

# AAFA

September 05, 2017



**MAIL CALL ..... MAIL CALL ....**

**The 2017 reunion is just around the corner. The tables are set, tours in place and Henry assures us a great time in his home town.**

**I am reminded that this is 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.**

**VERY IMPORTANT!!!! Your current officers less Treasurer will NOT be seeking a second term this time. After giving it much thought and discussion with Sue, and your board, I have decided not to run for a second term as President. It has been a tremendous honor to serve in this position, and for this I will be forever grateful. Throughout my working life, I have had the opportunity to work with some excellent individuals, and great leaders. But never have I worked with a group of talented people such as your board. It was a pleasure, and really fun putting things together. Thank you for having given me this honor. For Henry and John, they have served us for seven of the last 11 years under Wayne Halloran for five years and under me for the last two. I will be joining Henry and John as collectively we feel strongly how very important it is for those among our membership to surface providing new ideas, new faces and new directions expanding this great association we share. Those who take over can count on all the help they desire from the outgoing officers.**

**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**

only time this procedure will not be necessary is when there is only one candidate for a position or one city for consideration for the next reunion.

The successful publishing of “bios” in the 2016 Treasurer Election afforded the entire membership a “look see” into the candidates resulting in a very close result. We however did not receive any to publish this time. We do have several relatively new members who we encourage to run and be a part of the long term success of the AAFA. Don't be bashful - we will hold your hand through the process.

Now back 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. If you have not made reservations it may be too late. Contact Henry or John and we will see if we can get you in the hotel or tours.

Just a reminder for those members that unfortunately had to cancel plans for the reunion, don't forget that **ONLY** the party making the **HOTEL** 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 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Our hospitality suite and banquet venue will be in the same room and is on the top floor of the hotel and is visually open to the Atlantic Ocean and boardwalk – wall to wall glass – exceptional comes to mind.

The attached 2018 Dues Renewal form will be available at the reunion for those of us who are early birds with the dues. For those members not attending the reunion or choose to take care of dues later we

request 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:

**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:** Don't forget the usual Auction to be held again by popular demand. Bring your items to be auctioned, and join the fun as they are sold to the highest bidder by our famous, or should I say infamous auctioneer, Georgette!

**GOLFERS:** I've only heard from 3 of you, so golf will be on your own. No need to reserve tee times.

**AAFA Website: The website is UP!!! [www.gatornavy.com](http://www.gatornavy.com) This has taken a little longer than desirable but better late than never (that's what John Schlagel told me). The site name 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.**

**I mentioned in the last newsletter how those old salts that have not been back in 50 years are in for quite a surprise. Please drop me a line about that experience. Wish we were there to share this one.**

**The tragic events of Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana are on all of our minds. The thoughts and prayers of our entire membership are with everyone affected by the hurricane and its aftermath. For those of us attending this year's reunion, we need to be reminded that the weather on the east coast this time of the year can change without warning and we need to be prepared. At this time we have a hurricane in the Atlantic headed ??? which COULD impact our destination so come prepared.**

**Sue and I will miss you all this year, BUT WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR!!**

**Bob Jonczyk, President**