

AAFA



January 27, 2025

Gators, Family & Friends,

Our Country's elections over, hopefully all the associated stresses along with them.

The AAFA welcomes our new members from the “Old Amphibious Group” – AKA/APA Sailors guided by Jerry Wotherspoon. As members, we encourage your inputs, knowledge, leadership skills and most important ... (embellished) Sea Stories merging seamless into the AAFA family. Keep in mind that the AAFA is a social group. We are not incorporated; our rules are simply driven by common sense. All decisions of importance are voted on at the annual meetings by our dues paying members. Examples include financial distribution decisions, destination of future reunions, election of leadership. Our dues paying members also include our spouses, significant partners and family. We recognize the Women of the AAFA and encourage their full participation in all matters.

Liberty Call will commence SUNDAY, September 14, 2025 through WEDNESDAY September 17, 2025 with checkout on Thursday the 18th. Special room rates have been set for two days before and two days after the scheduled hard dates. ABSOLUTE cut-off-date for room reservations is AUGUST 1st. No exceptions so please reserve early. You can always cancel if necessary. Early reservations allow for accurate negotiations for tours/banquet/etc..

The reason for changing from our usual Wednesday through Sunday to Sunday through Thursday was a significant reduction in the room rate – a no brainer.

The PLACE: Best Western Merry Manor Inn
700 Main Street
South Portland, Maine 04106

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotels-in-south-portland/best-western-merry-manor-inn/propertyCode.20015.html#

To make room reservations call @ 207-774-6151 The room rate is \$119.00 + tax (currently %9) ASK FOR THE AAFA ROOM BLOCK. Call THIS number direct.

Included in your room rate:

The Hotel will reimburse for TAXI fare from the Portland International Jet Port and RETURN. Present your receipt at check in for credit at checkout.

Full complimentary breakfast each morning.

Coffee and Tea available 24/7 in the lobby.

Free Parking

Spacious Hospitality Suite, Alcohol allowed.

The BW Merry Manor Inn provided references for more than 100 Navy and USMC Ships/Units.

Cap Dave Miller was on this out of the gate with the heads up on the hotel property thanks to Paul Smith. He is working on sorting out possible tours and banquet options. As soon as we know we will publish a Registration Form with the required information and payments due. Since membership will be required to VOTE on leadership, future reunion locations, AAFA financial matters, etc., we have attached the 2025 Membership Form for those who wish to join. Membership is NOT required to attend reunions. ALL who do join will have voting rights.

Normally our election of officers is held every two years by dues paying membership including WWII and Active-Duty members excused from dues. The next scheduled election will be at the 2026 reunion. This delay is required due to reinstating the membership dues requirement. Forced cancellations due to Covid and hurricanes in Florida, the 2023 / 2024 reunions were absent of dues and Portland, Maine was voted by all who attended, regardless of membership status.

It is our intention to communicate regular newsletters by email, and published on the website, www.gatornavy.com, keeping the membership updated. If you have questions, please forward them by email and we will be glad to respond timely.

This year we have been fortunate to be able to have a guest speaker at the banquet. We will be forwarding the details in our next newsletter.

Smooth Sailing,

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