



NAVAL ENLISTED
RESERVE ASSOCIATION
WINDY CITY CHAPTER



Sept-Oct 2016 Edition
P.O. Box 4562 Rockford, IL 61110
Volume 17, Edition 5

From the President's desk...

Fall is here and our next meeting is in about three weeks. Our next meeting is Tuesday October 11, 2016. It will be at American Legion Post 888 in Northlake starting at 20:00.

Our December meeting is on the first Tuesday of the month, December 6. That is a week earlier than usual.

Officer elections are in December. Therefore; we will have nominations in October. These are both important meetings!

Here is the paragraph from Article V of our By-Laws.

5.01 OFFICERS. The officers of the Chapter shall be a President, one or more Vice Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, Executive Counselor, and such assistants to such officers as the Chapter may deem necessary. All officers will be in good standing, nominated at the October meeting of the Chapter, elected prior to the 15th of December, and sworn in to office at the February meeting of the Chapter. Terms of all officers will be for a period of two years. Officers may succeed themselves.

- PRESIDENT**
Edward Whiteside
ewhiteside@yahoo.com
- VICE-PRESIDENT**
Andy Anderson
- SECRETARY**
Vicky Koehnke
- TREASURER**
Eugene Koelker
genokoelker@yahoo.com
- EXECUTIVE COUNSELOR**
Paul Smurawski
- MASTER-AT-ARMS**
Steve Devereaux
- WEB MASTER**
Steve Devereaux

We need to have as many members at these meetings as we can get.

These are the positions up for election and the current officers:

President Ed Whiteside, Vice President Andy Anderson, Secretary Gene Koelker, Treasurer Vicki Koenke, Executive Counselor Paul Smurawski

I would like to thank Gene Koelker for his outstanding work as Treasurer. Gene has done an outstanding job in this post for as long as I can recall. He has expressed a desire to be relieved of the Treasurer duties. He has earned a rest, and then some. At the very least, we need someone to step up and take over as treasurer.

After the December election, we will have the Officer Installation Ceremony.

On a final note, we also need to start planning for our holiday party.

Respectfully,
Ed Whiteside
President, Windy City Chapter

Mark Your Calendar: October 11, 2016 Meeting!!!!

Meetings are conducted at 2000 hours on the second Tuesday of even numbered months:
At the American Legion Post in Northlake, IL

The December meeting will be on the first Tuesday December 6, 2016

Windy City Chapter Meeting Minutes-

August 9, 2016

Meeting of the Windy City Chapter convened at 20:03. President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Executive Council. Secretary absent. A quorum exists.

List of Attendees:

Ed Whiteside Andy Anderson Gene Koelker
Paul Smurawski John Nickelson Darlene
Nickelson Larry Monroe Mike Brock Butch
Michaelson Gunther Kleinmaier
Dennis Devitt

June 2016 reading of the newsletter was read and accepted as stated. MX-Butch Michaelson, 2X-Mike Brock.

President: Annual picnic was great. Thanks John and Darlene, Larry, Gene Huie and Richard Koehnke.

Treasurer's Report: Accept the Treasure report as stated-MX-Butch Michaelson, 2X- Mike Brock.

Sunshine Fund: Nothing to report.

Executive Council: Nothing to report.

Communications: American Legion Post 888-having a 3 Gun Raffle. Cost \$10 per ticket. Sell 100 tickets. Drawing is on October 28, 2016.

Old Business:

-Windy City store still has shirts available for purchase. Contact Gene Koelker.

New Business:

-No National Conference this year. President hasn't had his surgery as of yet.

-Chapter will buy \$100 (10 tickets) from the American Legion Post 888 for their Gun Raffle. MX-Gene Koelker, 2X-Butch Michaelson.

-President, Ed Whiteside and Vice President, Andy Anderson, will draft a letter for NERA National Headquarters or Mariner regarding on the off years, a Regional Conference should be held. Our Chapter (Windy City) hosted the last 2 Regional Conferences. Windy City Chapter would support and help but will not host the next Regional Conference.

-Pictures sent to Mariner

-Election Year-Steve get email out offices open. Steve (head of nominations committee) to set up slate of officers. In October, 2016, will have nominations, December 2016 will have elections and swearing in of new officers. MX-Butch Michaelson, 2X-Gene Koelker.

Good of the Chapter-

-Nothing to report.

-Ed Whiteside 50/50 raffle.

-Motion to adjourn @ 21:00 MX-John Nickelson, 2X-Butch Michaelson.

CNO, MCPON to Make Major Personnel Announcements During Livestream

Story Number: NNS160927-26Release Date: 9/27/2016
9:41:00 PM

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Adm. John Richardson and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Steven Giordano will speak to Sailors and Navy civilians at Naval Station Norfolk, Thursday, Sept. 29 at 3 p.m.

The two will discuss new personnel initiatives from the "Gold Line of Effort," including results of the recent enlisted rating review, an updated leader development framework and increased education, training and development opportunities for the civilian workforce.

In the Navy's "A Design for Maintaining Maritime Superiority," there are four specific lines of effort;

Gold is "Strengthen our Navy Team for the Future." CNO and MCPON will unveil several new programs designed to keep Sailors, civilians and their families ready for future challenges. The event will be streamed live on social media and across the Fleet on CNO's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/cnorichardson), on Navy.mil and via Direct to Sailor to ships at sea. For more information, visit www.navy.mil, www.facebook.com/usnavy, or www.twitter.com/usnavy.

As of **September 28, 2016**

The [Navy Fact File](#) contains descriptions of the roles and characteristics of Navy ships.

Navy Demographics as of 31 March 2015

Navy Personnel

Active Duty: 327,099

- ▶ Officers: 54,561
- ▶ Enlisted: 268,104
- ▶ Midshipmen: 4,434

Ready Reserve: 108,820 [As of Aug 2016]

- ▶ Selected Reserves: 58,013
- ▶ Individual Ready Reserve: 50,807

Reserves currently mobilized: 2,973 [As of Sep 2016]

Navy Department Civilian Employees: 210,202

Ships and Submarines

Deployable Battle Force Ships: 276

- ▶ **Ships Deployed:** 52 (19%)
- ▶ **Ships Underway for Local Ops / Training (USFF / 3rd Fleet):** 94 (34%)

Ships Underway

- ▶ **Aircraft Carriers:**
 - USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) - 5th Fleet
 - USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) - West Pacific
 - USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) - Atlantic
- ▶ **Amphibious Assault Ships:**
 - USS Wasp (LHD 1) - 6th Fleet
 - USS Bataan (LHD 5) - Atlantic
 - USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) - 7th Fleet

Aircraft (operational) 3700+.

Info on New Retirement System Released

Story Number: NNS160927-18Release Date: 9/27/2016 11:36:00 AM

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Navy has released information on the transition to the Blended Retirement System (BRS) and training requirements Sept. 27, in NAVADMIN 217/16.

Signed into law in November 2015, the FY16 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) created a new military retirement system for service members. The new Blended Retirement System goes into effect Jan. 1, 2018. However, Sailors who are currently serving in the Navy will be grandfathered into the current retirement system. Active Component Sailors with less than 12 years of service (as of Dec. 31, 2017) and Reserve

Component Sailors with fewer than 4,320 retirement points (as of Dec.31, 2017) will be able to opt-in to the new retirement plan if they choose to do so.

Unlike the current retirement system which provides a retirement pension of 2.5 percent of base pay for every year of service (YOS), BRS provides automatic and government matching Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) contributions, a mid-career Continuation Pay and a retirement pension of 2.0 percent of base pay for every YOS.

Under BRS, members that leave the military before earning a retirement pension take with them their TSP account including government contributions after completing two years of service. Additionally, members enrolled in BRS that earn a retirement pension can choose to receive a portion of their pension in a lump sum in exchange for a reduced retired pay until reaching full retirement age.

In an effort to facilitate a smooth transition to BRS, all Navy service members will be required to complete either the BRS Leader's Training course, which is now available on Joint Knowledge Online (JKO) and Navy E-

learning or the BRS Opt-in Training course that will go live early in 2017 according to the NAVADMIN.

To ensure service members have the information they need to make informed choices on BRS, four targeted education courses are being developed and deployed including, the recently released training for leaders in October 2016, a course for financial and retirement counselors in early 2017, a course for Opt In Eligible members and in January 2018 a course that is specific for new accessions. Training will be available on JKO, Navy E-Learning or via DVD's which can be ordered from Defense Imagery Management Operations Center (DIMOC).

Sailors can also find information on BRS at the Department of Defense BRS web page <http://militarypay.defense.gov/blendedretirement/>. This page will be routinely updated with the most recent information and tools on the new retirement system.

Command pass liaisons have been tasked with ensuring that all command members have updated email addresses in Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS) Web to facilitate BRS eligibility notifications. Command career counselors and command financial specialists are tasked with ensuring that they are knowledgeable on BRS and are able to provide Sailors' with information on the resources available for members that wish to learn more about BRS.

Secretary of the Navy Names Two Fleet Replenishment Oilers

Story Number: NNS160919-24Release Date: 9/19/2016 2:33:00 PM

From Secretary of the Navy Public Affairs

BOSTON (NNS) -- Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus announced Sept. 19, that the next ships of the next generation of fleet replenishment oilers will be named USNS Lucy Stone (T-AO 209) and USNS Sojourner Truth (T-AO 210).

A ceremony marking the announcement was

held at the Boston Public Library.

Both T-AO 209 and T-AO 210 are part of the John Lewis-class of ships named in honor of U.S. civil and human rights heroes.

"It is important to recognize and honor those who have strived to fulfill the promise laid out in our Constitution - 'to form a more perfect union,' said Mabus, "those who fought--in a different way--for the ideals we cherish as a nation: justice, equality and freedom. Both Lucy Stone and Sojourner Truth fought relentlessly for all human rights."

Lucy Stone, a native of West Brookfield, Massachusetts, was a prominent 19th-century abolitionist, suffragist and a vocal advocate for women's rights.

Stone convened the first National Women's Rights Convention and assisted in establishing the Woman's National Loyal League to help pass the 13th Amendment and abolish slavery, after which she helped form the American Woman Suffrage Association, an organization dedicated to winning women the right to vote.

Sojourner Truth was an African-American abolitionist and women's rights activist. Born into slavery in Swartekill, New York, she escaped with her infant daughter to freedom in 1826.

Born Isabella Baumfree, she gave herself the name Sojourner Truth in 1843.

Widely recognized as a great orator and advocate of civil rights and equality for all, Truth died in 1883 at the age of 86.

The future USNS Lucy Stone and USNS Sojourner Truth will be operated by Military Sealift Command and provide underway replenishment of fuel and stores to U.S. Navy ships at sea and jet fuel for aircraft assigned to aircraft carriers. Construction is expected to begin on the Lucy Stone in 2021 and on the Sojourner Truth in 2022.

For more news from secretary of the Navy, visit www.navy.mil/local/secnav/.

"A day without Laughter is a day wasted"