

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 32, No. 3

November 2021

Officers: Al Gustafson, Chairman Board of Directors and President; Gary Baker, Secretary-Treasurer; Cyndi and Dan Johansen, 2022 Reunion Coordinators; Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Gary Baker, Web Master; Pat Baker, Ships Store



I hope everyone is getting through our latest COVID surge in good health. It's been a trying time for all of us. Let's hope for a better 2022!

It was heartbreaking to have to cancel the New Orleans for the second time due to COVID and Hurricane Ida. Dan Moore went above and beyond to put together what would have been a great reunion. Thank you so much, Dan! Dan has passed the baton to Pat Baker to coordinate a possible New Orleans reunion for 2023, probably in late April or early May to move it out of hurricane season.

After ten years as president of the association, and chairman of the board of directors, Dan Moore is stepping down as a member of the board. During his ten years as head of our association he has kept it viable and moving forward. Thank you, Dan, for all you've done for me, and the association, for the past decade.

Per our by-laws the president and chairman of the board is elected by the board from the current members of the board. By a unanimous vote the board has selected Al Gustafson as our new president and chairman of the board. Welcome to the position Gus, and I'm looking forward to working with you! The vacant position on the board will be filled by the membership at the 2022 reunion business meeting.

Stay safe shipmates!

Gary Baker

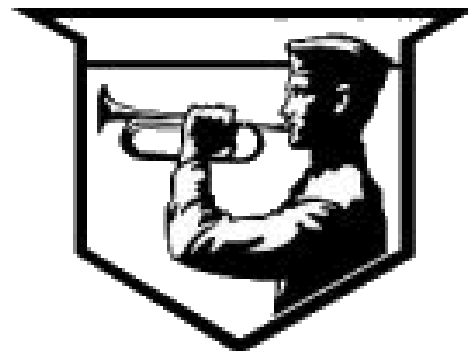
Secretary Treasurer

NEW MEMBERS (JULY 2021)

Jess Stark, SGT 59-60

Taps

Gary S Derks IC2 59-61
Steven R Tryk MMFN 63-65
Donald Cowdery EM1 62-64
Kenneth Cushman MM3 61-65
Roger Norgaard FT2 60-62



There are no official words to the music, but below are some of the more popular verses.

Day is done, Gone the sun,
From the lake, From the hill,
From the sky.
All is well, Safely rest,
God is nigh. Thanks, and praise, for our days,
Neath the sun, Neath the stars,
Neath the sky,
As we go, this we know,
God is high.

Reunion Dates:

**Monday, September 12, 2022 through
Friday, September 16, 2022**

Cyndi and Dan Johansen are our hosts for the Portland reunion. Cyndi grew up in Northern Maine, and has lived in Portland so she knows the area quite well. She and Dan are going all-out to make this a memorable reunion. E-mail them at cajohansen@cowisp.net or call them at 970-568-7742 for any questions or information.

Located on Main Street, South Portland, Maine, right off Interstate 95, the Best Western Merry Manor Inn invites you to come relax with us at one of Portland Maine's finest lodging facilities. Whether you're on business, vacationing with the family, or just passing through the greater Portland area you'll find plenty of amenities and services to help make your stay enjoyable.

Try our unique heated mineral outdoor pool open year-round, indoor spa with waterfall, kiddie pool, and fitness center. We are just minutes from a variety of local sights and attractions, from Main best beaches to Portland Head Light, one of the country's oldest lighthouses, to LL Bean and Portland's historic Old Port area.

The Merry Manor Inn specializes in military reunions, and has a long list of very satisfied military reunion customers.



Tour "A" Clambake and Kennebunkport

Tuesday September 13

Today's tour starts with a trip to Len Libby's Candies located just south of the Best Western Merry Manor Inn on Route #1. There you can enjoy an ice cream or purchase some of their world-famous candy while you visit with "Lenny The Moose," a 1700-pound moose made out of milk chocolate.

After Len Libby's we will drive to Foster's Downeast Clambake where we will enjoy an old fashion Maine Clambake with clam chowder, steamed clams and mussels, whole Maine lobster, corn on the cob, potatoes, onions and blueberry cake. Chicken is available for anyone who cannot eat lobster. During lunch you will be entertained by one of Maine's local artists. Foster's also has a great gift shop with all kinds of unique gifts.

After dinner we will travel north along the coast of Maine to the coastal community of Kennebunkport, Maine where we will enjoy a two-hour guided tour of the area. During the trip we will see President Bush's (senior) summer home and we will visit the coastal villages Wells and Ogunquit. Our tour will take us past the Brickstore Museum, The Wedding Cake House, Franciscan Monastery and the Seashore Trolley Museum. During the trip we will also stop at the Lighthouse Gift Shop which features unique gifts and clothing featuring many of Maine's most famous lighthouses. After the tour we will drive back to the hotel.

Tour Time: (To be determined)

Duration: (To be determined)

Cost: \$74.00 per person (Subject to change)



The Wedding Cake House

Tour "B" Maine Maritime Museum and Freeport

Wednesday September 14

Today we will board the bus and drive north to the ship building city of Bath Maine. Once in Bath we will visit the Maine Maritime Museum located on the historic Kennebec River. The Maine Maritime Museum features exhibits and displays that tell the history of shipbuilding in Bath and the state of Maine. In the late 1800's Bath was famous for building the largest wooden sailing ships in the world. Their 6-masted schooner, the Wyoming, was the largest wooden sailing ship ever built and five of the ten largest wooden ships ever built were launched at the Percy & Small Shipyard in Bath.

In the 20th century Bath became famous for producing some of the best destroyers, frigates and cruisers in the world. By the end of World War II Bath Iron Works was launching a new destroyer every two weeks. That tradition continues today at Bath Iron Works where they still build destroyers and cruisers for the United States Navy. While at the museum you will receive a guided tour of Bath Iron Works and you will then be free to explore the museum on your own. The museum has a very large section devoted to Bath Iron Work's contribution to the war effort during World War II.

After visiting the museum, we will drive to Freeport where we will enjoy lunch on our own and shopping at LL Bean's factory store and dozens of factory outlet stores. After lunch and shopping we will drive to the Maine Military Museum in South Portland, Maine. At the museum you will see exhibits from the Revolutionary War through the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. One of the exhibits at the museum is an exact replica of a cell at the Hanoi Hilton.

The museum is free, however \$5.00 of the cost for this trip is donated to the museum.

Tour Time: 8:15 AM (Bus Departs 8:30 AM) (Subject to change)

Duration: To be determined)

Cost: \$63.00 per person (Subject to change)

Tour "C" Portland Trolley Tour and Harbor Cruise

Thursday September 14

Today we will board the trolley for a 90-minute guided tour of Portland. During the trip you will drive through the Old Port Exchange, Portland's restored waterfront district, which features hundreds of shops, restaurants, lounges and galleries.

Some of the attractions that you will pass on the trip are the Victoria Mansion, the Portland Museum of Art, The Portland Observatory, the Eastern and Western promenades, the Longfellow House and the statue of Longfellow. One of the highlights of the trip is a visit to the Portland Headlight located at Fort Williams Park.

After our visit to the Portland Headlight, we will enjoy lunch and shopping in Portland's Old Port Exchange. After lunch we will board the Islander for a 90-minute narrated tour on Casco Bay. On the cruise you will get to see the islands of Casco Bay, the Portland Skyline and lighthouses along the rugged coast of Maine.

After the cruise we will board the trolley for the short ride back to the hotel.

Tour Time: 8:15 AM (Bus Departs 8:30 AM) (Subject to change)

Duration: (To be determined.)

Cost: \$52.00 per person (Subject to change)

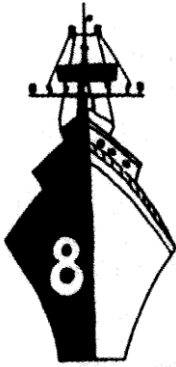
2021 YTD Financial Report

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	12/31/2020	2021 YTD
Operating Fund	\$15,028.30	\$15,633.32
Reunion Fund	\$4,291.12	\$4,211.27
Ship's Store	<u>\$2,316.52</u>	<u>\$2,157.80</u>
Total	\$21,635.94	\$22,002.39

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: Al Gustafson

Board Members: Arnold Hoel, Jerry Craig, Harold Jackson, Ray Spatz, Jay Davis

President
Al Gustafson, 3668 Bonnie Lane, Hamburg, NY 14075;
716-648-5960; gus127@verizon.net

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

2022 Reunion Coordinator
Cyndi and Dan Johansen, 7225 Kit Fox Dr., Wellington, CO 80549
970-568-7742; cajohansen@cowisp.net

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 2021' (or higher) you'll be dropped from the mailing list and won't receive the annual directory or any further newsletters.