

Navy Nuclear Weapons Association Secretary Report

MINUTES OF 19 OCTOBER 2011 BUSINESS MEETING

Navy Nuclear Weapons Association business meeting was held at The Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown Hotel. The meeting was called to order at 0900 with all Board Members present, and attended by 75 members in good standing.

The President asked for all present to stand for the opening prayer by Chaplain Lonnie Cucinitti followed by the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag. All present remained standing as Lonnie Cucinitti conducted the 2-Bell ceremony to honor our shipmates who transferred to the Supreme Commander's Staff:

GMTC Jack A. Summers	Ernest W. "Bill" Herr	GMTC John J. Brown
CDR William H. (Harry) Austin Jr.	LCDR Melvin S. Norris	CWO4 Jerry Lee Gillum
Edward J. Digby	GMTCM George Garbers	WTCS Sydney P. Hart
LCDR Geroge W. Duryea	LCDR Jack E. Hayes	WTCM Carroll Smith
GMTCS John D. Clifton	LCDR Richard Arcoleo	GMT2 Joseph A. Weiss
GMTCS William J. Boess		

The President called for all new members to stand and introduce themselves. Twelve new members were recognized.

The President called for the minutes of last year's general membership meeting to be read.

The minutes of the 2009 business meeting were read by the Secretary, and the results of the 2010 Special mail-in election and by-laws changes were reported.

The President asked if there was any additional information to report.

The Secretary reported no additional information to report.

The President entertained a motion to accept the minutes as read. A motion was made, seconded and vote carried to accept the minutes as read.

The President called for the Treasurer's Report.

1. The Treasurer passed out copies of the financial report to the membership. The Treasurer stated that there were outstanding bills to pay for this year's reunion.
2. The President asked for a motion to pay all outstanding bills. A motion was made, seconded and approved to pay all outstanding bills.

The President reported on the 2011 Association accomplishments as follows:

1. The President talked about the mail-in ballots and the conduct of a board meeting by e-mail-phone call that has never been done before. This was caused by the flooding in Nashville that caused the cancellation of the 2010 reunion. The Board conducts many meetings via e-mail in the past (allowed by the state we are chartered in). The past two years the Board has been very busy.
 - a. Some of the accomplishments we have seen in the last two years are:
 - b. The By-Laws were updated and approved by the membership via mail-in ballots.
 - c. Five Board of Directors were elected via mail-in vote ballots.
 - d. Progress is being made in the design of the NNWA memorial. This will be discussed in more detail later in this meeting.
 - e. The health of the Gray Dragon (Ed Doss) is being followed by the Board. Research is being done to identify the next longest serving member in the Navy Nuclear Weapons program. We need to be prepared due to Ed's deteriorating health. Although Ed wanted to be at this reunion, he wanted to convey to the membership how proud he was to be presented with the Gray Dragon honor. He also indicated that when he passes, his son will return the Gray Dragon Certificate to display with the NNWA's memorabilia.
 - f. Over the last two years we have added 81 new members and reinstated 15 members. We need everybody's help in continuing to add members. If you know of anyone who is eligible try to recruit him/her into the organization.
2. The President then asked each board member to give their report:
 - a. Vice-President's Report.
 - i. He encouraged each member to try to remember old shipmates and recruit them. He also welcomed all the new members. You can do an 'Anywho.com' to search for old shipmates. Most people settle down within 50 miles of where they were raised. So if you knew their hometown, you could start your search there.
 - b. Secretary's Report:
 - i. Nothing further to report.
 - c. Treasurer's Report. No additional input.
 - d. Service Officer's Report.
 - i. Chuck reminded everyone what a veterans Service Officer and how to find one in your hometown. They can usually be found at your local VFW, American Legion, Fleet Reserve Posts and places like that plus every county in the U.S. has an SO.
 - ii. Beware phony veteran assistance organizations. The most recent ones detected are Veteran Affairs Services and Navy Veteran's Association.

- iii. Every veteran is reminded to contact their local Social Security office to see if they qualify for additional veteran's credit in their benefits computation. Details were provided.
- iv. The '2011 Agent Orange Bill' has been proposed as the most recent attempt to give Blue Water sailors consideration for Agent Orange conceded diseases. Call your congressmen and senators and ask that they support this bill.
- v. I am sure you are aware that Congress' Super Committee' to take action on our fiscal situation. If they don't do it, it will trigger a draconian loss for all of us. It is pretty sure we will take a cut in our benefits, the question is where and how much.
- vi. COLA: They changed the formula on how they calculate the COLA. They are going to use a 'Chain Weighted' formula that will reduce about a quarter to three quarters of a percent every year. The COLA for the fiscal year ending in September is guessed to be approximately 3.7%. With the chain weighted method it looks like about 3.3%.
- vii. Because I only see you once a year, I want to refresh your memory on some benefits you may have forgotten. Just listed here, you can find out more at www.vba.va.gov/benefits.
 - 1. Service Connected Disability.
 - 2. Veterans Pension
 - 3. Dependents Survival Benefits.
 - 4. Death Pension.
 - 5. Burial and Headstone Benefits
 - 6. VA medical care
- viii. ID Cards: New ID cards are to be issued without the Social Security Number. This will start June of this year for retirees. Call and make an appointment to find out when the nearest issuer will be taking care of retired personnel.

e. Historian's Report:

- i. Mike started by congratulating the membership for the excellent attendance. It is the largest he has ever been to (180+). He then asked if Joe Harper was here. He left two spectacular plaques in the memorabilia room. Thank you for the addition to our collection. For the membership, continue to bring memorabilia so we can pass on what we did to the next generation. I have received a lot of new personal histories, keep them coming. There are also groups of about 20 unit patches, if you want one take one.
- ii. As the Historian, I have been able to read literally hundreds of biographies and thumb nail sketches of careers. I was informed that there were no

more than 1400 Navy Nuclear Personnel on duty at any one time. There were no more than 10,000 from 1947 to 1996 (the termination of our program).

- iii. The Navy Nuclear Weapons Memorial. You will notice we are not bringing the Memorial plaques anymore. The Board is working to put together a Navy Nuclear Weapons Memorial for the entire association. On that plaque, we will display the members we lost during that year, as well as on our website. Over a period of about 2 years, we have conducted a poll of the board to come up with ideas on what the plaque background should look like. The Historian can supply details of the progress so far (Mike described what we have so far). If there are any artists' in the group who can help with the sketches, please let me know. No one on the Board has the skills to translate our concept onto a document that a woodcarver can work from.

f. Webmaster' Report:

- i. We have over 131,672 hits on the website which is an average of about 37 hits a day since its inception almost 10 years ago. You normally see two things changing on the website: 1) new members, 2) and the 'In Memorandum section of those members that have passed away. These are the mail changes you will see on the main page.
- ii. We have changed the way we do the roster. For years we never changed it, so members who no longer paid their dues were not removed. Now when the dues expiration date comes up for a member, one month later the member is marked as 'delinquent' in red font. At the end of a year, all information except their name is removed. After another year they will be completely removed from the website. So now the roster will only list current members or those that are no more than two years in arrears. At that point, the Treasurer will remove the name from the 'paper' roster. Individuals can change their information by using the 'Profile Change' on the website.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The President thanked John and Nancy O'Malia and all those who helped for this outstanding reunion. This has been one of the best and well attended reunions due to their hard work. The membership gave John and Nancy a round of applause.

As you know the Nashville reunion had to be cancelled because of the flood. Also, half way thru setting it up, the sponsor had to leave and it fell upon the Board to continue the preparations for the 26th reunion. Chuck Weber stepped up and had all arrangements made until the flood. He has many contacts there and we can draw on his work should we plan a reunion in Nashville in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

As the first order of new business the President announced that 5 positions were open on the board and up for election by the Membership. He informed the Membership that, in accordance with the By-Laws, the following Officer positions were also up for election by the new Board during the Board Meeting to follow the general meeting. Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian and Webmaster. He then turned the gavel over to the Nominations and Elections Chairman Chuck Weber to conduct appropriate nominations and elections. Chuck gave a short presentation as to what the Board does all during the year. We are an IRS Registered non-profit tax exempt organization. If you feel like you would like to be on the Board of Directors, please feel free to contact anyone on the Board and tell them of your interest. They will explain the time commitment and the effort that goes into being a Board Member.

Chuck provided an overview of the qualifications and responsibilities of being a Board member. You must be a member in good standing and have email capability. We opened nominations with our June Newsletter being sent to each member. That closed at the end of August and was suspended. There were no responses to that call. He informed the membership that Larry Sneide, Dave Cobb, Frank Kelly, Mike Snyder and Ray Margeson have agreed to remain on the board if reelected, and I strongly recommended their reelection.

The Board of Directors has recommended that the above mentioned 5 members be considered for re-election to the Board for the 2011 – 2013 terms. Are there any other nominations for director? I did receive a nomination by e-mail and I contacted the member to see if he was willing to serve. He declined but said he might be interested in the future. Due to the increasing collateral duties, the President decided it is time to add an 11th member to the Board.

Ron Moran's name was placed into consideration for the Board. The Chair inquired of the membership if there were any other nominations to the Board of Directors. Edward Krenk was nominated from the floor and was willing to serve. The Chair entertained a motion from the floor that we close nominations. The motion was made and seconded. All present voted 'aye'. Seven separate nominees accepted. The President of the Board requested to expand the Board one additional member for a total of 12. The chair entertained a motion from the floor to expand the Board of Directors to 12. The motion was made and seconded. All present voted 'aye' for the motion. The motion carries without dissent. Nominee Moran volunteered to serve for one year so that 6 members would be up for election each year. Chairman Weber requested a motion from the floor stipulating the Secretary cast a ballot in favor of each nominee representing the unanimous consent of the Membership. Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously. The elections were closed.

The 27th 2012 annual reunion will be held in Rapid City, South Dakota. The host will be Bill Beard. Bill gave a short presentation on his preparations for the reunion. Sept 17th thru Sept 23rd is the reunion dates for next year. This will be a 6 day reunion. Bill explained activities scheduled for each day.

The 28th 2013 reunion was discussed. It will be held in the eastern region. The President asked for places where we might hold the next reunion. Jacksonville/May port Florida was suggested. Charleston, South Carolina, Washington D.C, Pigeon Forge Tennessee. The 29th 2014 reunion

we will be back to the Western region. Las Vegas, Nevada, San Francisco, California and Portland, Oregon were recommended. We are always looking for volunteers to host one of our reunions. The Board will look at these locations and make a decision on the Reunion locations.

There being no other new business, the President asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made and seconded.

The Chaplain offered the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25.