

**MINUTES OF THE
35th ANNUAL GREAT PEPPERS' MEETING
OF THE CASI -
CHILI APPRECIATION SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL, INC.
ARLINGTON, TEXAS
PENDING APPROVAL
SEPTEMBER 6, 2014**

President Jenny Windsor called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
Everyone stood while the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was given.
President Windsor welcomed everyone to the 35th Annual Great Pepper's Meeting.

President Windsor recognized the CASI Great Peppers Committee; Patti Meyers-Jones, Gil Hewlett, Kris Hudspeth, Donna Conrad, Gary Brignon, and Richard Knight; and thanked them for their work in putting on the 2014 Great Pepper's Meeting.

Richard Knight said we have a special situation this year with a special election being held at the beginning of the meeting, so while the ballots are being passed out, and then picked back up, they will be giving the Credentials Committee recommendations then they will call roll.

Credentials Committee Report

Richard Knight stated that the Board had been presented with the Credentials Committee Report at their Board meeting on Friday and voted on it. The committee consisted of Ted Fichtl, Chairman, Eric Ackerman and Tom Klug.

- There were five Pods that were on probation last year, but those Pods have come off of probation.
- Spice Up California and Empire Pod did not have delegates last year, nor do they have them this year, therefore they are suspended. If they want to come back it will be as a new Pod.
- Pepe's Pod will remain on probation, but hopefully will be represented next year.

Darin Jester called the roll for the Pods.
The following Pods were not in attendance:
Empire State, Pepe's Pod, and Spice Up California
A quorum was declared.

Darin Jester then called the roll for Directors. The following Directors were present:

Jenny Windsor
Mary Ellen Gillen
Darin Jester
Richard Knight
Robert Schrade
Tim Collier
Lee Kroencke
Kris Hudspeth
Randy Duke
Patti Meyers

Jim Ezell was absent

There was a 10 minute recess to finish counting the votes. The time was 9:15. At 9:22 Jenny Windsor called the meeting back to order. Richard Knight thanked the outgoing members, Lee Kroencke and Darin Jester, for their service. He also wanted to acknowledge that these two members were Great Peppers and local leadership during their time as Board members.

The results of the Special Election were: With a majority of votes, the 2 year term went to Jenny Windsor
The 1 year term went to Susan Armand

At this point the outgoing members were excused and Susan Armand came forward. Richard Knight acknowledged that the Board only consisted of 9 members for the remainder of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes of 2013 Great Peppers Meeting

A copy of the Minutes of the Great Peppers Meeting held in Irving, Texas on September 7, 2013 was in the booklet. **MOTION** by Mike Rudd/Indiana Pepper Pod, to approve the minutes from the previous Great Peppers Meeting. The motion was seconded by Renee Moore/State of Texas Pod

Motion **passed**

President's Message

President Jenny Windsor presented her final President's Message. She welcomed everyone and thanked them for their work and dedication to CASI. Her message was over leadership and teamwork. She charged everyone to look at what they are good at, and how they need to improve in order to help CASI. She also wanted everyone to ask themselves how we rekindle the passion that we had when we started; how can we get that warrior spirit to come together to overcome any obstacle; how we, as leaders, keep that passion alive and growing. We have to do that as a collective group to make CASI flourish.

Report of Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee Chair Pat Krenek, thanked everyone for their participation in the Round Table discussion on Friday. She advised after review of all applications, the candidates for election to the CASI Board of Directors, and the single candidate for the Executive Director, were verified as current CASI members and all were qualified. She said that during the break if everyone wanted to talk to the candidates for Great Pepper of the Year that would be a good time. The election would be held at the same time as the Board election. She introduced her committee members: Kathy Mulkey, John Montgomery, Maxine Reed, Sherrie Davis, David Manske, and Sue Caffey.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Richard Knight presented the State of the Union through the eyes of the Executive Director. Richard impressed upon everyone that CASI must be protected, both their trademark and reputation. He said we have always had controversy from the very first cook-off, but over time we have always prevailed. And all of this was accomplished by volunteers. This year has brought three controversies that were probably the hardest we have faced. One involved negativity on social media. He asked everyone in the room not to be part of the problem, but be part of the solution in the coming year. He said with all the controversies this year we are still financially sound, more stable, with policies in place to prevent any regulatory issues in the future. And with the looks of the full room we will be able to overcome any controversy that is thrown at us in the next few years. He thanked everyone for allowing him to serve CASI for the last 35 plus years and as the Executive Director for the last two.

Treasurer's Report/Financial Committee Report

Mary Ellen Gillen said she wanted to make a comment. She said when she took over the books there were numerous entries that needed to be identified, corrected and researched. This caused the presentation of the financials to be delayed and she apologized for that. She then reviewed the copy of the Treasurer's Report distributed to all the Great Peppers and Directors in their booklets. **See Addendum A.** She said we have 6 bank accounts. The first report

was the Balance Sheet. She went over this report in detail. Mel Fitzhenry asked a question over the Insurance Fund. He asked if the deficit in the last year's Insurance Fund was the reason for the \$1.00 increase in the per cook charge. Richard Knight said it was, but it would all be explained during the line item review. She then went over the difference between January 1st 2013 and January 1st 2014. She said cash in banks was down by \$32,000 due to the loss. She had some items that needed to be researched and corrected. It was done with the help of Ken Armand and Richard Knight. Fixed Assets are down because of depreciation.

Richard Knight then went over the next slide which was a line item by line item comparison of 2012 and 2013. There was no BBQ contest in 2013, so there was no revenue or expenses for that line item in 2013. In 2012 the expenses were higher than the revenue. The question was asked if the Great Peppers had a copy of this in their booklets, and Richard told them there was not, but a copy would be sent as soon as possible after the meeting. The Friday events all go to the Scholarship Fund. There are expenses greater than \$5,000, but no revenue to cover that except sponsorship revenue. On the ice revenue the bill did not get paid in 2012, so the amount was for two years in 2013. The Sales Tax Fee was also a double year expense in 2013. One of the things they are looking at in the bar is the profit margin. One of the benefits for members is CASI selling the wine at cost, which gives us a negative profit margin, so this year it will be listed separately to take it out of the bar. Also a benefit to our sponsors and Friends of CASI is free beer, but if we use more than the free beer we get, we have to pay for that, and it is an expense to us. On the CASI store, the Main Store and the Krazy Flats Store made \$23,000. Our expenses reflected a loss, but part of that was the tax that was paid late in the year before. So, some of the taxes should have been in 2012. Susan Armand has taken the store and we are hoping for a profit this year. The other expenses are contestant related. This includes jackets, shirts, trophies, etc. There is no revenue stream for contestants. This is strictly an expense item. It is approximately \$27,000 each year. This is one of the reasons the Board went out to see how we can cover this expense. Some of it is covered by Friends of CASI, but not all. Other TICC revenues that come in are for vendor fees, gate admissions and miscellaneous. Last year we brought in \$47,000. We had revenues up last year because we had higher gate admissions. Our biggest expense every year is in porta johns. Security is also an expense. This year it will be less than \$5,000. The goal this year is to get all expenses paid after Terlingua in the same year that they are accrued so that we start the next year clear and clean. We also give area contributions. Last year these amounted to \$20,700. The Board has decided not to give these contributions out at TICC this year, but wait until January when we will know what kind of money we have to give. Mel Fitzhenry asked for clarification of this point, which Richard gave. For a recap Richard said that without our sponsors last year we had revenues of \$109,000 and expenses of \$197,000. So without our sponsors we went in the hole for \$88,000 last year. The sponsorships, moneywise, that we had coming in was \$63,000. So if you look at revenues and expenses, including sponsorships for TICC we lost at total of \$9,298. Our sponsors were also given credit for \$70,000 for products and services last year. We have revenues coming in for membership and Trails ads, which last year was \$18,000. Our Trails and membership expenses last year were \$24,000, so we had a loss of \$6,000. The Trails is a true benefit to our members and if we could expand our membership it would help defray the costs in this line item. We have miscellaneous contributors, sanctioning fees and registration fees. The revenues in this area, which include Director expenses, legal expenses, etc. were \$29,000 with expenses of \$23,000 so that the \$1 per cook-off and \$25 fee is really covering administrative expenses. Concerning the Insurance line item, from the \$1.00 from each cook per cook-off we brought in \$15,000. Our General Liability Insurance was \$10,000, Property Insurance was \$4,000, D&O was \$1,200, Volunteer Insurance was \$286 and an Umbrella Liability Insurance was \$9,000. So for Insurance last year we had expenses of \$25,000. That is the reason we had to go from \$1 to \$2 per cook. By the end of 2015 we should have a profit on this line item. The Board would like to take the property insurance and become self-insured. If we grow that fund to the point that we are covered in our premiums, we could go back to the \$1 per cook. For the Great Pepper's Meeting line item we had revenue of \$17,000 and an expense of \$15,000 so we had a plus to go back to the General Fund. On the ranch we get revenue from the rental of the cell phone tower. We take that and offset any expenses for the ranch, like utilities and taxes. Our Ranch Manager is looking at the utilities to see if there are options for turning the utilities off when not in use. Richard then explained the Scholarship Fund, and the IRS rules governing it. All money given for scholarships must go to scholarships. He also explained how the money available is determined. He went over where the money comes from. The Friday events all go to the Scholarship Fund. There are other things, like raffles, and memorials that also raise funds. The total raised last year was \$27,000 and expenses of \$33,000, but part of this was a flow over for four years. Our net P&L last year was \$316,000 against expenses of \$346,000, which included depreciation which is not a cash flow issue, so if you take that out, we ended up minus \$20,600 in cash flow in 2013.

Richard then said he went back to reports from 2008 and picked out 5 items we could improve on. From our bar profits our profit margin has decreased. We will look at this to be sure we have a profit. Instead of an armband for sponsors this year there will be a punch card. On the CASI Store profit we have gone from a profit to a loss. Our profit margin has gone down. Susan Armand is looking at this and hopes to turn it around this year. Other additional expenses are Champions travel, winner's chairs and shirts. We have also had more expenses in bands, sponsor plaques, porta johns, and advertising. We have increases area contributions by \$6,200 in the last 5 years. These are the areas the Board is looking at to help reduce our expenses. Mel Fitzhenry asked if we are looking at getting less porta johns. Robert Schrade said we will have fewer this year. But there is a ratio of how many porta johns we need for an event. We are getting the bare minimum for the number of people we have at the event, for the length of time we have them for. Richard Knight pointed out that on our mass permit we have to show the judge that we are providing services to those attending our event. Gil Hewlett asked about permanent facilities at TICC. Richard Knight explained that the experts have told the Board basically we would have to find someone to keep them clean, that it would be more difficult to empty them and would not be feasible. Mel Fitzhenry asked about buying our own porta johns and keeping them there, then hiring someone to come pump them. Tim Collier explained that the Board has looked into this issue also. He said the problem is if we don't rent them, they don't want to come in and pump them. Richard Knight told the group that the Board had looked at this issue from every angle, and the only solution appears to be working to get the price as low as possible and get the fewest porta johns as possible. He said we only have two companies that are willing to come there to give us a bid. John McDaniel asked if the pods or an individual could sponsor a porta john. Richard Knight said they certainly could. The average cost of a porta john is about \$300 each.

Audit Report

Ken Armand presented the Audit Report for the Fiscal year 2013. He said there were issues addressed last year by the Audit Committee and he spent quite a bit of time reviewing those issues to make sure they were being addressed and taken seriously. He found that the Board was very concerned and had made significant improvements in the controls. He went over the things that have been implemented to make sure nothing falls through the cracks in the future. All sales tax reports are current. Significant improvements have been made in paying bills on time. All bank accounts are reconciled monthly now and current. The conclusion is that the Board has taken the findings in the prior year's report very seriously, has made significant progress in the past year to address those findings and take corrective actions where required as well as implement other policies to strengthen the overall financial environment of CASI. All prior year's 990 Tax Returns have been filed through 2013 and accepted by the IRS. Sales Tax returns have been filed and current year financial statements have been reviewed through July of 2014. There were some reconciling errors that have been corrected.

MOTION: to accept the Audit Report by Robert Schrade. Seconded by Connie Schrade with Alamo Area Pod.
Motion passed

A break was called for. The time was 10:31 am. The meeting reconvened at 10:47 am.

Review of 2014 48th Annual TICC Event **Entertainment**

Kris Hudspeth gave a report over the entertainment planned for TICC. Wednesday night after the Tequila Rose and Tequila in Terlingua parties there will be a local band to play in the Ancira Pavilion. Thursday night is being billed as Jammin' at the Ranch. The main stage will be open for open mike night. Friday night there will be a band called the Casey Kelly Band on the main stage. Saturday night we will close the main concession stand and stage area and push everyone to the Flats and Wally will have a live band. Total cost this year will be between \$2,500 and \$3,000. Richard Knight said that Thursday night Jammin' at the Ranch is being coordinated by Bill Lester who has invited several local musicians, so the night should be fun.

Events

Jenny Windsor conveyed the events at the ranch during TICC. He said this year the events would kick off on Tuesday with the Domino Tournament. On Wednesday night the Tequila Rose and Tequila In Terlingua parties with

the band playing after in the Ancira Pavilion. Thursday morning will be the Golf Cart Parade, then Happy Hour at both concession areas, then the Dog Parade, sponsored by Bird Dog Whiskey. The Horse Shoe Tournament will once again be in Krazy Flats. Thursday afternoon will be the Tequila Rose Dessert Contest. Tequila Rose is also sponsoring a Glam Camp Contest that will be judged on Thursday. Thursday night is the Memorial Service. Then Jammin' At The Ranch on the main stage, also the costume party. There will also be sponsor tastings on Thursday. Friday will be the Beans, Wings and Salsa cook-offs to benefit the Scholarship Fund. Again, there will be sponsor tastings. The Virgins Party will be held behind the stage. After announcements there will be an Old 320 meeting in the Judging Area. On Saturday we will have the main event. There will be a Bloody Mary Reception behind the stage. Turn in will be at high noon. Then head for Krazy Flats. Judging for TICC will be headed up by David Manske this year. He went over the persons in charge of each area of responsibility at the ranch.

Jenny Windsor thanked Diane Fitzhenry for running judging at TICC for many years.

Contestant Shirts

Jenny Windsor said that for what we are paying for the polo shirts we do not get the "bang for the buck" that we should by people wearing them. This year the Great Peppers and Referees will still get the polo shirts. Chili cooks and show teams will get a t shirt this year. They are a third of the price of the polo shirt. There was a slide shown to show what they will look like.

Sponsorship Report

Kris Hudspeth gave the Sponsorship Report. He said the team working on Sponsorship was Tim Collier, Patti Meyers Jones, Roger Foltz and Richard Knight and himself. Roger Foltz and Tim Collier were in charge of Friend of CASI. Richard Knight was in charge of Western Spirits and Tequila Rose. Patti was in charge of Woodridge, HEB and Tyson. Kris had the beer companies and Bruce Foods. Tim Collier also was liaison for Hill Country Software.

All Gold Sponsors and Silver Sponsors will be the same this year as last year. We are up to date with collections for sponsors. Friends of CASI have a new logo which will be on their shirt at TICC. He told that Jenny Windsor had created the logo specifically for Friends of CASI. He asked everyone who had leads for sponsors to let him, Richard Knight or Ted Fichtl know.

Ranch Report

Robert "Wappo" Schrade said that he wanted to clarify that anyone who wanted to donate to the porta johns could give any amount; they didn't have to give the full amount to support one porta john. There will be a fence along the creek this year to keep anyone from stepping off of it as has happened in the past. This will consist of posts in concrete and beer banners will hang there. Saturday before the event (the 26th) there will be a special dedication behind the stage at high noon. This is the 25th year at the ranch so they have created a special banner to hang at the main entrance. Connie Schrade and Larry Burruss came forward to show everyone the banner. He said he needs help at the ranch so he needs volunteers.

Old 320 Report

Ralph Hay said last year there were 62 people who attended the Old 320 meeting. He told everyone that they needed to let him know if they are not cooking on their site, or have told someone they could cook there. He needs volunteers to help mark sites. This year there will be an election for Alcalde at the Old 320 meeting. Bob Steinle is the only one running so far. People must be cooking in the 320 to be eligible for the stove drawing. They want to have as many people as possible cooking in the 320. There are still spots available to place plaques on the wall lining the 320. You must furnish your own rock.

Membership Report

Tim Collier presented the CASI Membership report. As of August 25, 2013 CASI membership is 853 Annual, 503 Life, and 28 Corporate, for a total of 1384. He said we are headed in the right direction. He reminded everyone that if anyone passes away to contact Connie Collier so that they can be added to the Memorial Board. He said everyone could go to the new site mychili.org or to casichili.net to pay for membership.

Tally Master Report

Jenny Windsor presented the CASI Tally Master Report. Cook-offs are down but money to charity is up. New this year she is sending emails for qualification instead of the card. They also are looking at the ability to print your own card from mychili.org. She reminded everyone that she needs all results of September cook-offs by October 12th to get everything done for Terlingua.

Events Committee

Jenny Windsor also chairs the Events Committee. She said her members were Patti Meyers-Jones, James Brockman, Guy Smith, Janice Miller, Sherri Davis, John Montgomery and Vickie Childers. She told about the events for the past chili year. There was a new state championship approved the day before in Pennsylvania. Larry Burris has put in an application for the South Central Texas Regional Open Championship to replace the National Open. He has asked to grandfather this championship in.

MOTION: to approve this championship, grandfathered in, was made by Connie Schrade with Alamo Area Pod. This was seconded by Vickie Childers with Tall in Texas Pod. *Motion passed: Unanimous*

Terlingua Trails/Poster

Dana Plocheck reminded everyone that if anyone passed away to send a message to her as well as Connie Collier, including a picture if possible so that she could publish it. She said she was approached by some chili cooks about the need to send 25 copies of the Trails to every cook-off when they are not used or distributed there. After the current batch of boxes are extinguished only 12 copies of the Trails would be sent to the cook-offs. She also reminded that if anyone placed a free ¼ page ad in the Trails for state, regional and open cook-offs that they send an article and pictures afterward. It is one of the requirements for the free ad. There was a question about why they received two Trails at their house. She said to let Connie Collier know and she would uncheck one of the names at that address. Again she asked for pictures from all cook-offs. She said she is working with Hill Country Software to make sure members can get the copy of the Trails emailed to them in PDF format.

Susan Armond designed the poster this year. The design was based upon the painted skull of the Mexican holiday of the Day of the Dead. Dana read the thoughts of Susan on the design. Dana then thanked Carol Knight for her help on the Trails.

Upcomings / Friday Scholarship Day Activities / Wine

Patti Meyers-Jones presented the CASI Upcomings report. She said Dorathy Williams is the Upcoming Coordinator. She said overall total number of cook-offs are up a little over last year.

Patti is also in charge of the Friday events at TICC. There will again be beans, wings and salsa competitions. She gave the head judges for each event. She said to clarify the wings competition, the wings must be fried with sauce.

She said to make sure to let her know what wine everyone wanted and she would make sure it gets ordered. There will be extra cases in case we need them, but it would be good to let her know in advance.

At this point we broke for lunch. The time was 11:45 am. The meeting reconvened at 1:00 pm. Richard Knight pointed out that on the ranch we had a pump go out and Randy Duke found us a pump. He thanked him for the pump on behalf of CASI.

Scholarship Report

Nancy Hewlett presented the Scholarship Report. Nancy presented the names of the students who received CASI scholarships including the graduates from Terlingua. She said there were 98 applications, but only one for Trade. We currently have 37 students on scholarships. Nancy commended the Pods for their participation in the Scholarship Program. Nancy also presented a report on donations received for the program.

This year's donations were:

\$9,033 – Donations and memorials to Program

\$1,975 – Donations from Texas Ladies State

\$9,642 – Total donations from TICC

\$3,500 – Southwest Raffle

The total was \$24,151. Up from last year. Donations last year amounted to \$22,383. She felt this was due to the raffle, so she would push that again this year. She told about the raffle and the fact that the tickets can only be sold in Texas. People do not have to be present to win.

Ballots for Regular Elections

Ballots were passed out for the Board positions.

During this process, Richard Knight introduced Don Hoy, Nancy Hewlett, Ralph Hay, Dana Plocheck, Connie Collier and Dorathy Williams (not present), off Board members who do a lot of work for CASI behind the scenes. He told them that they are greatly appreciated.

Richard Knight also announced that yesterday CASI received notification that Jim Parker, from the Hard Times Café passed away. Jim had been a leader in the chili community in the North East region for years.

Old Business

Mel Fitzhenry/Black Sheep Pod came forward to say he felt the shirts were an important part of CASI benefits and he felt the shirts should all be polo shirts. He asked the gathering what their feelings were. The majority agreed with the change, however he expressed his displeasure with it and asked the Board to reconsider.

New Business

A - Proposed Rule Changes

Highland Lakes Pod submitted a rule change concerning the filling of the cup. (I.A.E.) After discussion he made a motion to change the rule to read: Cups must be filled to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from the top of the cup or to the level designated at the cooks' meeting. This was seconded by Yavapai Pod. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Space City Pod and Indiana Pepper Pod each submitted a rule change regarding having the required number of eligible cooks present and cooking (V.A.5) Mike Rudd/Indiana Pepper Pod were asking to change the number of cooks to 6 point state = 10 cooks; 9 point state = 12 cooks and 12 point state = 15 cooks. He made a motion to make this change. Bill Heslop seconded this motion. After a great deal of discussion the vote was taken, but the motion **failed**.

The next proposal presented by the Indiana Pepper Pod regarding ties for tenth place getting a point was **withdrawn**.

Heart of Tennessee Pod presented a rule change regarding the National Open Championship (V.I.B.3) Richard Knight explained the proposal which would read:

The National Open Championship may be held anywhere in the Continental United States. Approval of the National Championship shall be made by the CASI Board of Directors upon the recommendation of the CASI Events Committee and Executive Director.

- a. Beginning with 2016 chili year applications for the National Open Championship must be submitted to the Executive Director no later than May 1 of the previous year.

(Example: Application for the 2016 chili year must be submitted on or before May 1, 2015.)

b. The Events Committee shall evaluate all applications and will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors based on the following criteria:

1. History of the Chili Cook-off proposing to host the National Open
2. Endorsement by a Pod in the geographical area proposing to host the National Open.
3. Ability of the promoter to accommodate an unlimited number of cooks.

Preston Shaw made a motion to approve, with a second from Mel Fitzhenry. The vote unanimously **passed**.

State of Texas Pod presented a rule change regarding Establishing Open Championships (VI.B) Renee Moore came forward to explain the proposal which would read:

On any given day when a non-automatic qualifying cook-off has the required number of chilis judged, the cook-off will automatically qualify 1st place chili for TICC, if the following required number of chilis are judges: (The automatic qualification is for that day only and will not carry over from year to year)

- a. A 12 point state = 100 chilis judged
- b. A 9 point state = 75 chilis judged
- c. A 6 point state = 50 chilis judged

Renee Moore made a motion to approve this rule change. This was seconded by Vern Gilpin and was unanimously **passed**.

Break in Rule Changes for Election Update

Richard Knight announced there was a tie on the ballots for the Board of Directors therefore they were passing out another round of ballots to choose between Richard Knight and Mary Ellen Gillen for the three year term. These were then picked up to be tabulated.

Resume Proposed Rule Changes

Pod of the Pass presented a rule change regarding recognition of Open Championship Winners and Qualified Showmanship Teams (VI.C & VII.E.2) Carol Straughan/Pod of the Pass made a motion to approve a rule change: The first place showmanship team at a State Open will automatically qualify for TICC, as well as the top placing state resident team. This was seconded by Bob Steinle and unanimously **passed**.

Thousand Trails, Whitney and Golden Triangle Pods presented a rule change regarding a 10th Place Tie Breaking on the Final Table (VII.D.1/II.F.2) Keith Longabaugh/Golden Triangle made a motion to approve a rule change that would give a point to any chili that ties with 10th place chili. This was seconded by Dick DeiTos/Casinova Pod. Motion **failed**.

Rose City Pod presented a rule change regarding awarding of show points being awarded down to fourth place (VII.D.2) **Withdrawn by Rose City Pod**

Space City Pod presented a rule change regarding qualified on points (VII.E) Susan Armand made a motion to change this rule to read that every cook must be a member in order to have their points recorded, with a 90 day free CASI membership for new cooks. Preston Shaw seconded this motion. Motion **failed**.

Heart of Tennessee Pod presented a rule change which would change the winners who would qualify to cook in Terlingua, at a championship with over 150 cooks to the top ten. **Withdrawn by HOT Pod**

Houston Pod presented a rule change to change the cut-off date for paying membership in order to cook at TICC. (VII.E.1.e) Vern Gilpin made a motion to change this rule to read: To cook at TICC, a cook must be a paid CASI member. A "member" is one who has paid annual dues for the current year or has become a life member of CASI. Paid status is determined as of September 30th of each chili year, immediately prior to TICC for which the cook has qualified with a 10-day grace period. This was seconded by Cynthia Whittenburg/Space City Pod. Motion **passed**.

Pasadena Pod presented a rule change regarding qualification for TICC for 1st place at a pod cook-off. (VII.E.1.f) Dorothy Spishock made a motion to change this rule to read: All established sanctioned Pods, in good standing for 5 years or more are eligible for their annual recognized (one a year) Pod cook-off winner to be automatically qualified for TICC, regardless of number of cooks. This was seconded by Mike Mayorga/Piney Woods Pod. A motion to amend this to "one official Pod cook-off per year" was made by Mike Mayorga/Piney Woods Pod with a second by Nancy Coultas and was unanimously **passed**. The amended motion then **passed**.

There was a 15 minute break called for. The time was 2:45 pm. The meeting was reconvened at 3:00 pm.

Houston Pod presented a rule change regarding qualified showmanship teams (VII.E.2a) Vern Gilpin/Houston Pod said this rule change correlates with the other one for chili. He made a motion to change this rule to read: To perform showmanship at TICC, the show team captain must be a paid CASI member. A "member" is one who has paid annual dues for the current year or has become a life member of CASI. Paid status is determined as of September 30th of each year. Immediately prior to TICC for which the show team has qualified with a 10 day grace period permitted. This was seconded by Bob Steinle. Motion **passed**.

CASI Rules Committee presented a rule change regarding the control of computer tally sheets at a cook-off. (II.F.1.c) **Withdrawn**

Concho Valley Pod presented a rule change regarding final judges. (II.B.3) Janice Miller came forward to present this rule change and made a motion to approve: Add to the current rule, "in case of unforeseen circumstances conduct a drawing of possible judges names, regardless of association with a cook for needed judges, then announce that this has been done". This was seconded by Paul Mulkey. Motion **failed**

The Board of Directors presented a rule change regarding CASI Open Championships (VI.D) Ted Fichtl came forward to make a motion to approve a special cook-off, called the CASI Special Events Cook-off, as an automatic qualifier cook-off, that would be awarded by the CASI Board to a region or Pod in the event of a special event which had wide range regional or national public relations potential. This was seconded by Janice Miller. Ted then explained that the Arizona Pod had been approached by the NFL about an event connected with the Super Bowl. He told how this had progressed to having a cook-off the day before the Super Bowl and a Tailgate Party the day of the Super Bowl. This would fall into the category for this Special Events Cook-off. He asked to approve this Special Events Cook-off as a new automatic qualifier. Not specifically the cook-off in Arizona, but any special event could have a special event cook-off that is an automatic qualifier, with the possibility of being more than one per year. Motion **passed**

B - Future Great Pepper's Meeting

Richard Knight said a proposal had been submitted to hold the 2015 Great Pepper's Meeting in Austin at the Holiday Inn Midtown. Renee Moore made a motion to approve this. Vickie Childers/Tall in Texas seconded this motion. Motion **passed**

Richard Knight said he would like the Great Pepper's to think about a 3 year rotation of the Great Pepper's Meeting based upon a region. The regions would be developed for this. This would put less stress on a single pod, but on the whole region of that pod. He asked for comments. Erik Ackerson/Virgin Pod asked if an

International Airport would be taken into consideration. Richard said it would have to be part of the consideration. Richard took a straw vote on preference on this proposal.

C-Other New Business

Paul Mulkey came forward to donate \$100 for the porta john fund. He challenged every pod to follow suit. Numerous Pods accepted the challenge and came forward at this time to donate to the Porta John Fund.

Mike Mayorga asked about the CASI tri-fold. He asked if these would be distributed to the Great Peppers and Regional Referees. Patty Meyers-Jones said it was being tweaked and would be distributed either in pdf on the website or by email. Richard Knight told everyone they needed to make sure CASI has correct email addresses.

D- Director Election Results

Richard Knight announced the election results. They were:

- Ted Fichtl – Executive Director
- Cindy Noe – 3 Year Term = 40 Votes
- Mary Ellen Gillen – 3 Year Term = 34 Votes
- Harvey West – 2 Year Term
- Richard Knight – 2 Year Term

The Board called for a recess to go into closed session to elect officers. The time was 3:40 pm. There was an open mic at this time, therefore several people came forward to make announcements.

At 4:00 pm the meeting was called back to order. Ted Fichtl said it was a pleasure to take the microphone as the new Incoming Executive Director. He then announced the officers for the coming year were:

2014-2015 CASI Directors

- Richard Knight – President
- Harvey West – VP
- Mary Ellen Gillen – Treasurer
- Kris Hudspeth – Secretary

Executive Director Fichtl said he really felt this was going to be an excellent Board and he felt they deserved a round of applause.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting was made by Bob Steinle/ San Antonio Pod. The motion was duly seconded by Preston Nickle/Arkansas Social Society. There being no objections, the motion **passed** and the meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Jenny Windsor, President

Kris Hudspeth, Secretary