

**Surface Navy Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (Draft)
December 15, 2011**

IN ATTENDANCE

VADM Ron Route, USN (Ret)
CAPT Dave Lee, USN (Ret)
CAPT Jim Tackett, USN (Ret)
VADM Hank Giffin, USN (Ret) *(via phone)*
CAPT David Adler, USN
VADM Bill Earner, USN (Ret)
RADM Jay Foley, USN (Ret)
VADM Lee Gunn, USN (Ret)
RADM Dave Hart, USN (Ret) *(via phone)*
VADM Doug Katz, USN (Ret)
CAPT Ned Lundquist, USN (Ret)
Mr. Charlie McCullough
LT Rob McFall, USN (Ret)
CAPT Bob Oldani, USN (Ret) *(via phone)*
RADM Robert Reilly, USN (Ret)
CAPT Paul Rinn, USN (Ret)
RDML T.J. Wilson, USN (Ret)
CAPT Bill Erickson, USN (Ret)
Julie Howard *(via phone)*
Debbie Garry

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The meeting was called to order by VADM Ron Route. Admiral Route welcomed all attendees to the meeting. The minutes from the 3 November 2011 Executive Committee Meeting were approved with no changes. Admiral Route informed the group that Admiral Hogg plans to attend the Symposium on Monday, January 9, but his schedule may not allow him to attend any other days during Symposium week. Admiral Hogg wanted to be sure the EXCOM received his thank you for all their hard work in 2011.

AWARDS REPORT

Paul Rinn presented award information to the EXCOM:

- **Special Recognition** names that were approved by EXCOM at the November meeting were reviewed.
- The 2 proposed winners of the **Admiral Zumwalt Award for Visionary Leadership** were presented to the EXCOM for approval. The Awards Committee selected 2 winners out of 38 nominations. Paul Rinn presented the bios of each winner to the EXCOM. Proposed winners were approved.
- The 4 proposed winners of the **Admiral Burke Operational Award** were presented to EXCOM for approval. The Awards Committee selected 4 winners out of 32 nominations. Paul Rinn reviewed the bios of each of the proposed winners. EXCOM approved the proposed winners

- The Awards Committee reviewed over 250 photographs for the **CAPT Raymond Komorowski Photo Award**. The committee also included a representative from Surface Warfare Magazine. Paul Rinn presented the top 4 selected photos to the EXCOM for approval. EXCOM approved.
- The **Literary Award** selection committee reviewed 17 articles and selected a winner and an honorable mention. The article titles and authors were presented to the EXCOM. EXCOM approved.
- Names of the winners of the **Hospital Corpsman Award** and **Shiphandler Award** were also presented to EXCOM with a brief description on how these awardees are selected. Hospital Corpsman Award approved. Shiphandler Award did not require EXCOM approval.

All winners and non-winners will be notified by the Executive Director of the results.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Bill Erickson reviewed the action item to create an information sheet to provide to Symposium speakers. The information sheet has been completed and will be emailed to EXCOM members and provided to all Symposium speakers. Ron Route commented that this will be excellent information for use by the Symposium speakers.

Action Item: Bill Erickson to email a copy to EXCOM.

On November 17 at the Washington Navy Yard Museum, SNA and the Navy Historical Foundation co-sponsored a reception in honor of the USS Houston Survivors Association. A model of the USS Houston was presented and there was a panel discussion moderated by David Winker and a panel that included 6 survivors. Over 80 people attended the event. A video of the ceremony and roundtable has been posted on the Internet.

The Maritimes Security Forum is scheduled to be held in New London, CT on March 13-14, 2012. The event will include exhibitors, reception and multiple speakers. Bill Erickson, John Tozzi and Julie Howard went on a site visit in November and met with the USCG Academy Superintendent. Charlie McCullough said SNA needs to get the information out about this event to corporations as soon as possible as most corporations' budgets for 2012 events have already been finalized. It was recommended and approved that the title of this event be modified to reflect that it is an SNA event.

CORPORATE MEMBERS REPORT

We currently have 82 corporate members and are on track to meet budgeted corporate income. Transhield, Inc and Renk Test Systems GmbH are new corporate sponsors.

SECRETARY REPORT

The Board of Directors election is completed and votes have been verified. Dave Lee reviewed expiring terms and the current board makeup was presented. The maximum number on the board is 25. SNA received more than the 10% votes required by the SNA bylaws. Dave Lee presented the results to the EXCOM. EXCOM approved the results.

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 solvent and expected to finish 2011 in the black. SNA is spending more on scholarships than currently

taking in and this is a concern. Jim Tackett recommends an offsite meeting in the spring to include himself, Bill Earner, Bill Erickson, Marianne Catina (Admin Staff), and other EXCOM members as appropriate to review SNA's financial health. It is time to get a good picture and not just a snapshot of SNA's finances. After the offsite, Jim Tackett recommends devoting an EXCOM meeting dedicated to a discussion of finances.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

VADM Earner reported that SNA has recently moved some funds from Mutual account into the checking accounts and has renewed some certificates of deposits. Commented that we need a "good rainy day" fund. Current returns of investments have not been good.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Reviewed the outstanding Scholarship action items. Emails have been sent to membership and BOD/Chapter Presidents about SNA accepting donations to the Scholarship fund. VADM Lee Gunn presented the essay question proposed by the Scholarship Committee to use in 2012. Proposed changing the word maximum from 700 to 500 words. The proposed essay provides 3 main questions with sample questions listed for each. These samples are to provide guidance to applicant on what SNA is looking for from applicants. One suggestion was moving the last paragraph to the beginning of the form. Also suggested changing the last line to "We look forward to receiving your application" and to include the deadline date.

Admiral Gunn presented a draft of the precept letter. New information added includes guidelines to use in regards to high school vs. college applicants. Also added "new" to the sentence "The total NEW number of scholarship grants this year will be ...". The number of overall scholarships should not exceed 60 in one year to include new and renewals. Section E was updated to ensure that committee looks at all groups equally during selection process. The Precept letter was approved with minor changes.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Reviewed membership statistics and trend slides as of November 30, 2011. Reviewed Officer and Enlisted trends. Enlisted paid memberships are slightly down, officer paid memberships are constant and other paid memberships are up for the year.

The Membership Committee met on December 8 to review the Chapter Excellence nominations. Eight chapter submitted nominations this year. Bill Erickson read comments from Chairman, RADM Dennis Conley to the EXCOM members as he was on travel and unable to call into the EXCOM meeting. The Membership Committee selected 5 chapters to receive the 2011 award. A sixth chapter which may not have properly been briefed at the December 8 meeting was discussed and EXCOM voted to present a 6th Chapter Excellence award. The six chapters selected were Hampton Roads, MidSouth, New London, Newport, Pearl Harbor and San Diego.

SYMPOSIUM REPORT

RADM Dave Hart thanked all EXCOM members who have volunteered to serve as Symposium escorts in January. Reviewed the current Symposium schedule. Briefed that RADM Rowden will be able to participate at Symposium more than originally expected; Admiral Vitale is now speaking and Admiral Mullen has been invited to be the banquet speaker. Reviewed the panelists that are confirmed to participate in VADM Gunn's panel and the panel for the International Navies luncheon has also been confirmed. The current Symposium schedule is available on the SNA website and will continue to be updated as needed.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Maritime Securities Forum will provide good outreach and good value to our members and corporate sponsors. Ned Lundquist expects good media turnout at the National Symposium. Ned plans to offer PR help to chapters at the Chapter Presidents Breakfast.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Civil War 150 video, sponsored by SNA, has been completed. One thousand videos and 100 posters have been delivered to SNA offices. EXCOM discussed distribution options to include sending to NROTC and NJROTC units, SNA corporate sponsors, SNA EXCOM/Board members and ships.

NEW BUSINESS

Next meeting scheduled for January 5.