

**Surface Navy Association
Executive Committee Minutes (Draft)
July 10, 2007**

IN ATTENDANCE

VADM Kevin Green, USN (Ret), *President*
VADM Tim LaFleur, USN (Ret), *West Coast VP – via phone*
VADM Hank Giffin, USN (Ret), *East Coast VP – via phone*
RADM Dave Hart, USN (Ret)
CAPT Dave Lee, USN (Ret)
RADM John Tozzi, USCG (Ret)
RADM Tom Wilson, USN (Ret)
CAPT Ned Lundquist, USN (Ret)
RADM Bob Sutton, USN (Ret)
FORCM Karen O'Connor, USN (Ret)
Mr. Thad Smith
CAPT Bill Erickson, USN (Ret), *Executive Director*
Ms. Julie Howard, *Director of Administration*

MINUTES

Minutes from 26 April ExCom meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

PRESIDENT REPORT

Since the last meeting, we conducted a terrific transfer of the Old Salt ceremony at the Naval Academy that was enhanced by former Old Salts in attendance. ADM Mike Mullen relieved VADM Rod Rempt as the current Old Salt. Bill Erickson and Paul Rinn went to Great Lakes to see the new Battle Station 21 trainer. It is a very impressive facility and shows the dedication of the staff. The President also reminded everyone about the West Coast Symposium and the proposed Offsite. He closed with a reminder that we are entering the season for high impact preparations for the SNA Symposium.

CORPORATE SPONSOR REPORT

We currently have 63 sponsors and have received about \$69,000 of that to date. There was a meeting in May with VADM's Hancock and Gunn to discuss some thought on expanding our corporate program. A report will be ready for the next ExCom.

OLD TAR SELECTION

CMDCM(SW/AW) Mark L Davidson, USN at Naval Recruiting Command in St Louis is the new Old Tar and should be on active duty until January 2008. There is a nice article going into the next SITREP which is a reprint from Stars and Stripes about the former Old Tar Ashley Smith.

SEARCH FOR BONHOMME RICHARD

Ocean Technology Foundation has conducted two fund raising events: one in Hampton Roads and the other at the Navy Memorial. We have not provided a donation for 2007 but we did send out flyers and promote OTF's activities in Surface Sitrep. In 2006 we donated \$1,000 and they

have requested SNA consider a donation of \$5,000 for 2007. There is nothing that says we have to make a decision right now. However we have discussed this for a number of meetings and we do need to ensure that this expedition and its goals continue to meet our charter criteria. A donation is not included in the budget for this year. However, requests like this are typically taken out of our corpus. One thought is that by supporting at same level as previously, \$1,000, it allows us a continued seat at the table should they be successful. It was also thought that this meets our role in supporting Navy History. We do have to be careful that we don't set a precedent as there are a number of opportunities like this, many of which we have turned down in the past. We also must look at the 'What is in it for me' from our membership.

A motion was made to support this endeavor by donating an additional \$1,000. This vote carried 5 to 3.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Current financial status shows that 52% of the year has elapsed. We have collected approximately 70% of our revenue and expended just over 61%. One issue is individual membership versus dues sharing because we have a number of complimentary memberships.

Action Item: Need to address this at next ExCom

Chapter disbursements as of July 9 were reviewed. Largest disbursements are for the support of the Regional Midshipmen events and the SOY projects. We did provide Pearl Harbor with \$500 to support 1 of the 4 planned join-ups onboard ships this year. At the most recent event they signed up 13 new members and of those who signed up, nine were Enlisted. They also pushed joining through our website. We do not yet have those figures available.

Action Item: Reflect Pearl Harbor success in Surface Sitrep.

Symposium Report

Proposed Theme is "A Ready and Relevant Surface Navy: An Enterprise Approach to Warriors, Platforms and Systems."

Would like to steer away from policy this year and a number of speakers were proposed based on the Enterprise theme. It is hoped that both the new CNO and CMC will be able to participate this year and also that we can get the USCG Commandant. Currently, we have put SecNav in banquet slot but no invitations have been issued.

One addition by Admiral Etnyre is that we look at having a strong female officer able to address the balance between family and sea service. Rather than do this and be subject to light attendance it was thought that this is an important issue that should be added to the JO Panel. Next stage is to go out with formal invitations.

It was proposed that we have something to highlight Battle Stations 21 at Great Lakes and that this could be added as a video presentation at the beginning or as a good topic for VADM Harvey to discuss.

West Coast Symposiums. Website is active for both the San Diego and Monterey symposiums. Monterey is scheduled for August 21 with San Diego following two days later on August 23.

Monterey is mostly a few speakers with the main focus on the detailers. San Diego is larger and will be part of the SWOFOT this year. A number of speakers are already confirmed. The Flag officers will join the afternoon sessions.

In addition to the San Diego Symposium, the Surface Warfare Ball will be held on Saturday, the golf tournament will be held on Friday, and Surface Line Week will be held for the ships in port.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Meeting was held the first part of June to start working awards that will be presented at the symposium. Still need suggestions for special recognition. At the Awards Meeting the Heritage Theme was discussed at length. The committee decided to move forward with the theme "The Battle of the Atlantic." A search is being conducted to line-up suitable speakers.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The committee met in May and reviewed the new and renewal candidates. Demographics were reviewed and it was noted that we had more selections from active duty captain sponsors than before.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We have added 20 new Enlisted since last year and 212 officers. Detailed report was reviewed. Retention is a little higher than at the end of last year.

Action Item: Send detailed chapter report to Admiral Green

Enlisted Focus Group. We did a focus group in Hampton Roads in early May. We had 37 non-members and 3 members participate. Topics discussed included professional activities, social activities and communications. Because of the number of non-members there was a large bias for the attendee not knowing anything about SNA or our activities. We propose to do one with primarily SNA members in San Diego. Findings were reviewed. There was a discussion regarding the use of websites such as SWONET and Together We Served. Should be enough out there that we can individually post items about SNA without getting onto some of the more risky sites. SWONET site contract is up for renewal in September and there is some discussion about combining everything on to DKO. However, at this point N86 is looking at reinventing the site.

Coast Guard Initiatives. Chapters are not developing as successfully as we would like. RADM Tozzi has spoken with RDML Burhoe, the Superintendent at the USCG Academy. Commanders Meese and Stowe, co-presidents of the New London Chapter, have made some suggestions of what might be done to revitalize the chapter. The following initiatives were discussed:

- 3 for 1 memberships to 240 PCO/PXO's a year plus up to 75 First Class Cadets.
- Support for "Meetball" Mondays that would entail 10 times a year at \$230 per time (\$2,300)
- Several other initiatives e.g. support of field trips, ship visits, etc.

RADM Tozzi also suggested that we put the Alameda Chapter on the back burner until we can re-engage Captain Sullivan. In general, the proposals were well received. One suggestion was that we should put the Cadets on the same footing as NJROTC and the Naval Academy midshipmen selecting surface line with three year complimentary memberships. A motion was made to support the 3 to 1 memberships and complimentary memberships for 75 first class cadets which was approved unanimously.

Another motion was made to support "Meetball" Mondays at the \$2,300 a year level. This also carried unanimously. Other initiatives will be considered with on a case-by-case basis.

Action Item: RADM Tozzi to draft letter and try to get something in the Surface Sitrep. Capt Lundquist to put together proposal for conference in New London at next meeting.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

The video of the Old Salt turnover interviews has been used by the Navy Media Center. Had an opportunity to be in the trainer of Battle Stations 21 during an all night exercise and have already been able to get Training and Simulation Journal to do a story and also plan to get quotes from Capt Paul Rinn and VADM Kevin Green. The Communications Forum will be at the ANCC on 27 November and we will start working on building schedule.

Have been looking at ways to improve the website and *Surface Sitrep*. Goal is to look at a publication with more impact, to increase revenue and decrease cost. There are a couple of ways to approach this. Have looked at Wings of Gold model and also talked to a publisher of Marine Technology Reporter to see if they might be interested in being partners with us. Advantage of going to other publishing houses is that they also have an ad base. Have to look very carefully at level of ads in publication and also editorial control. Would need to screen advertisers and we could specify what could not be included. Another big concern is our corporate sponsors as right now they get an article in *Surface Sitrep* as a benefit once a year. Big question is do we need to revamp and we need to answer the question of what service do we provide to our membership. Suggest that conversation continue and to examine this further.

SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT

Proposed Hall of Fame at Great Lakes. Captain Rinn and the Executive Director had a very successful visit to Battle Stations 21 and they have invited Captl Rinn back to talk to the facilitators about his experience as the Commanding Officer of Samuel B. Roberts. We also met with Captain Morales of the Service Training Command as it was thought that this would be the best place to house the Hall of Fame at Great Lakes. They are excited to have the display there as it fits with their Heritage Program. They are now working with the dimensions that we provided and it is now up to them to come back to us with a location.

NEW BUSINESS

The Greater Washington DC Chapter will be holding a Surface Warfare join up tomorrow in the N86 spaces, a luncheon on July 24th, and the SWO cocktail party on 8 September. Next ExCom meeting date is 29 August 2007.

