

## ASR-ARS ASSOCIATION Newsletter

### November 2016

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Baton Rouge Waterfront



USS Kidd

*This will be our last Newsletter for the year. We would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you and your family a blessed Holiday season.*

*Sincerely, Officers of the ASR-ARS Association*

**Our next reunion will be in Baton Rouge, LA, Mon. Oct. 16th – Sat. Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

This year we were in the DC area with 32 attending counting spouses and guests. There were some new and some long-time members including, Chuck Micele, who has missed a few reunions, who came this year. Welcome back, Chuck. Hope we see you at Baton Rouge.

We have over 300 names on our membership roster, and this number is small compared to the high number of veterans who served on ASR and/or ARS ships. We realize there are many reasons, and we are sure many don't want to be involved, but consider this, you are missing a great time each year as our attendees will agree.

If you want to help, try to locate those members who have not been coming and those who are not on our list of members, and invite them to attend next year. A few years ago, the group agreed to hold the reunions each year instead of every other year and to have the location in different sections of the US. This was because we are all growing older and some of us do not want to travel too far. But we still have had members say that the reunions are too far away and others that live within 100 miles who just do not come.

We had a lot of fun at our auction, the 50/50 drawing and the "Five Free Nights" that was won by James and Eva Barnes, this year. We collected \$910.00 toward the Navy Memorial Plaque from the following members; Bob and Edna Croft, John Luke, Chuck Micele, Bill and Mary Neal and Bruce and Sue Watson. Thanks for your donations. Bill sent a check to the Navy Memorial and they are starting the design of our plaque. We will be notified when it is completed and if we have paid \$3000 by then, we will get a "dedication date" for you to come to this event.

Anyone who wants to contribute, please send a check to: ASR-ARS Association, 159 Worthingford Drive, Taylorsville, KY 40071 and note on the check that it is for the "Navy Memorial Plaque"

## **From our Reunion Planner, Bill Neal**



We plan on having our famous **raffles** to include the table gifts that are brought or mailed to the reunion by **you**, our members, the raffle for **five FREE nights** at our 2018 reunion, and the **50/50 pot** which will be split between the winning ticket holder and the Association. James and Eva Barnes won the **five FREE nights' raffle** for 2017's reunion.

We need to receive the Registrations by **September 1st**, to give time to get all the shirts and jackets plus let the folks in Baton Rouge know how many are going to attend each event. There will be a Free tee shirt for attending members. But don't expect a tee shirt if the registration if I have not received it back by **September 1st**. Once I give the clothing order, it is not easy to increase the numbers.

If you are not attending the reunion, but want to order items, please fill out the top portion of the registration and fill out the area that is for **Orders of extra items** and include \$10.00 per item for postage. We will try to mail the order to you before we leave for the reunion, if not we will mail them out when we return.

You can order blue denim long sleeve shirts and polo shirts with the ASR ARS logo or the 'Copper Collar Diver helmet' logo. Your name can be embroidered over the logo if you wish. Also 1/4 zipper sweat shirt & lined windbreaker jackets, we also have a new item on the registration, **Ladies polo shirts**, they are sized like you would expect a nice Ladies polo shirt would be. Last year we had polo shirts that were not a cotton/polyester mix and they ran smaller. We will not order this type of shirts again since it is too hard to estimate the sizes.

Please remember to bring raffle items for the raffle table and if you received your ASR-ARS lanyard, at past reunions, bring it to the next reunion as our supply will not last forever.

Self-parking was currently free of charge as of Dec. 2015, there is no guarantee that this will remain the same. Airport transportation is available at a fee of \$7.00 per trip, this means if there are two or more the cost is still \$7.00 provided your group can all fit into the hotel shuttle. For airport shuttle please contact the hotel's Transportation Coordinator at (225) 930-0150. We have some fascinating tours planned for Wednesday and Friday including the Baton Rouge State Museum, the USS Kidd where we will have our Memorial Wreath Service, a day in New Orleans where we will have free time at the French Quarters for shopping & lunch on your own, and visit the World War II Museum where they have the IMAX Theater and lots of information about the Higgins Boats. Some of you may have been to this museum in the past but so much has changed since then with the new renovations completed just a few years ago.

It is evident that our association is growing older. Forty years or so after our "foreign war" experiences, wheelchairs, walkers, canes and medication are very much a part of who we are, but we are still willing and capable of seeing and doing new and adventurous things.

There will be a Complimentary Wine and Cheese reception hosted by the hotel on Monday afternoon. We will have our hospitality space on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor this time, because they do not allow alcoholic beverages in the first-floor meeting space unless the hotel sets up a cash bar and serves it. We have a guarantee price of \$48.00 for our Saturday night (fish, beef and chicken) buffet including deserts/coffee/tea. There will be a cash bar at this group meal. Afterward, we will have our annual auction/raffle and 50/50 drawing and five free nights (for next year's reunion) drawing.

Now is a good time to start thinking about what you want to bring to the 2017 reunion's raffle table, this is our fun/fund raiser each year and we need your help to make it a great success. If you can't attend, but you want to send your raffle donation, please call me, my number is (502) 477-0876 (eastern time zone). *As always for those who know that you are going to next year's reunion or even think you are going to attend, PLEASE book your rooms **now**, our host hotel is Crowne Plaza Baton Rouge, 4728 Constitution Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808. The hotel's phone number is (225) 925-2244. Our rate will be \$99.00 plus tax of 13%. This rate is good three (3) days prior and post the reunion, **space available**. This means if you want to come early or stay later, call and make your reservations as soon as possible. Rates quoted are per night, and includes a full hot breakfast buffet and beverage of choice, for up to two guests per room. Check-in time is 4:00 p.m. and check-out time is 11:00 a.m. unless special arrangements are made in advance. If you are coming to the reunion but are not staying at the hotel, you must pay for your breakfast, if eating in the hotel restaurant.*

**The cutoff date to register at the \$99.00 rate is September 1, 2017.** Please mention the **ASR-ARS group** when registering to get the \$99.00 rate.

We will be sending you the registrations along with the Spring Newsletter, with a cut-off date of **September 1, 2017**. Please **remember** to send in your registrations and register at the hotel by this time.

*Since our 2016 turnout was down, we have requested twenty-five (25) rooms for our 2017 reunion block. This count may be raised if we request it soon enough but to request it later may be a problem. Let's plan to make this a large reunion turnout this year, you will enjoy your time in Baton Rouge, we guarantee it.*

***Bill***

## **Minutes from the 2016 Business Meeting**

**The meeting** was called to order at 9 a.m. by our President, Mike Waters.

**The Invocation** was given by our Chaplain, Bruce Waters.

**The Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed members** present was led by Mike Waters. Mike updated us on the number of attendees in recent years: 2012-Seattle, WA (43); 2013-Norfolk/Virginia Beach, VA (71); 2014-Rapid City, SD (50); 2015-Albuquerque, NM (53); 2016-Dulles/Sterling, VA (32).

**Treasurer report** was given by our Treasurer, Sue Watson. The beginning balance from 2015 was \$6,007.89. There was income in the amount of \$7,900.23 and the expenses were \$6,359.28 leaving a balance of \$7,571.71. The Treasurer's report was approved.

**Secretary's report** was given by our Secretary, Mary Neal. The minutes from the 2015 reunion were presented and approved.

**Reunion report** was given by our Reunion Planner, Bill Neal. Our reunion will be at the *Crowne Plaza* Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The dates are Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. We have lots of places to tour and we will have a hospitality room that allows us to bring in our own beverages and snacks but this may be a thing of the past since so many of the younger folks are setting a bad example with their gatherings at the hotels, and the rules for meetings are getting stricter about letting us have a space to meet and bring in alcoholic beverages. We must look at the whole picture when we choose a host hotel, such as full service, shuttle, hospitality space and good rates.

### **Old Business**

Web site – We are not online yet but we do have a presence on Facebook now.

ASR-ARS Challenge Coins Sales – The coins have arrived and sales @ \$10.00 each have been coming along nicely.

Flowers to deceased – a discussion followed on sending flowers to the member/spouse of the deceased. The group approved sending flowers to the member/spouse if in good standing.

### **New Business**

Announcement about Christening of Sea Lab 1 – November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Panama City Beach, FL.

2017 Oyster Bash - a fund raiser for "Man of the Sea" museum in Panama City Beach, FL will be held January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 1 p.m. – 8 p.m. It was approved for our association to purchase a table for \$500. Individual tickets are \$25 per person (for all you care to eat) that includes drinks, oysters (on the half shell, steamed and baked), hamburgers and chili.

Navy Memorial Plaque – A discussion about the ASR-ARS having a plaque in the Navy Memorial at a cost of \$3,000. It was approved for the association to send \$1000 each year with the members encouraged to donate to this cause.

New Members – We had five new members join at the 2016 Oyster Bash in Panama City Beach, FL; George Hackett, Pete Loveland, Mark Martinez, Cole Neill, and Donald Patterson. We have had two new members from our Facebook site; Howard Richards and Daniel Tosterin who passed away suddenly in June this year.

2017 reunion – Bill Neal told us about the 2017 reunion in Baton Rouge, LA. The dates are October 16<sup>th</sup>-October 21<sup>st</sup> with a room rate of \$99.00 that includes breakfast for two. Bill said that there are so many great places to visit in the area. There will be two tour days and possible an additional ½ day or full day.

Washington DC (Tomb of Unknown Soldier) Quiz winner – Ronald Gentzler won the basket for the "first one" to turn in the correct answers to the Quiz.

ATF Ships – A discussion regarding inviting ATF shipmates to come to our reunions was held and it was approved to invite them. Some of our members are also members of their reunions too.

**Benediction** was given by Bruce Watson, Chaplain

**Meeting was Adjourned**

*Mary Neal, Secretary*

## **From our Secretary, Mary Neal**

### **EMAIL and ADDRESS changes:**

If you have changed your address, phone number or email address, PLEASE let Mary Neal know. This helps with notices, newsletters, etc. getting to you in a timely fashion and keeping our ASR ARS Roster updated. You can call or send any news or changes to: phone — (502) 477-0876, email - [mbneal@twc.com](mailto:mbneal@twc.com) or by mail.

**Notices**—If you know of any of our members who are ill or have passed away, please send this information to Mary Neal also, [mbneal@twc.com](mailto:mbneal@twc.com) or call (502) 477-0876.

**New Members**—If you know anyone who would like to join the association, please pass on Mary Neal's contact information to them. There are so many who don't know how much fun we have each year.

**Note**—If you cannot come to the reunion next year, but want to receive any of the clothing items, fill out the top of the registration and the clothing order portion and add \$10.00 per item for postage/handling, and mail it back to: ASR—ARS Association  
159 Worningford Drive  
Taylorsville, KY 40071

**Rosters**—We will have updated Membership Rosters at the annual reunions each year. If you can't come to the reunion, and want a Membership Roster mailed to you, please note this on the registration, with a check in the amount of \$5.00, made payable to ASR-ARS Association, to cover cost of printing and postage. Send to: ASR ARS Association, 159 Worningford Drive, Taylorsville, KY 40071 and we will mail the roster to you. Or the membership roster can be emailed, to members (in good standing) who have computers and can open a document in Excel. Just let us know, email: [mbneal@twc.com](mailto:mbneal@twc.com).

**Get more involved in our association:** Please let us hear from you, if you have experience with web sites and would like to help, we need someone to help with this as it is a good way to grow our membership and to keep the membership informed. This is your group and we want you to have as much involvement as you would like to have.

**Our 2017, Baton Rouge reunion** will start on Monday, as always and continue through Saturday, with the Business Meeting in the morning and Banquet on Saturday evening.

### **Last 10 Year Reunion Locations**

2006—Groton, CT  
2008—Ft. Mitchell, KY  
2010—Branson, MO  
2011—Ft Worth, TX  
2012—Seattle, WA  
2013—VA Beach, VA (Norfolk area) 2014—  
Rapid City, SD 2015  
2015—Albuquerque, NM  
2016—Dulles/Sterling, VA (DC area)  
2017—Baton Rouge, LA (next Year)



*See you in Baton Rouge.... Mary Neal, Secretary*