

Navy Special Weapons Unit Association

9th Reunion
7 thru 10 October, 1993

Boca Raton, Florida

Minutes of the General Members Meeting:

The general meeting of the NSWUA membership was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Marriott Hotel, Crocker Center at 10:00 on Saturday 9 October, 1993.

The meeting was called to order by R.O. King, President NSWUA.

The reading of the minutes from the last meeting were dispensed with due to the changing of the secretary and the minutes not being available. The members present acknowledged this change.

The treasurer (Lou Catron) provided a detailed financial report of the associations asset. The members present accepted the financial report as read. The association is financially sound.

R.O. King called for old business. A motion from the floor was made to accept the change to the by-laws which were distributed in the members newsletters last February. The motion was seconded. A call for voice vote carried the motion.

No other old business was identified.

Under new business:

Elton Call provided a presentation on the NSWUA reunion planned for 1994. Originally the reunion was planned for the Jackson Hole, Wyoming area. Due to difficulty in dealing with the local hotels which will not allow the association to bring in their own supplies for the hospitality rooms, and the associations desire not to pay the hotels for providing the supplies for the hospitality rooms, Elton recommended that we move the reunion to Idaho Falls, Idaho and organize side trips to the Jackson Hole area. He also plans on side trips to Yellowstone National Park; possibly a fishing trip and maybe a white water rafting trip. A discussion on the dates of the reunion came up from the floor to look at moving the reunion dates to a time where more people could attend. Elton took that request under advisement and will consider that in his planning of the 10th reunion.

A recommendation from the floor was discussed concerning out year planning for all reunions so the reunion chairperson would have two years to plan the reunion. That discussion ended in a motion and was seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote. Reunions areas will be voted on by the general membership for a two year period. The elected board will select the specific site two years in advance to allow proper planning by the reunion committee.

R.O. King introduced LCol. Phil Berry, Las Alamos Labs.

LCol. Berry discussed the Intrinsic Radiation development program that Las Alamos is currently preparing due to US Public Law 102.578. This new law allows a veteran to receive cancer treatment when it has been determined that the cancer was caused by occupational exposure to radiation use in the development of nuclear weapons. LCol. Berry talked at great lengths about the Radiation Redevelopment Program that Secretary of Defense for Atomic Energy has signed into agreement. LCol. Berry also said that eventually he will have a staff of personnel that will travel to various weapons sites and will develop the amount of exposure that an individual may have been exposed to by formulation the type of structure/storage facility verses the known values of the types of weapons that were worked/stored in the facility. Also in the formula will be times required for LLC or other types of work effort involving that particular weapons system. From that formulation, they hope to be able to identify the exposure levels of all personnel who worked on these systems. Also the plan an advertising campaign to alert those personnel who performed nuclear weapons duties. He also will have a staff of employees that will be out in the field talking with past workers like ourselves to try and develop both the history of the sites and weapons systems, but also to determine who was there. From that effort, they hope to provide the VA with some guidelines to follow in support of the Public Law. For more details, LCol. Berry can be reached at (505) 665-6956 if you have information that can be fax'ed to him at (505) 665-5302. We also are the first group or association that he has visited, so our identity as a community is established. We also have some early indications separate from LCol. Berry that one of the recent retiree's from our community may be working on this effort. The official title of this project is the "RADIATION DOSE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT".

A discussion from the floor was developed concerning the membership of the NSWUA. The concern is that we are running out of available members due to the demise of the program. It was recommended that we add a Public Affairs effort to the Board of Governors. His responsibility would be to publicize the association through various news media and the veterans magazines that would enhance our association image and identity so that additional membership could be obtained. The new Board of Governors will incorporate that suggestion into the board.

R.O. King asked Charlie Berger to come forward. Bob then presented Charlie with a Letter of Appreciation for the time, effort and cost that Charlie has put into the beautiful memorial plaque that he developed commemorating our association members that have sailed on their last cruise. The plaque was donated by Charlie Berger to the association historian Don Micco to be placed on display at all future reunions. Any member knowing of a deceased member can contact Don Micco to have our shipmate added to the name tags on the memorial plaque. A standing round of applause was provided to Charlie by the attending membership.

R.O. King accepted recommendations from the floor concerning the 1995 reunion. The attending members recommended a midwest location. It should be noted here that the site for the 50th anniversary of this program will be Albuquerque, NM in 1997. The board also acknowledges a growing recommendation that a cruise be considered for one of our forthcoming reunions. It has been determined that the next reunion (1995) will be held in the Tulsa, Ok area and be hosted by our McAlester contingency.

R.O. King opened the floor to nominations for the 1993 slate of Board of Governors. The floor recommended the following association members for election to the Board of Governors:

Elton Call, Lou Catron, Tom Best, Russell Rhine, Ernie Sanchez, Richard (IKE) Eisenhower, Henry Stephens, and Don Micco.

Being no further nominations from the floor, the nominees were accepted by the membership and voted into office by a voice vote. The new Board of Governors are established as follows:

PRESIDENT: Elton Call
VICE PRESIDENT: Russell Rhine
SECRETARY: Tom Best
TREASURER: Lou Catron
CHAPLIN: Henry Stephens
HISTORIAN: Don Micco
BOARD MEMBERS: Ernie Sanchez
Richard Eisenhower

R.O. King thanked the general membership for his opportunity to have served this valued association for the past three years. He thanked his board for their support and effort during the past years and wished the newly elected board the best of efforts in the future.

R.O. King publicly thanked Paulette Clark, Joyce Perry and the members of his board for the outstanding effort they contributed in making the 9th reunion such a success. An outstanding round of applause was given by the attending membership in appreciation of their efforts.