

USS TOPEKA CLG-8
Reunion Association Newsletter
Volume 31, No. 1

March 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

Greetings to all our Topeka shipmates & and friends. Hope everyone had a great holiday season.

Only seven months until our reunion in New Orleans. The registration forms are included in this

newsletter and on our website. I also place our reunion information in both the American

Legion and VFW magazines.

Looking forward to having a good turnout in New Orleans. As you can see, we have some great

tours on the schedule. Aside from the reunion schedule, there are numerous other sites in the

area to explore before or after the reunion. You might consider coming in a day early or stay an

extra day. So, make your hotel reservations early and get your registration in to Gary.

Sharon & I look forward to seeing our friends in Louisiana as well as making new friends.

Until September, have a great Spring & Summer.

Dan

New Members (Since November 2019)

No New Members

Taps

Richard Barnard RMSN 60-61

Joseph Rutter BT3 66-68

Ted Edwards GMM3 59-64

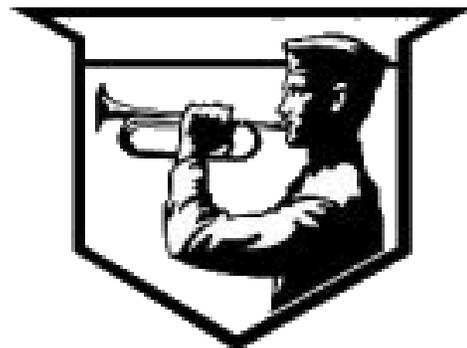
Michael Piatt LCPL 65-67

William Brew CPL 64-66

Charley H. Hunter LCPL 60-62

John D. Reynolds FTM1 61-6

David J. Anderson LTJG 64-66



New Orleans, LA

Reunion Dates:

Monday, September 21, 2020 through Friday, September 20, 2020

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 reunion.

E-mail them at: _dan56619@aol.com, or call them at 574-295-5156 for any questions or 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.

Reservations must be made no later than August 21, 2020. After that date the room block will be released and there is no guarantee you will be able to book a room. Group rates for standard rooms are \$114 for single or double occupancy, \$124.50 for triple occupancy, and \$136 for quad occupancy. All rates are tax included. The group rate is effective for 3 days before and after the reunion. Reservations can be made by calling 877-666-3243. Be sure to ask for the USS Topeka CLG-8 group rate.

For early arrivals the hospitality room will be opened Sunday afternoon, September 20, at no extra charge.



Houmas House and Gardens (Thursday Tour)

Houmas House Historic Plantation is the Crown Jewel of Louisiana's River Road! Guided mansion tours are offered daily and offer a glimpse of plantation life. Guides in period dress use the artifacts, furniture, artwork and stories of past owners to explain how this manor home grew into the grand estate it is today. Three on-site restaurants offer breakfast, lunch, and dinner featuring the finest Louisiana cuisine. Thirty-eight acres of formal gardens provide a leisurely self-guided tour with walking paths and sitting nooks throughout. Last but not least, a large gift shop is a perfect place for gifts ranging from souvenirs to cookbooks to high-end gifts and art.

The Mansion



The Gardens



Honey Island Swamp Tour (Tuesday Tour)

Professionally-narrated boat tour with friendly, knowledgeable guides native to South Louisiana.

Many opportunities for nature photography and wildlife observation.

Non-commercialized explanation of Louisiana Swamp ecology and natural history.

Our smaller-sized boats allow access deep into the swamp interior and shallow backwater areas.

Resident and migratory wildlife include alligators, bald eagles, waterfowl, herons, egrets, ibis, owls, osprey, deer, feral hogs, nutria, raccoon, otter, beaver, mink, turtles, frogs.



The National WWII Museum tells the story of the American experience in *the war that changed the world*—why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today—so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn. (Wednesday tour)



Web Sites for you to research:

www.cpneworleansairport.com

Hotel (Buffet & Banquet)

www.pelicanneworleans.com

Travel & Tours

<https://houmashouse.com/>

Plantation & lunch

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org>

WW2 Museum www.coterienola.com

Lunch on Thursday

<https://www.creolequeen.com>

River Boat

<https://www.cajunencounters.com/tours/swamp-tour-new-orleans/> **Swamp Tour**

<https://www.mardigrasworld.com> *Tour*

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2019 Financial Report

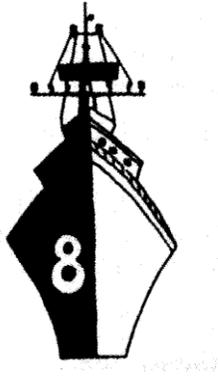
A brief summary of our finances for 2019.

In spite of our decrease in dues-paying members we're holding our own, so no increase in dues is anticipated for the next few years. If you would like a more detailed report e-mail Gary Baker at gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org

Account	12/31/2018 Balance	12/31/2019 Balance
Advertising Fund	\$525.00	\$0.00
Operating Fund	\$12,630.66	\$14,187.45
Reunion Fund	\$7,680.58	\$4,291.12
Ship's Store	\$1,839.54	\$2,004.02
Total	\$22,150.78	\$20,482.59

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

TEMP – RETURN SERVICE REQUEST



NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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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.