



# NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION

"KEEPERS of the DRAGON"™

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

## NNWA BULLETIN

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# The President's Message

January 2014

Greetings fellow Dragon Keepers;

I trust you all enjoyed pleasant winter holidays with family and friends. For Jean and me, it was one of the best in recent memory. We recovered from our 60 day, 8800 mile, "round the country" jaunt via upstate NY, Pigeon Forge, TN, GA, FL, TX and parts west just in time for several birthdays, Thanksgiving, then onto Christmas with its' gift selecting, tree trimming, and outside decorations.

As you know, our 2013 reunion, hosted by Frank Cantrell and Brenda Kelly, was held at Pigeon Forge, TN in October. We had the third largest turnout of all the NNWA reunions with approximately 120 in attendance. I can only begin to tell you how enjoyable the entire affair was. The Oak Tree Lodge was an outstanding selection with the hotel service, food service, and hospitality among the best we've ever experienced. There was something interesting and exciting at every turn. Our tour to Oak Ridge National Laboratory and National Museum of Science and Energy was beyond description. We saw displays and remnants of the Manhattan Project and were guided through modern research facilities by highly trained and experienced scientists. The NNWA was granted the final in-depth tour of Oak Ridge. Future tours will be severely curtailed for cost savings. When coupled with past NNWA reunion visits to White Sands Missile Range, Trinity Site, Nevada Test Site, Sandia Laboratory Museum, and Los Alamos National Laboratory; we've covered just about all of our special weapons history. After Oak Ridge we were treated to a walking tour of the fabulous Biltmore Estates with its' home and gardens and a driving trip through the Great Smoky Mountains. The weather cooperated spectacularly and from all accounts, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thank You Frank and Brenda! Yours was a flawless performance.

We seated a new NNWA Board of Directors in October with a bit of rearranging and one new member. Tom Salisbury relieved Davy Cobb as Secretary. Dave served on the Board and as Secretary for more than ten years. This newsletter is Tom's first product and I think it turned out well. Thank you Tom for assuming this important and time consuming role. Guy Clemons, our latest addition, relieved me as Historian of thirteen years and enclosed our irreplaceable store of memorabilia in a dedicated trailer, something we've contemplated for years. We look forward to his display innovations. Larry Sneide hung up his red shirt this year and declined nomination to the board. A long-time board member, Larry strongly contributed to the organization and structure we now bring to reunion planning. All other Board members retain their current functions. Webmaster, Ray Margeson, consulted with Chuck Weber, Service Officer, and together initiated a new section of the website entitled "Service Officer". Chuck is updating this section almost daily adding current information and removing obsolete items.

Finally, your Board is working with prospective hosts to identify the site of the 2014 reunion. While not yet firm we are investigating two locations in Nevada. Our charter recommends we hold reunions between mid-September and mid-October each year and it appears we will be able to satisfy that tasking. The NNWA Board will publish a special e-mail, Facebook, and printed newsletter announcing our decision as soon as possible, but most likely in March. Keep the fall dates open! Despite the late announcement, the 2014 reunion promises to be another good one.

I wish all of you **HAPPY NEW YEAR** with the hope that it will be productive, safe, and healthy.

Thank You for the opportunity to continue to perform as your President. Remember, you can write to me or any member of the Board with issues, questions, or your memoirs.

Mike Snyder

Vice Presidents Message

