

NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION

“KEEPERS of the DRAGON”©™

NNWA Bulletin



January 2021



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NNWA Board Members 2020-2021

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|--|
| President | Kris Hobbs | 619-733-6896 | president@navynucweps.com |
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| Treasurer | Donald Schultz | 352-259-1403 | treasurer@navynucweps.com |
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| Historian | Julien (Lindy) Lindstrom | 505-999-0519 | historian@navynucweps.com |
| Webmaster | Ray C. Margeson | 607-732-0579 | boardmember2@navynucweps.com |
| Storekeeper | John Hawkins | 239-540-1830 | boardmember7@navynucweps.com |
| Director | Dwight Chipperfield | 308-760-6273 | boardmember4@navynucweps.com |
| Director | Guy Clemons | 317-285-8681 | boardmember3@navynucweps.com |
| Director | Tyrus George | 724-516-7284 | Boardmember1@navynucweps.com |

Gray Dragon: John Cummings

Service Officer: vacant

President's Message

Great New Year to all Dragon Keepers,

It is a great pleasure that I was nominated to serve as your president of the NNWA, I hope we will have a prosperous new year. 2021 is finally here and hopefully better than 2020 and that all had a great holiday season.

The 35th annual reunion was hosted by Chip and Shelly Chipperfield in Colorado Springs, CO and we had a new member, Raymond R. Breton, Jr. stand and introduce himself. It was not a great turn out with the COVID outbreak but I want to thank those that did come and make it an eventful reunion. Next reunion is in Oklahoma City, OK and hosted by Denice Young, the BOD and Military Reunion Planning.

Denice Young has stepped down from the Service Officer position and I want to thank her for a great job she did, and thank her for the presentations she provided at the annual business meeting. The Service Officer position will be vacant this year - if any one needs assistance please go to your local Veteran Service Officer at any Veteran organization or the local County Veteran Service Office sponsored by your state.

Congratulations to new Director Tyrus George and welcome back as director and assistant web master Guy Clemons. John Hawkins has stepped up to take over the Store Keeper from Chip and was also nominated and approved as the chairman of the Membership Committee with Richard E. Gurule as his assistant. John and Rick do a great job promoting the NNWA on social media such as Facebook. We all need to do our best to get old, new, and returning members into the association as we are all getting older. Chip is staying on the board as a director. Charles E. Behymer has stepped up as the new MAA.

The Chaplain and Vice President have been tasked to compile a list of members located in each of the three reunion area regions. Once completed a

potential realignment or combining of the reunion area boundaries based on membership location may put to the membership in a survey. This will be put out by the webmaster and sent to all active members. At this time, we have no definite location for the 2023 reunion currently scheduled in the West.

Thanks goes out to the current board for all their help in the coming year and I hope all are well and blessed.

See you in OK CITY.
Kris A Hobbs
NNWA President

Vice-President's Message

Fellow Members,

I am honored to be your Vice President and would like to welcome all new board members.

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.

Four years ago we began using a Military Reunion Planner to set up our reunions. This has helped tremendously with planning but we are in need of Hosts! The planner cannot do this alone. A member needs to be the host. If anyone has an interest in being a reunion host please contact one of the board members and we will assist in getting you started, and the BoD is always there to assist.

We have John Hawkins recruiting new members and doing such a good job we would like some of these new members consider stepping up and serving as board members. It takes a year or two experience as a board member before holding an office. If you are interested please let a board member know.

We had a good attendee turnout at our reunion in Colorado Springs despite this being such a trying year. We had such a good time, come join us in Oklahoma City, OK. Denice Young will be our Host. We are looking forward to our next reunion.

Happy New Year!
Bethany
NNWA Vice President

Secretary's Message

Fellow Weaponeers,

Our upcoming reunion will be held in Oklahoma City, OK. As many NNWA members may know – Oklahoma has a strong Navy history including involvement in the nuclear weapons program.

The U.S. Naval Ammunition Depot at McAlester was built as one of the new military installations needed when the United States became involved in World War II. As the United States prepared for possible entry into the war, the military began to consider the construction of ammunition depots located inland. Once the United States entered the conflict, these plans took on new urgency.

The U.S. Navy sent officials to McAlester while they were visiting several possible sites around the country. McAlester was an ideal location; it was far enough inland and lay at the intersections of major highways and railroads. The large land area southwest of the city was of fairly low quality and was sparsely populated, so acquisition of the area would cause few problems. In addition to McAlester's civic leaders and officials of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas and Rock Island railroads heavily promoted the area.

On 10 June 1942, the Navy announced that it had chosen McAlester for one of its new depots. A contract was awarded to the Brown-Bellows Construction Company of Houston, and construction began in August 1942. Delays were caused by the weather, poor ground conditions, and a shortage of qualified workers, but progress

was rapid enough for commissioning ceremonies to be held for NAD McAlester on 20 May 1943. The first munitions were produced in September.

Although the work force, which peaked at more than eight thousand in 1945, was reduced significantly following World War II, the depot continued to be an important production and storage facility. Employment increased to about three thousand during the Korean conflict. After the work force dropped to about 600 in the late 1950s, the depot again employed three thousand to supply United States forces in Vietnam.

On 1 October 1977, the depot became the U.S. Army Ammunition Plant, as a result of the Department of Defense's decision to place the army in charge of conventional ammunition for all the armed forces in order to increase efficiency.

Source: www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=US002

Located at the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant is the Special Weapons Division - a detachment of Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head Division. Per the NAVSEA website the Special Weapons Division supports Navy special weapons, provides an array of engineering services, technical publication support services, logistics support services, safety program services, and inspection services on assigned weapons systems. The division also provides depot maintenance and repair services on trainers, ancillary support equipment, inert components, and containers, as well as manufactures special purpose support equipment. I went to several conferences at the Special Weapons Division during my time in the program – and many NNWA members came from the McAlester area – with those members hosting reunions in Tulsa in 1986 and Oklahoma City in 1995.

We won't be visiting McAlester for any tours, but there are many attractions to see in Oklahoma City including a multitude of craft breweries. I am sure our reunion host will arrange a variety of tours that will make the reunion memorable. Start

making your plans early - I and the rest of the Board of Directors hope to see you there.

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 24 new and reinstated members. They are:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Paul Fegan | Richard Perras |
| Donald Clairmont | David Meier |
| James Morrison | Victor Gonyea |
| John Thomas | Dewey Thedford |
| Terry Brady | Dennis Tonnon |
| Harvey Palmer | Roger Lankford |
| Charles Warthling | Danny Rider |
| Michael Synder | Herbert Harfst |
| James Smith | Jerald King |
| Robert F. Dunn | David Beach |
| Howard R. Raikowski | Lisa Thomas |
| John A. Thomas | |

We now have 1007 members listed on the membership roster; 440 members in good standing; 64 life members (spouses of deceased members); 490 past members (members with unpaid dues for three years); 106 members with dues in arrears; and one reciprocal member (NAAV).

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 yours 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 on the membership roster.

Beginning in January 2020, NNWA Membership dues were increased to \$15.00 per year. Any dues received in the incorrect amount will be returned to the sender.

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 \$24,332.37 on deposit with Wells Fargo Bank.

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

Chaplain's Corner

Greetings Everyone,

Greeting everyone, I hope you all had a happy holiday season and a blessed new year. I also hope that this finds you all in decent health and coping with the current situation that we all are in at this time. 2020 sure had been a year to reckon with but we know we have something better to look forward to as we sail into more of 2021.

The Supreme Commander has seen us through the storms of 2020 and will continue to do as we travel forward. I put my trust in the one that looks over us and know that he will keep us in his care. There are times we may feel that things are really bad for us but if we look around at others we may see that that other person may have it worse or may not be as fortunate as we may be. It is at that time that we should be there for them. We may not be able to do much but maybe we can provide a meal, maybe pay a debt for them, or even something as little as offering a word of comfort or encouragement. We are all shipmates and are there for each other.

As your chaplain, I am here for you, all of you. If you would like me to send a card of any kind (birthday, get well, etc.) to one of shipmates please contact me by email with the information and I will be glad to do it. As with a number of us, I am not good on the telephone as I hear and understand about 40% less of what is said.

As we venture further into the year and hoping that things do change, I look forward to seeing you in OKC for our Annual Reunion 2021. Until then please stay safe and take care of your families.

Chaplain Ed Deitzler

Historian's Message

Merry Christmas Shipmates!

Although we had an understandably small turnout at the reunion the group was enthusiastic. Kris Hobb's photos of all W-Divisions and tender crews were fantastic. Brought back a lot of great memories. We are looking forward to Oklahoma City next year.

Continuing with what turned out to be my last conversations with Steve Kasunic, original member of the Manhattan Project:

Steve wanted to talk about the most incredible thing he was ever involved with at Los Alamos,

and it didn't happen until 5 years after the war ended. He had already said he knew Army Sgt. David Greenglass, but would save that subject – espionage – for later, and now was the time. He wanted to tell the whole story, which started with the depth of Soviet spying. Russia was the world's master at penetrating foreign governments - Germany of course, but especially Britain and the US. All were riddled with Soviet spies, and at the highest levels. For years, every secret communication between Churchill and Roosevelt, and later Truman, was in Stalin's hands within hours. In fact, Britain's head of counterespionage was Russian spy Kim Philby – he was actually hunting himself! Harry Dexter White, Roosevelt's Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, was a Russian agent, as was Alger Hiss, one of the very top advisors in the State Dept.

Russia had two gigantic spy agencies – the NKVD, the political arm which morphed into the KGB, and eventually the FSB, and the military branch, which was, and still is the GRU. The very paranoid Stalin pitted them against each other. The Manhattan Project had the code name “Enormoz”. Virtually every site in the Project had at least one spy, either NKVD or GRU.

British and US intelligence agencies worked against Russia in the 1930s. But when Hitler invaded Russia, Churchill ordered ALL activities against Russia to stop, as they were now Allies. Fortunately, we did not. We had been trying to decrypt Russian radio traffic for years, but with little success as they mostly used “one-time encryption pads” which are destroyed after a single use.

On Sep. 5, 1945, a GRU code clerk at the Russian embassy in Ottawa defected, bringing with him a good amount of material. The British and US immediately began working on the haul, and soon realized Manhattan had been heavily penetrated. The first spy identified was Alan Nunn-May, a British scientist working at the Chalk River Reactor Facility on the shore of Hudson Bay, Canada's main contribution to the project.

Work against Soviet traffic continued by the Army's Signals Intelligence Service (forerunner to the NSA). Then, in the late 1940s, veteran code breakers realized that new NKVD traffic was looking familiar. The Russians were actually re-using their one-time pads! This windfall had immediate results. It identified the most damaging spy of all time – Klaus Fuchs, a brilliant German physicist who had fled Europe in 1933 because he was a Communist! He went to Britain, eventually becoming a citizen, and was one of their scientists sent to work on Manhattan, first at Oak Ridge and then Los Alamos. The British vouched for his clearance and the FBI accepted it. Big mistake. His “product” was so valuable that the NKVD took him over from GRU.

When confronted Fuchs began talking and didn't hold much back. He didn't know the name of his “handler” but identified him well enough for the FBI to find him - one Harry Gold. Gold also talked and revealed that he had controlled yet another spy from Los Alamos. Gold did not know this man's name either, but he did remember the dates he met the spy in Albuquerque. The FBI went through old work records and soon had their main suspect – the physicist Luis Alvarez.

To be concluded in the next NNWB.
Jay Lindstrom

Service Officer's Message

It was decided that the BOD would not appoint a Service Officer for this term and that the By-laws be reviewed to determine what would need to be changed for us to eliminate the requirement for this position.

Members are encouraged to contact a Veterans Service Officer local to them on their specific questions. The advantage to this is that Regional Service Officers provided by the military services and organizations such as the VFW are trained in current issues and how to properly assist members.

Webmaster Message

Thanks to those members who responded to the Survey Monkey request for information about cancers. The information was passed on through member Jim Little. If there is any feedback from the results we gave, we will be sharing it with you.

Another Survey Monkey will be coming out in January. The survey will solicit member input for their preference on locations for the 2023 reunion.

Stay healthy shipmates. Keep calm and carry on, 2021 will be better for all of us.

Ray

Upcoming Reunion Information

**NNWA 36th Annual Reunion
Oklahoma City, OK - 26-30 SEP 2021**

Hello All,

The reunion is scheduled from 26 – 30 September 2021 at the Hampton Inn & Suites Oklahoma City Bricktown in Oklahoma City, OK. More information will be available in the next bulletin.

Denise Young

Future Reunions

The 37th reunion of the NNWA in 2022 will be held in:

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Region: | Eastern US |
| Location: | Tidewater, VA |
| Host: | Jim Harris, the BOD, and the MRP |

The 38th reunion of the NNWA in 2023 will be held in:

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| Region: | Western US |
| Location: | TBD by member survey input |
| Host: | TBD |