

**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**  
**Saturday, 06 MAY 2023, 08:36 – 10:48 AM**  
**USS MULLINNIX DD-944 ASSOCIATION, Incorporated**  
**Providence, RI (Warwick Room)**

**Attending Executive Board Members**

President – Roger Bocek

Vice President – William Petras

Secretary – Stephen Hanyok

Treasurer/Registered Agent – Joseph Sprowls (not present)

Chaplain – James Carter

**Also Attending**

Robert Houghton - Reunion Coordinator, Former President

**1. Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America**

- All attendees pledged Allegiance to the United States of America.

**2. Benediction**

- Chaplain Jimmy Carter performed the benediction.

**3. Presentation of Last Business Meeting Minutes**

- Secretary Stephen Hanyok presented the business meeting minutes held on 9:01 AM, 30April2022 at Norfolk, VA. The 2022 business meeting minutes were accepted by all attendees.

**4. Treasurer's report**

- As requested by President Bocek, Frank Wood presented the Treasurer's report in the absence of Treasurer Joe Sprowls. Frank gave general details of the Mullinnix account activity, which included the recent establishment of a money market account as an added security measure to guard against scams and theft. He indicated that several years ago, a scam occurred where a bogus scammer (posing as the Association president) contacted Frank and attempted to have all the money in the account withdrawn and given to the scammer. Fortunately, Frank first called President Bocek who indicated to him that he did not make any such request; do not do it, it's a scam. Frank presented general details regarding the current account balance and the ongoing usual expenses being incurred at the Providence reunion event. Frank said the Mullinnix Association account is solvent. Frank indicated that the Association funds are handled by two people (Sprowls and Bocek), so the account funds are in good hands. The Treasurer's report was accepted by all attendees.

**5. Bylaws Committee Report (presented by William Petras) on proposed Bylaws changes posted in the March 2023 Association Newsletter**

- Article III Membership, Section 1B – Associate Membership. Wording changes were presented, were unopposed and therefore accepted. The wording changes read as follows:

Article III Membership, Section 1B - Associate Membership. Association Members in good standing may present to the Executive Board for majority approval, an individual who seeks to become an Associate Member of the Association. Upon approval of the Executive Board and payment of annual dues, an Associate Member shall acquire all the benefits of membership contained in Article III, Section 1A, except for voting, holding office and serving on committees.

- Article IV Dues, Section 2 – Non-Payment of Dues. Wording changes were presented, were unopposed and therefore accepted. The wording changes read as follows:

Article IV Dues, Section 2 – Non-Payment of Dues. Members who are two or more years in arrears on payment of dues shall be placed in inactive status. Inactive members will be reinstated to active membership when their

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current year annual dues are paid. Any extra money included with the current year's dues shall be credited to future years.

- Article VII Duties of Officers, Section 7- Other Officials, (E) Ship's Store Operator, (7). Wording changes were presented, were unopposed and therefore accepted. The wording changes read as follows:

Article VII Duties of Officers, Section 7- Other Officials, (E) Ship's Store Operator, (7). Bring merchandise to the annual reunion for sale. If unable to attend, he shall notify the President well enough in advance so that attendees can be made aware.

- Article VII Duties of Officers, Section 7- Other Officials, (E) Ship's Store Operator, (8). Wording changes were presented, were unopposed and therefore accepted. The wording changes read as follows:

Article VII Duties of Officers, Section 7- Other Officials, (E) Ship's Store Operator, (8). Maintain a record of all sales and purchases on an annual basis beginning on 1 October and ending on the following 30 September. Submit a copy of this record (including an inventory of stock on hand) to the Treasurer for his review, who will forward it to the President for his approval prior to the annual reunion. This report is to be made available for inspection by the membership at the Annual Business Meeting.

- Article IX Committees, Section 2 – Nominating Committee. Wording changes were presented, were unopposed and therefore accepted. The wording changes read as follows:

The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of a minimum of three (3) Association Members, none of whom are currently serving as elected Officers of the Association. They shall solicit candidates for elected offices in the Association in advance of the Annual Association's Business Meeting and to be prepared to nominate those individuals at the appropriate time. Any Officer of the Association who does not desire re-election at the next Annual Business Meeting of the Association should make his intentions known to the nominating committee at least 90 days before the Business Meeting. Any Member of the Association who desires to hold an elected office in the Association should also make his desires known to the Nominating Committee at least 90 days in advance of the Annual Business Meeting.

- William Petras asked for a motion on the floor to accept all the changes to the Association Bylaws as written. Dale Schultz motioned to accept the changes; all attendees accepted the motion, none were opposed. The amended Bylaws will be reviewed by the EB and copies will be distributed by the time of the next reunion.

**6. Nominating Committee report.** President Bocek indicated that the nominating committee does not have a chairman. Kenneth Edwards volunteered to be the chairman. John Rota, Michael Snoke and James Forbes volunteered to be on the nominating committee.

**7. Reunion Committee report, Reunion locations presented by Reunion coordinator, Robert Houghton.**

- Eastern PA region. Robert briefed the members on reunion locations considered in the Eastern PA region. The Philadelphia Convention Business Bureau (CBB) only considers corporate entities; they said our Association is too small therefore, Philadelphia is not an option. The York, Harrisburg, Gettysburg, and Hershey CBBs were also contacted, but they were uninterested. Eastern PA is no longer considered for reunions.
- 2024 Association reunion location. Robert Houghton indicated that the EB has selected a waterfront hotel in Myrtle Beach, SC for the 2024 Association reunion location during 1 – 5 May 2024. The hotel has both

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indoor and outdoor swimming pools. Robert gave numerous details regarding the hotel location and amenities. The hotel details follow:

Grand Shores Ocean Resort  
201 77<sup>th</sup> Ave North  
Horry County  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572-4242  
Phone 866-935-3891

- Association cruises. Details of organizing an Association reunion on a cruise ship were explored. The costs, feasibility, meeting rooms availability, improvising an Association hospitality area, and cruise ship home ports were discussed. However, no decision was made to arrange an Association cruise trip.
  - Dayton, OH region. Bob Houghton and Roger Bocek suggested Dayton, OH for a future reunion because of the many historic tourist sites and activities. The shipmates showed positive interest in Dayton for a reunion.
- 8. Welcoming committee report.** Welcoming committee chairman James Carter expressed his joy in meeting all the Mullinnix family members at the Providence, RI reunion event. He asked that all members submit any prayer requests to him, including their family and friends. He indicated that with some disappointment he has not received prayer requests yet.
- 9. Old Business.** President Bocek indicated that no old business issues needed to be addressed.
- 10. New Business.**
- Memorabilia. President Bocek presented the idea of a 10-year plan to disperse the Mullinnix memorabilia to the donors, by auction, raffles, or other means. The members expressed acceptance of the plan. The President will form a committee to develop a 10-year plan with Greg Foster as the Chairman and will present their plan at the Annual Business Meeting in 2024.
  - Deceased shipmates. Jerry Kaufman talked about documenting deceased shipmates within the Association. Bocek responded by informing the shipmates that a “Memorials” page is already posted on the official Mullinnix Association website. When the Association is notified of the death of a shipmate, that information is posted on the Memorials page (this information started being posted only in the last several years).
  - Recent tee shirt design. A shipmate questioned the printing of the ship’s hull number on the back of the latest batch. Discussion revealed that the hull number on the back of the shirts is not needed; Robert Houghton will consider removing it.
  - Vietnam service-related illnesses. Frank Wood presented his information regarding the seemingly elevated number of peculiar illnesses and deaths among the USS Mullinnix shipmates during the ship’s 1972 Vietnam service. Frank Wood served on the USS Mullinnix during its 1972 Vietnam service. He advised any members who are ill to contact the Veterans Administration to determine if their illness is service-related.
- 11. Reelection of EB Officers.** William Petras motioned to reelect the Executive Board Officers and that the secretary cast one vote to do so. President Bocek indicated that he will continue as president into 2024. Secretary Hanyok cast the vote for each EB officer (except secretary), Petras cast the vote for secretary, everyone voted unanimously for retention of the EB officers; the EB officers were reelected.
- 12. Benediction.** Chaplain James Carter performed the benediction.

**Meeting adjourned.**