

CHAPTER 5

A Bird's Eye View 1979-1988

RECORD OF ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS 1979-88

YEAR	LOCATION	DATE	HONORARY NATIONAL & NATIONAL PRESIDENTS
1979	London, ON	Sep 12-15	MGen. W.M. Garton & Mr. J.G. Freeman
1980	Calgary, AB	Oct 7-10	MGen. W.M. Garton & BGen B.A. Howard
1981	Peterborough, ON	Oct 6-9	LtGen. H. McLachlan & BGen B.A. Howard
1982	Fredericton, NB	Oct 5-8	LtGen. H. McLachlan & Col. A.J. Bauer
1983	Ottawa, ON	Oct 11-14	LtGen. H. McLachlan & Col. A.J. Bauer
1984	Saskatoon, SK	Oct 2-5	LtGen A. MacKenzie & Mr. A.E. Karlen
1985	Sarnia, ON	Oct 8-11	LtGen. A. MacKenzie & Mr. A.E. Karlen
1986	St. John's, Nfld.	Oct 7-10	MGen. W. Paisley & Mr. G. Wood
1987	Red Deer, AB	Oct 6-9	MGen. W. Paisley & Mr. G. Wood
1988	Victoria, BC	Oct 4-7	MGen. W. Paisley & Mr. G. Wood

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW.....1979-1988

1.0 FOREWARNED IS FOREARMED..... However, it is necessary to retrace our steps once again, though very briefly. Doug Harvey in his address as General Manager at the 1977 AGM had alerted the organization to the fact that the financial impact in the cost to produce the magazine, Airforce, would present quite a challenge to the Association. It was therefore agreed, after a very heated discussion at the 1978 AGM, to raise the membership dues by \$3.00 effective 1 Jul 79. This in fact meant an increase from \$11.00 to \$14.00 for Wing Members and from \$12.00 to \$15.00 for MALs per annum. Despite the very heated discussion, a very strong consensus prevailed in favour of the magazine.....per ardua ad astra.

1.1 AND WHAT OF AIR FORCE PRODUCTIONS LTD.?

1.1.1 The following report was given by the Chairman of the 1979 AGM and is copied here from the Minutes of that meeting primarily to acquaint our membership with the depth of the challenges as well as the financial difficulties that confronted the organization in getting both Air Force Productions Ltd. and the magazine "off to a difficult start". Quote

In 1976, the Association had been searching for a National project that would enhance both the prestige and financial viability of the Association while providing service to the Nation.

At the General Meeting that year in Hamilton, a proposal to form a parallel organization called "Aviation Canada" was considered and rejected, and the Resources and Projects Committee was tasked to prepare a proposal under a different format

The expansion of "Wings at Home" into the new "Airforce" magazine was the National project that resulted. "Airforce" was first produced in April 1977, as the only Canadian aviation magazine in full colour format. It went to a greatly expanded circulation but was plagued in the beginning by a shortage of cash flow and high postage costs as a third class mailing item. At the same time the magazine was not being exploited by Wings as had been anticipated and pleas were made by the NEC for Wings to subscribe on behalf of all their Associate members.

It was agreed that part of the problem could be eliminated by forming a subsidiary company to publish the magazine to get the privilege of the significantly lower costs of second class mailing - which is available to publishing companies only - not to Associations. The 1977 meeting in Charlottetown, approved a by-law authorizing the NEC to set up such a Company.

Air Force Productions Ltd. was formed with shareholders holding shares in Trust for the Association to ensure that Association interests were protected. This was further covered by a series of agreements between the Association and the Company. The Certificate of Incorporation for the Company was issued January 4th, 1978. The Company assumed all publishing and merchandising operations formerly conducted by the Association. In the following six months the operations and financial records of the Association and Company

were separated.

Doug Harvey, who had been General Manager of the Association, was engaged as Executive Director of Air Force Productions Ltd. And Editor of "Airforce" magazine.

The company was supported by the Association to the value during the first year of \$16,000.00 which increased in 1979 to \$20,000.00. In addition, the Association became guarantor for a bank loan of \$24,000.00. In effect, this provided AFPL with operating funds of about \$44,000.00 - but it was noted that any major publishing firm would allot \$150-200,000.00 to such an undertaking. Cash flow forecasts looked good but it was recognised that strict controls would be required to maintain an adequate cash flow.

The projection for the company when it started operations provided for revenues from advertising of \$70,000.00 annually and substantial magazine sales.

Unfortunately, in retrospect, the company started off as a one-man operation. An advertising sales agency was not retained and advertising sales did not materialize. Subscription sales also fell below projections.

The result was a loss on operations within each of the last two years.

Within the last few months, Doug Harvey has left the Company and the Directors have reorganized operations under three areas.

In the Editor's chair, Doug Stuebing, a noted Canadian newspaperman and author has been retained on a part time basis.

An advertising sales representative, Don Slater, has been engaged on a commission basis. He has had long experience with CBC in the advertising field and also represents other Canadian magazines in unrelated fields.

Ron Butcher has consented to work on a part time basis as Business Co-Ordinator to act on behalf of the Board of Directors in ensuring continuity and effect mainly in the area of financial controls. As a former Association General Manager, I am sure you are all familiar with the background he brings to this task.

So instead of a one-man operation, the Directors have chosen to divide the tasks involved into three areas and have engaged knowledgeable people on a part time basis in each area. The General Manager, Len Lapeer, is also intimately involved in all aspects of the operation.

A concerted effort is being made to bring AFPL to a profit situation, but it will take time. In the meantime, through Association efforts, Canada has a high-class full colour aviation magazine which has a wonderful potential. Unquote.

1.1.2 THE HEAT OF CHALLENGES

From the information in para 1.1.1 above, it might be safe to say that having made some rather significant changes during 1968-78, the organization now finds itself in the heat of the challenges which emanated from these changes.....the no.1. challenge of course, being the publication of the magazine, Airforce. Rather than recording this era as “the Heat of Challenges”, perhaps it would be more appropriate, in retrospect, to record it as a natural step in the growth process of the organization. The possibility of the adaptation of a national project has been the subject of many debates and discussions over the years and it now appears that that desire has blossomed into fruition.

2. WINGS FORMED 1979-1988

2.1 The records will show that during this period, a total of 21 Wings were formed and 5 Wings ceased to operate. The formation of 11 Wings in BC. Group and the 7 Wings in Ontario Group was most encouraging. Also most encouraging was the reduction in the quantity of closures. This, hopefully, signalled improved stabilization in Wings' operation.

Group Name	No. of Wings at 1978	No. of Wings Formed 1979-88	No. Of Wings Closed 1978-88
Maritime/Atlantic	16	1	1
Quebec	6	-	1
Ontario	29	7	3
Prairies	5	-	-
Alberta	5	2	-
B.C.(Includes USA)	6	11	-
Totals	67	21	5

2.2 The actual listings of Wings/Groups in detail, are reflected in the following charts:-

- (a) Chart No. 27 - Group/Wings Membership Count...1979-83 (Page 226)
- (b) Chart No. 28 - Group/Wings Membership Count...1984-88 (Page 227)
- (d) Chart No. 29 - Individual Wing's Membership Count..1979-83 (Pages 228-234)
- (e) Chart No. 30 - Individual Wing,s Membership Count...1984-88 (Pages 235-241)

3.0 THE FEE INCREASE SCENARIO

3.1 Needless to say, the added requirement for funds to support the magazine became a hot topic of debate throughout this era, and a capsule presentation of the outcome is as follows:-

Fiscal year commences	Fee per Wing Member	Fee per MAL Member
1 Aug 79	14.00	15.00
1 Jul 81	15.00	16.00
1 Jul 86	17.00	20.00
1 Jul 87	18.00	20.00
1 Jul 88	19.00	20.00

3.2. TURBULENCE AT FULL THROTTLE

3.2.1 In recognition of the “tough times” being faced by the organization, it might be appropriate to record here and now, excerpts of reports given by some of our leaders of the day at the AGM held in Calgary, 7-10 Oct, 1980:-

(a) First, by Major General W.M. Garton, CD, Hon. National President

“First of all may I say how quickly the last four years have passed - since I received the honour of being appointed your Honorary National President - and they have been interesting ones indeed, from many points of view.

Management of the Association has changed hands twice, a new corporation was formed - that is Air Force Productions Ltd., and our excellent new magazine was launched and continues. Financial stresses and strains have come and gone, and come again, both for the Association and your Corporation. Membership has moved up and down, and changed. Plans and projects have been considered to revitalize the Association - some adopted - some not.”

“As a member of the Board of Directors of Air Force Productions, we have had some interesting and exciting times re finances. And I must here make a special mention of the most excellent and diligent work of your President, Barry Howard, in bringing a businesslike and professional approach to the corporation, as he has done with the Association.

There are two fairly recent developments which will be of interest to you, which I would like to mention.

First, I am a member of an Air Force Advisory Group which we are organizing in Ottawa as an Advisory Body to the Forces Air Element and to the government on “Air” matters. I have taken great care, as has your President, to ensure that the RCAF Association will be involved actively in this Group and I am sure that Barry Howard will comment on this aspect.

Secondly, Air Marshal Annis, who is Chairman of the RCAF Memorial Fund, has asked me to investigate and advise whether or not the Association would be willing to enter into discussions with the Fund on the possibility of the Association undertaking to provide and manage, for a fee to be negotiated, the administrative services (Including at least some elements of financial administration) required to give effect to and support the policies and programs approved from time to time by the Fund's Board of Directors."

"Moving away just a bit from Association business, I would like here to call your attention to a problem that the Canadian Forces are having; I have had many recent conversations with Senior Officers of the Department of National Defence on this matter. They are worried, very worried, about the ability to attract and keep young Canadians in the Armed Forces, all elements, in these days of rapid social change. One of the areas that they feel is causing a loss of good people, and only one of the reasons but an important one, is that young servicemen and women do not feel needed or wanted or appreciated, or their work appreciated, by the Canadian public or, for that matter, by the government.

I thought that I would bring this matter to your attention, as ex-servicemen and women, so that you in some way, whenever you can, will express to individual servicemen/women whom you may meet from time to time, how much you appreciate what they are doing in the service of our country. Give them a "shot in the arm", a feeling that they can transpose to one of pride in their service. Pride like we all felt when in uniform at a different time.

We will be doing a service to them, and to the Forces, and to our country. Please think on this, and if your Wing is near a military establishment, how about having an "Appreciation Day" or night, or program of some kind."

NB - On that note, our Honorary National President bade good-bye to the membership and introduced his replacing Honorary National President, Lt.Gen. Hugh McLachlan, "a distinguished airman and a fine gentleman".

3.2.1. (b) Second, by our National President, Barry Howard. The excerpts which follow, it is hoped, in retrospect, will also serve to reflect an overview of the "state of our union" during these challenging times.

"Commencing with the National Executive Council meeting in London last year, I took steps to identify the matters that required action by your National office over the ensuing year. I perceived these to be:

- :(a) the consolidation of recovery action for a financially viable association and publishing subsidiary,.
- (b) the representation to government for the selection of a suitable New Fighter

- Aircraft for our Air Force,
- (c) the representations to government concerning the Task Force on the Review of Unification and the appointment of an Air Force Member to the Task Force,
 - (d) the selection of a new Honorary National President for installation at this Convention,
 - (e) the need for increased credibility and visibility of our association among our serving brethren, government and the population as a whole; and,
 - (f) the need for increased efforts for membership.

With respect to the recovery action for financial and administrative viability of the Association, I embarked on a “no nonsense” approach to ensuring that the consolidated deficit of over \$50,000.00 for the previous year was reversed and that the budget presented last year was met. Reassignment and replacement of staff together with sacrifice and hard work by both, staff at the National Office and your National Executive Council, have achieved the year-end goal set one year ago. I must make particular note of the sacrifice made by your General Manager, who when presented with the need for severe cost cutting action volunteered a reduction in his own remuneration for six months. Members of the NEC also volunteered their travel on Association business without compensation during the emergent period”.

“The cash drain of the magazine ‘Air Force’ was checked through a consolidation of indebtedness, acquisition of a professional advertising sales person and not least, the continued expertise of our publisher and editor. Doug Stuebing has produced a consistent superb magazine which has won acclaim and recognition by the growing list of subscribers, association members and most important, advertisers.

It is my view that the Association has ‘turned the corner’ and with perseverance shall prosper in the future.”

Our National President further stated, “I met with the Honorable Alan McKinnon (Minister of National Defence) on October 4th and gained his assurance that no fighter would be selected that the Air Force did not want.”

“Subsequently, the government selected the F18A Hornet which was the Air Force choice and I might add that we have been told that representations made by Major General Garton and myself were valued contributions for the government to reach such a decision”

“At this same meeting with the Minister, I expressed our distress that the membership of the Task Force on the Review of Unification contained former members of the Navy and Army but omitted a former airman. The Minister agreed forthwith to appoint an airman in the capacity as Air Consultant and accepted my nomination of Major General R.F. Herbert. I prepared a submission to the Task Force, copies of which were circulated throughout

the Association. Accompanied by your National Vice President, we appeared before the Task Force in Ottawa in January and our presentation was well received.

The Task Force Report was presented to the newly installed Minister of National Defence, Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne which, when made public, reflected our views completely. The Minister received me in May and in answer to my request that the Task Force Report be accepted, he advised that he had referred the Report to a Review Group of three senior officers for recommendation by August 31st. I have just received a copy of this Group's recommendations, which, for us confirms the need for increased Air Force, Army and Navy identification but rejects the recommendation for environmental uniforms. The outcome suggests that the result is a case of partial pregnancy. I suggest we prevail with "Per Ardua Ad Astra".

In the matter of the Association's need to increase its visibility and credibility within the service, I established regular and consistent liaison with the Commander Air Command, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Norad and the Chief of Air Doctrine and Operations at NDHQ.

Lieutenant General K.E. Lewis (then Deputy CinC Norad and now Commander Air Command) invited me to convene the National Executive Council mid-year meeting in January in Colorado Springs from which we derived exposure and goodwill. Numerous visits by me to Ottawa, coupled with your Vice Presidents' travel across Canada and Europe to CF Bases and Association Wings have indeed provoked renewed interest and support from our serving brethren."

3.2.2. THE FIRST NEC MEETING.....OUT-OF-COUNTRY

3.2.2.1. As reported by our National President, Barry Howard, the National Executive Council Meeting held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA, (the home of North American Air Defence Headquarters) January 1980, was the first such meeting to be held outside the Canadian borders. During this visit, Major Bob Tracy, who was stationed at NORAD as the Canadian Forces Senior Public Relations Officer, did an excellent job as No.1 Guide to the NEC for the duration of their stay at the "Springs"

3.2.3. THE JOE SHKWAREK PLAQUE.....AN OMISSION

3.2.3.1. An omission in that the Association's Booklet No. 104, entitled "National Honours and Awards", indicates that this plaque was introduced in 1972 by the donor, Mr. Joe Shkwarek. Booklet NO. 104 also states that Mr. Shkwarek is the proprietor of the Engraving Centre now very popularly know as Dracks Military Plaques Inc., located in the Ottawa Valley, and he is a member of 410 RCAF(William Barker, V.C.) Wing.

3.2.3.2. The purpose of the award is to annually recognize the dedication and effort shown by a member of the Annual General Meeting's Host Committee who is to be selected by the President(s) of the Host Wing(s).

3.2.3.3. The first recorded presentation appears in the Minutes of the 1973 AGM which was held in Moncton, N.B. The recipients selected for the award were Gerry and Barbara Brown of 253 (Moncton) Wing. The plaque provided annually by Mr. Shkwarek, is generally presented at the Awards Luncheon of the AGM.

4.0 THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME.....OUR NAT. PRESIDENT

4.1. In retrospect, recognizing the horrendous undertaking of the Association in producing and publishing the magazine, Airforce, it might be safe to say that Barry Howard as our National President and as an astute and very successful businessman, was the right man to "pilot" us through the maze of problems and financial complexities that are peculiar to publication management. However, in order to recapture the spirit of the day, excerpts of Mr. Howard's address to the 1981 AGM are recorded as follows: Quote

I greet this occasion with mixed emotions. I am sad this will be my last address to you as your National President as I will be standing aside in favour of your choice as my successor. However, unless there is a 'dark horse', I am happy that the torch shall be carried forward by an exceptional airman whose proven ability and dedication to this Association will ensure continued success for us all.

Since my report to you last year, many unfinished tasks, as well as some new ones, remained to be addressed and I would like to review these at this time.

Of continuing concern to your National Executive Council, has been the restoration of financial viability of the Association and its subsidiary, Air Force Productions Ltd. By adopting a policy of prudent cost restraint, voluntary reduction of expenses incurred by members of the NEC, together with a realignment and rationalization of our staff requirements at the National Headquarters, I am pleased to report that we have emerged from the fiscal year 1980-81 in a healthy state coupled with a favourable trend. We were successful in retiring our bank loan and our debt to M.O.M. Printing which has and will alleviate the oppressive interest expense pertaining to these debts. I do not wish to elaborate on the financial statements at this time as we will be reviewing these later in our agenda.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize the contributions made by some Past National Presidents who rose to our plea for financial support last year. Al Goodwin's effort produced a contribution from his Wing (253 Moncton) which, together with the contributions from Warren Huint's Booster Draws, have given us "a leg up" to reach this position.

The structure and manning of our National Headquarters received further

message through emergency NEC action at its January meeting in Baden-Sollingen. We were indeed fortunate in finding that National Director Sam Sayle offered to make himself available to replace the accounting clerk whose lack of performance provoked her release. Sam was engaged on March 1st as Comptroller, which caused his resignation as your National Director. It was because of his analysis of the deteriorating staff contribution in his capacity as Chairman of the Finance & Budget Committee that we were able to take the prompt remedial action that we did. I know that he will report to you later but his modesty will not expose the efforts he has made to get the records back into shape. With a long history of dedication to this Association, I knew that we would receive nothing less than total commitment and we have not been disappointed.

You will recall that last year I reported on the Association's submission to the Task Force on the Review of Unification of the Armed Forces. The Minister's reply to the Task Force's recommendations articulated the obvious need for service identity but his planned solutions fell short of permitting separate uniforms for the Air Force, Army and Navy. Instead, his plan was to form an "Identity Committee" to devise ways in which distinction can be achieved through accoutrements, badges, rank nomenclature and others. Informed sources indicate that proposals for the Air Force will include the traditional R.C.A.F. buttons and restoration of some ranks, such as Flight Sergeant, Leading Aircraftsman (LAC) and Aircraftsman (AC) Rank badges were proposed which were of silver colour (with a blue cast) and did not clash with the green uniform material. The project could be easily completed if an Air Force blue uniform material was accepted. Nevertheless, it is a start which, if sustained representations are made by our Association, and others, may produce the eventual proper solution.

Because of these pressures, a major break-through with uniforms was achieved when the Minister gave approval for service bands to be kitted in traditional uniforms provided that the initial cost of uniforms would be made through private subscription (non public funds). Your response to my fund raising plea for our contribution was heart warming and I would like to recognize the efforts of another Past National President, George Penfold, who personally undertook a direct mail campaign to corporations and leading citizens which produced a substantial number of donations.

At the last R.C.A.F. birthday party in Winnipeg on April 1st, I was proud to present Lieutenant General Lewis with our initial cheque for \$10,000.00 towards the cost of equipping the Air Command band with Air Force uniforms. The Wartime Pilots & Observers Association joined us with a cheque of \$5,000.00 and on your behalf, I pledged the additional amount required to a maximum of \$10,000.00. Our fund show that we have reached in excess of \$7,000.00 of this amount.

The manner in which you all rose to this occasion demonstrated the 'real' and visible support of this Association for our serving airmen and for which I thank all those who contributed.

Further to my efforts to 'close the gap' with the serving airman, I have adopted a practice of convening the mid-year meetings of the NEC at locations which would increase our visibility throughout the Air Force. The first experiment last year in Colorado Springs proved so successful that I arranged for this year's meeting to be convened at CFB Baden-Sollingen, the home of our on-site Air Force contribution to NATO, otherwise famously known as #1 Canadian Air Group. I am sure that I speak for my colleagues on the NEC when I report that I found the Air Force "alive and well and living in Baden".

I should also point out that the Baden meeting was made possible through the generosity of DND in providing air transport and accommodation and in particular, I want to record our gratitude to the Commander, Canadian Forces Europe and the Commander, 1 Canadian Air Group for the arrangements made for the NEC in Europe.

Our magazine 'Air Force' continues to grow in stature and recognition, although it has failed to meet anticipated advertising revenues. However, if Doug Stuebing continues to dispense his expertise as publisher and editor, I am sure that we can reorganize to achieve the projected levels of advertising revenue. On your behalf, I would like to record our gratitude and appreciation to Doug Stuebing for his contribution in making 'Air Force' a banner for our Association. Unquote

4.2 THE FIRST NEC MEETING OFF THE CONTINENT

4.2.1 In Feb 1980, National President, Barry Howard, took the NEC to its first meeting "out of country". In Jan 1981 he again arranged and took the NEC for its first meeting "off the continent", to CFB Baden-Sollingen, Germany, the home of Canada's contribution to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Truly a wonderful experience for those who attended. On this occasion and for the duration of the visit, their host was LCol .Laurie Hawn, of 1 Canadian Air Group, who at this time of writing, has retired as a full Colonel and is presently serving as Honorary Group President to Alberta Group of our Association.

4.3 AIR COMMAND'S BAND IN 'AIR FORCE BLUE'

4.3.1 It was at the 1982 AGM held in Fredericton, NB, that our National President, Arnie Bauer, reported as follows. Quote:

The initial parading of the Air Command Band's new blue uniform in February, and my presentation of your cheque for \$10,000 to complete our pledge of \$20,000 to that cause, was an occasion of great pride. Similarly, the presentation of colours to Air Command by our Governor-General was a moving and significant experience. Unquote

4.4. HER MAJESTY, QUEEN ELIZABETH II, VISITS CANADA

4.4.1 It was also at the 1982 AGM that our National President reported; Quote
In April, your President was invited to attend a dinner in Ottawa as part of a group of Canadians welcoming Her Majesty to Canada on the occasion of the signing of our Canadian Constitution. The RCAF Association was one of very few agencies of its type to have been honoured by this invitation and, I believe, we should all be proud of the high esteem in which our Association is held. Unquote.

5.0 THE AIR CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA/WINGS OF THE RCAFA

5.1 The Air Cadet League of Canada was formed approximately seven years before the RCAF Association. Its actual formation date was 1 April, 1941 and it was formed primarily to provide an aviation oriented training program for the youths of Canada as a preparatory step to joining the Royal Canadian Air Force on reaching the proper age for enlistment.

5.1.1 Agenda items at the 1982 AGM included a Seminar on Air Cadet Sponsorship. Mr. Art MacDonald, Executive Director of the Air Cadet League of Canada, gave a very comprehensive presentation on the League in general, Provincial Committees and sponsoring bodies; in particular, RCAFA Wings that sponsor Air Cadet Squadrons. The following are excerpts from his presentation. Quote:

a. The Squadron Sponsoring Committee is the basic unit in the administrative structure of the Air Cadet League of Canada --and may I make the point here that the Air Cadet League is not some group of officials who serve at the national level, nor an office in Ottawa. The Air Cadet League is all of the people who serve Air Cadets on a voluntary basis, from the local sponsoring level right up to the National Executive -- and they all have a say in how the Air Cadet League should operate.

b. Under League By-Laws, every Sponsoring Committee chairman is automatically a member of the Provincial Committee; every Provincial Chairman, plus other provincial members, are automatically members of the National Board. This means that there is a clearly defined channel of communication from the local chairmen to the senior authority of the League.

c. All too often, Sponsoring Committees seem to feel that their only responsibility towards the squadrons is a financial one. We all know about Sponsoring Committees which assume that they are doing their job if they provide "dollars" in financial support for the squadron. Nothing of course, could be further from the truth.

d. The real job of the Sponsoring Committee is to provide effective support for all aspects of squadron operation and to work closely with the Squadron Commanding Officer, his/her staff and the cadets, in order to ensure that the training objectives of the squadron are being achieved. I would like to review one or two of the basic responsibilities of Sponsoring Committees which, although adequately covered in our League By-Laws, are not always understood and appreciated by the committees themselves.

e. Accommodation - The provision of adequate housing and training accommodation for the squadron is a basic responsibility of the Sponsoring Committee. It is true that Service accommodation is frequently made available; however, where this is not possible, the responsibility for arranging for us of a school, Legion branch or church hall, lies primarily with the Sponsoring Committee---and not as is too often the case, with the squadron staff.

f. Staff -- It is the responsibility of the Sponsoring Committee to ensure that the squadron is adequately staffed by officers and instructors who are properly qualified and dedicated to the training of Air Cadets. Under our League By-Laws, Sponsoring Committees are empowered to recommend the enrolment, promotion and, on occasion, the release of cadet officers.

If the squadron is not operating as well as it should---or if the C.O. is not performing effectively-- it is the duty of the Sponsoring Committee to recommend that a change be made and to provide every possible assistance in finding a suitable replacement.

g. Recruiting - Under League By-Laws, Sponsoring Committees are also expected to assist in the vital matter of cadet enrolments. This important function is often left entirely to the squadron officers---although it is the Sponsoring Committee that could perhaps be most effective in arranging for local publicity, for promotional activities at the schools, for arranging rewards to cadets who bring in recruits, etc. Here again, the key word is "teamwork"---and the results will always be better when both the squadron staff and the Sponsoring Committee are involved in recruiting activities.

h. Community Interest - This is another area where the Sponsoring Committee has an important role to play. After all, it is the Sponsoring Committee which has lines of contact out into the community and which can do a great deal to ensure that the squadron is supported by the municipal government, by the educational authorities, by Service Clubs, businessmen and prominent individuals in the area.

i. Amenities of Cadets---A traditional function of Sponsoring Committees in our League organization is to provide amenities for the cadets---those little “extras” that often make a difference between a really successful squadron and just an ordinary one. These amenities will include trips, cadet parties, special awards and trophies, financial assistance for cadets selected to participate in special activities, training aids and booklets over and above those provided by the Service.

j. Public Relations--Any good Squadron Sponsoring Committee should have effective lines of communication out into the community---which would include useful contacts with press, TV and radio. With regards to public relations, the most important step that can be taken by any local committee is to include in its membership at least one individual who is knowledgeable and active in this field. It is both surprising and disappointing to observe that the majority of our local committees have not seen fit to take this step -- yet, in almost every community there are qualified people who would be glad to assist--they only need to be asked.

k. Financial Control ---This is another very sensitive area and one which has become more difficult and more complicated as the cadets and squadron staffs are beginning to play an increasingly important role in raising funds through the sale of lottery tickets, tags and sundry merchandise.

All Air Cadet squadron funds should be deposited in a separate bank account, registered in the name of the Sponsoring Committee. Funds for the account will be provided through grants from the sponsoring body, contingency allowances from DND, and squadron fund-raising operations. Signing Officers should be the Local Chairman and one other member of his committee, preferably the Treasurer.

Prior to the start of each training year, a special meeting should be arranged between squadron staff and Sponsoring Committee in order to review the planned activities of the squadron for the coming year and to establish a budget. Once the appropriate amounts have been agreed upon, the Commanding Officer should be authorized to proceed with plans on the assumption that the required funds will be made available. Unquote.

FOOTNOTE - The above are excerpts from a very comprehensive presentation and are recorded here primarily for the benefit of members of Wings which do not sponsor an Air Cadet Squadron. It is one of the objectives of the Association that each Wing either sponsors or supports the sponsoring of an Air Cadet Squadron.

5.2 DND BRIEFINGS AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

5.2.1 At each AGM the delegates in attendance have been the privileged recipients of a comprehensive briefing regarding the happenings in the aviation and military affairs of the Department of National Defence. This briefing is always given, accompanied with slide presentations by a Senior Officer in the “Air” component of DND. This has been the practice

since the very first Convention of 1950 and these briefings have been recorded, generally, as an Annex to the Minutes of each AGM.

5.2.1.1. Hence, the Association members have been provided with an extraordinary wealth of information regarding the current 'state of the union' within the Canadian Forces and as a result of this kind of "heads-up" information, the Executive Councils of National, Group and Wings have been able to take responsive and responsible action regarding problems and issues which develop from time to time.

5.2.2. NEC MEETS AT CFB COMOX ...HOME OF THE CP-140 AURORA

5.2.2.1 It was at the 1981 AGM, when MGen. Paul Manson, Chief of Air Doctrine and Operations, in the annual DND Briefing to the delegates, stated that, "in the Maritime Aviation World, 28 1958 vintage Argus aircraft have been replaced by 18 Aurora aircraft to meet Canada's long range patrol aircraft needs. The Aurora carries a completely modern, new generation package of instruments, electronics, acoustics and avionics. It provides Canada with the best means of conducting anti-submarine warfare; as well as surveillance and protection flights over our sovereign territory and coastlines. An increased monthly flying time per aircraft (over the previous Argus) and a faster transit time mean almost double the "on task" time for the crews. Because of it improved capability plus the high reliability of the equipment, the small number of aircraft is performing excellently in the anti-submarine role despite the vastly improved capabilities of the threat."

5.2.2.2. Through the very kind auspices of DND, National President Barry Howard, was able to arrange the convening of the 1982 mid-term NEC meeting at CFB Comox. During this visit, hosting officer to the NEC was none other than the well known and popular friend to the Association, LCol. Gordie Diamond. LCol. Diamond in addition to ensuring that the usual excellent hospitality was extended to the members of the NEC, was successful in arranging a flight in the CP-140 Aurora for these lucky Association visitors.

5.3. THE SECOND NEC MEETING - OUT OF COUNTRY - SEE THE CF-18

5.3.1. Once again, it was at the 1982 AGM, that MGen. Paul Manson, in his presentation of the annual DND briefing, provided the delegates with some current information regarding the acquisition of Canada's new fighter aircraft, the CF-18. He stated, quote:

The CF-18, our new fighter aircraft, exemplifies the prevalence of the electronic era in the aviation community. As you know, Canada's largest acquisition program, the CF-18, is well into the implementation phase with the first of our new fighters scheduled for acceptance in Ottawa 25 Oct. And delivery to CFB Cold Lake a few days later. In fact, because of the excellent progress of the project as a whole, we are expecting to take delivery of a second aircraft at the same time, a full month earlier than anticipated.

The CF-18 represents a gigantic step ahead in the field of aerospace technology for Canada. This is most evident in the realm of avionics and its interface with the human operator.

The heart of the CF-18 is the 14 sophisticated and highly reliable digital computers that it carries. These computers continuously interact with one another, with literally millions of computations taking place each second. One truly amazing aspect of the CF-18 system is the way in which the fighter pilot can instantaneously communicate his requirements to the multitude of computers he has to work with. In my estimation, human engineering has given the CF-18 the most advanced cockpit in the world today. It centres around three multi-function displays that look like miniature TV screens, and a head-up display projected on to the front windscreen. There are scarcely any conventional flight instruments in the cockpit.

In spite of the advanced cockpit (or more correctly because of it), flying the aircraft is remarkably easy. You might think that in view of the fact that the pilot can actually control all of the CF-18's electronic systems located on the throttle and stick, we will have to establish a new aircrew selection prerequisite of at least three years saxophone playing, but on the contrary, F-18 pilots are finding it exceptionally easy to adapt to the aircraft.

In all, although the CF-18's computer power dwarfs that of any other aircraft today, its unique and well-engineered cockpit will allow the Canadian fighter pilot of the future to operate more effectively than ever before in widely diverse roles under the most demanding operational circumstances. Its enough to make old fighter pilots like me wish we were young again. Unquote.

5.3.1.1 And once again, through the very kind auspices of DND, our National President, Arnie Bauer, was able to arrange that the mid-term NEC Meeting be convened out of country, in the U.S.A. In his report at the 1983 AGM, he stated, quote:

Our mid-year NEC Meeting was held in St. Louis, at the plant of McDonnell-Douglas, manufacturers of the CF-18 Hornet. Travel to and from St. Louis was provided by the Canadian Forces, within Canada; and by LGen. Thorneycroft, at that time Deputy Commander of NORAD in Colorado Springs, who provided aircraft space for us between Ottawa and St. Louis. We are deeply grateful to the Forces for their help and particularly grateful to Bill Baker, at that time McDonnell-Douglas Vice-President for Canadian operations, for facilitating our meeting and plant tour. Unquote.

5.3.2. THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE FIRST CF-18

It was also at the 1983 AGM, that our National President reported; quote I was honoured by an invitation to be present at the acceptance of the first Canadian CF-18 at Cold Lake and, aware of the hard work that the Immediate Past President and the Past Honourary President had done to ensure that the Forces received the new fighter aircraft which

the Forces saw as being the best for Canada; it was heart-warming indeed to witness the ceremony and the first flight of the CF-18 at its operational training station. (May I add in this connection that both the air and ground operators are extremely pleased with the aircraft. Some minor problem areas have shown up, not unexpectedly in a new aircraft program and, of course, the media tend to distort and magnify such problem areas. However, the bottom line is that the aircraft is doing everything positively expected of it and much, much more.) Unquote.

5.3.3. THE NATIONAL AVIATION MUSEUM, ROCKCLIFFE, ONT.

National President, Arnie Bauer, in his report at the 1983 AGM, stated as follows, quote:

Along with Air Marshal Hugh Campbell, your President attended the sod-turning ceremony at Rockcliffe in late May, significant of the first step in the construction of a new, fire-proof home for the priceless National Aeronautical collection. In view of our pushing for the project over a period of years, it was a major event in our Association's history. Unquote.

FOOTNOTE: Mr. Bauer was quite right in stating that this project was a major event in our Association's history. For some comprehensive background information, one may wish to refer to the Association's magazine, Airforce, Volume 7 Number 3, published September 1983. Airforce records the sod-turning date to be 25 May 1983. The actual opening date was 17 June, 1988. For story see Airforce, Vol 12 No. 2 of Jul-Aug-Sep 1988.

5.4. ANOTHER VISIT BY HER MAJESTY, QUEEN ELIZABETH 11

5.4.1. Our National President, Al Karlen, in addressing the 1984 AGM reported, quote: On September 29th, my wife and I participated in dedication ceremony of the Air Force Memorial, dedicated in Toronto to the WW1 Canadian Fliers. Our highlight of the event was my wife and I being presented to Her Majesty during the Ceremony. Unquote.

5.4.1.1. To elaborate, re this Memorial, a covering story is recorded in Airforce, Vol 9 No.1, April-May-June 1985 issue. Here are some excerpts from this story. Quote: Originally conceived as a Memorial to Air Marshal Billy Bishop, VC, DSO and bar, a new Airmen's Memorial to all flyers of WW1 and WW11 stands in the median of University Ave. at Dundas St., in Toronto, Ont. This statue was the brain child of the late Harry Jackman, a Toronto financier, who donated several other memorial sculptures to the city. It was brought to fruition by his sons Harry, Edward and Eric and the Jackman Foundation. Queen Elizabeth 11 unveiled it during the Canadian tour last fall.

The 40-foot high statue of blackened bronze depicts ,an abstract figure of a man with arms upraised and hands reaching for the wings of a soaring bird. On one side of the memorial's black granite base are the names of

seven Victoria Cross winners, including Billy Bishop and P/O Andrew Mynarski. Unquote.

5.4.1.2 It was during this tour of Canada by Her Majesty that we recorded two other historical events in the aviation world:-

1. The opening of the Aviation Hall of Fame in Edmonton
- 2 The unveiling of a plaque by Her Majesty, commemorating the opening of Winnipeg's Western Canada Aviation Museum, 7 Oct 84.

5.5 ENTER - THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF VETERAN ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA

5.5.1. Although there is evidence that the RCAF Association has been a member Association of NCVA for many years, definitely since 1972. It was in his report to the delegates in attendance at the 1984 AGM, that our National Vice President, George Wood, stated as follows; quote:

In November 1983, I attended the annual meeting of the National Council of Veterans' Associations in Canada. This was my first session as your representative to this organization and I found it very interesting. Much emphasis is placed on Veterans' benefits by this group and since we have a much broader spectrum to our endeavours than most of the other constituent members, it required some effort to concentrate on this one aspect. It should also be pointed out that the Royal Canadian Legion does not belong to the National Council and that the interplay between the Royal Canadian Legion and the National Council of Veterans' Associations is interesting to observe. Considerable work for the RCAF representative is generated by this appointment. Unquote.

5.5.1.1 For a little more background information, the following are quotes from the Constitution of the National Council of Veteran Associations in Canada, adopted at a Regular Meeting of National Council April 29th, 1972:-

“ Article 1 - Name - The name of the Council shall be “The National Council of Veteran Associations in Canada,” hereinafter called “National Council.” The Council will consist of the Executive and Ordinary Members, as hereinafter defined.”

“Article 11 - Aims and Objects - The aims and Objects of National Council shall be to provide a means through which the member-associations can:
(a) Exchange information on veterans matters; and
(b) make joint presentations to further the common interest of veterans and their dependents.”

“Article 111 - Membership -

1. Membership in National Council shall consist of representatives from the following nationally-chartered Veterans Associations and such other Associations as may be admitted from time to time by unanimous approval of the Council members.

- (a) The Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada (1934)
- (b) Canadian Corps Association Incorporated (1934)
- (c) Canadian Paraplegic Association (1945)
- (d) The Hong Kong Veterans of Canada (1947)
- (e) The Nursing Sisters Association of Canada (1921)
- (f) The Royal Canadian Air Force Association (1948)
- (g) The Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War Blinded (1922)
- (h) The War Amputations of Canada (1920)
- (I) The War Pensioners of Canada Incorporated (1922) “

FOOT-NOTE: The NCVA continues to champion the cause of veterans in Canada under the able Chairmanship of Mr. H. Clifford Chadderton, OC, O.Ont., DCL, LL.D. and with the ardent support of the Air Force Association of Canada. At this time of writing, membership has expanded from the 9 listed above to a total of 35 veterans organizations in Canada, including the Air Force Association of Canada, formerly, the Royal Canadian Air Force Association. In addition and included in the list of 35, are the following organizations which have some affiliation either with the Air Force Association of Canada or with Canada's Air Force. These organizations are:- The Aircrew Association, Bomber Command Association Canada Inc., 435-436 & Burma Squadrons Association, Burma Star Association, Canadian Association of Fleet Air Arm Aircrew, Canadian Fighter Pilots Association, Canadian Naval Air Group, The Dodo Bird Club of ex-RCAF Flight Sergeants, Ferry Command Association, RCAF POW Association and Royal Air Forces Escaping Society.

5.6 SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE (1 APR 24)

5.6.1. As usual, the anniversary date of the Royal Canadian Air Force, never slips by un-noticed by members of the the RCAF Association. Hence, we read in the address given by our National President, Al Karlen, at the 1984 AGM, as follows; quote:

Air Force Productions Limited, the sales arm of the RCAFA, has produced the a 60th Anniversary tie. AFPL also produced a logo for the 60th Anniversary of the RCAF. The Air Command Band has produced a 33rpm record commemorating the 60 years of the RCAF. All three items have been advertised in Airforce and are available to members through their Wing or direct from AFPL. Unquote.

5.6.1.1. Many and varied forms of celebration were held both by Wings and at many of

the Canadian Forces Bases across the country in commemorating the anniversary of the RCAF.

FOOT-NOTE: At this time of writing, a few of the anniversary ties are still in stock and for sale at AFPL. The 33rpm record, now a cassette, is on inventory and for sale at AFPL under the title "Air Command Band". Incidentally, the 50th anniversary record, now a cassette and CD, are on inventory and for sale at AFPL under the title, RCAF 50 "Bless Em All"

5.7 THE "IDENT-A-KID" AND "ORGAN DONOR" PROGRAMS

57.1. It was Regional Director, Dave Church, in his report at the 1984 AGM who first alerted the membership regarding the implementation of the Ident-A-Kid program, spear-headed by 447 (Hamilton) Wing, of Ontario Group. This information was expanded upon by our National President at the 1985 AGM, who in his report stated, quote:

.In 1984 the Association adopted two National Causes, one at the mid-winter January meeting of the NEC and the other at the AGM in Saskatoon. The first National Cause was the Ident-A-Kid, proposed by Alex Barrett of 447 Wing, Hamilton. This proved to be very successful for those Wings that took on the challenge. The other National Cause, a public awareness program to further the public participation in making a commitment for life giving organs for transplant purposes, was proposed by Del Cressman of 427 Wing, London, Ontario. Past President, George Penfold, was selected as the Chairman to head up the Transplant International (Canada) Awareness Program. Del Cressman and Past President Len Baldock were asked to work on this Committee. This Committee has done a yeoman's job of providing every Wing with a copy of the half-hour video tape of Dr. Stiller's message and Bill Brady's interview. They have also supplied 100.000 donor cards, imprinted with the logos of the RCAF Association and International Transplant (Canada) for distribution to all Wings.

It is up to the individual Wings to make the most mileage out of these two programs, from the standpoint of public service and the enhancemnet of the public image of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association. Unquote.

5.7.1.1 THE IDENT-A-KID PROGRAM

5.7.1.1.1 The Ident-A-Kid program was adopted by Wings of the Association and the National Office did take the necessary legal action in 1987, to have the mark or name "Ident-A-Kid" protected under Section 9 of the Trade-marks Act. This action authorised the adoption and use, by the Royal Canadian Air Force Association, of a service providing parents with a record containing information about their child, including a specimen of the child's fingerprint, to be used if necessary, to assist others in locating and identifying the child. The records will show that many Wings, in consultation with or under the direction of the local police, did carry out and complete this program with thousands of kids across the country. and even at this time of writing, the program remains alive and well with many of our Wings.

5.7.1.2. THE ORGAN DONOR PROGRAM

5.7.1.2.1 Although this program was accepted with wide acclaim across the land, the actual implementation at the local level presented various complications. However, the program being definitely national in stature, was soon shifted for more expert management under the umbrella of regional offices with medical affiliation. These offices, or points of contact, continue to provide public groups, such as Wings, with easier accessibility as well as increased interest in the program.

5.8 NATIONAL PRESIDENTSON THE MOVE

5.8.1. The Department of Veterans Affairs in its quest to satisfy the needs of veterans, is continually arranging return visits by Canadian veterans to various theatres of war in which they had given active service. It was National President, Al Karlen, who in his address to delegates at the 1984 AGM, stated as follows:-

“On September 5th I journeyed to Belgium representing the Association in a pilgrimage to several Belgium towns and cities, in commemoration of the liberation of those communities 40 years ago. This was a moving experience for me although I was not in that theatre of war at that time. Even today, after 40 years, the Belgium people hold fond memories of the Canadian liberators and tears would swell in their eyes as they cheered us on as we marched through the city to the market square.”

5.8.2 Again, it was our National President, George Wood, who in his address at the 1986 AGM, reported as follows:-

“One of the highlights of my year was the opportunity to accompany the Minister of Veterans' Affairs on a too-brief visit to France. Being the representative of the National Council of Veterans' Associations, this pilgrimage to my former home for five years, North Eastern France, brought home to me the tremendous debt we owe to our veterans. Although we honour them and give thanks to and for them on such commemorative occasions, this debt remains unpaid so long as the threat of another war makes their sacrifice less meaningful. During this visit I lived and travelled with a party from Newfoundland which was on a pilgrimage to Newfoundland war memorial and cemeteries in Europe. On the 1st of July, the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, we commemorated that event together at the Newfoundland War Memorial at Beaumont-Hamel and also at the Canadian Memorial at Vimy Ridge.”

5.8.3. AT THE CROSS-ROADS.....ENTER THE ALLIANCE OF AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

5.8.3.1 The period, 1986 to 1988, found the National Executive Council and members of the Association giving careful consideration to their planning for the future, not that this is

anything new to the membership, but in this situation many changes were taking place not only in the Association, but also coincidentally within the air arm of the Canadian Forces.

5.8.3.2. In order to properly recapture the mood of the day, it might be safe to record the actual statements made by our leaders at that time, as they piloted the organization through this crucial period. The following therefore, are excerpts from addresses given at the various occasions.

5.8.3.2.1 WOOD AT THE 1987 AGM. Quote:

(a) I am sure you are all aware, National Vice President Gord Ockenden and myself have now served two full years in our respective offices and at this Convention he would normally succeed to my position, with a new National Vice President taking office. This will not happen. Instead, we look forward to an additional year of the status quo, with the expectation that an election at our next meeting will produce a candidate for the Vice Presidency. This we have agreed to, after due consideration, with the proviso that such a person or persons will be identified during the ensuing year. Unquote. Mr. Wood then proceeded to outline the difficulty being experienced in attracting suitable candidates who will aspire to the positions of National President and National Vice President taking cognizance of the demands which will be made on them in terms of time, money and dedication. Unquote.

(b) Quote: The next topic which I must mention is that which deals with a modification, or at least a change of emphasis in the pursuit of our Aims and Objectives. For many years, our desire to remain politically neutral has caused the Association to overlook or downplay its obligation to our commitment to the maintenance of a strong National Defence. The time has come when we must take an active interest in these matters, to speak out boldly on this subject, and to ally ourselves with others who share these sentiments. Unquote

5.8.3.2.2 OCKENDEN AT THE 1987 AGM. Quote:

On the National level we have, with full cooperation of Air Command, from the Commander on down into the field, redefined the relationship, on paper in the form of a revised CFAO and Booklet 101 between today's RCAFA and today's Canadian Air Force. This documentation will be discussed later. It's implementation into action requires understanding by all of us. What we are aiming at is the "osmosis" or intermingling of current and past airmen and airwomen in Canada so that a released or retired person from today's Air Force is not looked upon as a potential RCAFA member but is an in service member to our organization looking to the RCAFA to perpetuate his or her recognition, comradeship and aviation representation upon return to civilian

life. This assimilation of an in service member which in my opinion must include more on Base RCAFA Wings and/or Squadrons and RCAC Sqdns. must be vigorously pursued. Many Air Command personnel recognize that unless they get involved with our organization NOW, they will not have one as we pass on to our beyond in the near future. We must likewise ensure our heritage is continued by today's and tomorrow's aviation people. Liaison is a two way street. Wing executive must also visit their Liaison Officer bases and help initiate RCAFA infusion. Unquote.

5.8.3.3. PAISLEY AT THE 1987 AGM RE "BATTLE OF BRITAIN LACE"- AND "THE AIR MARSHAL W.A."BILLY" BISHOP BUILDING". Quote:

The dedication ceremony in Winnipeg was executed in the finest of air force tradition. It is most appropriate that the new home of Air Command now bears the name of Canada's greatest ace - Air Marshal W.A. "Billy" Bishop. The Bishop building is truly a first class building and one which is a fitting tribute to this outstanding Canadian. While in Winnipeg I became aware that Air Command has acquired a very significant item related to RCAF history. This item is a large lace panel (65"x15') depicting scenes witnessed during the Battle of Britain. There were only twelve lace panels produced for presentation and Canada was one of the recipients. It is planned to display the lace in the large foyer of the Air Command Hq Building. Unfortunately the lace requires some fairly expensive restoration before it can be displayed. Since non-public funds are required for this project, Air Command will require assistance, it could be a project worthy of consideration by this Association. Unquote.

FOOTNOTE: At this AGM, the delegates did agree to adopt as a national project, the restoration of the "Battle of Britain Lace", and under the umbrella of the RCAF Association Trust, the required funds were raised to complete the project. Again, you may wish to refer to Airforce, Vol 12 No.2, for a picture and brief story on the "Lace"..

5.8.3.4 PAISLEY AT THE 1988 AGM - THE ALLIANCE OF AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION - Quote:

A progressive organization, like the RCAFA, does not rest on its laurels or past achievements but is constantly reaching out to new horizons. Therefore as we celebrate the fortieth anniversary I believe it would be prudent to ask ourselves if we are reaching out sufficiently to gain new members from serving and recently retired personnel of today's airforce, and if the program of activities for our wing/group/association are attractive to these personnel and former cadets. I also believe we must ask ourselves if we have individually and collectively made an adequate contribution to the debate on national security

issues as stipulated in the Association's constitutional aims and objectives. In general, former members of the Air Force have, for too long, been part of the "silent majority", when it comes to speaking out on National issues. In addition, the numerous separations that have been formed across the country tend to fragment any Air Force input and definitely lacked any real coordination.

It was the view of many that it was time to take steps to coordinate and unify the "Air Force Voice" in national affairs and therefore make it more meaningful and effective. With encouragement from the Comd. Air Command, your National Executive took the initiative to organize a preliminary meeting in Ottawa last December with representatives from the RCAFA, CAFAO Air Reserve Senate, AFOAG, Air Force Officers Association of Vancouver Island Assoc. Air Command Honouraries. As a result of that meeting, the Alliance of Air Force Association was formed and I was elected Interim Chairman. The inaugural meeting of the Alliance 18 Sep but had to be postponed till late Nov. It is planned to meet at least annually to receive update briefings on current Air Force Plans, programs and challenges and to coordinate the Air Force input to national issues. Unquote.

5.8.3.5 WOOD AT THE 1988 AGM...LEN LAPEER, G.M., STEPS DOWN

"There is another person without whose friendship and devoted service I could not have survived these three years. I am sure that I speak for many present in my commendation of Len Lapeer, who is attending his last convention as General Manager of the Association. Len will step down about the middle of December, leaving his desk to the capable administration of Bud Wilds, who will become our General Manager. I wish Bud great success in his incumbency in that position."

FOOTNOTE - Among the Distinguished Guests in attendance at the Annual Dinner and Ball were the following:-

His Honour, David C. Lam, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia
General Paul Manson, Chief of the Defence Staff, and
LtGen. L. Ashley, Commander of Air Command

6.0 HISTORY OF THE RCAF ASSOCIATION

6.1. It was at this, the 1988 AGM, that Mr. Dave Turner of the Turner Publishing Co., Kentucky, USA, outlined a proposal to research and publish a history of the RCAFA at no cost to the Association. Book price to be \$45.00 per copy, publication time about 24 months after agreement. This book was actually published in 1992 and may be purchased directly from the Turner Publishing Co.

7.0 THE AIR MARSHAL W.A. BISHOP, VC, MEMORIAL TROPHY

7.1. The Advisory Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mgen. Bill Paisley, recommended for ratification at the 1987 AGM, the initiation of the Air Marshal Bishop's Memorial Trophy. This recommendation received unanimous approval at that meeting and the first presentation of the trophy was made at the 1988 AGM to the 431 Squadron of the famous "Snow Birds", Canada's No.1 Aerobatic Team. Per the Association's Booklet 104, eligibility for this award reads, quote: Any citizen, group or unit/organization engaged in any field of military or civilian aviation, other than air transportation or military search and rescue, is eligible to be considered for this trophy. Unquote.

8.0 SOME RESOLUTIONS IN REVIEW

8.1 The following is a sampling of resolutions that were concurred in during this decade:

1. To DVA - Resolved that the RCAF Association impress upon DVA the importance of keeping DVA hospitals under DVA control for at least the next ten years, particularly, Ste. Anne de Bellevue being the only DVA hospital in the province of Quebec. (Resolution 79.14)
2. To Fed. Govt. - Be it resolved that the RCAF Association make representation to the Government of Canada for the purpose of requesting that the manpower and equipment resources necessary to fulfil the tasking of the Canadian Armed Forces, be provided commensurate with the perceived requirements proposed by our senior military leaders.(Resolution 80.4)
3. To A.C.L. - Resolved that the RCAF Association make strong representation to the Air Cadet League of Canada insisting that:-
 - a) All communications, meetings, training and transactions between Quebec Command and Air Cadet squadrons located in Eastern Ontario, but under the jurisdiction of Quebec Command, be fully bilingual, OR
 - b) All Air Cadet Squadrons situated in the Eastern Region of Ontario, presently under the jurisdiction of Quebec Provincial Committee, be transferred to the jurisdiction of Ontario Provincial Committee of the Air Cadet League of Canada. (Resolution 81.6)
4. To DVA - Resolved that the RCAF Association support the claim for compensation and pension for those present and former members of the Canadian Forces, who were exposed to radiation during testing programs and clean-up operations at radiological installations. (Resolution 82.5)
5. To NEC - Resolved that the National Executive Council of the RCAF

Association is to identify a Canadian cause which the Association as a whole and the individual Wings and Groups will support.
(Resolution 83.1)

6. To MND - Resolved, that the Association promote and support a more active and effective Air Reserve organization within the Department of National Defence. (Resolution 84.7)
7. To Fed. Govt. - Resolved that the RCAF Association urge the Government of Canada to participate fully in and pay our fair share towards the research feasibility study into possible defence against aggressor missiles called Strategic Defence Initiative, sponsored by our friend and ally, the United States of America. (Resolution 85.10)
8. To NEC - Resolved that a Wing shall designate a minimum of two signing officers, of whom one should normally be the Wing Treasurer, and that no financial transaction of the Wing shall be legally carried out unless bearing the signatures of at least two signing officers.
(Resolution 85-9)
9. To Fed. Govt. - Resolved that the National Executive Council take all measures possible to urge the Federal Government to rescind the Unemployment Insurance Act Regulation, recently enacted, which requires retiring members of Canada's Armed Forces to report their service pension as income, when applying for unemployment insurance benefits. (Resolution 86.4)
10. To NEC - Resolved that the RCAF Association extend thanks and compliments to The Honourable Colonel Jack Marshall, CD, Chairman, and Members of the Senate Sub-Committee examining the National Film Board production, "The Kid Who Couldn't Miss"; to Cliff Chadderton of the War Amps Association and to Group Captain A.J. Bauer who, being particularly knowledgeable on the subject of A/M W.A. Bishop, so ably assisted the sub-committee. In particular, the initial action by Senator Hartland Molson to expose the NFB's malicious action, is commended. The combined efforts of these gentlemen have, no doubt, influenced the NFB to recognize the need for a true documentary of the career of Canada's most decorated hero of aerial warfare. These same gentlemen are encouraged to continue the campaign to have "The Kid Who Couldn't Miss" totally withdrawn from distribution.
(Resolution 88.2)

9.0

A SAMPLING OF CONVENTION ATTENDEES - See Charts attached:-

- (a) Chart No.31. NEC/Group Reps at the 1983 AGM (Page 242)
- (b) Chart No. 32 -Wing Accredited Delegates at the 1983 AGM (Pages 243-248)
- (c) Chart No. 33 - NEC/Group Reps at the 1988 AGM (Page 249)
- (d) Chart No. 34 - Wing Accredited Delegates at the 1988 AGM (Pages 250-256)