



THE WARDROOM CLUB

Into Our Second Century · Organized 1899 · Boston, Massachusetts

Monthly Newsletter

www.wardroomclub.org



Board of Governors

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

NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Also available online at www.wardroomclub.org

MARINE CORPS NIGHT AT THE WARDROOM CLUB

NOTES FROM THE CLUB PRESIDENT

Greetings everyone and welcome to the Wardroom Club's 122nd year of continuous operation! Happy Veterans Day and Happy Birthday to the USMC! I hope that this newsletter finds you and your families all doing well and staying healthy.

I begin a lengthy section for this first month with an update that the results of the recent election for the nominated new slate of the Board of Governors, the 7 new members, and the bylaws change was unanimous to accept all three by the deadline 10/31/20! Thank you to our prior Secretary, Bob Donaghue, as the recipient of the ballots and to document the final outcome. Welcome to our new members! We look forward to seeing you when meetings resume.

The new slate of officers was for the positions of: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, Member-at-Large, and Active Duty Liaison. Their names are posted on the masthead of this newsletter and on the new annual information card sent with this issue.

I now offer a special note of appreciation on behalf of all members to our now Immediate Past President, CAPT Michael Cicalese, USCGR (RET), who served the club in an absolutely outstanding manner in that position from October 2018 to October 2020. Mike served selflessly and worked tirelessly to provide amongst many things the leadership, knowledge, experience, and resources that were needed to take the club into the advancements of improved technology for the club's development, communications, financial stability, partnership with the USCG base, and many meaningful speakers for the meetings. I am so proud and grateful that I served as his VP and thankful for his mentorship and support to my duties and those of the rest of the BOG. I am also very happy that he is going to be in his new position to continue to serve and offer guidance and counsel to the BOG. We will have the opportunity to formally appreciate Mike for his service at a future date.

I want to first tell you that I am very proud, honored, and humbled to have been elected to serve as your 42nd President for the 122nd season. I thank so many for the positive support, mentorship, and encouragement given to me to move up the chain of command from serving in prior positions as Assistant Secretary, 4 years as Secretary, and 4 years as Vice President. I feel fortunate to be the first Navy Nurse Corps officer as President in the “2020 Year of the Nurse”, and...COVID-19.

You have my commitment that I will try my best to begin with the end in sight and put first things first to lead to successful outcomes with everything which I am able to do for the club, the BOG, and the membership as we move forward this season. “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” Most of you know me and that I believe in the mission of “service over self” and volunteer with many organizations. I continue to offer my service to the WRC.

It is my honor to congratulate and welcome on behalf of our members the other board members elected to their new positions as: Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Member-At-Large, and Active Duty Liaison; and to the Assistant Secretary and Webmaster, and other members of the board returning to serve another season. The board has been working over the past few months to prepare for the new season. We will seek feedback from the membership as we continue to assess, identify, plan, implement, and evaluate the needs of the club and the outcomes of our decisions during these challenging times to continue to bring it into successful future seasons.

This is the month of appreciation and again on behalf of the board I want to say thank you to those members who are leaving their positions: 1) prior Immediate Past President, CAPT Randy Preston, USN (RET), who continued to serve on the board the past 2 years for his advice and support; 2) prior Website Manager, CDR Colby Rottler, USNR (RET), and prior Webmaster, Mrs. Marie Rottler, for their time and work over the past few years to develop our website and the e-commerce capabilities to send newsletters via email and enable us to register and pay for meetings and dues online. (Colby has agreed to continue as the “Snack Guru” for the clubs events. Thank you Colby!) 3) our prior Treasurer, Colonel Dave Wall, USMCR (RET), who served the club for four years; 4) two members of the Nomination Committee, Major Dick Brown, USMCR (Ret), and Captain Jim McGuinness, Jr., USMCR (RET), who have decided to end their committee service. (Our current Immediate Past President, CAPT Michael Cicalese, USCGR (RET) will become Chairman of the Nomination committee per bylaws and will be looking for volunteers.)

New Emeritus members! The recent bylaws change authorized the board to accept and approve the nomination of 2 members from the Regular category of membership to the Emeritus category: CDR Kent B. Lawrence, USN (RET), from Boston and a Regular member since 1980; and LCDR Robert G. White, USNR (RET), from Needham and a Regular member since 1958. They both deserved this honor and we thank them for their long and faithful service to the club.

Meetings: the year 2020 has been very challenging due to the continuing worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and the immediate health threat to everyone which resulted in the board canceling the meetings for the remainder of 2020. We understand that this decision may have to extend into early 2021 based on guidance we receive from public health, state, and federal government. The possibility of holding meetings using social media technology, such as Zoom, is being reviewed, however there is more work needed to make this a reality. Let’s remember that “Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.” We move on!

Veterans Day: “Your service in the military gives you the right to be proud and the privilege to be honored.” Thank you to our members and let us all remember in our thoughts and prayers all the service men and women who are serving all over the world and their families. We all chose at some point in our life to answer the question to serve: “If not me, then who? If not now, then when?” Special note: if you served during the Vietnam War era, then please visit this website: <https://www.vietnamwar50th.com>. The “USA Vietnam War 50th Commemoration Organization” was established in 2012 by Presidential proclamation to recognize all of us who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of duty location; and their families for their service and sacrifices. I am on a committee and arranged to give our VW veterans the certificate and lapel pin at a future time.

The board wishes you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving and hope that you will be able to enjoy as pleasant a holiday as possible as you deal with the current health and travel restrictions.

Take care of yourselves and your families.

CAPT Mary Jo Majors, NC, USNR (Ret); Email: CAPTMAJOD@aol.com; Cell Phone: 617-285-2571

NOTES FROM THE CLUB’S IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

With the slate officially approved by the membership, it is time for me to pass the Deck and Con to Captain Majors, and for me to step into my supporting roles as Immediate Past President and Chair of the Nominating Committee. With that said, many thanks for your support to me, the BOG and the Club during my tenure. To end my days at the helm, the response to the ballot via U.S. Mail was most encouraging. I depart suggesting to the BOG that this mechanism be remembered when a membership vote is required, and not to rely on those members who just attend, perhaps, the Annual Business meeting in May.

I want to congratulate, Captain Majors, Colonel Donaghue and Commander Watson, and other BOG members, for their untiring efforts during the last two years, especially during COVID-19 ops which, for the most part, were, and will continue to be, maneuvers in uncharted waters that mandate constant attention.

I should also like to make it known that the Club’s new President, Captain Majors, has also recently been honored by receiving the 2020 Navy Nurse Corps Association’s “National Service Award”. This award is given every 2 years to provide recognition to a member for continuing significant service to the NNCA and other organizations. She has served for 5 years as the Chairperson of their Merchandise Committee and on other committees. She was selected because of her selfless and limitless volunteerism and contributions to NNCA along with other numerous Navy, Veteran and civilian organizations which she supports in the local area, New England, and on a national level. Some of those organizations are the: Wardroom Club, Navy Recruiting District New England, Navy Officer Training Command and Officer Development School in Newport, Mass Bay Council Navy League, Boston NROTC Consortium, USS Constitution, USS Constitution Museum, USNA Admissions Office, Vietnam War 50th Commemoration Organization, MA Department of Veterans Services, and the Naval Reserve’s Yellow Ribbon Program. Congratulations to Mary Jo! We are so proud of you!

And I want to again welcome CAPT B. Gresh Lattimore, Jr., USNR (RET) to the Assistant Secretary's position and CAPT Mark Prestero to the Webmaster posting. Gresh's appointment was unanimously approved by the BOG in August and Mark's was appointed by me in September. Many thanks, to you both for volunteering to help your Club. Welcome Aboard to the BOG!

With this said, the BOG has openings for appointments to the Assistant Treasurer billet and for two members to the Nominating Committee. If you are interested in either of these positions or assisting the club in some other fashion, please contact me.

In closing, it has been an honor and pleasure to serve as the Club President for the last two years. My many thanks. Let's welcome the New BOG aboard and keep pulling to defeat the virus so that we can safely reconvene. Steady as she goes!

CAPT Michael Cicalese, USCGR (RET); Email: michaelcicalese@gmail.com; Cell phone: 617-797-3361

NOTES FROM THE CLUB VICE-PRESIDENT

Well, here come the holidays and we are still in the middle of a horrible world-wide pandemic, growing political tension and strife, and little hope that this will all end soon. Never-the-less, I ask that each of you to find something to give thanks for during November, get those Christmas lists and cards started, and prepare to start writing 2021 on everything. Hopefully, the New Year will bring change for the better for everyone.

This is my first venture as your Vice President and I know I have a lot to learn, but I know I am lucky to have Mary Jo as our new President to guide me. I want to thank everyone that treated me so well as your Secretary, and I certainly hope that continues!

Although we have not been meeting, The Club has been keeping things going, keeping in touch with each other, and most of all, staying COVID free.

I encourage you to find and speak to prospective members about the Club, and refer them to the club website for more information at: www.wardroomclub.org. If they interested in attending, or have already attended one or more meetings, there is a link at the top of the home page that will take you to the "Nominations" section and lists requirements for membership in all categories. A link on that page leads to the "Prospective Member Information" form which can be easily downloaded and sent to others by mail, fax, or email. Please ask to complete the form and send it to you so you will have it when it is time to nominate them to the Club VP.

The Annual Meeting by U.S. Mail was a great success, and the support for the By-Laws Amendment, the New Slate of Officers, and the approval of the Class of 2020 was outstanding! I think voting by mail worked great, and will be considered again for future years.

I don't think there can be any large Marine Corps Birthday celebrations this year, but hopefully everyone celebrated it in some way. Happy Birthday Marines!

Stay safe! We will meet in 2021 sometime.

Col. Robert Donaghue, USMC (RET); Email: ip350haven@comcast.net; Cell: 617-840-0267

NOTES FROM THE CLUB SECRETARY

As my first task as your new Secretary, I want to thank my predecessor, Col Bob Donaghue, for his outstanding work over the past two years; and especially for flawlessly processing our Club vote reply cards during this challenging time. I pledge to follow his great example.

The Emeritus Amendment to the By-Laws, the New Officer Slate, and the Class of 2020 were all approved unanimously by everyone who voted (over 201), which is more than half the total membership of the Club (354). The ballots are available for inspection if anyone would like to see them.

I would also like to congratulate Bob Donaghue in his new position as your Vice President.

I would like to thank all of you for your support during my term as Assistant Secretary, and ask that you do the same for the new Assistant Secretary, Gresh Lattimore.

The main focus of the Secretary's position is communication with the Club membership, especially during the pandemic, when we cannot physically get together. To that end, please contact me, by phone or email, with any updates to your address, email, membership status, or other contact information. This process will ensure that our Master Roster is accurate and all Club Newsletters & other material will be delivered to you successfully.

The new season's annual information card is being sent to all members separately with this newsletter.

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

CAPT Robert D. Pickett, Jr., USNR (RET); Email: bobbickett44@gmail.com; Cell: 781-801-4163

NOTES FROM THE CLUB TREASURER

We continue to receive your annual dues payments and thank you. Currently we have collected dues from 80% of our 312 dues paying members, 40% by EPay and 60% by check. I urge those remaining members who have yet to pay their dues to do so and anyone with questions about their dues should call me. The continuing pandemic has prevented resumption of monthly meetings and until we are able to again begin normal operations, we rely entirely on annual dues for meeting our continuing operating expenses. The good news is that our club continues to be financially strong.

I am still without an Assistant Treasurer and would welcome a call from any member interested in joining me and our board of governors as Assistant Treasurer as we navigate our club through some very rough waters. I am available to discuss details and answer any questions, no obligation or pressure.

CDR Earl "Bud" Watson, USNR (RET); Email: wardroomclub@gmail.com; Cell: 617-694-2688

CLUB NOTES

TAPS – Two obituaries comes as a “shock”, much as they all do, but when it occurs to two close personal friends and associates in other organizations, it is no less difficult to absorb - - -

- LTC Michael A. Lavey, AUSA, (Ret) – Following a long illness on 31 October 2020. Mike became an Associate Member of the Wardroom Club during 2014, He was also a member of several military-related Boston area organizations, including the Military Order of the World Wars, serving nobly in the Greater Boston Chapter as the chapter’s Treasurer during several recent years.
- Col Andrew “Drew” J. Ley, USMCR (Ret) – A member since April 1998, Drew Ley has been a faithful member, not only of the Wardroom Club but of the USS Constitution Museum where he was a Life Trustee, The Marine Corps Aviation Association, the Smithsonian Institute and an active member of the Porsche Club of America - - - among many, many others. A Marine Corps Aviator and A-4 pilot on active and reserve duty, Drew concluded his Marine Corps career as the CO of VA-322 at NAS South Weymouth. A 1967 graduate of Dartmouth where he was commissioned from the Marine Corps ROTC program - - - and following active duty, from the BU School of Law in 1975, Drew joined the Boston firm of Goodwin Proctor, from where his legal career progressed from where he later concluded his legal career with the firm of Ley & Young. Drew Ley left us suddenly on 20 October 2020. He will be deeply missed.

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
of sun-split clouds, — and done a hundred things,
You have not dreamed of — wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air...*

*Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace.
Where never lark, or even eagle flew —
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high sanctity of space,
And touched the face of God.*

– John Gillespie Magee Jr.

NOVEMBER IS MARINE CORPS MONTH – With the arrival of November 10th, we celebrate the 245th birthday of the United States Marine Corps. Consequently, we are extremely honored to once again pay homage to our great sister service for whom we owe so very much! And so it is this year, that we salute another Marine in the form of - - - Marine Corps Colonel Joseph J. Foss.



As the lead pilot in his flight of eight Wildcats, known as “Foss’s Flying Circus”, with two sections nicknamed “Farm Boys” and “City Slickers” on Guadalcanal, Captain Joseph J. Foss was accorded the honor of becoming America’s first “ace-of-aces” in World War II. With orders to the United States in March 1943, Foss received the Medal of Honor for his actions from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Following a War Bond tour in the States, it was in February 1944 that Foss returned to the Pacific theater to lead VMF-115, flying the F4U Corsair. VMF-115 was based in the combat zone around Emirau, St. Mathias Group in 1944. During this second tour, Joe Foss met and became friends with fellow Marine fighter ace Marion Carl. He also had an opportunity to meet and fly with his boyhood idol, Charles Lindbergh, who was on assignment touring the South Pacific as

an aviation consultant. After eight months of operational flying, Foss finished his combat service as one of America’s top scoring pilots. In February 1945, he became operations and training officer at the Marine Corps Air Station Santa Barbara, California.

In late August 1945, Joe Foss was released to inactive duty with the rank of Colonel and became involved with business enterprises in his hometown of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Still with the “flying bug” in his veins, Joe Foss joined the South Dakota Air National Guard, where during the Korean War, Foss was called to active duty with the United States Air Force, relinquishing command of South Dakota’s 175th Fighter Squadron, serving as a Director of Operations and Training for the Central Air Defense Command. He eventually reached the rank of Brigadier General.

Joe Foss later served as the 20th Governor of South Dakota between 1955 and 1959, following which he was president of the National Rifle Association and still later, the first Commissioner of the American Football League. He also was a television broadcaster. Unfortunately, Joe Foss suffered a stroke in October 2002 and died three months later on New Year’s Day, 2003. Actor Charlton Heston gave a brief eulogy to his old friend, Joe Foss, who was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. But for Joe Foss, it all began with the Marine Corps, with the Marine Corps crediting him with World War II 26 air victories. Throughout his adult life, Joe Foss frequently offered how proud of his service in the United States Marine Corp.

NOTES FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Lastly, an on-going reminder that 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. My contact information is below.

Stay well, WRC members - - - and please remain HEALTHY!!!

LCDR David W. Graham, USNR (RET); Email: dwg@shore.net; Cell: 617-335-2198

