

AAFA

April 26, 2017



ATTENTION ON DECK!!

Fellow Members ... hope all survived the winter months and are looking forward to some “Fun in the Sun” in good ole Virginia Beach.

Along with the fun schedule we have some serious business to accomplish this year. It is of course an election year and ALL POSITIONS except Treasurer have timed out. President, Vice President and Secretary will be voted at the Friday night meeting/pizza party. Our Treasurer Eunice Hutchings was elected for a three year period aligning to the normal two year cycle in 2019.

Last year the secret balloting worked perfect and will be the manner of voting this year and hopefully all years to follow. For the first time our members were allowed to vote their choice in private eliminating ill feelings as usually all candidates are known by most members.

The successful publishing of “bios” in the 2016 Treasurer Election afforded the entire membership a “look see” into the candidates. We are encouraging those members interested in leadership to submit a short background - though not necessary. We do have several relatively new members who we encourage to run and be a part of the long term success of the AAFA. Please submit bios to: John Schlagel, Secretary, 1650 Goosetown Road, East Fallowfield, PA, 19320 or email to john@LST1175.com.

Now to the reunion ... our VP Henry Ruiz has been very busy applying all his “Political Capital” on the Virginia Beach community assuring we will have a reunion to remember this year. I have attached the schedule of events along with the dues renewal forms for those who have yet to submit. But MOST IMPORTANTLY make the hotel

reservations NOW. You can always cancel these reservations (check cancelation policy at time of booking). Just a reminder that ONLY the party making the reservation can cancel them. We cannot do that for you.

**Place: Holiday Inn & Suites, North Beach
3900 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451
Phone: 757-428-1711 / 757-425-7872 GROUP AAF**

**Rate: \$149.00 plus State and Local Tax (currently 14% plus \$1.00 for a total of \$170.86)
Core dates are Wed 9/27 thru Saturday 9/30, 2017
Cutoff date for this rate is August 28th, 2017**

Mon/Tue 9/25 and 9/26, Sun/Mon 10/01 and 10/02 are also available at this special rate with the Cutoff date July 1st.

Early hotel reservations are encouraged as we expect to exceed our initial quota allocation. Room allocations are contractual with fiduciary requirements and resultant penalties. Our only hope to avoid penalty is to reserve NOW. Henry has the option to increase room counts IF and only IF requested EARLY, NO LATER THAN JULY 1st, 2017. This and all hotels at the beach are expecting and booking for the annual “Neptune Festival” scheduled into our weekend events. The closer we get to late September, the higher the room rate will be – upwards of \$300.00 per night.

On this topic it is important to understand how the host hotel contract works. In exchange for room night reservations, the host hotel supplies at no cost the hospitality suite, parking, breakfast and contributes to the “free room drawing”. Likewise in exchange for hosting the Banquet with the host and their associated food services we receive cost and venue considerations. Currently our hospitality suite and banquet venue is on the top floor of the hotel and is visually open to the Atlantic Ocean and boardwalk – exceptional comes to mind. However, the dining seating is restricted to seat 100. Though we have only exceeded 100 at the banquet once in the past, we will be required to change venues to a lower level if necessary and then

ONLY if requested in a timely manner. **PLEASE** register as early as possible.

The attached 2017 Dues Renewal form requests you submit your dues directly to Eunice to her address at the bottom of the form. When renewing please indicate your need (or not) for a membership card. Most of us do not carry the card and by eliminating the cost of mailing is a savings in excess of \$100.00 annually.

For The Friday Night Pizza Party/Meeting, Henry has made arrangements with the “BEST” Pizzeria at the Beach. This is no cost to the membership.

Also Very important!!!! There WILL be the “Free Room Drawing” again this year. This drawing is open to **ONLY** those members booked into the Host Hotel and are current with annual dues. Paid members using points, camping, staying with friends etc. are exempt from this drawing. We will pay the Hotel Bill (Room Only) for all dates on your bill between Wednesday thru Saturday, the four primary reunion dates. Congratulations to Helen and Ronnie Kitts last year’s benefactors.

A few reminders:

GOLF: The planned early Tuesday arrival golf outing is complete. All interested golfers please contact me, Bob Jonzcyk, at 352-753-8270 or jonzcykbob@yahoo.com

2018 REUNION VENUE: Please “be prepared” when recommending next years (and all future years) location. Before you suggest a location, please do a little homework. Check on transportation access, places and things of interest for touring, brochures, contact the local tourism agencies that are in most major cities and popular reunion locations, and a general approach to costing. Examples would be downtown NYC, San Francisco and the likes are probably too expensive and other sites not easily accessible by public transportation.

AUCTION: Do not forget our VERY popular auction orchestrated by our equally popular Auctioneer Georgette. I believe this is our sixth year and is instrumental in the AAFA's ability to supplement our treasury. This provides your Board's ability to enhance the quality of our reunions in addition to the very generous donating practices.

AAFA Website: The website is "Under Construction" at this time and should be up and running in the next several weeks. This has taken a little longer than desirable but is in progress. The site name is www.GatorNavy.com and is privately owned by the AAFA exclusively. Hopefully the site will be the communications vehicle the majority of us use eliminating the ongoing expense of snail mail.

Finally, in speaking with several members last year, I realized that many of you have not been back to the Norfolk/Little Creek area in 50 years or so. You are in for a huge surprise. Remember East Main, Granby and the whole river front?? ... The lawn signs are gone along with the NEAR BEER, the lights on East Main are no longer red, the bar flies retired... and all who partake of the Thursday tour will get to see it all first hand.

Smooth Sailing,

Bob Jonczyk, President