



BENNY-factor

FAMILY AUXILIARY: benefactors to shipmates of the
USS Bennington Association

November, 2013

www.aux.uss-bennington.org

Auxiliary Votes to Support Bennington Room, Fountain

Continued support of the Bennington Room aboard the USS Hornet museum and the historic fountain in Bennington, VT, was approved at the annual meeting of the Family Auxiliary in September.

Treasurer Sharon Leeds proposed a



USS Hornet museum, established in 1998 at the former Naval Air Station at Alameda, CA.



Just a portion of the Hornet's Bennington Exhibit, maintained for years by George Britt and George Barge. Shown above are the wheel made by Bill Tometsko, the case with reunion creator Rupert Marshall's picture made by George Britt, and the display table built by George Barge and Albert Artero.

\$250 donation to the USS Hornet's Bennington Room for continuing upkeep.

Following the reunion, Sharon contacted Keith Hedley, membership and donations manager of the Hornet, to advise him of the Auxiliary support. He responded, but then added....

"I just had to write again to tell you that about 45 minutes after I responded to your email I met a former crewman of the Bennington up on the Hornet flight deck.

"I started to tell him about the Bennington Association and he very excitedly told me he joined them a few months ago and just went to his first reunion.

"I didn't get his name, but he lives in Chatsworth, CA and was an IC man on the Bennington.

"He also toured the Bennington exhibit here on the Hornet and was very happy to see it.

"Thanks again for your donation... Keith"

The Auxiliary also is sending \$250 to the City of Bennington for upkeep of the historic fountain adjacent to the ship's bell at the city's town hall.



The historic fountain attracted lots of shipmates and auxiliary members during the 2010 reunion in Bennington, VT.

Meeting Minutes of the USS Bennington Association Auxiliary

September 26, 2013

The Queen Mary – Long Beach, CA

22 attendees

President Lydia Martinez called the meeting to order and introduced officers present including Linda Weers, Vice President and Sharon Leeds, Treasurer. Guests were welcomed and invited to join the Auxiliary. As Secretary Shirley Drysdale was not in attendance, Betty Stanley agreed to take minutes of the meeting.

The Invocation was given by Wilma Kardaseski. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sharon Leeds, Treasurer.

Secretary's Report:

In the absence of the secretary, Sharon Leeds presented the secretary's report. The minutes of the previous meeting (September 26, 2012) were published in "The Benny-Factor" for members to review.

Sharon asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. Sharon suggested re-wording of the section regarding the \$500 Memorial Fund, as follows:

"She (Sharon Leeds) also reported that of the \$500 Memorial Fund set aside to be distributed to the USS Hornet fund and the Veterans Home in Bennington, only \$250 will be donated to the USS Hornet fund if the Veterans Home closes this coming week." (Note: A \$250 check was sent to the Veterans Home as it did not close.)

Wilma Kardaseski moved that the changes be approved. Audry Zerfas seconded, and members approved. There were no other changes to the minutes. Wilma Kardaseski moved that the minutes be accepted with the approved changes. Audry Zerfas seconded, and members approved.

Dues for member renewals and new members were accepted during registration and prior to the start of this meeting. Others desiring to pay dues were asked to do so following the meeting.

Treasurer's report:

Sharon Leeds presented the treasurer's report. Dotty Copeland moved that the treasurer's report be accepted as presented, Karen L. Brown seconded, and members approved. Sharon noted that the electronic mailing of our newsletter has resulted in substantial savings.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Sharon suggested continuing support of the USS Bennington room on the USS Hornet with a \$250 donation. She also suggested a \$250 donation for the upkeep of the fountain and area where the ship's bell is displayed in Bennington, VT. Dotty Copeland moved to approve, Jacqueline Covington seconded, and members approved.

Sharon suggested that we assist with hospitality at the reunions with a contribution of \$300 to be used for cheese trays, veggie trays, or other foods for the hospitality room. Dotty Copeland moved to make this contribution, Jacqueline Covington seconded, and members approved. T Shurmur will make needed purchases with this contribution for the upcoming Gatlinburg reunion.

(Continued on next page)

AUXILIARY MINUTES (continued)

Election:

Officers to be elected at this meeting were Vice President and Secretary. President Lydia Martinez asked for nominations for Vice President. Wilma Kardaseski nominated Linda Weers, Audry Zerfas seconded, and Linda was elected by acclamation. Lydia then asked for nominations for Secretary. Wilma Kardaseski nominated Jacqueline Covington, T Shurmur seconded, and Jacqueline was elected by acclamation.

Announcements:

Sharon asked everyone to check the updated membership list to ensure that their membership dues are current.

Dotty Copeland announced that her husband Bill had negotiated a 15% discount for reunion attendees on food purchased at Sir Winston's and the Promenade Café.

Reunion photographs will be made Saturday afternoon from 2 – 6pm. Group pictures will be taken immediately following the banquet dinner.

Betty Stanley requested prayers for Becky Woodward who had open heart surgery on September 24th. She reported that the surgery had gone well.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty D. Stanley

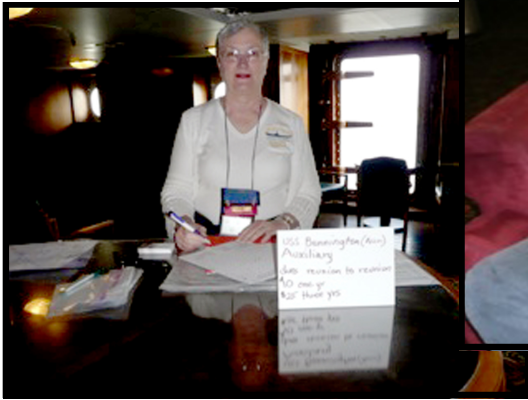


Auxiliary Officers for 2013-`14

(L to R) Treasurer Sharon Leeds; President Lydia Martinez; Secretary Jacqueline Covington; Vice-President Linda Weers.



Reunion activity captured by Jacqueline and Sharon



(top left) Sharon Leeds mans the Family Auxiliary registration desk, then relaxes with grandson Ashton. (top right) Audry Zervas visited the Griffith Observatory

(middle left to right) Jacqueline Covington visited the Hollywood Walk of Fame and bumped into Michael Jackson???? Reunion attendees: the youngest, and the oldest shipmates present. The tour included a visit to the USS Iowa.

(bottom left) The hospitality room was always buzzing with memories and laughter. (Bottom right) B Division attendees seated are Tom Walsh, Bill Sullivan, George Britt, Steve Leeds and Bill Batson. Standing are Charles Russo, Ray Martinez, Ben Peters and Rich Stange.

THE SILVER REUNION

(read at the reunion banquet)

**25 years ago a few Bennington Men,
Met to form The USS Bennington Reunion Association!
What a gift they started for all of you!**

**Now in 2013 we are celebrating our 25th Reunion.
We have enjoyed them all,
Met old buddies and acquired a lot of new ones.
What a wonderful way to keep in touch with one another!**

**We acknowledge the hope that there will be many more,
That all will stay in good health
We will celebrate each New Year with love and happiness.
Gather all the wonderful memories; keep them in your hearts,
Savor them, until we meet again!**

wkardaseski6-2013©



Hello Everyone!

If you missed the USS Bennington Reunion in Long Beach CA aboard the Queen Mary, you missed a great reunion! It was the 25th, better known as the Silver Reunion!!

Among those present were George and Marge Britt, and their grandson, who helped George.

Our daughter, Karen L Brown, drove George and me to and from the Reunion. It helps to have a knowledgeable bus driver in the family! We also had a great visit with our daughter and her husband, Robin and Jerome Cawley and granddaughter, Elizabeth Cawley. They live in Riverside CA and spent part of Friday with us.

One if the greatest things about the reunion was having two WWII veterans attending the reunion! They were LCDR John MacTarnaghan and M/M3C George Kardaseski!!! John turned 100 yrs of age, September 20, 2013 and George turned 87 years of age, June 2nd of 2013, thus at reunion he was almost 87 1/2 years of age.

John's guest was Hazel Boulay, and George's guests were myself and our daughter Karen.

Of course there were the usual 'ups and downs' that come with putting on reunions, but all in all the hosts, officers of both the Association and the Auxiliary did great Jobs. This being the first time working with the Reunion Planning Group, a few quirks will be needed to worked out.

We are looking forward to the 2014 Reunion in Gatlinburg TN, that is as the old saying goes—The good Lord will'n and the crick don't rise!

*Loads of love to all of you!
Wilma Kardaseski*

Gatlinburg Greet's You

Gatlinburg is nestled at the entrance to Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

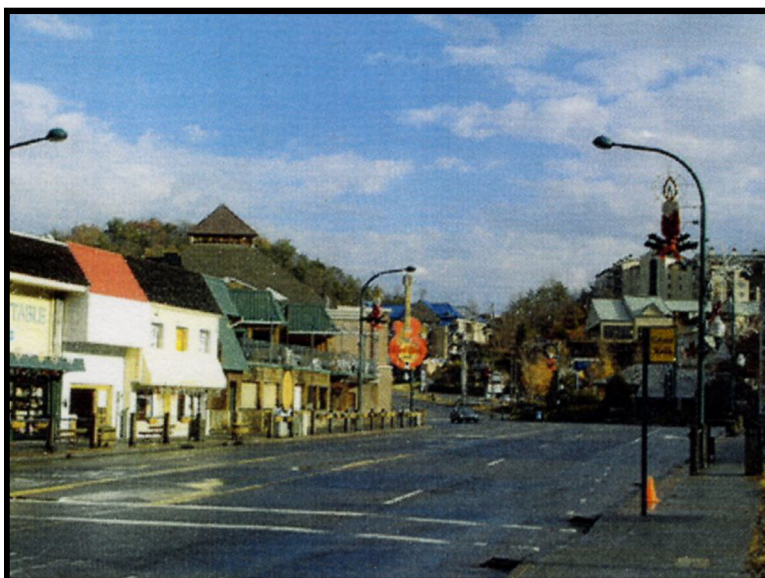
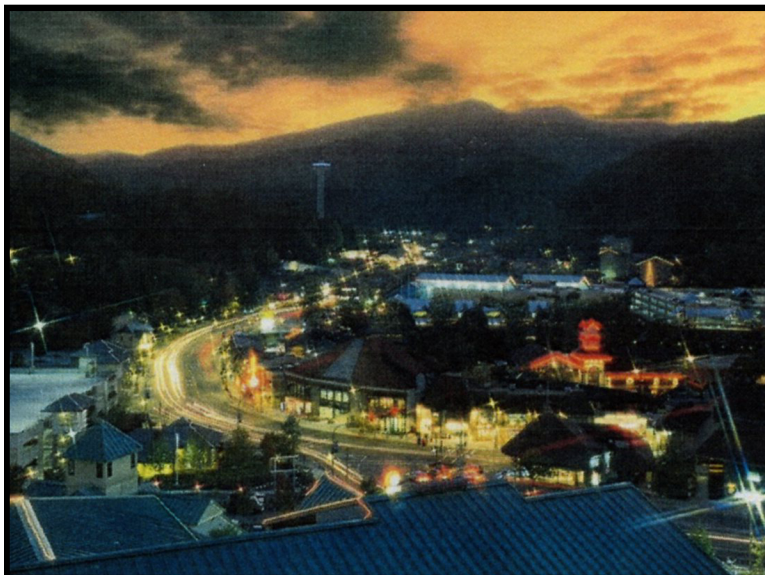
The quaint town attracts more than eleven million visitors a year and can grow to a population of 40,000 on any given night.

This little town of 3,944 residents is dedicated to welcoming all of its guests with a taste of Appalachian hospitality at its best.

The USS Bennington Reunion will experience this hospitality at its 26th annual meeting Sept. 24-27, 2014, at Gatlinburg's Edgewater Hotel and Conference Center.

Tours are being arranged, but there will be plenty of time to enjoy the community on your own:

- ** Walking the Downtown Parkway
 - ** The River Walk with gazebos and benches along the way
 - ** The Great Smoky Arts & Crafts community of 100 shops featuring craftsmen and artists along an 8-mile loop.
- See you there.



THE EDGEWATER
Reunion hotel

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