

TO: Fellow Members of the Pioneers of Stealth

20 February 2009

SUBJECT: Status Report

Let me first apologize for delaying so long in getting a report out to you. That being said, I want you to know that we have been working hard to get some traction for this now *chartered* organization.

As you may recall the charter for the Pioneers of Stealth (POS) was approved at our last business meeting in Las Vegas NE on 10 November 2007. It called for the election of four officers and the creation of three committees: Steering, Social, and Communication. The Steering Committee is actually an advisory board to the President, and it consists of the officers plus 3 or 4 "greybeard" POS members – two from Government and one or two from Industry – known as the Senior Advisory Group. The Social and Communication Committees are to be made up of members-at-large with a chairperson selected by the members of the committee.

In April 2008 we issued membership applications and ballots to everyone in the data base that Sue, Skip, Ralph, and others had been compiling/refreshing for the past 20+ years. (I believe over 500 e-mail addresses). Of course many were outdated and others had spam filters which blocked out the message. After some agony and last minute arm twisting we ended up with 60 or so dues-paying members who cast ballots. I say "60 or so" because I screwed up and put Rick Abell (instead of Eric E. Abell), Treasurer of the POS (a banking no-no), and his wrong address on the application. Rick has been diligently trying to clean up this mess for the past 6 months, but suffice it to say, that some who submitted checks made out to Rick or the Treasurer have yet to provide corrected checks to him. Hence the number continues to fluctuate.

Rick did announce the results of the election on 3 July 2008 as follows (without his usual snide remarks):

President: me

Vice President: Pete Knauth

Secretary: Denny Jarvi

Treasurer: Eric E. (Rick) Abell

Please note these are all former Government people. In my humble opinion, not a good situation. We needed a mix. Elections are to be held in conjunction with every reunion, but we will extend this first group until 2011 since we were slow getting out of the gate

At any rate, we were fortunate to have Ralph Grimm and Tim Sweeney – also Government people – agree to serve as Acting Chairpersons for the Communication and Social Committees respectively. Most of the now *official* members did sign-up to support one or both of the committees. Ralph and Tim will use these volunteers to form up their committees, create charters, and get to work on re-unions, rosters, newsletters, etc.

What have we been doing? Well Rick took the books from Skip and Janet Hickey and has been cleaning up the dues checks. I believe we have over \$6000 in the bank from carryover, the NOV 07 reunion, and dues. We will provide the members a complete financial report at the next reunion (discussed below). By the way, those of you who only paid your dues for 2008, it is (past) time to send ERIC E. ABELL a check for \$25 for your **2009 DUES**. If you like bargains, any member can get 2 years membership for \$45. Just make those checks out to ERIC E. ABELL.

Pete Knauth has been my conscience (is that scary?) and has been working possible incorporation. Ralph has been cleaning up the roster and working the web site. And Tim has been helping Jerry Vanden Bosch with reunion planning.

A section of the ballot requested members' preference for a reunion location in 2009. The nominations were Colorado Springs, Maine (the Twigg estate), and the Langley VA area. The members indicated Colorado Springs by a wide enough margin over the other two for us to launch the planning effort. Jerry has stepped up to lead the effort with Tim ready in the wings to help. Here's the story:

*The **REUNION** is scheduled for 16 and 17 October 2009 in Colorado Springs. Changing of the aspens in the mountains usually peaks during this period, and entire mountainsides and valleys of brilliant gold are truly spectacular – and within minutes of Colorado Springs.*

We have selected Cheyenne Mountain Resort as the location for the reunion. Jerry has been able to negotiate an excellent rate for our group of \$129 per room per night for 15 and 16 October (and 2 nights before and after for those who may want to spend more time in the area). This is well below the normal rate, and the resort fee has been waived. The Cheyenne Mountain Resort offers everything we will need for the reunion: conference room, banquet room, and golf course, plus a host of other facilities. Check out the website (<http://www.cheyennemountain.com>).

Tours, organized or individual, of the Air Force Academy, Pikes Peak (cog railway and/or driving), Garden of the Gods, Cave of the Winds, Royal Gorge Railroad, Seven Falls, and more... are possibilities. Jerry is also checking out the AFA football schedule to see if there is a home game on the 17th. If so, he will try to arrange a block of tickets and transportation to the Academy.

Jerry will be our host and plans to post up a response page on his business web site once schedules and facilities have been finalized. You will receive an email link to the response page where you will easily confirm your attendance and any activities preferences that may be available. He will also include information links to other area events and attractions. In the meantime, if you have questions or comments about the reunion, please do not hesitate to contact Jerry at 719.395.3311 or email to bizdata@ix.netcom.com.

I strongly urge **all** of you to attend. We will do our usual golf thing (Walt Barber Open) on Friday plus tours. We will have the banquet Friday night, the business meeting Saturday morning, and tours/football in the afternoon. We will plan to do our casual dinner Saturday night if there is enough interest. We have some serious business to address, for example: if and how to expand the membership and the future of the POS award.

Speaking of membership, I am enclosing with this report a new membership application. Rick's information has been corrected and I've added the two year membership "deal". With this report, I am initiating a **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**. For every 5 members you sign up, you get one year membership **free** (plus my undying gratitude). How can you beat that? Membership is open to Government and contractor personnel who meet the criteria described on the application form. Rick and Ralph are standing by to take your calls – well, maybe not.

We will do a better job of keeping you informed. Ralph Grimm will be publishing a newsletter 2 or 3 times a year with the first out by the end of May. If you have anything you want included, let Ralph know. I will have him issue a call for inputs in advance. Also, as described above, Jerry will contact all of us via e-mail with the final information and sign-up for the reunion. Please feel free to share this report with any of your fellow, *non-member*, stealth pioneers. We need to get the word out.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the reunion.

s//Rob Bongiovi

rbbongiovi@aol.com