting held in Irving, Texas on September 8, 2012 was distributed to all.

MOTION by Rose City Pod, to approve the minutes from the previous Great Peppers Meeting.
The motion was seconded by San Antonio Pod

Motion passed: Unanimous

President's Message

President Ed Blair presented his final President's Message. He welcomed everyone to the 2013 Great Peppers Meeting. President Blair stated it was good to look out to a sea of familiar faces and new ones too. He thanked the Board of Directors, The Great Peppers, and the membership of CASI for their work and dedication to CASI.

Report of Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee Chair Pat Krenek, advised after review of all applications the following candidates for election to the CASI Board of Directors were qualified: Tim Collier, Kris Hudspeth, Lee Kroencke, Patti Myers, Glenda Vrba, and Harvey West.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Richard Knight presented the State of the Union through the eyes of the Executive Director. Richard stated to understand where CASI is going; you must first understand where CASI has been. Some of the changes set this past year were: Web based elections for an open Director position; we introduced a web based survey to the Great Pepper's for information to the BOD. Expect several more in the next year. ED Knight said it is hard for

the BOD to communicate and answer issues if we have little or no response back. ED Knight also standardized our books for the BOD meetings, having each Director provide his or her copies of their report to be placed in the books. This was a cost saving to CASI. Emails were sent to the Great Pepper's to increase communications. Communication is a two way street. CASI has grown and the BOD has grown to a working board. CASI may in the future need to look into a paid Administrator. This and the funds for this need to be looked into. When CASI was formed, the business structure established then now, for today's CASI has set us up for failure. At the time of this business plan, we said you do not have to be a member of CASI to cook. This has caused us to fail in regards to growing our organization. Now we as Great Pepper's and as the BOD need to look into growing our organization and our membership to carry us forward.

Vice President / Acting Secretary

Vice President Darin Jester informed the Great Peppers of the task he has been working on of developing Work Instructions for each position on the BOD and tasks performed by the BOD at TICC. This process will assist in the transfer of positions and for new incoming Directors to better understand their responsibilities as Directors. Once complete, these will be added to the TICC Bible. These will need to be updated on a regular basis or as needed.

VP Jester also reported that 2013 TICC we will be using the services of the Brewster Country Sheriff's Department personnel to provide security at the ranch. This will provide approx. a \$4000.00 cost savings to CASI, and provide uniformed Officer's on property at all times. VP Jester also stated this year we will have the AED's and medical supplies on property at the ranch starting Monday morning. VP Jester stated that we feel that CASI has lost some money by spectators crashing the gate after hours and slipping in on other areas. He has been working with the Sheriff on new patrols and check points on the ranch boarders to try and catch the people. If, someone is caught, they will be escorted directly to the Sheriff and charged a higher price to be allowed to stay. Roaming patrols are being implemented to catch people who do not have arm bands.

Vice President/ Sponsorship Chair

Vice President Jim Ezell reported on the status of our Sponsors. He stated for success of our Sponsors they need to attend TICC and follow up with photograph and coverage for the Terlingua Trails. We must merchandise our TICC facilities with Sponsor banners to enhance their product exposure. VP Ezell stated we must discourage the membership from actively displaying or endorsing competing brands. He expressed the need to express friendliness and thank our sponsors for their support and investment in CASI. It is important to give them a little space to enjoy our hospitality. As always try to incorporate promotion of our sponsors in your Pod sanctioned events around the country. As a reminder, VP Ezell stated it is easier to maintain and grow our sponsor program than it is to start over every year.

Gold Sponsors

Bruce Foods
Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi

Tequila Rose by McCormick Distilling
Glazers Beers
Mild Bills Spices
Western Spirits
L&F Distributors of Budweiser
HEB and Tyson Foods
Hill Country Software and Support

Silver Sponsors

Mrs. Renfros Foods
Outlaw Cigar Company
Choctaw Casino and Resorts

Local Terlingua Sponsors

High Sierra/El Dorado
Cycletek
Far Flung
Lajitas Golf Resort
Easter Egg Motel
Big Bend Brewery
Big Bend Resort

Treasurer's Report

David Sexton reviewed the copy of the Treasurer's Report distributed to all the Great Peppers and Directors. **See Addendum A, attached.**

Audit Report

Jim Stateczny presented the Audit Report for the Fiscal year 2012. The Audit Committee consisted of Jim Stateczny, Tom Williams, and Preston Shaw. In Jim's report it was noted at the time of the August 24, 2013 audit, the IRS 990 Tax Returns for the fiscal years of 2010, 2011, and 2012 had not been filed. President Ed Blair was aware of the late filings and had spoken with the IRS. The filing deadline with the IRS is November 2013. The CASI Board of Directors had reviewed and approved each return prior to the GPM. President Ed Blair had filed the IRS 990 tax returns for the fiscal years of 2010 and 2011 prior to receiving the Audit Report. Also in the Audit Report, Jim Stateczny noted that last year CASI was in jeopardy of losing our primary Trademark due to an incorrect address and point of contact on file with the agency. This was immediately taken care of through our trademark attorney without a loss, as was the CASI sales tax certificate for 2012.

MOTION: to accept the Audit Report and Reprimand the BOD by HOT Pod. Seconded by Rose City Pod. **Amended Motion:** to Split motion by HOT Pod and Seconded by Thousand Lakes Pod.

MOTION: to accept the Audit Report by HOT Pod and Seconded by San Antonio POD

Motion passed: Majority

MOTION: to reprimand the BOD by HOT Pod and Seconded by San Antonio Pod

Motion passed: Majority

Membership Report

Glenda Vrba presented the CASI Membership report. As of August 25, 2013 CASI membership is 873 Annual, 515 Life, and 13 Corporate, for a total of 1401. Glenda reported as of this report date, CASI had gained 184 new annual members, 12 life members, and 4 corporate members.

TallyMaster Report

Jenny Windsor presented the CASI TallyMaster Report. As of August 15, 2013 CASI had sanctioned 463 cookoffs with 13594 CASI chilis' judged. As of the report date, there have been 327 chili cooks qualified and 151 show teams qualified for TICC. These numbers have resulted in \$1,167,228 dollars raised for charities which is -\$228,825 from last year. Jenny also stated in her report that cookoff results need to be received no later than October 19, 2013 to insure packets are mailed out before the TallyMaster travels to Terlingua. It was also requested for everyone to please utilize the online payment system.

Upcomings

Lee Kroencke presented the CASI Upcomings report. In his report it was noted that as of September 2013 there have been 559 cookoffs entered for the 2012-2013 chili year. This denotes a +1.4% increase from last year. Increase would have been +10.2% except for 49 cancelled cookoffs.

Public Relations

Lee Kroencke reported that he and Jim Stateczny will be working together in regards to both web sites. Casichili.net will be our advertising site and chili.org will be a working tool for the Directors and members. Please visit each website as there is important information out there on both pages. Lee also reported that the Midland Odessa area will be hit very heavily in advertising for TICC. Lee also announced the later hours at the front gate to try and take in more money from those who arrive at the ranch after the gate has went un-staffed. Lee requested volunteers to work the front gate and the highway clean up.

Krazy Flats Report

Vice President Darin Jester reported Don Hoy will be the Krazy Flats Coordinator again this year. There will be shirts, hats and other Krazy Flats items on sale today out in the lobby for anyone who is interested in buying something.

Ranch Report

Robert "Wappo" Schrade reported the ranch is in good shape. There is always work that needs to be done prior to TICC. This year we have had a lot of growth show up around the ranch. New awning poles have been installed at the front gate house. A new safety railing has been installed at the stage in the Si Brown Pavilion. Improvements have been made to the concessions area, and the main stage area. Also Wappo stated that there have been eight new ceiling fans donated and installed in the Concessions area. Thank you Keith Karaff for donating these fans! Also, the gutters behind the Mexene judging pavilion and concessions area have been replaced. Wappo presented a new sign to hang at the entrance of the ranch. This sign was made by Dave Manske, and Larry Burris.

Governance Committee

As Chair Person of the Governance Committee, Robert Schrade presented that this year, his committee has reviewed the CASI CCO sign in sheet. Due to numerous requests, the line for your chili name has been added back to this form. Also, in the January Board meeting, the committee was tasked with assigning Directors to be connected with a group of Pods. This has been done, and now each Director is responsible for communication and to be a point of contact between the Pods and the BOD. This will take place after the GPM.

Terlingua Trails

Randy Duke reported that due to a family health issue, Dana Plocheck has been publishing the Trails. Dana addressed the Great Pepper's and stated the importance of the Terlingua Trails. This is a valuable tool for CASI. It promotes our Sponsors; it preserves our heritage and informs our membership of all upcoming events. Dana also unveiled this year's TICC Posters. Posters are available for anyone who would like to take some today.

Friday Scholarship Day Activities

Glenda Vrba talked about the Scholarship Day events. Again we will be holding contests for Beans, Wings, and Salsa (two types) and prices will stay the same as last year. Volunteers are always welcome to help. Still need volunteers to help cut veggies, and assist throughout the day. If you want to help, please get with her.

Scholarship Report

Nancy Hewlett presented the Scholarship Report. Nancy presented the names of the students who received CASI scholarships. Nancy commended the Pods for their participation in the Scholarship Program. Nancy also presented a report on donations received for the program.

From September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2013:

\$8252.00 – 122 donations and memorials to Program

\$2750.00 – 55 donations from Texas Ladies State

\$11,002.00 – 177 total individual donations

\$11,381.00 – Total donations from TICC and the GPM

\$22,383.00 = Donations and TICC/GPM

Old 320 Report

Ralph Hay requested a motion be made to open up the Ranch Wall Plaques to anyone who would like to purchase one. The motion was accepted and these are now available for anyone who would like to purchase. Ralph also requested that if you are not going to use your site @ TICC this year, please let him know so he can reassign it for this TICC. If a Pod has a 320 site, please let him know who will be cooking on that site. Ralph also requested volunteers to assist with marking the Old 320 area at TICC.

Old Business

President Ed Blair and Vice President Ezell reported the status on TICC.

- New Band
- New Food Vendors
- Increase to \$40.00 for TICC Gate price
- Cost to put on TICC with and without Sponsors
- Wednesday Night Events at TICC
- Halloween Social

New Business

Election of new CASI Directors – Candidates are:

- Lee Kroencke
- Glenda Vrba
- Tim Collier
- Patti Meyers
- Kris Hudspeth
- Harvey West

Results:

- Tim Collier – 3 Year Term = 63 Votes
- Lee Kroencke – 3 Year Term = 59 Votes
- Kris Hudspeth – 2 Year Term = 48 Votes
- Patti Meyers – 2 Year Term = 47 Votes

2013-2014 CASI Directors

- Jim Ezell – President
- Jenny Windsor – VP/TallyMaster
- Mary Ellen Gillen – Treasurer
- Darin Jester – Secretary
- Richard Knight – Executive Director
- Robert Schrade – Ranch Manager
- Tim Collier – Membership/Krazy Flats
- Lee Kroencke – Upcomings/IT
- Kris Hudspeth – PR
- Randy Duke – Trails
- Patti Meyers - Trails

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

Ed Blair, President

Darin P. Jester, Vice President/Acting
Secretary