

Navy Nuclear Weapons Association

11th Reunion

5 thru 9 October 1995

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting:

The general membership meeting was held in the ballroom of the Fifth Seasons Hotel in Oklahoma City, OK at 10:30am on 7 October 1995. The meeting was called to order by the association president Elton Call.

The opening prayer was given by the association chaplain Henry Stephens.

The entire membership rose to give the Pledge of Allegiance to this wonderful country. While standing, Shipmates Russ Rhine; Dee Rochester and Henry Stephens conducted a Two-Bell ceremony that acknowledged the quiet passing of all our former shipmates. All association shipmates who have passed to their last duty station with the Supreme Commander have been inscribed on our NNWA missing shipmate plaque commemorating their unique duty for their country. This plaque was built and donated by shipmate Charlie Berger and is on display at each reunion. Charlie has the unpleasant duty of keeping the plaque up to date. At this reunion the following shipmates were identified at passing to their last duty station: Joe (and Ann) Butler; Herb Newburger; Alfors Olson; Bob Sparks; Elden Gliul, and shipmate Garrett. If the membership knows of any other shipmates that have taken their last duty station, please pass the information on to one of our board of directors.

The minutes of the last association meeting in Idaho Falls were accepted by the membership in attendance as printed and provided in the last newsletter.

The treasurers report was provided by Lou Catron. The balance as of 1 October 1995 is \$6647.94. Note that not all of the expenses for the 11th reunion have been received and paid. The treasurers report was accepted by the membership as presented.

Old Business:

1. The new membership applications were explained to the members. After a brief discussion, the membership accepted the new application. The new application will be sent out with the first newsletter and can be reproduced by the general membership and provided to prospective members. We also ask the all **OLD** membership forms be destroyed.
2. The Board of Governors have developed a 3x5 card that will be sent to members of the association that are currently in arrears with their membership dues. This wording and concept was accepted by the membership as the proper method to contact association members to renew their membership, or risk being dropped from the active membership rolls. Although we hate to lose an association member, mailing costs drive hard decisions.
3. Discussion over the combining of the secretary and treasurer responsibilities resulted in the roles being redefined. All membership applications, dues, moneys requested; or for deposit will be sent directly to the Treasurer. This will cut costs of mailing moneys and information back and forth and allow for faster deposits of funds. The secretary will continue to document and record the events of the association, and prepare, distribute the association newsletters and other duties as requested. The general membership agreed to this concept.
4. A recommendation at the last reunion to look into the possibility of providing "Life Membership" into the association received some discussion. A motion from the floor to appoint a committee to look into the feasibility of this was received. The newly elected board of governors will appoint such a committee as request they report at the next meeting.
5. There was no other old business addressed from the floor.

New Business:

1. New membership cards are being developed. We hope to have them printed in time to attach the new membership card to the next newsletter. There will no longer be a requirement for a board members signature, but the member will be required to sign the card. We also plan on using a material that will last better.
2. Shipmate Joe Bland provide a presentation on the aspect of the next reunion. It will be held in San Diego, CA. in the early part of October 1996. The hotel selected is the Regency Plaza Hotel in the Hotel Circle area of San Diego. This is pretty central to the attractions available in the area and a trolley runs from the hotel to all the major attractions in the area every 1/2 hour. The trolley cost approximately \$12.00 for the day but you can get on and off as many times you desire so that you may see all the attractions. As it runs every 1/2 hour, you never wait more than 30 minutes for a trolley to the next attraction. The rates at the hotel should be around \$65.00 per day double room.

The hotel will allow the association to set up our hospitality room using our assets vice purchase from the hotel. The hotel offers pick up and return to both the San Diego airport and the Amtrak station. Joe with his able body assistants, will provide additional information on the 12th reunion at some later date and it will be included in the association newsletter early enough for membership response.

3. Dee Rochester has agreed to sponsor the 13th reunion. **The 50th Anniversary Reunion** will be held in Albuquerque, NM on 15; 16; 17 October 1997. This date has been selected after confirming that during the annual Albuquerque Balloon Festival in early October, there are no rooms available; so reluctantly, we must plan the above dates for our reunion. Dee and his able bodied assistants will provide additional information as it develops and we will ensure that it is disseminated via our association newsletter.

Secretary Note: After the reunion in Oklahoma City, the next two committees have a heck of a task trying to top this reunion, but they have assured us that the San Diego group will blow away the McAlester group. Dee say's that the 50th anniversary in Albuquerque will be the **blast from the past**, fittingly called the Nuclear Weapons association. After wetting my lips at the outstanding reunion held in Oklahoma City; I'm ready to go to both of them right now. I know I was able to requalify my PRP position while at the reunion.

4. Shipmate Darrell Cook asked to speak to the membership. He noted that he is a member of a class action suit against the Veterans Administration due to over exposure to radioactive particles while assigned to "Crested Ice" in the effort to clean up the Air Force accident site in Thule, Greenland. He asked that we advertise the fact that the VA is not very responsive to the needs of the "ATOMIC" veteran. If you have ever been overexposed to radiation, even in the older production facilities, he recommends that you submit a claim to the VA. He warns that you most likely will not meet friendly, smiling faces, but if you need information, Darrell has asked that you contact him at 11713 Bucking Bronco TR. SE Albuquerque, NM. 87123-3502 or give him a call at (505) 298-8157 and he will try and help you with your questions. (NOTE) Darrell indicated that if you pass on; your eligibility will transfer to your surviving spouse or children.

5. Vice President Russell Rhine Provided the membership with an update to the "Radiation Dose Reconstruction Project". This project was initially directed by the Department of Energy and Veteran Affairs to identify the dose rate at each production activity dependent on the year you were assigned and the work on the individual systems that you performed. A representative was again invited to discuss this project with our members, but they are not adequately funded to provide that representative. Russ also indicated that the future funding for this project has been "Zero'ed Out" of the appropriations bill. A letter of query to your elected officials may be necessary to voice your concerns. I do have some information forms that were provided to us by Army LtCol Phillip C. Berry. He is/was assigned to Los Alamos National Lab as the Project Manager for the Dose Reconstruction effort. He or his replacement can be contacted at (505) 665-6956. The mailing address is:
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545 Attn: Dr. P.C. Berry Mail Stop G-732

6. President Elton Call noted that we have been very successful in generating new membership. We currently have about 70 inquiries into membership, and hopefully that adoption of the new membership form will increase our inquiries even more.

7. President Elton Call opened the floor to new business.

A. It was recommended that the secretary pursue the availability of a BULK Mailing permit and machine it save the association mailing expenses. The board agreed to sponsor this effort. The secretary will pursue this effort.

B. It was recommended that the association advertise in all the service magazines and other related service magazines such as the VFW; American Legion etc. The board explained that we have accomplished that in the past, but agreed to continue to find new ways to advertise our unique group.

C. Tom Best suggested that we take the article that was developed by shipmate Henry B. Smith which provides the history of the navy nuclear weapons program from inception through the 1950's and update it from where it ends to current. That would require a history from approximately 1960 until the demise of the navy WT rating in October 1994 and the retirement on all tactical systems. That complete article in turn could be submitted to all the service magazines and Naval Proceedings; Navy Times etc. for publishing. It could become a significant recruiting tool. Shipmate Bob Bays agreed to take on this challenge and submit his combined article to the NNWA Board for review prior to sending it out to the various magazines. Bob will contact Henry Smith for permission to use his initial article for this effort. The "*Keepers of the Dragon*" lives on.

8. The floor was opened to nominations for elective office of the NNWA. The new Board of Officers elected by the general membership for 1995-1997 are:

President:	Ernie Sanchez	Secretary:	Tom Best
Vice President	Dee Rochester	Treasurer:	Lou Catron
Board Member	Elton Call	Chaplain:	Henry Stephens
Board Member	Russell Rhine	Historian:	Don Micco

A well deserved round of cheer was provided for the outgoing Board.

A standing ovation was given to the McAlester group for organizing the 11th reunion in Oklahoma City. Many thanks go out to Lavon Dyer; Sue and Ike Eisenhauer; Roy (OZ) Osborne; Charlie and Margaret Berger; Russ Rhine and the rest of the group for this outstanding reunion and opportunity to rekindle old friendships.

Signed:

Thomas H. Best Sr. Secretary Navy Nuclear Weapons Association 1995