U.S.S. Wainwright Veteran’s Association

Executive Board Meeting

Branson, Missouri

October 26, 2017

Meeting called to order by President Manny Seligmann at 1300 hrs.

President Manny Seligmann – present

Vice President Richard Molck – present

Secretary – Robert Bennett – present

Treasurer Jerry McKnight – Absent due to a work commitment.

Master at Arms – Skip Greene – present

President Manny Seligmann led all attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Treasurer’s Report –**

Treasurer Jerry McKnight was not present but provided a ledger of accounts to President Seligmann prior to the meeting.

The ledger was reviewed and it was noted that $1000.00 due to be sent to the museum’s curator fund was not included or located in the report.

A motion to accept the Treasurer’s report was made by Vice President Molck and seconded by MAA Skip Greene. The motion passed unanimously.

**Minutes -**

Secretary Robert Bennett read the minutes from the general meeting held in Charleston on July 16, 2016.

A motion was made by MAA Skip Greene to accept the minutes and seconded by VP Richard Molck. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports –**

**Membership/Roster Committee –**

Ed Cookenham provided a membership/roster report via email to President Manny Seligmann prior to the Executive Board meeting. The report states that the association has 130 dues paying members, 71 life members, 14 family members, and 2 honorary members. 81 members let their membership expire between 2010 and 2016.

Treasurer Jerry McKnight has been mailing out dues notices for the last several months and 60 shipmates have joined the association as a result of his effort.

The membership chairman will update the roster with the additional names.

**Reunion Committee –**

President Manny Seligmann will provide addition information about the upcoming 2018 reunion in an email as the reunion scheduling is now in progress. All attending agreed that Branson and the facilities at the hotel will work well for an excellent reunion. Details to follow.

President Seligmann is working with the Branson Raddison along with a reunion planning company and has had successful negotiations including obtaining free breakfast, no attrition rate, and no food/beverage minimums. The reunion registration page is up and running on the Raddison website. Some shipmates have registered already.

President Seligmann recapped the 2016 Charleston reunion and all agreed it was a successful reunion. The only major complaint involved the photographer and how the picture was taken. This will be addressed prior to the 2018 reunion.

**Nominating Committee –**

Dave Dobson was the nomination committee chair for the 2016 reunion. He did not provide a report.

The current executive board was nominated and voted in as a slate of officers.

Discussion followed as to who would be on the 2018 nominating committee. President Manny Seligmann reached out to Dave Dobson to see if he would chair the nominating committee again.

**Curator Report –**

VP Richard Molck read the curator’s report. The report is attached to the minutes.

**Trailer Committee –**

VP Richard Molck provided a detailed report about the trailer activities / events of the last year along with expenses and donations.

**Historian Report –**

J.C. Carlson did not provide a report.

VP Richard Molck stated that he was at the Naval archives in Washington D.C. and was looking for information regarding the U.S.S. Wainwright DD-419 and he intends to go back to look for information regarding the U.S.S. Wainwright DD-62. Richard will also look into the current Agent Orange initiatives.

**Chaplain’s Report –**

Don Scott did not provide a report. It was noted that Don has been sending out condolence cards to families of deceased shipmates. Since July 2016 seven shipmates have passed away. Their names have been updated on the memorial list.

**Webmaster Report –**

VP Richard Molck provided a webmaster report (attached). He states that there is work in progress on the web site. He is looking for assistance to bring the web site up to date.

**Storekeeper Report –**

Kurt Ausback did not provide a written report but did speak with VP Richard Molck. There is an initiative to bring the ship’s store to Quick Books to be more efficient. Discussion was held about how to lower shipping costs and to make shipping costs more efficient/easier. Use of PayPal was also discussed.

**Newsletter Report –**

Rod Schafer sent a two page report on newsletter activity since 2016 (attached). There have been 16 newsletters, 1 survey, and 587 emails sent.

President Seligmann contacted some of the shipmates that unsubscribed from Constant Contact to see why they were unsubscribing and informed them of the information they are missing out on.

A paper newsletter with information about the 2018 reunion should be mailed by January 18, 2018. A registration form for the reunion will be included in the paper newsletter.

**Old Business –**

The nominees for the Captain Lockee and Lonely Bull awards were discussed and decided.

**New Business –**

President Seligmann discussed and encouraged using Quick Books for all members of the executive board. The Treasurer would be the custodian of the books with visual access to all board members, leaving the books open to review. There are three users in license. VP Richard Molck has Quick Books software in a Google Drive. Passwords would be needed to see accounts.

**By-Laws –**

President Seligmann discussed a possible by-law change to correct some wording and to do away with separate checking accounts with required minimum balances. This would allow for flexibility for the needs of the association.

Proposed changes to the by-laws will be printed and placed into welcome packets at the reunion prior to voting on the changes at the general meeting.

**2018 Reunion –**

President Seligmann discussed the progress of the 2018 Reunion. At the 2016 reunion in Charleston a vote was held to move the reunion to the fall. The vote passed. In another vote Branson, Missouri was chosen as the 2018 reunion destination. Branson won by a small margin.

President Seligmann located Military Reunion Planners and they are in the process of negotiating for the association with President Seligmann as the contact person.

Branson has several shows and the executive board is checking the area. The possibility of one or two shows was discussed for Thursday and Friday during the reunion and a Saturday ladies event. MRP will negotiate prices for the association.

A location was selected for the Memorial Service. A constant Contact will announce the location. The Vietnam Veterans Association will provide a chaplain for the service. There will also be an honor guard and a rifle squad.

The photographer for the reunion was discussed. The problems with the photographer at the 2016 Reunion were spoken about and used as an example to improve the photography service for the 2018 reunion. It is believed that the change in hotels for the 2016 reunion was the cause of the issues.

The consensus of the post reunion survey was that the membership wanted more than one photo but few purchased the photographs. It was decided that there will be one group photograph taken and the photographer will be available for individual and couple photos outside the banquet on Saturday night.

Entertainment for the banquet was discussed and possible ideas were considered. The consensus of the executive board was that there would not be a speaker at the banquet. Local entertainers will be used with the 2016 post reunion survey as a guide.

There was discussion about having a reunion logo and getting patches made with the logo. The board will check with the storekeeper, Kurt Ausbeck for premiums. The possibility of a plate commemorating the reunion or other items was discussed.

The raffle was discussed and the consensus of the executive board is that the raffle is time consuming. The idea of having an easel in the banquet with the winning raffle numbers on it would be less time consuming and not interfere with the banquet. The 50/50 raffle will be held in the hospitality room after the banquet.

Menu items were chosen and there will be breakfast in the hospitality room.

**Special Recognition –**

A discussion was held to recognize a shipmate for his service.

Shipmate Bob McCray’s mother Phyllis McCray passed away not long ago. Phyllis was the only parent of a shipmate that supported the association. In recognition of that, the board voted to make a fifty dollar donation to the American Cancer Society in her honor.

**Trailer Donations –**

President Seligmann is looking for grants to help fund the trailer. Any assistance with this would be appreciated.

**2020 Reunion –**

Possible 2020 reunion sites were discussed with the following suggestions:

Boston, Massachusetts

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Baltimore, Maryland

Washington, D.C.

Savannah, Georgia

Wilmington, Delaware

Bath, Maine

**2018 Executive Board –**

Discussion was held about the possibility of the same board members staying in place for the next term. All agreed to stay on if elected except MAA Skip Greene. Skip would prefer to retire from the board.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Secretary Robert Bennett. The motion was seconded by VP Richard Molck. The motion passed unanimously.