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USS WILLIAM M. WOOD (DD 715/DDR 715) ASSOCIATION

www.dd715.org

Shipmates,

I want to thank John (Dizzy) Dzubak, John Michel and Mentrus Messina for continuing on as secretary, treasurer and chaplain for the association. Chief Smith stepped down from the vice president job and I thank him for his help in the organization. I thank Tom Strenza for stepping in to take the job of vice president. Larry Smith (taken over for Jim Thomas RIP) is now the chairman of the membership committee please feel free to contact him at Bcsmith1@comporium.net or 803.325.3027 if you're looking at joining up or have membership questions.

About our association officers.

President: Jerry L. Chapman (1 year as President, 10 years as VP – 8 reunions attended)

I was transferred from the USS Noa DD-841 in 1972 (RM3) when the Wood was first deployed to its new home port of Athens Greece. I wasn't sure what I had volunteered for but, it turned out to be a great experience. The things that stuck with me the most was the trip to Rome, cruises to the Black Sea going by Istanbul and Capt. Tstantos harassing the Russian ships out on the Mediterranean Sea. After the Wood I was transferred to the Naval Radio Transmitter Facility in Annapolis Maryland where I was promoted to RM2 and left the Navy in 1976. Since the Navy I have worked at a 9-1-1 center and am now retired.

I married Nancy who gave me three wonderful children who in turn have given me five beautiful grandchildren. We currently live in South Elgin Illinois (along with two dogs and a cat).

We attended our first Wood reunion in Jacksonville Beach Fla where we toured a ship at the Mayport Naval Base (the Noa was homeported there). The next reunion was in Chicago where I helped with the reunion and I started getting involved in the association. I'm so glad I got involved then and wish I had gone to earlier reunions.

My hobbies are Ham radio (N9JLC) and camping. I am also a member of the American Legion and my local Civil Defense unit.

Vice President: Tom Streza (1st year VP – 8 reunions)

I joined the Naval Reserve on my 18th birthday. This got me out of a steel mill for a couple of years. I then went on active duty 17 DEC 64 and reported to the USS WOOD in Philly shipyard. We lived on barges for 5 months while she was undergoing FRAM conversion. I was assigned to the Deck Force doing PM's. Then after a shakedown cruise to GITMO GQ was sounded and we were sent to the Dominican Republic to help evacuate Americans from the area. I was then assigned to Ships Office where I was then placed in the Post Office as my duty station. I made 3rd class YN in '66 and left the Wood in June of that year. I was then transferred to the USS Wright CC2 for the remainder on my duty. Upon leaving the service I went back to the mill then to the US Post Office. Married in 68 had 3 kids, divorced and remarried to Sandy and been with her for 35 years. Retired in '07 on our palatial estate of 5 acres where we raised chickens, turkeys and goats. Have a pontoon boat that docked at Pymatuning Lake for the summer, good fishing. Been to 8 reunions and have helped with the golf outing and helped take care of the Hospitality room. Enjoy woodcrafts, which have been shown at several reunions

Secretary: John "Dizzy" Dzubak (1st year secretary – 10 years as president – 16 reunions attended)

I joined the Navy right out of High School. Did my basic training at The Great Lakes Naval Training Center and matriculated immediately to "A" school for MM. Arrived on board the Wood February, 1966 and loved it so much that they had to push me off in February, 1969. In 1969, I was employed by PPG and at the same time I earned my BA from California, PA. When PPG moved to Canada in 1994 I went back to school and earned a degree in Computer Science. I have a son and daughter from a 1st marriage and a daughter from a 2nd marriage. At this time, I am single and the daughter is off to vet school in Grenada. My hobbies are playing the guitar and stamp and silver collecting and I am enjoying my retirement but the days seem to go faster when you retire. Hmmm to all that.

Treasurer: John Michel (1 year treasurer – 5 years as Secretary – 8 reunions attended)

I graduated from George Mason College, Fairfax, VA in 1970 and enlisted in the Navy in August of that year. After "A" school, I came back to the Atlantic Coast as a push-button EM3 aboard the USS SIERRA (AD-18) out of Norfolk. I found that I liked being in the Navy and, since I had my Bachelor's degree, I applied for and got a Commanding Officer's recommendation for OCS in Newport, RI. After OCS, I went to Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, GA. From Athens, GA I flew over to meet the WILLIAM M. WOOD (DD-715) which at that point had already transited the Atlantic and was homeported in Athens, Greece. My experiences living in Greece and serving onboard the Willie Wood were magnificent and I will never forget them. That being said, I got out of the Navy upon departing the Wood in January, 1975, returning to a career-long job with the Department of Defense as a civilian working with various aspects of the Defense Acquisition Workforce and various assignments within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics). I retired in 2005 with over 40 year's total federal service.

From our business meeting:

We again donated \$500 to The Tin Can Sailors, Inc. for USS LAFFEY and USS JOSEPH P. KENNEDY JR museum ships each receiving \$250.

The 2017 Cleveland reunion is still on tap and the 2018 reunion we are looking to go to San Antonio TX where we'll use a reunion planner.

A brief look at the reunion in Branson:

We welcomed aboard Chuck Bieber and Raymond Rollberg. They were first time attendees at our reunion we hope they continue to attend. We were also glad to see Tom Hohn, a plank owner of the Wood, attend this reunion.

The reunion was not heavily attended but we had fun with our relatively small group. I learned a few things about the Wood that I didn't know before.

As in Myrtle Beach, Nancy and I did not attend everything, however, the shows we did attend were very good (I will admit I was skeptical) and was pleasantly surprised. Did you know there are three scrap book stores in Branson ??? I heard no complaints from anyone attending the reunion so everyone must of had a good time. We had a very nice memorial service on shore (thank you Tony for stepping in as Chaplain) then we went onto the showboat "Belle" for lunch and a show. We were impressed with the tour of the College of the Ozarks and the Vietnam memorial.

The buffet and raffle was tremendous where valuable treasures were given out. Then at our dinner, George Trenholm took part in the entertainment.. Who knew he could sing ??? What more could you want ??

Also in the hotel were a couple more Navy ship reunions and a reunion of dog handlers from another branch of service.

Please see the pictures from the Branson reunion on our web site www.DD715.org (there aren't any grumpy faces to be seen). As you can see they even let our guys drive golf carts – the place was very trusting.

And a big thank you and bravo zulu to Pam Brown for the Wood Cake.. It was delicious..

We are looking forward to the 21st Wood reunion October 4-8 2017 in Clerveland OH. Please go to our web site WWW.DD715.org for the listing of hotel and event information. As always we are looking for shipmates who are willing to volunteer and lead future reunions – please consider it and get in touch with me. If you don't have access to the "web" , information will be forthcoming in the mail.

Here comes the plagiarizing from previous president letters:

Annual Dues - Once again it is that time of year when we ask that you continue your generosity in supporting the Wood Association (a tax exempt nonprofit 501 c19 veteran's organization) by your contribution of annual dues of \$10.00. Your checks should be made out to the Wood Association and sent to the Treasurer, John Michel 811 S. Oak Street Arlington, VA 22204. When you send in your dues payment, if you pay for more than one year (multiples of \$10.00), please tell John which years you want credited. Your annual dues contributions keep the Willy Wood underway, steaming to new ports each year for reunions as well as providing information to shipmates regarding activities and whereabouts of shipmates on our roster. In addition, contribution of dues makes you an "Active" member of the Association entitling you to participate in the annual business meetings, running for office, and voting at the annual business meetings. If you have not yet become an "Active" Wood Association member, or have let your active membership sail off into the sunset, please become/renew your membership by sending in your dues contribution. We look forward to seeing you at future reunions and thank you for your generosity.

We have enclosed a schedule of dues status for the current "Active" shipmates who have been making dues contributions in recent years. This schedule reflects what is in our records regarding recent dues contributions from you. The schedule shows names in alpha order and the year your dues are paid up through. If the last year you paid dues for was 2013, you will be an "Active" member until September 2016, at which time you will be dropped from "Active" status if we do not receive another contribution from you before September. Our policy is to keep shipmates "Active" for 3 years from the last year of a dues contribution, as some shipmates send in multiple years' contributions and then no contribution for a few years, and then send in multiple years again, etc.

If your name does not appear on the schedule, it means we have no record of any dues contribution from you for 2013 or prior, and you are no longer an "Active" or perhaps you have never been a dues paying "Active" member. We do not show the names of shipmates who have dropped from the "Active" rolls or who have yet to become "Actives". If you have been dropped because of no dues payments for 2013 or before, you can be reinstated as an "Active" simply by making a dues payment and mailing to John Michel at address top of page one. We would love to have you back aboard. Hoping to see and speak to as many of you as possible at the Branson Missouri reunion. Please considering coming you won't regret it.

Best Wishes,

Jerry L. Chapman

Jerry L Chapman
President
USS William M. Wood DD/DDR-715 Association