

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

**September 8, 2001**

Minutes of the Chili Appreciation Society International, Inc.'s Great Peppers Meeting held at South Shore Harbour Conference Center in League City, Texas on September 8, 2001.

The meeting was called to order by Mel FitzHenry, President. Preston Shaw, Secretary, recorded the minutes.

The following Directors were present:

Mel FitzHenry, Director  
Preston Shaw, Director  
Jim Stateczny, Director  
Johnye Harriman, Executive Director  
Guy Smith, Director  
Myrl Coultas, Director  
Jim Ezell, Director  
Jimmy Taylor, Director  
Renee Moore, Director  
Mike Strack, Director

Directors absent:

Cindy Reed, Director

## Reports

Johnye Harriman, Executive Director, gave the Credentials Committee report: 63 current pods present and none absent.

- Motion by Robert Bell to grant CASI affiliation to the Central Texas Pod was made and duly seconded.

*Motion passed: (Unanimous)*

- Motion by Pat Irvine to grant CASI affiliation to the Piney Woods Pod was made and duly seconded.

*Motion passed: (Unanimous)*

- Motion by Larry Oliver to grant CASI affiliation to the Sunshine State Pod was made and duly seconded.

*Motion passed: (Unanimous)*

Mel FitzHenry, President, addressed the group and welcomed all delegates and guests to the meeting. FitzHenry commented that CASI was strong, the 2000 TICC event was a major success and he looked forward to an even better event at TICC 2001.

Ralph Hay welcomed the delegates to the Great Peppers meeting. Hay passed on to Tom Klug the Great Pepper Meeting Welcome Banner to be displayed at the 2002 Great Peppers Meeting in Tempe, Arizona.

- Motion by Ralph Hay to approve the minutes of the prior meeting. The motion was duly seconded.

*Motion passed: (Unanimous)*

### Rancho CASI de los Chisos Report

Jimmy Taylor

Jimmy Taylor reported on the changes to Rancho CASI de los Chisos that included:

- a. Dirt removal and new parking areas.
- b. Second admission gate for spectator use.
- c. New roads around the stage area.
- d. Sanitation service charges will be reduced.
- e. The Memorial Board marble slab will be installed prior to TICC.
- f. Future improvements will be made as cash is available.

Dixie Johnson presented Taylor with a Missouri State Flag to be displayed at TICC.

### Old 320 Report/Alcalde

Doug Seelig

Doug Seelig gave a report on the Old 320 projects that included:

- a. The Old 320 Membership Board was installed. Pat Krenek began the project in past years and Jimmy Taylor had installed the Board.
- b. Old 320 membership pins will be available at TICC.
- c. The \$250.00 cash drawing for an arena area cook will be held again in 2001.

**TICC Report**

Mel Fitzhenry

Mel FitzHenry reported on the 2000 TICC event and its success. All cooks should be encouraged to cook in the Old 320 area.

The 2000 event included slightly less than 300 cooks, requiring over 350 judges.

Small show participation was about average, however only two large show teams participated. The CASI Board welcomes any comments from the membership on ways to increase show participation.

The new spectator parking areas were well received and will be enlarged this year.

Maps of the area will be provided to all contestants and guests.

Security will be expanded and traffic will again be limited.

A water truck will be on site to assist with dust control.

Parking space is limited and everyone is encouraged to be considerate of others and park safely. Parking is on a first come, first serve basis with no saving of space for late week arrivals.

Robert Bell asked the Board to consider allowing spectators to drive to the stage area and concession area at specific times during the week. This could promote concession sales and goodwill among the spectators. FitzHenry said the Board would discuss this request.

Preston Nickle inquired as to media and press identification. Renee Moore stated that press pass kits were sent out in advance whenever possible and Preston Shaw stated that all media personnel were recorded at the front gate upon entrance.

FitzHenry commented on the need for volunteers for the Friday event.

**Tallymaster Report**

Guy Smith/Elton Homesley

Guy Smith thanked Elton Homesley for his service to CASI. Elton Homesley reported that qualifier cards had been sent to over 360 cooks, 415 cook-offs have been sanctioned and \$894,000 has been raised for charity.

Thirteen new names will be added to the Memorial Board this year.

Homesley thanked Jackie Ralston for her show team effort of accumulating 102 show points during the year.

**Membership Report**

Mike Strack

Mike Strack reported that we have 1566 current members, of which 458 are life members.

Membership trends are:

1996	1142
1997	1250
1998	1342
1999	1357
2000	1417
2001	1566

Note: Refer to the detailed report provided at the Great Peppers Meeting for more information.

The CASI Board of Directors approved a once a year discount for each pod to purchase a Corporate membership for \$65.00.

Strack stated that incorrect addresses continue to be a problem. All address changes for membership and Terlingua Trails should be sent to him. Please advise Strack if duplicates are received.

### **Sponsorship Report**

Jim Ezell

Jim Ezell recognized and thanked all past CASI Directors for their service and dedication.

Justin Hobbs presented the TICC 2001 poster and donated 25% of the profit realized on the poster back to CASI.

The sponsors for TICC 2001 are:

1. Ancira Motor Homes and Travel Trailers
2. Louisiana Hot Sauce
3. Hill County Software and Support
4. Novartis - Maalox & Gas X

Donations have been received from:

1. Irving Elks Lodge
2. Lajitas Resort

Houston Communication is providing our radios at a substantial discount.

Southern Living and Chile Pepper Magazines are interested in supporting CASI in the future.

Ezell reminded us that sponsorship was each CASI member's responsibility and we all should help.

☛ Motion by Pat Irvine to recess for 15 minutes. The motion was duly seconded.  
*Motion passed: (Unanimous)*

### **Terlingua Trails Report**

Myrl Coultas

Myrl Coultas reported that CASI is producing and circulating 3200 issues monthly.

The days prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month are very busy for the Trails publisher; therefore any advance communication would be helpful.

When submitting a packet request via e-mail, be certain to include a U.S. Postal address for the return mailing of the packet.

The August Trails are being reprinted and will be mailed when available.

Coultas reported:

- a. Third Class mailing of Trails did not provide for forwarding address. If you have moved let Mike Strack know immediately.
- b. Grammar errors and print quality errors often occur when documents are scanned into the system.
- c. Space limitations may mean that articles and photos will appear in subsequent issues.

- d. New computer system will provide the membership the opportunity to enter a cook-off in the upcoming event section from their computers.
- e. The recent virus attack of computers totally destroyed CASI's upcoming event files and all data had to be re-keyed prior to the publishing of the September issue.

### **Chilicity Report**

Renee Moore

Renee Moore reported:

- a. New passports are available.
- b. There are several web-site links to CASI.
- c. National Scholarship Day has received many positive comments.
- d. There have been 68 e-mail contacts requesting CASI information. Information requests are forwarded to the nearest Director or Great Pepper.
- e. Press releases for TICC 2001 are available.
- f. We need copies of any CASI news articles.
- g. Some of our contacts are:
  1. The Texas Events Calendar
  2. AAA - Travel Service
  3. The RV Guide
  4. A&E Television
  5. Food Channels

Moore thanked Vickie Childers for the valuable contacts she has maintained in years past for CASI.

Great Peppers were reminded to bring toys to TICC.

### **National Scholarship Program**

Hut Brown

Hut Brown thanked the Scholarship Committee. They reviewed 49 applications and nominated three students for 4-year scholarships. The recipients were from New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma.

Four students from the Big Bend area also received scholarship funds from CASI.

Hut Brown also stated that the Pod of the Pass will bury a 10-year time capsule at TICC 2001. Each Pod is encouraged to bring an item for the event.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Jim Stateczny

Preston Shaw presented the Internal Audit of the 2000 financial records and the 2000 Great Peppers meeting.

Jim Stateczny presented the financial statements for the prior year and discussed income, expenses, revenue growth, sponsorships and charitable donations occurring in 2000.

The highlights of Stateczny's report were:

- a. 2000 revenue \$183,987.97
- b. 2000 expenses \$187,980.84
- c. TICC Friday event revenue \$17,442.00
- d. TICC Friday event expenses \$7,916.97
- e. The proposed entry fee and prize money schedule for the TICC Friday event was presented. (See attached)

- f. The scholarship fund has a current balance of \$22,516.29 with \$12,516.29 available for scholarships to be offered this year.

*Recess for lunch.*

Stateczny presented the next computer project, which includes the interfacing of the membership data with the Tallymaster program. This centralization will bring together the entry of cook-off information, TICC points inquiry, Trails articles, membership applications and much more.

Hill Country Software and Support is funding this project at no cost to CASI.

Barbara Taylor presented a \$400.00 donation to the CASI Scholarship Fund on behalf of the Pod on the Perdenales.

Special Recognition

Fred McMurry was introduced and received special recognition as the first Great Pepper. He was honored with a proclamation from the Houston Pod naming him as the Grand Pepper. McMurry responded with his original poetry.

- ☛ Motion by Ralph Hay to name Fred McMurry the one and only "Grand Pepper". The motion was duly seconded.

*Motion passed: (Unanimous)*

**Report of the Executive Director**

Johnye Harriman thanked all of the Great Peppers for their hard work, the Directors for their dedication, Russ Harriman for his understanding, the Rules and Bylaws Review Committee, and the Houston Area Pods for a great event.

Bylaw changes were approved and a full set will be mailed to each Great Pepper.

Harriman clarified that all Pod Officers must be CASI members.

Pat Irvine thanked Johnye Harriman on her daily email to the membership.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

Rules Discussion

**Chili Judging Rules:**

- a. C-3 final chili will progress.... No fewer than fourteen chilis and limited to approximately 20 chilis, as determined by the head judge. In cook-offs with more....

- ☛ Motion by Robert Bell and amended by Alan Dean to add the above to Rule C-3. Motion was duly seconded.

Discussion by Pat Irvine, if this was an emergency issue or should change be deferred until 2002 the scheduled rule review year.

Bill Garbutt discussed the difficulty of a judge scoring more than 20 chillis.

Dixie Johnson commented that many instances occurred where 21 cooks were present, but only 20 would cook to prevent a rule violation.

Mel FitzHenry commented that the number of judges was a problem due to the large number of cook-offs on a weekend and that the 20 chili rule was being violated currently.

*Motion passed: (Aye 72, Nay 1, Abstain 1)*

b. F-1 Tabulate in the Judging area.

• Motion was Stuart Frye to allow tabulating of results in an area other than the judging area. The motion was duly seconded.

Ray King stated the rule should not be changed. Tabulating must be viewed by the cooks.

Jim Stateczny stated the rule change was to protect the computer hardware.

Richard King commented that many cook-offs do not have electrical service and no RV to provide electricity, therefore changing areas for tabulating was necessary.

Bob Horan stated the rule must include an observer.

Ray King stated he understood protecting the equipment, however we must not be secretive and hide our activities.

*Motion passed: (Aye 43, Nay 21, Abstain 4)*

### Site Selections

Site Selection for 2002 Opens, Regionals and Internationals, waiver requests and Great Pepper Meeting location.

• Motion by Don Walker that the Southwest Regional Open be held Memorial Day weekend of 2002 in Wichita Falls, Texas. Motion duly seconded

*Motion passed: (Unanimous)*

• Motion by Bud Barrick to hold the 4 Corners Regional Open on August 10, 2002 in Alpine, Arizona. Motion duly seconded.

*Motion passed: (Unanimous)*

• Motion Alan Dean to hold the Eastern Regional Open on August 10, 2002 in Baltimore, Maryland. Motion duly seconded.

*Motion passed: (Unanimous)*

• Motion by Bill Garbutt to hold the Southeastern Regional Open on October 12, 2002 in Homosassa, Florida. Motion duly seconded.

*Motion passed: (Unanimous)*

• Motion by Rodney Jones to hold the Mid-South Regional Open in Parker's Crossroads, Tennessee on June 8, 2002. Motion duly seconded.

*Motion passed: (Unanimous)*

• Motion by Mike Benold to hold the Mexico International Cook-off in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico on February 2, 2002. Motion duly seconded.

*Motion passed: (Unanimous)*

• Motion was made by Mike Benold to hold the Chilympiad North American Open in San Marcos, Texas on September 14, 2002. Motion duly seconded.

*Motion passed: (Unanimous)*

CASA and YCS to host the 2002 Great Peppers Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona.

The Arkansas Pods will host the 2003 Great Peppers Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas.

• Motion by Sammie Plant to hold the 2004 Great Peppers Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. Motion duly seconded.

*Motion passed: (Unanimous)*

### Other Business

Robert Bell commented that this had been one of the best Great Peppers Meetings and urged the Arizona Great Peppers Meeting Committee to use the money, paid by the cooks throughout the year, to provide another good event.

The Great Pepper of the Year was announced. CASI is proud to announce Bill Pierson as the Great Pepper of the Year.

For the 2001/2002 CASI year, the following Directors were elected:

3 year terms Jimmy Taylor and Jim Stateczny  
2 year terms Mikie McGarity and Preston Nickle

A recap of the Vote totals:

Jimmy Taylor	60
Jim Stateczny	51
Mikie McGarity	47
Preston Nickle	43
Myrl Coultas	36
Bob Horan	23
George Ralston	18
Garnier Albus	13
Cecil Mallet	04

There being no further business, the meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, was adjourned.

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President

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Secretary