

**Surface Navy Association  
Executive Committee Minutes (Draft)  
February 25, 2009**

Meeting was called to order at 1700.

**In Attendance:**

VADM Ron Route, USN (Ret) President  
VADM Tim LaFleur, USN (Ret) (By Phone)  
CAPT Kevin Tackett, USN (Ret)  
CDR David Bretz, USN  
RADM Dennis Conley, USN (Ret)  
VADM Bill Earner, USN (Ret)  
RDML Mark Balmert, USN (Ret) (By Phone)  
CDR Mary Jackson, USN (By Phone)  
CAPT Ron Jenkins, USN (Ret) (By Phone)  
CAPT Ned Lundquist, USN (Ret)  
LT Padraic McDermott, USN (By Phone)  
Mr. Thad Smith (By Phone)  
CAPT Joe Volpe, USN (Ret) (By Phone)  
RDML T.J. Wilson, USN (Ret)  
CAPT Bill Erickson, USN (Ret) Executive Director  
Ms. Julie Howard, Director of Administration (By Phone)  
Ms. Debbie Garry, SNA Staff

Minutes from January 5, 2009 EXCOM meeting were approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

No Report

**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

VADM Route would like to meet one-on-one with EXCOM members if possible. Also encourages members to provide updates on volunteers within SNA so that they may receive recognition.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Reviewed action items from 2009 Board of Directors meeting held at the National Symposium. One item discussed further was offering a special on lifetime memberships. This action item had been reviewed and determined not to be financially beneficial for SNA.

Discussed if SNA should notify membership of the passing of SNA members. Current policy is to only email membership if the deceased member was a prominent member such as board member, plank owner, etc. Recommendation is to have a quarterly listing of "In Memoriam" on website of members that we have received notification of passing.

Also, it was recommended that chapters email their membership if member was affiliated with their chapter. *Action Item: Bill Erickson and SNA Administrative staff will review policy.*

SNA is continuing to receive requests to financially contribute to ship commissioning. Does SNA want to change how commissioning are funded? Currently SNA has been funding commissionings as grants/donations on a case-by-case basis using the Antietam Fund. Current balance of the Antietam Fund is approximately \$14K. After reviewing the guidelines/purpose of the initial set-up of Antietam Fund it has been noted that SNA must keep funds available for Antietam until the ship is decommissioned. As a result, SNA is not able to continue to fund non-related Antietam events from this fund in order to maintain funds in account until Antietam decommissioning. Noted that original fund was setup for SNA to provide loans not grants. Recommendations: Option 1 – Consider category system based on size of ship. Option 2 – Let fund expire and SNA funds commissioning from own funds. Discussion continued as to whether SNA wants to be in the business of funding commissioning.

*Action Item: Speak with Admiral Hare to determine if SNA can divest itself from fund legally.*

*Action Item: Captain Tackett will prepare SOE slide on upcoming ship commissioning.*

An SNA group has been created on Facebook. SNA has taken control of the site and will maintain unless we want to discontinue the group. It has been noted that there is no way to prevent another SNA group from being created. SNA can list update of SNA events both nationally and at chapter level on site. Captain Erickson will continue to monitor site at this time.

*Action Item: Email membership that Facebook group is in existence.*

*Action Item: Review ability of National to protect information posted on group page.*

*What type of controls can National set up on group? Should it be “invite only” to join group?*

Ship Selection night at Academy was a great success. SNA National provided SNA glasses to each midshipman.

## **CORPORATE SPONSOR REPORT**

We currently have 72 Corporate Sponsors. New corporate sponsors include Austal, Mikros Systems Corporation, and RSL Fiber Systems. No corporate sponsors are due to be dropped at this time.

## **SECRETARY REPORT**

No Report

## **TREASURER REPORT**

Budget is adjusting to the first of the year expenses. Big expenditures such as SOY functions and first quarter dues have been paid before major income has been posted. Symposium profit is not shown in budget at this time as accounts are still being finalized.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Changes to IRS form discussed. Chapter President was added to text in Code of Ethics document. *Action Item: Captain Erickson will send final documents to BOD, EXCOM and Chapter Presidents to review and sign.*

## **SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE**

Hot Wash-up comments have been sent out for review. Reviewed timeline of EXCOM duties for 22<sup>nd</sup> National Symposium.  
*Action Item: Send Symposium final attendance numbers to EXCOM when finalized.*

## **AWARDS COMMITTEE**

SNA Stephen Decatur Jr NJROTC award nominations being accepted online as of February 26, 2009.

Sailor of the Year functions are being held in San Diego and Hampton Roads with SNA support.

Updates for Newport and Navy Memorial in final preparation. Coordination ongoing with Freeman for Great Lakes.

## **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

On target. Applications and renewals are being received. Deadline for new applications is March 2, 2009.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

The total current paid membership as of January 31 is 6899. New memberships received during Symposium will show in February membership stats. Trends of complimentary memberships provided to newly commissioned SWOs was reviewed. Accountability on first year of program was not good. Changes were made for second year of program and for group's members that are due to expire in spring 2009.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT**

The conference at the USCG Academy is scheduled for March 25, 2009. Online registration is now open and exhibits are being finalized.

*Action Item: Communications Committee and SNA Administrative Staff will review SITREP mailing and website.*

Discussed the possibility of turning Hall of Fame videos into spots that could be used on ships. *Action Item: Contact AFN to see if they would be able to use videos as fillers before SNA proceeds with funding.*

### **SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT**

Great Lakes Hall of Fame progress discussed. Schedule to be finalized this year.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The next EXCOM meeting will be on April 2, 2009

Meeting adjourned.