

Navy Nuclear Weapons Association
16th Reunion
New Orleans, Louisiana
26 September—1 October 2000

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting:

The General Membership meeting was held in the room adjoining the hospitality room of the Holiday Inn Westbank in Gretna, Louisiana on 30 September, 2000. 30 members of the 55 members attending the reunion were in attendance. All 9 Board of Governors were in attendance. The meeting was called to order by President Dee Rochester at 10:00 AM.

The opening prayer was provided by the association Chaplain Henry Stephens, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to our great country. Chaplain Henry Stephens conducted the annual "Two-Bell" ceremony to acknowledge the dedicated service of our shipmates that have passed to their final tour of duty on the Staff of the Supreme Commander, including: **Bob Bayes; R.V. Chrane; Fred Bickle; Dan Franz; Hudson Bullock; Fred Irving; Paul Minkler; William Peters Dan Joyce and Alvin Marn.** We, as a community and as a nation, thank them for their unique contribution to world peace. All NNWA members who have departed on their final tour will have their names inscribed on the NNWA plaque commemorating their outstanding duty to God and Country. If you as a member are aware of the passing of a shipmate, please notify one of the Board of Governors so that we may acknowledge and thank them for their unique contribution to world peace.

President Dee Rochester acknowledged the contributions and efforts of Hudson Bullock for devotion to duty in hosting this reunion even though his untimely passing was two months prior to the reunion. Hudson's brother and his family invited to our annual members meeting and for the personal dedication of the "Two-Bell" Ceremony.

President Dee Rochester thanked Henry Stephens for the donation of the beautiful wooded case made to store the new commemorative bell used in our Two Bell ceremonies.

President Dee Rochester asked that each member stand and introduce themselves to all the other members, including their past duties and current home state. Dee also acknowledged those members present that have yet to miss attending a reunion, or possibly missed one reunion over the past 16 reunions. One of our members reminded us that the first weapons were deployed onboard the USS Midway in 1950.

Old Business:

The minutes of the Las Vegas reunion were read and accepted by the membership.

The financial report was presented and accepted by the membership.

The Secretary/Treasurer reminded all members to ensure their annual dues are paid to date. We have approximately 70 members whose dues are in arrears from 1995 to 2000. We hate to lose members due to non-payment of dues, but the association cannot afford to continue to absorb the mailing costs of information to those members who are in arrears. We again remind our membership to review their mailing labels which contains the year your dues expire and renew their membership promptly by sending a check to the Secretary/Treasurer.

It was also noted that the NNWA has again grown in membership thanks to the recruiting efforts of some of our members. We now have over 400 members, up from 189 members in 1994. Thanks to all those who identified possible members to the Secretary/Treasurer. Our existence relies on continued new membership.

Mike Snyder (Historian) continues to develop the history of the NNWA. He again requests that members send him their profiles and provide him with historical information and unique experiences so that he may document this in our history files.

There was no other old business to discuss.

New Business:

Mike Snyder thanked Don Micco for his devotion to Historian duties and provided the membership with a status of historical artifacts in custody of the NNWA. He also reminded members that if they had any items of historical interest, to notify him for donation to the inventory. He passed out copies of the NNWA Historical inventory to those members who were interested. And suggested that we might want to take photos of all the plaques and make a photo album to bring to all reunions vice the cost and possible damage of transporting the actual plaques. Frank Kelly offered to take the artifacts home with him to South Carolina to be brought to the Myrtle Beach reunion, saving the association the cost of transporting the items home and back to the next reunion. It was noted by members on the floor that a few of our members have extensive personal collections of Navy and Nuclear Weapons memorabilia that they might be willing to donate or loan to the association for display. Don Waymire and J.R. Graham were two of the names mentioned.

Chuck Weber (NNWA Service Officer) presented an update on VA and Military health benefits. A synopsis of this information will be provided by Chuck for this year's newsletter. He also cited a new website for members to check out when searching for information on military information: www.firstgov.gov. Chuck also reminded us about applying for the new "Cold War Certificate" issued by the government for those serving in the military during the Cold War years. He also identified a new definition by the military that allows the awarding of the "Navy Combat Action Ribbon" for all persons who served during the Vietnam period. Also information was provided to the members that the VA now defines that all persons who served in Vietnam has received exposure to "Agent Orange". See your local County Service Officer, American Legion of VFW Service Officer or VA representative for more information.

Frank Kelly (Vice President) will be sending out NNWA Dues Delinquency notification to all delinquent members soon after the reunion. Renewals are \$10.00 per year. Those members delinquent for more than two years are required to be reinstated into the NNWA at the cost of a new member \$20.00. If any member desires to prepay their membership, it is an additional \$10.00 per year that you desire to pre-pay. President Dee Rochester thanked the Vice President for his personal effort in notifying delinquent members and the excellent response we received from the membership.

Dee Rochester acknowledged and thanked member O.B. McReynolds for the donation of the new Navy Flag to be added to the association inventory. Dee also opened the floor for an overview and comments from the Board meeting held on Thursday on the following items: 1. Conducting Ice Breakers at future reunions that would allow newer members and their spouses to meet and greet our membership. This will possibly be tried at the Myrtle Beach reunion on an afternoon get together. 2. Liability Insurance to cover the NNWA during reunions. 3. NNWA Constitution update and possible incorporation of the NNWA. 4. Rotating terms for the Board of Governors allowing for continued experience on the Board. Currently a complete new Board of Governors is elected every two years. This causes some problems while the board tries to establish an agenda for the two years, while only meeting at the annual reunions. Staggering the board elections would allow for an experienced board while new board members come onboard. No immediate action was taken by the board or membership on any of the items discussed. Dee Rochester announced that the next reunion will be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Frank Kelly established the reunion dates as 2 through 6 October. Further information will be provided in the January newsletter and a reunion mail out sometime in the May/June time frame. The 2002 reunion will be held in La Cruces, New Mexico and will be co-hosted by Bill Grizzard and Mike Sertz.

Tom Best reminded members that updated NNWA membership rosters are included in the reunion registration folder that you received at the reunion. If you desire further updated membership rosters, please send a Self Addressed Manila 6x8 envelope with \$5 postage on it to the Secretary/Treasurer and he in turn will mail you the latest update roster.

The membership was reminded that the association still has a limited supply of embroidered logos available to the membership. One logo is that of the original NNWA logo. The second logo available is the "Keeper of the Dragon" logo. These are available from the Secretary/Treasurer for a nominal \$5.00 per logo. If you want them mailed to your residence, please include a Shipping/Handling cost of \$1.50 per each 5 logos ordered.

Chaplain Henry Stephens provided the closing prayer in the form of a beautiful poem. There being no further business from the membership, Dee Rochester accepted a motion and second from the floor and adjourned the 16th annual NNWA Business Meeting at 11:40 AM.

Minutes of the meeting provided by: T.H. Best Sr. NNWA Secretary/Treasurer 21 October, 2000