

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

**HOLIDAY INN CROWNE PLAZA
AUSTIN, TEXAS**

SEPTEMBER 9, 2006

President Jim Ezell called the meeting to order. Renee Moore, Interim Secretary, recorded the minutes.

The following Directors were present:

Jim Ezell, President
Renee Moore, Vice-President and Interim Secretary
Jimmy Taylor, Vice-President Ranch Operations
Garnier Albus, Treasurer
Mikie McGarity, Director
Bill Pierson, Director
Ken Rodd, Director
Bucky Seelig, Director
Dorathy Williams, Director
Alan Dean, Executive Director

Credentials Committee Report

Alan Dean, Executive Director, presented the Credentials Committee Report stating that 64 Pods have resolved all issues with credentials. There are four Pods in question as to their seating.

Pacific Pod delivered no paperwork this year, nor last year. A Presidential Pardon was granted to the Pod last year and as a result, they had no CASI members serving as Officers in the Pod throughout this year. Partial information has been submitted since the deadline passed and it's questionable whether all Officers are currently members of CASI.

Ruidoso Chili Society, Route 66 Chiliheads, and Golden Triangle Pod have submitted no paperwork. Route 66 Chiliheads plan to allow their Pod to expire. Despite efforts to obtain information from the Ruidoso Chili Society and Golden Triangle Pod, no information has been received.

MOTION by Johnye Harriman, Spice Up California Pod, to require separate motions relative to the seating of the four Pods. The motion was duly seconded.

Motion passed.

MOTION by Johnye Harriman, Spice Up California Pod, to accept and seat the Pacific Pod.

Due to lack of a second, the *motion failed*.

Dean asked for a motion to consider the seating of the Ruidoso Chili Society, Route 66 Chiliheads, and Golden Triangle Pod.

No motion was made, so the Pods will not be allowed seating.

Dean stated that the Black Sheep Pod is requesting seeding.

Motion by Bill Pierson, Chillini Pod, to grant CASI affiliation to the Black Sheep Pod. Motion was duly seconded.

Motion passed.

Dean stated that the CHOPPS Pod is requesting seeding.

Motion by Tom Klug, Desert Breeze Pod, to grant CASI affiliation to the CHOPPS Pod. Motion was duly seconded.

Dean reviewed the issues regarding the late receipt of paperwork from the CHOPPS Pod. The paperwork was received a week after the deadline but was not the official CASI paperwork. This was considered at the Board Meeting and it was determined that this Pod did not meet the requirements to be seeded.

Support for the seeding of the CHOPPS Pod was expressed by Johnye Harriman, Spice Up California Pod; Dan Bauer, Capitol Pod; and Jerry Lee, Yavapai Chili Society.

Johnye Harriman, Spice Up California Pod, called for the question.

Motion passed following a roll call vote with the following results:

42 Yeas: Alpine Chili Society, Arkansas Social Society, Capital Pod, Central Texas Pod, Chili Appreciation Society of Arizona, Chiliheads of Arizona, Chillini Chili Pod, Classic CASI, Concho Valley Pod, Cowtown Pod, Desert Breeze Pod, Empire State Pod, Hooch Pod, Houston, Pod, Iowa Chili Pod, Keystone State Pod, La CASI Louisianne, Mo-Kan Pod, New Mexico Chili Society, North of Waco Pod, Old Dominion Pod, Pasadena Pod, Piney Woods Pod, Pod of the Pass, Pod on the River, Puget Pod, Purgatory Creek Pod,

Red River Valley Pod, Rose City Pod, San Angelo Cookers Association, San Antonio Pod, Sotol Pod, Space City Pod, Spice Up California Pod, State of Alabama Pod, Sunshine State Pod, Texas Hill Country Pod, Thousand Trails-Lake Tawakoni, Top of Texas Pod, VASA Pod, Virgin Pod, Yavapai Chili Society.

19 Nays: ACES Pod, Alamo Area Pod, Black Gold Pod, Black Sheep Pod, Borderline Chiliheads Pod, CASINOVA, CAP-CASI, Colorado Chili Pod, Dallas Area Metroplex, East Texas Chili Pod, Green Country Chili Pod, Heart of Tennessee Pod, Highland Lakes Pod, Indiana Pepper Pod, Mason Dixon Pod, North of the Brazos Pod, Pepe's Pod, Tall in Texas Pod, Thousand Trails-Lake Whitney.

4 Abstain: High Desert Pod, Piedmont Pepper Pod, Pod on the Pedernales, State of Texas Pod.

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

The following Pods were not in attendance:

Del Rio International Pod
Georgia Pod
Golden Triangle Pod
Pacific Pod
Route 66 Chiliheads
Ruidoso Chili Society

This being the second consecutive absence from the Great Peppers' Meeting for the Del Rio International Pod, the Pod is no longer recognized as an official CASI Pod.

Welcome/Report of the 2006 Meeting Committee

Larry Burruss welcomed the delegates to the Great Peppers' Meeting and introduced John Kelso, humor columnist, *Austin American Statesman*.

John Kelso welcomed and briefly addressed the delegates.

Response

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

BOARD REPORTS

President's Message

President Ezell addressed the group and welcomed all delegates and guests to the meeting. Ezell commented that it was honor to be convening the Meeting, which is convening at the 9th hour of the 9th day of the 9th month of the 9th year of his service as a Director to CASI. The President introduced the Board members and outlined the responsibilities of each.

President Ezell commented that the delegates and Directors who preceded us have left their mark and done a wonderful job of laying the groundwork for where CASI is today. CASI is a growing, evolving organization. It's gratifying to look at the success of this organization.

The original chili challenge is now a 501(c)(3) tax free federal charity that has raised millions of dollars for worthy causes. CASI owns and has established a debt free facility in the desert and has been a very good corporate citizen of Brewster County, Texas. The state of CASI is good; our finances are sound. I salute you for being here today and hope you take the spirit of this meeting back to your members.

One of the goals of CASI is to recognize and honor the heritage that has brought us to where we are today. The Memorial Board at Rancho CASI is getting too long with the names of chiliheads who no longer answer the call of the chili trail. We need to remember those who have gone before us.

The President called for the establishment of a museum on the grounds at Terlingua to honor the heritage of those who have built this organization. Ezell stated he was prepared raise the funds to accomplish and asked for the assistance of individuals, like Ray King, who has been on the Museum Committee for several years. The things that built CASI need to be secure.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Interim Secretary presented the Minutes of the Great Peppers' Meeting held September 8, 2005, in San Angelo, Texas. Moore encouraged the Great Peppers to share the Minutes with their Pod members.

Motion by Richard Knight, Heart of Tennessee 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 advised that new steps going into the pavilion areas have been installed, a ramp has been built into the judging area, and a dock has been built for the ice trailer. A second water catch tank has been installed and is full.

Taylor reported that a new sign has been fabricated to be placed on City Hall commemorating those who contributed to its construction. Please review the sign when you get to TICC, and if names were omitted please let Taylor know.

During the next year, the Memorial Board area will be refurbished. Taylor asked that anyone with landscape experience or experience with memorial type structures to please contact him.

Old 320

Ralph Hay, Alcalde, reported that he is seeking re-election at the Old 320 Meeting on Friday at the Ranch. Hay announced that those cooking in the Old 320 this year will again be eligible to win the cash prize of \$250.

Hay asked that those Old 320 members who will not be using their spot this year to advise him, so the space can be made available for someone to cook on. The Old 320 waiting list currently contains approximately 40 names. There are some Old 320 owners who cannot be located; a listing will be published in the near future to see if anyone knows how to reach these individuals.

Hay advised that the Old 320 Certificate numbers are not the same as your spot numbers; please keep that in mind.

Hay introduced Johnye Harriman, Chair of the Old 320 Membership Committee.

Harriman distributed the draft Rancho CASI de los Chisos Old 320 Members Membership Information sheet to the delegates. Harriman asked that this be shared with the Old 320 members and members of the Pods; all are encouraged to provide comments to Hay or Harriman. After all input is received, a recommendation will be made to the Board.

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

Terlingua International Chili Championship

Vice-President Moore stated that she would be in charge of security, Fire/EMS and the front gate. A meeting was held with the Brewster County Sheriff, Terlingua Fire/EMS, and Martin Willey of Rio Bravo Security regarding issues and concerns for TICC.

Moore reported that three automatic external defibrillators have been purchased and training will be provided on site for those interested in taking such. Each class will be offered to 18 individuals, and two classes will be conducted.

Moore stated that maps will be posted and provided to Fire/EMS and security to assist them in making quick responses. Street signs will again be posted to assist in this effort.

An emergency response plan is being formulated.

Moore advised that Bruce Jones will be the CASI volunteer at the front gate and is soliciting CASI members to work the gate to provide assistance to the Fire Department personnel.

Meeting recessed for a short break at 10:25 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:50 a.m.

Tallymaster

Bill Pierson stated that to date 368 cooks have qualified, raising funds of close to a million dollars. Pierson asked for volunteers to assist with registration at TICC on Thursday from 10:00 – 3:00, Friday from 11:00 – 2:00, and Saturday from 8:00 – 9:00.

To date, there are two delinquent cookoffs – Del Rio and Decatur. Pierson has been informed that the Del Rio Cookoff did not occur. Pierson asked that if a Referee is aware of a cookoff that was advertised but did not occur to please contact Alan Dean, Dorathy Williams, or Pierson.

Pierson announced that the State of Tennessee is again a 12-point state.

Membership

Mikie McGarity reported that the state of membership is constant. McGarity advised that the CASI Membership Report has been distributed to all delegates. The list is also available at any time by emailing McGarity.

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

McGarity challenged the attendees to come up with ideas to boost membership. One idea is to formulate a Trade Show Booth.

President Ezell stated CASI needs a trade show booth that can be made available to different Pods and associations with a formally produced CASI background. Many things are done with sponsors to represent CASI, so the Board authorized purchase of this booth.

McGarity reminded everyone about the CASI Information System (CIS) system. Thanks were extended to Jim Stateczny and his crew for the development of this system. You have the ability to find many answers to your CASI membership by utilizing the CIS. Please use it and update it when necessary.

Sponsorship

Jim Ezell announced the TICC 2006 sponsors:

Ancira Motor Homes and Travel Trailers – Legacy and Gold Sponsor
Bruce Foods (Louisiana Hot Sauce, Mexene Chili Powder & Cajun Injectors) – Legacy,
Gold, and Wings Sponsor
Hill Country Software & Support – Gold Sponsor
Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi – Gold Sponsor
Permian Distributing – Lone Star Brewing – Silver Sponsor
Desert Eagle Distributing - Budweiser – Silver Sponsor
H-E-B Food Stores – Silver Sponsor
Monosite, Inc. – Silver Sponsor

Ezell announced the TICC 2006 Friends of CASI as Mrs. Renfro's Foods also the Salsa Sponsor, Lajitas: The Ultimate Hideout, Irving Elks Lodge #2334, Tyson Foods, Easter Egg Valley Motel, Cappadonna Electric, Equimax, Glazer's, Cable Electronics, Inc., Boar's Head, and Capital One.

The CASI Scholarship Day Event Sponsors are: Beans – Mexene Chili Powder, Buffalo Hot Wings – Original Louisiana Hot Sauce & Tyson Foods, Salsa – Mrs. Renfro's Food, and H-E-B Food Stores.

The CASI matching funds program was started several years when CASI agreed to match the funds raised in the Terlingua area for the local school district. CASI has committed to appropriating up to \$2000 and approximately \$8000 has been committed from the local area which means \$10,000 goes to the local school.

Terlingua Trails

Bucky Seelig thanked all those who contribute articles to the *Terlingua Trails* each month. Seelig announced that the October issue will be a 40th Anniversary Edition.

Seelig apologized to the out-of-Texas delegates for the appearance over the last few months that the *Trails* is Texas-oriented. The problem is pictures and articles have only been submitted from Texas Cookoffs. Please submit photos and articles for cookoffs, particularly the State, Regional and International.

Upcomings

Dorothy Williams stated that she has mailed out over 604 cookoff packets this year and thanked all those present for their hard work.

Williams stated that she has sold over \$1450 worth of merchandise from previous TICC's through the ad in the *Trails* and Jim Stateczny is investigating a program to sell over the internet.

Williams reported that 29 Corporate Memberships have been sold in the Terlingua area, and this year there will be a recognition of them by placement of signs in the pavilion area.

Public Relations

Dodie Simpson, Great Pepper of Black Gold Pod, presented a \$1000 check to CASI as a donation to the AED Fund.

Ken Rodd thanked the Black Gold Pod for their AED donation and reported that 17 Pods and have contributed: Pod on the Pedernales, BorderLine Chiliheads, Puget Pod, Black Gold Pod, Cowtown Pod, State of Alabama Pod, Highland Lakes Pod, CAP-CASI, San Angelo Cookers' Association, SOT Pod, Green Country Pod, New Mexico Chili Society, Top of Texas Pod, Hill Country Pod, Concho Valley Pod, Pod of the Pass, and Keystone State Pod. Additionally, donations have been made by Debbie Turner of the *Goat Gap Gazette*, Jean & Keith Barkley, Bill Renfro, Tim & Connie Collier, Teena Miller, Suzy & Don Weber, Bob Steinle, and Hot Rodd Rodd.

Rodd reported that public relations is ongoing. This year a television show was done in the San Antonio area featuring TICC 2005 Champion Margaret Nadeau. The Food Network showcased Cindy Reed-Wilkins.

Rodd stated that Corporate Membership is public relations for CASI and outlined a recent contact that resulted in Capital One becoming a Corporate Member and contributing to the AED fund.

Rodd advised of the new website created and managed by Krazy Flats members – www.KrazyFlats.com. The purpose of the site is to provide information to those spectators who might be contemplating a trip to TICC.

CASI Scholarships

Hut Brown thanked those in attendance, as well those unable to attend the meeting, for their participation in making donations to the CASI National Scholarship Fund. CASI has the same problem as many other organizations in recruiting younger members. We need to talk CASI and scholarships.

Brown reported that there currently are 24 current scholarship recipients with 22 attending college. The first CASI Scholarship was given in 1991 to a young man from Terlingua who subsequently graduated from Sul Ross, got his Master's Degree, and is now in the University of Arizona finishing his Doctorate.

Brown expressed appreciation to the Scholarship Committee for their hard work in selecting the recipients each year. Brown distributed Scholarship Applications to the

delegates and encouraged them to visit their local high schools and advise them of the opportunity afforded by this scholarship program.

President Ezell announced that, subject to ratification at the afternoon Board Meeting, the top ranked scholarship applicant will henceforth receive “The Harry S. ‘Hut’ and Jacqueline ‘Jackie’ Brown” CASI Scholarship.

Brown expressed appreciation to the Board for the honor.

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.

Mikie McGarity announced that two posters have been produced this year to peak interest and generate more revenue; one will be the commemorative art work poster and the other is a smaller version that is the what, when, where and how of the cookoff. McGarity presented the posters to the delegates.

Meeting recessed for lunch at 11:50 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Financials

Garnier Albus presented the financial statements for the prior year and discussed income, expenses, revenue growth, sponsorships and charitable donations occurring in 2006. Albus 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.

Albus presented a condensed 2005 Income Statement and Balance Sheet to the delegates.

Jim Stateczny advised that he has audited the CASI books and determined that the Treasurer has successfully performed all duties required; all bills were paid promptly and correctly; all deposits were processed promptly and correctly. The Treasurer has demonstrated sound judgment in management of CASI's financial assets.

Report of the Executive Director

Alan Dean explained the election process in that the ballots for the regular Board election would be distributed showing five candidates for the four Board positions. Following the announcement of the four individuals who received the most votes, the special election will follow for the unexpired one-year term of Chuck Taylor.

Dean expressed appreciation to the CASI membership and the Board for their support, hard work, and dedication to CASI.

Dean highlighted accomplishments of the past year: The CASI website has been given a facelift. The CASI Information System is operable, but it's not finished and is a work in progress. Liability insurance issues remain a high priority. The Great Peppers in the Dallas-Fort Worth area are actively working together to resolve cookoff issues in their area. Cowtown Pod had their 30th Anniversary Cookoff with almost 200 chili cooks, 60 bean cooks, 14 show teams, 22 junior cooks, a crowd of over 6,000 and raised over \$11,000 for charity. The Black Gold Pod, with Dodie Simpson as their Great Pepper, have raised \$101,031 this year with two more cookoffs scheduled.

Dean stated that the CASI slogan has been changed to "Chili, Charity and Fun" and urged all the members to use it.

CALL FOR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business to be discussed.

Other

Alan Dean announced the Great Pepper of the Year is Dale Reinecker, Cowtown Pod.

CALL FOR NEW BUSINESS

Site Selections

The Executive Director presented the following Regional Opens for consideration by the delegates:

North American Open –Lebanon, TN - Heart of Tennessee Pod and Wilson County Fair Association

Southwest Open – Wichita Falls, TX – North of Brazos Pod

Midwest Regional Open – Lenexa, KS – MO-KAN Pod, Williams Seasoning, and Lenexa Parks and Recreation

Tri-State Open – Amarillo, TX – Tall in Texas Pod

Three-I Regional – Indiana – Indiana Pepper Pod

Mid-South Regional – Ft. Smith, AR – BELCH Pod

4-Corners Regional – Red River, NM – Colorado Chili Pod

Motion by Guy Smith, BELCH Pod, that the North American Open, Southwest Open, Midwest Regional Open, Tri-State Open, Three-I Regional, Mid-South Regional, and 4-Corners Regional Cookoffs be approved. The motion was duly seconded.

Motion passed.

Dean advised of the request for a new regional open, Mid American Regional, to be held in 2007 in Claremore, Oklahoma, sponsored by the Green Country Chili Pod with the states involved being Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas.

MOTION by Nick McGarity, Red River Pod, to grant the Mid American Regional Open. The motion was duly seconded.

Motion passed: Unanimous

Cheryl Pierson, Chillini Pod, reported that since Illinois is now a 12-point state they would request approval of the Illinois Men's and Women's State Cookoffs in the spring of 2007.

MOTION by Nancy Klug, Chilihead of Arizona, to grant approval to the Illinois Men's and Women's State Cookoffs. The motion was duly seconded.

Motion passed: Unanimous

Karen Reinke, Purgatory Creek Pod, stated that the Mexico International Chili Championship was granted permission last year to temporarily relocate from Nuevo Laredo to Piedras Negras due to the political situation. Due to the continued unrest in the Nuevo Laredo area, a permanent move to Piedras Negras, Mexico, is requested.

MOTION by Earl Gorhum, Piney Woods Pod, that the Mexico International Chili Championship be allowed to relocate to Piedras Negras, Mexico. The motion was duly seconded.

Motion passed: Unanimous

Dean stated that the Board, responding to requests from the membership, has tentatively approved a trial period of two years for one-man show competition at TICC. This cannot be done with the rules as they are, so a suspension of the rule is requested to determine if a rule change will be requested.

MOTION by Gil Hewlett, Rose City Pod, to suspend the rule to allow for one-man show competition at TICC for a trial period of two years. The motion was duly seconded.

Preston Nickle, Arkansas Social Society, asked how many awards would be given in that category.

Dean responded three.

Motion passed: Unanimous

Jim Stateczny stated that the Board is considering the concept of soliciting a new corporate type sponsor to raise the image of CASI and TICC through which a cash prize would be awarded to the TICC Chili Champion.

Alan Dean asked for a motion to approve the Board researching the concept of soliciting a corporate sponsor for TICC.

MOTION by Ken Peach, Puget Pod, that the Board be authorized to research the concept of pursuing a corporate sponsor to award a \$25,000 cash prize at TICC. The motion was duly seconded.

David Brown, Green Country Chili Pod, asked that consideration be given to amending the motion to state that the research would be for the awarding of the cash prize to the TICC Chili Champion.

MOTION by Ken Peach, Puget Pod, to amend his motion to state that the Board be authorized to research the concept of awarding a cash prize to the TICC Chili Champion. The motion was duly seconded.

Motion passed.

Jim Stateczny announced the completion of the new Tally Program Version 3 and its availability on the CASI website. The old program should be deleted.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Ezell called for the election of Directors.

For the 2006/2007 CASI year, the following Directors were elected:

A recap of the vote totals:

Bucky Seelig	72
Bill Pierson	70
Jim Ezell	62
Garnier Albus	47
Ed Blair	33

Dean called for the Special Election to fill the one-year remaining on Chuck Taylor's term.

A recap of the vote totals:

Ed Blair	39
John Goforth	22
Roger Foltz	15

Alan Dean thanked Bobby Elliott, David Richardson and Jimmy Taylor for counting the votes.

A brief recess was called to allow the Board of Directors to elect the 2006-2007 officers.

Alan Dean announced the following officers:

President – Jim Ezell

Vice President – Renee Moore

Vice President, Ranch Operations – Jimmy Taylor

Secretary – Ed Blair

Treasurer – Garnier Albus

CALL FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

Larry Burruss presented the Great Peppers' Meeting banner to representatives of the East Texas Pod and Rose City Pod, representing the 2007 Great Pepper's Meeting Committee.

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

Jim Ezell, President

Renee Moore, Interim Secretary