

**Surface Navy Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (Draft)
August 2, 2011**

IN ATTENDANCE

VADM Ron Route, USN (Ret)
CAPT Dave Lee, USN (Ret)
VADM Lee Gunn, USN (Ret)
VADM Hank Giffin, USN (Ret) (*via phone*)
CAPT David Adler, USN
RADM Dennis Conley, USN (Ret)
CDR Ed Eder, USN
RDML Mike Frick, USN (Ret)
CAPT Jon Kaufman, USN
CAPT Jon Krietz, USN (*via phone*)
CAPT Ned Lundquist, USN (Ret)
RDML Mike Mahon, USN (Ret)
LT Rob McFall, USN
RADM Robert Reilly, USN (Ret)
CAPT Paul Rinn, USN (Ret)
Thad Smith (*via phone*)
RADM Bob Sutton, USN (Ret)
CDR John Wilshusen, USN
RDML T.J. Wilson, USN (Ret)
CAPT Bill Erickson, USN (Ret)
Debbie Garry

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The meeting was called to order at 1715. Admiral Route welcomed all attendees to the meeting. The minutes from the 30 June 2011 Executive Committee Meeting were approved with no changes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Minutes from the January SNA National Board of Directors meeting have been posted on the BOD website.

Provided an update on the West Coast Symposium and Open Architecture Forum. Need 2 more speakers to complete the OA agenda. The change in event dates did impact speaker availability. SWONET will be broadcasting both events live to the public.

The San Diego CPO Pride Day committee chairman requested monetary support from SNA National. SNA has supported this event since 2006. San Diego Chapter has endorsed the request and SNA National treasurer recommends approval of the expenditure. The event expects between 1500-1800 participants and SNA will get recognition. EXCOM approved providing \$5,000 to event.

Navy Safe Harbor Foundation (NSHF) will be hosting a golf tournament on August 8 to raise funds to support seriously wounded, ill and injured sailors, Coast Guardsmen, and their families,

through respite care, financial support, specialized equipment, legal support, housing/rental support, and family support (i.e., family weekends). Bill Erickson proposed that SNA National sponsor a hole at the tournament with a \$1,000 donation. SNA would be recognized at the event. EXCOM was made aware that 2 SNA Board Members are affiliated with the organization and would not participate in the vote. EXCOM approved to provide \$1,000.

SNA's 2010 tax return has been provided to all members of the EXCOM and the Board of Directors to review. Request any questions or comments be sent to Bill Erickson as soon as possible so that the return can be filed. Once filed the report is available to public on Guidestar website.

CORPORATE MEMBERS REPORT

We currently have 77 corporate members and are on track to exceed budgeted corporate income. In-Depth Engineering has recently joined as a new SNA corporate sponsor. Three sponsors were dropped after notifying SNA that they would not be renewing due to reorganization or budgets. Two of the sponsors have indicated they would probably renew at a later date.

SECRETARY REPORT

The timeline for the next BOD election was reviewed. The request for nominations will be open for the month of September and the election will be held the month of November. The names of the 7 board members with terms expiring were reviewed. Categories were reviewed as to which ones will have available slots for election. Need to elect a maximum of 7 to maintain current numbers.

TREASURER REPORT

Reviewed current finance report including chapter disbursements. Chapter project expenses are higher than budgeted but this is all in support of SNA members. SNA is still on track to meet budget goals. Jim Tackett recently spoke with bank representative regarding our U.S. Treasury Mutual Fund account. Decided to move money into cash account at this time but can move back at a later date. Treasury Mutual Fund account has not earned any interest in last 2 months.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

No report.

SYMPOSIUM REPORT

Reviewed timeline for the 2012 National Symposium. RADM Hart has been working with Admirals Hunt and Pandolfe on the proposed theme. Should have theme finalized and ready to present to EXCOM by next meeting. Bill Erickson asked if anyone wants to propose names for speakers or panelist to please email him.

AWARDS REPORT

Hall of Fame voting in process and names will be presented to EXCOM at next meeting for approval.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

VADM Lee Gunn reviewed the action item assigned to the Scholarship committee by the EXCOM to present options on possible changes to SNA's scholarship selection process and award criteria. He provided background on what committee members consider when reviewing all applications. Presented 3 proposed options to the EXCOM:

- Continue with existing program
- Put more emphasis on the essay
- Establish a quota system

Much discussion took place regarding the current program and proposed options. Highlights listed below:

- It was noted that SNA states "*The Surface Navy Association will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin, or religion in the consideration and awarding of scholarships.*" EXCOM agreed that we should add to this statement that we do not discriminate on basis of rank.
- SNA scholarship is a merit scholarship. If SNA changes to a quota system then the most qualified applicants may not receive the award and thus we are not selecting on the basis of merit.
- It was noted that current and past scholarship selectees were all highly qualified and deserved to be selected. Some commented that maybe the issue is not selection process but rather lack of communication to the Enlisted community regarding the scholarship opportunity. Point was made that SNA should expand our communications on the scholarship program rather than change the program. Suggested that we request advertising of SNA scholarship at the Enlisted programs SNA funds such as Sailor of the Year and Chief Initiation/Pride Day events. Admiral Giffin volunteered to request that Anchors Scholarship put a link on their site to the SNA scholarship page and recommended adding a link to their site on SNA website.
- Need to make the selection completely blind and not mark the Enlisted applicants when applications are sent to Committee for review.
- A combination of the keeping the current program but place more emphasis on the essay portion of the application to gain more insight into the applicant and how having a Surface Warfare parent effected his/her education and life. Proposed that SNA consider increasing the word limit to more than the current 200 word maximum.
- In conclusion, the Scholarship Chairman summarized the actions that should take place: remove the categorization of the source (i.e. Officer/Enlisted designation) on scholarship applications; put forth an aggressive and creative program for advertising next year's

program and to engage the Board of Directors to assist in this effort; and draft essay questions that will solicit more information about a candidate's life.

EXCOM approved by unanimous vote that SNA remove any Officer/Enlisted designation on scholarship applications and return to a completely blind selection process.

Action Item: Scholarship Committee will create a general essay question to present to EXCOM for approval.

Action Item: Ned Lundquist, Dave Lee and Administrative Staff will find more ways to advertise the scholarship program to the Surface Navy Community.

Ron Route complimented the Scholarship Committee on the fine work they do each year. Does not see how the process could be fairer and wanted to be sure the committee members knew the work they did was appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Reviewed membership statistics and trend slides as of July 2011. The "3 year at Half Price" membership promotion has kicked off and SNA has received over 250 new/renewal applications. The promotion ends August 31, 2011.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

SWONET will broadcast the OA Forum and West Coast Symposium live on a public site. An email will be sent to our media list with details of both events.

Moving forward with the Maritime Securities Forum in New London. SNA prefers to host this event in March/April 2012.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Great Lakes Hall of Fame grand opening held on July 2, 2011. Bill Erickson attended as SNA's representative.

The Civil War 150 video, sponsored by SNA, is in process.

NEW BUSINESS

Jon Kaufman, Greater Washington Chapter president, is retiring. John Wilshusen is leaving N86 and introduced his relief, CDR Ed Eder. EXCOM thanked both for their work with the chapter and EXCOM.

RADM Rob Reilly informed the EXCOM that OpSail 2012 will commemorate the War of 1812 in April. They may request funding from SNA. He also recommended that EXCOM members take a moment to view the trailer on YouTube of the upcoming movie, *Battleship*, which will be released in May 2012. CAPT Rick Hoffman served as technical director on the film.

Next meeting scheduled for early September. Bill Erickson will review dates and email EXCOM members.