

# SQUADRONS & SHIPMATES

## NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY AUGUST 1, 2010

All your officers pro-tempore, along with Stephanie Micklon, Sue Wedemeyer and I held our weekly Thursday night meeting the other night. We have been doing this for the past two months. It was a very productive meeting and some major decisions were made that we want to share with the membership.

### REUNION 2011

We have been receiving bids through our national convention organizer for various hotels in the San Diego area for our 2011 Reunion. Room rates in San Diego are higher than many cities. For example, the Marriott located closest to the Midway Museum is \$259.00/night for the week of our reunion. Other hotels near USS Midway are \$169.00/night with valet parking at \$24.00/day.

We settled on the Crowne Plaza at a rate of \$103.00 per night including a buffet breakfast for 2 people each morning. Parking is complimentary, however, it is usually \$12/day. The hotel is a little more than 6 miles from the ship and we will have to arrange for transportation. Our reunion will run from Tuesday through Sunday morning each year. The dates for the 2011 Reunion were overwhelmingly decided on by the

membership in a survey conducted by Raleigh Plesko. The dates for the 2011 Reunion will be **October 25-30, 2011**. Please mark your calendars now. The hotel has over 400 rooms but, as most of you know, back in March the USS Coral Sea Association asked us if we would entertain the idea of a joint reunion and the membership of Squadrons & Shipmates resoundingly said yes. They will have their own business meeting, as we will, if we have a joint reunion.

We will also invite the USS St. Lo Association to join us at our reunion as their ship was also named USS Midway before it was sunk in 1944. They gave up the name, Midway, so the largest ship on the planet, at the time, could be named, "Midway." Their reunion is scheduled at the same time each year, which coincides with the anniversary of the sinking of their aircraft carrier on October 25, 1944. Coincidentally, our reunion is

being held at the same time as theirs next year. We have scanned into our computer a 2005 newsletter from the St. Lo but it was too large to e-mail all at one time. It will have to be e-mailed either one page, or a few pages at a time. Their newsletters are very colorful and very well done. It looks like a "Life" magazine and has 32 pages. We have four of their newsletters, on loan to the corporation, from our member, Jay Hantleman of Dubuque, Iowa. It takes quite some time to scan in these newsletters and we are working on getting them all scanned into the computer to share with you. The first newsletter took over 5 hours to scan and we have to do them all over again.

Getting back to Reunion 2011, we must know how many members will attend the reunion in San Diego and also, how many hotel rooms they may need. We have to sign a contract with the Crowne Plaza and need to give them our best idea of the number of rooms we expect will be needed by the members. In order to do this, we are asking for your registration fees now, so we can give the hotel a commitment. We intend to keep the registration fees as low as possible, which are only \$15.00 per person. We also want to know if you will need a room at the hotel since we do have members who

live in the San Diego area or will plan to stay with family or friends in the area. Attached to this e-mail is a Reunion Sign-up Sheet to use for Registration Fees only. **See the form at the end of the newsletter.**

Tour and venue prices will be announced at a later date, once they have been formalized. The registration fees will not be deposited until we reach \$1,000 because they will be maintained in a new savings account and the funds will not be used for any normal operating expenses. The bank statement will be sent to the membership periodically, along with the regular bank statement. The funds will remain the property of the members until needed for reunion expenses in October 2011.

In the future, as we grow and the membership becomes larger, it will not be necessary to require deposits. There is a provision in our By-Laws that if members submit their Reunion Sign-up Sheets with funds one year in advance, they may take a 5% discount. Therefore, the officers have to have the final reunion sign-up sheet ready by October 1, 2010 for the October 2011 San Diego Reunion. I want to mention at this time that all the officers will be working very hard over the next 15 months preparing for this five days of enjoyment for you. Please

understand we need your help now to make this run smoothly. We cannot wait until the last moment for all the members to decide. We cannot sign contracts if we do not have the support of the membership to attend these reunions. Thank you for your understanding.

For all you FDR shipmates, who think this is not your ship, forget about it. I was aboard in May of 2009 and the first thing that hit me was the scent of that ship. It was the exactly same as I remember it when I served aboard FDR. My berthing compartment was also as I remember it. Seeing this ship restored to its original condition was totally amazing. Whether FDR or Midway sailor, you will definitely enjoy it and show your spouse, children and grandchildren where you worked, slept and ate. There are pictures on our web site.

## **FIRST MATES GROUP**

As most of you know, Stephanie Micklon is excited about the group that she will be heading up, initially with the help of Sue Wedemeyer, Arlene Zeiter and other spouses or companions who would like to join. It will be a group to support Squadrons & Shipmates and will be treated as a separate entity from our organization. We came to the decision that it would not be

appropriate to call the group a Ladies' Auxiliary since women did serve aboard the Midway and may not be part of the Auxiliary but a regular member of Squadrons & Shipmates. As an example, your President Pro-tempore, Raleigh, is working to recruit, as a member, a female Retired Rear Admiral from an eligible squadron and whose ex-husband served aboard USS Midway. You can Google her at, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathleen Paige](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathleen_Paige).

So, some ideas for names for this group that we discussed were:

First-Mates Club  
First Mates Association  
First Mates Fellowship Group  
Associates Group  
Spouses Association  
Friends of Squadrons & Shipmates

I think you get the idea. If anyone has a more clever idea for a name let's hear it. The dues that will be charged and any and all other funds related to this group will be maintained in a separate account from any funds from Squadrons & Shipmates. We do not know at this time where Stephanie wants to maintain the funds. I will not be able to do it. As of now, the ladies plan to charge the minimum of \$1.00 per year. Stephanie, Sue and Arlene will be looking to

recruit members at our upcoming reunion. They welcome any participation and ideas as the group is just being formed. Auxiliary Member spouses are also welcome, male or female. You can contact Stephanie at, [smicklon@salemhaven.com](mailto:smicklon@salemhaven.com).

## TEE SHIRTS

**GREAT NEWS.** I was able to reduce the quoted prices on the tee shirts for 15 of the 16 styles and colors. Only the XXXXX Navy will remain as quoted. The most popular style, the navy large, was reduced by \$4.00. So, I hope you order more of that style. These prices also include shipping & handling and any tax due. We think the prices are now even more reasonable.

**Sample Order Form.** I am attaching a sample order form with this e-mail. Please be sure it is filled out correctly and please check your extensions and math additions. I know we will have errors because there are 16 different sizes and colors. Please **DO NOT** put a return address label on your form for your address. They get lost and we don't know, who the order belongs too and we already have your money. Also, these labels often do

not copy well. Please, please do not send any extra money with your order as it makes it difficult for me to balance the books.

## CHECKS

I need to ask everyone's help. I would ask that you **DO NOT** combine amounts for different items on one check as the money is deposited into different bank accounts. A check for membership dues should be separate from anything else. Also, please do not combine hats and tee shirts on one check as we will have separate bank accounts for each item to better keep track of the funds. The registration fees for the 2011 Reunion will be deposited into a savings account and need to be submitted on a separate check too. Everything you send in, order forms, checks, registration forms etc. can be sent in one envelope. You can put 5 sheets of paper in one envelope for one first class stamp. We have had a few pieces of mail that have gotten lost and have discovered that it is always an envelope that is less than a # 10 size. If at all possible, please use a # 10 size business envelope to help ensure we are receiving your mail. We do keep all envelopes in your file in the event we would need to verify postmark dates. During our first

year of operation everyone has been learning the processes and procedures of the organization. I wrote them and I'm still learning them too. Now that we are no longer recruits, we all need to try and follow the procedures so that things will run smoothly. You are all navy personnel. Remember how fast we learned to fill out our leave chits correctly? I greatly appreciate your understanding and help with this.

## **ELECTIONS**

As you know, our organization will hold an election each year, except in 2011, according to our By-Laws. All members will be able to vote whether or not they attend the reunion. This year will be unusual because we do not have any candidates other than the officer's pro-tempore. It appears they will be running unopposed. If any member wants to run for office they need to make it known. As all organizations do the first year, officers are appointed or volunteer for the positions and we are no different. In the coming months we are going to have to fill positions on the various committees. There will not be an election next year as the officers elected at the 2010 Reunion will be voted in for 2 years. The officer's terms will be

staggered as stated in the By-Laws.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors is comprised of 5 officers and 4 Board Members. Currently there is one officer position that is not filled and that is Vice-treasurer. I will be performing the duties of Treasurer until one is elected and can be trained and that person is usually the Vice-treasurer. If any member has the ability to prepare financial statements and would like to be Vice-treasurer, please let us know. You must live in an area where there are Fifth-Third Banks located in order to make deposits. Being that we are one officer short, it opens up a position on the Board of Directors. We presently have 8 board members and our By-Laws call for nine. One of the nine will be voted in as Board Chairperson by the nine board members only. The purpose of the Board is to decide issues that cannot be resolved by the officers or if there is discord among the officers. If any member wants to volunteer for the last position on the Board, please let us know.

## **ANNUAL CHARTER MEMBERSHIP**

We thought there would be some confusion about the Charter Membership dues. Some members who recently joined in May, June and July and will join before August 15, 2010 will all be Charter Members. The simplest way to explain this is that **all** Charter Members (not Lifetime Members) have, or should have by now, paid 2 years of dues, dues for the 2009-2010 year and dues for 2010-2011. It is only fair that all Annual Charter Members pay the same amount of dues for each ship (\$4.10 x 2 for Midway and \$4.20 x 2 for FDR). Doug Micklon proposed the extension of the Charter Membership period from June 30, 2010 until August 15, 2010 with the understanding that the members who joined in July and August will incur the same dues as all the other Annual Charter Members. This is a great deal for the membership because instead of becoming a Regular Member and paying \$9.10 or \$10.27 per year, they will only have to pay \$4.10 or \$4.20 per year in future years. Furthermore, being an Annual Charter Member, they can become a Charter Lifetime Member anytime in the future for only \$41.00 or \$42.00 instead of \$91.00 or \$102.70. We hope this helps clear up any misunderstanding.

There are many parts of the country where there is no Saturday mail pick up so if you mail your dues on Monday, August 2, 2010, you will be fine. The e-mails that were sent out on Saturday, as a reminder to the Annual Charter Members about their dues was not the first reminder as there have been reminders in the last 2 newsletters. We are sorry if anyone was upset by these e-mails. We have the most reasonable dues in the entire country for Charter Members but we must receive the dues on time to maintain the solvency of the corporation and continue to grow. Beginning in September the dues will be somewhat more in line with other organizations but on an average, still the most reasonable anywhere.

## VERY IMPORTANT – 2011 REUNION REGISTRATION

Please respond to this e-mail as soon as you can, even before you send in your registration fees, as we need to sign these contracts before someone else takes our time slot. As always, please hit the “reply” key before making your marks (X) on the form below.

Please copy Raleigh Plesko, [squadronsmates1@yahoo.com](mailto:squadronsmates1@yahoo.com), Doug Micklon, [squadronsmates2@comcast.net](mailto:squadronsmates2@comcast.net) and John Schwinghamer, [squadronsmates3@aol.com](mailto:squadronsmates3@aol.com).

\_\_\_\_\_I plan to attend the 2011 Reunion

I will need \_\_\_\_\_room(s) for my family and guests at the Crowne Plaza Hotel

I will need \_\_\_\_\_handicapped room(s) at the Crowne Plaza Hotel

\_\_\_\_\_I will NOT be able to attend the 2011 Reunion

BALLOT

2010 ELECTION OF OFFICERS SQUADRONS & SHIPMATES

Below are ballots for the 2010 election. Please e-mail your completed ballot to John Schwinghamer, the Secretary Pro-tempore and record keeper for the corporation. You may e-mail them and for the members who do not have a computer, we hope you exercise your right to vote and mail your ballot to John at 5440 Milkwood Lane, Las Vegas, Nevada 89149-6662.

This ballot fulfills the obligation of the organization so please exercise your right. Thank you.

Please complete and copy and paste to an e-mail to John Schwinghamer, **squadronsmates3@aol.com**.

PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_  William Raleigh Plesko  
\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ Write-in Candidate

VICE-PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_  Douglas Micklon  
\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ Write-in Candidate

TREASURER

\_\_\_\_\_  Al Wedemeyer (Temporary)  
\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ Write-in Candidate

VICE-TREASURER

\_\_\_\_\_  None  
\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ Write-in Candidate