



# USS Seattle AOE 3

## Veteran's Association

### Newsletter



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Issue # 28

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter - 2021

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Editor: Dale Eicker

Contributing Editors: David Holton,  
Rich Toma, Vic Hellberg, and Bill Norris

#### REUNION # 12 - 2022 in Charleston, SC

The reunion was cancelled for 2020 and 2021 after all the Covid-19 issues. The Reunion Committee is working on setting up our 12<sup>th</sup> reunion in Charleston and more info about this reunion is included on page 3..

#### Your Officers:

| <i>Board Member</i>     | <i>Name</i>     | <i>Email</i>   | <i>Phone</i>   |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--|----------------|
| President               | David Holton    | <a href="mailto:david@davidholtonconsulting.com">david@davidholtonconsulting.com</a> | (704) 698-5948 |
| Vice president          | Rich Toma       | <a href="mailto:richtoma16@yahoo.com">richtoma16@yahoo.com</a>                       | (440) 669-9615 |
| Secretary               | Mark Girdali    | <a href="mailto:mark_girdali@yahoo.com">mark_girdali@yahoo.com</a>                   | (847) 420-9212 |
| Communications Officer  | Dale Eicker     | <a href="mailto:deicker@comcast.net">deicker@comcast.net</a>                         | (713) 899-2491 |
| Treasurer               | Dan Justynski   | <a href="mailto:danjstynski@gmail.com">danjustynski@gmail.com</a>                    | (401)-302-1611 |
| Ships-store             | Vic Hellberg    | <a href="mailto:Plankowner4@gmail.com">Plankowner4@gmail.com</a>                     | (641) 752-6882 |
| Web-master              | Myron Carter    | <a href="mailto:MyronCarter@gmail.com">MyronCarter@gmail.com</a>                     | (770) 432-1564 |
| Legal Advisor           | George Hastings | <a href="mailto:GoodNewsFinancial@sbcglobal.net">GoodNewsFinancial@sbcglobal.net</a> | (615) 504-0071 |
| Reunion Committee       | Bill Norris     | <a href="mailto:bnorris5248@gmail.com">bnorris5248@gmail.com</a>                     | (281) 785-6415 |
| Member at Large #1      | Chuck Caudill   | <a href="mailto:chuck102001@aol.com">chuck102001@aol.com</a>                         | (606) 464-0066 |
| Member at Large #2      | Danny Abner     | <a href="mailto:djabner@windstream.net">djabner@windstream.net</a>                   | (859) 361-9663 |
| Member at Large #3      | Charles Rudd    | <a href="mailto:crudd42@comcast.net">crudd42@comcast.net</a>                         | (253) 970-2589 |
| Emeritus Member @ Large | Bill Norris     | <a href="mailto:bnorris5248@gmail.com">bnorris5248@gmail.com</a>                     | (281) 785-6415 |
| Emeritus Member @ Large | Vic Hellberg    | <a href="mailto:Plankowner4@gmail.com">Plankowner4@gmail.com</a>                     | (641) 752-6882 |
| Emeritus Member @ Large | Ray Pierce      | <a href="mailto:ray.pierce1950@gmail.com">ray.pierce1950@gmail.com</a>               | (817) 503-0325 |

#### DUES for 2021

##### Shipmates,

The USS Seattle Veteran's Association is almost half way through it's 13<sup>th</sup> year and we are incredibly lucky to have each of you as a member. Even though the USSVA is relatively small we do still have expenses that the officers and board members try very hard to keep to a minimum. Thanks to our raffles and fund raising at the past reunions, we are again able to keep our yearly membership dues at \$30.00. You can also become a Lifetime Member if you choose. These dues are based on your age and can be found on [www.ussseattleaoe-3.org](http://www.ussseattleaoe-3.org).

Membership dues were due by January 31st, 2021 but we do not charge a late fee if you pay anytime during the year. If you wish to pay by mail, please use the form on page 6 of this newsletter.

##### Make checks payable to:

USS Seattle AOE3 Veterans Association

##### Send checks to:

USS Seattle AOE3 Veterans Association  
Dan Justynski, Treasurer  
13 Lyme Rd  
Hanover, NH 03755

## Letter from the Association President

**Dear USS SEATTLE AOE-3 Members,**

We hope you and your family have been well during this COVID-19 outbreak and have received your shots. I do not know about you, but for me this cruise has been extended too many times. I am ready for it to end!

Our personal and professional lives have been reorganized and there have been many disappointments over cancelled events and missed opportunities to be with friends and family. And we all have had to make adjustments. Your Association has also had its disappointments and had to adjust to keep you informed and engaged.

This year we offered a discount at the Ship's Store if you paid your dues in the first quarter. We started doing Zoom meetings in 2020 with four highly successful meetings with past COs of USS Seattle joining our calls. In April, we had our first Zoom call of 2021 with inspiring stories from a retired Captain who flew combat missions during Desert Storm. Stay tuned for additional Zoom meetings later this year.

After two years of cancelled reunions, planning is underway for a Fall, 2022 reunion in Charleston, SC. Response from our survey indicates we may have our largest attendance ever! It will be great to get back together. Stay alert for notices about details of the Reunion.

Until we meet by Zoom meeting or in person next year, please follow the website and let us know if there are ideas you have to improve our association.

Sincerely,

David Holton, PN3, President – USSSVA

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## Letter from the Association Vice President

**Shipmates,**

It has been a long trying year. I pray everyone is well and has gotten their vaccinations against COVID (assuming you believe in vaccinations). As everyone should know by now, our 2021 reunion has been cancelled and our reunion committee is working very hard on our next meeting in 2022 in Charleston, SC. We should have details finalized by the end of the year.

As I write this letter, Lance Briggs '75, a shipmate, board member and friend, is being interred in Arlington National Cemetery, an honor he rightly deserves. He passed away a year ago from COVID. Please take a moment to remember his wife Susan and family in your prayers.

In our last newsletter we brought back mail in membership fees. This turned out to be an overwhelming success and we plan to continue this practice. You will find a mail in form in this newsletter. We have several members that have paid dues in the past but have not remitted payment for 2021 and I am sure this is just an oversight, and you will take a moment to rectify.

We started ZOOM meetings again this past April. Last year we had meetings monthly and focused on decades (Comm-79, 80-89, 90-99 and 2000-Decom). This year we will hold the meeting quarterly and concentrate on events. This April we had Capt. Burin (a pilot) talk about a pilot's point of view during Desert Storm and how important it was for them to have ships like Seattle nearby to keep them supplied with weapons and fuel. It was an honor to have him in attendance.

As always, I am requesting that you take a few minutes to check your contact and profile pages on our website and update any info that may have recently changed (address, e-mail, phone #). These are required so we can keep you updated on anything that is happening in the Association.

I hope everyone has a safe and healthy summer.

Rich Toma '71

Vice President – USSSVA

## USS Seattle Veterans Association 12<sup>th</sup> Reunion Opening of the USSVA PSNM Exhibit

IN 2020, the USS Seattle AOE 3 Veterans Association had planned a great reunion to be held in Seattle, Washington. Hotel plans made, several great events including the opening of the USS Seattle museum exhibit.

Then came the Pandemic and Covid-19 which changed everything. It forced us to cancel what would have been another excellent reunion and opportunity for shipmates to get together. 2021 wasn't looking any better so it was determined that we should plan for reunion #12 to be held in 2022.

A survey was conducted for where to hold the next reunion and Charleston, SC was the selected location. Bill Norris and the Board are looking at options for our reunion next year.

Below you will see what we have thus far as well as things Bill Norris and others on the reunion committee are checking out and trying to get added to the plan.

## REUNION 2022

Info by: Bill Norris

I know it is hard to believe but our next reunion is just over a year away. Reunion next year will be from 09/07 through 09/10/2022. This past week I was able to secure the hotel and I'll be reviewing the final contract version (4<sup>th</sup>) and signing next week. We have a real good deal on the Hotel next year, with a room rate of \$125 which includes breakfast for two and really nice rooms. I have not actually seen them yet but planning on going out later this year to review.

The Hotel has included the normal 3 nights before and after the reunion at the same rate, so I encourage you to extend your trip to see more of the area. If there is enough interest, we can schedule a golf outing as we have in the past on Tuesday or Wednesday morning. There are several historic tours geared for small groups you can take advantage of. And we are only about a 2-hour drive to Savannah which was voted the second choice for the reunion.

I have not worked out all the details of our tours yet but for sure we will be spending an afternoon at Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum and a dinner on the way back to the hotel at a Charleston unique restaurant. Looking to schedule a river and dinner cruise combination one night.

I will have a survey with more details later in September and will be looking for commitments on the number of rooms. Our last survey indicated we might have between 50 – 70 attend the reunion and that would be fantastic. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Charleston next year...

Bill Norris  
Ops 68-72  
Reunion Planner

## SHIP's STORE

Shipmates,

The ship's store has one more opportunity for us to expose our being a sailor from the USS Seattle AOE-3. Masks are going to be part of our life for a long time. Here is one you can keep for those special occasions where you do not want to wear a throwaway. This mask has our association logo on the right side. It is fully lined and has a heavy-duty metal nose piece for adjusting on your face. It has stitching which conforms to the face. A real upgrade to most.

These first appeared for the 12 shipmates of Lance Briggs at his Arlington service. It is now the top item on the ship's store page on our website. Your significant will be proud to wear it as well. Shipping is ready now.

Here is the link: [https://www.usseattleaoe-3.org/product\\_store.cfm?StoreID=361](https://www.usseattleaoe-3.org/product_store.cfm?StoreID=361)



Vic Hellberg  
Ship's Store Manager

# USS Seattle AOE 3 Veteran's Association

Issue # 28




2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter - 2021

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## SHIP'S STORE ORDER FORM

In order to save the fees that PayPal or your credit card may charge our association when anything is purchased from the ship's store we are trying a mail in option. Go to our website, [ussseattleaoe-3.org](http://ussseattleaoe-3.org), and place an order using the form below and mail to Vic Hellberg with your payment by check or money order.

|    |             | <b>USSVA SHIP'S STORE ORDER FORM</b> |  |           |           |  |  |
|---|-------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|---|--|
| NAME:   |             |                                      |  |           |           |   |  |
| ADDRESS:  |             |                                      |  |           |           |   |  |
| CITY:   |             |                                      | STATE:   |           | ZIP CODE: |   |  |
| E-MAIL:   |             |                                      | PHONE #  |           |           |   |  |
| QTY   | DESCRIPTION | COLOR                                | SIZE   | PRICE EA. | SHIPPING  | TOTAL   |  |
|   |             |                                      |  |           |           |   |  |
|   |             |                                      |  |           |           |   |  |
|   |             |                                      |  |           |           |   |  |
|   |             |                                      |  |           |           |   |  |
|   |             |                                      |  |           |           |   |  |
| <b>GRAND TOTALS</b>   |             |                                      |  |           |           |   |  |
| <b>NOTES FOR PERSONALIZED ENGRAVING:</b>  |             |                                      |  |           |           |   |  |
|   |             |                                      |  |           |           |   |  |
|   |             |                                      |  |           |           |   |  |
|   |             |                                      |  |           |           |   |  |
| CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS CONTACT VIC AT: <a href="mailto:PLANKOWNER4@GMAIL.COM">PLANKOWNER4@GMAIL.COM</a><br>SEND WITH CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:<br>VIC HELLBERG<br>204 NORTH 18 ST.<br>MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA, 50158 |             |                                      |  |           |           |   |  |
| OFFICE USE ONLY<br>DATE REC'D : _____<br><br>DATE SHIPPED: _____  |             |                                      |  |           |           |   |  |

### Paying Dues

To help with paying dues for next year, a form is provided below.  
Fill in, cut out, and mail with your check to the address provided.



## 2021 MEMBERSHIP



Annual Membership cost is \$30.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year reported on board: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:    New Member \_\_\_\_\_    Renewing Member \_\_\_\_\_

Life Memberships are also available. Rates by age can be found on our website.

#### MAIL TO:

Dan Justynski, USSSVA Treasurer  
13 Lyme Rd.  
Hanover, New Hampshire 03755

Make Checks Payable To:

**USS Seattle AOE-3 Veteran's Association**

### ~~OPEN~~ FILLED POSITION

We recently lost a valued Shipmate – Lance Briggs – who had filled a “Member at Large” position on the Board of directors. His loss left us with an open position that we needed to fill.

CONGRATULATIONS to Chuck Caudill who has agreed to fill the open spot. Contact info for Chuck is included on the first page of this newsletter. The President and Officers of the USSVA welcome you and look forward to having you participate and help with keeping the association moving forward.

### A FEW NOTES

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#### **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 ships or in the military. Send your story to Dale Eicker at [deicker@comcast.net](mailto:deicker@comcast.net).

Do you have a story to be included here???

Let me hear about your experiences..... Dale

P.S. – I wear my shirts and ball caps on a regular basis. I've had many people thank me for my service and ask questions about our ship and the organization. I even got a few masks made up with our logo on them which adds to the attention. - - - - Dale

**Fair Winds & Following Seas**