

Navy Nuclear Weapons Association
14th Reunion
Portsmouth, Virginia
7 through 11 October 1998

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting:

The general membership meeting was held in the Portside Room at the Holiday Inn Waterside, Portsmouth, Virginia at 10:00 am on 10 October 1998. The meeting was called to order by the association president Roy Osborne.

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

The entire membership rose to give the Pledge of Allegiance to this wonderful country. While standing, Shipmates Dee Rochester and Chaplain Henry Stephens conducted a "Two-Bell" Ceremony that acknowledged the quiet passing of all our former shipmates; including Frank Young, O.D. Durrell, John Apodaka, Ken Corley and Jerry Lesson. All association shipmates who have passed to their last duty station with the Supreme Commander will have their names inscribed on our NNWA plaque commemorating their unique duty to God and their country. If you as members have knowledge of the passing of one of our members, please contact me or one of the association officers and provide us with that information.

The minutes of the last association meeting were accepted by the members present as contained in the January 1998 newsletter. The treasures report was provided by the Secretary/Treasurer. The balance on 10 October was \$9,035.89. Note that some reunion expenses were not identified in the report as they had yet to occur. Also note that some anticipated income was not reported as the 50/50 raffles held during the reunion were not complete at the time of this report. A complete financial report taking the entire reunion expenses into account will be provided to all members as part of the next newsletter.

Old Business:

1. It was noted that 96 of our members are arrears in their dues from 1995 to 1997. If those members in arrears are not paid up, they will be dropped from the association. For members two years or more in arrears, the renewal fees are \$10.00 for renewal and \$10.00 for the current year membership (\$20.00 total). It was also noted that it is easy to identify your current membership status as the mailing labels have the date of your last paid dues as two numbers at the bottom of the mailing label. i.e.: 95 96 97 98 99 or 2000 and above. As we hate to lose our members due to non-payment of dues, it is requested that all members verify their mailing labels and those in arrears, renew their memberships promptly by sending a check to the Secretary/Treasurer to cover their memberships.
2. The many changes to the NNWA Constitution over the past several years that have been approved during the membership meeting will be consolidated and the constitution will be updated and mailed to all members with the next newsletter.
3. The topic of Life Membership was briefly addressed as old business. Currently the only life membership available is for the spouses of deceased members. It was agreed that this would be the only life membership made available.
4. There was no other old business addressed from the floor.

New Business:

1. A motion was received from the floor and seconded that the association change the dates of the reunion to the last two weeks of September vice the first two weeks of October. After much discussion on the motion, it was amended to allow the Board of Governors to establish the reunion between 15 September and 15 October each year dependent on the location of the reunion and the availability of the hotels in the area. That amended motion received a floor vote of positive, with no negative votes.
2. It was noted that shipmate Walt Webb again won the annual NNWA Association golf tournament with shipmate Robert Wilkinson finishing a very close second. Congratulations shipmates. We hope to make this tournament an annual event.
3. A motion from the floor was provided and seconded that the association purchase an American Flag, Flag Staff, and an association bell to be used at all association meetings. Shipmate Henry Stephens agreed to provide the Bell, an association Bible and a Gavel for all meetings. Shipmate Mike Snyder agreed to provide a dress Navy flag and staff. Life member Sue Whitman volunteered to provide the funds for the bell in memory of our departed shipmate Bill Whitman. Shipmate Mike Snyder also agreed to build an appropriate wooded holder for the bell and have an inscription made to dedicate the bell in memory of Shipmate Bill Whitman.

4. A discussion on the history of the Navy Nuclear Weapons program from the eyes of our members was entertained. It was noted that departed shipmate Henry B. Smith had spent considerable time in developing a early history and had passed that information on to the Secretary a couple of years ago. That history was titled "Keepers of the Dragon". Also noted that our association historian Don Micco has many documents that would provide a base history of our program. The intent is to develop a history of the program from it's early infancy to it's recent demise. Once developed, this history could also be provided to service magazines; newspapers that would allow the association to advertise it's existence to those shipmates not currently members. Shipmate Mike Snyder agreed to develop the complete history for the association and provide the Board of Governors with draft copies for review. Further discussion on the NW Program history will be addressed in the January 1999 NNWA Bulletin.
5. An attempt is currently being made by the secretary to completely update the NNWA roster. Please review the roster which will be mailed with the next newsletter and contact Tom Best with changes to names, addresses, phone numbers and to add/change e-mail addresses. This will greatly assist the updating of the roster. Each mailing that the association sends out, approximately 5% of the mailings are returned for bad addresses. We do not want to lose shipmates due to bad addresses. Please not only review your own address, but also the addresses of your shipmates if you know they have moved.
6. It was noted that the in the past, all members attending the annual Dinner Dance had brought a couple (two) small gifts to be used as door prizes during the dinner dance. This allowed each attending member to receive a door prize during the dinner dance. In recent years, this custom has lost it's importance and now very few members bring small gifts. It was recommended that we remind our members of this custom so that future dinner dances will enjoy the rituals of the past.
7. Due to the extremely high cost estimates that the Board of Governors received from the Northwest area of the United States, it was decided that the reunion for 1999 will be held somewhere in Nevada between 15 September and 15 October 1999. More information will be provided in the next newsletter as we receive new costs from the Nevada areas.
8. The Secretary Treasurer noted that past practices of advance payment for tours during the reunions will not continue in future reunions. The association lost over \$800.00 this year in advance payments based on members who initially indicated they would be taking tours, but either did not show up for the reunion, or did not go on the tours. All future reunions must be pre-paid to the treasurer prior to the established reunion cut-off date. We were very luck this year to have recovered these losses by some very successful 50/50 raffles during the reunion.
9. It was noted by the secretary/treasurer that this year was a very successful year for the association in new memberships. We have 30 new members this year. Thanks go out to all the current members who have sent their association membership applications to other shipmates. Remember, as "Keepers of the Dragon" we no longer have the luxury of being able to draw new members from the navy ranks as the NW; GMT; WT rates no longer exist in the navy.
10. The members in attendance all rose to a standing ovation to acknowledge the efforts of Al and Doris Lowe for the exceptional reunion in the port cities of Portsmouth and Norfolk Virginia. If you haven't been to these two cities in several years, you will be pleasantly surprised on how they have developed over the years. It is really a long, long way from the "East Main Street" many of us remember. With Al and Doris's attention to details, and the able body assistance of Jim Hambley and Bob Foxwell, this again was a reunion to remember. Also noted was how seriously Bob Foxwell took his newly assigned duties as OIC of the Hospitality Room providing all members the true *spirit* of Portsmouth. Thanks also go to my bride Kathy and Doris Lowe for their excellent ability to separate association members from their money during registration and the 50/50 raffles. The NNWA is in a healthy financial status due to Katly and Doris's ability to cover all of our losses this year. Thanks again to Don Micco our historian for his dedication to duty in transporting the associations history from Ohio to Portsmouth, setting the up exhibits in our archives room then baby-sitting the exhibits all during the reunion and providing its many visitors the history of the association
11. The President announced that the next newsletter will be published and mailed before the end of January 1999. This newsletter will include specific information on the 1999 reunion in Nevada along with the name of the reunion chairman. The chairman in return will mail out a information and registration package in the April/May time frame so that all members will have the information to make their decisions on attendance with. Remember, all tours must be pre-paid for the 1999 reunion to the Secretary/Treasurer prior to the reunion cut-off date.
12. A motion from the floor and a second was received to adjourn the meeting. General membership voted to adjourn the meeting and at 11:07 President Roy Osborne adjourned a very successful meeting.

Minutes of the meeting provided by:
T.H.Best Sr. NNWA Secretary/Treasurer
17 October 1998