



NAVAL ENLISTED
RESERVE ASSOCIATION
WINDY CITY CHAPTER



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From The WCC Newsletter Editor

Aug 2014

Shipmates:

Nine of your Windy City Chapter Shipmates recently returned from the 2014 NERA National Conference, on the Riverwalk, in San Antonio. This year's meeting was sponsored by USAA Insurance. For those who are not currently participating in USAA; you're "missing the boat". From their "no fine print" credit cards, past their banking services and into the competitive home, auto and life insurance rates, eligibility is covered by all. The icing on the cakes continues to be the generous subsidies USAA kicks back to NERA.

This year was an off year for NERA business. As an "off election year" with no C&BL sessions and an abnormally small active duty participation, there was plenty of socializing and leisure time.

If you have never been to a National Conference, and you don't belong to USAA you are truly "missing out" on some great benefits. Your Editor

HENCEFORTH, WCC will meet at the Northlake American Legion Post on the 2nd Tuesday of even numbered months. Windy City Chapter is welcome to hold our meetings there every other month, at no cost to the chapter. **The Post is located in Northlake on the South side of North Ave. (RT 64), West of Mannheim (RT 12/45) and East of Wolf RD.**

Butch, Kathleen, Ed, Paul, Anthony (Lewandowski) and Andy are all both Nera and members of this Post. Ed Whiteside is the Adjutant at the Post and has been

for several years.

Editor

See you at WCC's meeting: @ 2000 October 14th @ our new meeting site the Northlake American Legion Post.

Mark Your Calendar:

Meetings are conducted at 2000 on the second Tuesdays of even numbered months at the Northlake American Legion Post.

The WCC meeting schedule for 2014 is as follows: 10/14, 12/9

Windy City Chapter meeting minutes -08-12-2014

Meeting of the Windy City Chapter convened at 20:05. President, Vice President, Treasurer, Executive Council and Secretary present. A quorum exists.

List of Attendees:

Butch Michaelson Ed Whiteside Gene Koelker
Paul Smurawski Larry Monroe **Windy City**

Chapter meeting minutes-08-12-2014

Meeting of the Windy City Chapter convened at 20:05. President, Vice President, Treasurer, Executive Council and Secretary present. A quorum exists.

List of Attendees:

Butch Michaelson Ed Whiteside
Gene Koelker Paul Smurawski
Vicki Koehnke Larry Monroe
John Nickelson Darlene Nickelson
Alan Koehnke Connie Koehnke
Andy Anderson Verna Koelker
Dennis Devitt

Meeting notes: 06-11-2014

A quorum did not exist, due to not enough officers present to hold a meeting. Also the April meetings notes were not available to be read.

Treasurer's Report: Accept the Treasure report as stated-M X John Nickelson, 2 X- Andy Anderson.

Sunshine Fund: No activity to report.

Executive Council: No activity to report. Planning to schedule a visit to Great Lakes Naval Base in 2014 September.

Old Business:

-Due to missing conference files, there was a motion to close the issue that all donation letters to all the contributors who had given donated items to our 2013 National conference will not go out. MX Andy Anderson, 2X Gene Koelker.

New Business:

-Nominee for 2015-2017 Officers, which elections will take place at the 2014 October Meeting:

Nominees for the following positions are as follows:

President:	Ed Whiteside
Vice President:	Any Anderson
Treasurer:	Gene Koelker
Executive Council:	Paul Smurawski
Secretary:	Vicki Koehnke

Closed the nominees for the night and will keep open the nominees open, will make mention at the picnic for anyone interested in running for the officer's position. MX John Nickelson, 2X Alan Koehnke
-2014 National Conference Booster Book, held in San Antonio, Texas, hosted by USAA. Motion was made to take a full page ad in the Booster book & the cost is \$100.00 for the add. MX-Gene Koelker, 2X-Andy Anderson.

-New NERA Coin design. This year is NERA's 100th year and is looking for sponsorships to help cover the cost. There was a motion on the floor to donate \$100.00 to National from the Windy City Chapter to help with the cost. MX Gene Koelker, 2X Ed Whiteside.

-2014 Windy City Picnic/Fish Fry. The event will be held on Saturday, August 23, 2014 at John & Darlene Nickelson's House; the event will start at 14:00. Cost will be \$10.00 per person. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share. RSVP deadline is 16AUG2014. There was motion on the floor for the chapter to pick up the cost of the drinks, fish and cooking oils, once the receipts are turned in. MX Gene Koelker, 2X Andy Anderson.

Good of the Chapter-

-Life member-SN MA Richard Koehnke, is scheduled to take is Petty Officer third class test in September 2014.

- Paul Smurawski will be contacting Steve Sandy and HQ on the instructions for this year Sailor of the Year.

-Paul Smurawski won 50/50 raffle.

Motion to adjourn @ 21:10 X John Nickelson, 2X Connie Koehnke.

Emergent News

Army threat intelligence center warns of ISIS threat to military families

An Army intelligence bulletin is warning U.S. military personnel to be vigilant after Islamic State militants called on supporters to scour social media for addresses of military family members -- and to "show up [at their homes] and slaughter them."

The assessment, obtained by Fox News, came from the Army Threat Integration Center which issues early warnings of criminal and terrorist threats to Army posts worldwide.

The advisory warns military personnel and their families about the Islamic State, or ISIS, calling on supporters to target their homes.

While there is no independent intelligence to corroborate the ISIS threats, the bulletin recommends more than a dozen precautions to military personnel to protect their homes -- and their online profiles.

"Given the continued rhetoric being issued by ISIL's media services and supporters through various social media platforms the ARTIC is concerned of the possibility of an attack," the bulletin says. "Soldiers, Government Civilians and Family Members are reminded to be vigilant of their surroundings and report suspicious activities to their respective military or local law enforcement."

Navy Birthday

The U.S. Navy traces its roots back to the privateers that were employed to attack British commerce in the early days of the revolution. On October 13, 1775 the Continental Congress, established a small naval force, hoping that a small navy would be able to offset the uncontested exercise of British sea power.

The early Continental navy was not expected to take on the British navy for control of the seas. This small naval force was designed to work with privateers to wage tactical raids against the transports that supplied British forces in North America. To accomplish this mission the Continental Congress purchased, converted, and constructed a fleet of small ships--frigates, brigs, sloops, and schooners. These

navy ships sailed independently or in pairs hunting British commerce ships and transports like prey, avoiding whenever possible fights with Royal Navy men-of-war.

The Continental navy faced several obstacles both during and after the revolution – mostly political and economic. Two years after the end of the war, the money-poor Congress sold off the last ship of the Continental navy, the frigate Alliance.

In the 1790's Europe began to relax many mercantile commercial restrictions and the U.S. trade and the shipping industry expanded accordingly. However, as the number of U.S. ships increased so did the possibility increased attacks by the European powers and pirates. In March 1794 Congress responded by calling for the construction of a half-dozen frigates. And, once again, the United States had a navy.

Although the Continental navy was later dismantled, October 13, 1775 remains the U.S. Navy's official birthday.

From these humble beginnings, the world's most powerful naval force was born. With thousands of ships and aircraft serving worldwide, the U.S. Navy is a force to be reckoned with. **U.S. Navy- a global force for good!!**

Recent Study Results: Long Deployments, Service Culture Push Sailors to Leave Navy



A landing craft utility departs the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge as sailors return to the ship's well deck.

NAPLES, Italy -- Lengthy deployments and a strict service culture are among the frustrations sailors face in the , Navy according to an independent survey.

More than 5,500 officers and enlisted sailors responded to an unofficial online poll in May as part of the 2014 Navy Retention Study, a project led by Cmdr. Guy M. Snodgrass to understand why sailors, and officers in particular, leave the Navy early. The service is not involved with the project, although its personnel chief, Vice Adm. Bill Moran, has expressed interest in it and spoken with the project leaders.

A solid majority of respondents in the voluntary survey (62 percent) described the balance between work and home as "not ideal," according to results released last month. Many described their last deployments as long (between seven and nine months), and just under half expected upcoming deployments to be just as lengthy or longer.

Majorities also said that senior leaders didn't care what they thought and didn't hold themselves accountable. They strongly believed the Navy was risk-averse and unable to stomach mistakes, and they held that performance rankings are based on factors other than merit.

"There are no quick fixes," the survey's authors concluded. "Resolute and thoughtful changes are necessary to improve the factors that impact sailors the most."

On the positive side, survey respondents reported they believed in their work and trusted subordinates and peers. Pluralities of enlisted and officer respondents said they wanted to retire from the service, with majorities citing benefits and pay as main factors for staying in.

Participants in the survey were self-selected, meaning there was no scientific sampling of sailors. It relied on participants to be honest about their active-duty status, rank, length of service and commitment to take the survey only once. More than half of participants were officers, who represent less than 20 percent of all sailors.

The survey is posted online at www.dodretention.org, a website established by the survey authors. It encouraged participants to urge others to take the survey.

The survey group said it relied on help from active-duty sailors with experience conducting official Navy polls, as well as a statistician at the U.S. Naval War College to craft questions and remove bias. The group distributed the survey through military social media channels, keeping it open during all of May. More than 6,100 people responded, and more than 5,500 of the polls were considered complete enough to include in the results, according to a report accompanying the survey findings.

Cmdr. Chris Servello, a spokesman for Adm. Moran's office, said that while survey results roughly mirror the command's own polling, the authors draw different conclusions on some points. Recent benefit increases go against the report's suggestion that Navy pay and benefits are declining, he said. In the past year, Moran's office increased sea duty pay rates and added a high-tempo allowance for sailors at sea over 220 days. The Navy also kept tuition assistance at a 100 percent funding level and expanded eligibility for advancements at sea.

"Those were all meant to get after, one, incentivizing sea duty, which is where we need our folks," Servello said, "and, two, it was meant to compensate folks for the longer deployments that we're seeing."

Navy leaders have said lengthy deployments are a concern as growing mission requirements combine with maintenance and funding issues to push ships to sea more frequently and for longer periods of time. Where deployments once averaged around six months, more are lasting seven to eight months, with carriers staying out even longer.

Fleet Forces Command, which determines deployment tempo, has unveiled a plan to stabilize tour lengths in the coming years.

The Navy has said less publicly about concerns touching on service culture, the capabilities of its commanders and perceptions held by junior officers, all areas of interest in the recent survey.

Earlier this year Snodgrass sent Moran a paper that argued that the Navy faced a manpower crisis in the near future unless it made substantial changes. Titled "Keep a Weather Eye on the Horizon," it described a Navy culture growing rigid and top-heavy as an improving economy opened doors outside the service.

The paper recommended changing advancement opportunities, reducing administrative burdens and reinstating the critical-skills bonus for surface warfare and aviation commanding officers, a change the authors say

would push officers at a critical juncture in their careers to remain for additional tours.

Authors of the current survey offer similar recommendations, as well as a request that the Navy "stop proactively highlighting" the firings of its commanding officers and command master chiefs. While V. Adm. Moran has agreed that retention could become an issue as the economy improves, he has said current numbers remain positive.

The survey report says that while the Navy is taking some steps to address issues, many issues require long-term attention.

"Retaining quality individuals is critical to the continued success of the U.S. Navy, as we cannot directly hire into positions of responsibility -- we must promote from within," it reads.