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Welcome Aboard!

Fred G. Abramaitys RD3, OI Div. 1965-1968

Christopher J. Buehrig CDR, 4th Div. & E Div.

1978-1981

Timothy H. Chisholm VFA-132 1984-1986

David A. Critchfield E-5, AIMD 1971-1972

USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association Business Meeting, Saturday, October 8, 2022—Norfolk, Virginia

Meeting opened at 9:00 AM.

Opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

Roll call of Association Officers: President Wayne Addkison, Treasurer Clarence Neander, Secretary John Ranson, three-Year Board Member Bill Bomar and two-year Board Member Al Ching. Introduction of all attending Shipmates was conducted. (30 Shipmates present, including one plank owner.)

Treasurers report (see attachment): Treasurer Clarence Neander noted that due to additional costs, extra payout for the 2022 scholarships program, lower interest income on investments and higher publication costs, the general fund account has decreased. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented was made and seconded. Motion passed.

Reading of the 2022 Board of Directors meeting minutes were read and approved as read. Reading of the 2021 annual business meeting minutes

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President's Corner

Greetings Shipmates, Another reunion completed and, in the file. Now on to Oklahoma City. Guy Dumbar lives in the area and is exploring some tour locations. He will summit to AFR for dates and cost. Thanks Guy. Went aboard the USS LEXINGTON on October 26 and had a meeting with "Rusty" Reustle and Rachelle Banda, We discussed the compartment for the USS Coral Sea memorabilia, hopefully to be ready for our 2025 reunion. I delivered some of the items donated by crew members and the first \$500.00 donation for the maintenance on the compart-

ment. Anyone wanting to donate to the cause needs to contact me and every six months I will take what I have collected to the LEX. Donations can be anything from the ship or anything connected to the Navy. Our agreement with the LEX is we will donate \$500.00 each year to the ship and hold (Continued on page 12)



Welcome Aboard!

John J. Marshall ABE3, V-2 Div. 1970-1973

Burdette "Boone" J. Posey YN2, CVW-15 & VFA-132 1972-1973 & 1984-1986

John Roland BT3, B Div.

1967-1970

Brant Snively ABE2, V-2 Div.

Raymond Seigler BM2, 4th Div. 1974-1977

(Continued from page 1) Association Business Meeting...

were read and approved as read.

Association membership prior to this meeting voted to donate \$500.00 from the hospitality room fund to St. Jude's Hospital in the name of Past Association President Bill Johnson.

Unfinished business:

Wayne Addkison reported that the Association will have a memorabilia room on USS Lexington at a cost to the Association of \$500.00 per year. There will be an Association reunion at Corpus Christi, Tex. in 2025 and every four years thereafter. He will meet with the USS Lexington officials on Oct. 29, 2022, to discuss further details. Items for the Coral Sea room are being collected. The space will be

approximately 16' x 16'. The Lexington Museum personnel will work with the Association to assist with the 2025 reunion details, hotel, tours, etc. Plans for mounting a plaque for the display room were discussed.

Any items related to the Mayagüez rescue in 1975 will be included with Coral Sea items in the display room. Additionally, all Shipmates are asked to donate any items that they feel will be appropriate for display.

Wayne reported that progress is being made on the 2024 Three Sisters Reunion in San Diego. The proposed dates are Sept. 24 through 26, 2024. These date choices are due the very high room rates in San Diego hotels on week-

(Continued on page 3)

Secretary's Corner

Greetings Shipmates, The 2022 reunion was a success. There were approx. 120 Shipmates and guests in attendance including several walk-ins. Welcome aboard to all new members!

The weather cooperated with us very well. There were no bad effects from Hurricane Ian, thankfully. The tour of USS Wisconsin & the harbor boat ride all went well. Needless to say, all in attendance surely had a great time renewing acquaintances and also telling a few "sea stories"!

Despite some logistical problems such as parking and room costs, all went well. The new trailer that was purchased in 2021 to haul and store Association equipment and memorabilia worked quite well. Thanks to Treasurer Clarence Neander for doing all the work to order, pick up and tow the trailer to this reunion. B-Z to vou! Thanks also to all the Shipmates who assisted in setting up the hospitality room. That's a lot of work. Hopefully there'll be more help doing this in the future. We're all getting older,

so the additional help is definitely needed. A big thank you is also in order to President Wayne Addkison and Anna Addkison for operating the small store. Great work you all!

Please read the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting and business meeting for details of matters important to the Association. The By-Laws will be revised to allow dependents of living and deceased Shipmates to be non-voting members of the Association. This was the year for

This was the year for Association Officer elections. Welcome

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Association Business Meeting...

ends. Approximate room rates could be a minimum of approximately \$200.00 per night.

At this time, due to their reunion date system, the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt Association is not interested in joint reunions with the Coral Sea Association.

The room rates for the 2023 reunion in Oklahoma City will remain as quoted for 2020.

New business:

Motion made and seconded to allow dependents of Shipmates, living or deceased, to be non-voting members of the USS Coral Sea CVA43 Association. Motion passed.

Duplicate cruise books in the collection of the Association will be auctioned at the 2023 reunion. A total of \$675.00 has been collected for the display cost on USS Lexington.

Motion made and seconded to dispose of old reunion photographs in the possession of the Association. Motion passed.

Good of the Association:

Shari Dembenski, daughter of Past Association President Bill Johnson, thanked the Association for the flower arrangement.

Meeting closed at 10:03 a.m. Respectfully submitted:

John H. Ranson CVA-43 Assoc. Secretary



Welcome Aboard!

James E. Waddell Sr. MMC, A Div. 1968-1971

James E. Waddell Jr. WT3, W Div. 1988-1990

(Continued from page 2) Secretary's Corner...

aboard to new Board members John Beaver and Steve Ohlund. Additionally, due to the retirement of Association Vice President Bob Gaston and Board member Larry Pennington, the new vice president is Clarence Neander, and the new treasurer is Bill Bomar.

A plaque was presented to Clarence Neander who served as treasurer since 2009. Since neither Bob nor Larry were able to attend this reunion, their plaques were shipped to them. Thanks to you Shipmates for your service to the Association.

As always, I'm happy to receive dues payments. Please check the dues expiration date on the mailing label of this issue. Contact me if there are any discrepancies. Thanks to the many Shipmates who paid their dues at the reunion.

May all of you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Godspeed!

John H. Ranson Association Secretary

Scholarship Report

There have been three scholarship packets requested so far this year. It is not too late to request a packet! You may request a scholarship application packet for your seniors. At this late date I will email the requested packets out as soon as I get the request. Complete the application and get it in the mail NO LATER THAN April 1. I will also accept your applications by email if I receive it by April 1. My email address is godunbar @outlook.com

-Guy Dunbar

Board of Directors Meeting, USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association. October 7, 2022—Norfolk, Virginia.

The meeting was started at 5:23 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Wayne Addkison, Clarence Neander, John Ranson, Al Ching, Bill Bomar. Robert Gaston and Larry Pennington were absent due to illness. Association member present: Jim Turner.

Minutes of the 2021 Board Meeting and 2021 Business Meeting were presented to Board members present and approved as presented.

Association membership prior to this meeting voted to donate \$500.00 from the hospitality room fund to St. Jude's Hospital in the name of Past Association President Bill Johnson who passed away on Sept. 26, 2022. His Family is willing to donate his Coral Sea items to the Association.

Al Ching has three U.S. Flags that were flown over the U.S. Capital on May 4, 2022, for the auction. Minimum opening bid will be \$75.00.

Wayne Addkison reported that the Association will have a memorabilia room on USS Lexington at a cost to the Association of \$500.00 per year.

There will be an Association reunion at Corpus Christi, Tex. in 2025 and every four years thereafter. He will meet with the USS Lexington officials on Oct. 29, 2022, to discuss further details.

Items for the Coral Sea room are being collected. The space will be approximately 16' x 16'. The Lexington Museum personnel will work with the Association to assist with the 2025 reunion de-

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The Captain's Cup of Coffee.

Since my shop (Comm/Nav) was responsible for all the aircraft communication systems on the ship I did "checkup" tours of where the equipment was located and/or used. Two of these areas were the bridge and prifly, so over time I became a "familiar face". And as a result I had a few occasions to have conversations with the Captain, the XO, and the Air Boss. Sometimes when there was more than just a small problem, things could get a little hectic. Especially with the Captain and the Air Boss. They expected the radios to be up and operational at all times.

On one occasion I received a call that one of the radios on

the bridge was experiencing a static problem that needed to be looked at. So I grabbed a tech and a spare radio and we headed to the bridge. It took just a few minutes to swap out the radio and the problem was fixed. While we were there we did a quick operational check of the other radios in the

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TAPS



A. Johnson SN, 3rd. Div. 1959-1961

Bill Johnson was a past president of the Association, serving in that role from 2006 to 2008

Ronald J. Reynolds AN, V-2 Div. 1969-1971

(Continued from page 4) Board of Directors Meeting...

tails, hotel, tours, etc. Plans for mounting a plaque for the display room were discussed.

Wayne reported that progress is being made on the 2024 Three Sisters reunion in San Diego. The proposed dates are Sept. 24 through 26, 2024. The dates chosen are due the very high room rates in San Diego hotels on weekends. Approximate room rates could be a minimum of \$200.00 per night. RADM Allen, the last Commanding Officer of Coral Sea, hopefully will attend the 2023 reunion in Oklahoma City. Wayne is planning to meet with him on Oct. 22, 2022. Guy Dunbar will be the on-site planning person for the 2023 reunion in Oklahoma City. He will advise on tours, etc.

Currently, due to their different reunion scheduling plans, the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt Association is not interested in joint reunions with the Coral Sea Association at this time. Wayne Addkison is maintaining contact with this group.

The idea of having dependents of USS Coral Sea Association members being allowed to join the Association as non-voting members was discussed and this idea will be presented to the membership at the 2022 Business Meeting. The Association by-laws will need to be revised to permit this to happen. The meeting was closed at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John

John H. Ranson CVA-43 Assoc. Secretary

Salty Humor

"The older I get, the better I used to be." —Lee Trevino

Treasurer's Corner

Hello Shipmates, The 2022 reunion was a success and although several regulars couldn't attend there were new shipmates to meet and greet. A good time was had by all. The Raffle winners were Tim Schultz, James Watson, and John Ranson.

The business meeting brought about changes to the Officer staff and Board of Directors. The most significant for me was stepping down as Treasures after 13 years and being elected to fill the office of Vice President upon the retirement of Robert (Bob) Gaston. Bob, your service to the Association was outstanding and greatly appreciated.

Our new Treasurer is former Board of Director's member, William (Bill) Bomar, a retired accountant. The office is in very capable hands. Financially, with the scholarship investment account being down 20%, awards were paid one each from the general and reunion accounts, leaving both accounts below their traditional levels.

It has been my honor to serve as Association Treasurer and I am grateful to our membership for the opportunity to now serve as Vice President.

Have a healthy and safe Christmas and New Year,

Clarence

Clarence Neander Association Treasurer

THE CORAL SEA BREEZE

(Continued from page 4) Captain's Coffee...

area and found no problems. We were discussing the reliability of the

Salty Humor

If it's stupid, but it works, it isn't stupid. -Naval Ops Manual

systems with the OD and I heard the Captain request a cup of coffee. It worked out that at that moment there was none available but some was on the way. The Captain looked at me and kind of shrugged his shoulders. I told him that I had a pot in my

shop 24 hours a day, and at that point I left the bridge.

Sometime later I was setting at my desk in the shop and a marine stepped into the door (yes, door) and hollered "Attention on Deck.

Couple of my guys turned and looked and someone asked "what for?" Then Captain Peck stepped

thru the door. Immediately there were a whole bunch of people passing the word that the Captain was in the shop. My shop consisted of three compartments, and all hands in all three compartments were at attention. I greeted the Captain and he got a smile on his face and said "ok, where's the pot?" I pulled an extra cup

out of my desk, said for him to follow me and stepped into the next compartment where the pots were (we had two 15 cup pots) and poured him a cup. He told me to "have your men carry on" and

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Chaplain's Corner

Dear Shipmates, You will probably be reading this after Thanksgiving, but I have a story to tell you about that special day. I pray you and your family and friends gathered and gave proper thanks for all the blessings we enjoy.

My Thanksgiving story didn't happen on our Ageless Warrior but on a much smaller ship, USS JOUETT (CG -29). (Unfortunately, now a sunken reef off

the coast of California.) We were enroute to WestPac for what was my very first Navy deployment, having already stopped for a couple of wonderful days in Pearl Harbor and a brief fuel stop on Guam. We were sailing toward the Equator, and you know already what was coming up.

CAPTAIN

Of course, I was a Pollywog along with a good portion of our crew. There was a frantic search going on to determine if our commanding officer was a Shellback or not. He said he was, but his personnel record did not have it recorded. A flurry of messages went off to **BUPERS** and finally the issue was settled to the captain's credit.

Yes, we were to cross the Equator on Thanksgiving Day. For over a week, every scrap of food which would normally go over the side was carefully preserved

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fee.

started to look over the shop and talk with the men in the shop. They were totally amazed that the Captain was there and talking with them while he had a cup of cof-

About a month later I was coming back to the shop and there was a Marine standing outside of the door. I asked if the Captain was inside and he told me that he was. When I stepped in

I was immediately told that the Captain was there and was having a cup of coffee. I found the Captain setting on a bench and my whole crew was gathered around and they were having a royal gabfest. Those men were so impressed that the Captain would come have a cup of coffee, and shoot the bull with them, that I think, for them, it was the high-

light of the whole deployment. We never had another visit but everybody had a high regard for the Captain, and when it was announced that he had been selected for Admiral the general word in the shop was that "he deserved it."

—Gregory Womeldorff AEC IM3 Division 1971-1974



The best way to get your husband to do something is to suggest he's too old to do it.

(Continued from page 6) *Chaplain's Corner...*

for good use in our initiation. I won't go into a lot of detail, for I am sure most of you have

"been there, done that". I've never been to Hell, but that day was a close facsimile. As you may recall, the last item of the initiation was to kiss the Royal Baby's belly. That's when I got axle grease smeared all over my head. Like to never got it out, even using dishwashing detergent.

After what seemed like a twelve-hour ordeal, and after finally getting cleaned up, I looked at my watch and it was 1000!

But the cap on the day, being Thanksgiving, was a great meal with all the traditional trimmings. Whatever else the Navy might do, our chow is without equal, and we don't have to eat it sitting on the ground somewhere! Hats off to our commissarymen, or mess management specialists as I think they are now called.

That was my most memorable Thanksgiving and I have the certificate (but no Tshirt!) to prove it! May your holidays be most blessed! Your chaplain,

Michael

Michael D. Halley Association Chaplain



CORAL SEA ASSOCIATION SMALL STORES ORDER FORM #1	ADDITIONAL INFO FOR ITEM # - HULL DESIGNATION CVB, CVA, CV, JOB RATE(BT,MM,AB,etc.) OFFICER RANK/PAY RATE (CAPT,LTCDR,EN/E4,E5,E6,E7,etc.) USMC DESIGNS - (A,B,C, OR D) THREAD COLOR FOR WATCH CAP DESIGN	** USPS PRIORITY MAIL - S/H CHARGES** UP TO \$24.99\$7.00 \$25.00 TO \$50.00\$9.00 \$51 TO \$75\$12.00 \$76 & UP\$15.00	Cards Will Be Processed Through The Ship Store Accepted: Visa, Master Card, Discover, American Express Make Checks Payable To The Ship Store
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THE CORAL SEA BREEZE



Salty Humor Little Johnny to his mom: "Of course you did better in history. There was a lot less of it when you were my age!"

Brief History of USS Coral Sea.

The keel for CVB-43 was laid on July 10, 1944 and was as yet unnamed. Sometime after May 08, 1945 she was named USS Coral Sea. Coral Sea was launched on April 2, 1946 for her final "fitting out." On October 1, 1947 she was commissioned as USS Coral Sea CVB-43. She remained CVB-43 until October 1, 1952 when all three Midway Class carriers were changed to CVA. This change took place because all three were now carrying nuclear weapons. She carried the CVA designation until June 30, 1975 when it was changed to CV-43.

CVB=Carrier Air Battle CVA=Carrier Air Attack CV= Carrier Air (General Purpose) She plowed every ocean on the planet and most of the "seas" also. She fought in several wars and many other kinds of actions, all over the globe, and ALWAYS put forth the best that the U.S. Navy had! She set records that are still records to this day! Her life began to cease when she was decommissioned on April 30, 1990. Like the first Coral Sea, she was sold for scrap, and gave in to the demolition torch.

Will there ever be another USS Coral Sea? Naming of U.S. Navy ships is one of the "Holy Grail" jobs of The Secretary of The Navy. This is the person one should write to ask that another ship be named in honor of our Lady Of The Sea....USS CORAL SEA!

Good memories to all.

-Arnold E. "Work" Workman

USS Coral Sea Association Membership Application/Renewal Form

Membership in the USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 ASSOCIATON is open to all Navy, Marine Corp and Air Force personnel who served aboard the ship (CV/CVB/CVA-43) for a period of at least 90 days. Also, any person who was assigned to the <u>original commissioning crew</u> (plank owner), even if they spent fewer than 90 days aboard, shall be eligible for membership. **DUES:** Association membership is \$20 per year. Dues for membership are not limited to one year when submitted for renewal or first-time application. Any amount submitted over the annual dues will be automatically earmarked for the Association's Scholarship program.



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52 Woodland	•			Amount:
Ft. Thomas, K	Y 41075-1605	Email: irsr3843	@fuse.net	Expires:

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Reunion Committee Members: **By-Laws Committee** Chairman: Members: 2023 Reunion, Oklahoma City, OK Guy Dunbar & John Ranson

Jon Lickey 309.688.3939 (home)

John Ranson, **Bob Nerbetski**

Guy Dunbar

Robert Gaston

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Scholarship Committee Chairman:

Audit Committee Chairman:

Nominating Chair:

Parliamentarian:

John H. Ranson

TBD

859.781.2536

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Read this issue in color on the Coral Sea website: www.usscoralsea.org Webmaster: **Bob Dorais**, cv43@usscoralsea.net

NOTE: Please send all mailing address changes to John Ranson at the address shown top right.

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Copy Submission **Deadline:**

Material for the March issue of *The* Coral Sea Breeze is due in to the publisher or copy editor by Feb. 6, 2023.

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USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association

Wayne Addkison, Publisher 12856 FM 1391 Kemp, TX 75143

Email: nijarm2@yahoo.com Please Note: Send Address Corrections to Association Sec. John Ranson NON PROFIT ORG US POSTAGE PAID JOLIET IL PERMIT #349



THE AGELESS WARRIOR Enjoy Your Association Online at www.usscoralsea.org and see this issue of the Sea Breeze in full color!

(Continued from page 1)

President's Corner... our reunion in Corpus Christi every four years. The \$500.00 donation will be made at the banquet during each reunion. They have a new department on the Lex for military reunions in Corpus Christi and I plan on using them. Do not know the cost yet, but it can't be any more than what AFR charges.

We had a few missteps at the Norfolk reunion but overall, I think everything turn out well, especially the guest speaker, Command Master Chief Angelo Rappa. What an excellent speech.

I have been in contact with the last commanding officer of the Coral Sea, Admiral Allen. He is experiencing some health problems but is mending well. Talked with his wife and she will keep me updated to his recovery and we will schedule lunch or dinner. He is writing his memoir and the first nine chapters are at the publisher. He hopes to have the book finished soon. Will give more details in the next *Sea Breeze*.

I had a Zoom call with members of the other organizations representing members of the ship. They asked me to explain our Association to them and how they can join. Some are already our members. They asked for the last two winners of the scholarship fund and Jim Lewis, the monitor of the Zoom meeting, put both on their website. Hopefully we will get some new members. Congratulations to new board members and thanks for the reelection of John Ranson as secretary and me as president. Clarence Neander has been named vice president and Bill Bomar is our new treasurer. The board and executive committee will do our very best to keep up the outstanding work, as has been accomplished in the past.

Not much to report on the Three Sisters Reunion but will follow up. Until next *Breeze*, stay safe and hope everyone had a great holiday.

Wayne

Wayne Addkison Association President