



Navy Nuclear Weapons Association

Annual Business Meeting
Minutes

Date: 15 SEP 22



Opening of Meeting:

The Navy Nuclear Weapons Association annual business meeting was held at the Hilton Doubletree Hotel in Norfolk, VA on 15 SEP 22. The meeting was called to order at 0905 with 67 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:	Julien Lindstrom
Treasurer:	Don Schultz	Director:	Tyrus George
MAA:	Charlie Behymer	Director:	GC - absent
Director/Storekeeper:	John Hawkins	Director:	RG - 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:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| David A. Blake | WTC Dale Brannan |
| WT3 Dale R. Dunlap | GMT2 Bruce Edwards |
| WT1 Dennis Grooms | GMTC Dale A. Haley |
| CWO Sherm Hansen | WT1 John Hartman |
| GMTC Bruce Hill | GMT3 Delbert R. Lanning |
| CAPT Dean R. Larson | CDR Michael J. Laurent |
| GMT1 David Likens | CWO5 Robert E. Mauldin |
| LT Raymond E. Murphy | CDR William K. Nesmith |
| GMT2 Robert M. Pajak | WTC Chris Paul |
| GMTCM Danny L. Rider | CWO4 Michael Seitz |
| GMT2 Thomas W. Schrel | GMT2 Gary K Sheldon |

GMTC Robert K. Simons
GMT1 Daniel E. Timmons
WT1 Christopher Varney
GMT1 Joseph C. Weeks
WT Robert D. Wiley III

AOC Robert M. Stevenson
WT3 Troy Lynn Tutton
WTCS Randall Lee Ward
WT2 Patrick Whitehead
GMT Ronald C. Yochum Jr.

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

The President recognized the current Gray Dragon – Frederick Wacha, stating that Fred was the only Gray Dragon to ever attend a reunion. The President read the history of the NNWA Gray Dragon Program and the background of the past Gray Dragons. He then read a summary of Fred’s experience in the nuclear weapons program and life after Fred separated from the Navy. The President then presented to Fred his Gray Dragon certificate, NNWA coin, hat, and decals. Fred then commented on his time in the program, people he knew, and life after he got out of the Navy. He thanked everyone and relayed that it was an honor to be recognized as the NNWA Gray Dragon.

Presidents Report:

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

1. Membership status:

Members in good standing:	432
Associate Members	5
Heritage Members	2
Honorary Members	0
Life Members:	74
NAAV Reciprocal Members:	1
Past Members:	365

He noted that the association gained 28 new and reinstated members in 2022.

2. Gave an update on the 2023 NNWA reunion in Tucson, AZ. The BOD will try to set the date in late October 23.
3. That the Storekeepers inventory and records were audited and that no discrepancies were noted.
4. Announced that the by-laws had been updated after the last reunion and that the current version was posted on the website.

5. Announced that the association had made two charitable donations in 2022 and was considering making donations to two charitable organizations in 2023, specifically the Fisher House Foundation and the Semper Fi and Americas Fund.
6. 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 2021 Annual Business Meeting. There being no additions or corrections it was moved, seconded, and passed that they be accepted.

He read the thank you letter from the Semper Fi and America's Fund for the NNWA donation. There was no other correspondence.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer passed out copies of the NNWA 2022 Financial Report to the members. It was reported that there were no 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:

\$28,257.43

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

Webmasters Report:

Reported that the website Memorial Page currently listed 729 names. He requested that when informing him of a shipmate who had worked in the program had passed away, then to provide as much information as possible to include rank/rate, date passed, obituary link, etc.

Historians Report:

Reported he was now writing articles on nuclear weapons capable duty stations that were not commonly known to many personnel in our program. The current subject was Naval Weapons Evaluation Facility (NWEF). Next on his list was NAVWEPFAC St Mawgan.

He also announced that he was placing a Duty Station Form in the Hospitality Room and requested that they be filled out and turned in to him so they could be used as a record of assignments to support member VA claims and such.

Chaplains Report:

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:

Reported that sales during the 2021 reunion were \$285.50. During the period of 27 SEP 21 to 15 SEP 22 there were sales of \$633. 2022 reunion sales were \$679.

MAAs Report:

Provided details on how the reunion's dinner-dance, raffles, door prizes, and gift exchange would work.

Unfinished Business:

The President thanked John and Magee Hawkins 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. The Vice-President discussed the proposed bylaws changes, specifically for Article VI Section 1 regarding Annual Business Meeting dates and Article VIII Section 6 regarding BOD Meeting attendance methods. The specific changes recommended to the Bylaws are as follows:

“Article VI Section 1:

Every effort shall be made to conduct the reunion and associated Annual Business Meeting between September 15th and October 15th of each year; however the BOD may schedule reunions outside these dates to allow for more flexibility in working with reunion hosts and providers.”

Article VIII Section 6:

“Attendance by at least 50% of the Board of Directors shall be considered a quorum for BOD meetings. In the event that a board member cannot attend a meeting of the BOD or the Annual Business Meeting in person because of a family emergency, emergent medical condition, or other extenuating circumstance then virtual attendance may be made using

a technology based solution such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom, or conference calls providing such technology allows for real-time interaction with other members of the association membership and/or BOD.

This virtual attendance provision is to be used to facilitate obtaining a quorum in order to conduct required association business. It is not to be used as a means for a board member to NOT attend such meetings in person under normal circumstances.

The President shall make the determination on whether the requesting board member is approved to attend any meeting(s) via a technology based solution.

No proxy votes are permitted. Votes shall be recorded by the Secretary either verbally, telephonically, or electronically (such as by e-mail). The Secretary shall maintain written records of all Board votes and report the same to the membership at the Annual Business Meeting.”

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

2. Board of Director (BoD) Nominations: The president announced that Julian Lindstrom was the Nominations and Elections Chairman (NEC) and turned the gavel over to him. Lindy 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
President	Kris Hobbs	Y
Secretary	John Gray	Y
Chaplain	Ed Deitzler	Y
Storekeeper	John Hawkins	Y
MAA	Charlie Behymer	Y
Director	Guy Clemons	N
Director	Tyrus George	Y

Lindy explained that he had contacted various members in good standing to determine their interest in serving on the BOD. Tracey McDaniels had expressed an interest in serving and was nominated.

Lindy opened the floor for additional nominations, Steven Urban volunteered himself. It was moved, seconded and passed the nominations be closed.

3. 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.

Lindy 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.

4. Future Reunions:

The president announced that in 2023 the 38th reunion of the NNWA would be held in:

Region: Western US
Location: Tucson, AZ
Dates: OCT / Nov 23
Host: Tyrus and Linda George and the BOD

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

Region: Central US
Location: TBD
Dates: TBD
Host: TBD

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

Region: Eastern US
Dates: TBD
Host: TBD

5. Tyrus George discussed charitable donations using Charity Navigator, an independent nonprofit evaluator, to determine future NNWA donations. He had identified three organizations to consider:

- EOD Warrior Foundation
- Homes For Our Troops
- Our Military Kids

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

6. Lindy discussed the concerns of Mike Snyder about the remaining memorabilia that the association has. He solicited ideas from the membership on where to donate the few remaining items to. He is also going to get the POC information on the USS Hornet Museum to determine if they had utilized the items that we previously donated to them.
7. The president discussed the book that Mr. Bruce Henderson was writing on the early years of the Navy nuclear weapons program and how personnel were selected to be in the program. The president stated that Mr. Henderson's contact information would be published on the NNWA website for any members who wished to contribute information for the book.
8. The president discussed a USAF program that documented radiation exposure information. We may publish this information on the website or in the NNWA Bulletin.
9. The Storekeeper solicited member interest for windbreakers and sweatshirts to be carried in the Ships Store.

There was no other new business.

Close of Meeting:

There being no further business, at 1046 it was moved, seconded, and passed that the Annual Business Meeting be closed. It was announced that at 1115 the new BOD would convene for elections of officers and conducting of business.

At 1048 the Chaplain led the association in a closing prayer and the meeting was closed.

Liberty Call! The bar was opened!

Submitted by:

