



EAA Chapter 595 April 13th, 2024

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Minutes / Meeting of EAA Chapter 595 Rio Grande Valley

Events

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by President Byron Engle. The minutes for the March 9th meeting are on the chapter's website for all to read. Byron also announced that the chapter is solvent, but losing some money.

Seven members present were:

Byron Engle	Shirlene Jenkins
Merle Jenkins	Shirley Gifford
Jerry Gifford	Robert Carter
Arthur Chavarria	

The one guest was:

Ernie Garza (who became a member after the meeting ended. Congratulations, Ernie, and welcome!)

Old Business:

Robert Carter presented our chapter bylaws via computer screen and the membership discussed the changes to be made. There were several changes, mostly in the wording of some of the bylaws, but the most important change was the number of members in attendance to achieve quorum. It had been discussed when the late president, Don Schwanke was still with us, but nothing had been done until now. The chapter voted that instead of 10 present at any meeting, it was determined that since our chapter is small, 5 will suffice to make quorum.

Another change made was in the wording of the chapter's rule that when someone becomes a member, the entire family can be chapter members without being national members. The rule has been in the bylaws since the chapter was chartered. However, one change to that rule was that any family member 18 years of age or older must be a national member as well, except for the spouse who will automatically be a member.

These were the 2 most important changes made. At that time, all the officers signed the acknowledgement and acceptance on the last page of the new bylaws. At that time, the packet had to be sent off to headquarters for approval by the chapter office representative.

New business:

As posted above, the problem of the depleting funds in the chapter's bank account was brought up for discussion and that the cost of chapter renewal and especially chapter insurance through headquarters has risen considerably over the last several years. Many suggestions were made and the one that the membership settled on was raising the annual membership dues from \$20.00 to \$30.00. That, plus an increase in our membership (we have only 14 paid members at present), should at least break even, if not increase our account somewhat. This started another discussion about how we might be able to increase our membership. Byron spoke about a problem he's had with recruiting new members (other than Young Eagle Flights) of middle age. He mentioned that there were 2 he recruited, but one has dropped out completely and cannot be reached. They both quit because of the extremely high cost of flight training. He talked about flight schools using 4-place airplanes with glass cockpits, which cost more than a 2-place trainer, such as a Piper Tomahawk, Cessna 150-152, or a Grumman AA-1 Yankee, which cost much less to own, operate and insure than a larger 4-place airplane. The local flight schools at controlled airports cost at least twice as much as those at an uncontrolled airport, such as Edinburg, Cameron County/Port Isabel, or Weslaco, since there's no time lost waiting to take off, waiting to land and dealing with positive control. Byron feels that the flight schools could be even more successful if they would use the 2-place aircraft for primary training and use the 4-place planes for advanced/upgrade training, this way more people could possibly be able to afford a somewhat lower cost to obtain their Light Sport or Private licenses. After some more discussion, the chapter members voted on the acceptance of the changes to the bylaws & Byron will send the paperwork off to EAA headquarters for acceptance.

There was some talk of fundraising projects and Byron reminded the membership that a former member, John Peacock passed away last November and his widow gave a tremendous amount of his aircraft tools, rivets and other stuff for the chapter to use as a fundraiser and there was some interest, as several members looked at some of the pieces.

Someone asked Byron about his ongoing project and he said, which one, “The kitchen remodel or the homebuilt airplane?” He’s run into some problems on the homebuilt that require redoing, which will take a while (again?), but will be plugging away, next time he’s up at Silver Wings.

The question was then posed; “Where do we want to go eat?” The membership voted on the Olive Garden in Weslaco. At that time, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m. and the members had a great lunch and conversations.

Next months meeting will be held Saturday, May 11th at Edinburg International Airport

Submitted by Secretary Arthur P. Chavarria