

USS TOPEKA CLG-8
Reunion Association Newsletter
Volume 31, No. 2

July 2020



Officers:

Dan Moore, Chairman, Board of Directors; Dan Moore, President;
Gary Baker, Secretary-Treasurer;
Dan and Sharon Moore Reunion Chairman;
Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Gary Baker, Web Master;
Pat Baker, Ships Store

Hello Shipmates and Friends.

Today is the first day of Summer, therefore the year is almost half over. Time flies, doesn't it!

As most of you are aware we have postponed Septembers reunion in New Orleans until September of next year.

There was hope that the city would be opened up by the middle of May, but hasn't worked out. Our hotel thought it would be open now in late August or early September, which makes it too late for us to finalize plans.

With the virus situation, I also had to consider our groups age and those with medical conditions. There wouldn't be much social distancing , with air travel, bus trips, hospitality room, buffet, banquet etc. Wasn't worth the risk. I'm as disappointed as anyone.

Mark your calendar tentatively for the week of September 19, 2021.

Cyndi Johansen Has also postponed the Portland Maine reunion until 2022.

Details for both will be provide well in advance.

Best regards from Sharon and I.

Stay safe and we'll see you next September.

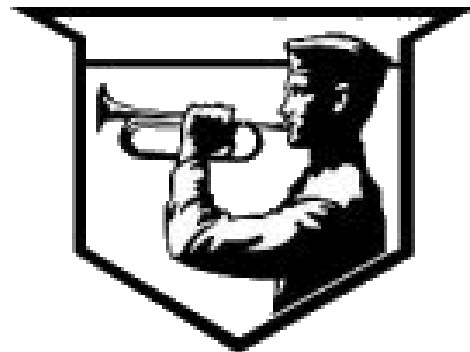
Dan

New Members (Since March 2019)

Christopher Darling SK3 60-63
William Conklin MM2 59-62

Taps

Robert Archer BT3 64-64
James T. Henslee BT3 65-68



New Orleans, LA

Monday, September 2021 through Friday, September 2021

Dan and Sharon Moore are our hosts for the New Orleans reunion. Dan and Sharon hosted the very successful Indianapolis reunion several years ago, and will make the New Orleans reunion just as great.

There are so many things to see and do in New Orleans that Dan has added an extra day and tour to this year's

POSTPONED TILL 2021 reunion
E-mail them at dan56619@aol.com,
or call them at 574-295-5156 if you have any questions or require more information.

The Crowne Plaza New Orleans Airport hotel in Kenner is located just 2.5 miles from the Louis Armstrong International Airport and 12 miles from downtown New Orleans. Daily breakfast buffet is included with the room rate.



2020 YTD Financial Report

A brief summary of our finances year to date. The association finances are looking good, no need to increase dues for the foreseeable future. If you would like a more detailed report e-mail Gary Baker at gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org

Account	12/31/2019 Balance	2020 YTD Balance
Operating Fund	\$14,187.45	\$14,867.10
Reunion Fund	\$4,291.12	\$4,291.12
Ship's Store	\$2,004.02	\$2,117.12
Total	\$20,482.59	\$21,275.14

A Powdery Substance

West Point (NY) -- Army football practice was delayed nearly two hours yesterday after a player reported finding an unknown white powdery substance on the practice field.

The new head coach immediately suspended practice while police and federal investigators were called to investigate

After a complete analysis by both the FBI and Army Intelligence, forensic experts determined the white substance unknown to players was the goal line.

Practice was resumed after special agents decided the team was unlikely to encounter the substance again.

A Grandmothers View

"Believe me, dear granddaughter, there may be only one great love in the life of a woman...," said the grandmother.

"And who was your great love, granny?" asked the granddaughter.

The grandmother whispered: "Sailors, only sailors!"

Topeka's Commanding Officers

In her nearly ten years of service as CLG-8, Topeka had eight commanding officers:

Captain Frank L. Pinney Jr.
March, 1960 – November, 1960

Captain Fredrick E. Janney
November 1960 – September 1961

Captain Roger W. Paine
September 1961 – October 1962

Captain Jack E. Mansfield
October, 1962 – December 1964

Captain William J. Ruhe
December 1964 – October 1965

Captain Thomas C. Buell
November 1964 – June, 1966

Captain William M. Montgomery
June 1966 – November, 1967

Captain George G. Halvorson
November 1966 – June, 1969

All served with distinction during World War II earning many battle awards. Three went on to flag rank after leaving Topeka (Captains Janney, Paine, and Halvorson) and one authored two books about his war experiences as well as writing a song for submariners (Captain Ruhe).

With the passing of Captain Montgomery on January 17, 2012 all are now gone. It's the end of an era.



Helmsman with an attitude

1959: Sailors Learn to Look for Bargains

When the first commissioning crewmembers went aboard Topeka in the Brooklyn Naval Shipyard in mid-winter, 1959-60, it was like an icebox. The ever-resourceful Chief Abernathy of the Commissary Department soon convinced the shipyard workers that the first piece of equipment installed should be a 50-gallon steam jacketed copper kettle. This was done and each day the copper was filled with hot steaming coffee or hot soup. It became the focal point for sailors and workers alike and facilitated many projects being done without benefit of official paperwork.

One of the projects undertaken and completed was the construction of the Brass Rail Lounge. The lounge was located on the starboard side of the mess deck and in front of the soft ice cream (gedunk) machine. Several tables were located there, and the whole area was enclosed in 3-inch brass tubing which was mounted on 3-foot high stanchions.

Red and white checkered tablecloths graced the tables as well as serving as drapes or skirts for the brass tubing. The lounge provided a comfortable area where sailors could relax and enjoy refreshments. Many visitors over the years inquired about the brass rails. The standard "sailor answer" was, "Don't know, they were here when I came aboard."

Three battle cruisers, the Guam, Hawaii and Alaska, were constructed toward the end of WWII. Only one had been placed in commission. The other two, still uncompleted, were in the Reserve Fleet in Bayonne, NJ and were destined for scrap. Topeka sailors got the OK to go aboard and look for things that Topeka could use. One of the things they brought home was 150 feet of 3-inch brass voice tube. This, with a little bit of shipyard cumshaw help, became the brass rails

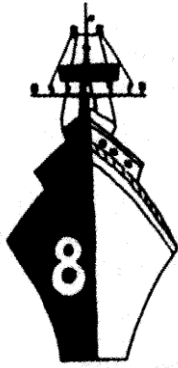
Among other items removed from the battle cruisers were the barber chairs. These chairs were distinctive since they were not Navy specification, but were civilian chairs. They boasted red leather seats and backs, ivory porcelain arms and an ornate iron footrest. Because of the chairs and the expertise of Topeka barbers, we thought we had the classiest barbershop in the fleet.

It was this sailor ingenuity that made us different from the other CLGs. Baka Hachi thinking was already taking over.

Vince Manion, LCDR Supply Officer (59-62)

USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION
C/O Gary Baker
20 Heather Drive
Billings, MT 59105

TEMP – RETURN SERVICE REQUEST



NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Chairman, Board of Directors
Dan Moore, 56619 Wedgwood Ct N, Elkhart, IN 46516;
574-295-5156; Dan56619@aol.com
Board Members: Al Gustafson, Arnold Hoel, Jerry Craig, Harold Jackson, Dan Moore, Ray Spatz, Jay Davis

President
Dan Moore, 56619 Wedgwood Ct N, Elkhart, IN 46516;
574-295-5156; Dan56619@aol.com

Secretary-Treasurer
Gary Baker, 20 Heather Drive, Billings, MT 59105;
406-252-4546; gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org

2020 Reunion Coordinator
Sharon and Dan Moore, , 56619 Wedgwood Ct N, Elkhart, IN 46516;
574-295-5156; Dan56619@aol.com

Newsletter Editor
Kathy Spatz, 503 Olive Blvd., So. Hempstead, NY 11550;
516-697-8274; kathleenspatz@gmail.com

Webmaster
Gary Baker, 20 Heather Drive, Billings, MT 59105;
406-252-4546; gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org

Ships Store
Pat Baker, 20 Heather Drive, Billings, MT 59105
406-252-4546; pbaker@usstopekaclg8.org

Ship's Store

The store has USS Topeka ball caps, lapel pins, jacket patches, coffee cups, and license plate frames as well as 6th and 7th Fleet and Vietnam bumper stickers. Order forms and illustrations of items are on the Ship's Store page of the website. The store is managed by Pat Baker. Her contact information is on the ship's store page of the website and the Names and Telephone Numbers section of this newsletter.

Membership and Dues

Dues fund the day-to-day operation of the association. This includes the costs of publishing and distributing the newsletter and members directory, maintaining the website, and office expenses. Dues are \$20.00 per year or \$80.00 for five years. Your dues status is indicated on the address page of the newsletter. If it doesn't say 'Dues Exempt' or 'Dues Paid Thu 2019' (or higher) you'll be dropped from the mailing list and won't receive the annual directory or any further newsletters.