

2023 USS Nimitz Association History

The USS Nimitz (CVN-68) Association held our 25th Reunion in Tempe, Arizona October 22, 2023, through October 25, 2023, at the Embassy Suites Tempe/Phoenix. Coordinators were Myrl and Sharon Wallace and Howard and Pat Kamarata. The current Board of Directors, Executive Board and Officers are John Wilder, President, Newsletter Editor, Dave Wood, Vice President and Ship's Storekeeper, Rudy Law, Secretary/Treasurer, Ed Deats, Nomination Committee Chair, Eileen Galecki, Spousal Advocate, Ray Bigelow, Membership Committee Chair, Gary Rollins, Scholarship Committee Chair, Marc Berlin, Executive Board Member-at-Large, Stephen Crabtree, Executive Board Member-at-Large.

Sunday, October 22, 2023, at 1700: The Bud Scott Hospitality Room was open to all hands and guests for Registration.

Monday, October 23, 2023, at 0830, an All-Hands meeting was held. President Wilder welcomed all and thanked the coordinators. The reunion was officially dedicated to past President Richard Galecki who passed away suddenly during 2023. Discussion of future reunion cities was held with Charleston and Fort Myers being the choices with coordinators assigned for 2024. Las Vegas NV, Milwaukee WI, Newport News VA, New Orleans LA and Indianapolis IN, were all in consideration for 2025.

Secretary/Treasurer provided a financial report.

A 50/50 raffle was held.

At 0930 a business meeting was held with Members only. Discussions included changing the name of Spouse Advocate and the eligibility of that position. Further discussion was made regarding the future of the ship store after the current Storekeeper, Dave Wood who has maintain it for over 10 years, is stepping down. The issue of outsourcing will be investigated by the Secretary/Treasurer, Rudy Law and the Board will decide whether it is feasible. Nominations for open positions were held. Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and Spousal Advocate will all be voted on Tuesday with all incumbents running for re-election.

Several members went Horseback Riding at sunset and attended a barbeque at the stables, arranged by Howard and Pat Kamarata.

Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 0830 a business meeting was held, and votes were taken for the reunion locations and Officers. It was decided that we would table the decision for 2 weeks regarding the 2024 reunion until Tim Gildea, reunion coordinator for Charleston and Richard Morley reunion coordinator for Fort Myers obtained final pricing and arrangements from the hotels. New Orleans with reunion coordinator Marc Berlin was selected for 2025. Dave Wood remained Vice President, Rudy Law remained Secretary/Treasurer and Eileen Galecki remained Spousal Advocate.

After the meeting all members and guests boarded a bus for the Dolly Steamboat ride in Canyon Lake arranged by Howard and Pat Kamarata.

Wednesday evening the Banquet was held. The Scholarship winner was announced as Schuyler Hollenbach, the granddaughter of Shipmate Forrest Conrad. The guest speaker was Commander Kevin

Kahl, Commanding Officer of Navy Talent Acquisition Group, Phoenix. He gave an in depth look at the Navy's current recruitment efforts.

After dinner, the silent auction was closed with a live auction from our inhouse auctioneer, Rudy Law.

Total Attendees for the reunion was 70.

New members in 2023 was approximately 75.