



USS Seattle AOE-3

Veteran's Association Newsletter



- In This Issue**
- President's Letter
 - Ship's Store (Vic)
 - Membership
 - Note from Vic
 - Vice President's Letter
 - Interesting Info submitted by Rich
 - Few Notes & a Story

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TIME to Think About our Next Reunion

Preparations are underway for reunion # 9 in San Francisco, CA. With plans for some tours, meals, and such in the works and an Itinerary almost set. Have you made your reservations yet? More information about the reunion including an itinerary will be ready by the next newsletter – check the website for updates also – the sooner everyone makes reservations, the better.

Your Officers:	Board Member	Name	Email	Phone
	President	David Holton	davidholton@gmail.com	(704) 841-7301
	Vice president	Rich Toma	richtomal6@yahoo.com	(440) 669-9615
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	Communications Officer	Dale Eicker	deicker@comcast.net	(713) 899-2491
	Treasurer	Ray Pierce	Ray.Pierce1950@gmail.com	(817)503-0325
	Ships-store	Vic Hellberg	Plankowner4@gmail.com	(641) 752-6882
	Web-master	Myron Carter	MyronCarter@gmail.com	(770) 432-1564
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	Member at Large #3	Bill Norris	bnorris5248@gmail.com	(281) 785-6415
	Member at Large #4	Ray Pierce	Ray.Pierce1950@gmail.com	(817)503-0325

DUES for 2017

Shipmates,
The association is not about money, but it needs money to operate and that is the primary reason for annual dues. Each year dues are due by January 15, so the association has tried many things to remind our membership to pay their dues. This activity has been time consuming and expensive so we have sought out other methods of reminders. PayPal offers to send out email invoices at no charge to the association allowing the member to pay online through PayPal. PayPal tracks payments and sends out email reminders all at no cost to the association. Members that prefer to pay their membership dues by check can still do so by mailing a check to the treasurer and the treasurer will update PayPal that payment has been received. We are excited about this new method and can only see benefit for the membership and the association.

Make checks payable to:
USS Seattle AOE3 Veterans Association

Send checks to:
USS Seattle AOE3 Veterans Association
Ray Pierce, Treasurer
5108 Abby Road
N. Richland Hills, TX 76180

Letter from The Association President

Shipmates,

I live in a small mountain town of 2,000 and 1,950 have gardens! I was in the grocery store recently and overheard two fellows talking about their gardens and the seeds they were going to order. Being one of the 50 in the county that does not have a garden, I wondered why they were thinking about planting when there is so much winter ahead of us.

But it occurred to me they were planning for an expected event---putting in their gardens. Likewise, August 9-13 is ALSO a planned event--- Our USS Seattle reunion in San Francisco. You can read in this issue all the planning that is already underway to make it a great success! Are you doing YOUR planning so that you can be there with your fellow shipmates? It is not too early to begin your planning!

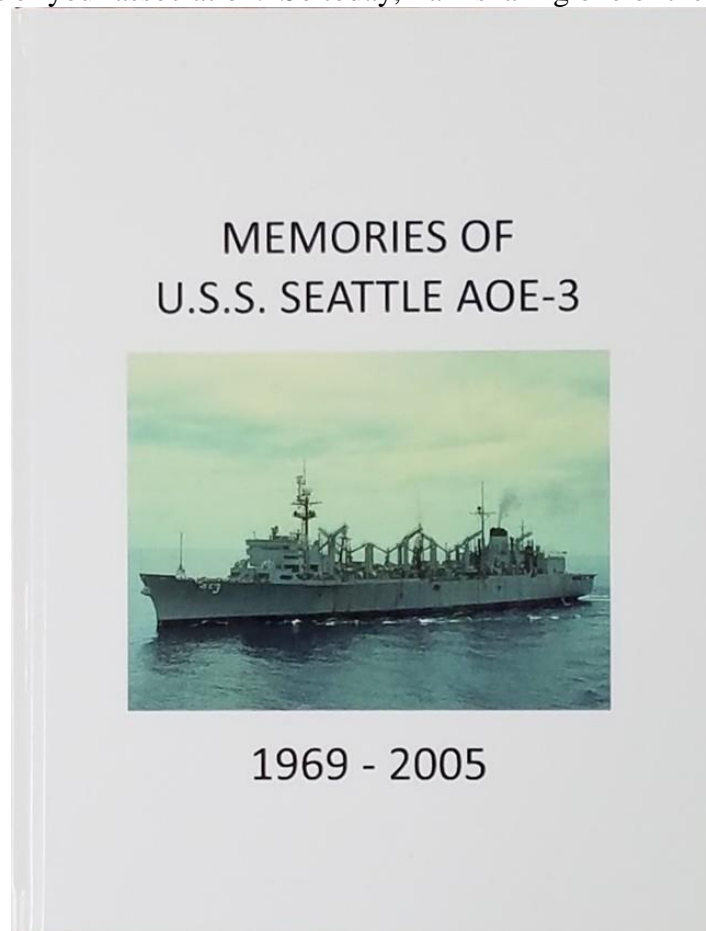
Hoping to see you in August!

David Holton,

President, USSSVA

SHIP's STORE ITEM**Shipmates,**

I think it is fair to say, you are going to receive much better communication from your USS Seattle AOE-3 Veterans Association in the future. We want to continue to grow and you are the key to that. The ship's store is a player in the growth effort of your association. So today, I am sharing one of the most exciting offerings!!!



Rich Toma has authored a book on the USS Seattle! Rich has been working on this book for four and a half years. It is a wonderful history of our ship and of the beginnings of your Association. Rich did a lot of research in preparing to write this book. Many of you shipmates contributed information to Rich. We shared the information about this at the Washington D.C. reunion and sold over twenty copies before the printer shipped us the book. I have filled all those orders and am now ready to ship to you. We think this will make a great Christmas gift. Rich's book is 183-pages and measures 9 X 11.75 inches. It sells for \$70.00 to association members and \$100.00 to non-members which include 2017 membership. And as a bonus, to all new members, I will be including several surprise ship store items with your book. Here is the link to the ship's store http://www.ussseattleaoe-3.org/class_custom.cfm?page_id=241509

Vic Hellberg

Ship's Store Manager

The LIFER's Club

Albert Kaspar (1969)	Don McVey (1968)	Myron Carter (1969)
Bill Norris (1968)	Earl Boutell (1968)	Pete Lowry (1968)
Bill Tirrell (1968)	George Hastings Jr. (1968)	Peter F. Leon (1970)
C. E. "Andy" Anderson (1973)	Gordon Sterling (1971)	Raymond Pierce (1968)
Charles Rudd (1981)	Jerry Mason (1979)	Rich Toma (1971)
Chester Clark (1968)	Jim Pease (1969)	Richard Patty (1973)
Craig Honour (1991)	Keith Jones (1968)	Robert Miller (1969)
Dale Eicker (1970)	Lance Briggs (1975)	Roger W. Kane (1974)
David Caldwell (1968)	Mark C. Giraldi (1973)	Steven Firks (1996)
David "Frosty" Frost (1984)	Marland Townsend (1971)	Stu Tyson (1968)
David L. Holton (1971)	Michael Miller (1969)	Vic Hellberg (1968)
David Stein (1969)	Mike Stanaszek (1969)	William A. Wadsworth (1975)

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

New Life Member January 2017

A Life Membership was purchased for Roger Kane. His Life Membership package was shipped 1/16/17. Please congratulate him and welcome into the Lifer's Club of the USSSVA.

New Members

No new members since last report. Total Members To Date: 36 life members & 52 regular members (88 total)..

Renewals for January 2017

We have received 18 renewals for January 2017. Wallet cards and receipts have been sent to each via snail mail.

NOTE from Vic Hellberg

Shipmates,

This note is to share the news that we have added more pens to the ship's store.

You know the story that Captain Craig Honour, our fifteenth captain, salvaged some wood from the bridge handrail on the exterior bridge wings. This was during an overhaul under his command and he donated it to the association.

When Bill Norris became aware of the wood, he purchased equipment to make pens. He surprised the attendees and introduced the pens at the Washington, DC banquet this past August.

The 26 pens sold out in five minutes! Bill just completed 8 more pens and they are now in the ship's store.

The pictures in the ship's store website are small so I am sending pictures with the name of the pen style above its picture.

There is only one pen of each style in stock so as they are sold we will put a "Sold Out" on the pen picture in the store.

It is first come, first serve. Each pen comes in a special box with the ship profile engraved on the lid and the story on the inside of the lid. Fabulous!

LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Fellow Shipmates,

First of all, I hope each and every one of you and your families had a fabulous Christmas and a safe and a happy new year. We are now a month into 2017, I pray you haven't given up on your resolutions just yet.

January was the month your association dues were due. Dues for the next year have remained at \$30.00. If you have not yet done so, please log onto our website, usseattleaoe-3.org, and pay them. Changes have been made to make this process easier than in the past.

I am asking everyone to PLEASE log-in and review and update, if necessary, your details page (e-mail, address and phone number). In many cases this has not been done in a number of years. This information is needed by the association so that we are able to communicate to you anything new happening, especially details about our reunion in San Francisco this coming August.

This is also a good time to contact any shipmates that you may have served with and try to get them to join this great association. It might be the first step for you to get together at the reunion if you haven't seen each other in a while. If you do know someone that is interested, please contact any member of the board and we will begin the process of joining up by adding his or her name.

Thank you,

Rich Toma
VP USSSVA

Interesting Information Provided by Rich Toma



The crest of USS SEATTLE is composed of four major elements:

1. The profile of Chief Seattle,
2. A pine cone with needles,
3. A pair of dolphins and
4. Two lengths of chain.

These elements hold special meaning for the residents of the Seattle area.

The pine cone and needles represent the evergreens
of Washington, the Evergreen State.

The dolphins, traditional emblems of the sea, represent the waters of the area surrounding Seattle
and the close association of the city with the resources and commerce of the vast
Pacific Ocean that lies on its doorstep.

The chain, which is the traditional symbol of both strength and the nautical profession,
links the USS SEATTLE to the city of Seattle.

This ship's crest is adapted from the official seal of the city of Seattle.

It was designed by

Mr. James A. Wehn, who resides in Seattle and was officially adopted by the city in 1936.

Rich Toma
Vice President

A FEW NOTES & A STORY

Recent Board Meeting

At the most recent board meeting, more reunion details were discussed and Bill is working on getting some tours added for Saturday morning – things attendees will need to schedule in advance to be able to take part in.

The board also approved the capability to provide an honorary membership – once per year – based on submission by a board member and approval of both the President and Vice-President. This idea came about because of a contact with a former Seattle Sailor that was unable to attend a reunion and financially unable to join at that time. The idea is that we would like to extend our helping hand, as an organization to those in need.

Show Your USS Seattle Spirit!

(Show your Spirit with shirt, hat, jacket, decal, license plate cover and more from Ship's Store)

We are beginning a new series of articles each newsletter where showing your USS Seattle Spirit has led to a conversation about the ship from a stranger, many of whom served on the ship. Send your story to Dale Eicker at deicker@comcast.net. Below is my short story of just such an encounter.

Submitted by David Holton, PN3 1971-1972.

STORY

On a visit to the VA Center in Houston (getting my ID made) the lady behind the counter noticed my shirt and the Seattle logo. She asked me about the ship and told me her late husband had served aboard the Seattle for a short time and on a couple other ships during his tour of duty. Unfortunately, I didn't get the name to look up more info but I did pass on to her the website info and asked her to check it out and leave us some info so that we could add her husband to our "In Memory" page. This is just one example of several where I've had people stop me and ask about my service. ---- Dale Eicker

Fair Winds & Following Seas