

# USS Lafayette Association Minutes of Business Meeting October 26, 2007 Charleston, South Carolina

## Opening

**Called to Order** - The second business meeting of the USS Lafayette (SSBN616) Association was called to order at 18:08pm by Bill Fraser, Chairman of the Board, in the absence of President Herb Wise. Fraser announced that Herb Wise was not able to attend due to illness but that he would recover and intends to carry out his duties on the Board.

**President's Message** - The following message from President Wise was read by Fraser to the approximately 80 shipmates attending:

To all Members of the "Head of the Class" Lafayette Association:

It is with deep regret that I am unable to be here at the Reunion of the greatest shipmates in the world. I hope to have a full recovery soon.

I would like to give you the story of how your Association has performed since the last reunion when the Association was formed.

We left the last reunion at Tunica, Mississippi with a new Board of Directors and an approved set of By-Laws. We soon found that the By-Laws didn't cover some of the problems we encountered and worked hard to do what was right. Three of the selected board members had to resign due to health and personal reasons.

At the first reunion in Tunica, we voted to hold the next reunion in Charleston. After the sponsor for Charleston was not able to continue due to some very serious health problems, John Dixon volunteered to be the sponsor from his home in Hendersonville, NC (about 250 miles away). Kudos to John for stepping up to the plate!

Although I have been your President during this time, the success of the Association rests with the strong group of men filling the other board positions and to the enthusiastic response of you, the members and shipmates.

We discovered early that communication between board members and Association members was key to success. In this regard, Bill Fraser deserves our admiration and thanks. Bill started our website prior to the first reunion and also put the first reunion together. He agreed to stay on as Webmaster and Chairman of the Board for the period from the last reunion to this one and he has made our website the focal point of communication with all of you. This website has won many awards and is the best website I have seen for a group such as ours. Bill puts in many hours maintaining the website and makes constant addition and changes.

Joe Geiger is our Treasurer and a good person to add realism to proposals and thoughts. Joe had a large job as we approached this reunion as he received all your reunion monies and kept track of your specific orders. When we found that a credit card was needed to secure some of the tours and other activities, he immediately established one and kept the activities moving.

Ernie Lester is our Secretary and we couldn't have asked for a better one. Ernie has been an innovator and a godsend in planning and producing mailings to the membership. While we were seeing all the reunion registrations coming in, Ernie asked "How are we going to know who ordered what?" We know that everyone will not be able to remember what was ordered. Soon the ticket idea was developed. All the little details that make an event work smoothly have to be thought of by someone and Ernie was very helpful in this area.

John Dixon has served as Vice-President and as stated earlier, the Reunion Chairman. John has put in many hours dealing with all the contact people in Charleston to set up the tours and the activities at the hotel. He has made many trips to Charleston to accomplish all this, all the while, dealing with medical problems within his family.

I ask that you give them all a big round of applause and a thank you as you see them over the next few days.

I am very sorry to miss this reunion and wouldn't if I could have found a way. I know that all are having a GREAT time seeing old shipmates from long ago from the greatest ship in the NAVY. I hope to be able to see all of you at the next reunion GOD WILLING.

Herb Wise, President Lafayette Association

**Invocation** - Fraser announced that Chaplain Richard Murphy was ill and unable to attend. Ed Cagney then delivered the Opening Prayer

**Pledge to the Flag** - Fraser led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Eternal Patrol Roll Call** - Ed Cagney read the names of shipmates on Eternal Patrol (below). The ship's bell was rung once for each of the 56 names read. Cagney concluded the reading with a prayer of thanks for their service.

**Pat Arnold, Robert W Barron, William F Bauer, Lloyd Berger, Cecil B Bishop, Richard F Brown, Bruce L Bullough, Mike Cinna, Donald F Dekart, Richard Donahoe, Timothy Drain, Meril E Draper, Scott Eversole, Michael Finn, Joseph A Fitzpatrick, Jim Freeman, Waylan Gant, Robert J Geary, Roy Hilt, Peter Hughes, Raymond L Hughey, David S Jerdeman, Paul Johnson, Henning C Josephson, Larry Kirsch, Don Kopp, Robert Kotzke, Arland W Kuester, Hershel B Lane, Charles Leppla, Roy Lofgren, George T Long, Jeffrey J Lookhoff, Michael McQuown, Phillip P Mortimer, Ronald Mumford, Todd Pearo, G Lindsay Perkins Jr, Maynard W Perry, Jack Poland, Marshall H Poole Jr, Ray Potter, Cletus Qualls, Paul N Qualls, Bob Savage, Leslie Schiagel, Aubry L Sightler, Allan E Sitter, Harry F Specht, Willie E Walls, Bill Wise, Lawson Shadburn Yow, Severino Zapatos, Frank F Zechlin**

### Introductions

Fraser asked that all former commanding officers of the Lafayette stand. Captain Marvin Schenker was present and was recognized.

### Committee Reports

**Treasurer** Joe Geiger presented the Association Financial Report as of October 22, 2007, as follows:

Opening Balance as of 06/15/06	<b>\$3,779.76</b>
Credits – Dues & Donations received	<b>\$3,275.00</b>
Debits	<b>-\$1,149.39</b>
Balance excluding '07 Reunion Activity*	<b>\$5,905.37</b>
*Reunion'07 activity reported separately:	
Reunion-related Member Deposits	<b>\$14,035.00</b>
Checking Account Balance 10/22/07	<b>\$19,940.37</b>
Estimated Reunion-related Expenses	<b>-\$15,975.00</b>
Estimated Post-Reunion Balance	<b>\$3,965.37</b>

A motion was made and duly seconded that the Financial Report be accepted as read. Motion passed.

**By-Laws Committee** Chairman John Sherman, presented the proposed Amendments to the By-Laws (incorporated herein by reference to <http://ssbn616.homestead.com/By-Laws04.pdf>). A motion was made and duly seconded to accept the proposed changes as read. There was some discussion in the form of questions of clarification. The question was called and the motion passed.

### Business

**Election of 2008-09 Officers** - Nominating Committee Chairman John Dixon, presented the Committee's recommendations for elected Officers and Board Members for the '08 – '09 term:

<b>Office</b>	<b>Nominee</b>
<b>President</b>	<b>Donald F. McBride</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Edwin R. Knight</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Ernie Lester</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Joe Geiger</b>
<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Bill Fraser</b>
<b>Board Member</b>	<b>John Sherman</b>

Fraser noted that the current President, Herb Wise, will become Chairman of the Board according to the By-Laws. A motion was made and duly seconded to elect the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee. Motion passed.

**Location of next Reunion** - Fraser opened the floor for discussion of the location of the 2009 Lafayette Reunion. Fraser acknowledged the work of John Wayne Johnson in promoting Reno and the work of Dick Schultz in promoting the Greater Seattle Area as our 2009 reunion site. Fraser noted that the changes to the By-Laws just adopted by the Association vests this decision in the Board of Directors.

It was commented from the floor that having the next reunion in the greater Seattle area might afford an opportunity to tour a recent submarine. Dick Schultz commented that he would attempt to make those arrangements but can make no commitments.

There was a motion from the floor that a non-binding vote be taken of the attending members' preferred location for the 2009 reunion. The motion was second and passed. Fraser then asked for a show of hands of those who would prefer Reno. Approximately 7 hands were raised in favor of Reno. Fraser next asked for a show of hands of those who would prefer the greater Seattle area. It was noted that a strong majority preferred the Greater Seattle area.

### **Closing**

**Benediction** was given by Ed Cagney

There a motion and second from the floor to adjourn. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 19:16pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ernie Lester  
Secretary

