

Aramco Brats 2021  
Town Hall Meeting Minutes  
Lowes Ventana Canyon Resort  
Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

- **Note taker** – Sandra Kerr-Louchard
- **Attendees from Board** – Liz Germani, Bridget Halpin, Caroline Hamolka-Masters, Marie Littlejohn-Dunn, Paul Allen, Dawn Kolb, Sandra Kerr-Louchard, Tom Littlejohn (via Zoom)
- **Non-Board Attendees** – Alice Homolka-Tate RT86, Gary Barnes DH70, Kim Scott (guest), Christine Walters-Long DH80, Ali Baluchi, Shelly Ted Sketo DH71, Helaine Moesner (Ted Sketo spouse), Joseph Sprietsma, Gloria Sprietsma, Teresa Darwin DH69, Kathye Neally Dunsmore DH67, Yolanda Mathey, Cathie McCoy, Mike Lee DH87, Melanie Penoyar-Perez DH87, Randa Chichakli DH87, Karen Fogle AB76, K. Van Ballegooijen (Teacher), Lisa Osborn DH85, Jenn Harbert AB75, Raidah Ziadeh-Hudson DH77, Mike Bande\_\_\_\_, Damian Drum (RT86)
- **Introductions** – Liz
- **Overview of hotel and challenges during COVID** – Liz
  - Bridget and Liz worked closely with hotel to manage all the changes in dates and attendance numbers. Everyone was appreciative of their hard work.
  - Thanked Saudi ARAMCO for sponsoring Friday evening dinner, and thanked Ali Baluchi for helping us make this happen. It helped defray some of the reunion costs.
- **Financial Report - Tom**
  - ABI healthy financially and had enough assets to cover reunion
  - Investment account has grown and we plan to draw down some for reunion expenses
  - As a 501 (c)(7) we can only have \$1000 in investment income before federal taxes
  - \$3,200 loss after reunion expenses
  - Audit is pending. Company we hired last year was unable to meet requirements and deadlines set in engagement letter. They have been let go and we are in search of a new CPA firm.
- **Volunteer Opportunities – All**
  - We are always looking for volunteers
  - Thanked volunteers that helped with set up and registration

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- We will continue to look for volunteers to help throughout the year during the reunion planning process
- Dawn needs volunteers tomorrow to help with the raffle. Raffle closes at noon and she needs help organizing and with moving everything to the registration room.
- We are looking for someone to volunteer to chair the 2023 reunion. Person needs great organizational skills.
- **Question & Answer Period - ALL**
  - **Class Reps** – what is the process for finding/managing Class Reps? Issue is with existing Class Reps that are not doing anything. Suggested anyone interested in becoming a Class Rep notify us and we can add them as a Class Rep and they can work together with the existing rep.
  - **Registration Check-in Feedback** – people “loved it”, “instructions were super”, lines were short, and process was efficient. Liked that the app had ways for members to get phone numbers or emails of other attendees so they could reach out to each other directly.
  - **Registration Fee** – would Brats be okay with the fee going up by \$30 to include a full meal for the Friday reception? Price might go from \$95 to \$130, for example. Benefits would be people would not have to find transportation or order their own meal from hotel. Other organizations increase their fees annually to keep up inflation and rising costs. Everyone was okay with the idea. ABI will take feedback into consideration for next reunions.
  - Thanked Saudi Aramco again for Friday dinner and asked how we can thank them. Per Ali, they are working on something behind the scenes.
  - **Next Reunion Location** – Suggestions included:
    - Texas (Houston, Dallas, El Paso),
    - East Coast (main issue there is that there tends to be lower attendance),
    - Arizona gets strong attendance like Texas and meets our requirements of warm dry weather, adequate banquet space, number of rooms, close to airport, easy to fly into.
    - They did state they preferred resorts to high rise hotels or big hotels where you get lost in the crowd
  - **Reunion Date** – Memorial Day or Other?
    - Mid-June offers better weather, room availability, more competitive rates for hotels during lower season

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- Many were open to changing the date, older Brats noted they had more flexibility and there were fewer family restrictions like graduations.
- **Reunion Coordinator for 2023**
  - Does not necessarily need to live in host city
  - Will have a team of people to help coordinate reunion
  - Can offer some storage space a couple weeks before reunion so that we don't have to pay hotel \$20/box for storage
  - Option to work with another local Brat contact for storage and moving stuff to hotel the week before reunion.
- **Open Forum**
  - Bridget thanked volunteers
  - Joseph thanked ABI for all the hard work
  - Melanie thanked ABI for managing this through COVID
  - Michael stated the hotel had done a great job with service for our group
  - Helaine like the fact that the events were planned with social distancing in mind and that there was plenty of outdoor space for our group
- **Ali Baluchi**
  - Has been in touch with senior staff at Saudi ARAMCO and they are open to extending their hand to help the Brat organization
  - They would like to consider us a Ambassadors for Saudi ARAMCO and would like to see us potentially get involved with Annuitants
  - He invited ARAMCO to come this week but they were unable to make it
  - They are open to extending their publications to us
  - We can count on ARAMCO for support for other events
  - He will be having a separate meeting to discuss the Saudi Reunion and his book