

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 23, No. 3

December 2012

Officers:

Dan Moore, Chairman, Board of Directors; Dan Moore, President;

Gary Baker, Secretary-Treasurer;

Ruth Judge, 2013 Reunion Chairman;

Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Gary Baker, Web Master;

Cyndi Johansen, Ships Store



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Where did the summer go?

We had a great time in Wisconsin.

The tours were interesting and fun. Had the best bread pudding I have ever had in my life. If any one has tracked down that recipe, please get it to Gary Baker so we can get it distributed.

Ruth Judge and her Posse are working on the Long Beach reunion and it is shaping up to be another great one. We're looking forward to staying on The Queen Mary and visiting Long Beach. It's been 45 years since Sharon and I were there. If you are planning to attend, you may want to go ahead and book your room asap.

In case you missed it. With all the sadness and trauma going on in the world at the moment, it is worth reflecting on the death of a very important person, which almost went unnoticed last month. Larry LaPrise, who wrote "The Hokey Pokey", died peacefully at age 93. The most traumatic part for his family was getting him into the coffin. First, they put his left leg in; that's when the trouble started.

Most of us are now considered Senior Citizens. I don't mind the term because it generally comes with a 10% discount. So, save up your discount savings and join us in Long Beach next September.

Dan

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

NEW MEMBERS (since June 2012)

Norman Stiman 60-62 LTJG

(Posthumous registration)

Richard Young 60-??

(Posthumous registration)

Walter Michlanski 60-?? SN

(Posthumous registration)

Don Kastner 60-61 HM1, Tucson, AZ

Patrick Cain 65-66 RD3, Bluffton, SC

Edward Bennet 59-61 BT2, Barberton, OH

Louis Patcle 67-68 BT3, Polosi, WI

Ronald Warren FTG2 63-67, Olathe, KS

Marshall Robinson SN 62-65 Waverly, New York

Jessie Dupre 63-67 MR3 Sharon, TN

Dennis Franklin 66-67 DK3 Camas, WA

Anthony DeMaio 63-66 RD3

TAPS

Norman Stiman 60-62 LTJG

Richard Young 60-??

Walter Michlanski 60-?? SN

Alfred Powell 61-64 FTC

Walter Davidivich 59-63 GMC

John Keepper 61-65 LTJG

Michael D. Fisher 63-66 FTG3.

Robert A. Bond 62-64 DK2



REUNION 2013

Monday, September 16, 2013 through Friday, September 20, 2013.

Ruth Judge is our very capable host for the 2013 reunion aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach. She may be contacted at rajtr@cox.net for any questions or information.

The contract for the room rates and room block has been signed. Room rates range from \$99.00 per night for an inside room to \$119.00 for a Deluxe King to \$139.00 for a mini-suite. There are a limited number of inside handicap accessible rooms for \$99.00. Reservations for these should be made as soon as possible. Rooms are subject to a tax of 15.065%. For reservations call (877) 342-0742. You must ask for the USS Topeka rate. The group rate is valid for three days before and after the reunion.

Some of the Queen Mary's amenities:

- 100% non-smoking hotel
- Air-conditioned Staterooms and Suites
- Larger than the average cruise ship room
- Authentic Art Deco décor
- Original rich wood paneling from all over the world
- Original art work
- iPod docking stations and alarm clock
- 32-inch LCD flat screen TV with satellite and Pay-Per-View movies
- Wi-Fi Internet available (for an extra fee)
- Luxurious Crabtree & Evelyn bath products
- Hair dryer
- Iron/Ironing board
- Pillow Top Perfect Sleeper Serta Mattresses
- Room service



THE MAIDEN VOYAGE OF THE QUEEN MARY

On May 27, 1936, the Queen Mary departed from Southampton, England embarking on her maiden

voyage. She boasted five dining areas and lounges, two cocktail bars and swimming pools, a grand ballroom, a squash court and even a small hospital. The Queen Mary had set a new benchmark in transatlantic travel, which the rich and famous considered as the only civilized way to travel. She quickly seized the hearts and imaginations of the public on both sides of the Atlantic, representing the spirit of an era known for its elegance, class and style.

FROM THE HEIGHT OF LUXURY TO WWII

For three years after her maiden voyage, the Queen Mary was the grandest ocean liner in the world carrying Hollywood celebrities like Bob Hope and Clark Gable, royalty like the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, and dignitaries like Winston Churchill. During this time she even set a new speed record, which she held for 14 years. But when the Queen Mary docked in New York in September 1939 that would be the last time she would carry civilian passengers for many years.

As World War II started, the Queen Mary's transformation into a troopship had begun. She was painted a camouflaged grey color and stripped of her luxurious amenities. Dubbed the "Grey Ghost" because of her stealth and stark color, the Queen Mary was the largest and fastest troopship to sail, capable of transporting as many as 16,000 troops at 30 knots. After the end of WWII, the Queen Mary began a 10-month retrofitting process, which would return the ship to her original glory. On July 21, 1947, the Queen Mary resumed regular passenger service across the Atlantic Ocean, and continued to do so for nearly two more decades.

THE LAST GREAT CRUISE

The increasing popularity of air travel helped signal the end of an era for the Queen Mary. By 1965 the entire Cunard fleet was operating at a loss and they decided to retire and sell the legendary Queen Mary. On October 31, 1967, the Queen Mary departed on her final cruise, arriving in Long Beach, California, on December 9, 1967. She has called Southern California her home ever since. The Queen Mary is now a floating Hotel, Attraction and Event & Wedding Venue, home to three world-class restaurants and an icon in Southern California.

December 7

1917 - Four U.S. battleships arrive at Scapa Flow taking on the role of the British Grand Fleet's Sixth Battle Squadron. Include USS Delaware (BB-28), USS Florida (BB-30), New York (BB-34), and USS Wyoming (BB-32).

1941 - Japanese carrier aircraft attack U.S. Pacific Fleet based in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

1944 - Seventh Fleet forces land Army troops on shore of Ormoc Bay. Kamikazes attack Task Force, damaging several U.S. Navy ships

OPT OUT?

You have the opportunity to opt out of receiving the Association Newsletter.

Why should you want to opt out of receiving the newsletter?

Opting out does not mean you don't want to know what's happening with the association. You will be able to get the news on the website and it will be with color pictures.

Opting out will save the association money that can be used for other things.

Opting out does not reduce or increase the efforts of the Association Newsletters editors job. It does not reduce or increase the efforts of the web-masters job either. The newsletters have been published on the Topeka site for sometime and will continue.

The newsletter is published as a PDF document on the website and can be downloaded and printed. The website will give you the date of the latest newsletter on the home page just to the left of the ships seal.

The savings to the association can be significant.

If you prefer to receive the Newsletters as in the past, do nothing, and it will continue to be mailed to you.

TOPEKA AND FACEBOOK

USS Topeka CLG-8 Association is now on Facebook. It will be used as an adjunct to the Topeka website to keep association members informed of items of interest regarding the association or website. To access Topeka's Facebook page enter **uss topeka clg-8** in the search field of your Facebook home page or copy and paste this link in your browser: **<http://www.facebook.com/pages/USS-Topeka-Clg-8-Association/288604944574666>**. Once you're there click on **Like** and you're ready. Anything posted on the page will now show up on your Facebook newsfeed.

ANNUAL DUES

Annual dues, for the calendar year, are \$20 or \$80 for five years. Although dues are requested, they are not mandatory. The dues, however, are used to cover expenses such as the preparation and mailing of letters, newsletter and directories, "upfront" reunion expenses, and the cost of maintaining the TOPEKA website on the internet. Dues should be sent to: Gary Baker, 1240 Lonesome Pine Lane, Billings, MT 59105

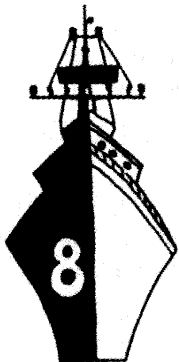
The 2013 Members Directory will be published and mailed in early January, 2013. It is only sent to those whose dues are paid through 2013, so make sure your dues are up to date. Your dues status is shown on the newsletter mailing label.

EDITORS MESSAGE

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their messages and calls during the recent tragedy of hurricane Sandy. Fortunately Ray and I fared very well with just loss of power for a number of days; however the devastation in our surrounding neighborhoods is just astounding. Recovery for some will take a very long time and for some may never happen. Thanks again and this is how the November newsletter became the December newsletter!

USS TOPEKA CLG-8 ASSOCIATION

C/O Gary Baker
1240 Lonesome Pine Lane
Billings, MT 59105



TEMP – RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Board of Directors

Dan Moore, 56619 Wedgwood Ct N, Elkhart, IN 46516;

574-295-5156 Dan56619@aol.com

Board Members:

Gary Baker, Dudley Cass, Jerry Craig,

Ken Noble, Dan Moore, John Reynolds, Ray Spatz

President

Dan Moore, 56619 Wedgwood Ct N, Elkhart, IN 46516;

574-295-5156 Dan56619@aol.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Gary Baker, 1240 Lonesome Pine Ln., Billings, MT 59105;

406-252-4546 gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org





THANK YOU PAUL AND JOYCE STEIN FOR HOSTING THE 2012 USS TOPEKA REUNION IN MADISON, WI.





ALL WHO ATTENDED THE MADISON REUNION IN 2012 HAD A TERRIFIC TIME. PLEASE ENJOY THE NEWSLETTER AND VISIT THE USS TOPEKA WEB SITE TO VIEW ALL THE PHOTOS. SEE YOU ON THE QUEEN MARY IN 2013