

NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION

“KEEPERS of the DRAGON”©™

NNWA Bulletin



January 2024



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NNWA Board Members 2023-2024

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Gray Dragon: Robert A. Mowry

President's Message

Dragon Keepers and all members of the NNWA,

What a great reunion this past year in Tucson. Several new members showed up. Super job hosting by Ty and Diann George.

It was decided that the membership in attendance at a reunion will vote on the location of the next reunion in the region that the reunion is being held in. At Tucson the 2026 reunion was voted to be in Albuquerque, NM and I believe the host will be Richard Gurule with the BOD assisting. The 2024 reunion will be in Branson, MO and members in attendance there will get to vote on the 2027 reunion in the Central region. The 2025 reunion will be in Nashville, TN, which was rained out back in 2010, so it will be great to finally go there. We still need a host for assistance for Nashville and the BOD will always assist. So please come to the reunion and vote and volunteer to host.

We need help in keeping up the information for membership. The 3rd Gray Dragon, Frederick Wacha suddenly passed away November 19, 2023 and it was a shock to all. The next paid up current member in line is Mr. Robert Mowry.

Please try to keep your contact information updated and let your next of kin know that you are a member of the NNWA so if anything happens, we can be informed and keep the roster up to date.

I would like to praise the current Board of Directors for their support for the NNWA and what a superior job they have done this past year. I would also like to welcome two new board members, Ron Shirley and Charlie Mitchell. Ron will be working with Ray on setting up the new website to accept payment and update information to bring our payment options into the 21st century. Charles has been assigned to be the Nominations and Elections Chairman for the 2024 reunion. We will be looking for replacements for the Secretary, Treasurer, President, and Vice president in the next two years. These jobs are voted on by

the Board of Directors and they need to be filled with volunteers. If no volunteers are in for the jobs, then there is a possibility that the future of the association will be in jeopardy. Secretary John Gray has been on the BOD for 12 years and he will help train the new secretary in his job, The same for the Treasurer, Don Schultz, who has been Treasurer for 9 years. He will also assist in the turnover and training.

It is time for new blood to take over. If you have a special skill and would like to serve on the board of directors, please let it be known. The SOP/PDL and Bylaws have the responsibilities and duties for the Board positions. It is extremely rewarding to serve on the Board.

The BOD has now set up three years of reunions for the members to plan on attending. This should be a great asset for membership to come to a reunion and enjoy the company of shipmates old and new, and remember great times being a NW/GMT/WT, and preview the memorabilia that is present at the reunion.

Enough of my ramblings and welcome to all 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 and would like to welcome our new board members Charlie Mitchell and Ron Shirley. They enjoyed the Tucson NNWA Reunion so much that they stepped up to be on the NNWA Board. Kudos to Ty and Diann for being excellent host. They know how to throw a party!

Originally, I planned to step down as VP this past reunion but I decided to stay on for one more term

of two years. When one is having so much fun why stop now?

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.

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 will be in the June issue. One addresses the need for the Storekeeper to be identified as a key office that needs a set expiration schedule. It is proposed that Article VIII Section 1 in the Odd Year column of the Table be changed to read:

“SECTION 1 ELECTION AND INITIAL MEETING

“Vice-President, Treasurer, Historian, Webmaster, Storekeeper, Director ...”.

Another change makes clear that the NNWA Bulletin can be used to give notice to the membership of any proposed bylaws changes. It is proposed that Article VII Section 2 be changed to read:

“The Secretary shall provide the Regular Membership written notice of the proposed amendment(s) at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. Member notification may be accomplished by an article in the NNWA Bulletin.

Passage of any amendment shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Regular Membership present at the call for vote.”

See you all at our next NNWA reunion in Branson this October!

Happy New Year!

Bethany
NNWA Vice President

Secretary's Message

Fellow Weaponeers,

This will be my last year on the BOD. At the end of the current term, I will have been on the BOD for 12 years and Secretary for 10. As we did when we were on active duty, it is good to have new blood in a position so as to bring in new ideas and new ways of doing business. We are looking for a member who is interested in the Secretary position. If you are then please contact the President or the Nominations and Elections Chairman – Charlie Mitchell.

They will ensure your name is placed on the elections ballot at the next reunion's Annual Business Meeting. Assuming you are elected the term will be for a two-year period. Some people serve only on the BOD one term – others stay on for ten years. It is up to the individual.

While the Secretary position will be filled immediately after the next reunion – other BOD members typically serve as a Director for at least one year so you can become familiar with the workings of the BOD and the organization. Starting the 2nd year on the board you can express interest in one of the other officer positions. Specific officer positions are filled at the BOD meeting immediately following the Annual Business Meeting by consensus of the BOD members.

Board Members do not have to attend every reunion, we understand that is just not possible, so we all cover for each other. Items at the reunion requiring a vote are carried by the majority of the BOD in attendance. We actually conduct most business over the course of the year via email. We do leave each reunion with a “to do” list of items to improve the organization, how it operates, and to make our reunions better.

Hopefully this answers most questions about how to serve the NNWA as a board member. If you have any other questions feel free to ask any of us – we are here to help.

Again – I encourage any member who has not served on the BOD to consider it – it takes members serving on the board to keep our organization alive.

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:

Dennis Albers	Timothy Bortz
Kenneth Bexten	William Upright
Kenneth Smith	Brian Clark
Charles Mitchell	Theo Loudis
Ron Forten	Robert Galsote
Arthur Ball	William Bell
Bill Latty	Douglas Rogers
Steven Cantero	Murray Guidi
Donald Morse	Jerry Franks
Patrick Lynch	Diane Ballard

We also bestowed an Honorary Membership on Mr. Rick Workman.

We now have 907 members on the membership roster; 341 members in good standing; 79 life members (spouses of deceased members); 386 past members (members with unpaid dues for three years); 101 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 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.

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 \$22,624.66 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

Historian's Message

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Shipmates!

As your new Historian I approach the position with some sense of trepidation in the shoes I am to fill, but look forward to the challenge. As I am a different person my approach may be different than those of the past but be assured, I look forward to looking at and sharing the fascinating history of Nuclear weapons and the US Navy.

A little bit info about me: I'm originally from Southern Utah, spent my youth in the mountains and red rocks of Utah. When I graduated High School, I immediately enlisted in the Navy and went to boot camp in San Diego: my commands included: USS Oklahoma City CLG5, USS Badger FF1071, NWTGP, USS Constellation, USS L.Y. Spear, NWS Yorktown, USS Enterprise and SWFPAC. I had split in service after Yorktown when I got out of the Navy and I became a Newport News City Police Officer. After that I went back into the Navy and headed to NAVETS and then USS Enterprise.

After being bought out of my contract during the downsizing in 92, I moved back to Utah and I became a full-time student and graduated from the University of Utah with a BS in History and Secondary Education. I moved to Texas and taught 8th grade US history and civics for 25 years until I recently retired from that. During that time, I earned my Master's degree in Education Administration, and then finding that totally useless I earned a Masters degree in Military History. I retired from teaching in May of 2021 and here I am your new Historian. Anyway, enough about me.

My first article I think will be about the Regulus weapons system: the Mk5 and the W27. I have always been fascinated by that weapons system and the platforms, particularly the subs that carried it. So, I think I shall look at that. Unfortunately, that was before my time but still I am fascinated by it.

Development of the Regulus Cruise missile SSM-N-8 began in 1947 by the United States Navy and Chance Vought Aircraft. This unmanned turbojet

powered vehicle system was capable of delivering a 3000 pound Mk5 warhead with a 40-50 kt yield or a later developed 2800 pound 1-2 megaton W27 nuclear warhead within a range of 500 nautical miles after being launched from a submarine as well as carriers and cruisers.



Regulus became operational in 1955, eventually serving aboard diesel and nuclear powered submarines, cruisers and aircraft carriers. Regulus was first deployed by the US Navy in 1955 in the Pacific onboard the cruiser USS Los Angeles CA-135. By 1956 the surface launched Regulus was deployed onboard specially designed diesel powered submarines. The USS Tunny SSG-282, and USS Barbero SSG-317 were our nations first nuclear deterrent patrol submarines. They were later joined by three additional Regulus submarines, USS Grayback SSG-574, USS Growler SSG-577 and the nuclear powered USS Halibut SSGN-587.

The Mark5 warhead: A look at the warheads shows us that the older Mk5 warhead was a much smaller yield. As the first lightweight nuclear weapon, the Mark 5 also made it possible to consider placing atomic warheads on smaller missiles, and in 1954 a number of Mark 5 bombs were modified slightly to fit inside a small space and mounted onto Regulus missiles. The Mk5 was a smaller and lighter implosion weapon than previous designs. The Mk 5 was the first lightweight strategic nuclear bomb. Its weight

was one half of Fat Man, in fact it was an improved version of the Fat Man bomb.

The W-27 was the warhead derivative of the first lightweight thermonuclear bomb, which began development in May 1955. Twenty warheads were produced. The W-27 weighed 2,800 pounds and had a yield of 1-2 megatons. The decision to use the W-27 warhead necessitated the only major structural change in the Regulus I design. The nose section of the tactical missile was redesigned with a bulged nose to accommodate the W-27. The W-27 was finally retired in July 1965

End notes

David K. Stumpf, Regulus: America's First Nuclear Submarine Missile, Turner Publishing Company, 1996. pp 21-22

Leitch, Andy. "V-Force Arsenal: Weapons for the Valiant, Victor and Vulcan" Air Enthusiast No. 107, September/October 2003. pp. 52-59.

Gibson, James Norris. (1989). The history of the US nuclear arsenal. Greenwich, CT: Brompton Books Corp. p. 90.

I hope everyone has a successful and happy 2024!

Tracey McDaniels
Historian

Webmaster Message

The password to the Members Area of the website will change effective 7 January 2024. You should have received an email from me with the new password. If not contact me or any other Board Member and one of us will provide the password to you.

And if you did not receive an email from me with the new password, please ensure that the Treasurer and I have your correct email address.

Ray

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: TBD

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

Region: Western US
Location: Albuquerque, NM
Host: TBD

Upcoming Reunion Information

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

The 2024 reunion will be held in Branson Missouri at the Clarion Hotel Branson.

Reservations: (417) 334-7666, dial groups, our group name is Navy Nuclear Weapons Association

We look forward to being your hosts! We are working on tours. There is much to see and do in Branson so we expect a great reunion. I will keep you informed as we make progress and will have detailed reunion information in the June issue of the NNWA Bulletin. We hope to see you all there.

Dwight (Chip) and Shelly Chipperfield