



Navy Nuclear Weapons Association

Annual Business Meeting
Minutes

Date: 9 NOV 23



Opening of Meeting:

The Navy Nuclear Weapons Association annual business meeting was held at the Sheraton Hotel in Tucson, AZ on 9 NOV 23. The meeting was called to order at 1002 with 51 association members and guests in attendance. The following board members were present:

President:	Kris Hobbs	Webmaster:	Ray Margeson
Vice President:	Bethany Gray	Chaplain:	Ed Deitzler
Secretary:	John Gray	Historian:	vacant
Treasurer:	Donald Schultz	Director:	Tyrus George
MAA:	Charlie Behymer	Director:	Steve Urban
Director/Storekeeper:	JH - absent	Director:	Richard Gurule
Director:	TM - absent		

The President called on the Chaplain to give the opening prayer which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chaplain then conducted the Two-Bell ceremony to recognize and honor the memory of the following Navy nuclear weapons program members who have passed since the last reunion:

WT2 Christopher Brown	GMT2 Ronald W. Chapel
GMT2 Joseph W. Christian	GMTC Victor L. Dowdy
AO1 Michael Hylton	AOCS Jack Knapp
GMTCS Frank Kelly	EM3 Philip J. Kimble
WT1 Charles R. Kyle	Lt. Frederick C. Langenohi
CWO3 H. William Ooten	GMTC Bernie Pilger
WTCM Robert P. Reynolds	Harry J Romeo
NW2 John W. Schweinburg	GMTC Carlton Smoot
WT1 Johnny B. St. Clair	GMT3 Marvin W. Ware

The President welcomed everyone and called for all new association members and first-time reunion attendees to stand and introduce themselves.

Presidents Report:

Gave his report on the current status of the organization, specifically:

1. Membership status:

Members in good standing:	384
Associate Members	6
Heritage Members	2
Honorary Members	1
Life Members:	79
NAAV Reciprocal Members:	1
Past Members:	374

He noted that the association gained 54 new and reinstated members in 2023.

2. Gave an update on the 2024 NNWA reunion in Branson, MO. The BOD will try to set the date in mid-October 24.
3. That the Treasurer’s records were audited and that no discrepancies were noted.
4. That the Storekeepers records and inventory would be audited upon turnover of duties between the current and incoming Storekeeper.
5. Announced that the bylaws had been updated after the last reunion and that the current version was posted on the website.
6. Announced that the association had made two charitable donations in the 2023 term and we would vote on making donations to two charitable organizations in 2024, specifically the Warrior Built Foundation and the Foundation for Women’s Warriors.
7. Reported that we were looking at options to upgrade the NNWA website to a newer code base that would allow for electronic payments of Ships Store items and member dues.
8. Thanked the current board members for their service and support during this past year.

The president then asked for reports from the other board members.

Vice Presidents Report:

Gave a brief overview of the proposed bylaws change and that we would be voting on it under new business.

Secretary’s Report:

The Secretary read the minutes of the 2022 Annual Business Meeting. There being no additions or corrections it was moved, seconded, and passed that they be accepted.

There was no correspondence.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer passed out copies of the NNWA 2023 Financial Report to the members. It was reported that there were outstanding bills related to this reunion. It was noted that an annual audit was conducted of the Treasurer's records by two board members and the results provided to the President. Closing balance of the audit period:

\$34,761.43

It was moved, seconded, and passed that all outstanding bills be paid.

Webmasters Report:

Reported that the website Memorial Page currently listed 737 names. He requested that when informing him of a shipmate who had worked in the program had passed away, and to provide as much information as possible to include rank/rate, date passed, obituary link, etc.

Historians Report:

It was announced that the Historian had resigned prior to completion of his term and that the position would be filled at the BOD Post-Election meeting.

Chaplains Report:

Requested that if anyone is aware of a person who worked in our program has passed on, to let him know so he can list that person in the Two-Bell Ceremony. Reported that he always takes member calls but if you do to remember that he is hard of hearing; and that he sends sympathy cards to families of those members who have recently passed away.

Storekeepers Report:

The acting SK, Steve Urban, reported that sales during the 2023 reunion were \$428. During the period of 15 SEP 22 to 5 NOV 23 sales numbers were not provided by Storekeeper John Hawkins.

MAAs Report:

Provided details on how the reunion's dinner-dance, raffles, door prizes, and gift exchange would work. It was requested of him by a member to provide details of how the gift exchange worked in future reunion information.

Director Reports:

Rich Gurule reported on the reunion process, and the plans for using a new Reunion Planner for future reunions. Tentative dates for the reunion in Branson were set as 13 – 17/18 OCT 24. This will be firmed up after talks with the new Reunion Planner.

Ty George reported on potential reunion location information and reunion packages.

Unfinished Business:

The President thanked Tyrus and Diann George and the members of the board for all their hard work in setting up and organizing this reunion. They were given a round of applause by the membership.

The president announced the location of the Dinner/Dance and that the bar would open at 1800 with dinner at 1900.

There was no other unfinished business.

New Business:

1. Rick Workman reported on the Sound of Silence Project which seeks to inform Congressional legislators on the exposure of Nuclear Weapons Workers to ionizing radiation and numerous toxic and carcinogenic chemicals. The project goals are to:
 - Presume that exposure to ionizing radiation from nuclear weapons “at least as likely as not” 1 caused or may cause the development of cancers, certain other diseases, mutagenic changes, and chronic or debilitating medical conditions.
 - Presume that the use of toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, organic solvents, compounds, and metals “at least as likely as not” caused or may cause the development of cancers, certain other diseases, mutagenic changes, and chronic or debilitating medical conditions.
 - Acknowledge ionizing neutron radiation continuously emitted through weapon cases— radiation that Nuclear Weapons Technicians were not made aware of nor protected from.
 - Acknowledge the risks to fertility and unborn children.
 - Set aside, without prejudice, previous denial(s) of related claims and appeals.
 - Accept/grant related claims and appeals submitted prior to, during, and after this process.
 - Provide all due respect, consideration, benefits, and compensation.

He encouraged all NNWA members to write their legislators to get visibility into the effort. The project website is:

[The Sound of Silence Project for Cold War Veteran Nuclear Weapons Technicians \(tsosproject.com\)](http://tsosproject.com)

2. The Vice-President discussed the proposed bylaws changes, specifically for Article V Eliminating Honorary Memberships to organizations and businesses, Article VI Section 1 to clarify Force Majeure election requirements. and Article IX Section 3 to Remove residual wording alluding to duties of the Chaplain, MAA, Historian, and Webmaster. The specific changes recommended to the Bylaws are as follows:

Article V:

“The Board of Directors may bestow to an individual who has made a significant contribution...”.”

Article VI Section 1:

“SECTION 2 FORCE MAJEURE CONDITIONS

In the event a Force Majeure condition (primarily as a result of Acts of Nature) requires the cancelling of a scheduled annual reunion, an Annual Business Meeting (ABM) must still be held in order to;

- Elect BOD members.*
- Vote on any amendments to the association bylaws.*
- Conduct Unfinished or New Business, particularly in regards to upcoming reunions.*

As a result of a Force Majeure condition, ABMs or associated business may be conducted by one of the following alternate methods:

A. A technology-based solution such as Microsoft Teams or Zoom which enables association members to attend the ABM virtually, providing that the technology allows for member real time interaction with the BOD and/or other members.

Meeting order of business will generally follow the normal in person ABM format.

B. Required business actions, e.g., BOD elections, bylaws amendments, etc. can be drafted in the form of a Survey Monkey questionnaire/ballot and a URL link emailed to the membership. The survey will clearly indicate a “must be completed by” date 30 days from when the survey link is emailed.

Members without an email capability will be sent a letter by the Secretary with the questionnaire/hallot. The letter shall include:

- *An elections ballot with the slate of BOD candidates.*
- *A list of any proposed bylaws amendments with an associated accept or reject selection indicator.*
- *A printed list of any other business items for consideration with an associated accept or reject indicator.*
- *Instructions to the member which include the requirement that the member's ballot and other results must be received by the Secretary within 30 days of the date on the letter in order to be counted.*
- *A Self-Addressed-Stamped -Envelope to the NNWA Secretary for the return of the member's votes.*

The President will designate two BOD members to count, verify, and report received results to the BOD.

The Webmaster will provide the Survey Monkey generated supporting documentation of the questionnaire/ballots to the BOD members designated by the President. The Secretary will pdf all returned hard copy results and provide them to the same designated BOD members.

Once all results are finalized and presented to the President, he will authorize their release to the association membership via email and USPS methods.

The NNWA Secretary will retain the Survey Monkey data file and pdf file of hard copy returns for a period of two years.

The Board of Directors will ensure that as much advance notice as possible is provided to the membership as to when the alternate meeting method will be scheduled.””

Article IX Section 3:

“The following are the duty descriptions for the corporation officers that are required in Section 1:”

After a minimal discussion by the membership, it was moved, seconded, and passed to accept each change.

3. Board of Director (BoD) Nominations: The president announced that Steve Urban was the Nominations and Elections Chairman (NEC) and turned the gavel over to him. Steve explained that after he was chosen as NEC he had contacted the board members with expiring terms to determine if they desired to continue their service. The results were as follows:

Office	Incumbent	Willing to Continue on Board
Vice President	Bethany Gray	Y
Treasurer	Donald Schultz	Y
Webmaster	Ray Margeson	Y
Director	Richard Gurule	Y

Steve explained that he had contacted various members in good standing to determine their interest in serving on the BOD. None had expressed an interest in serving.

Steve opened the floor for additional nominations, Charlie Behymer nominated Ron Shirley and Charlie Mitchell. It was moved, seconded and passed the nominations be closed.

4. BOD Elections:

The NEC opened the floor for elections. He entertained a motion from the floor that the Secretary cast a single vote for those individuals nominated which would represent the unanimous consent the voting membership present. The motion was made, seconded, and passed.

The president explained how the BOD decided on who would fill the positions at the Post-Election BOD Meeting.

The Secretary called for congratulations for the newly elected board members and they received a round of applause. It was then moved, seconded, and passed that the elections be closed. The NEC returned the gavel to the president.

5. Future Reunions:

The president announced that in 2024 the 39th reunion of the NNWA would be held in:

Region: Central US
 Location: Branson, MO
 Dates: 13 – 17 or 18 OCT 24
 Host: Dwight and Shelley Chipperfield

The president announced that in 2025 the 40th reunion of the NNWA would be held in:

Region: Eastern US

Location: Nashville, TN
Dates: TBD
Host: TBD

The president announced that in 2026 the 41st reunion of the NNWA would be held in:

Region: Western US
Location: Albuquerque, NM
Dates: TBD
Host: Richard Gurule and the BOD

6. Tyrus George explained that he and Ed Deitzler had identified three organizations to consider:

- Warrior Built Foundation
- Foundation for Women Warriors
- Our Military Kids

After discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of each it was recommended that Warrior Built Foundation and Our Military Kids be selected for a donation of \$500 each.

It was then moved, seconded, and passed that the donations be made.

There was no other new business.

Close of Meeting:

There being no further business, at 1201 it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Annual Business Meeting be closed. It was announced that at 1230 the new BOD would convene for elections of officers and conducting of business.

At 1202 the Chaplain led the association in a closing prayer and the meeting was closed.

Liberty Call! The bar was opened!

Submitted by:

