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ABMA NEWSLETTER

Volume 36, Issue 1

Greetings Shipmates and fellow AB's!

It's amazing how quickly time has passed, yet the excitement continues within our great organization regarding the many good things our folks have accomplished.

Absolutely awesome job by the Pensacola Chapter for the 2006 Professional Working Group Conference! From top to bottom and across the board, this has to go on record as one of the best symposiums ever! Every detail was thought through and the day-to-day challenges stayed transparent to the general assembly. The Pensacola Chapter even refunded the National Association over \$6,400.00. Well done shipmates.

Congratulations are also in order for the many achievements of our fine folks. There are many so deserving of mention that I know somehow someone will be missed, so I apologize in advance. So here are a few highlights; CDR Don Griffin has taken the helm of CNATTU Lemoore CA, East and West coast AB's of the year; ABHC (AW/SW) Maguel L. Brooks and ABFC (AS/SW) Jamison R. Hunter. LCDR Tony Hernandez' selection to Commander, and all LDO, CWO and Chief Petty Officers selects. Additionally, I wish to include Bob Gillen for his appointment to Board of Directors "Emeritus". As one of our founding fathers, this recognition is justly deserved and warmly appointed. Rounding out the list are the 2006 Scholarship Award Winner, Michael T. Rape, (son of ABCM Ben Rape) and the newest additions to the ABMA Living Legends; Commander (RET) Bob Parsons and ABH1 (ret) William "Willy" Harms (Posthumous). Congratulations to each one of you on your accomplishments.

I must also publicly acknowledge Terry Santiago, our outgoing secretary. Terry has been a blessing and a Godsend, and we as an organization are better off because to her loyalty and unwavering support through the years. Despite medical and personal difficulties for both Joe and herself, Terry hung in there and continued to give the ABMA all she had. We love you Terry and wish you and Joe all the best in health and prosperity.

Looking to the future the outlook is brighter than ever. Our new Secretary, Donna Dodson got right into the mix and is doing an awesome job organizing reports and other correspondence associated with Association business, including preparing this newsletter. Welcome aboard Donna. We're glad to have you on the team.

Your new Vice President, LCDR Shawn Whalen brings an energy and tenacity that is right for the time, and ABCM Kely Charles and ABHC Chris Smith add to a BOD cadre that is already very sound across the board. *Continued on page 4*

2006-2007 ABMA
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Lieutenant Commander Shawn Whalen
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2006 AB of Year Atlantic
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Some additional items before I close:

- ✚ Newsletters are back to bi-annual publications (autumn and spring), with post-symposium (Fall) and pre-Symposium (Spring) editions being the goal.
- ✚ Another unsung hero is our Webmaster ABHCS Marco Estrada. Thanks for everything Marco. We truly appreciate your support Shipmate.
- ✚ The SABOAG (Senior Aviation Boatswains Mates Officer Advisory Group) continues to strategize how to deal with the hard issues and overcome the challenges that face the AB community today.
- ✚ I want re-issue the challenge put forth by LCDR Doug Thornton when he was stationed onboard the mighty USS RONALD REAGAN of raising and donating \$500 to the ABMA National Chapter (on more than one occasion). The total would equal less than one dollar per person in the Air Department per CVN. I know if one ship can do it, all others can too. Please remember, we are a non-profit organization.
- ✚ Education, Education, Education! Lots of chatter on this subject going on, and I would love to see our AB's taking full advantage of the opportunities available to them. I am not suggesting that pursuing an education while on active duty is easy, but if you want to stay competitive for advancement and promotion then the sacrifice is worth it in the long run. You owe this much to yourselves. Realize this, the doors of opportunity are marked "PUSH". Push your door open and see what's on the other side.
- ✚ Many thanks to Master Chief Danny Camacho and the staff at CNATTU Norfolk for hosting the Aviation Boatswains Mates ratings and designators American Counsel on Education college accreditation and validation. Many good things were accomplished and will be promulgated within the next few months. **Keep an eye on your SMART transcripts!**

That's all for now shipmates. God Bless each of you, especially those of you standing the watch.

Remember: **"Performing at a high level of excellence is always a choice, an act of will. As leaders we expect our people to follow through when we hand them the ball. They expect that and a whole lot more from us as their leaders"** (John C. Maxwell).

Sincerely,
R. D. Jones

TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP PERSON

First and foremost, a Hearty Congratulations to ABCM (Now Retired) Drew Sundin and the Gulf Coast Chapter for an extremely successful Conference and Symposium. I know of no one that did not have a Good, No Great time! The weather was picture perfect, albeit HOT; do not remember it being that hot when I was a young sailor, stationed at NAS Saufley Field. The perfect week was almost ruined by yours truly, off to emergency room with shingles, which have since passed. It was also great to see and work with Virgle Culberson at the Registration and Membership table, along with ABH2 Lonna Bell from NAS Pensacola. EVERYONE WAS EXTREMELY HELPFUL! That great Southern Charm...Got to love it. From Jim and Dianna Neary, Josh Stehr and Jim Dignan to Bob and Mary Jo Parsons. Life was WONDERFUL!!!!!! THANKS!!!! YOU ALL DID WELL, VERY WELL!!!!!!

As for Membership, we lost 182 members who failed to renew. In Pensacola, we picked up 11 new life Members, 63 renewals/reinstates and 46 new members. Overall gains for 2006 are 220. What's the answer how to stop losing what we lose? Well several years ago, I sent out renewal requests and the return was far less that what was mailed out. We lost money. In these austere times, it is not something we can still afford to do. I am open for suggestions. Maybe I'll try renewal letters again.

Our scholarship award has gone up again. It's now up to \$3,500.00. Get your applications in...times are tough...this will help...and I want to Thank VERY MUCH a donation of \$3000.00 to the Isabella M. Gillen Memorial Scholarship Fund from Northrup Grumman Newport News.

The Symposium this year has reaped the biggest profit in quite some time....a whopping \$ 6,451.97....MANY THANKS AGAIN, GULF COAST CHAPTER.

COMMENTS FROM VICE PRESIDENT

I want to thank all the AB's for their support and I will truly press hard for our issues as a community.

I thought it was a great turn out in Pensacola and the Chapter did a fantastic job. Thanks to all our brothers and sisters for making the effort to put one of the best symposiums I have ever attended. Truly one of the things I most look forward to is spending time with our core base of our community. The core base is the retired AB's that got us to where we are at today. They also remind us not to travel too far off course because it's still about us teaching our sailors our skills and knowledge that were passed down to us from them. I feel honored to be part of the AB heritage everyday, as I have for the last 26 years. I look forward to serving and supporting the ABMA as the Vice President and as an AB, as I would hope all Senior/Junior AB's do also. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at NAVAIR PMA251.

LCDR Shawn Whalen

SECRETARY



Hello,

I am Donna Dodson your new Secretary. I am married to CWO4 (Ret) Timothy Dodson. We have 2 boys Dustin 21 years old and Dean 19 years old. I am a member of the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans and Life Associate member of the ABMA.

We live in Graham, North Carolina. I enjoy the outdoors, golfing, volleyball, hunting, and SHOPPING. I spend a lot of my time doing work for my family and friends. I enjoy spending time with my niece Leann 2 years old. I like to travel in the RV with Timmy. It's really nice when we can get the boys to go with us.

I hope that I can live up to the past Secretaries reputations. Who knows maybe I'll like this job.

By the way if you're in North Carolina on December 2, stop by for our Annual Christmas Open House. We would love to see ya.



Yours truly,
Donna



MERCHANDISE COORDINATOR

Hello from sunny Florida;

This past year has been outstanding for AB Merchandise sales; they have been the highest ever. All of this was started some 36 years ago with a few t-shirts and hats. Since then we have added a lot of new merchandise to our inventory such as gold rings, bracelets and pendants and also some new belt buckles and I am always open to new ideas.

In the near future I hope that we will have pictures on the ABMA website. Anyone that would like to see pictures of any merchandise please email me at handlerjpn@aol.com. I can send a few at a time. You can also order directly from me at the above email address and pay by check or money order made out to the ABMA. I know that we have had some trouble with the paypal lately so if you make a order and don't hear from me in a week please email me and I will get the merchandise out to you as soon as possible.

I would also like to thank ABCS John Dorpinghaus "the Dutchman" for his donation of AB Merchandise; it has helped me build the merchandising account and enabled me to acquire new items. Also the Spring Jam in Pensacola, Florida put on by the Gulf Coast Chapter and the Fall Jam at the Suwannee River Campground put on by the Jacksonville Chapter has given me two more times of the year for getting the AB Merchandise out for more AB's to see. My thanks also to ABHCS Estrada for maintaining the ABMA website and the ships store. Once again I want to thank all for the interest in the AB merchandise.

Yours truly,
Jim Neary
AB LDO (Ret)

MOTHER CHAPTER LAKEHURST NEW JERSEY

Good Day to all from the Lakehurst Chapter,

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Lakehurst Chapter is back up and running. I am ABE1 Anthony Jackson, President of the Lakehurst Chapter. My goal is to keep this chapter on track and headed in the right direction. Assisting me in my efforts in doing so is ABE1 Bryan Curry as Vice President, Stoney Burke as treasurer and ABE2 Sylvester Lloyd as Secretary. Our meetings are held every third Thursday at the Flight Deck Lounge onboard NAES Lakehurst.

We are now at a critical time in our community and we must embrace the future of our Navy. Fellow AB's I urge you to promote higher education within the ranks.

As President of the Lakehurst Chapter, I would like to extend a "BRAVO-ZULU" to our Treasurer, Stoney Burke for being selected as the 2006 Lakehurst, New Jersey Citizen of the Year. Great Job!!! Your character and integrity is above reproach and sets the finest example of a TRUE AB. Stay safe and I look forward to meeting you all.

ABE1 Anthony Jackson

TIDEWATER CHAPTER

Greetings from the Tidewater Chapter:

What a busy year! Elections were held back in February and I want to personally thank ABCM Kely Charles and his officers for doing an outstanding job while in office and leaving this chapter in great shape. I also want to welcome the USS CARL VINSON to the East Coast and let everyone know that they immediately participated in making our chapter stronger with their presence!

Every one returned safely from the ABMA Pensacola Symposium and was extremely impressed with the time and effort put in by the Gulf Coast Chapter. We are looking forward to attending the 07' Symposium in Bremerton and already working on the 08' symposium which will be here in tidewater.

We continued tradition and held the annual "AB" softball tournament at Breezy Point Park in June. The troops from USS GEORGE WASHINGTON took 1st place, USS HARRY S TRUMAN took 2nd place and ATG took 3rd. A lot of good ball was played and nearly 125 family and friends enjoyed the day. In July we held our meeting and "christened" the new Point Vista Club which is located down by pier 14. We had about 75 AB's attend; I think more would have shown up but the fleet was out. The location is awesome for the AB's on the waterfront to attend and we plan on getting back there once a quarter if possible.

On November 2nd we are holding an 'AB' Golf Tournament at Eagle Haven Golf Course/NAB Little Creek. We are looking forward to a day of many "mulligan's" and "sea stories" from our active duty and retirees and sponsors.

Last But not least, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate all the new MCPO'S, SCPO's, and CPO's who now wear their new collar devices proudly and don the uniform of one of the greatest communities known to any military. Stay Safe.

CWO4 Tim Smith

JACKSONVILLE CHAPTER

Hello from Jacksonville;

First and foremost the Jacksonville Chapter would like to pass on hardy congratulations to the Gulf Coast Chapter for putting together a wonderful symposium. We know that everybody involved worked very hard to ensure a fun time was had by all.

2006 is soon coming to an end. This year has been a productive year, membership is on the rise and monthly meetings have been productive. That said, with the fate of the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY unknown and her replacement to be home ported in Mayport not chosen yet 2007 looks to be an exciting and challenging year.

The Jacksonville Chapter meetings are held at 1300 on the third Tuesday of every month at the Beach Side Community Center, Naval Station Mayport, if you are in town please stop by, we would love to see you.

Take care and have a great year.

Steve Bosley



GULF COAST CHAPTER

On behalf of the entire ABMA Gulf Coast Chapter, we would like to thank every one for making the 36th Annual Professional Working Group Conference and Symposium a success. Well once again we are recovering from a major event on this coast and what a wonderful time we all had. As we continue to prepare the Navy's newest Aviation Boatswains Mates for the fleet we see that those who went before us have made it much easier.

This symposium once again gave us the ability amongst friends and family to share the long and short stories of our past. It also allowed time for us to reflect on those that went before and shared their happiness and sadness just in the times we spent apart. The newer generation of Aviation Boatswains Mates, born of the 21st century, tempered by the current wars, but disciplined by hard and long hours on those decks. We are proud of our ancient heritage and our unwillingness to quit: reminds us of our challenge. We are committed today, tomorrow, yesterday and forever at home and around the world.

Words can't express the thanks and heart filled appreciation that I send to the great Gulf Coast chapter for a superb job. THANK YOU!!!!!! ABCM (RET) Jim Myatt and ABCM (RET) Drew Sundin and all the CHAIRPERSONS. It has been said to surround yourself with good people and they will make you look good, so let me tell you it works. God Bless.....

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" Proverbs 3:5

CDR Roy Harrison
President
ABMA Gulf Coast Chapter

SAN DIEGO

The San Diego Chapter had one of its own chosen as the PACIFIC FLEET AB OF THE YEAR! ABFC Jamison Hunter from the USS RONALD REAGAN. Congratulations Chief Hunter BZ!!

The USS BOXER hosted the ABMA picnic to welcome home the USS TARAWA, USS CLEVELAND and the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN home ported in Everett, Washington also attended while in port upon return from deployment. Flag football was the sport of completion all had a blast thanks to the USS BOXER for the support.

LCDR Doug Thornton a valuable member of the San Diego Chapter ABMA has left the area to be stationed in Washington State. His Devotion to the chapter and all that he brought to the table here in San Diego will be a great asset to the Bremerton Washington area. He will be greatly missed. "Fair Winds and Following Seas brother".

CDR Joe Amper, Commanding Officer CNATTU North Island, spoke as a guest speaker. He addressed the general assembly concerning the attributes of being and "AB" of the Year candidate, as well as the importance of the evaluation process for advancement and board purposes. Thank you Commander for your time.

2007 Elections were held and the results are as follows:
President: ABHC Ronnie Padilla

Vice Pres.: ABFC Jamison Hunter

Secretary: ABEC Soji Thomas

Treasurer: ABFC Allen Thomas

Board of Director 2 Year: ABF1 Justin Melton

Board of Director 2 Year: Lt. Al Guajardo (Past Pres.)

Board of Director 1 Year: Lt. Paul Dussault

Board of Director 1 Year: ABCM Jerry Galbiso

Our Christmas Party will be held at the El Cajon Black Angus on 08 December 2006 from 1800-2000.

NORTHWEST

The Northwest AB's celebrated a super summer in the Great Northwest by holding a family picnic sponsored by Northwest AB's and USS JOHN STENNIS Air Department. The camp McKean Picnic was a huge success with fun by all with a turnout of approximately 150 AB's and family members attending. We shared plenty of sea stories and spent time getting caught up on the new lifestyles aboard ship.

The Northwest enjoyed a great summer with very little rain. Autumn contains forecast of dry but cooler weather patterns. This is the last time we had this type of weather patterns Santa was concerned because the fire hazards prevented harvesting of Christmas trees.

The Northwest AB's would like to extend a "HUGE" Bravo Zulu to the Gulf Coast ABMA Chapter for doing such a great job of sponsoring this year's 2006 ABMA Symposium/ Working meeting. Your hard work and efforts are greatly appreciated. We have a tremendous challenge ahead of us for next years Symposium. THANK YOU

Our shipmates on the mighty USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN are currently enjoying the hospitality of a 6 month SRA at PSNS while those on the USS JOHN STENNIS are relaxing on high seas training, operating and waiting for the call. Whidbey is enjoying the benefits from the cool breezes off the straits as all our sailors ashore are recharging their batteries. We salute all our shipmates and thank you for your service. The Northwest AB's would also like to extend a hearty congratulation to all newly pinned Chiefs and all those recently promoted during the last exam cycle. BZ

Public Affairs Officer

Greetings Fellow AB's;

I hope this Newsletter is finding you in very best of health and doing quite well!

First I want to say that the Gulf Coast Chapter did an awesome job putting together the 2006 Symposium/Professional Working Group Conference there in Pensacola Beach, Florida. I know a lot of hard work went into ensuring everything was well thought out and executed professionally. I personally had a great time. I know the AB's of the Northwest are very busy setting up for the 2007 Symposium/Professional Working Group Conference in Silverdale, Washington. Unfortunately I won't be able to attend as the USS JOHN C. STENNIS will still be on deployment. So, I'm sorry I won't get the chance to see many of you there.

Second, I want to welcome Donna Dodson as the New Secretary. I know she will do a great job for the ABMA. Welcome Donna! Speaking of great jobs, I want to thank Terry Santiago for the absolutely superb job she has done as our Secretary. Thank You Terry! We will definitely miss you!!

The photos that the professional photographer, Mr. Don Duke of "Don Duke Photography", took during the 2006 Symposium/Professional Working Group Conference turned out excellent. You can view the photos by going to www.DonDuke.com and clicking on the ABMA Logo. You can download any of the photos except the ones taken Studio Style.

The photos I took during the 2006 Symposium/Professional Working Group Conference have been sent to our webmaster for submission onto the ABMA-USN.ORG Website.

I also want to put out information on chapter meetings. If you are traveling and in the local vicinity of one of the chapters on the day of their meeting please feel free to stop in. For actual meeting times if not listed, please contact the local chapter President. The chapter meeting, membership dues and President are held as follows: (This could be changed, however this is the latest information that I have.) I apologize if incorrect.

San Diego Chapter, San Diego, Ca.

1st Thursday of each month, Held at the VFW in Chula Vista on the corner of 3rd and I Street at 19:30
Membership \$10.00 per year
President—ABHC Ronnie Padilla

Lakehurst Chapter, Lakehurst NJ

Third Thursday of each month at the Flight Deck Lounge at NAES Lakehurst
Membership \$12.00 per year
President—ABF1 Anthony Jackson Phone 732-323-5256

Tidewater Chapter, Norfolk Va.

1st Wednesday of the Month usually held at the New Enlisted Club on NOB. They do have food for sale there.
Membership \$ 5.00 per year Life Membership available 50% that of the National by age.
President—CWO 4 Timothy Smith Phone 757-445-1967

Gulf Coast Chapter, Pensacola Fl.

3rd Thursday of each month at the American Legion Post 340 at 8890 Ashland Ave. Pensacola Fl.
Membersip \$12.00 per year
President—CDR Roy Harrison

Jacksonville Chapter, Jacksonville Fl.

3rd Thursday of month at the Mayport EM Club at 13:00
Membership \$6.00 per year
President—Steve Bosley Phone 904-722-0246 Email bosleysr@navy.mil

Pax River Chapter, Patuxent River, Md.

2nd Thursday of each month at the TC-7/MK7 Site
Membership \$8.00 per year
President—Lt. Davis Phone 301-342-0701

Northwest Chapter, Bremerton, Wa

Contact Dave Deese for date and location
Usually have lunch at the Fleet reserve on National St. every Wednesday

Let's continue to bring in our junior AB's and get them involved.

Keep your head on a swivel and stay safe! God bless each and every one of you and may god bless America.

A Fellow AB;

Doug Thornton
Public Affairs Officer

SABOAG

1. To all Aviation Deck Limited Duty Officers, Chief Warrant Officers, and Master Chief, Senior Chief and Chief Petty Officers the Senior Aviation Boatswain Mates Officer Advisory Group (SABOAG) forwards this letter soliciting your assistance in fostering an environment at your command level that lends itself to continued education. The Navy recently conducted a survey on Enlisted Education Requirement (EER) and the results of the survey paint a problematic portrait for the impending future of our community.

2. The results revealed our three source rates (ABE, ABF and ABH) represent the largest number of Sailors who have not begun degree completion requirements. This information should be alarming to most. Some of you are saying, "What do they expect, we are working long arduous hours at sea..." If those are your thoughts, I submit, you are one of the reasons our Sailors are not moving in the direction of higher education. If we are going to be prepared for the twenty-first century, we must walk hand in hand with our young Sailors down the highway of continued education. Our failure to advance will have a crippling affect on our community. The SABOAG understands your challenges. They are our challenges. Most of us in fact have only recently completed our degree programs, or are aggressively working toward final completion at this moment. Your senior leadership is committed in helping each of you succeed in your chosen profession, and prepare you for the global market.

3. If we (as a collective organization) are going to meet our educational challenges we must employ intrusive leadership strategies. As a result, the SABOAG is asking the senior LDO or CWO onboard shore or ship, along with the Senior Enlisted Leaders to canvas their command to determine what percent of their Sailors onboard are pursuing higher education. In addition, Senior Leadership needs to know what challenges are preventing you and your Sailors from enrolling in continued educational programs. If there has ever been a time in the history of our community to lead from the front, that time is NOW! Understand, we are at risk of not being prepared for understanding or taking advantage of the developing technological changes (that makes us the most powerful Navy on the nation) and the global market.

4. The goals of the SABOAG on this endeavor are many. First and most important is the success of you the Sailor. We sincerely want each of you to be prepared to meet the technological challenges that are inherent to the most powerful Navy in the world. We are going to review your concerns and work with Navy's leadership to educate and provide avenues for us to be competitive in the Navy and our follow-on careers. It must be perfectly clear, we cannot put the cart before the horse; each of us must have the desire and we must implant that desire in our juniors, only then can we march to a road of success. Since the inception of Naval Aviation, the Aviation Boatswain's Mate Community has played a major role in the success of Air Power on forward deployed platforms. Our predecessors met the challenges of their era and they prepared us for the future. -We have the watch! It is not what we do, it is what do not do that will determine our fate.

Sincerely, Your SABOAG

CDR Buddy Reed
CDR Clemia Anderson
CDR Mike Singleton
CW05 Darryl Howard

CDR Ed Mills
CDR Al Almeida
CDR John Newcomer
CW05 Harold Hall

CDR Paul Erickson
CDR Don Griffin
CDR Roy Harrison
CDR Joe Amper
CDR R.D. Jones
CDR (sel) Tony Hernandez

ISABELLA
M.
GILLEN
MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP

Greeting from East Texas:

Marie and I were sure glad we were able to attend the symposium this year. As always, seeing old friends and shipmates and meeting new friends and shipmates' make the AB symposium the best in the world and one of our favorite vacations. We are planning and look forward to seeing everyone next year in Silverdale.

We were honored to have the chairman of the scholarship selection committee, Laurie Carmean, and her husband, Scott, join us at the banquet. Laurie shared the selection process and the difficulty in selecting this year's recipient. Seven applications were received and reviewed. Thank you Laurie for accepting this challenge! (Laurie was presented an ABMA plaque as a token of our appreciation.)

So! I am proud to announce the 2006 recipient of the Isabella M. Gillen Memorial ABMA Scholarship. This year's recipient is Michael T. Rape, the son of ABCM Benjamin Rape. Michael is a graduate of Pensacola High School and the winner of numerous scholastic awards. He is attending the University of Central Florida, majoring in Business. A very impressive young man, Michael has his sights set on becoming the CEO of a large Fortune 500 Company. Congratulations Michael and the best of luck to you! Michael has submitted a thank you letter to the ABMA.

We always appreciate our wonderful contributors who keep our scholarship fund going. At the symposium we were especially honored to receive a \$3000.00 contribution from Northrup Gruman Corp. (Perhaps we'll be able to award 2 scholarships in the future! Just a thought.)

Donations:

CDR (RET) Bob Gillen	\$200.00
LCDR (RET) Rich Pitt	\$100.00
ABCM (RET) Ron & Charlotte Russell	\$100.00
CWO3 (RET) Arlie Sinks	\$500.00
American Safety Raffle	\$481.00
Spring Jam Participants	\$ 66.00

In Memory of Mary Nix:

LCDR (RET) Mark & Joan Short	\$100.00
ABCS (RET) Jack Nix	\$100.00
Coldwell Bankers, LaGrange, GA	\$ 50.00
Anonymous in LaGrange, GA	\$100.00
John & Emily Davidson	\$100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Akers	\$750.00

The 2006 Board of Directors increased the scholarship amount to \$3500.00. Wow! Just a few years ago (1977) the amount was only \$2000.00. (Remember when it started at \$400.00) Many hands were raised at the banquet when Laurie Carmean asked, "How many children or spouses attending or getting ready to attend college?" Laurie and her committee at Pensacola Junior College graciously volunteer their time to review and make our scholarship a success, so let's see just how many applications we can get to her next year. Remember the application deadline is June 30th. Applications are available on the web at www.abma-usn.org. Navigate to the Scholarship link to download the application and criteria. Don't forget that school transcripts MUST be in a sealed envelope from the school.

Keep 'em pumped and turning,
Lanny A. Vines
ABCM (AW) Retired

Dear Aviation Boatswains Mates Association:

I was chosen to receive your Aviation Boatswains Mates Association, Isabella M. Gillen Memorial Scholarship this year. As the recipient, I am honored to accept this award and to express me sincerest gratitude to you for providing me with this scholarship.

It is an honor to be recognized for my hard work, and receiving this scholarship motivates me to continue to strive for excellence. I will be entering this coming fall 2006/2007 as first year freshman at the University of Central Florida. Receiving this scholarship will help me to pursue my education and reduce my financial burdens and allow me to concentrate more on my schoolwork. Thank you once again for your confidence and willingness to help me achieve my goals.

Your generosity and support will truly make a difference and for that I am especially grateful to be the recipient of the Isabella M. Gillen Memorial Scholarship.

Yours truly,
Michael T. Rape

Agenda Items Completed

- 🇺🇸 Reduction in price of ABMA Plaques.
- 🇺🇸 NKO link on ABMA website with directions to get information on the 5(five) Vector Model
- 🇺🇸 CDR Jones to write letter to Northrop Grumman requesting sponsorship for scholarships funds to Larry Horne and VADM John Mazach via Richard Johnson.
- 🇺🇸 ABHCS Estrada adds Tailhook Education Foundation to the ABMA Website.
- 🇺🇸 LCDR Thornton replies to email from Joseph Abdullah that No LDO'S or CWO's have went from being and LDO or CWO to the Naval Academy.
- 🇺🇸 LCDR Thornton to email Thomas Trujillo "No as this is a political issue to have their website linked to ours to have CVN-78 named the USS AMERICA.
- 🇺🇸 Board of director increased members from 14 to 15.

Open Agenda Items for 2006-2007

- 🇺🇸 Photos of Past and Present Living Legends and AB's of the year to be collected and forwarded to Drew Sundin for entry in the hall of honors and for Website.
- 🇺🇸 Joe Santiago to contact Chaplain LT Erick Stroud to establish a chaplain's corner on the Website.
- 🇺🇸 CDR Jones to converse with NAVAIR to direct Eagle Systems to compile the workshop power point to be copied to website.
- 🇺🇸 LTJG Jordan to help Donna Dodson to have old documentation scanned to disk.
- 🇺🇸 LCDR Thornton and Stoney Burke continue processing of registered trademarks for the remaining 8 of 9 items.
- 🇺🇸 LCDR Thornton to contact ABH1 Sidney Jones of Far East Chapter to inform them of no membership applications have been received from their officers. Email sent no reply received. President is to take action and letter to be sent.
- 🇺🇸 LTJG Jordan to contact ABHCS Estrada to contact Greg Balcher to assist him with the ABMA Website.

2007 SYMPOSIUM

We are looking forward to sponsoring the 2007 ABMA Symposium Working Group in Silverdale, Washington. Dates are 31 July through 3 August 2007 at the Silverdale Beach Hotel. (Formerly Silverdale Hotel. The room rates are \$75.00 + Tax. We have negotiated the Symposium rate for reservations made through 30 June 2007. The rate will be honored 3 days before and 3 days after the Symposium dates. Hotel reservations can be made by calling Silverdale Beach Hotel at 1-800-544-9799 or by going online to the website at www.silverdalebeachhotel.com. The reservations are under the group code ABMA07/07 and our hotel "Booking Number is 113708".

More information will be posted on the ABMA website at www.abma-usn.org. Our 2007 ABMA Symposium Chairman is LCDR (Ret) Harold Wiese, his numbers are Home 360-769-2595 Cell 360-509-4049, email is pewiese@msn.com. Alternate contacts are Mike Yaskin at home 360-895-0178 or work 360-405-5118 his email is mkyaskin@wavecable.com. David Deese Home 360-871-5963 and Odie Kennedy home 360-876-3603.

LIVING LEGEND COMMANDER (RET) ROBERT EUGENE PARSONS

Commander Robert Eugene Parson is an “AB’s AB”!!!! He has been there and done that. He has worked in all facets, ABE, ABF and ABH. Our association’s President for two terms....actively involved in every Chapter that was in every location that he stationed. His duty as President has helped shape our organization.

Listed are a few of his many accomplishments:

- Recruit Training Command’s Precision Drill Team
- USS CABOT, aircraft fueling, rigging hoses for underway replenishment and in-flight blimp refueling
- USS SARATOGA, arresting gear crew, took charge of Mirror Landing System which was mounted on a forklift, elevated to “Socket Pourer in Charge” because of numerous socket failures.
- Recruiter in Charge, Naval Recruiting Station Beloit Wisconsin, saved a 4 year old boy’s life by performing what today is known as “CPR”. (Awarded the Presidents Medal)
- Naval Air Engineering Center in Philadelphia caused a change to be incorporated to the Catapult Retraction Engine going to cable clamps instead of poured sockets and caused the investigation and engineering design change to cut off arresting gear cable sockets and pouring new sockets, thereby extending purchase cable life. TAD to CV-67 as Catapult Certification Officer, which involved lots of changes with the new Rotary Retract Engine.
- USS LEXINGTON, Aviation Fuels Officer, due to an aircraft launch mishap was moved to Aircraft Launching Officer. Severed as Aircraft Handling Officer.
- NAS Saufley Field as the Crash and Salvage Officer tested the new type Fire Truck (TAU).
- USS CORAL SEA as Arresting Gear Maintenance Officer.
- COMNAVAIRLANT, PMS inspector of AV Fuels Officer. He and his crew re-wrote the PMS manual. Assigned to Catapult Desk and ships Coordinator for the Lexington. Wrote the Specifications for NON-Skid.
- USS Independence as the V2 officer and turned the crew and equipment into the “best in the Atlantic Fleet”. The crew loved him and he loved the crew. His goal was to “Bring them back and Alive”. All that deployed returned.
- COMNAVIAIRSYSCOM did away with the Bridle Arresters. ALREMP was born and implemented on all carriers in 5 years. Helicopter landing systems repairs implemented at SIMA, San Diego. Shock tested the CVN 71 Fat Cat deployed and new specifications for pouring arresting gear sockets.
- ABMA President for two tours. He got the CNO to endorse airplanes for the symposiums while Tail Hook was putting a stop to travel. Mobil grease for Arresting Gear Lubrication. Appropriated money and got Dave Deese to write Material Ordering Guides

AWARDS

Meritorious Service Medal with 1 Gold Star	Navy Achievement Medal
Navy Commendation Medal with 1 Gold Star	Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon
Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon with 1 Bronze Star	Navy “E” Ribbon
Navy Good Conduct Medal 3 Bronze stars	Navy Expeditionary Medal
Navy Occupation Service Medal with Europe Clasp	Humanitarian Service Medal
Navy Defense Service Medal with 2 Bronze Stars	Kuwait Liberation Medal (SAUDI)
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with 3 Bronze stars	Kuwait Liberation Medal (KUWAIT)
Southwest Asia Service Medal with 3 Bronze stars	Navy Expert Pistol Medal

Presidents Medal, National Safety Council of the United States Life Saving Medal for performing Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) on a 4 year old boy.

POSTHUMOUS LIVING LEGEND

The Posthumous Living Legend Award recipient for 2006 is ABH1 (ret) William Robert Harms. Affectionately known as "Willy", I don't have much on his personal history since he was still with us when he was first nominated for living Legend. I hope to get more information on Willy before the Spring newsletter, but to get us started here's a primer that I have received...a letter from LCDR (ret) Harry L. Claar:

Aviation Boatswain's Mates Living Legend Nomination

Enlisted in the U.S. Navy 18 June 1944 in Omaha, Nebraska as an apprentice seaman. He was born in Omaha, Nebraska April 26, 1925.

Received boot training in Great Lakes, Illinois and was transferred to the USS ALKLUKULA CVE 95 until August 1944 when the ship's name was changed to USS BISMARCK SEA CVE 95. The BISMARCK SEA was sunk at the battle of Iwo Jima February 21, 1945. There were less than 300 survivors and William Robert Harms was one of the fortunate ones. Upon returning to the 'states, Harms was promoted to ABM 3/C and commissioned the USS MIDWAY CVB 41 in August 1945. He served aboard MIDWAY as Hook Runner, A.G. deck edge operator and as flight deck P.O. as ABH1. He served on USS MIDWAY for nearly 10 years. During his tour on MIDWAY he was chosen as the sailor of the year several times. He was a leader in morale and enthusiasm. He received commendations from the command for his professionalism.

During his 24 years service Harms served at AB school, USS RANDOLPH, USS RANGER, and USS INTREPID. He also had duty in VP 42, China Lake, and Thailand, he retired July 1968. William Robert Harms, ABH1 is affectionately known as Willy, the biggest compshaw artist in the U.S. Navy.

//S//

LCDR H.L. Claar
USN Ret

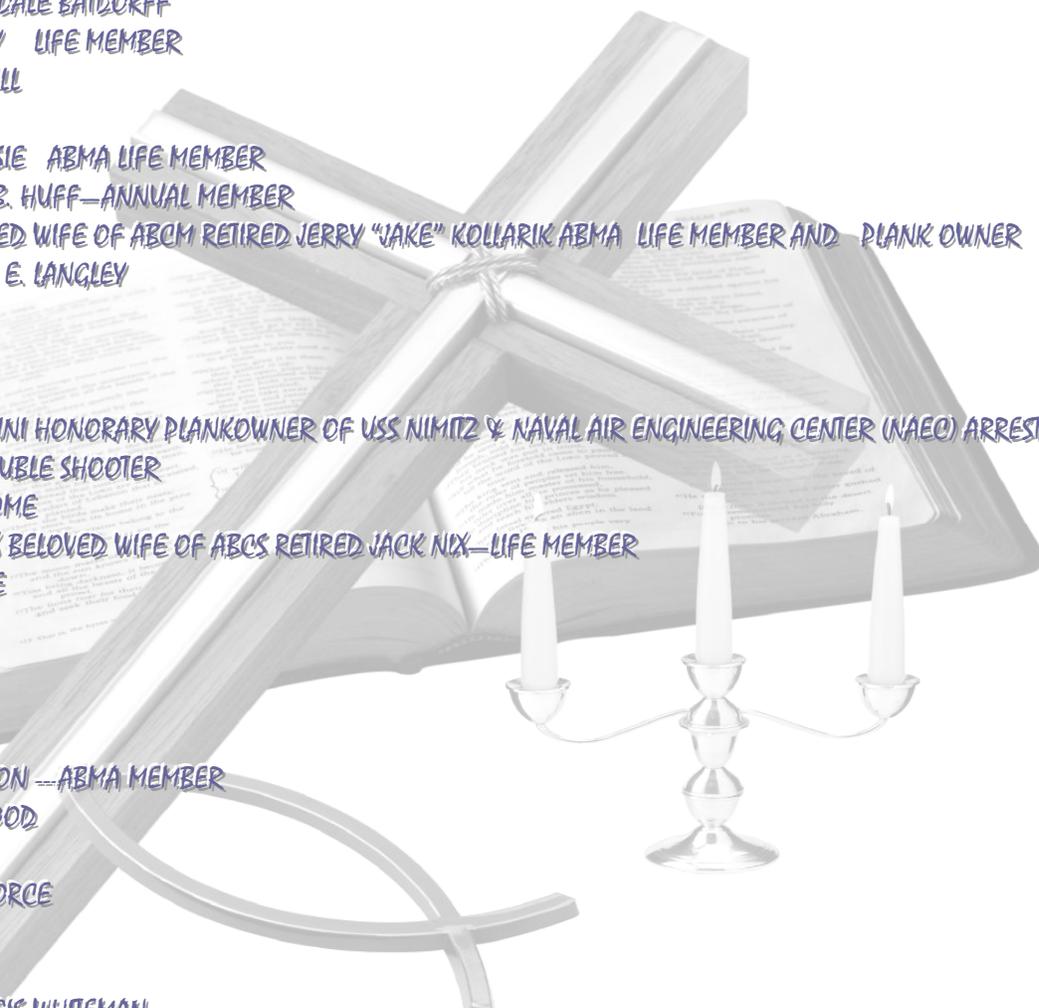
I think the respect, affection and admiration for our Shipmate Willy Harms was easily captured in Harry Claar's nomination letter which is not dated but one can easily tell how old it is by the condition of the paper.

Rest in Peace, Shipmate. We have the Watch.

SECURED FLIGHT QUARTERS

I am convinced, our Father, that your fondest feelings are reserved for the least pretentious and most genuine of us. I am sure that Aviation Boatswain's Mates are some of your favorites. Certainly Aviation Boatswain's Mates have yet to find the virtues of humility, or soft-spokenness or gentleness.... they do lead with their jaws....and seem always ready to fight that to switch. They can be singled out by their red eyes, and by grubbiness, which is a mark of their trade. But their wills match their strong backs... and their love of each other is a wondrous thing to behold. They are the salt of the deck... and their saltiness is honest and open and they are uniquely your sons. We are grateful to them...as you love them specially, we mark them particularly tonight. Bless them everyone...and forever keep them from harm and hurt. In Christ's name....Amen.

R.W. Bedingfield, Chaplain (USN)



ABCM RETIRED DONALD E. AINSWORTH—ANNUAL MEMBER
ABCM RETIRED KENNETH DALE BATDORFF
ABCM RETIRED JIM BERRY LIFE MEMBER
ABM1 JOHN K. GREENWELL
ABEC WILLIAM H. HARDY
AB2 HOWARD C. HOXSIE ABMA LIFE MEMBER
ABEC (AW) RETIRED GARY B. HUFF—ANNUAL MEMBER
EVELYN KOLLARIK BELOVED WIFE OF ABCM RETIRED JERRY "JAKE" KOLLARIK ABMA LIFE MEMBER AND PLANK OWNER
ABCS RETIRED MAURICE E. LANGLEY
ABF1 JOHN E. LASSETER
ABE1 MEARL J. LEE
ABFC JAMES R. LEWIS
BERNARD P. "BEN" MANCINI HONORARY PLANKOWNER OF USS NIMITZ & NAVAL AIR ENGINEERING CENTER (NAEC) ARRESTING GEAR DESIGN SECTION TROUBLE SHOOTER
ABFC KENNETH B. NEWSOME
MARY WILLIS DAVIDSON NIX BELOVED WIFE OF ABCS RETIRED JACK NIX—LIFE MEMBER
ABCS RICHARD F. PFEIFLE
ABFC ROY H. RAUSCH
ABEC VIVA J. RIVERS
ABHC JAMES R. RENO
ABC FRANK L. RODI
ABM1 WARREN R. SHANNON —ABMA MEMBER
ABM1 GEORGE L. SHERWOOD
ABF2 ROBERT H. SMITH
ABF3 PETER JONATHAN SORCE
ABHC LEON D. SYRON
ABM1 JACK D. WHEELER
ABFC RETIRED PAUL REGIS WHITEMAN

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