

PRESIDENT'S LETTER, SEPT. 2017

Shipmates:

Summer has ended and say hello to Fall; we all know what comes next.

Our 19th Reunion held in Williamsburg, Virginia at The Great Wolf Lodge, went on as planned. Due to two major Hurricanes and illness of several members, the attendance was lower than usual with last minute cancellations. All our tours, including the dinner cruise, went off without a hitch. The waters were a little choppy as we passed all the new ships the Navy had in the Norfolk Navy Yard. The new destroyers are a little larger than the "Bristol" was. All things considered, it was a very enjoyable reunion with beautiful weather and friends sharing fellowship and memories.

At our annual organizational meeting held on Thursday, Sept. 14th, the following items were discussed and acted upon.

1. By Law Change: My letter of June 20th, 2017, sent to all the members, discussed a change to the By Laws to clarify the issue of eventual dissolution of the association. The change was unanimously approved and passed. The members who were present asked the Board to send a thank you to our shipmate and plankowner, Wally Dann, who was instrumental in making this change happen. This letter has since been sent by our Treasurer, Tony Molnar, on behalf of the Board and membership.
2. Dues: Our Association's fiscal year runs from Oct. 1st to Sept. 30th. The 2018 dues are still only \$15.00. Please send in your dues, along with any outstanding dues, to our Treasurer, Tony Molnar. Let's all work together in keeping our association strong. The checks are made payable to the USS Bristol DD857 Veterans Association.
3. Tin Can Sailors: Marty Walsh, our Association Secretary, attended the Tin Can Sailor 2017 reunion and came back with an in depth report as to what he experienced. It was informative, interesting and worth thinking about for the future. Nothing has been decided at this time.
4. Election of Officers: With no nominations from the floor, a motion was made to re-elect all the present officers to their current positions and they agreed to stay on for another year. The Officers are: President – Paul Ratcliffe; First Vice President – Paul Kallfelz; Second Vice President – Duane Haugan; Treasurer – Tony Molnar; Secretary – Marty Walsh. The appointments are Don Tanner – Master at Arms; Ed Lynch – News Letter Editor and Walter Marczak – Chaplain
5. 2018 Reunion: The membership voted to continue using the Reunion Brat as our 2018 reunion coordinator. It was also agreed to continue the five day format. The 20th

reunion will be held in Savannah, Georgia. The date and hotel will be decided at a later date and information will be released after they are finalized. I am confident that it will be a great reunion.

PLEASE CHECK OUT THE BRISTOL WEBSITE FOR ARTICLES, HISTORY, UPDATED INFORMATION AND REUNION INFORMATION.

We are a great organization formed for Navy veterans of the USS Bristol, to get together and share memories and enjoy the fellowship of shipmates from long ago. We have a 20 year history so please support The USS Bristol Association and keep it going. I am proud to be part of it as are all the other members of the Board and appointed members.

Have a safe and healthy year and I hope to see you in Savannah.

Paul Ratcliffe, President EM2