



### Board of Governors

President .....	CAPT Michael A. Cicalese, USCGR (Ret)
Vice President .....	CAPT Mary Jo Majors, NC, USNR (Ret)
Secretary .....	Col Robert S. Donaghue, USMC (Ret)
Assistant Secretary .....	CAPT Robert Pickett, USNR (Ret)
Treasurer .....	Col David F. Wall, USMCR (Ret)
Assistant Treasurer .....	CDR Earl Watson III USNR (Ret)
Member-at-Large .....	Maj Richard D. Brown, USMCR (Ret)
Active Service Liaison .....	CAPT Andrew S. Brown, USCG
Immediate Past President .....	CAPT Randall D. Preston, USN (Ret)
Chaplain .....	CAPT Stephen L. Castinetti, USN (Ret)
Historian .....	LCDR John H. Lok, USNR (Ret)
Newsletter Editor .....	LCDR David W. Graham, USNR (Ret)

## OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Also available online at [www.wardroomclub.org](http://www.wardroomclub.org)

### MESSAGES FROM THE CLUB PRESIDENT

Ahoy! I hope you and your family has remained safe over our summer hiatus; welcome aboard to the 2020/2021 season, the Wardroom Club's 122 year of continuous operation. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this past spring and summer have been unprecedented, not only canceling meetings but also mandating an alternate means to vote for New Members, plus a new slate of Club Officers, and to virtually conduct the Annual Business Meeting, all prior to the close of 2020.

Over the summer, the Board of Governors (BOG) met monthly and virtually via conference calls, to discuss how the pandemic was affecting our Club's ability to meet safely and to prepare to transfer the helm to a new slate of officers. I'm happy to report that the Wardroom Club has maintained an even keel and is moving ahead, very soundly - - - albeit on a "Slow Bell". We continue to make headway with our ongoing efforts to automate and simplify our dues and meal payment process, the club's banking, along with our master-roster updates. More specifics may be read on our membership statistics and financial solvency in the Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer sections of this October newsletter. These will also serve as their Annual Reports.

Due to gathering restrictions mandated at the Federal and State levels that are intended to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19, it is indeed unfortunate that the Club cannot meet within the near future. Hence, to close out 2020, we needed to conduct some administrative business via the U.S. Postal Service.

In a separate mailing you should have already received the 2021 Dues Notice, remaining at \$50.00. **Your Annual Dues for 2021 are due upon receipt.** Please remember, your membership is subject to termination if dues are not paid. I'm asking for dues to be paid before 30 December, instead of the by-law deadline stating "**...unpaid members as of 1 March, shall be dropped.**" By not holding our customary meetings, means the Club is relying solely on dues payments to keep our ship afloat. This includes paying for the special mailings you received during the pandemic. I also don't like asking the BOG to chase members into the late spring of 2021 or in having the BOG remove our colleagues from the active roster. The Club's online system remains active for all payments. Many thanks for your support and understanding, during these difficult times.

Also mailed to you recently were: 1) An Amendment to the By-Laws; 2) The VP's recommendation on the nominated prospective new members; 3) Plus the Nominating Committee's recommended on new Club Officers. The ballot reply card is due promptly, but no later than 31 October 2020, for your votes to be counted.

With pride, I recommended the following slate of Officers for immediate assignment:

- **President**: CAPT Mary Jo Majors, NC, USNR (RET)
- **Vice President**: Colonel Robert Donaghue, USMC (Ret)
- **Secretary**: Captain Robert Pickett, USNR (RET)
- **Treasurer**: Commander Earl "Bud" Watson, USNR (RET)
- **Member-At-Large**: Major Richard D. Brown, USMCR (Ret)
- **Active Service Liaison**: Captain Andrew S. Brown, USCG
- **Immediate Past President**: Captain Michael A. Cicalese, USCGR (RET)

These seven positions constitute the Club's *elected* Board of Governors.

This leaves us with some of our other members of the BOG who wish to continue to serve in their *appointed* positions: **Chaplain**: CAPT Stephen Castinetti, USN (RET); **Historian**: LCDR John Lok, USNR (RET); **Newsletter Editor**: LCDR David Graham, USNR (RET).

Last but not least, performing most admirably is our **Snacks Guru, Website Manager, and Chairman of the Nominating Committee**: CDR Colby Rottler, USN (RET) and his wife, Marie, our Webmaster. "BZ" Many thanks to you both for the many hats you wear and all the hard work so nobly performed!

I'd also to thank all of our BOG members for their untiring efforts and contributions to the Wardroom Club during the last two of years, along with a parting "Fond farewell" to Immediate Past President CAPT Randall Preston, USN (RET) for his continued interest and sage advice! Hats off also to our Treasurer, Colonel David Wall, USMCR, (Ret); and to our Function Hall host, Chief Williams, USCG (RET), who are transitioning-out.

New additions to the BOG and with a warm welcome, will be CAPT B. Gresh Lattimore, Jr., USNR (RET) as our Assistant Secretary and CAPT Mark Prestero, USN (RET) as the Webmaster. Gresh was unanimously approved by the BOG in August, and I appointed Mark in September. Many thanks, Gresh and Mark, for volunteering to assist in your Club's day-to-day operation. "HUZZAH!"

With this said, the BOG still has an opening for an appointment to the Assistant Treasurer billet. Please contact CDR "Bud" Watson, USNR (RET), or me, if you are interested in this position - - - or are otherwise are interested in assisting the club in some other fashion.

IF all goes well, the new slate of officers will be voted upon by the membership in October, with results tallied in November and announced within that month's Newsletter, which will include an updated annual Club Information Card.

No one could have ever expected that "our ship would be in dry-dock" for this length of time. The Club will miss reconvening this month and enjoying our collective camaraderie; the meals served by Mr. Brett Henry from Mount Vernon Catering (of Mount Vernon Restaurant in Somerville); and a superb list of speakers, including Mr. Joseph Loughlin, Retired Assistant Police Chief of Portland (Maine) presenting his book, *Shots Fired*.

In closing, it has been an honor and pleasure to serve as the Club's President for the last two years. During that time, we've maintained our funding model, plus continuing to reduce debt, and adding some minor funding to our bank account. During this time, we also galvanized an excellent relationship with our new caterer, after the previous vendor broke away with little warning. We have also increased our online capacity with E-Newsletter distributions, All-Hands Alerts, Dues and Dinner Meal Payments, and the availability of the Club's updated "Blue Book" – the club's history. During this time, we've hosted many great speakers and have donated consumables and funds to needy USCG personnel during a government shutdown. There is more, but pandemic aside: we're doing just fine. My many thanks to you all with a hearty "BZ" to all!!!

Let's welcome the new BOG aboard and keep pulling to defeat the virus, so that we can safely reconvene. Stay safe. Steady as she goes!

**Captain Michael A. Cicalese, USCGR (Ret), President**  
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### **NOTES FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT**

Hello everyone. I hope that you and your families are still staying safe, healthy, and unaffected by the Coronavirus pandemic and COVID-19 as we enter into the Fall season.

**Membership activities report:** The May meeting would have offered the opportunity for members in attendance to vote on the prospective new members. However, since it was canceled the Board decided to hold a vote from all members using the USPS with a ballot to mail back to the Secretary by 10/31/20. This process is continuing but the return results so far demonstrate membership support for the six candidates for "Regular" membership and one candidate for "Associate" membership. The results will be published in the November newsletter. Meanwhile, here they are:

#### **Candidates for "Regular" Membership:**

1. LT Maurice V. Goin, USCG (prior service)
2. LCDR J. Richard Harries, Jr., USNR (prior service)
3. LT Joseph Hegenbart, SC, USN (prior service)
4. LT Robert E. Lynch-Galvin, USN (prior service)
5. LT John Mulderig, USN (prior service)
6. LCDR Adam Niekras, USNR (RET) (prior service)

#### **Sponsor:**

- LT Larry Post, USCG  
CAPT Jeffrey N. Mobed, USN (RET)  
LT Larry Post, USCG  
LCDR Joe Fischetti, USCGR (Ret)  
LtCol D. J. Grader, USMCR (Ret)  
Captain John L. Shea USNR (RET)

#### **Candidate for "Associate" Membership:**

1. Mr. Stephen Schnitzer (prior USCG service)

#### **Sponsor:**

- CAPT Mary Jo Majors, NC, USNR (RET)

**Class of 2021:** The nomination process actually began for the Class of 2021 during the prior season. However, our cancellation of all meetings since March presented a delay in guests having the opportunity to attend meetings and to further explore their interest in the Club and/or attend the two meetings required for a nomination to be completed. This new season continues to present a delay to the process since we do not expect to reconvene until sometime in 2021 and that decision will depend on the federal, state, and military requirements, restrictions, and guidelines for dealing with the pandemic and COVID-19. You will be updated monthly on the future of our status and, whenever possible, your guests can then be invited to attend with you.

I encourage you to continue to speak to prospective members about the Club and refer them to the club's website for more information: [www.wardroomclub.org](http://www.wardroomclub.org). If they are interested in attending, or may have already attended 1 or 2 meetings, there is a link at the top of the main webpage to take you to the "Nominations" section and requirements for membership in all categories. A link on that page leads to the "Prospective Member Information" form and this form can easily be downloaded and sent to others via email or given to them as a hardcopy. Ask them to complete the form and send it to you so that you will have it when it is time to nominate them to the VP.

I want to thank all of you for your support of the Club's membership over the years and will look forward to seeing you at future meetings.

Take care of yourselves and your families.

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### **NOTES FROM THE CLUB SECRETARY**

I do hope this Newsletter again finds everyone safe and healthy! As far as I know, The Club has not had anyone become ill from COVID, and I certainly hope it stays that way. Bravo Zulu!

Everyone who made a March 2020 reservation online will still receive credit for a future meeting. We thank you for your patience and understanding, and we promise that we will meet as soon as we know it safe to do so.

As the Club Secretary, my Annual Report of Membership is as follows regarding club membership:

- Active Duty: 35
- Associate: 26
- Emeritus: 7
- Honorary: 4
- Regular: 284
- Total: 356

This represents a small drop from previous years, but considering the circumstances, I submit that the club is still strong and healthy. Please feel free to e-mail me with any questions you might have on the matter.

If you stay up on the news, it is very obvious that large group gatherings almost immediately become COVID hot spots. Just look at the wedding in Maine, the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, College parties, etc. Some people are still making very bad choices about this pandemic, and I really wonder why. We are so much smarter medically and scientifically than we were in 1918, but I wonder if we are as smart socially. Please continue to make good choices. As far as we know, we have lost only one member to COVID-19 (*John Brock – (See “TAPS”)*), and I certainly hope it stays that way!

On another matter, if any of your contact information has changed, please e-mail or call me with the new information.

Stay safe! I look forward to seeing you at a future meeting. Carry on!

**Col. Robert S. Donaghue, USMC (Ret), Secretary**  
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### **Comments from Club Treasurer, Col David F. Wall, USMCR (Ret)**

At the end of the club year, the small annual dues excess of (\$908) and meals fees excess (\$624) flowed to the Wardroom Club capital fund. The capital fund provides the resources required to sustain our club when confronted by circumstances as we are currently experiencing. Year to date through Aug 31, 2020, the club realized an operating deficit of (\$10,412). Our operating expenses occur throughout the year and are funded by annual dues, 80% of which are collected between September and year end. Deficits are expected until the following September when we begin to receive the next year's dues. This year, because of the shutdown, we had three fewer meetings resulting in a reduction in the contribution to the capital fund and we incurred additional printing/ mailing expenses maintaining communications with our members. The good news is we continue to be in fine shape financially.

### **NOTES FROM THE CLUB ASSISTANT TREASURER**

First, I want to thank the membership for the opportunity to continue to serve the club as its Treasurer and I especially thank Colonel Dave Wall, for whom I served as his Assistant Treasurer for the past two years. Dave and I have worked closely together on projects that will serve the club well, in the coming years. This includes the system of electronic payments, updating the WRC liability insurance coverage and beginning the development of a “turnkey” club accounting system. Doing this will provide future Treasurers with a more efficient platform for recording and reporting club financial activity, along with a reliable audit trail and going forward, a complete history of the club's annual financial accounting.

On to regular business, as of the end of September, we have collected approximately 70% of our 2021 annual dues. We greatly appreciate the positive response by our members as we continue to operate under very challenging circumstances. Our club continues to be financially strong because of your support.

The electronic payment option was introduced in the closing months of 2019 and currently 50% of our 2021 dues payments have been via the E-Pay option. However, I want to assure members who prefer paying by check, that they may continue doing so. I shall also invite any member who has a question regarding our club's finances, to either call or e-mail me with an inquiry.

In closing, I want to say that I am in need of an Assistant Treasurer! Any member who is interested in serving - - - or would like to know more about the position - - - should contact me as soon as possible.

**The following information pertains to the Wardroom Club year of June 2019 - May 2020**

**How do we spend my \$50 annual dues?**

*(The following breakdown is based on 310 members who have paid their dues)*

• Printing	\$28.19
• Donations	\$0.48
• Website management	\$5.32
• E-Pay Services	\$2.69
• Insurance	\$8.01
• Legal	\$ -
• Administrative	\$1.94
• New Member Reception	\$ -

**Total: \$46.62**

**How do we spend my \$50 meal charge?**

*(Breakdown based on an average of 105 members attending 5 meetings)*

• Caterer	\$40.00
• Pre-Paid Caterer	\$7.62
• Gratuities	\$1.86
• Function Hall Rental	\$3.05
• Snacks	\$2.41
• Speaker Gifts and Travel	\$1.49

**Total: \$56.43**

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## CLUB NOTES

**TAPS** – It is with great sorrow that your newsletter editor must announce the passing of several members who have “slipped their moorings”, since last we met via the newsletter. Sadly, they are:

- **Captain William A. Lowell, USNR (Ret)** – Bill passed away on 16 February 2020. A resident of Maine, Bill became a member of the Wardroom Club in April 1996, having served in both the Merchant Marine and later in the Naval Reserve.
- **Captain F. Beirne Lovely, Jr, USMC (Ret)** – A Dartmouth graduate, from where he was commissioned, Beirne then attended the Marine Corps Basic School and upon completion, was sent to RVN where he fought at Khe Sanh, earning two Bronze Stars. Following law school, he eventually became a partner at Goodwin-Proctor. From there he became the General Counsel for the Boston Archdiocese. He became a member of the club in April 2010. Beirne Lovely passed away on 18 May of this year.
- **LCDR Stephen R. Harris, USN (Ret)** – Upon graduation from Harvard and its ROTC program in 1960, Steve was immediately commissioned, eventually serving as the USS Pueblo communications officer at the time of her capture by the North Koreans, where upon he became a POW for the following 11 months. Steve was later awarded the Purple Heart. Retiring from Naval service in 1981, Steve then became involved in teaching within the Los Angeles school system, where he became head of the Navy JROTC program until his retirement in 1997. Moving back to his hometown of Melrose, MA, Steve was deeply devoted to his country. Steve became an Honorary Member of the Wardroom Club a few years ago. Steve Harris passed away on 18 May 2020.
- It was in early May of this year that George Ripsom informed your editor of the passing of **Captain William O. Glass, USNR (Ret)**, on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Bill was a longtime member of the Wardroom Club, having joined as a Regular Member in 1971. An active duty member of the USS Salem crew, Bill Glass was highly supportive in keeping her in the Boston area, where she continues to be tied-up at a pier near the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy. Bill became heavily involved with the club, serving as the 27<sup>th</sup> Wardroom Club president during 1988-1990. Bill’s first act on the first evening of his club presidency, was to announce the loss of PanAm 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. In civilian life, he was a longtime engineer with Stone & Webster.
- Serving as a Tank Commander in Vietnam, **Captain John Biddle Brock, USMC (Ret)** became a member of the Wardroom Club in January 2004. Perusing financial interests following his Marine Corps service, John graduated from the Harvard Business School from where his next career was with the CIA. John Brock’s life came to a close with his passing on 28 April 2020 due to COVID-19.
- In the May 2020 issue of the MOAA magazine, we learned of the passing of **Captain Frank E. Sequeira, USN (Ret)**, who resided in Wakefield, RI. Frank joined the Wardroom Club back in January of 1980, becoming a frequent attendee. He was a former Commanding officer of NAS South Weymouth. Frank passed away on 11 February of this year.

- **Captain Joel L. Biliouris, USN (Ret)** – Late word just arrived concerning the loss of our shipmate, Joel Biliouris back on 27 November 2019. Joel became a Regular Member of the Wardroom Club in April 1998, following a distinguished active duty career of 26 years in the Supply Corps, during which he qualified during an early tour for submarine duty aboard the USS Greenling (SSN 614). His last tour prior to retirement was as the Commander, Defense Contract Command here in Boston. In retirement, Joel was a resident of Seekonk, MA.

*Do not stand at my grave and weep; I am not there, I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glints on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awaken in the morning's hush, I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight. I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry; I am not there, I did not die.*

– Mary Elizabeth Frye

### **TWO ADDED NOTES FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

- Our Club President, Mike Cicalese, has written and published a wonderful book entitled “Spindrift”, involving a collection of short and thought-provoking essays on his life experiences. Your editor has read the book, cover-to-cover with great interest! You will find it to be a perfect addition to your personal library! The book is available on Amazon.
- Lastly, if you have an article you’d care to submit for publication in a coming edition of the Wardroom Club newsletter, please feel free to contact me and we’ll make it happen.

Stay well - - - and please remain HEALTHY!!!

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