

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

**RAMADA INN
TYLER, TEXAS**

SEPTEMBER 8, 2007

President Jim Ezell called the meeting to order.

Credentials Committee Report

Alan Dean, Executive Director, stated the Credentials Process has been completed and that credentials had been received by all the Pods. The officers of the Chili Hawg Pod of Northwest Arkansas were requested to come forward to apply for CASI affiliation.

MOTION by Daryl Baxter, Thousand Trails Lake Whitney Pod, to accept the Chili Hawg Pod. The motion was duly seconded.

Motion passed: Unanimous

Secretary Ed Blair called the roll. 69 Pods were present.

The following Directors were present:

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

A quorum was present.

The following Pods were not in attendance:

Georgia Pod
Route 66 Chiliheads

The following Pod was not seated due to lack of completed credentials that complied with CASI by-laws:

Golden Triangle Pod

This being the second consecutive absence from the Great Peppers' Meeting for the Georgia Pod and the Route 66 Chiliheads, the Pods are no longer recognized as official CASI Pods.

Additionally, the Golden Triangle Pod, on probation for being absent at the 2006 Great Peppers' Meeting and lacking completed credentials for the present Great Peppers' Meeting, is no longer recognized as an official CASI Pod.

Welcome/Report of the 2007 Meeting Committee

Gil Hewlett welcomed the delegates to the Great Peppers' Meeting and introduced some of the people that made it possible: Wayne Thompson, Nancy Givens, Sharon Neff, David Hewlett, Stan Moore, Richard Hewlett, Blu Daniels, Ellen & Bob Conley and James & Debbie Espinoza.

Response

The President complimented the beautiful city and thanked all those involved for the food, meetings and refreshments.

BOARD REPORTS

President's Message

President Jim Ezell welcomed everyone to the business meeting of CASI. The obligations and responsibilities of being a seeded Pod were discussed; one being the completion of the Credentials to be submitted to the Executive Director of which they are not so much credentials as they are the annual report of your Pod.

This will be the 41st TICC and the 18th held at Rancho CASI de los Chisos. We have developed a fine facility on our 320 acres and it is debt free. The article by Ken Large on the history of the development of the Ranch was mentioned, as well as the fine relationship with Brewster County.

President Ezell reported that last year he wanted to develop a museum on the grounds. While little progress has been made to date, funding is available through Legacy Sponsorships. Input is needed from the members. The Directors will be asked today to appoint one of the Directors to a new CASI position of Historian. We are losing a lot of our history and artifacts. We need to recognize those people that have built this organization.

CASI and this meeting are about numbers. There will be many numbers in today's presentations. People who are full time chiliheads probably spend more than 10% of their lives dedicated to chili and the organization.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Secretary Ed Blair presented the Minutes of the Great Peppers' Meeting held September 9, 2006, in Austin, Texas.

MOTION by Darrell Baxter, Thousand Trails Lake Whitney Pod, to approve the minutes of the prior meeting. The motion was duly seconded. Hearing no objections,

Motion passed

Rancho CASI de los Chisos

Vice-President Ranch Operations Jimmy Taylor discussed the damage sustained to the Memorial Board and reported the granite slab has been replaced at no cost through the efforts of Ruby Ross. Pictures were shown of the new Memorial Plaza area. Credit for the design goes to Bill Pierson.

The Ranch has been overtaken by tumbleweeds and it will be quite a problem. The suggestion was made that each member bring a hoe to use to improve their camping area. Erosion has occurred and through the association with the County this will be resolved. Three signs have been installed displaying our Rules of the Ranch.

Old 320

Alcalde Ralph Hay reported that the new procedures and updates on the Old 320 Policies are in place. These will be posted to the CIS so members can read them. An update of the names of the new Great Peppers is needed for the Pods that have 320 spots. Great Peppers are required to submit the name of who will be using the Pod spot.

Missing 320 Members are Chuck Bones from the Jacksonville area, Bob and Jeanetta Gelles from the Houston area, and David Stitchler from the Del Rio area.

Permission was sought from Old 320 Members who will not use their spots to advise Hay, so they may be used by someone else.

The Annual Meeting this year will be Thursday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. instead of Friday morning to avoid conflicts.

There will be 3 drawings for \$100 each for the cooks who cook in the Old 320 Area.

New markers will be put into the spots to help members readily find their spots.

A profile is requested so that a database can be set up on each Old 320 Member. A profile member form is available.

Ralph Hay's new email address is RHay16@comcast.net.

Terlingua International Chili Championship

Vice-President Renee Moore presented the Terlingua Medics' 2006 Incident Report for TICC. Of note was that every day, there was an ATV accident. One was quite serious. Based on these incidents and our insurance company's request, the Board has instituted Rules of the Ranch which have been published in the *Trails*. The Rules have not been issued to diminish anyone's fun. They have been issued to address liability and safety issues. The insurance company is proud that we have issued the Rules and have placed the three signs up around the Ranch as a demonstration that we are doing all we can to address the safety issue.

The Rules will also be passed out to each and every person who comes to the gate at the Ranch. Many of the incidents occurred by individuals being in areas where they did not need to go. Areas will be marked and signs posted. Security has been granted authority to confiscate the vehicles and/or to evict the person without refund of entrance fees for those who do not adhere to the Rules.

Security and the Sheriff's Department staff do not like to evict or arrest people. Normally if someone is extremely intoxicated, they are typically brought to City Hall and kept there for as many hours as needed to be able to send them back to their camp. Moore complimented the job that security does for us and she announced Rio Bravo Security will be returning for 2007. Martin Willey is head of Rio Bravo Security, as well as being with the Brewster County Sheriff's Department. The Hudspeth County's Sheriffs Department will also have a few representatives on site as training for large group events as their county does not have any.

The bee problem with open containers was discussed. The bees can enter open containers and result in bee stings to the tongue. One of the two incidents last year resulted in an individual going into anaphylactic shock, so it can be a serious health issue.

The Medics will be on site beginning Tuesday afternoon. Please thank them for their efforts when you see them.

The Fire Department will be working the front gate. Bruce Jones will be the Gate Coordinator this year. He has done a wonderful job and we now have policies in place including the Wristband Policy which has been published in the *Trails*. A person who is a qualified cook gets a wristband, but only one, even if they are also an Old 320 Member and a Qualified Show Captain; i.e. they do not receive a wristband for each qualifying activity. A person traveling with them may also receive a wristband subject to these rules. Show team members pay at the gate and will receive a Spectators Wristband. This year they will receive a one time use pass to get them past the Guard Shack to go to the stage and obtain the appropriate wristband and a refund.

Parking is always an issue. Please park closely but safely. Please bring a fire extinguisher.

New plates have been ordered for the Memorial Board. A better quality plate has been obtained and we are investigating securing some form of cover for the Board as a means of protecting the plates. We will have a Memorial Plaza and Board dedication, probably

on Thursday. The plates will be put on the Board on Tuesday and any help will be appreciated.

Based on the current discussions concerning the expansion of CASI membership, Moore announced she is adding a membership form to the bottom of the Rules of the Ranch form to be handed out to everyone in the hopes that one or more people will decide to join. Members were encouraged to keep providing their ideas and to give feedback on any and all issues to make TICC better.

Tallymaster

Tallymaster Bill Pierson reported our year to date numbers:

Chilis judged -14,578

Moneys raised - \$1,074,893.57, which is the highest ever by the Great Peppers' Meeting

There are no delinquent cookoffs outstanding

Cooks qualified - 375, which includes the 1st cook from New Jersey

Show teams qualified - 160

TICC registration needs volunteers. Bob Steinle will handle show registration.

Membership

Membership Chairman Mikie McGarity announced the current membership is 1,659 which is larger than it has ever been. Our current members are encouraged to recruit more new members.

1,075 Annual members

486 Lifetime members

57 Corporate members

41 VIP members (sponsors)

McGarity re-introduced the old Yellow Book from Ray Calhoun which he has edited so it is up to date. CASI has reprinted as helpful tool to provide to new cooks.

Terlingua Trails

Terlingua Trails Editor Bucky Seelig thanked the people who have submitted articles and photos this past year, including those who submit monthly articles.

There have been delivery problems with the *Trails*. Jim Stateczny and Seelig met with the printer and learned the Postal Service had changed some procedures. The matter has been resolved by updating the sorting process.

The *Trails* is posted to the website generally by the 17th of each month. It is a nicer format and in color. For those sending in photos, please identify the people in the photos.

Upcomings

Upcomings Chairperson Dorathy Williams has distributed over 3,000 cookoff packets during her time on the Board.

A Users Manual for the CIS system will be posted on the website under Resources.

Public Relations

Public Relations Chairman Ken Rodd congratulated Dana Plocheck for her efforts to promote CASI. A news release has been provided for the Great Peppers to submit to their local newspapers. Boomer Kingston created a 30 second radio spot announcement for TICC and requested members provide it to their local radio stations.

The Pod Newsletter contest will be held again this year. The top 3 newsletter will be recognized.

Two excellent tools to promote CASI are our Scholarship Fund and the *Terlingua Trails*.

CASI Scholarships

Scholarship Chairman Hut Brown recounted the idea of Jim Stateczny several years ago to take the program national. This year 181 top notch high school students submitted applications. The CASI Board approved 6 scholarships for this year. The Scholarship Committee was thanked including those present: Bruce Stewart, Nancy Klug, Pat King, Dan Bauer, and Bobby Elliott.

Two of our scholarship recipients were introduced: CJ Paine and Jennifer Lee.

Many contributions have been received in memoriam for the death of Colleen Wallace which helps to build the fund as well as honor her passing.

Jonathon Elliott was the top applicant and the winner of the Hut and Jackie Brown Memorial Scholarship this year.

Scholarship recipients are presented with a professionally made certificate which is distributed to the local Great Peppers who make arrangements to have it presented at graduation or honors night.

Financials

Treasurer Garnier Albus announced the 2006 contributions made by CASI:

Terlingua Schools	\$8,000
Terlingua Fire Dept/EMS	\$7,000
Sul Ross Rodeo Club	\$2,000
Brewster County	\$2,000
National Scholarships	\$38,000

Since the inception of the program, \$266,236.50 has been given.

Meeting recessed for morning break at 10:15 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

Sponsorship

Sponsorship Chairman Jim Ezell announced the TICC 2007 sponsors. While CASI's expenses are up, the rising sponsorship funds have kept CASI in the black. CASI currently has 18 great sponsors.

The CASI Matching Funds program was outlined. This program was begun through the efforts of Tom Williams, Jim Stateczny and Ezell. The plan was to seek local contributions which CASI would match for use in the local school district. The community now raises over \$10,000 a year and CASI has capped its matching contribution at \$2,000 per year. Through this program, every graduate of Terlingua High School receives some level of financial aid for which CASI gets credit. There are numerous local contributors, many of whom desire to be anonymous, but there are two that have granted permission to publicize their names. Seth Burgess Equimax and Easter Egg Valley Motel/Chisos Mining Company are two \$1,000 sponsors.

Friends of CASI - \$1,000 to \$3,000

Renfro Foods – Bill Renfro, sponsor of the Salsa Contest
Irving Elks Lodge
Cappadonna Electric Company, secured by Robert Schrade
Glazer's Wholesale Distributors
Seth Burgess Equimax
Chisos Mining Company/Easter Egg Valley Motel

Silver Sponsors \$5,000

Permian Distributing – John Morrow
HEB Food Stores, secured by Donna Conrad
Tyson Foods – provide wings for the Wings Contest, secured by Donna Conrad
Capital One, secured by Ken Rodd
Monosite, Inc. – Sissy Hill

Gold Sponsors \$10,000

Desert Eagle (Budweiser)
Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi
Hill Country Software & Support – Jim & Shirley Stateczny
Bruce Foods – Si Brown, sponsors of the Hot Wings and Bean Contest
Ancira Motor Homes and Travel Trailers – this is their 11th year and our longest running sponsor

Legacy Sponsors \$25,000 (\$5,000 per year for 5 years) – This program originated to primarily recover funds expended on buildings and facilities at the Ranch. These sponsors are granted naming rights on our facilities and the funding is in addition to the basic sponsorship.

Ancira – The Ancira Hospitality Pavilion
Bruce Foods – The Mexene Judging Pavilion

Ezell expounded on the term legacy and suggested that members consider leaving something to CASI out of one's estate and to dedicate the funds to a specific improvement.

Ezell talked about encouraging all of our sponsors to attend TICC as it strengthens the commitment by them since they can see what they are getting with their sponsorship.

Ezell asked Mikie McGarity to unveil the 2007 TICC poster. McGarity was also instrumental in the design and purchase of the convention booth and the brochures.

Another special edition of the October *Terlingua Trails* will be done, so it may be sent out to sponsors, current and prospective.

Bruce Foods has requested CASI members to participate in a letter writing campaign to either your local stores or distributors. Ezell also reminded everyone of the special available on the website. He stressed that they monitor the hits and Ezell urged cooks to purchase a can of Mexene through the CASI website.

Ed Blair presented the Bruce Foods' letter writing campaign. Steve Kimball, VP of Marketing for Bruce Foods, is seeking CASI's support in bringing value to their sponsorship through our assistance in getting their Mexene product into more stores, especially in Houston and Southeast Texas. When sending these letters please copy Bruce Foods, but send a copy to Blair, also, so the letters may be accumulated and forwarded to Bruce Foods. Si Brown, Bruce Food's President, will be monitoring the results of the letter writing campaign.

Report of the Executive Director

Executive Director Alan Dean acknowledged the resurrection of the Rose City Pod. The accomplishments of the Black Gold Pod were discussed with their raising \$58,000 for charity two years ago and then set a goal last year to raise \$100,000 and met it. To date, this year the Pod has raised \$110,804 with three cookoffs yet to be held.

Dean was pleased to announce Alex and Suzanne Tanalski are with us from California.

This year was the smoothest and most orderly credentials process during Dean's time and he thanked everyone for their efforts.

The current structure of the Rules Committee was discussed which now includes the Executive Director, the Tallymaster, one Board member at large, a Great Pepper at large and a CASI member at large. The purpose of the Rules Committee is to receive protests and other rules issues and act as the first level of adjudicating those issues. Mikie McGarity has served as the Board member at large. Richard Knight has served as the CASI member at large. Preston Nickle has served as the Great Pepper at large. Dean thanked them for their service.

This past year there have been so many changes to members' information that it became necessary to seek help and Joe Price was selected to be the new Data Manager. Dean requested that people submit their information changes to Price so he can update the CIS.

Two years ago Dean proposed a 7 point plan to be considered:

1. Respect one another
2. Be cooperative and work together
3. Strive for and publish and publish clearly defined policies
4. Accept CASI and pod positions as obligations not as a rank or label of superiority
5. Read the CASI Rules
6. Always ask 'what is best for CASI?' Before taking action, before speaking out, before criticizing, before complaining, ask 'What will the consequence be? What is best for CASI?'
7. Be proud and promote CASI every day

In 2006, the emphasis became Chili, Charity and Fun

For 2007, Dean asked for the emphasis to be:

1. Communicate regularly with your pod
 - Meetings
 - Emails
 - Keep them informed as to what is going on with CASI.
2. Recognize the importance of promoting cookoffs to the public
3. Support and promote the CASI Scholarship Program

A call for the ballots for the Great Pepper of the Year was made so they could be tabulated after lunch.

Meeting recessed for lunch at 11:40 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:27 p.m.

MOTION by Alan Dean that the announcement of Great Pepper of the Year be made at TICC. The motion was duly seconded.

Motion passed: 76 yeas
 4 nays

CALL FOR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dan Bauer, Capital Pod, requested a report on the possibility of prize money being awarded to the winner at TICC. President Ezell responded that after consultation with our sponsors that it just cannot happen unless there is some kind of endowment that guarantees the money will be available every year. Ezell personally feels at this time there is no viable way to do it but would welcome input from the members.

Janie Bauer, Old Dominion Pod, sought input on helping the TICC winner with travel assistance to attend cookoffs to promote CASI. Ezell explained that this matter was addressed at the September 7 Board Meeting wherein a resolution was passed that on an

instance by instance basis the Board can approve travel money to be used from the sponsorship budget for travel costs to promote CASI.

CALL FOR NEW BUSINESS

Site Selections

Alan Dean advised that the Claremore Mid-America Regional Cookoff is being held in Claremore, Oklahoma, today. It has been an ICS event for years and they are migrating towards CASI. This year it is a Regional Open running side by side with an ICS cookoff. The promoter had advertised prize money. The promoter has been informed of CASI rules and the money will be awarded to the winners at TICC as expense money. This matter was reviewed by the Rules Committee and reported to the Board. A letter will be sent to the promoters to remind them of our rules

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

Mid-America Regional Cookoff in Claremore, OK
Midwest Regional Open – Lenexa, KS – MO-KAN Pod, Williams Seasoning, and
Lenexa Parks and Recreation
Southwest Open – Wichita Falls, TX – North of Brazos Pod
Tri-State Open – Amarillo, TX – Tall in Texas Pod

MOTION by Randy Moore, State of Alabama Pod, to approve the Mid-America Regional Open, the Midwest Regional Open, the Southwest Open and the Tri-State Open cookoffs. The motion was duly seconded.

Motion passed: Unanimous

There are four Opens which are seeking location changes:

MOTION by Janice Miller, Concho Valley Pod, to approve the Three-I Regional in Northern, Illinois. The motion was duly seconded.

Motion passed: Unanimous

MOTION by Darrell Baxter, Thousand Trails Lake Whitney Pod, to approve the Mid-South Regional in Parkers Crossroads, Tennessee. The motion was duly seconded.

Motion passed: Unanimous

MOTION by Janice Miller, Concho Valley Pod, to approve the North American Open in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. The motion was duly seconded.

Motion passed: Unanimous

MOTION by Bobby Elliott, Pod of the Pass, to approve the 4-Corners Regional in Cloud Croft, New Mexico. The motion was duly seconded.

Motion passed: Unanimous

A call was made for any International cookoff to seek acceptance.

MOTION by Darrell Baxter, Thousand Trails Lake Whitney Pod, to approve the International Open on Martin Luther King weekend in Rocky Point, Mexico. The motion was duly seconded.

Motion passed: Unanimous

Larry Otto, Purgatory Creek Pod, asked about dispensation for the Mexico International Chili Championship. Dean stated it is not necessary as it is in the By-laws (sic). [It is actually recognized in the CASI Rules, VI B 3.]

Greg Monger, High Desert Pod, inquired about the International Open and it, too, is covered by the Rules, so no approval was needed.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Nominating Committee passed out the ballots for the election of Directors.

The meeting recessed at 1:45 p.m. while the ballots were being counted.
The meeting reconvened at 2:10 p.m.

For the 2007/2008 CASI year, the following Directors were elected:

A recap of the vote totals:

Ed Blair	69
Tim Collier	62
John Goforth	52
Ken Rodd	42
Bud Barrick	38
Robert Schrade	30
Roger Foltz	14

Ed Blair and Tim Collier are elected to 3 year terms.
John Goforth and Ken Rodd are elected to 2 year terms.

Dean announced the meeting would go into an informal session while the Board of Directors convened to elect the 2007-2008 officers.

Meeting reconvened at 2:41 p.m.

Alan Dean announced the following officers:

President – Jim Ezell

First Vice President – Renee Moore

Second Vice President – Bill Pierson

Secretary – Ed Blair

Treasurer – Garnier Albus

CALL FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

Gil Hewlett presented the Great Peppers' Meeting banner to Vickie Childers of Amarillo, Texas, representing the 2008 Great Peppers' Meeting Committee.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, **MOTION** by Darrell Baxter to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded. There being no objections, the motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Jim Ezell, President

Ed Blair, Secretary