



# NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION

"KEEPERS of the DRAGON"™  
www.navynucweps.com

## NNWA BULLETIN

**JUNE 2014**

**SUMMER ISSUE**

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The Navy Nuclear Weapons Bulletin is produced by the Association's Board of Directors and is distributed free to NNWA members. Edited by Tom Salisbury

## June 2014 NNWA President's Report

**2014 reunion in Reno, NV:** Our host, **Diana Ballard**, an Associate NNWA member, has worked overtime to arrange an interesting and enjoyable reunion from 5 through 10 October in Reno, NV. In addition to staying at the downtown Reno Ramada while visiting with friends and shipmates we will tour Virginia City, Lake Tahoe, the Donner Museum, and the eastern slope of the spectacular Sierra's. Local attractions include the National Automobile Museum, the Museum of Art, casinos, and a dinner show. For more detailed information see our website [www.navynucweps.com/](http://www.navynucweps.com/). **The Reno Reunion reservation form is attached to this newsletter.** We're looking for a good turn-out at what promises to be a thoroughly entertaining event. Sign-up now! You won't regret it.

**2015 Reunion:** We thought we had 2015 nailed down for San Antonio, TX but our prospective host and Kitty Hawk shipmate, Lonnie Cucinitti, has experienced some serious health issues that will preclude him from hosting the 2015 reunion. So we're back to the position we were in this time last year and find ourselves without a host or reunion site. The 2015 reunion is scheduled for the Central part of the country, from North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin south to Texas and Louisiana. That covers a lot of territory with a fair number of our members in residence. **Please seriously think about identifying a reunion venue and acting as host.** The Board of Directors is ready to stand behind you with moral and financial support and proven reunion guidelines. There are also a number of past hosts whom you can question about the process. We hope to announce the 2015 reunion host and site in Reno. We're also trying to identify a few candidates for the East Coast reunion in 2016. Please consider this too!

**Personal Biographies:** This may sound like an old song, but I believe it to be of great importance. As members of the once highly classified Navy Nuclear Weapons Program in the fifty years from 1947 to 1996, it is imperative that you record your experiences for posterity. For years we didn't talk about our jobs. We didn't tell our family what we did aboard ship and in the depots, or what we learned in school. We hardly spoke about the men and women with whom we worked. Didn't anyone ever ask you, as my kids asked me, "What did you do in the Navy, Daddy?" We all need to write about our experiences and get on paper the things we did and saw. As a Naval SEA Systems Command contract manager once told me, **"If it isn't written, it doesn't exist"**. In our cases, that couldn't be truer. Our experiences are unique and our memories are perishable. A history can be as simple as a list of commands and duties or as detailed as some of our members who have written virtual books about their time in the special weapons program. Writing your biography is personally rewarding, your family will be pleased with your endeavor, and, should you decide to donate it, the NNWA Historian and all the readers far into the future will appreciate your service and your effort at recording it. Take a look at the memorabilia collection and the histories there. You can do as well! Just for the record, I'm up to about page 50 on my piece, **"Special Weapons, Special People"**.

**Ladies Participation in the NNWA:** The NNWA Board of Directors wants to officially go on record and ask for increased participation in NNWA activities by our spouses and children. Over the years the Board has received sporadic comments, inputs, and a few complaints from that group and has acted on many of these, mostly, by modifying our reunion activities. Though our spouses and children are generally not NNWA voting members, we believe increased active participation by them can only lead to a more robust organization. A prime example is Diana Ballard, an Associate Member, and our 2014 reunion host without whom we would be in real trouble. Accordingly, the NNWA Board of Directors cordially invites all reunion attendees to join us at our Business Meeting, offer comments from the floor, and generally begin to exercise a greater influence on the proceedings of the NNWA. Our 2014 Business Meeting will convene at 9AM on Friday, 9 October in the Reno Ramada hospitality room. We are looking forward to seeing many new faces in the room.

**Membership:** Since October 2013 the current Board of Directors, primarily the Secretary, Treasurer, and Webmaster, has actively contacted members whose dues are in arrears or are past members who have not paid dues in three or more years. Initially they were contacted by letter, then e-mail and telephone as necessary. There are now 375 persons in those categories. Unfortunately, we have learned of six members

