



USS Seattle AOE 3

Veteran's Association

Newsletter



In This Issue

- President's Letter
- Ship's Store (Vic)
- Membership
- Reunion Day – 0 thru Day 5 (6 pages)
- Reunion Plan
- Museum Update
- Few Notes

Issue # 25

3rd Quarter - 2019

Issued: July 31

Editor: Dale Eicker

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

REUNION # 11 - 2019 in Jacksonville, FL.

Preparations are underway for reunion # 11 in Jacksonville, FL.

Included in this issue is the current schedule of events and their costs.

If you have not registered – you have until Aug. 11 to get in on the reduced cost for hotels and to register for events you want to attend.

Your Officers:

<i>Board Member</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Phone</i>
President	David Holton	davidhlolton@gmail.com	(704) 698-5948
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Treasurer	Dan Justynski	danjustynski@gmail.com	(401)-302-1611
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Member at Large #2	Danny Abner	djabner@windstream.net	(859) 361-9663
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Emeritus Member @ Large	Vic Hellberg	Plankowner4@gmail.com	(641) 752-6882
Emeritus Member @ Large	Ray Pierce	ray.pierce1950@gmail.com	(817) 503-0325

DUES for 2019

Shipmates,

The USS Seattle Veteran's Association is in its eleventh year this year and we are very lucky to have each of you as a member. Even though the USSSVA 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 reunion in San Francisco, 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.

Membership dues are due by January 15th, 2019. Collection began on January 1st so, if yours are as yet unpaid, please get them in as soon as possible. They can be paid online at our website or paid by check mailed to :

Make checks payable to:

USS Seattle AOE3 Veterans Association

Send checks to:

USS Seattle AOE3 Veterans Association

Dan Justynski, Treasurer

7 South Balc Street
Hanover, NH 03755

Letter from The Association President

Fellow USS Seattle Shipmates

If you have ever attended a USS Seattle Veterans Association Annual Reunion, you know that the Reunion Committee **EACH** year does an outstanding job of lining up very special events that make our Reunions memorable. Here are just a few of them.

- Who can forget the sharpness and crispness of the Color Guard and special singer in Washington that happened to be **The President's Own!**
- When the USS Cole was in port and not open to the public, we were able to get a private tour of her.
- It took over a year of writing and calling to be accepted as one of the honorary presenters of a wreath during the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
- We have had a past Captain at 9 of our 10 reunions.
- Guest speaker Francis Gary Powers, Jr., whose father was shot down in 1960 while on a U-2 spy mission over Russia, shared newly released declassified information and photos about the flight.

And much more!

This year is no exception. Here are just a few of the things you will experience.

- Captain Wilbur Trafton (Ret.) and past CO of USS Seattle is our guest speaker
- In 2020 the USS Seattle AOE-3 will have a dedicated space at the Puget Sound Naval Museum honoring the history of the ship. We have collected over 100 donated artifacts from sailors that will be on display at the Reunion before being sent to the museum.
- Life Time Member and great supporter, Captain Craig Honour has arranged a **private tour** of the Naval Air Base JAX, and we will see and learn about the Navy's drone program.
- 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the USS Seattle AOE-3, and every sailor attending the Reunion will receive a beautiful, specially designed commissioned piece that you can proudly display.

There is a full program of other tours, dinners and as always the Story Hour where we share past USS Seattle Sea Stories. Check it out on our website, www.ussseattleaoe-3.org While there, register to attend. You will not be sorry you did.

Each year we seek to accommodate as many as possible, but bus companies and restaurants require advanced reservations. The hotel releases the frozen block of rooms at the deep discount. These things happen in August. Please register as soon as possible so we will have the accommodations we need to serve you!

See you in Jacksonville, FL on September 11-15. Contact Rich Toma at 440-669-9615 or at richtomal6@yahoo.com for questions.

David Holton
USSSVA President

LETTER from the VP

Shipmates,

Time is running out if you plan to attend our 11th reunion in Jacksonville, FL this coming Sept. 11-15. Cut off date for registration is August 11. We need exact number of attendees for both of Thursday's events, the trip to NAS JAX and dinner at Alhambra. Take a few minutes to log into our website and review your contact information. If something needs to be updated.... Please do so.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe Labor Day.

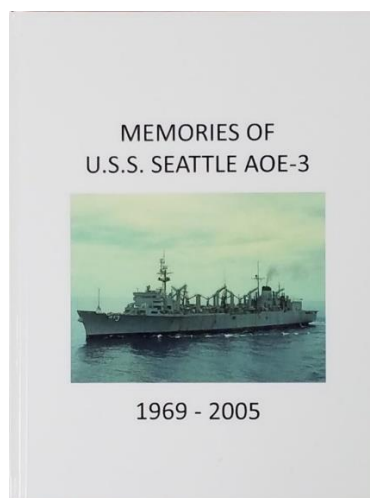
Hope to see you in Jacksonville next month.

Rich Toma
V.P. – USSSVA

SHIP's STORE ITEMS

Shipmates, the last newsletter had a special on Rich Toma's book "Memories of USS Seattle AOE 3". We will continue it with a slight twist. Each copy will include a crisp new \$10.00 bill hidden in the pages of the book!!! Also there will be two - - - **that is 2** - - - surprise gifts from the ship's store.

Use this link: <http://www.ussseattleaoe-3.org/testmhc1.htm> and scroll down to #629 which is the 14th item down. This book is a must have for all sailors who were crew members of the USS Seattle AOE 3. Rich Toma spent five years researching and collecting the articles in this amazing history of the Seattle.



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)
James Conn (1968)	Phil Buckler (1968)	David Dykhoff (2003)
Donald Browne (1968)	Fred Campos (1971)	Larry Doyle (1968)
Gerald Hoewing (1993)	Dan Justynski (1989)	Michael McLean (1973)
Mike Richer (1969)	Lee Solt (1989)	Charles Caudill (1990)

Member Incentive Program (MIP)

What Is It? As a USSSVA member, you know firsthand the value membership provides in supporting your association and in strengthening veterans in our communities. The Member Incentive Program (MIP) offers the ideal opportunity to share the many benefits of membership with non-members USSSVA. By simply reaching out to your network and encouraging fellow shipmates to become a member, you pass along the benefits of membership. In turn, USSSVA will reward your efforts in referring new members*.

How the Program Works

1. Your membership must be current and remain current.
2. "Leads" do not count toward the incentive program. You must bring in a valid new member that is ready to commit to membership.
3. The new member* can apply online or by filling out a PDF application, and must include the referring member's name and contact information on the application in order for the referring member to receive credit.

What You Get

You will receive **50% OFF** your next USSSVA membership renewal for each new member that you sign up. The discount will be capped at two (2) new members per calendar year. Life members will receive a 20% discount in the ship's store**.

What They Get

Make it easier to refer! Your referred USSSVA member receives an 8 X 11" Sustaining Member certificate (suitable for framing), Member's coin and Lapel pin.

*New member is classified as a shipmate that qualifies for USSSVA membership and is not a current member of the association or that has lapsed in USSSVA membership for more than three (3) years from the new sign-up date.

**Value is not to exceed the value of an annual membership (\$30.00).

REUNION # 11

DAY – 0 Tuesday, September 10 ---- Early Birds

Doubletree Hotel – cost is \$119 per night including up to 2 days in advance and 2 days after the reunion at this special price.



The early bird golf outing – so far haven't gotten a lot of interest. Captain Honour is working on setting up a tee time at a course nearby but needs to know how many are interested in joining.

Bill Norris is planning to golf and is working with the Captain to get things going. May have 1 or 2 more people interested but if you'd like to join in for a round of golf – contact Bill Norris at – (EMAIL:

bnorris5248@gmail.com) Phone: (281) 785-6415

REUNION # 11

Day – 1 – Wednesday, September 11

Early birds can enjoy breakfast at the Doubletree, served at 6 am in the first floor restaurant.

CHECK IN: Starts at 12:00 Noon – for the Hotel and the USSSVA

Hospitality Room on the 2nd floor. Opens at 12:00 Noon so stop by and visit.

WELCOME ABOARD RECEPTION ---- 5:30 pm until 10:00 pm

In the Hospitality Room

Pizza, Soda, Beer and Wine will be available

Stop by and meet your fellow shipmates, have a slice and a drink with them.

SHIPS STORE

The Store will open at 12 noon for anyone wanting to purchase items.

Store will close briefly during the reception above but open for anyone needing to make a purchase.

Anyone needing shirts for the various “color” nights can get them in the Ships Store.

USS Seattle AOE 3 Veteran's Association

ISSUE: # 25

3rd Quarter - 2019

Issued: July 31

Page: 7

REUNION # 11

Day – 2 – Thursday, September 12

BREAKFAST: 06:00 in the first floor restaurant

GERNERAL MEETING: 08:00 until 10:00 (breakfast for spouses)

NAS JAX – Tour arranged by Captain Craig Honour.

NOTICE : Everyone planning to attend the base tour must provide security information to Craig no later than August 14, to permit submission to the base – no info = no entry... Info needed: Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial, Nationality, Driver's License State, Driver's License Number. Send info by email to: cshonour@comcast.net

Current plans are for us to depart Doubletree Reunion headquarters at about 10:15AM for the 30 min drive to NAS JAX on the bus. We will be met at the gate by a representative of the host squadron VP-16 and escorted to the CPRW11 Headquarters conference room where we will receive an unclassified brief on Joint Capabilities and Limitations and current operations for about 45 minutes. This Wing flies the P-8 Poseidon airplane which replaced the P-3 Orion. They also have the new Trident UAV and fly that worldwide from the control facility at NAS JAX.



Upon conclusion, we will have a conference room to enjoy the box lunches that we will bring for about 30 minutes.

We will break up into three groups and tour the following three stations by group:

Aircraft simulator (45 min)

Trident Facility (45 min)

P-8 Airplane tour (45 min)

Note the facilities are about 100-200 yards apart so there will be some walking but we will manage a small van for disabled folks.

Upon conclusion of all tours, we will get back on the bus. Should time permit, we will stop by the NAS JAX aircraft static display park that has about ten airplanes to view.

The bus will depart NAS JAX no later than 3:00 PM to arrive at the hotel no later than 3:30 PM.

(See next page for balance of Day 2)

REUNION # 11

Day – 2 – Thursday, September 12 (continued)

FREE TIME: From 3:30 pm until 5:15 pm

DINNER & SHOW

Bus loading at 5:15 for transport to the venue. NOTE: White Seattle Shirts please.

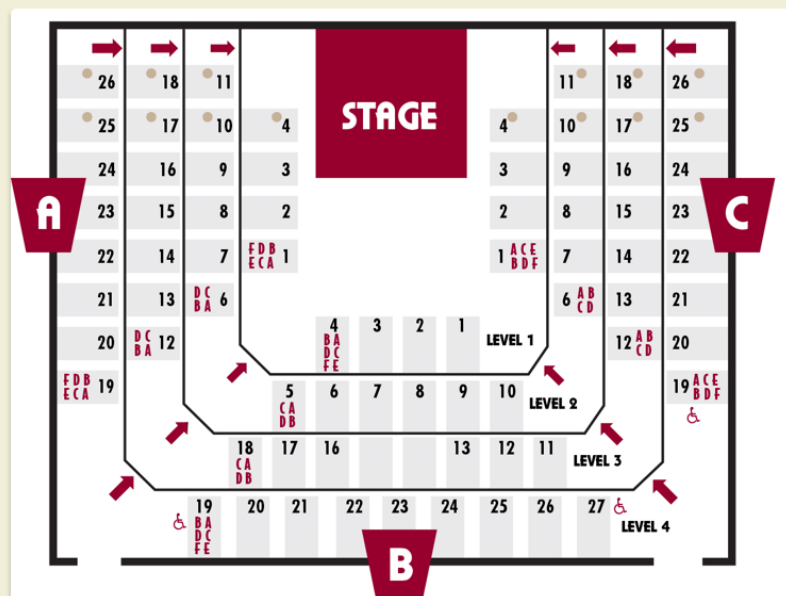
At the Alhambra Dinner Theater

Dinner starts at 6:00 pm and the show starts at 7:50 pm

Bus returns everyone to the hotel at 10:00 pm



We like to talk about the Alhambra experience as being “authentic theater.” This is live Broadway theater – up close and intimate, the way Shakespeare intended. In fact, the farthest seat from the stage is just 75 feet away! There is no row Double-ZZ, 60 rows up an incline. At Alhambra Theatre & Dining, every seat is a great seat! With our new, state-of-the-art sound and lighting system, you’ll always feel like you’re part of the action. Plus, with a fabulous dinner and parking included, the Alhambra is the best entertainment value in town.



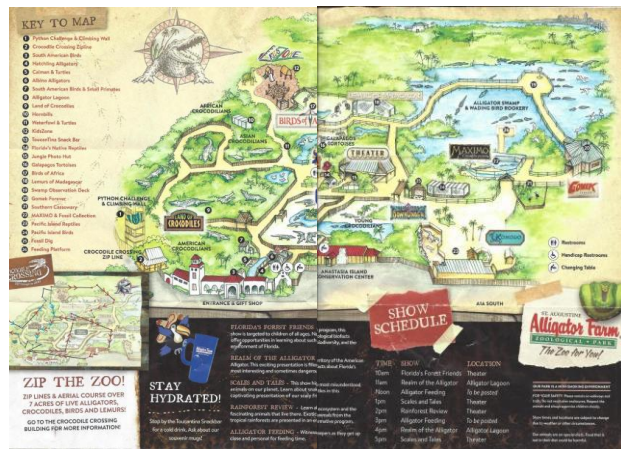
REUNION # 11

Day – 3 – Friday, September 13

BREAKFAST: 06:00 in the first floor restaurant

BOARD BUS FOR ST. AUGUSTINE: 09:00 departure NOTE: Blue Seattle Shirts please
Arrive Castillo de San Marco for group picture.
Alligator Farm tour folks re-board the bus to go to the Farm.
After the Alligator Farm tour you will return to the visitor center.
Old Town Trolley tour is at 10:30.

5:30 pm – Arrive at “Clark’s Fish Camp” where dinner is on your own.
Bus returns everyone to the hotel at 9:00 pm.



USS Seattle AOE 3 Veteran's Association

ISSUE: # 25

3rd Quarter - 2019

Issued: July 31

Page: 10

REUNION # 11

Day – 4 – Saturday, September 14

BREAKFAST: 06:00 in the first floor restaurant

USSSVA Show and Tell: 09:00 am until 10:30 am in the Hospitality Room

10:30 am until 5:30 pm – the day is yours to check out the sights around town. Some suggestions include:

Day cruise to Jacksonville Zoo

Friendship Fountain (walk)

River City Brewing Co. for lunch (walk)

MOSH Museum (walk)

Monorail ride to Jacksonville Landing or

Sweet Pete's (free) River Taxi to Jacksonville Landing

5:30 pm to 7:00 pm – MIXER – cash bar outside Banquet Room

7:00 pm to 10:00 pm – USSSVA Dinner Banquet

Guest Speaker: Capt. Wilbur C. Trafton

USS Seattle's 14th Commanding Officer



REUNION # 11

Day – 5 – Sunday, September 15

FAREWELL BREAKFAST: 06:00 in the first floor Restaurant

USS Seattle AOE 3 Veteran's Association

ISSUE: # 25

3rd Quarter - 2019

Issued: July 31

Page: 11

UPCOMING REUNION INFORMATION

Reunion Day	Begin Time	End Time	Event	P/P Cost	Comments
			Doubletree by Hilton Jax/ Riverfront	\$119.00	Doubletree by Hilton 1201 Riverplace Blvd. Jacksonville, Fl. 32207 1-800-222-9733
Wed.	6:00 AM		Breakfast	\$0.00	Hotel Restaurant 1st floor
	12:00 PM		Official Check-in USSSVA Registration	\$70.00	Hospitality Room 2nd floor Members only pay fee
	5:30 PM	10:00 PM	Welcome aboard reception	\$0.00	Hospitality Room Refreshments (pizza, soda, beer, wine)
Thur.	6:00 AM		Breakfast	\$0.00	Hotel Restaurant
	8:00 AM	10:00 AM	General Meeting/Breakfast for Spouses		Meeting - members only - Hospitality Room
	10:15 AM	2:45 PM	Naval Air Station NAS JAX	Bus for all day (both events) \$50.00	See included letter for the information about this tour.
	3:30 PM	5:15 PM	Free Time		
	6:00 PM	10:00 PM	WHITE SEATTLE SHIRT EVENING Alhambra Dinner Theatre alhambrajax.com	\$50.00	Dinner begins at 6:00. Show begins at 7:50 MAMMA MIA is the show. Business casual dress..... no jeans or t-shirts.

USS Seattle AOE 3 Veteran's Association

ISSUE: # 25

3rd Quarter - 2019

Issued: July 31

Page: 12

UPCOMING REUNION INFORMATION (cont)

Reunion Day	Begin Time	End Time	Event	P/P Cost	Comments
Fri.	6:00 AM		Breakfast	\$0.00	Hotel Restaurant
	9:00 AM	4:45 PM	BLUE SEATTLE SHIRT DAY Board bus for St. Augustine	Bus for all day \$50.00	Arrive Castillo de San Marco for group picture. Those who paid for alligator farm re-board bus for ten-minute ride. Return to visitor center. Rest of day and lunch on your own.
	10:30 AM		Alligator Farm and Zoo	\$17.00	(optional)
			Old Town Trolley tour	\$12.00	(optional)
	5:30 PM	7:15 PM	Arrive Clark's Fish Camp clarksfishcamp.net		Dinner at Clark's on your own. Mains, platters and baskets range from \$10.00 to \$35.00
Sat.	6:00 AM		Breakfast	\$0.00	Hotel Restaurant
	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	USSSVA Show and Tell (optional)		Hospitality Room
	10:30 AM		Rest of day on your own		Day cruise to Jacksonville Zoo Friendship Fountain (walk) River City brewing Co. for lunch (walk) MOSH Museum (walk) Monorail ride to Jacksonville Landing or Sweet Pete's (free) River Taxi to Jacksonville Landing
	5:30 PM	7:00 PM	Mixer		Cash bar just outside of banquet room
	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	Banquet	\$70.00	Guest Speaker Capt. Wilbur C. Trafton USS Seattle's 14th Commanding Officer
Sun.	6:00 AM		Farewell Breakfast	\$0.00	

MUSEUM UPDATE

Shipmates,

Update: We have been working to increase the space size for the museum display. At this year's reunion we plan to showcase some of the items to be displayed and show as much as possible what the display will be like. There are many items still in the works and we could use anything a member might have to add to our museum display.

As we all know the Puget Sound Naval Museum (PSNM) has agreed to provide space for a USS Seattle AOE 3 exhibit in Bremerton, WA. The exhibit will open in the August – September (2020) time frame. We are working on our 2020 reunion to coincide with the opening and are planning a great day to celebrate the event.

Current plans include; a reception at the Kitsap Convention Center (KCC) next to the PSNM, a tour of the museum for the opening of the Seattle exhibit, then back to the KCC for a mixer followed by the banquet.

We have been in contact with the City of Seattle, City of Bremerton, the Tribes of Chief Seattle, and all have said they would like to have someone in attendance for the event.

Please start planning now for this event to commemorate the USS Seattle AOE 3 in her home town of Bremerton.

Bill Norris

Reunion Committee Member

A FEW NOTES

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.

I wear my shirts nearly every day when the weather permits (in Texas that's the majority of the year) and have had people stop me regularly to ask about the ship, when I served or just to thank me for my service. These shirts, hats and jackets are a great way to bring attention to our organization. It has provided me the opportunity to meet other sailors from other ships, some that attend their own reunions, and some that just wanted more info about it because they hadn't heard of this type veteran's organization.

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

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

Fair Winds & Following Seas