

U.S.S. PIEDMONT



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PIEDMONT NEWSLETTER November 2017

The 2017 Joint reunion with the USS Dixie was a success and everyone enjoyed the spirit of fellowship and Naval service pride. Upon check in everyone received flashlights and calendars as well as roster of crewmembers and list of attendee's and of course the plan of the day so everyone knew what to expect in San Diego.

We started the evening off by welcoming everyone and the desire that we should enjoy the reunion as one and not as USS Dixie or USS Piedmont. I guess Ken and myself should have not said a thing because we became friends quickly and started sharing stories of past reunions and of course the guys started right off with sea stories and sharing pictures each had brought to share. As a added bonus to the snacks and beverages we enjoyed assorted Pizza's to add to our enjoyment. Before ending the evening a review of the next day's activities.

Day 1 tour was a full bus and we started out at the USS Midway CV-41 our group of old and young alike toured the ship from top to bottom after several hours we then reloaded our bus and made a short trip to our 2 hour harbor tour and enjoyed our delicious box lunch while enjoying the great San Diego weather, sights, and sounds of today and yesteryear with comments such as 'boy have things changed' or "we didn't have anything like that when I was in." When we completed our harbor tour we again reload our bus and returned to our host hotel for some pool time or a quick nap to recharge our batteries then dinner and then back to the hospitality room to enjoy more conversations and swapping more sea stories

Day 2 tour was more than a full bus but our tour company came through with flying colors. First stop was Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial in El Cajon which gave us a fantastic 360 view of San Diego county. Next stop was tour of city to include crossing over Coronado Bridge and touring Coronado including the Silver Strand and Coronado Hotel, still in great shape after all these years, then we went back over the Coronado Bridge and toured downtown and old RTC/NTC complex were many Piedmont sailors attended recruit training or advance training. We then proceeded to the Bali Hai restaurant for a great lunch with some fantastic scenery, afterwards our last stop was Seaport Village allowing everyone to pickup last minute gifts or enjoy some coffee. Upon our return to the hotel it was time for our annual Business meeting.

Business meeting minutes

Meeting opened at 1545

President Williams gave Treasurer report for Kent Thomas who was unable to attend reunion.

Beginning balance \$2,908.34.

Income Dues, reunions fees and clothing sales \$8,599.00.

Total income \$11,507.34.

Expenses \$8104.90.

Current balance \$3,402.44 but other expenses will be billed prior to completion of reunion.

Treasure's report accepted by the body.

Kent Thomas is stepping down because of health issues; a replacement is needed.

Elections of Willie Williams and Joe Pietrosanti as President and Vice President approved (no one stepped up to assume Secretary/Treasurer position). President has these for action.

Shipmate Dave Engelbert gave a presentation on Denver Co. to include possible sites to visit.

Denver was nominated and approved to host 2018 reunion with USS Dixie joining us.

A proposal from Doc Chandler that items on raffle table should be auctioned instead of purchasing raffle tickets. Proposal was taken under consideration and will be voted on next year prior to.

Members would like neck lanyards for our name tags instead of what we currently have.

All business completed meeting was adjourned at 1618.

After dinner for some or a quick nap for others we again mustered in the hospitality room for last minute purchase of raffle tickets for the prize raffle which covered hospitality room costs. All seemed happy with the gifts brought from near and far before heading back to their rooms for the next day activities.

Day 3 Started off as a free day enjoying San Diego on your own or for some a relaxing day poolside at the hotel. Some members choose to attend USS Dixie meeting where they voted to join us in Denver in 2018. All joined us for our final banquet enjoying fellowship and honoring shipmates that we have lost since our last reunion. The meal was great and everyone enjoyed the evening and were hoping to win the 50/50 raffle or the free hotel night. We were sad that the joint reunion was coming to an end but happy that many friendships were renewed or started, looking forward to our 2018 reunion in Denver

If anyone desires a crew roster please email and I will forward one to you. If no email is available let me know one can be sent to you via snail mail.

For the good of the order The Department of Defense recently approved expanding military online shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans all four military exchanges (AAFES, NEXCOM, MCX, CGX) you're encouraged to verify your eligibility at VetVerify.org

In our ongoing effort to reduce costs and ensure timely delivery of information we encourage members if at all possible to use email (maybe someone in family can help) and as always you can find up to date information at our web page at www.usspiedmont.org.

I still have a limited number of Piedmont Flashlights; some members have expressed a desire to purchase additional ones for giveaway or stocking stuffers. If you are interested please contact me. Cost is \$2.00 each plus postage.

For those members who attended the San Diego reunion and have pictures that they would like to share please send them to Bruce MacAlister (b.macalister@ieee.org) so we can post on Facebook and our web page.

I personally want to express to Bruce MacAlister sincere thanks for maintaining our Facebook page as well as our web page; he has made several modification and upgrades improving both. Bruce was also asked and he accepted to become a Director assisting organization leadership

In closing we are still in need of a replacement Treasurer for Kent Thomas. I have stated many times that for us to be successful we must have members willing to step up and take on responsibilities the call has been sent out we need your help. Contact me via email griswold5@verizon.net or give a call 757-479-2733.

Expect our next newsletter is mid-April 2018; we should have dates and tours available then. Once dates are locked in. We will post on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/USS-Piedmont-AD-17-Reunion-Association-164900016906639/>) and the web page. Until then Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and may everyone have Fair winds and Following Seas.