

USS CONCORD NEWSLETTER, SUMMER 2019



Ahoy

By Vice President \ Web Dude \ HT1 82-86

Shipmates \ Families, I would like to begin this letter with a special thanks to all who have stayed the course with our association throughout the years. Perhaps you've recently joined us, or one of the many who have been here from the club's creation, regardless we couldn't have accomplished what we have without your support. We cruise into our 10th year of fellowship in 2020 and plan to keep charting this course for many years to come. Yes, we ask for a small monetary donation to keep this ship afloat but the real measure of our club is people attending our reunions, sending in sea stories and pictures for our website and maintaining the camaraderie that we have enjoyed over the years. If you're reading this letter your membership is most likely active since we decided to only deliver our "plan-of-the-day" to current members. As mentioned in the past, association membership is required to attend our functions so thanks again for your commitment and if you're in doubt as to when your membership expires, our club secretary has attached an excel sheet to inform you of your current status and when you need to renew. Now let's get to the news:

Topics for this newsletter are as follows:

Article One: Membership status.

Article Two: Reunion 2020 location and date

Article Three: USS Concord / USS Sylvania joint reunion

Article Four: Member Spotlight

Article Five: Taps



Article one: Membership

Association membership remains strong. As of this letter we currently have 124 active members on our muster. If you need confirmation of dues expiration, email our Secretary at garrysea@gmail.com.

We welcome new members to our organization and remind all that we are non-profit and all our proceeds go toward club functions such as our reunion event. Membership is required for those who wish to attend our reunions, but that's not the only reason to join. By joining or renewing you'll stay up-to-date on all association happenings (by the way it's still only \$20 bucks for two years), and gain access to the members only hatch page, which also permits access to the "members only" message board at our site.

Welcome aboard to the following shipmates who either renewed or signed up for the first time in our club since our Winter Newsletter release: *Harold Noel (LTjg 79-82)*, *Wilmert Rivera (RM1 90-93)*, *George Campbell (YN3 70-73)*, *David Houdlette (E5 69-74)*, *William Brown (GMG2 72-76)*, *Thomas Lemon (SM2 75-79)*, *John Kosicki (LTJG 69-71)*, *Vincent Dekeris (BM2 67-71)*, *Ruben Maigue (SKCS 89-92)*, *Danny Gatchell (GMG3 68-70)*, *Brent Kelsey (86-90)*, *Bob Boykin (GMG3 68-70)*.

You can join or renew online here: <http://www.ussconcord.org/id29.html>

Article Two: Reunion 2020

Reunion 2020 has been set for September 22nd-27th at the Hotel Preston in Nashville Tennessee. As you may recall we choose 3 cities for consideration at our 50th reunion business meeting and then you, the crew, voted to hold this event in Nashville. I believe you made a great choice and if signup participation is anywhere near what it was for last summer's 50th preparation it will be huge. We are pleased to have the good folks at, "A Complete Reunion", host our 2020 event and if you're a regular at our reunions you know they do a great job putting together a ship's party. If you've never attended one of these events then it's time to see what it's all about.

We courted several hotels in the Nashville area and after viewing their rules\ regulations\ rates etc., Preston came the closest to giving us what we felt like was our best deal. I know I always say it but I truly believe this will be our finest reunion yet. Ok, you can't order you hotel room yet "most hotels wont schedule before a year out" but as soon as we get the green light we will let you know so you can call and reserve you room and plan your visit. Our Fall newsletter should spell out the full details of our event complete with tours, signup information etc. so standby. In the mean time you now know the dates so you can tell the boss "whomever that may be" that you will be in Nashville during this time frame.

Article Three: USS Concord / USS Sylvania reunion



USS Sylvania, our sister ship, sailed our same paths and performed the same great missions that we performed in getting the necessary provisions to the fleet. I'm sure that most of us experienced a relationship with AFS-2 in one way or another and possibly we have shipmates who sailed both platforms? Unlike our ship, being torpedoed and lying at the bottom of the ocean, Sylvania was sold for scrapping, 1 October 2012. That being said we do both still have one thing in common, and that is an organization to carry on the memory and camaraderie of the crew that made the ships what they were. We are considering a joint reunion with Sylvania for our 2022 get-together. Of course, plans are very vague at this stage and perhaps not something we would like to do but regardless we will discuss it at our 2020 reunion so be thinking about it.

Article Four: Member Spotlight

Our association identifies various members throughout the year and shares their memories while they served aboard. I'm pleased to announce our Summer 2019 "Spotlighted member "Frank Korzeniewski" (RM3 72-74).



I reached out to Frank a while back after reading some of his history at our Facebook page, and asked if he would be willing to share some of his memories with us. He did so and I am pleased to share his thoughts with us which you can enjoy at our ussconcord.org website.

Article Five: Taps

The following shipmates have been reported as loss during this newsletter period: *I'm happy to report that we have not been notified of the loss of a member during this quarter.*

If you have news of a member who has passed and has not been recognized as eternally departed at our website, please contact the webmaster at ussconcord.org.

Chaplain's thoughts:

Hello mates, I hope all is well. You know "hope" is very important. Emily Dickinson wrote:

"Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the words
And never stops at all."

King David said in Psalms 27:13 KJV "I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living".

In Hebrews we hear, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1" NASB.

Let me encourage you to continually believe for the good, and don't quit hoping because it is a companion of faith.

Blessings!