

NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION

“KEEPERS of the DRAGON”©™

NNWA Bulletin



June 2024



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NNWA Board Members 2023-2024

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Director	Charlie Mitchell	512-797-9644	boardmember6@navynucweps.com
Director	Ron Shirley	760-519-2016	boardmember3@navynucweps.com

Gray Dragon: Robert A. Mowry

President's Message

Keepers of the Dragon,

We have made it another year and the Central USA 39th reunion in Branson, MO will soon be upon us.



Portrait of a young SN Robert Mowry, the NNWA's 4th Gray Dragon.

On 28 April 24 I had the great pleasure and honor to officially recognize and to present the certificate and other goodies to the 4th Gray Dragon. Robert A. Mowry of Williamsburg, IA. Yes, he was finally found after extensive research of the living and active members of the association. His life as a nuclear weapon technician is on the current website as well as the TV coverage. Please check it out if you haven't already. He is also an Atomic Veteran as well and witnessed 17 nuclear Weapons tests and the first hydrogen bomb test.

This brings up something to all active, inactive, and past members of the NNWA. Please let your next of kin know that you are a member of the NNWA or a nuclear weapons technician rate and upon your departure to the Staff of The Great Commander, let the NNWA know of their passing. This is to add them to our memorial wall of past nuclear technicians, NW/GMT, and WT. Some are up in the years and if you are not an active member, have your NOK notify the

Association of their passing so they may also be added to the memorial with obituary if possible. Thank you.

The 2025 reunion is in Nashville TN, and in that area we have three (3) active members, two (2) inactive (dues have not been paid for two years), and seven (7) inactive members (due have expired three or more years). To save funding for the reunions, a local host is most needed to assist with the planning of the reunion in the reunion city. This will save funding to check out the hotel and stuff in the reunion site. You can get paid mileage or flight and car rental and hotel stay to check out the hotel and work with the reunion planners. The Board of Directors is always there to assist and help with the final set up and getting items for the hospitality room. The host normally gets a complementary room at the hotel. We need assistance in the cities that the reunion is planned for. If not, we may have to think of other venues for reunions as it is costly for planning and trips.

The 2026 reunion is in Albuquerque, NM and the host is our own Richard Gurule. It could be in August or November time frame. September and October are busy with the State Fair and Balloon Fest in October, so hotels are already booked up and high in price. Stand by for updates on the website or next bulletin.

We are currently updating our website to coincide with the 21st century. More information will be in the bulletin.

Thank you and see you in Branson, MO.
Kris A Hobbs
NNWA President



Vice-President's Message

Fellow Members,

I am honored to be your Vice President. As a reminder it is the Vice President's responsibility to maintain the SOP/PDL document, keeping it accurate and current. If you have any recommended changes to this document then forward them to a board member for consideration. If approved I will update the SOP/PDL with the change.

This Spring I've had the pleasure of collaborating with Ron Shirley and the Board to ensure there is a path forward with the creation of our new NNWA Website that is sure to make everyone happy. Goals have been set and are currently on track to be met.

This year's NNWA Reunion will be in Branson, Missouri. Chip and Shelley Chipperfield are our Hosts and are working tirelessly to ensure we have a successful fun filled event. This is not their first rodeo and will do a great job. I know I am looking forward to seeing every one of you this year.

The president with the concurrence of the BOD has proposed several changes to the NNWA By-Laws this term. Because of space considerations I am publishing two in this bulletin, the others were in the January bulletin. The first change below makes the association compliant with the current IRS membership requirements. It is proposed that in Article IV, the current Section 5 be eliminated, and the following be inserted as the new Section 2:

“SECTION 2 ORGANIZATION
MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Per the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) a veterans organization/community must meet the following member requirements to be exempt under section 501(c)(19):

- *At least 75 percent of its members must be past or present members of the United States Armed Forces*

- *At least 97.5 percent of its members must be:*

- *present or former members of the United States Armed Forces,*

- *spouses, widows, widowers, ancestors, or lineal descendants of individuals referred to in the first bullet*

The President, Treasurer, and Secretary will endeavor to ensure that the NNWA complies with the IRS member requirements.”

All following sections will be renumbered.

Another change establishes a stipend for the Storekeeper. The BOD approved this stipend after the last reunion to simplify transactions between the Storekeeper and Treasurer. It is proposed that Article IX Section 3, D, 2 be changed to read:

“All expenses and accounts will be balanced during the reunion: Secretary - \$1,000, Historian - \$300, Storekeeper - \$500.”

See you all at our next NNWA reunion in Branson!

Bethany
NNWA Vice President

Secretary's Message

Fellow Weaponeers,

I want to address a couple of questions that I hear often from our members.

Number One is *“Why don't we institute a Life Membership?”*

The BOD has considered implementing a “Life Membership” and decided not to. Factors considered included how other organizations structured their fee based on member age, that the NNWA is a "dying" organization and no new younger members in the pipeline to replace us, that \$15 per year is really not that expensive, and that only a few members wanted a Life Membership. It was felt that members could alternately just make a one-time payment for multiple years of membership. The fact that we don't have a Life Membership may keep a few people from joining but in the end we determined that the juice wasn't worth the squeeze just to please just a few people.

Comments related to question Number One include – “*The Board is just collecting dues in order to pad the association bank account.*” This leads to question Number Two – “*Why do we need to keep collecting dues? Doesn't the association have enough money already?*”

One might presume that as the association collects \$15 per year per member with apparently very little to spend it on that we seem to be unnecessarily banking a lot of money. However, our annual operating expenses include costs for website hosting fees to keep our website online, printing and postage for membership packets and the bi-annual mailing of the Bulletin, shipping Historian items to and from reunion locations, travel costs for the President to present Gray Dragon awards, funding a trip to the reunion location for a host to coordinate reunion activities and requirements, purchase of Hospitality Room supplies including alcohol/drinks/food, and paying for the traditional reunion Meet & Greet lumpia or pizza party at no cost to attendees.

Our reunions tours usually require a minimum number of signups for the tour operator to run the tour. If we are short a few members for the tour to run, the association typically covers the cost to ensure the tour is not cancelled rather than seeing our members disappointed.

We generally donate about \$1,000 annually to a charitable organization that serves veterans, ones that have very low administrative costs so that most of the monies go to the intended purpose.

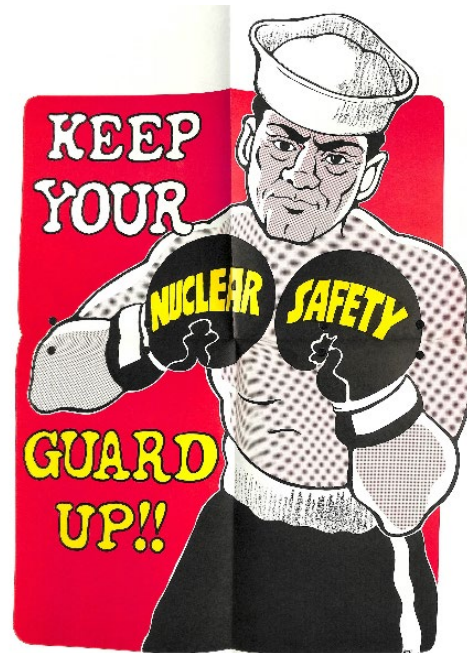
This year we are paying to convert our website to up to date code which should support online payment of membership dues and for payments to the Storekeeper.

Additionally, we must maintain a certain balance in order to cover any reunion costs that must be prepaid prior to receiving any monies from reunion attendees.

As you can imagine – this all adds up. Hopefully the above information explains how your membership dues are utilized. If not or if you have any other questions feel free to ask any Board Member, we are here to serve you.

Lastly, in Branson I intend to end my tour of duty as your Secretary – it is time to pass the torch.

John



Treasurer's Message

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

Lee Duval	John Sinitski
Robert Brusio	Frank Dolsak
Roger Curtis	Leslie Colton
James Patterson	Jerry Stevens
Hawes Amos	Michael Whitman
Keith Kelley	Brian Ewing
James Norman	David Greene

We now have 435 members on the membership roster; 339 members in good standing; 80 life members (spouses of deceased members); 397 past members (members with unpaid dues for three years); 105 members with dues in arrears; and one reciprocal member (NAAV) and one honorary member.

Past members can be reinstated by sending the \$10.00 reinstatement fee plus \$15.00 for a total of \$25.00. They will then be reinstated as a new member.

If you are unsure whether your dues are up to date and you receive your newsletter 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 website and check your membership status there in the Membership Roster. The dues date will be listed in the date column to the right of your name.

The current membership roster is posted on our website. Members not on-line can request a hard copy of the roster by calling or writing:

Donald Schultz
573 Beaulieu Loop
The Villages, FL 32163
Phone: 352-259-1403

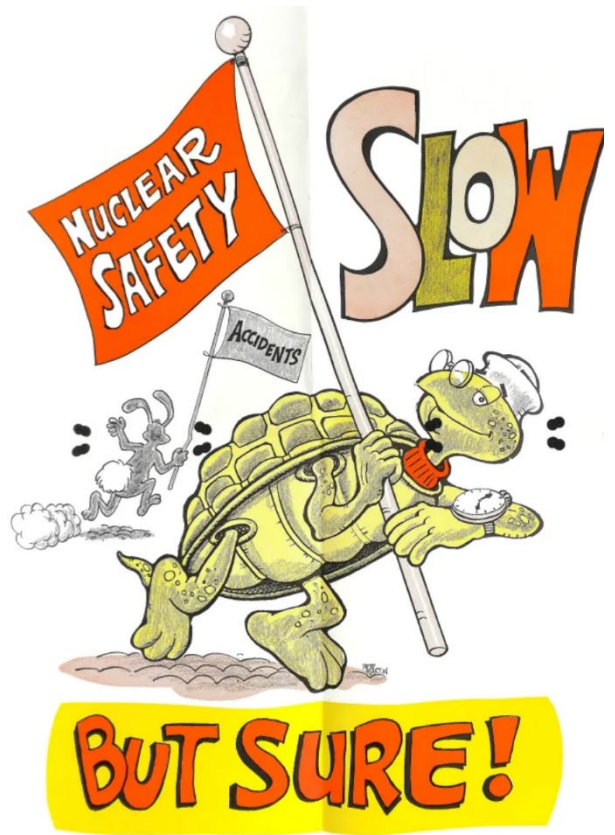
Please review the roster and notify the Treasurer or any board member of any changes in your status.

Currently, we have \$20,911.60 on deposit with Wells Fargo Bank.

Remember, if you are planning on attending any NNWA Reunion, your dues are required to be current.

When making a payment to the NNWA, please make checks payable to NNWA Treasurer or Donald Schultz NNWA Treasurer or Donald Schultz. The bank will not accept made out any other way. Please ensure that when sending money to the NNWA that it is the correct amount.

Donald K. Schultz
Treasurer and Keeper of the Roster



Future Reunions

The 39th reunion of the NNWA in 2024 will be held in:

Region: Midwestern US
Location: Branson, MO
Host: Dwight & Shelly
 Chipperfield

The 40th reunion of the NNWA in 2025 will be held in:

Region: Eastern US
Location: Nashville, TN
Host: Bethany and John Gray

The 41st reunion of the NNWA in 2026 will be held in:

Region: Western US
Location: Albuquerque, NM
Host: Richard Gurule

Upcoming Reunion Information

**NNWA 39th Annual Reunion
Branson, MO
13-17 OCT 2024**

Greetings,

Shelly and I are excited to host the 2024 reunion in Branson Missouri at the Clarion Inn Branson. The Hotel has just been remodeled and looked very nice. The owner has put a lot of work into it and is committed to making our stay a success.

There are several attractions within walking distance of the hotel as well as several restaurants. A breakfast buffet in the hotel restaurant is included in the price of the rooms.

If you have never been to Branson, there is much to do. As well as many great restaurants. You can visit <https://www.explorebranson.com> to check out all Branson has to offer. As always, the room rates will be good three days prior to the reunion as well as three days after.

Flying into Springfield is recommended by the Hotel owner and he is making arrangements for a van to make several trips a day To ferry us to the hotel. Check with the hotel when you make your reservations to find out what the schedule is. I am told it is a little over an hour trip from the airport to the hotel. Branson does have an airport. However, it is smaller and air service in and out is not as good as flying into Springfield.

There are campgrounds close to the hotel for those with RVs. There is room at the hotel for parking of RVs if you are staying in the hotel.

Reservations for the hotel, dinner dance and shows will be handled by the hotel. Reservations can be made through snail mail or by phone. Please call the Clarion Inn Branson Group Sales department between 9am and 5 pm central time at 417-251-5192. Our group name is Navy Nuclear Weapons Association.

Dwight (Chip) and Shelly Chipperfield



NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION 2024

Reunion Itinerary

Sunday, October 13:

- Registration Open in Conference Center.
- 1500 Board Of Directors Meeting
- 1800 Meet & Greet Conference Center.

Monday, October 14:

- 1000 Depart by bus to Branson's Famous Baldknobber's Show
- 1500 ETA Hotel
- Dinner and Evening on own

Tuesday, October 15:

- 1000 Depart by bus to Branson's Murder Mystery
- 1500 ETA Hotel
- Dinner and Evening on own

Wednesday, October 16:

- 1000 Depart by bus to The Haygood's
- 1500 ETA Hotel
- Dinner and Evening on own

Thursday, October 17:

- 1300 NNWA Business Meeting Junior Conference Center
- TBD Board Of Directors Meeting
- 1800 Cocktail Hour Bar/Restaurant
- 1900 Restaurant

Friday, October 18:

- Group Farewells and Departure

The Clarion Inn Branson



Proud Hosts of the 2024 NNWA Reunion

Get together at the Clarion Hotel® in Branson, Missouri, where you're within walking distance from numerous live venues and shopping at the Tanger Outlets and the Factory Merchants Mall. Conveniently located in the heart of the city, our conference center hotel in Branson is near other local points of interest such as: - White Water - Silver Dollar City - Branson Landing - Table Rock Lake - Titanic-World's Largest Museum - Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede Besides boasting more than 30 theaters—including the Andy Williams Moon River Theatre, King's Castle Theatre—and events like the Baldknobbers Jamboree and Presley's Country Jubilee, Branson is also known for its plethora of outdoor recreational opportunities available in the Ozark Mountains. We offer two pools—the one indoors is heated and also includes a sauna and whirlpool—and the other is outdoors. Additional amenities include a business center, guest laundry facilities and: - Free WiFi - Buckingham's Prime Rib and Steakhouse - Meeting space (for up to 300 people) - Ticket desk - Business center Breakfast is offered for purchase in the restaurant from 7-9 a.m. daily; and dinner from 4-9 p.m. We also offer shuttle service to Branson or Springfield Airport for a nominal fee and M. Graham Clark Downtown Airport. Catering services are also available. Get refreshed in our inviting guest rooms, all of which feature refrigerators, microwaves, TVs, coffee makers, hair dryers, irons and ironing boards. Life is better when you get together at the Clarion Hotel. Branson hotels like ours help you make the most of your time with friends, family and colleagues. Book now! **417-251-5192**
Room rate 144.00 includes breakfast buffet.

Branson Shows

Branson Murder Mystery

You follow the clues, and you get a chance to solve the murder. It's a real "Who Dun It". It's all wrapped up in one great show! Nominated in 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, & 2023 for Branson Best Dinner Show of the Year," by both Branson

Branson's Famous Baldknobbers

Featuring the Mabe family, is a country music and comedy variety show.. The Mabe family began the Branson family entertainment phenomenon 62 years ago in 1959. Today, the family continues to wow audiences as the second and third generations add their own flare to the family legacy. Their perfect blend of country music, gospel music and comedy will keep you at the edge of your seat and roaring with laughter all night long!

The Haygoods

It's "The Haygoods" an amazing Branson experience! Not your run-of-the-mill family show, these accomplished entertainers - who just happen to be siblings - dazzle audiences with innovative special effects; unsurpassed musicianship demonstrated on more than twenty instruments; sensational singing; and the most fun you've ever had during a live music show!

NNWA 2024 REUNION RESERVATION FORM

Mail checks to 2820 W 76 Country Blvd Branson MO 65616

DATE	TIME	EVENT	COST	QTY	TOTAL
		Reunion Registration - Members	\$45 pp		
		Reunion Registration – Spouse/Guest(s)	\$20 pp		
SUN 10/13	1800	Group Meet & Greet at the Hotel Conference Center	\$1pp		
MON 10/14	1000-1500	Branson’s Famous Baldknobber’s Show	\$69 pp		
TUE 10/15	1000-1500	Branson’s Murder Mystery	\$69 pp		
WED 10/16	1000-1500	The Haygood’s	\$69 pp		
THU 10/17	1300-1400	Membership Meeting	NA		
THU 10/17	1900	Farewell Banquet Dinner – make entree selection below			
		NY Strip Steak (Med)	\$65 pp		
		Grilled Salmon	\$62 pp		
		Chicken Breast	\$59 pp		
		Vegan	\$54pp		
		Standard 22% Gratuity on all meals			
TOTAL					

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

NAME (As you want it to appear on badge): _____	
SPOUSE: (First & last) _____	GUEST: _____
ADDRESS: _____	CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____
CELL PHONE: _____	EMAIL ADDRESS: _____
EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____	CELL NUMBER: _____
YEARS w/ NNWA _____ to _____	Division _____ # OF NNWA REUNIONS ATTENDED: _____
LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS (ex. dietary, wheelchair lift, etc.): _____	

RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY AUGUST 31st, 2024

Late reservations will be accepted if space is available. Please make a copy of your order prior to mailing. Note tour times are subject to change. Should you need additional information call our office Monday through Friday CST at 417-251-5192 or email us at clariongroupreservations@gmail.com

Requests for refunds must be made in writing and postmarked no later than the reservation due date. Leaving a voice mail is NOT a guarantee of cancellation. No refunds will be made after this date. Please note there is a refund processing fee of **\$10 per person** plus any credit card fee imposed by the processing company (currently 3.5%). Your cancelled check is your receipt as well as proof of purchase.

For confirmation of your reservation cancellation please email clariongroupreservations@gmail.com. Clarion Inn Branson will not be held liable for failure of vendors to provide contracted services or any injuries/accidents that may occur during the reunion. You must leave a message for a call-back. There will be a \$15 charge for orders taken over the phone. Please have your order ready before calling.

Call or email Clarion Inn if you need to create, add, cancel, or modify your reservation at 417-251-5192 or email clariongroupreservations@gmail.com We will reach back out within 48 hours if you miss us. Please leave a voice message to receive a call back.

Membership Meeting at the Hotel (Clarion Inn Conference Center)
Thursday, October 17th (1:00pm)

Farewell Banquet Dinner
Thursday, October 17th (6:00pm)

Please make entrée selection on the reservation form. Cocktails served at 6pm and dinner begins at 7pm

Reservation due by Aug 31st.