

NAVAL MINEWARFARE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Business Meeting held in New Orleans, LA, June 5, 2018

OFFICERS PRESENT: Bill Clark, President, Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms; Jesse DeLoach, Secretary, Treasurer; Rick Hannum, Historian; Jonathan Ingber, Legal Officer, Editor; Ken Rodman, Trustee.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Referred to October, 2017 edition of *The Silent Defenders* report of the May 19, 2017 NMA Plaque Dedication in Washington, D.C.

Bill Clark reviewed recent leadership changes triggered by the deaths of Chaplain/Webmaster Bob Meeker (7-19-2017); former Treasurer Ron Swensen (12-19-2017); President Rick Richard (12-22-2017); and the resignation of Secretary Gary Haasch. Replacements were Bill Clark as President and Chaplain; Jesse DeLoach as Treasurer and Secretary; and Al Hines as Webmaster.

Jesse DeLoach, Secretary/Treasurer, reported that he had relieved the ailing Ron Swensen of the Treasurer's position at a face-to-face meeting in Cincinnati, OH in August, 2017. A cashier's check for \$13,576.88 was delivered to CDR DeLoach at that point, accounting for the entirety of the NMA's financial assets. Final income and expenditures during the final months of Mr. Swensen's tenure were fully verified.

The new NMA checking account in San Antonio, TX has received \$5,604 in dues, fees, donations, and 2018 Convention income since that time, totaling \$19,180.88 in assets.

Expenses in the same period--including carefully estimated expenses for the 2018 Convention and the October, 2018 TSD--total \$17,802.75, leaving an estimated balance of \$1,378.13 when the NMA closes its doors on December 31, 2018.

Treasurer DeLoach has contacted the IRS to maintain the Tax-Exempt status of the NMA and update necessary filings. He has been advised that no further action is necessary until we close our organization as of December 31, 2018. The tax-exempt number can be obtained for any NMA donor by contacting CDR DeLoach.

Dick Priest moved that the Treasurer's report be approved as submitted; seconded by Rick Hannum and passed unanimously.

Historian Rick Hannum presented the issue of proper disposition of the NMA's historical items and library. Five boxes of important books, magazines, files, folders, and personal stories comprise our collection. NMA member and author David Bruhn has indicated that he would be willing to act as steward of the collection, but recommended that the Stockton (CA) Maritime Museum with its partially-restored minesweeper, the USS Lucid MSO-458, be considered as a repository. A long discussion ensued with Roger Mills, RADM Jay DeLoach, and Dr. Michael Curley adding salient comments.

Rick Hannum moved that: "Upon termination of the NMA the library assets, subject to their acceptance by the Stockton Maritime Museum for the USS Lucid Museum Ship, shall be retained in keeping by NMA Historian Rick Hannum. If accepted by the Stockton Maritime Museum, they shall be transmitted to the

Museum at a future time of their choice. If the library is not accepted by the Stockton Maritime Museum, the assets will be offered to author David Bruhn or retained by Historian C. R. Hannum." Seconded by Jonathan Ingber and approved by vote.

NOTE: Following the Business Meeting CDR Hannum received a note from the Stockton Maritime Museum that they would welcome receipt of our materials. Paul Abelquist will visit the Museum and the Lucid personally and explore progress on the Lucid restoration, physical storage/display features, proper labeling of the collection as "NMA Historical Collection" and report his findings.

Meanwhile CDR Hannum will undertake the task of properly identifying and describing those items in our collection that are truly unique. One of our NMA members, Dr. Gary Howells, is Curator of the Stockton Maritime Museum.

Treasurer Jesse DeLoach then raised the issue of proper disposition of the predicted \$1,300-\$1,400 NMA balance at closing. Four worthy donees were suggested: the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation, the United States Naval Institute, the Museum of the Pacific War, and the Stockton Maritime Museum. The suggestion was made and readily accepted that there should be only ONE donee in view of the small amount of funds. A vote was conducted, won by the Stockton Maritime Museum, pending Paul Abelquist's examination and report to the Board. Another vote was held among the remaining three and the United States Naval Institute was named as the alternate.

Editor Jonathan Ingber discussed the last issue of *The Silent Defenders* and promised a keepsake edition. He encouraged the membership to send in their personal stories, especially memories of bygone conventions.

Roger Mills made an impassioned plea for a last-minute merge attempt of Small Craft Sailors and the Naval Minewarfare Association. A discussion ensued, emphasizing the importance of ending this great organization with a successful, high-impact event such as our New Orleans Convention. Following that discussion the membership was asked to raise any objections to the organization-closure plan in operation. After a moment of dead silence the issue was laid to rest.

Jesse DeLoach moved that the Business Meeting be closed; seconded by Ken Rodman and unanimously approved.

Immediately following the meeting Paul Abelquist and Jay DeLoach made effective presentations in their specific areas of interest.

Respectfully submitted,
Jesse H. DeLoach, Secretary/Treasurer

Since the NMA banquet held in New Orleans on Thursday, June 7, 2018 would be the last group event of our organization, the Business Meeting Minutes were presented for consideration by our membership at that gathering. After the Minutes were read by President Clark, Rick Hannum moved they be approved as submitted; seconded by Paul Abelquist and approved unanimously.