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

[www.dd715.org](http://www.dd715.org)

Shipmates,

Once again, I'd like to thank Tom Streza, John (Dizzy) Dzubak, John Michel and Metrus Messina for continuing on as vice president, secretary, treasurer and chaplain for the association. If you're looking at joining up or have membership questions please feel free to contact anyone one of us. Larry Smith volunteered to be the ships historian if you have anything historical please contact him at [Bcsmith1@comporium.net](mailto:Bcsmith1@comporium.net) or 803.325.3027.

We are also looking for a membership chairperson.. If you are interested please contact me.

### **About our association officers.**

**President: Jerry L. Chapman** (3 years as President, 10 years as VP – 10 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 six beautiful grandchildren. We currently live in South Elgin Illinois (along with a dog and 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.

My nickname in the Navy was “Bear” which was given to me by my boot camp company commander, who was on the Wood when I reported aboard, and the name stuck with me the entire time I was in.

**Vice President: Tom Streza** (3rd year VP – 10 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. I am currently married to Sandy for 36 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 10 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** (3rd year secretary – 10 years as president – 18 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 last daughter has graduated and finally a veterinarian. 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** (3 years treasurer – 5 years as Secretary – 10 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 donated \$1500 to The Tin Can Sailors, Inc. with \$500 going to USS LAFFEY and USS JOSEPH P. KENNEDY Jr. each and to Tin Can Sailors. Museum ship General Fund

We voted to have our 2019 reunion in Ocean City, MD.

We voted to have our 2020 reunion in Fall River {Boston}, Mass. Entertain an event planner for last week of Sept or First week in October.

Please see the pictures from the 2017 San Antonio, Texas reunion on our web site [www.DD715.org](http://www.DD715.org).

Also, at this time I am going to ask for volunteers to help in the hospitality room. Please consider this so that one person is not doing it by themselves.

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. 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 you have been dropped 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 Ocean City, Maryland 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