

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

**RADISSON LORD BALTIMORE HOTEL
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**

SEPTEMBER 11, 2004

President Mel FitzHenry called the meeting to order. Renee Moore, Secretary, recorded the minutes.

The following Directors were present:

Mel FitzHenry, President
Jim Ezell, Vice-President
Jimmy Taylor, Vice-President Ranch Operations
Renee Moore, Secretary
Jim Stateczny, Treasurer
Garnier Albus, Assistant Treasurer
Mikie McGarity, Director
Bill Pierson, Director
Ken Rodd, Director
Dorathy Williams, Director
Alan Dean, Executive Director

Credentials Committee Report

Alan Dean, Executive Director, presented the Credentials Committee Report. Dean stated that the Thousand Trails-Lake Tawakoni Pod requested seeding.

Motion by Hut Brown, Ruidoso Chili Society, to grant CASI affiliation to the Thousand Trails-Lake Tawakoni Pod. Motion was duly seconded.

Motion passed.

Secretary Renee Moore called the roll, and President FitzHenry declared a quorum present.

The following Pods were not in attendance:

Florida on the Panhandle
La CASI Louisianne
North Georgia Chili Cooks Association

This being the second consecutive absence from the Great Peppers' Meeting for the North Georgia Chili Cooks Association, the Pod is no longer recognized as an official CASI Pod.

Welcome/Report of the 2004 Meeting Committee

Susan Dean welcomed the delegates to the Great Peppers' Meeting. Dean expressed appreciation to all those who assisted with preparations for the meeting and thanks to all the sponsors. Dean presented Proclamations from the Governor of the State of Maryland and the Baltimore Mayor in recognition of the Meeting.

Response

The President, on behalf of the Board of Directors and membership, thanked all those involved for the excellent meetings, hospitality, and accommodations.

Richard King, Old Dominion Pod, requested the floor.

President FitzHenry advised Mr. King that he was out of order and would be given an opportunity to speak at a later time in the meeting.

Mr. King approached the podium, submitted his CASI Membership Card to the President, and left the meeting.

BOARD REPORTS

President's Message

President FitzHenry addressed the group and welcomed all delegates and guests to the meeting. FitzHenry commented that CASI was strong, the 2003 TICC event was a success, and he looked forward to an even better event at TICC 2004.

The President advised that the Board makes decisions on what is felt is necessary for the operation and growth of CASI and its members. Decisions are reached during the Board Meetings and duly recorded in the Minutes. Great Peppers should be sharing the Board Meeting Minutes with their Pod members.

President FitzHenry stated that there have been many questions relative to recent improvements at the Ranch. An article appeared in the *Terlingua Trails* explaining the project and a slide presentation will be done today. If you have questions after reading the article or seeing the presentation, please direct such to one of the Directors or me.

The President stated that it was brought up in Friday's Board of Directors' Meeting that some permanent structures are being constructed at the Ranch without Board approval.

The Board will discuss this after its arrival at the Ranch. The structures will be viewed and a determination made as to whether they can remain or have to be removed.

President FitzHenry extended special thanks and recognition to the Rose City Pod and Pepe's Pod since they have "reborn" their Pods. They were in chaos and on the verge of folding, but the Pods' members took it upon themselves to go out and get new members and make the Pods viable. We hope the Pods that aren't present today will get reinvigorated.

FitzHenry commended Tom and Dorothy Williams for the outstanding job done by them in replanting over 1,900 native plants on the Ranch. This was above and beyond the call of duty.

The President stated that Jim Stateczny will be departing the Board after TICC. It goes without saying that this Board and organization owes Jim a large debt of gratitude. He has been on the Board for 10 years; Hill Country Software and Support and its staff has expended a tremendous amount of time and effort for this organization. Jim is certainly thanked and appreciated for everything he's done.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Secretary presented the Minutes of the Great Peppers' Meeting held September 6, 2003, in Little Rock, Arkansas.

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

Motion passed: Unanimous

Rancho CASI de los Chisos

Jimmy Taylor stated that this year has been busy at the Ranch. Taylor presented a slide show of the water catch tank and City Hall Building. The water tank is full, and a pressure washer and pump have been purchased to clean the floor areas.

Taylor reported that the article in last month's *Terlingua Trails* listing contributors to the City Hall building was incomplete, and it will be updated in the next issue. All of the contributions are deeply appreciated. The response to the City Hall project was overwhelming. Thus far, \$7,995 has been donated against the cost of \$15,941. It is hoped that the contributions will continue to cover the outlay for the building.

Old 320

Robert Schrade, Alcalde, reported that he is not seeking re-election. There will be an election at the Old 320 Meeting on Friday at the Ranch. The candidates are Ralph Hay, Connie Schrade and Bob Steinle.

The President thanked Mr. Schrade for the work he performs at TICC.

Terlingua International Chili Championship

President FitzHenry presented a slide show of the work done by the contractor at the Ranch. CASI received over \$8,000 from the dirt sold to the contractor. This work resulted in an enlarged Krazy Flats concession and vendor area, and the road to the area has been widened and moved. Ravines have been filled to provide security and safety.

The President showed slides of the area that was erroneously excavated and the native plantings done by Tom and Dorathy Williams. While this was a serious mistake, in time Mother Nature will correct it. Apologies are extended to those who feel the Ranch was destroyed. While a mistake was made, CASI saved thousands of dollars in construction costs by allowing this project.

The President requested that those using 4-wheelers on the Ranch do such on approved trails as opposed to off-course. The highway construction is continuing. More information on the construction will be provided in the CHN and *Terlingua Trails*.

Tallymaster

Bill Pierson stated that 481 cookoffs have been reported to date consisting of 14,500 cups of chili judged, raising funds of \$890,600. There are 388 qualified cooks and 148 qualified show teams. Pierson asked for volunteers to assist with registration at TICC.

Pierson asked that all results be mailed in the envelope provided with the packet. Additionally, please use the Entrants and Winners Lists provided with the packet. These sheets bear the identification information needed for the proper registration of the cookoff.

A Showmanship Entrants List has been developed and provided to all the delegates. Use of this form is encouraged and if successful, the Board will request that it be considered for inclusion as a rule change at the Great Peppers' Meeting in San Angelo.

Pierson thanked all the Great Peppers and Referees for assistance in the timely reporting of cookoffs.

Membership

Mikie McGarity reported that the state of membership is very good. There has been a large increase in corporate membership due to the hard work of Ken Rodd and Jim Ezell. CASI is represented in 45 of the 50 states and in 4 foreign countries.

Note: Refer to the CASI Membership Report provided at the Great Peppers' Meeting for more information.

McGarity reminded everyone that the membership date has been changed to the member's anniversary date rather than October 1. A current membership list, which is available by email or hard copy, can be obtained from McGarity.

McGarity encouraged everyone to think of new methods to solicit members to CASI. CASI needs new people, new blood and new enthusiasm to combine with the present membership.

Sponsorship

Jim Ezell announced the TICC 2004 sponsors:

Ancira Motor Homes and Travel Trailers – Gold and Pavilion Sponsor
Bruce Foods (Louisiana Hot Sauce, Mexene Chili Powder & Cajun Injectors) – Gold and Wings Sponsor
Glazer's Wholesale Distributing (Corona Light) – Silver Sponsor
Hill Country Software & Support – Silver Sponsor
Miller Brewing & Permian Distributing (Miller Lite) – Silver Sponsor
Desert Eagle Distributing (Budweiser) – Silver Sponsor
HEB Foods – Silver Sponsor
Monosite, Inc. – Silver Sponsor

Ezell announced the TICC 2004 Friends of CASI as Renfro Foods (Mrs. Renfro's Salsa) also the Salsa Sponsor, Lajitas Resort, Irving Elks Lodge #2334, and the Texas Lottery Commission

Ezell reported that thanks to the efforts of Donna Conrad and Sue Caffey, HEB Foods has donated two smokers on trailers, worth \$2000 each, that will be raffled on Friday at TICC. All proceeds from the raffles will benefit the National Scholarship Fund.

A request was made for a 15 minute break. The meeting reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

Terlingua Trails

Jim Stateczny stated that the *Terlingua Trails* is mailed to 1,500 members per month, with an additional 5,000 copies forwarded to cookoffs requesting such, and 200-300

copies retained for last minute requests. Stateczny thanked all those who have assisted with the *Trails* since he became Editor.

Stateczny reported that members will now have the opportunity to go to the CASI website and view the last 30 issues of the *Trails*. All that is needed is Acrobat Reader, which is downloadable free of charge.

Stateczny asked that those submitting pictures for the *Trails*, keep a few things in mind: The picture needs to contain 1-4 people and the people need to occupy the shot; the larger the individuals appear in the picture, the better it's going to show up. Pictures should also have bright backgrounds. It is best to send pictures electronically in a jpeg or tif file. Those submitting ads should ensure the submission is as close to the size of the ad you wish to run.

Johnye Harriman, Spice Up California Pod, asked that since Mr. Stateczny is leaving the Board what involvement he would continue to have with the *Terlingua Trails*.

Mr. Stateczny advised that there are several candidates running for the Board, and he has personally asked if they were elected if they could do the *Terlingua Trails*. He stated that John Goforth and Chuck Taylor have said they could do so.

Stateczny reported that in the very near future CASI members will be able to access the CASI centralized database. Members will have access to the *Trails*, can look up how many chili or show points they have, check the status of their dues and pay them through PayPal, etc. In order to access the system, an email will have to be sent to Stateczny. Cookoffs will be able to be submitted electronically, also. Mr. Stateczny gave a virtual tour of the website.

Johnye Harriman, Spice Up California Pod, asked if Mr. Stateczny or his Company had a contract or insurance with CASI.

Mr. Stateczny stated no.

President FitzHenry asked if we are working to improve the web page and keep it updated on a regular basis.

Mr. Stateczny stated that the web page is updated when the *Terlingua Trails* is published as that is when the data is received for Upcomings and Cookoff Results.

Public Relations

Ken Rodd stated that public relations is hard to quantify, however, it's basically free advertising. It is the ongoing daily promotion of CASI. Press releases are distributed for TICC, the Great Peppers' Meeting, and other major events.

Rodd reported that he was going to ask the President to form a Public Relations Committee, as more work needs to be done for CASI on the local level. Fill in the blank press releases could be provided to assist in this effort.

Additionally, Rodd is working on a document that one could give to an organization that will explain what to do to have a chili cookoff. A guidebook for Great Peppers is also being developed to provide guidance to new chili cooks who become Great Peppers.

Rodd advised of a national program that will help every Pod in every state. If you contact your local Office Depot prior to August, they will provide you with 20 backpacks to donate to a local school. A letter must be submitted to the local Office Depot Manager advising of CASI's 501(c)(3) status and detailing to whom the backpacks will be donated. You can then present them to the school of your choice on behalf of your Pod.

Rodd reminded everyone to come to Krazy Flats on Thursday at TICC from 2:00-4:00 p.m. for Happy Hour. There will be a limited number of special Krazy Flats shirts for sale and a live radio broadcast from the concession stand.

CASI Scholarships

Hut Brown thanked the Scholarship Committee members for their assistance and thanked all Pods and individuals for their donations to the National Scholarship Fund. Brown reported that there currently are 17 CASI scholarship recipients attending colleges in 6 different states.

Brown expressed appreciation to the Board for supporting the scholarship program and to the Great Peppers for distributing the scholarship applications to interested students. He advised that the 2005 Scholarship Applications were distributed to the delegates at today's meeting. Brown suggested that each Great Pepper contact their local high school to advise them of the opportunity afforded by this scholarship program.

Carol Straughan, Pod of the Pass, suggested that cookoff promoters be advised of the Scholarship Fund in the event they want to designate it for their charity.

Earl Gorhum, Piney Woods Pod, recommended that the applications be distributed to the schools as early as possible.

Memorial Board

Renee Moore asked the Great Peppers to review the Memorial Board listing provided in their packets and report corrections or additions to Moore.

Additionally, Moore asked that those with suggestions for items to be placed in the concession stand contact Dorathy Williams or her.

The President stated that Dorothy Williams is the only Board member who doesn't have an opportunity to address the Great Peppers. He emphasized that Williams has one of the most important jobs in the organization; Upcomings don't just happen. She spends a tremendous amount of time on them and does a lot of promotion and public relations work for CASI.

Financials

Jim Stateczny presented the financial statements for the prior year and discussed income, expenses, revenue growth, sponsorships and charitable donations occurring in 2004. Stateczny encouraged the Great Peppers to make this report available to Pod members.

Note: Refer to the Tax Statements and Reporting Documents Report provided at the Great Peppers' Meeting for more information.

Stateczny advised that PayPal.com may now be used to pay annual CASI dues and soon will be able to be utilized for CASI merchandise purchases.

Stateczny reported that he had been approached regarding the funding for the Great Peppers' Meeting. The Great Peppers established this fund and stipulated that \$1 from every entry at every cookoff would go into it. It was further stipulated that the sponsoring group can be appropriated \$8,500 from the fund, not to exceed 75% of the total Great Peppers' Meeting budget. It was mandated that the fund could grow to a limit of \$10,000, at which time the excess funds are channeled to the General Fund to be spent at the Board's discretion. Stateczny stated he had been approached by members who felt the appropriation should be increased to \$10,000, not to exceed 75% of the total budget. This would take action by the Great Peppers.

Motion by Ralph Hay, Pasadena Pod, that the meeting recess for lunch. Motion was duly seconded.

Motion passed: Unanimous

Meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Stateczny introduced Garnier Albus, CASI Assistant Treasurer, advising that Albus has actually been functioning as Treasurer since January 1.

Albus reviewed the General Fund, Great Peppers' Meeting Fund, Life Membership Reserve Fund, National Scholarship Fund, and Insurance Fund. Albus advised that the General Fund is unrestricted and for day to day operations of CASI; the Great Peppers Meeting Fund is a temporary fund; and the CASI Liability Insurance Fund, Life Membership Fund, and National Scholarship Fund are permanent restricted funds.

Nick McGarity, Top of Texas Pod, asked how much money was currently in the Life Membership Fund.

Stateczny reported there was \$30,000 in cash and \$30,000 owed to the fund from the General Fund due to loans for Ranch improvements.

Report of the Executive Director

Alan Dean expressed appreciation to the CASI membership and the Board for their support, hard work, and dedication to CASI. Additionally, Dean thanked his wife for her support.

Dean advised that we all are CASI. We all have responsibilities toward CASI's health and different talents to help it. Please keep the goal in mind of having fun together, having fun with chili, and raising money for charity; doing good work.

Dean stated that a letter had been distributed advising of projects that need to be worked on. We'll be asking for volunteers through the CHN and by speaking to people directly.

CALL FOR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business to be discussed.

CALL FOR NEW BUSINESS

Requests for Waivers

Motion by Garnier Albus, Director, that a waiver be granted for the 3-I Regional Cookoff, comprised of the states of Iowa, Illinois and Indiana. The motion was duly seconded.

Motion passed.

Site Selections

Motion by Wes Carlson, Chillini Pod, that the 3-I Regional Open Cookoff be held in May 2005 in Orland Park, Illinois. Motion duly seconded.

Motion passed.

Motion by Ron Barnes, Cowtown Pod, that the Four Corners Regional Cookoff be held on the 3rd weekend in August 2005 in Red River, New Mexico. Motion duly seconded.

Motion passed.

Motion by Preston Nickle, Arkansas Social Society, that the Mid-South Regional Cookoff be held on April 22, 2005, in Little Rock, Arkansas. Motion duly seconded.

Motion passed.

Motion by Ron Barnes, Cowtown Pod, that the Tri-State Open (Make-A-Wish Cookoff) be held in Amarillo, Texas, on January 8, 2005. Motion duly seconded.

Motion passed.

Motion by Bob Essner, MO-KAN Pod, that the Mid-West Regional Cookoff be held on October 15, 2005, in Lenexa, Kansas. Motion duly seconded.

Motion passed.

Motion by Guy Smith, BorderLine Chiliheads Pod, that the North American Open Cookoff be held the 2nd Saturday in August 2005, in Lebanon, Tennessee. Motion duly seconded.

Motion passed.

Motion by Earl Gorhum, Piney Woods Pod, that the Texas Open be held the 2nd Saturday in August 2005, in Conroe, Texas. Motion duly seconded.

Motion passed.

Motion by Ron Barnes, Cowtown Pod, that the Southwest Regional Open be held on Memorial Weekend 2005 in Wichita Falls, Texas. Motion duly seconded.

Motion passed.

Other

Alan Dean announced the Great Pepper of the Year is Keith Karaff, Houston Pod.

Motion by George Jowers, San Antonio Pod, to increase the CASI funding of the Great Peppers' Meeting from \$8,500 to \$10,000, not to exceed 75% of the proposed budget. Motion was duly seconded.

Motion passed.

Motion by Janie Bauer, Capital Pod, that the *Terlingua Trails* feature a CASI National Scholarship Program recipient article in each issue. Motion was duly seconded.

Hut Brown advised that this information could easily be provided for the *Terlingua Trails*.

Jim Stateczny, Editor of the *Terlingua Trails*, asked that the motion be withdrawn as this can easily be accomplished.

The motion and second were withdrawn.

Earl Gorhum, Piney Woods Pod, presented a Proclamation to Ken Peach, Puget Pod, making him an Honorary Texan. Additionally, Gorhum presented Peach with a United States of Texas shirt.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

FitzHenry called for the election of Directors.

For the 2004/2005 CASI year, the following Directors were elected:

A recap of the vote totals:

Jimmy Taylor	64
Ken Rodd	49
Garnier Albus	47
Bucky Seelig	47
Chuck Taylor	46
John Goforth	23
Robert Schrade	13
Scott Johnson	10

Alan Dean thanked Patsy Childress, Carol Knight, and Charlie Walstrom for counting the votes.

A brief recess was called to allow the Board of Directors to elect the 2004-2005 officers.

Mel FitzHenry announced the following officers:

President – Mel FitzHenry
Vice President – Jim Ezell
Vice President, Ranch Operations – Jimmy Taylor
Secretary – Renee Moore
Treasurer – Garnier Albus

CALL FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

Susan Dean presented the Great Peppers' Meeting banner to Sammie Plant, representing the 2005 Great Pepper's Meeting Committee.

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

Mel FitzHenry, President

Renee Moore, Secretary