

Navy Nuclear Weapons Association Secretary Report

MINUTES OF 22 SEPTEMBER 2012 BUSINESS MEETING

Navy Nuclear Weapons Association business meeting was held at The Grand Gateway Hotel in Rapid City. The meeting was called to order at 0900 with all Board Members present, except Jack Grieves and Larry Sneide. The meeting was attended by 42 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: GMT2 Bruce Belfer, WTC Steven Harris, GMTCS Ritchie M. Verlander, Glen Estel Newman, GMTC Maurice L. Gadbois, The Gray Dragon CWO4 Ed Doss, GMTC Raman L. King, LCDR Robert Everett Foxwell, Manuel W. Cuellar, LCDR Gerhard Nundahl, Perle Olson and GMT2 Jack Roberts.

The President called for all new members to stand and introduce themselves. Four Members were welcomed aboard for the first time.

A Poem was read by Mike Snyder that was written by Bob King entitled "Proud to be an American".

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

The minutes of the 2011 business meeting were read by the Secretary.

The President asked if there was any 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 Secretary reported no additional information to report.

The President called for the Treasurer's Report.

- a. 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. The Treasurer reminded members to not leave copies of the financial report lying around. Take them with you or destroy them.

b. 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 2012 Association accomplishments as follows:

a. Last year we lost our Gray Dragon (Ed Doss). The Board has searched records and made phone calls to replace the Gray Dragon. The Gray Dragon, as you know, is the member who has served in the Nuclear Weapons Program at the earliest date. The new Gray Dragon is John Cummings.

3. The President then asked each board member to give their report:

a. Secretary's Report:

1. Nothing further to report.

b. Treasurer's Report. No additional input.

c. Service Officer's Report. - Fall 2012

The Service Officer gave an overview of what a Service Officer can provide for you and how to find one in your home area.

He mentioned the poem we listened to earlier today and to remember those who did not come home. Yesterday was National POW/MIA Remembrance Day. The Service Officer requested a moment of silence in Honor of the POW/MIA's that are not with us today.

All of our benefits come from legislation passed by Congress.

Walgreens and ESI Settle Dispute

Drug store chain Walgreens and Express Scripts, Inc. (ESI), the administrator for TRICARE's pharmacy benefit, have reached an agreement that will again allow TRICARE beneficiaries to fill their prescriptions at Walgreens stores. The new multi-year contract will take effect on September 15, 2012.

Undone – the dispute is not settled.

VA Claims Processing

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced July 11 it is deploying a new model for processing compensation benefits claims at 16 of its regional offices. The new model is part of a comprehensive transformation plan designed to yield an estimated 150,000 to 200,000 additional compensation claim decisions annually, while ensuring that veterans who are most in need get high priority.

The new organizational model involves the special handling of claims from veterans with the most serious injuries or illnesses, experiencing financial hardships, or homelessness, and need immediate attention. Through a new "intake processing center," claims are routed to one of three segmented lanes:

- **Express:** claims that have only one or two medical conditions, or have all the supporting documentation, medical evidence and service records needed for an expeditious rating decision (referred to as fully developed claims).
- **Special Operations:** claims requiring special handling because of the unique circumstances of the veterans. These include financial hardship, homelessness, serious wounds, injuries or illnesses, post-traumatic stress disorder associated with military sexual trauma, and former prisoner-of-war status.
- **Core:** claims with more than two medical conditions, or those that will need additional evidence to make a compensation decision.

In further news, the VA is making it easier for vets to provide medical info supporting their disability claims. Veterans medical care providers can now download any of 71 forms for specific conditions at benefits.va.gov/transformation/disabilityexams/.

The provider completes the form (a disability benefits questionnaire) and sends it to a VA Regional Office. The VA plans to further simplify the process for clinicians by creating a secure portal by the end of 2012 for completing and submitting disability benefits questionnaires on line.

Sequestration Update: Veterans' health care funding may be exempt from automatic, across-the-board budget cuts that are due to begin in January, but military health care is not — and a new think-tank report says Congress would have to reprogram \$3 billion from other Defense Department budget accounts to fully pay for military health care should the cuts occur.

Hearing Aids Update: The DOD sponsored Retiree-At-Cost Hearing Aid Program is designed to help retirees purchase hearing aids through an Audiology Clinic at a special government negotiated cost. The hearing aids available through this program are the same state-of-the art technologies available to active duty service members. The program is open to all military retirees who have hearing loss or tinnitus (ringing in the ears). Dependents of military retirees are not eligible for this program. Retirees can buy hearing aids at a significant savings by using the program. For example, a set of hearing aids (one of the best available) that retails for about \$5,000 costs a retiree as little as \$755 or about 15% of the retail costs

Vet Charity Watch: Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (*) is on the Veterans Charity watch list. They are holding massive asset reserves (*);

Blue Water Vietnam Vets One of our top legislative priorities has been support for legislation that would allow veterans who served off the coast of Vietnam to cite exposure to toxic herbicides relative to veterans' disability ratings and claims. Many national veteran organizations strongly support the

"Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act" (H.R. 3612, S. 1629) and the "Agent Orange Equity Act" (H.R. 812), both of which would allow so-called "blue water" Veterans to be compensated for their service-connected disabilities related to their exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides.

Last February, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) added 47 ships to their list of Navy and Coast Guard vessels that are presumptive for exposure to Agent Orange due to duty in the coastal waters and inland waterways of Vietnam. There are now 214 ships on the VA's presumptive list, which is available at www.fra.org/agentorange. If a service member served aboard any of these vessels during the described time period and they have any of the 14 diseases recognized as Agent Orange-related, they may have a creditable claim for VA disability compensation.

Visit the following links to support specific blue-water legislation:

S. 1629 - <http://www.capwiz.com/fra/issues/alert/?alertid=54045631>

H. R. 3612 - <http://www.capwiz.com/fra/issues/alert/?alertid=58570506>

H.R. 812 - <http://www.capwiz.com/fra/issues/alert/?alertid=32082506>

The National Defense Act which authorizes the money to be spent has been put off until after the elections.

d. Historian Report:

The Historian suggested that everyone should take note of the memorabilia that was on display. Our collection is alive, well, and growing. Because of the size of the memorabilia, we are thinking of establishing 2 different sets of memorabilia. One set on each coast to ease the burden of travel and setting up our memorabilia display at each reunion.

Thanks to Phil Markin for 'Albert's' new dragon cage.

In the back are some shoulder patches from Weapons Training Group. If you desire one, take one as we have many more.

f. In our search for the new 'Gray Dragon', I was asked to go thru our records. It seems we have 800 or more history and personal records that I had not seen before. As a result, I put together a new book with histories that had had not been displayed before. I would like to note that LCDR Tom Best who was our Secretary for some time and the President and Treasurer. He had a great hand in revitalizing the NNWA. The Historian then read some of Tom Best's history. His history, as remarkable as it was, is somewhat typical of those in the Nuclear Weapons Program.

The President then encouraged all members to write down their histories and submit it to Mike. 'If you do not get it on paper, it doesn't exist when you leave', Mike said.

e. Chaplain Report:

Dee Rochester and Bob King are having medical problems. If you know them, get in touch and let them know you wish them well.

I am not going to be running for the Board anymore but he did say what an honor to serve the NNWA on the Board of Directors.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The President thanked Bill Beard, Bill Melby and all those who helped with this outstanding reunion. The membership gave them a round of applause for their efforts in putting together an excellent reunion. Bill Beard said that with the check sheet made up on the steps to follow, anybody can set up a reunion.

The Hospitably Room will secure at 1600 today so preparations can be made for the dinner dance. For the first time since we have been doing this, the bar drinks will be from our own supply.

NEW BUSINESS

As the first order of new business the President announced that 6 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. He then turned the gavel over to the Nominations and Elections Chairman Chuck Weber to conduct appropriate nominations and elections.

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 15th without comment and was suspended.

2012-2014 NNWA Board Nominations

NEW Nominations	Y/N	Will be at meeting?	In good standing
Rev. Randall D. Scallan (ex GMT-1)	YES	Absent and rescinded acceptance	
John Gray, WTCS (Ret)	YES	Present	YES

Incumbents	Y/N	Will be at meeting?	In good standing
President Jim Hambley	NO	Present	NA
Service Officer Chuck Weber	NO	Present	NA
Chaplain Lonnie Cuccinnitti	NO	Present	NA
MAA Frank Cantrell	YES	Present	YES
Director Ron Moran	YES	Present	YES
Director Jack Grieves	YES	Absent – in writing	Accepted nomination

Rules for Nominations

- Nominees must be present or must have sent writing to the Board indicating their willingness to be nominated.
- Seconds to nominations are unnecessary and nominees must accept their nomination.
- Nominees must be members in good standing and have email capability.

Nominations

Nominations for the office of Director are now re-opened. (gavel)

The Bylaws of our Corporation call for a minimum of 8 Directors, each with a term of two years. Currently there are 12 Directors serving. The bylaws also require that half of these are up for election each year. Therefore, there are 6 positions up for election this year, but only 2 of them need to be filled in order to meet the 8 Director minimum.

The Board of Directors appointed a Nominations Committee which announced acceptance of mailed nominations through 15 August 2012.

Additionally, members were contacted to see if there was anyone new was interested in serving on the Board. The incumbent Directors were asked if they were interested in continuing.

As a result of all of this, the Board of Directors places the following names in nomination for the position of Director for the term 2012-2014. Each has indicated that they would accept such nomination.

Frank Cantrell	Ron Moran
Jack Grieves (by written letter)	John Gray

Nominations from the floor are now opened. Are there any nominations from the floor for Director? (ask 3 times).

Tony Lewin was nominated by Don Fulbright. Tony Lewin accepted the nomination

Phil Markin nominated Tom Salisbury. Tom Salesbury accepted the nomination.

Are there any other nominations from the floor? Going once, twice, three times.

Hearing none, I will accept a motion to close nominations. Call for second. Call for vote.

Nominations are now closed. (gavel)

Elections

Fellow Dragon Keepers, the floor is now opened for elections. (gavel)

You have heard the nominees for office of Director. I will accept a motion from the floor that the Secretary of the Corporation shall cast a single vote for those nominated which will reflect the unanimous consent of the membership present at this meeting.

Call for second. Call for vote.

The motion carried unanimously.

Let us congratulate our newly elected Directors (applause).

As a reminder, the Directors will meet after this meeting to elect officer positions

I will accept a motion to close from elections. Call for second. Call for vote.

Elections are now closed. (gavel)

Return gavel to President.

Present returns gavel to By-Laws Chairman:

Proposal for Amendment of NNWA Bylaws

WHEREAS, the membership of the NNWA in its 2011 regular meeting in Albuquerque , NM on October 15, 2011 did approve the addition of two new positions to its Board of Directors resulting in a new total of twelve Directors, and

WHEREAS, the *Force Majeure* cancellation of the 2010 NNWA reunion and associated regular membership meeting did not provide a venue for election of Directors, and

WHEREAS, the NNWA Bylaws at Article VIII, Section 1 are silent on the issue of term schedule for more than ten Directors, and

WHEREAS, the NNWA Bylaws at Article VIII, Section 1 are also silent on election of Directors if no regular membership meeting can be held, therefore be it

RESOLVED, at the NNWA regular membership meeting held on September 22, 2012 in Rapid City, SD that the sentences

“In the event that any additional Director(s) is/are added to the Board, they shall be added to the schedule first as an even year term and then as an odd year term. Similarly, if there are reductions in the number of Directors, the actions shall be done to maintain a balance of odd and even year terms. Elections of Directors shall be conducted at the annual regular membership meeting. In the event that such a meeting cannot be held, the election of Directors shall be conducted by the Board of Directors by mailed ballot to the regular membership using rules established in “Roberts Rules of Order” in its current edition. The President shall appoint at least two Directors who are not standing for election and they shall receive, count, verify and publish the results of all returned ballots.”

shall be added to the very end of Article VIII, Section 1. The thus amended Article VIII, Section 1 shall read as follows (with the additions in red):

ARTICLE VIII
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. ELECTION AND INITIAL MEETING. A Board of Directors consisting of at least Eight (8) members in good standing shall be elected by a majority of Regular Members present at the Annual Meeting held by the Corporation. Immediately following the election meeting the newly elected Board shall meet for the purpose of electing its officers and conducting any business that may be necessary. Election of the Board of Directors shall be on the following schedule:

Even Years

- President
- Service Officer
- Chaplain
- Master at Arms
- Director
- Director
- and so forth

Odd Years

- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Historian
- Webmaster
- Director

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Submitted by:
//S//Charles J. Weber

Chair, Bylaws 2012

I call for a motion from the floor to accept the changes to our by-laws as read.

The motion was made and seconded.

On the question, hearing none. All in favor say 'Aye', all opposed say 'Nay', abstain say 'Here'.

The question passed unanimously and we have amended our by-laws.

The Chairman of By-Laws returned the gavel to the President.

The 29th 2013 annual reunion will be held in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. The host will be Frank Cantrell. Co-Host will be Frank Kelly and Brenda Kelly. The reunion will start on Sunday (6 October) and check out will be Friday (11 October). Frank will try to set up a tour to Oakridge, Tenn.

The 30th 2014 reunion will be held in the Western Region. The President asked for places where we might hold the next reunion. I have yet to get a volunteer for that region.

We already have a host for the 2015 reunion. Lonnie Cucinitti will be the host in San Antonio, Texas. Dates to be established.

There being no other new business, if not the President wanted to personally thank all the Board Members (present and passed members) who have served with me over the past 11 years. He also wanted to give the membership thanks for giving him your trust. He then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made and seconded.

The Chaplain offered the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned.