

FALL / WINTER 2004

Based on these established dates of the V60 tour the Association Board of Directors, in a brief Saturday morning meeting, decided on San Antonio for our final Reunion site in 2005. The dates would be September 9 – 13, 2005. Following the Reunion, and prior to signing a hotel contract for the San Antonio Reunion, knowledge was obtained that the dates for a second China tour, still in the planning stage, have tentatively been set for August 23rd – September 4th. This tour will also visit Beijing and Kunming among other cities of World War II interest. It is planned that during this tour an AVG P-40, which was lost in the lake south of Kunming in April 1942, will be raised from the lake on August 27th. Members of this tour will be able to watch the raising of this aircraft.

All this means members of the various U.S. Veterans groups will have two tours to choose from if they wish to go to China next year. The ending date of this second tour, to which the members of the group visiting China in July of this year are committed to attend, is too close to a starting date for a September 9 -13 reunion in San Antonio next year. Therefore it was necessary to cancel the decision to go to San Antonio in order to provide a longer break between the end of this second China tour and next year's reunion for those HPA members who elected to go to China on that tour prior to the Reunion. More information on this second tour will also be provided as soon as additional details become available.

Based on this China tour information the Board of Directors was subsequently polled by mail and chose to change the 2005 Reunion site from San Antonio, TX to Nashville, TN. Since that selection was made a hotel and dates have been determined. (See the article "HPA Reunion 2005" in this newsletter.)

On November 5th through 7th Mr. Li Baoyu and Mr. Lin Yun, representing the Beijing Aviators Association (BAA), and other major sponsors of the V60 tour, visited the HPA office in Amarillo to discuss plans for this tour. Based on the information now available that a second 2005 China tour is also being planned for August 2005, the difficulties of having two Chinese tours planned to close to each other was thoroughly discussed. It was explained to Mr. Li that dividing our Veterans groups between two tours would likely have an adverse effect on his tour. Both tours will cost approximately the same price. The V60 tour will be the first and shorter of the two

tours and may be preferred by many members. And, the V60 tour will also offer 4 optional tours for those who might wish to extend and see more of China. (See additional details on this Tour further on in this newsletter.) Veterans from the U. S and other countries on this tour will be a party to Chinese celebrations of the formal end of hostilities between China and Japan on August 15, 1945.

One final note. On Wednesday (9/8/04) at the Annual Board meeting in Denver the Board voted to discontinue any further designation of Life Memberships in the Association. This was the result of the costs of Life Memberships and regular annual dues finally merging together at \$25 and with 2005 being the final formal year of our Association. Members already designated as Life Members will continue to hold that status.

This is it for now. Will see you in our Spring 2005 issue.

Comments From the Chairman

by Jack Goodrich

Hello Y'all,

Your Board of Directors held our annual meeting last September in Denver, Colorado. On Wednesday, September 11, 2004 our meeting was called to order. The first order of business was to confirm the appointments of Sam Burton and Bill Jackson as new members of our board. Last year, in St. Louis, our by-laws were amended to allow appointment of new members. This action was taken to assure the presence of a full board at all times during the last year or so of our incorporation. The appointments are to be made from a list of members who volunteer and are willing to join in the work of the board

During the past year, we have had two vacancies to fill. Jim Irion who, in addition to being a board member has been our Chaplain and Counselor, resigned due to poor health. Jim will retain the office of Counselor and advise us as necessary on any fine points of law during the coming year. Sam Burton; a former board member, Treasurer, and active promoter of HPA, had his appointment confirmed.

Later in the year, Bud Albers, a board member and also our Historian, resigned due to poor health. Bud will retain his interest and responsibilities as