

# NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION

“KEEPERS of the DRAGON”©™

## NNWA Bulletin



January 2017



Our website address is: [www.navynucweeps.com](http://www.navynucweeps.com)

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### NNWA Board Members 2016-2017

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Director	Richard Gurule	575-781-0031	<a href="mailto:boardmember3@navynucweeps.com">boardmember3@navynucweeps.com</a>
Director	John Hawkins	239-540-1830	<a href="mailto:boardmember6@navynucweeps.com">boardmember6@navynucweeps.com</a>

Service Officer: Chuck Weber

Gray Dragon: John Cummings

## **President's Message**

Greetings fellow Dragon Keepers;

As we enter into the New Year, I trust that everyone had a safe and pleasant holiday season. The year 2016 was very productive and positive. Our Indianapolis reunion was very successful. Our hosts Guy and Regenia Clemons put forth a great effort, and a considerable amount of time to ensure that we all had a super time. The comradery, social events, and tours were top notch. A trip to the Indianapolis Raceway, a visit to a glass factory, and a tour of a local television station were a few of the highlights. Well done, Guy and Regenia! I also want to thank the NNWA Ladies Group for all of their efforts and support.

Our election of board members saw the departure of Jack Grieves. Jack served on the board for 9 years as our Storekeeper. Jack's smiling face and great support will be sorely missed. Our newly elected board member is Robert Fischer. Robert and his wife Francisca provided a lumpia feed that was one of the reunion highlights. Robert is actively working on expanding our membership and is a welcome addition to the board of directors.

For 2017 we are planning our reunion for September 18th through September 23rd. The location is at the Crowne Plaza located at Hotel Circle in the Mission Valley area of San Diego. We are also looking at a tour of the USS Midway, the San Diego Zoo and a San Diego harbor cruise.

For this year's reunion we are trying something different - we will be utilizing an organization called Military Reunion Planners (MRP). MRP provides the negotiations necessary for the hotel, tours and banquet. Plus they will provide a certain amount of administrative support. They were chosen due their outstanding reputation and eagerness to meet our needs. We are working with them to ensure that they can provide a representative to attend our reunion, that way they

can appreciate what a fine group of "Dragon Keepers" we are. To know us is to love us!

As we have announced in previous communications, our Historian Guy Clemons, will not be standing for re-election in 2017. Repeated requests for someone to step up and volunteer have not been successful. I ask that you consider assuming this position. The board will be discussing possible options if we lose this important position. If you have any interest or questions please feel free to contact either Guy Clemons at askthechief90@yahoo.com or myself at tbsalis@yahoo.com.

For those of you that have provided memorabilia to the NNWA, we are currently in the process of sending letters requesting that you indicate if it was your intention to only loan the memorabilia or if it was your intent to donate the items to the NNWA. Whether the items you provided are to be considered on loan, or your intention was that the items become NNWA property, it is requested that the forms which are provided be completed and returned in the provided stamped and addressed envelope. That way we can follow your intended disposition for the items.

The list we are providing has been copied from the memorabilia portion of the "Members Section". If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact either Guy Clemons or myself.

Tom Salisbury  
NNWA President

## **Vice-President's Message**

Hello shipmates,

As the association Vice President, I want to welcome all of our new and reinstated members to the Navy Nuclear Weapons Association (NNWA) – you have joined a very unique group of individuals.

## Secretary's Message

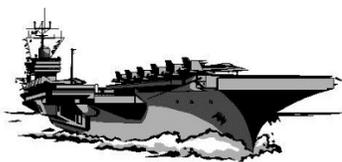
If by some chance you could not attend our most recent reunion in Indianapolis, Indiana, this past September, you really missed a fun packed week. It was nice to see old friends and shipmates again. I think everyone had a wonderful time, I know Lynn and I sure did. The reunion was huge success. Guy and Regina Clemons did a terrific job organizing things for the reunion to ensure we all had a wonderful time. A big BRAVO ZULU goes out to Guy and Regina.

There were some Bi-laws and PDL/SOP changes presented to the Board of Directors (BOD) at our last Board of Directors meeting in Indianapolis and the BOD accepted them. The proposed changes will make it easier for the BOD to operate and clarifies a few things that have been a little confusing in the past.

At the last BOD meeting in Indianapolis I volunteered to be the Presiding Officer over the nominations and elections for BOD positions that are expiring in 2017. If you currently are in a BOD expiring position and wish to remain in that position for another two years please let me know your intentions to remain in that position. Additionally, if you are not a member of the BOD and would like to serve on the BOD please let me know and I will place your name in consideration for an open BOD position. So far, it looks like we are going to have at least two BOD openings this year - Historian and Vice President

Lynn and I are really looking forward to seeing you all at the NNWA's 32nd reunion in San Diego, California 18 – 23 September 2017. I am sure it is going be another great reunion. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions, or I can assist you in any way.

Tonie



The association's annual reunion was held at the Lexington Hotel in Indianapolis, IN from 12- 16 SEP 16. Member pictures taken during the reunion are posted on the NNWA website on the Annual Reunion page.

The Annual Business Meeting was held on 16 September during the reunion. The most notable items from the meeting were that Jack Grieves was stepping down from the board, with Dwight Chipperfield assuming the duties of Storekeeper, and that with the Historian stepping down from the board in 2017 the memorabilia collection would likely be disposed of by either returning the items to the original donors or gifting them to a museum. The meeting minutes are available in the Members Only section of the NNWA website. For many, the biggest item of interest was that the president announced that in 2017 the 32nd reunion of the NNWA would be held in:

Region:	Western US
Location:	San Diego, CA
Host:	Tom Salisbury and the BOD

As there was no member volunteering to host a West Coast reunion in 2017, the association will be using a military reunion planner. If the experience is a good one then the association may continue to do so for future reunions. Details on the 33rd NNWA reunion to be held in 2018 as known so far:

Region:	Mid US
Location:	TBD
Host:	Likely the BOD

As I see it, the fact that it is getting harder to find association members to volunteer to host a reunion and the disbanding of our memorabilia collection are indicators that we are an aging group. While the last WT didn't retire until several years later, the last influx of personnel into our program ended with the formal announcement of the

disestablishment of the Weapons Technician rating back in October 1994. Currently the Missile Technician (Submarines) rating are the personnel who are responsible for the assembly, maintenance and repair of nuclear-capable ballistic missiles carried on submarines and are eligible for membership in our association, but the reality is very few show an interest in becoming members. Also, the comradery between the WT and MT groups is likely not there because of a lack of shared experiences. The end result will probably be that our organization will fade away as we all pass on. We have to consider that the end of our annual get-togethers may not be too far off.

On a more positive note, as far as our reunion in San Diego, one of the more popular tourist stops is the USS Midway CV-41 Museum where you can experience life at sea without leaving port. Okay, maybe you won't get to enjoy eating that great Navy chow, drink JP5 infused water, or listen to the gentle pitter-patter of needle guns, but it should bring back some good memories for all us old bird-farm sailors. The last time I visited the museum the W-Division spaces were not open for tours but the Marine post leading into the spaces were restored and "manned." For more information on the museum, their website:

[www.midway.org](http://www.midway.org)

For beer aficionados, a local brewery close to the reunion hotel is San Diego Brewing Company at 10450 Friars Road. They have at least 45 beers on tap, and for those who are interested they do have a good food menu. Here is their website:

[www.sandiegobrewing.com](http://www.sandiegobrewing.com)

One of my favorite bars in San Diego is the Aero Club at 3365 India Street, built in 1947. The iconic neon sign, visible on the hill in back of Lindbergh Airport, is of a Delta Dart. They have 20 taps including several English and Irish beers. More importantly they have over 800 whiskeys available and have been recognized as one of the top whiskey bars in the U.S. Probably an even

bigger honor was that the Aero Club has been named one of America's top dive bars by Maxim. You should eat before you visit, and be aware that parking is somewhat limited. Their website is:

<http://aeroclubar.com>

We hope to see you all in sunny San Diego!

All the Best,  
John

### **Treasurer's Message**

As Treasurer and keeper of the roster, let me welcome our new and reinstated members since the last newsletter. We have 13 new and reinstated members since the last newsletter. They are:

Lynden L. Rader  
Rocco J. Sgro  
Harry Burris  
Burr C. Hartman  
Richard Molck  
James Goff  
George Colburn

Stanley Lee  
Bruce Brents  
Roger Hollister  
George Hartman  
Carl Rorden  
Walter Neitch

We now have 791 members listed on the membership roster; 693 members in good standing; 47 life members (spouses of deceased members); 282 past members (Members with unpaid dues for three years; 98 members with dues in arrears; and one honorary member (NAAV).

Past members can be reinstated by sending the \$10.00 reinstatement fee plus \$10.00 for a total of \$20 and will they be reinstated as a new member. This effective dues policy is because of the cost of mailing newsletters and reunion information.

If you are unsure whether your dues are up to date and you receive your newsletters by mail, look at the date in the upper right corner of the mailing which shows the month and year to which your

dues are paid. If you receive your newsletter electronically, log onto our web site:

[www.navynucweps.com](http://www.navynucweps.com)

The dues date will be listed in the date column to the right of your name on the membership roster. Some members find it convenient to pay several years in advance. This can save you postage and can save the Treasurer, Secretary, and Web Master time in processing payments.

The following members have been recently been listed as past members because their dues have been in arrears for three years:

David Evans	Robert Griffin
John R. Lee	Joel Lawery
Charles Pass	Bill Short
John A. Slayton	Charles Thomas
Timothy J. Welsh	Louis Castronova
Harris Vance	

If you know the status of any of these members, please notify the Treasurer or any board member.

The current membership roster is posted on our website. Members not online may request a hard copy by calling or writing me at:

Don Schultz  
573 Beaulieu Loop  
The Villages, Florida 32162

My phone number is 352.259.1403. For our survival it is imperative that we keep our roster up to date. Some members have indicated they are not receiving our newsletter. Please review the roster and notify the Treasurer, Don Schultz, or any board member of any changes in your status.

Currently, we have \$24,656.23 on deposit with Wells Fargo Bank.

When making payments to NNWA, please make your checks payable to NNWA Treasurer, or Donald Schultz NNWA Treasurer, or Donald

Schultz. The bank will not accept checks made out any other way.

Donald K. Schultz  
Treasurer and Keeper of the Roster



### **Historian's Message**

With the Microsoft Access Navy Nuclear Weapons Membership information program up and running this database that will continue to grow with new members and their data. Once your information is in the system it is in there forever. Through the Access program we currently have the following reports that we can print out:

- Rank report,
- Program entry date (this report helps us identify the Gray Dragon)
- Member contact list (All past/present members)
- Duty station report
- Member contact report includes all past/present members, this report includes all past members that have been removed from the Treasurers Roster.

As of 30 November 2016 we have 1052 Past/Present members entered in the database. Out of the 1052 shipmates 615 are listed with their duty stations. This information comes from a members application form or them filling out the personal profile sheet and mailing it to me. This is

why I ask everyone to write your military history down with duty stations and dates in the Navy. That way I can enter your history into the database. But I can ONLY do that if you write it down and email or mail it to me.

WTC (AW) Guy Clemons

USN Ret.  
NNWA Historian

P.S. As all of you know I will be stepping down as your Historian. In the past 3 years serving you as your Historian I have set up the Access Program (with a lot of help from Melissa Cearlock). Every item in our inventory has been documented and photographed. I will work with the next Historian to have a smooth turnover of all items and reports to whomever he or she may be.

### Master at Arms Message

#### REUNION RAFFLES, DOOR PRIZES, and GIFT EXCHANGE INFORMATION

**Raffles:** During our days/nights at our reunions, the MAA and his Deputy will be floating around the Hospitality Room selling tickets for the 50-50 drawing at the Dinner Dance. The tickets are \$1.00 for one or \$5.00 for 6, \$10.00 for 12, and a special \$50.00 will get you 75 tickets. At the Dinner Dance drawing, 50% of the money collected goes to the winner, and the other 50% goes back to the Association to help defray costs associated with the Reunion.

The Ladies Auxiliary sells tickets for the beautiful jewelry that is displayed. The ticket prices are the same as above. Whatever is left from the jewelry purchase is returned to the Association.

**Door Prizes:** The Dinner Dance door prizes vary by location. The prizes are determined by the Reunion Host. Each person gets one ticket upon entering the Dinner Dance.

**Gift Exchange:** The Gift Exchange is a gift representing your locale. Each person or couple is encouraged to bring your gift(s) to the Dinner Dance. You will be given a ticket for each gift you bring. During the Dinner Dance, we will be calling people up to choose a new gift. The price range for the gifts is \$10-\$20.

**Dinner Dance Drawings:** The drawings will be coordinated by the Host, MAA, and Ladies Auxiliary. The drawings will begin at the completion of dinner. The goal is to have all drawings completed within an hour.

**The Master at Arms (MAA):** During the Reunion, when you see the MAA in his black sheriff's hat, he is on duty and selling tickets!

Ron Moran  
NNWA MAA

### Webmaster's Message

Remember – about the first of each month, I will send out an e-mail detailing the changes to the newsletter during the prior month. If you don't get your monthly e-mail, please let me know so I can update the e-mail list.

I also review dues expirations monthly and send e-mails to those who have gone delinquent. When you get the monthly web update e-mail is a good change to check your dues expiration and save the embarrassment of my "friendly" reminder.

We have, currently, about 584 names listed on the Memorial page but we have only 458 names listed on our active members' roster. We are a dying breed. If you hear of anyone who was in the Navy's nuclear weapons program who has passed on and they are not listed on the Memorial page, please let me know. I would like to get their name, date of passing, and their highest rank/rate.

This does not have to be someone who has recently passed.

We have had several folks provide almost 300 photos from our Indianapolis reunion. Thanks to Buddy Paul for doing the Dinner Dance portraits and thanks also to Guy Clemens, Ron Moran, and your webmaster for providing us with memories.

Finally, we have had the same Members only password for a couple of years and it is time to change it. The new password, which will go in effect about February 1<sup>st</sup>, will be emailed to each member. If you don't receive it or don't have an email address, let the webmaster or Secretary know and one of us will ensure you get the new website Members Only area password. Please note that the password is case sensitive.

Ray C. Margeson  
NW, GMT, WTCS – USNRET  
[rmargeson@aol.com](mailto:rmargeson@aol.com)

### **Service Officer's Message**

Chuck Weber serves as the NNWA Service Officer. He regularly posts information regarding veteran's benefits on the NNWA website. Chuck encourages members to contact him with questions and concerns regarding their service related benefits. His email is:

[serviceofficer@navynucweps.com](mailto:serviceofficer@navynucweps.com)

### **Ladies Voice**

Ladies

We had a good reunion last year in Indianapolis. This year it will be in San Diego. Instead of someone from the NNWA volunteering to Host this reunion NNWA has contracted a Reunion Planner, so the Board of Director is acting as the Reunion Host. Tom, our gracious President, would like very much for the ladies to run the check-in/

registration desk. I know there are a few of you ladies who just love to get involved and make things run smoothly. Anyone wanting to spread some cheer by volunteering to assist with the Registration desk to please contact me. Tom wants the check-in process to be organized for this next reunion. Any and all suggestions are always welcome.

At our last reunion there didn't seem to be much of an interest in an organized Ladies group so just know that the games will be there for anyone's use at each of the reunions and feel free to challenge someone to a game! The name of "Ladies Voice" will remain for all newsletter articles. On that note, any ladies who would like to add to our inputs for Ladies Voice in the future, don't hesitate to contact me and we will make sure your voice is heard!

Happy New Years to you all!

Bethany Gray  
NNWA Ladies Voice  
360-620-0098  
[Bethany.a.gray@wavecable.com](mailto:Bethany.a.gray@wavecable.com)

### **Upcoming Reunion Information**

While the exact tours are not yet set in stone, the following information on the 2017 reunion has been provided by Military Reunion Planners to show what is being considered.

The Hotel for the 2017 San Diego reunion is the Crowne Plaza San Diego Hotel, located at 2270 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, California 92108.

The hotel room rate is \$119.00 plus tax per night, based on single or double occupancy, including a complimentary breakfast buffet. For those who choose to arrive early or stay late, the same room rate is available 3 days before and 3 days after the official reunion dates, based on availability.

# NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION

## 2017 REUNION

### San Diego, CA / September 17-23, 2017



### Welcome to San Diego

Whether it's your first trip or tenth trip to [San Diego](#), you will find plenty of new and exciting attractions to keep you busy. Of course, one thing stays the same... the near perfect weather that beckons you! Planned reunion events include a sightseeing [Harbor cruise](#), a trip to the [Midway](#) and a chance to spend some time in [Seaport Village](#) and possibly the famous [San Diego Zoo](#). San Diego is the perfect location for the Navy Nuclear Weapons Association reunion. Family and friends are welcome!

### Hotel Information

We are holding group space from Sunday, September 17 through Saturday, September 23. We will be staying at the [Crowne Plaza San Diego Hotel](#), located at 2270 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, California 92108. The hotel room rate is **\$119.00** plus tax per night, based on single or double occupancy, including a **complimentary breakfast buffet**. For those who choose to arrive early or stay late, the same room rate is available 3 days before and 3 days after the official reunion dates, based on availability. If you have any difficulty getting a room at the group rate call MRP at 817-251-3551, we may be able to help.

[Click here to make hotel reservations on-line](#) or call **888-233-9527** between 9am-5pm PST. MRP has negotiated numerous amenities for you but only those booking under **Navy Nuclear Weapons Association** are eligible for amenities that may include free breakfast, parking, internet, etc. Booking through another channel like [reunionhotels.com](#) disqualifies you and your party from group amenities).



Please mention that you are with the Navy Nuclear Weapon Association Reunion to assure you are associated with your group. The published hotel check-in time is 4:00pm. Make your reservations **NOW**; you can cancel up to 24 hours prior to arrival **without penalty**. The hotel is holding a limited number of rooms until the group block is full or **August 18, 2017**, whichever comes first. Don't delay! If you have any trouble getting rooms at the group rate even if they say the hotel is sold out, or have questions on the program call MRP @ 817-251-3551 or email: [Eileen@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com](mailto:Eileen@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com)

### Airport Transportation & Parking

The closest airport is San Diego International Airport (SAN). *Super Shuttle* offers shuttle service from the airport to the Crown Plaza Hotel. Transportation cost is approximately \$13.00 per person, each way. Super Shuttle can be reached at 800-974-8885 or on line at [www.supershuttle.com](http://www.supershuttle.com). Reservations are recommended. For those of you driving, the hotel is extending complimentary self-parking. [Click here for directions to the hotel](#).

**Travel safely and we will ....**

**See you in San Diego!**



[Excellence in Reunion Planning](#)