



# USS Henry L. Stimson SSBN 655 Association

## Meeting Minutes October 15, 2016

### Opening

The meeting of the Association was called to order by President Kreul at 1400 (2 pm). Vice President Tom Krauser opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and the purpose of the Stimson Association.

The Invocation was given by Acting Chaplain Ken Meigs.

President Kreul recognized past Association Officers and special guests who were present to include: Past President Chuck Hladik, Past Secretary Loree Riggs, Past COs: CDR Gary Bell, CDR Joe Mueller and CDR William Fitzpatrick Jr.

President Kreul introduced the Association's present officers: Ray Kreul – President, Tom Krauser – Vice President, Ken Meigs – Treasurer, Nick Nichols – Secretary.

### Meeting Minutes from 2013

Secretary Nichols presented the minutes for approval. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The Minutes were approved as presented.

### Membership Report

Association has a total of 1093 members. Of those 720 are considered active with valid contact information, 230 are considered inactive with no current contact information.

There are 50 shipmates who are paid up Lifetime Members (LTM). LTM fee is \$100; when paid the shipmate receives a certificate and a wallet card designating him as a Lifetime Member of the Association.

The Association has 143 shipmates on the Eternal Patrol List. This is up from 71 on the list at the 2013 reunion due to more shipmates reporting the passing of those they know. The Bell Tolling Service was held this morning at the Cold War Memorial for our shipmates on Eternal Patrol.

2016 Reunion status has 198 registered attendees.

### Financial Report

Treasurer Meigs presented the Financial Report. At the beginning of the Reunion there was \$441.10 in general funds and \$1936.07 in charity funds for a total of \$2,377.17.

Loree Riggs reported that he has returned over \$250 to the Treasurer from the money advanced to him for the memorabilia shipping. Loree also gave a check from the Week's family for \$200 to the Association.

## **Old Business**

### Committee Reports:

**Historian:** Loree Riggs reported he has stepped down from the position of historian. A turnover of all items in inventory has been held and the new historian & custodian of the memorabilia is Larry Knutson MMCS B 79-81 who lives in Ladson SC. He will be officially appointed before the end of the meeting.

**Storekeeper:** Rita Kreul reported that she has given \$300 profit to the treasurer from sales at the reunion so far. Rita will be stepping down as the Association Storekeeper and will turn over the position to a volunteer, Jim Weaver SK2 B 68-69 who lives in Valley Center CA. He will be officially appointed before the end of the meeting. As soon as the turnover has been completed new info will be placed on the website for all shipmates.

**Webmaster:** Nick Nichols reports the website is up and running. Additionally monthly eNewsletters are being sent out and placed on the website for all to read. He will be contacting our web host to see about more space for all of our pictures and information we want to post. Presently we pay \$120/year for only 200MB of space. There are hosts that will give you unlimited space for \$145/3 years.

**Stimson Bench:** Ray Kreul gave the final report on the Memorial Bench which was dedicated this morning at a very moving ceremony. The first donations for the bench were made at the 2011 Reunion, and with many donations from our shipmates, the bench was set in place less than one year after the first donations.

**Memorabilia Storage:** Loree Riggs has transferred all historical items to Charleston and Larry Knutson now has custody of those items.

## **New Business**

### Election of Officers:

The Board of Directors moved that the seated officers retain their positions for the next term. All current officers have agreed they will retain their positions if elected. The motion was seconded and the following were elected as the Association Officers for 2016-2018: Ray Kreul, President; Tom Krauser, Vice President; Nick Nichols, Secretary; Ken Meigs, Treasurer.

**Proposed Bylaws change:** There were several proposed changes. The following changes were voted as approved:

#### Article I.V.a: "Association Membership"

Registration for a reunion automatically makes a Stimson shipmate an Association member.

#### Article I.VI.a: "Dues"

Dues are not mandatory. A \$10.00 dues request shall be made at each reunion (approximately every two years) to assist in covering Association expenses defined below. Surviving spouses/families are exempt from this provision. At any time, a member may make a one-time payment of \$100.00 for Lifetime Membership. Special recognition and a separate roster of all Lifetime Members shall be established and maintained by the Secretary and posted on the Web Site by the Webmaster. At the conclusion of each reunion, after all current reunion expenses have been met, the Association may retain up to \$5000.00 in the General Operating Fund. This amount may be supplemented by dues income during the following reunion cycle. The Treasurer shall provide the Board of Directors with a financial statement within ninety days following a reunion as specified in Article II below, and the board shall determine the disposition of funds, if any, in excess of \$5000.00.

#### Article I.VI.b.1: "Dues"

Up to \$5000.00 shall be transferred to the General Operating Fund of the Association.

Article I.VI.c.1.a: "Dues" The original recommended change was amended as written below:

Life Membership dues collected shall be set aside as \$75.00 to the General Operating Fund and \$25.00 to the Charity Fund.

Article I.VI.c.2: "Dues"

Add 2.e: Required Liability insurance purchased for the reunion.

Article I.VI.c.2: "Reunion Expenses"

Add 2.f: Reunion decorations are the responsibility of the local reunion committee. Expenses should be kept to a minimum and should not exceed \$250 per reunion. Sharing of previous reunion decorations is encouraged to keep the expense as low as possible.

Article III.I.a.4: "Election of Officers"

Other nominations for an Officer position must be submitted to the Board (Secretary) in writing (letter, email) at least 30 days prior to the Reunion. The nominee must have been contacted and agree to be nominated to a position and be an Association Member in good standing. A member may volunteer to be a nominee for an Officer position by submitting their name to the Board (Secretary) in writing (letter, email) at least 30 days prior to the Reunion. Nominations will be included on the slate presented at the next election."

New appointments made:

Historian/Memorabilia: Larry Knutson MMCS B 79-81

Storekeeper: Jim Weaver SK2 B 68-69

Election of new Officers committee will consist of 3 members to be chosen by the Association President from volunteers.

Reunion cycle will revert to 2 years in 2018.

Next Reunion: President Kreul asked for locations and volunteers for the 2018 reunion. Receiving none, he stated that if no one would step up then there would not be a reunion. After some time, Chuck Hladik offered that he would chair the 2018 reunion in Oklahoma City OK if that was agreeable with those present. After a unanimous vote, it was determined the 2018 Reunion will be in Oklahoma City OK with Chuck as the chairman.

**NOTE:** at the banquet on Saturday evening, Keith Post of the Kings Bay Submarine Museum told us that he will host the 2020 Stimson Reunion in Kings Bay. He received a huge round of applause.

### **For the Good of the Order**

President Kreul thanked everyone for a most successful Reunion IX and hoped to see everyone in Oklahoma City OK in 2018.

BRAVO ZULU was given to Loree Riggs for his work in the Association as the Secretary and Historian/Memorabilia Custodian since the inception of the Association. He received a standing ovation of applause.

Chaplain J.B. Helms offered an emotional Thank You for all of the shipmates who contacted him to offer their prayers and support when his wife passed away and more recently upon the sudden death of his son.

Dave Peck suggested that for future reunions the committees consider having a percentage of the cost of any special events (tours/shows/etc.) paid up front with the registration fees.

Mike Welch suggested that the Association give the USSVI Charleston Base \$125.00 to show our appreciation for their support during the reunion. This was voted on by the members and Nick said there would be money in the reunion funds to make this gift.

## **Adjournment**

It was moved, seconded and voted on to adjourn the meeting.

The Benediction was given by Acting Chaplain Ken Meigs.

The meeting of the USS Henry L. Stimson SSBN 655 Association Reunion IX was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

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J.E. "Nick" Nichols, Secretary  
(October 15, 2016)