

Rec'd 2/18/86

PEACE THROUGH POWER!

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN
NEWSLETTER NO. 24 04 DECEMBER 1985



WE ARE THE ARMS OF THE FLEET...

THE LEGEND OF SANTA BARBARA
THE PATRON SAINT OF CANNONEERS AND ORDNANCE MEN

"Santa Barbara, Virgin and Martyr," is said to have lived at the close of the third and beginning of the fourth century of the Christian era. In the Roman, the Greek and the Russian calendar her feast day is celebrated on 04 DECEMBER, the presumed anniversary of her martyrdom.

Born the daughter of wealthy Dioscorus, she grew in maidenhood so incomparably beautiful that her father shut her up in a high tower for safekeeping. Guarded by her virtue even more than by her father, she studied deeply in philosophy until she grew in her as surpassing in learning and character as she was in loveliness. Her studies and thoughts led her to see the folly of heathenism and she secretly became a Christian. Dioscorus, discovering that his daughter was a Christian, denounced her to the Governor of the province. After cruel torture she was condemned to be beheaded, and her inhuman father himself acted as her executioner.

For this deed Dioscorus was struck by lightning and wholly consumed. Ever since this exemplary vengeance, Santa Barbara has been generally considered as the protectress against thunder, lightning and explosive flame of all kinds, becoming thus by easy analogy--when gun powder appeared--the Patron Saint of all Cannoneers and Ordnance Men.

The Cannoneers of Lille, in France, commissioned under royal letters patent in 1417 as the "Confreres De Saint Barbe," were among the first to recognize her as a patroness and guardian. Their example was speedily followed through France, Italy, Germany and other European countries.

Her picture once hung in the Bureau of Naval Ordnance and now adorns literally thousands of ordnance handling shops throughout the world.

IT IS INDEED AN HONOR TO PRESENT THE 24TH EDITION OF OUR NEWSLETTER ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEAST DAY OF OUR PATRON SAINT "SANTA BARBARA!"

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT:

I wish to thank all members and guests who attended the convention at Reno in June of 1985. It was the largest attendance on record to date at both the business meeting and dinner. For those who did not attend, you missed a great time. Next year the convention will again be held in Reno at the Comstock Hotel & Casino on 20,21 & 22 June 1986. So look ahead and make definite plans to attend. Again, I wish to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as your National President. I will do my very best to support the Association and be deserving of your trust.

C.R. ONKEN

INTRODUCTION OF CHAPTERS:

The Association of Aviation Ordnancemen is extremely proud of it's chapters. The chapters continue to grow in number and memberships and are the backbone of the National Association. The continued successes of our organization rests with these chapters. In special tribute to these chapters, recognition is given below:

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Area</u>
ONE	NAS LEMOORE
TWO	MOFFETT FIELD
THREE	WHIDBEY ISLAND
FOUR	TIDEWATER
FIVE	CHINA LAKE
SIX	MCAS BEAUFORT
SEVEN	CHANNEL ISLANDS (PT. MUGU)
EIGHT	SAN DIEGO
NINE	JACKSONVILLE, FLA
TEN	SIGONELLA, SICILY (MT. ETNA CHAPTER)
SIXTY-FIVE	USS ENTERPRISE

NOTE: ANYONE DESIRING CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS/ADDRESSES OF CHAPTER OFFICERS WRITE OR CALL THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR. JOIN NOW.....

EDITORIAL RAMBLING: As usual, the Reno convention was a smashing success. I have never seen so many smiling faces and genuinely wonderful people. It was an interesting blend of people with varied backgrounds and interests. For thirty years plus I have been one damned proud AO! But let me tell you folks... This ol' boy would be extremely proud to carry any one of your tool boxes.. All of you big winners (\$1000.00 or more at one whack) do not forget to declare your winnings at tax time. Never knew that AOs were considered "DAPPER" until I overheard that phrase during the dance following the dinner in Reno. The lady that made that reference was describing the dance antics and appearance of none other than Mr. George Furze - one of the greats! Say... Shipmates... Do you have a pal who is soon retiring from the active duty AO ranks??? A lifetime membership in the AO Association makes a wonderful gift. Lastly... Anyone desiring financial statements concerning assets, receipts & expenditures of the AO Association may obtain same by writing the editor. FEEDBACK IS DESIRED AND SOLICITED. HELP TO IMPROVE YOUR NEWSLETTER. EDITOR/D. OAKES, JR. (DEL) 500 MASSACHUSETTS AVE. NORFOLK, VA 23508-2116. TELEPHONE (HOME) 804-622-9262 (WORK) 804-444-3343 AUTOVON 564-3343.....

1985 GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Financial report read & accepted... Minutes of the 1984 business meeting read and approved... Membership report given... Individual chapter's progress reports read into the minutes... Sam Crisp appointed to complete the term of office on the National Board of Directors (for Jim Rowe who resigned)... Election of a new National President (Chuck ONKEN, for a period of three years)... Elected to the National Board of Directors (Joe Manley & Tony Gonzales, for three years)... Elected Chaplain (Jim Irving, for an indefinite period)... Elected Parliamentarian (Len Preston, for an indefinite period)... Elected Convention Chairman (Jim Rupert, for the 1986 convention)... Newsletter Editor volunteer (Del Oakes, for an indefinite period)... Membership voted to name the Aviation Ordnanceman of the Year award the "JOHN W. FINN AWARD" Mr. FINN was the only Aviation Ordnanceman ever to win the Congressional Medal of Honor!!! Membership voted to name the National Association Scholarship Award the "ROBERT L. CROW Award" in recognition of an outstanding individual that we all loved and respected. He was the number one plankowner in the national association... Attendance figures for the business meeting was 122... attendance at cocktail hour was in excess of 300... attendance at the dinner was 221... (not all registered, so add a few to the totals)... Guest Speaker for 1985 was the distinguished RADM James M. Seeley, Medium Attack Tactical Electronic Warfare Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet. RADM Seeley gave an interesting and informative speech on readiness of today's Navy, world situations, special programs and events forthcoming. He also included a delightful sprinkling of good old fashioned humor and spoke candidly, fondly citing past experiences, of the value of the Aviation Ordnanceman to the successful accomplishment of the Navy's Mission. We are deeply appreciative of his attendance and stirring speech... Awards presented were the "John W. Finn Award" to the Aviation Ordnanceman of the Year A01 Charles LAVENE, of the USS CARL VINSON. Congratulations to a most deserving shipmate. Congratulations are also in order for the runner-up, AOC Thomas Sanford of VA-22 and all other nominees. Just the fact that you were nominated is indeed an honor. WELL DONE TO ALL... National Association Scholarships presented were: "The Robert L. Crow Award" to Deborah L. Schner and Peter L. Michel. Both were highly deserving and eligible under the established eligibility guidelines of the National Association of Aviation Ordnancemen... Honorary membership certificates and special recognition plaques were presented to two highly deserving and absolutely wonderful people, Doris Irving and Dottie Underwood... Mr. Tom Robbins, who served as National Association Secretary/Treasurer from 1976-1984 was presented a special award in recognition of his outstanding services ...

LISTING OF AO ASSOCIATION PARAPHERNALIA STOCKED BY CHAPTER ONE, NAS LEMOORE:

TEE SHIRTS--\$8.00 SPECIFY SIZE S MED LG EXTLG (CIRCLE SIZE) QTY _____
JACKETS--\$35.00 SPECIFY SIZE S MED LG EXTLG (CIRCLE SIZE) QTY _____
TIE TACS--\$3.00 QTY _____ COFFEE MUGS--\$6.00 QTY _____
AO PATCH (4")--\$3.00 QTY _____ BEER MUGS (15oz)--\$7.00 QTY _____
KEY HOLDERS--\$3.00 QTY _____ DECALS--\$1.00 QTY _____
PEN/PENCIL SETS--\$13.00 QTY _____ KOOL KUPS (BEER/SODA)--\$3.25 QTY _____

PRICES ARE FOR EACH ITEM... MONEY ORDERS & CHECKS ACCEPTED... DO NOT SEND CASH THROUGH MAIL... MAIL ORDERS TO: JOHN BAUGH, 1184 CLING CIRCLE, HANFORD, CA. 93230... BE SURE TO PROVIDE CORRECT RETURN ADDRESS

CHAPTER NEWS: (CHAPTERS OMITTED DID NOT SUBMIT A REPORT)

Chapter One: Chapter One recognizes Jim Rupert & Committee for the outstanding job they did in putting together the 1985 AO Association Convention. If you did not have a great time it certainly was not their fault. Thanks to all who purchased concessions from us at Reno. You have helped our scholarship fund considerably. We are proud and offer congrats to those selected for promotion in this area. AOC selectees--Forrester, Dennis, Brovelli, Hicks, Nelson, Beemus, and last but not least, the runner-up for the AO of the Year Award, Thomas Sanford. Congratulations are in order for CWO Chuck Mach who was selected for LTJG 636X, AOCs Jarrett & Heskett for selection to Ensign 636X and Ron Gwyn for selection to CWO 736X... Apologies in advance to anyone omitted. We also proudly announce the selection of AOAN Thomas R. Traylor as first quarter FY-86 SAILOR OF THE QUARTER. AOAN Traylor works in work center 700, AIMD, repairing M61A1 Guns for the A-7 & F/A-18 aircraft. We bid sayonara to LCDR Onken who is now with CNAP and welcome our newest member, LCDR Dan Holub, who reported to COMLATWINGPAC from CVW-14...

Chapter Three: On the 17th of Sept. our chapter held the election of officers. Lenny Francoeur was elected president, Doug Fyfe was elected vice-president, Earl Reep secretary, and Ed Hammond as Treasurer. The chapter is actively involved in community projects and in recruiting efforts for the Association. Welcome to our new members Ricky Young, Anthony Panarello, Kent Thompson, Joe Rice, Chris Seim, Don Johnson, John Terry and all others who joined after submission of this information to the National Newsletter. We are united in working toward making the AO Association a better organization...

Chapter Five: Chapter Five is very active these days. Many hours have been devoted to charity drives within the local community as well as special projects involvement. Recruiting efforts continue and the job market for retiring AOs still looks promising in the China Lake area. NWC & VX-5 are heavily involved in new weapons evaluation & testing. Several billets for active duty types are coming open in both units in the near future if anyone is interested... Coming to China Lake??? Call AOC Hagerman, AV 437-5384 for a friendly assist. Congrats to our CWO selectee, AOC Williams... That's right folks, AOC Wayland Williams made Chief Warrantant... WOW!!

Chapter Ten: Our newest chapter. Known as the Mt. Etna (Aetna) Chapter, this fine group of professionals was formed in the Sigonella, Sicily area. Welcome!

Chapter Sixty-Five: Enterprise reports lots of sea time this year... So far, she has flexed her muscles by supporting CVW-11 with maximum ordnance while she continues to be one of the best. We are sad to report the transfer of some of our shipmates. LCDR Ray Ramirez takes up gate guard duties at Beeville, Texas (IFN the detailee is shooting straight), AO1 Glenn "SCUBA" Tauscher is headed south to VX-4, AOC George "WHEELER DEALER" Miller returns to homesteading at Lemoore, and LT "AINT" THAT THE TRUTH" Richardson is attempting to teach the English how to speak ALABAMAN lingo at ST. MAWGANS.. We are shooting for a goal of at least 100 members... Fair winds & following seas to all...

AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN ASSOCIATION " HALL OF FAMER "

Born on 7 October 1918 (some say he was born an AO) at Timpson, Texas. At age six he moved to West Hollywood, California, attended and graduated from Fairfax High School of Los Angeles. He entered the United States Navy in 1942 on 2 April & served honorably in the following: NTS San Diego; AO "A" School in USNAS Sand Point, Seattle; reported to NAS Whidbey Island as an AO3 in September 1942, which was the commissioning date for the Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island; Served as Aerial Gunnery Instructor in Whidbey where he made Second Class in 1943 and advanced to AO1 in 1944. In October 1944 he transferred to NAS Kaneohe Bay, Oahu, HI; in November 1946 he reported to NAS North Island, California & reenlisted onboard in April 1948. During his tour at North Island he attended the Advanced AO School in Memphis, Tennessee, graduating on 27 January 1950 & returning to NAS North Island. He served in NAS Barbers Point, Oahu, HI., FASRON TEN at Moffett Field and VF-23 across the hangar from FASRON TEN from 1950 to 1957, respectively. During those years he served as a member/leader of special weapons loading teams and deployed on USS Yorktown (CVA-10). He next reported to USS Midway (CVA-41) in Bremerton, Washington saw the ship recommissioned, deployed to WESTPAC & changed homeports to Alameda, Ca. all in 1957 and 1958... He reported then to NOTS China Lake, California, where he worked as part of code 4021, the Weapons Development Department. It was here that he loaded the very first twelve "ARM" missiles for test firings. This missile was later named (excellent trivia) SHRIKE... Additionally, he worked on the development of numerous other new weapons gaining a reputation as an extremely talented Aviation Ordnanceman. In July 1962 he retired from active duty and began working for a satellite contractor on the "SHRIKE" program, was hired into Civil Service in June 1966 and retired from Civil Service in September 1978. Citing personal data, he met one Miss Mildred HOLLAND, a lovely lady indeed, & following his overseas tour they ventured off to Las Vegas, Nevada where they were married in January 1947. They have three sons (all born in Naval Hospitals), four grandchildren, have been married for over 38 years and are still happily counting..

WHO IS THIS SHIPMATE & FELLOW AO???? answer is elsewhere in this newsletter....

NOTE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY/TREASURER:

IN ORDER TO HOLD OFFICE IN THE NATIONAL & LOCAL CHAPTERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN MEMBERS MUST BE IN GOOD STANDING. SOME OFFICE HOLDERS ARE BEHIND IN PAYMENT OF THEIR ANNUAL DUES. PLEASE KEEP YOUR DUES CURRENT. ALSO, A REMINDER TO PROVIDE ME WITH A CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS AND/OR CHANGES IN STATUS AS THEY OCCUR...

MEMBERSHIP FEEDBACK: Honored member Leonard H. Preston writes, " Dear Editor, How do you feel about asking the membership to speak out to their Senators/Representatives on issues that affect both active and retired members (such things as SBP changes, retirement issues, income tax benefits, active duty entitlements, social security changes, etc..)? He goes on to say that he feels that we should solicit response from our membership on this issue, and to date we have not done so...

DEAR Mr. Preston, Very well put & your point is well taken. I concur strongly that all of us should write letters to our elected officials sounding off on our beliefs and feelings on issues. If we sit back on our duffs and do nothing - then we deserve everything we get from the elected officials...Please folks.... get on the bandwagon and write to your elected officials today. Our membership is growing and what you say will carry a lot of weight. - Editor.

MEMBERSHIP FEEDBACK CONT:

Mr. Preston also submitted the following recommended change to the by-laws:

Recommended Change to Section Four, paragraph Two of Article Six:

1. Delete Paragraph Two Section Four and change to read as follows.

The Secretary/Treasurer, within a minimum of thirty days prior to the Annual Business Meeting shall engage the services of a qualified bookkeeping/ Certified Public Accounting Service to review all aspects of the monetary transactions of the Association. He shall request a report from this service verifying the results of this review and also request notifications of any infractions that were noted and in addition, any recommendation for improvement to the records in general. A copy of this report shall be forwarded to the President of the Association. The Secretary/Treasurer shall present the Association's financial records and the results of this aforementioned review at General (Annual) business meeting. Sufficient copies of this report shall be available for the general membership, to read, if desired...

Mr. L.B. Tucker, another honored member submitted the following:

Dear Editor, I certainly enjoyed the reunion in Reno this past June. It was my first AO Association get-together and a real thrill for me to see Mr. Tom Robbins and Ray Morgan as they had worked for me on the Oriskany in 1956. I did not get the name and address of the gentleman who had made AO3 in 1926 and sat at the head table during the banquet. Could you please pass along this information to me? Also, in your next newsletter, could you please enclose the following: " To the gentleman who wanted to photograph the display of rating badges that I had at the reunion just before the banquet, please contact me (L.B. Tucker, 658 Sweathouse Rd., Victor, MT. 59875). I have a photo for you."

Dear Mr. Tucker, It was certainly a pleasure to hear from you. That distinguished gentleman who made AO3 in 1926 was none other than Mr. Alvin R. "ABE" Kall. I had the pleasure of dining with this dynamic man one evening in Reno and it was a most enjoyable and entertaining evening. That man is absolutely a noted historian on the Aviation Ordnance Rating and the Navy in general. His address will be passed to you by separate correspondence. - Editor.

ANSWER TO HALL OF FAMER ARTICLE:

MR. Opel Anders of Chapter Five, China Lake area. His address is 316 Balsam St. Ridgecrest, California 93555, if any friends would like to contact him.

REUNION NOTICE: USS BELLEAU WOOD (CVL-24)
AND ATTACHED AIR GROUPS: 27 MAY - 01 JUNE 86
IN LAS VEGAS, NV. CONTACT RICHARD D. FREAD, P.O.
BOX 846, ANNANDALE, VA 22003
TELEPHONE (703) 642-5670
SUBMITTED BY ROBERT L. ROSS, USS BELLEAU WOOD
ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT 2732 SOUTH US 23
OSCODA, MI 48750

PARENT ORGANIZATION OFFICIALS
THE ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
<u>PRESIDENT:</u>		
ONKEN, CHARLES R. LCDR USN	291 SPRUCE PLACE LEMOORE, CA 93245 (209) 924-2503	06/88
<u>VICE-PRESIDENT:</u>		
MOORE, TROY C. CWO-4 USN	2138 LA MESA CT. SPRING VALLEY, CA 92077	06/86
<u>SECRETARY/TREASURER:</u>		
GANNON, GERALD F.	1245 CUNNINGHAM AVE ST. CHARLES, MO 63301 (314) 946-0503	06/87
<u>BOARD OF DIRECTORS:</u>		
PRESTON, LEONARD H.	6172 HILL VIEW CT. JACKSONVILLE, FL 32210 (904) 771-8349	06/86
RUPERT, JAMES, AOCS	COMNAVAIRPAC CODE 931 NAS NORTH ISLAND SAN DIEGO, CA 92135	06/86
CRISP, SAM, MGYSGT	408 WEST GLADSTONE APT 60 GLENORA, CA 91740	06/87
O'DELL, RALPH V.	2777 N. 1650 E. OAK HARBOR, WASH 98278	06/87
MANLEY, LARRY J. LCDR USN	12848 CASA CT. POWAY, CA 92064 (714) 748-0207	06/88
GONZALES, TONY	6391 TINTERN CIRCLE E. JACKSONVILLE, FL 32244	06/88
<u>HISTORIAN:</u>		
WEAVER, A. DOUG	3073 ABER ST. SAN DIEGO, CA 92117 (714) 748-0207	INDEF.
<u>SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:</u>		
ENGLISH, F.E. LCDR USN	CVW-3 FPO MIAMI, FL 34099	INDEF.
O'DELL, RALPH V.	SEE ABOVE	INDEF.
<u>MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:</u>		
MOORE, TROY C. CWO-4 USN	SEE ABOVE	06/86
<u>BY-LAWS COMMITTEE:</u>		
PRESTON, LEONARD H.	SEE ABOVE	INDEF.
<u>PARLIMENTARIAN:</u>		
PRESTON, LEONARD H.	SEE ABOVE	INDEF.

WORD SCRABBLE

D S C H O L A R S H I P I E
A V O R D 2 R U P L W E T H
N 9 D I N N E R E 3 8 A R J
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SUBMITTED BY JIM RUPERT:
THE KEY TO THE NEXT AO
ASSOCIATION CONVENTION
IS HERE.FIND OUT ABOUT
IT....

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3. AVORD.
4. ASSN.
5. AT
6. THE
7. COMSTOCK
8. HOTEL
9. CASINO
10. RENO
11. NV.
12. JUNE
13. 19
14. 20
15. 21
16. 22
17. RATE
18. 28 (SAME AS LAST YEAR)
19. MEETING
20. DINNER
21. DANCING
22. GUEST
23. SPEAKER
24. SCHOLARSHIP
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