

# NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION

“KEEPERS of the DRAGON”©™

## NNWA Bulletin



January 2018



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Service Officer: Chuck Weber

Gray Dragon: John Cummings

### **President's Message**

Greetings fellow Dragon Keepers;

Here we are it is 2018 already. I trust that all our members had a great 2017 and that 2018 is even better.

Our San Diego reunion was very successful. The hotel accommodations and staff were top notch and made everyone feel most welcome. Several of the local members were most helpful in filling in and helping when needed. For those that went on the USS Midway Museum tour I heard nothing but positive comments. The volunteers that support the ship are to be congratulated as they have continued the USS Midway's proud tradition.

I believe that one of the most important and moving part of our reunions is the conducting of the Two Bell Ceremony. We may not all know the shipmates we are honoring however by our dedication and professionalism we are bound together. I ask that if you are aware of a NW/GMT/WT has passed to the Staff of the Supreme Commander please contact your board; even if the individual is not a current association member. We are making a slight modification to our Two Bell Ceremony. Previously we were only honoring current members when they passed. In the future we will include all NW/GMT/WT personnel regardless of their association status.

We said goodbye to the following board members; Tonie Lewin, Guy Clemons and Randy Scallan. Tonie and Guy decided to step down. Both individuals were great association assets and I want to thank them both for their service. Randy Scallan passed away this year. His profound sense of humor and positive attitude will be greatly missed.

We welcomed five new board members. Jay (Lindy) Lindstrom, Charlie Behymer, Bethany Gray, Kris Hobbs, and Ed Deitzler. Jay has assumed the position of Historian with Charlie and Bethany supporting him. Ed Deitzler is your new Chaplain. Kris is an understudy for the position of MAA. Ron Moran has laid out an in-depth training program on ticket selling. I am very pleased and encouraged that these new members will only make your association bigger and better.

We have spent the better part of the last year on dealing with our memorabilia. Our main goal was to determine ownership. We have many items that the donor was unknown. Those that are known were sent letters to determine if the individuals wanted the items returned to them. As frequently happens we have not been able to contact the following individuals. If you are one of the below or if you are aware of the whereabouts of these folks, please contact our Historian Jay Lindstrom at [jaylindstrom@hotmail.com](mailto:jaylindstrom@hotmail.com) or at his board member email.

Missing Individuals:

Bill Warren, CWO2 Trimble, GMT2 Wilkins, GMTC Wayne Jones, GMTCM Jack Vechil, LCDR John McMullen, LT. Eldon Irby, Ronald Bourque.

Sandra and I look forward to seeing everyone in St. Louis, MO at the 2018 reunion.

Tom Salisbury  
NNWA President

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

Shipmates,

I am honored to be your new Vice President and would like to welcome all new board members. We had a fantastic reunion in San Diego in 2017. The best tour was of the USS Midway museum,

one of my former commands. If you are ever in the San Diego area a visit to the USS Midway is highly recommended.

This year's reunion will be in St. Louis. This is a great opportunity for all of us to attend because it is within reasonable driving distance within CONUS. Hope to see everyone there. I am working on plans for the 2019 reunion which is tentatively scheduled for Jacksonville, FL.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me.

Until next time,  
Bob



### **Secretary's Message**

Fellow Weaponeers,

The association's annual reunion was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Diego, CA from 18-22 SEP 17. Member pictures taken during the reunion are posted on the NNWA website on the Annual Reunion page.

The Annual Business Meeting and follow-on Board of Directors Meeting was held on 22 September during the reunion. The most notable items from the meeting were that Tonie Lewin and Guy Clemons were stepping down from the board. Robert Fischer is the new vice-president, Ed Deitzler the new Chaplain, and Lindy Lindstrom the new Historian. There are also three new

Directors – Charlie Behymer, Bethany Gray, and Kris Hobbs. 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 2018 the 33rd reunion of the NNWA would be held in:

Region: Mid US  
Location: St. Louis, MO  
Dates: 24-28 SEP 18  
Host: John Hawkins and the Military Reunion Planners

Additionally, Robert Fischer and his wife Francisca volunteered to host the 2019 reunion. Details on the 34<sup>th</sup> NNWA reunion to be held in 2019 as known so far:

Region: Eastern US  
Location: Jacksonville, FL  
Host: Robert Fischer and the Military Reunion Planners

Finally, in a flashback to when we planned our reunions three years in advance, the president announced that in 2020 the 35th reunion of the NNWA would be held in:

Region: Western US  
Location: Colorado Springs, CO  
Host: The BOD and the Military Reunion Planners

We hope to see you all in St. Louis!

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 30 new and reinstated members since the last newsletter. They are:

James McNease	John Cross
Scott Lavally	David Wilson
Gary Ballard	Robert Bartholow
Daniel Brault	George Hand III
Joseph Cristian	Margaret Brault Callaway
Rory Cobb	Kris Hobbs
Russell Wyatt	Kenneth Edwards Sr.
Colin Campbell	Brian Clark
David Glassmire	David Cesan
John Apgar	Ronald Buchanan
Charles Steenburgh	Thomas Sledge
Dorene Hengerer	John Moran
Stephen Hill	Derrick Mann
Frederick Grochulski	Randy Hudson
Theodore Manis	Charles Ross

We now have 814 members listed on the membership roster; 467 members in good standing; 48 life members (spouses of deceased members); 299 past members (Members with unpaid dues for three years; 117 members with dues in arrears; and one reciprocal member (NAAV). Past members can be reinstated by sending the \$10.00 reinstatement fee plus \$10.00 for a total of \$20 and will be reinstated as a new member. This effective 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.navynucweeps.com](http://www.navynucweeps.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 recently been listed as past members because their dues have been in arrears for three years:

D.A. Beauprez	C.E. Marshall
R.E. Trevino	W.R. Breaud
G.W. Oakes	E.A. Van Tish
C.R. Bunch	H.M. Palmer
J.E. Waterson	C. Garrett
C.W. Richards	T.J. Williams
O.L. Hartmann	M.W. Seitz
S.A. Yates	

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 on-line can request a hard copy of the roster by calling or writing:

Donald Schultz  
573 Beaulieu Loop  
The Villages, Florida 32162

Phone: 352.259.1403.

For our survival it is imperative that we keep our roster up to date. Some men have indicated they are not receiving our newsletter. **Please review the roster and notify me or any board member of any changes in your status.**

Currently, we have \$25,232.94 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**

Merry Christmas Shipmates!

Let me introduce myself as the new Historian. I am Jay Lindstrom, GMTC 0926/0927 Ret. I was a West Coaster my entire 20 years – AUW 0403 at Whidbey Island, four carriers, NWSA Oakland, NWEF and lastly NWTGP Inspection Dept.

The biggest issue facing me and the Board is all the memorabilia that has been donated over the years. Guy Clemons has moved the memorabilia into storage in Indiana, but it fills many large storage bins. Shipping all this weight to each reunion is just not possible. This summer before the next reunion several of the board members are going to meet for 2 or 3 days to go through all of it and decide what is of enough value to bring to the reunions, what can be scanned and kept on computers (virtually all documents, publications, photos, cruise books, etc.) and what can be donated to museums. All who have provided material are asked to let us know if they would like it back before this happens. Getting the reunion designated items into only a very few containers that can easily fit in my Toyota RAV4 will be ideal. We plan to have computers available to see all the printed material.

One thing I've noticed in the past bulletins is the small amount of actual historical information that is presented. This is natural as nearly everything of interest has already been printed somewhere, so why repeat it? Well, as Ron Moran always told me at the Inspection Dept., when it comes to

knowledge about nuclear weapons, I was full of it. Here is my chance to historiate, and pass on information that has never before been published. I was very fortunate to have lived in Los Alamos about 20 years ago. My wife and I lived in half of one of the old duplexes, and our landlord lived in the other half. His name was Steven Kasunic and he had been one of the original Project members that started there in March 1943.

He was the project engineer for the Hiroshima bomb and knew all the major characters – Oppenheimer, Gen. Groves, Fermi on down to the technicians and machinists, including Army Sgt. David Greenglass, brother of Ethel Rosenberg. I spent hours talking with Steve and learned an absolutely incredible amount about the entire Los Alamos operation. In my column in the Bulletin I will be including as much of this as I can.

Early in the war Steve was a mechanical engineer employed by the Navy Bureau of Ordnance and was assigned to the new Oerlikon 20mm project. He had also been informed that he would be going into the Navy as an engineering officer, and even knew what ship he would be riding. In the meantime he was working on production problems with the 20mm ammunition. The projectile consisted of a body, fuze and fuze cap. The body was no problem to make, large enough and cylindrical for easy machining, with only one female thread for the fuze cap. But the cap was another story. It was small, the outer surface was the curved ogive and it had an external AND an internal thread (for the fuze itself). It took 30 machinists on 30 lathes, with millwrights and supply and support personnel to make 300 fuze caps an hour. But anyone who has ever seen a film of ships under Kamikaze attack knows that all those Oerlikon guns would shoot off an hour's worth of production in a matter of a few seconds.

Steve Kasunic was brilliant and designed a machine that would spit out 2 fuze caps every 4 seconds, 24/7. During the entire war the Navy needed only three of the machines to produce the millions of fuze caps needed. But he was still



going to be inducted into the Navy. However, there was a BuOrd officer who was well aware of Steve's machine and his abilities. The officer was CDR William Parsons.

To be continued,  
Jay Lindstrom

### **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,

The Reunions are not just for the men but for ALL of us! We ladies gathered as a group a few years ago so we can assist with hosting the reunions; helping with the Registration Desk, Hospitality Room, fund raising/ selling tickets, and organizing fun times together! Now that I am on the Board of Directors I need to step aside from the ladies group, let one of you other ladies take the lead and continue working with our President to ensure these reunions have an added Ladies touch. Let's face it, these reunions require a lot of teamwork. I know several of you ladies who thrive on getting involved in what's going on and helping make these reunions a good experience for all of us.

I am here to continue being a part of the Ladies Voice; I am also assisting the Historian. However,

I am asking if any of you other ladies are interested in taking the helm with the Ladies Voice. If so please let Tom Salisbury and I know.

On another note I would like to share a memorable experience I had at work this year with a very special visit from our Secretary of Defense General Mattis and his Secret Service entourage. General Mattis wanted to see Missile Assembly Building 3 (MAB3). Here is a picture during his tour with all the technicians who work in the MAB. We are standing in front of one of the missiles worked on each day in my building. Did I say I love my Job?!!

This was a special day for me. We get many dignitaries who tour our facility but when General Mattis arrived it was a glorious day! I got the pleasure of entertaining his Secret Service team at my desk at the entrance of the building, where I am the "gate keeper".



General Mattis is in the center, I am on the left, and the rest are the professionals who work in my building, MAB 3.

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

We are deeply involved in setting the initial plans for the 2018 Reunion. We have signed and submitted the contract for the hotel. The reunion is to be held in the **Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet at the Westport Plaza**. The address is:

191 Westport Plaza  
St. Louis, Missouri.

**The reunion dates scheduled will be from Monday 24 September 2018 till Friday 28 September 2018.**

These are the three tours selected for the St. Louis Reunion:

### **St. Louis City Tour** (9:00am – 4:00pm)

This is the grand tour of all the sites to see. Take in Laclede's Landing, a revitalized 19th century warehouse district with cobblestone streets and cast iron street lamps. Drive through the Soulard area on your way to the Anheuser-Busch Brewery. Begin your walking tour of the Brewery with the famous Clydesdales, then view the brewing and packaging process, and end with complimentary beer samples in the Hospitality House.

Lunch on your own and free time at Union Station. First opened in 1894, this restored National Historic Landmark is a festive marketplace with numerous restaurants, eateries, and specialty shops.

Re-board bus and continue the city tour with a stop at the New Cathedral to see one of the largest collections of mosaic art in the Western Hemisphere. Also drive through Forest Park where the St. Louis Zoo and several museums are located.

### **Civil War Museum at Jefferson Barracks**

(Time: TBD)

The only real military attraction in St. Louis can be found at Jefferson Barracks. This Military Post is the oldest operational military installation west of the Mississippi River. Originally established in

1826 as the country's first Infantry School of Practice, Jefferson Barracks received its name in honor of President Thomas Jefferson who had died earlier that same year. Jefferson Barracks was established on land that Thomas Jefferson had actually obtained as part of the Louisiana Purchase, which added to the argument that the first major military installation should bear his name. On the grounds you will find a wonderful Civil War Museum.

### **Gateway Arch / Westward Expansion Museum**

Arrive at the Gateway Arch and the Museum of Westward Expansion. While there, taken a tram ride to the top of the tallest national monument in the United States and experience the breathtaking, panoramic view of downtown St. Louis.

Afterwards, visit the Museum of Westward Expansion tracing the nation's settlement of the frontier with images, quotations, and artifacts. Or, for a nominal fee and time permitting, enjoy the forty-minute film "Monument to the Dream", and learn how this magnificent structure was built.

The times of the tours are approximate or will be provided more accurately at a later time.

