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NATIONAL AAO
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Auxiliary of the Association of
Aviation Ordnancemen(AAAO)

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2023 AAO CONVENTION

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AAO NATIONAL PRESIDENT CAPTAIN MATT ARNOLD

Greetings fellow warriors, members of the auxiliary, family, and friends of the association. I hope that this newsletter finds you and your loved ones well. It is hard to believe that we have completed another convention. I appreciate all of you who traveled from near and far to attend this year's event. The total attendance for this year's event exceeded my expectations and, even though we were missing some of our normal attendees, it was enjoyable to see all who did attend. It continues to be my honor to work with each of you in enhancing our association. I urge each one of you to look for ways to increase the impact of this organization on our profession and our community. We must rely on our members, with the guidance and assistance of our elected leaders, to chart the course we will navigate. The success of this association requires that we work together in order to achieve the best effect.

First, I would like to offer my personal congratulations to the Lieutenant John W. Finn Ordnanceman of the Year selectee, AO1 (AW/SW) Justin D. Weide and Runner-Up, AO1(AW/SW/IW) Anita L. Zyskowski. Congratulations also goes out to our newest AAO Hall of Honor Inductees: CAPT (Ret.) William E. Bindel, CDR (Ret.) Dion J. Edon Sr., CWO4 (Ret.) Robert S. Walecki, AOCM (Ret.) Diane McQueen-Gipson and Ms. Mary Ellen Bailey. To all our newly elected and installed national officers, I offer my congratulations and my thanks for your willingness to serve this great organization. I would also like to express the appreciation of the association to the former officers for providing the guidance necessary to keep this organization operating smartly

and effectively. To the national officers who continue to serve I offer my personal thank you for your performance of the work required to support the association. Finally I would like to express the appreciation of the association to the local chapter officers and members who work diligently to advance the purposes of this association.

Finally, I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to all of the members who selflessly worked to plan and support the execution of another successful annual convention. The success of this endeavor rests squarely upon the shoulders of a small number of our members who perform a lion's share of the work. They perform this work with very little recognition and even less reward. I will not individually recognize these members, as I am sure I would forget one or two, so I will just offer hearty thanks for all you do to support this event.

In closing I wish you and yours Fair Winds and Following Seas. Please keep our Sailors, Marines and civilian employees, wherever they are stationed or deployed, in your thoughts and prayers. Please continue to support this organization and the purposes to which it is dedicated. I look forward to the great works that this association will perform in the future.

IYAOYAS,

Matt



AAO NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT AOCS(RET) TIM ZIMMER

Ahoy maties!

Greetings Redshirt Nation. Had another absolutely successful convention this year. Kirk Brado, thank you, again, for putting on an outstanding event. You're always on top of everything and we salute you. For those that don't know, next year will be Kirk's last hurrah as the Convention Coordinator. He is taking a much deserved rest and will join the peanut gallery I'm sure. Our National Secretary, JJ LaMaitre and his bride, Tess, will be taking over starting in 2025. To say you both have big, big shoes to fill is an understatement. But, I have no doubt you will step in and knock it out of the park. We held elections for Vice President, Secretary and (2) Board of Director (BOD) positions this year. Yours truly was re-elected as Vice President. I want to thank all of you for your continued confidence, I will do my damndest to earn it. Congratulations to JJ LaMaitre, who was re-elected as our Secretary, Dion Edon, who was re-elected to the BOD, and welcome aboard Niomi Deppe, who was elected to the BOD. Niomi is the current President of Chapter 8 in San Diego and I'm sure she will bring a lot of insight and enthusiasm to the Board. A big THANK YOU to Angela Sobieski for her years of service to the BOD. For planning purposes, next year the office of Treasurer and (2) BOD positions will be up for election. If you wish to nominate someone, email the nomination to me, including the nominee in the TO line. All nominations must be received by 01 April, 2024.

Congratulations to this year's John W Finn Aviation Ordnanceman of the Year, AO1 (AW/SW) Justin Weide from USS Harry S Truman (CVN 75), and Runner Up, AO1 (AW/SW/IW) Anita Zyskowski from USS George H W Bush (CVN 77). As testament that our selection process works, each of them were selected to put on anchors this year. BRAVO ZULU to you both!! Also during the convention, we added (5) members to the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen Hall of Fame. Welcome aboard CAPT Bill Bindel, USN (Ret), CDR Dion Edon, USN (Ret), CWO4 Robert Walecki, USN (Ret), AOCM Diane McQueen-Gipson, USN (Ret) and MS Ellen Bailly.

And last, but certainly not least, the Scholarship Committee awarded scholarships totaling \$22,000 to Erika Crews, Madelynn Simpson, Sydney Robinson, Jason Spaccarelli, Payton Spaccarelli, Alexandra Mulleery and Maxwell Lemieux. Congratulations to you all!

During this year's BOD meeting we approved the establishment of Chapter 805, Pt Mugu, CA. Welcome to the fold! I know you'll do good things and positively promote the Association. We're still having membership issues among the Chapter officer ranks. Just so you all are aware, in order to hold a Chapter officer position, you must be a member of the Association. That means paying dues to us at the National level, not dues at the Chapter level. **IF WE DON'T HAVE YOU ON THE ACTIVE ROSTER, YOU CAN NOT BE AN OFFICER.** Due to the work performed by our Webmaster, Amber Roth, and National Treasurer, Todd Pendleton, memberships (annual and lifetime) can be submitted and paid for on the Association's website, reshirtnation.com. You can even pay your lifetime dues in payments! Please help us in getting this taken care of. Also, unfortunately, we're still having issues with chapters submitting required reports. And that doesn't mean submitting an article to the Redshirt! That means sending us the minutes of meetings you are supposed to have at least once every (2) months and your annual financial report. It doesn't take that much effort, so please, send them in so we know all of the good things you're doing out there. If we don't receive comms from you, we will disestablish you, period.

As always, if any of you ever have any questions/comments/suggestions, feel free to contact any of the National Officers. All of our email addresses can be found on the back of the front page.

IYAOYAS!

Tim



2004 Commander, Strike Fighter Wing, Pacific Weapons
AOCS Tim Zimmer, AO1 Scott Rutledge (CWO4 retired),
LCDR Dion Edon (CDR retired) and AOC Mike Reed (retired)

AAO NATIONAL SECRETARY
AOCM(RET) JJ LAMAITRE

Please note that I have moved, and my landline is no longer available; you can use the Red Shirt Nation email address nationalaaosec@gmail.com.

Greetings Ordies – We had a good Convention in Reno this year; numbers were better than last year, and it was great to see some Chapters well represented this year. The General Business Minutes are elsewhere in this edition of the Red Shirt.

Thank you for reelecting me to another (and final) tour as Secretary; it's a privilege and honor to serve you. Also, thanks to the re-elected VP, Tim Zimmer, and BOD member Dion Edon for continuing to serve. A big welcome aboard to Niomi Deppe to the BOD; Niomi, you have some big shoes to fill. Angela, Thanks for all your dedication as a member of the BOD over the past years.

Start NOW making plans for Convention 2024 to be held at the Silver Legacy Resort Reno, NV from 31 July through 04 Aug 2024. Chapters need to contact Kirk (POC info in the Red Shirt) or myself to set up tables to sell merchandise. Come set up early at the AOLMC starting on Monday, 29 July.

The BOD approved the contract extension at the Silver Legacy through 2027. A lot of factors went into the decision, including meeting spaces, room rates, ease of transportation to and from the airport, costs associated with those items, and more. In other words, 'Best Bang for the Buck' for the membership. The National leadership

is sensitive to the costs of attending the Convention; we will continue to strive to hold costs down.

Chapter Officers – Chapter Reports have improved; however, we had to disestablish another Chapter this year. The good news is we approved Chapter 805 (Pt. Mugu) this year, and we welcome them to the Association. I need Chapter Reports submitted to me on a regular basis. Do NOT put your Chapter into an 'Inactive' status.

Have a safe Holiday Season, hope to see some of you in Laughlin at the Aquarius Resort (Reservation Code 'GR AAO 24') on January 11th – 14th 2024 for the Convention Planning Meeting over the Martin Luther King weekend, a good time for all. See the info elsewhere in this Red Shirt and Web Site for more details.

It has been a Privilege and Honor to serve as your secretary for the past 9+ years; if there is anything I can do to assist, give me a shout. I look forward to seeing and meeting some of you in Laughlin.

If you have any questions or concerns, or if any National Officers can assist you or your Chapter, ASK. IYAOYAS!

R,
JJ LaMaitre
AAO Secretary



**AAO NATIONAL TREASURER
(NEWLY ELECTED)
CWO4(RET) TODD PENDLETON**

Convention AAO23 was a great success. Thanks to all those who participated and donated to make this a successful year. Congratulations to the AOY and Runner-Up, Scholarship Awardees, and the Hall of Fame inductees; it was a huge year. The website works as advertised, and the printout and mail-in Registration Form are also available.

Chapter Officers, look at your members and encourage non-National members to join National. It is very easy now, go to www.redshirtnation.com and join via the website. If you are an inactive member, don't hesitate to get in touch with me via email and get current on your annual dues, or consider becoming a Life member. We want you to stay involved and contribute what you can: knowledge, time, expertise, or donations. Remember, all Chapter Officers must be National members in good standing to hold their office.

The Annual Financial Reports are due at the General Business Meeting in Reno. Chapters should submit their annual financial report after the end of May 2023 and before 15 Jul 2023. If your chapter has yet to submit the FY22-23 Annual report, do so ASAP. Those reports are part of our income tax filing and are necessary. Treasurers, if you need the Form for the annual report, email me as soon as possible, and I will send you the format.

Have you had a promotion, change of status (recently retired), or contact info change? If so, go to the website, print out the membership form, fill out all the information on the form, scan or take a photo of the form, and email it to me with a note on the form: "Contact Info Update Only." Address changes are still a problem. I need your changes as soon as you know you are moving. When I get a Renewal Notice or Red Shirt returned to me, I am removing that person from the Red Shirt list until I have a current mailing address. If you see someone's name on the locator list, let them know. Sign up to get yours electronically via the "Contact Info Update Only" method!! You can make the updates by filling out a membership form from the website (www.redshirtnation.com) and noting "Contact Info Update Only," you can also e-mail them to me at nationalaaotreas@gmail.com. If you see your name on the Locator list, please email your updated address to get you the next Red Shirt. If you see somebody you know on the Locator, it means I don't have their current mailing address or email address and can't send them updated materials.

IYAOYAS!
Thanks,
M. Todd Pendleton
(360) 632-7828
nationalaaotreas@gmail.com
National AAO Treasurer



**AAAO PRESIDENT
TERESA ZIMMER**



Hello there!

I hope this finds you all doing well. Wow, what a successful convention we had this year! We raised \$13K for the Scholarship Fund this year due to very generous doners and bidders. We thank you all! It was an outstanding Friday Night Auction! We're hoping to have all of you join us again next year. We always love taking care of our AO family during the week. We also appreciate all of the support we received from the Aviation Ordnance Managers Leadership Continuum attendees as well.

This year we had a breakfast at our Saturday general business meeting. I have to say, I thought it turned out fantastic. We all enjoyed ourselves. Keep it in mind for next year, you all are invited. Come join the fun! We love to make new memories. Oh, and we take care of lots of business too! We are the Arms of the Fleet!

Congratulations to our 2023 Circle of Support

recipient Mary Ann Luan.

Mary Ann joined the Auxiliary in 1991 as a Plank Owner and is a lifetime member. She created the Taste of Home project as well as many other efforts. Mary Ann is truly an honored "Pioneer" of the Auxiliary.

Until next time enjoy your Fall and Winter and we look forward to seeing you all in January for our

planning meeting in Laughlin.

Regards,

Teresa Zimmer – AAEO President



OUR AMAZING AUXILIARY
DOING WHAT THEY DO
BEST...
TAKING CARE OF US
THANK YOU AAEO!!!



2023 JOHN W FINN AVIATION ORDNANCEMAN OF THE YEAR**AO1 (AW/SW) JUSTIN D. WEIDE****CVN-75 USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN-75)**

AO1 Justin D. Weide is a native of Ingleside, Texas, and joined the Navy on June 2nd 2010, where he reported to Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois. Upon completing Basic Training, he reported to Apprenticeship Training at NAITC Pensacola, Florida. In November 2010, he reported to the USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN-74). He was assigned to Weapons G-3 division and Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department (AIMD), where he advanced to Third and Second Class Petty Officer. During his first tour, he completed two FIFTH fleet deployments in support of Operatio NEW DAWN and ENDURING FREEDOM. He then elected to volunteer for back-to-back sea duty and was assigned to VFA-131.

AO2 Weide reported to VFA-131 during their pre-deployment workup cycle. He deployed in June of 2016 onboard the USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN-69) and advanced to the rank of First Class Petty Officer. While assigned to VFA-131, AO1 Weide was appointed workcenter 230 Assistant Leading Petty Officer. Furthermore, AO1 Weide qualified as Collateral Duty Inspector (CDI), Quality Assurance Safety Officer (QASO), Release and Control Team Leader, and QUAL/CERT board member. Following his successful tour with VFA-131, AO1 Weide was assigned to serve at SFWSLANT Atlantic to instruct FA-18A/F Conventional Weapons Loading (CWL) and Conventional Weapons Technical Proficiency Inspection (CWTPI) classes.

During this tour, he held several positions and collateral duties, such as the Aviation Ordnance division Leading Petty Officer (LPO), Command Security Manager, Command Career Counselor (CCC), First Class Petty Officer Association (FCPOA) President, FCPOA Vice President, Association of Aviation Ordnancemen (AAO) Chapter 4 Treasurer, and AAO Chapter 4 Vice President. Additionally, he earned his Master Training Specialist qualification and associate degree in Criminal Justice from American Military University.

AO1 Weide checked onboard CVN-75 USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN-75) in June of 2021 and has served as Weapons Department LPO, Weapons Department zone manager, G-3 LPO, Weapons Department Assistant Command Career Counselor, Weapons Department Security Manager, Weapons Duty Officer, Weapons

Training Team and Duty Section Leader.

AO1 Weide's personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (7), Navy Good Conduct Medal (4), Military Outstanding Volunteer Medal, Fiscal Year 2022 PMA-201 Precision Striker Award recipient and numerous other unit awards.

(He has recently been selected to Chief Petty Officer NAVADMIN 203/23 /FY-24 ACTIVE-DUTY NAVY E7 ADVANCEMENT SELECTION BOARDS)



2023 JOHN W FINN AVIATION ORDNANCEMAN OF THE YEAR RUNNER-UP

AO1 (AW/SW/IW) ANITA L. ZYSKOWSKI

USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75)

Petty Officer First Class Anita L. Zyskowski was born on June 15, 1993, and raised with a Polish background in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, New York. In 2006, she moved to Wilmington, Delaware, and graduated high school.

From there, she joined the U.S. Navy in July 2012. Following the completion of Recruit Training Command, she attended Aviation Ordnance "A" School at Naval Air Technical Training Center, Pensacola, FL.

Petty Officer Zyskowski's first sea tour began in 2013 onboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), homeported in Norfolk, VA. As G-3 Team Leader and Magazine Supervisor, she completed two deployments. In between her sea tour, she gave birth to her son Abel Riviere in 2016 and completed a tour at Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 2 (HSC-2), granting her the experience of MH-60s. She returned to the USS Harry S. Truman as Aviation Weapons Movement Control Station Supervisor and Departmental Qualification Certification Program Manager. She received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection), Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist, Enlisted Information Warfare Specialist, and advancement to Second Class Petty Officer.

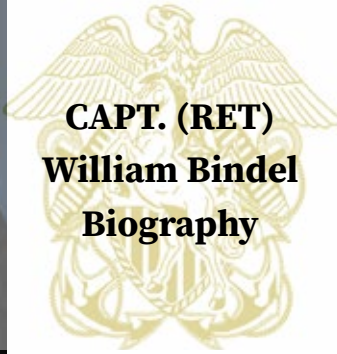
In 2019, she reported to Strike Fighter Squadron 106 (VFA 106) of Naval Air Base Oceana, Virginia after completing F/A-18E/F Weapons "C" school. There, she completed over 60 detachments, qualifying 265 Fleet Ready Aircrew annually. During her tour, she was hand-selected by Combat Strike Fighter Wing Atlantic to contribute to the Chief Naval Operations directed Sailor 2025 initiative. Her duties and achievements included Ordnance Workcenter Production Leading Petty Officer, Full Systems Quality Assurance Representative, Command Qualification Certification Board Member, Command Duty Section Leader, and FCPOA Public Affairs Officer. She completed her Associate of Science in Business Administration at Tidewater Community College with Magna Cum Laude honors in 2020.

Checking onboard USS George H. W. Bush in January of 2022, Petty Officer Zyskowski was the G-3 Production Leading Petty Officer onboard. Thus far, she has successfully completed three major

ammunition on loads, TSTA/FEP, and FOUR significant COMNAVAIRLANT Inspection setting the Department as Best in the Fleet standard and being awarded the BLACK W. Presently, she is assigned as G-3 Division LPO, leading nine First Class Petty Officers and 150 Sailors. Her duties and achievements include Weapons Training Team Member, Ordnance Qualification Certification Board Member, Gunnery Liaison Officer and Weapons Department Duty Officer, and Officer of the Deck (in port). Awarded Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medal.

(She has recently been selected to Chief Petty Officer NAVADMIN 203/23 /FY-24 ACTIVE-DUTY NAVY E7 ADVANCEMENT SELECTION BOARDS)



ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN 2023 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

**CAPT. (RET)
William Bindel
Biography**

Captain Bindel was born in El Paso, Texas, and raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is married to the former Tamma Denise Morris of San Diego, CA. They have two beautiful daughters, Jessica and Jordan. Captain Bindel enlisted in the United States Navy in December 1980 and trained as an Aviation Ordnanceman at the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington, TN. After “A” School training, he reported to A-6 Aviation Maintenance Training with the “Green Pawns” of VA-42, NAS Oceana, VA, then transferred to VA-42 Ordnance Work Center. In January 1984, he reported to the “Black Panthers” of VA-35, NAS Oceana, VA, and made two Mediterranean deployments and a North Atlantic deployment onboard USS NIMITZ (CVN 68).

In March 1987, Captain Bindel transferred to Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department, Naval Air Station Cecil Field, FL. During this tour, he was selected as NAS Cecil Field’s 1988 Sailor of the Year and initiated into the Chief Petty Officer ranks in September 1989. In November 1989, he returned to A-6’s with the “Sunday Punchers” of VA-75, NAS Oceana, VA. In August 1990, he deployed to the Red Sea in support of Operation DESERT SHIELD onboard USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67).

In January 1991, he was commissioned an Ensign through the Limited Duty Officer program and successfully completed Officer Indoctrination at Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL; he then reported to the “Blue Blasters” of VA-34, Naval Air Station Oceana, VA. He subsequently deployed to the Arabian Gulf onboard USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) for Operation DESERT STORM and post-hostility contingency operations. Additionally, during this tour, he completed “Shake Down” cruise as a Plank owner onboard the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73).

In January 1994, Captain Bindel transferred to the Fleet Aviation Specialized Operational Training Group Atlantic, Detachment Oceana, VA. As the Weapons Department Head, he was tasked with establishing the East Coast Mobile Ordnance Training Team (MOTT), which conducted weapons

assembly procedures on all Atlantic Fleet aircraft carriers and shore-based weapons stations.

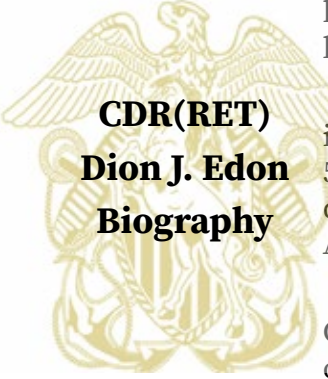
From January 1996 to April 1999, he was assigned to the USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64), Naval Air Station North Island, CA, as the G-3 Division Officer. He deployed for seven months to the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH before reporting to Naval Aviation Schools Command, NAS Pensacola, FL, as an Aviation Ordnance Officer Career Progression “Ordnance University” Instructor. During this tour, he earned the Master Training Specialist designation.

Captain Bindel was assigned to USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65), Naval Station Norfolk, VA, from October 2001 to April 2004 as the Ordnance Handling Officer. After a comprehensive 15-month Extended Dry-dock Selected Restricted Availability, he deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation’s ENDURING and IRAQI FREEDOM. In May 2004, he assumed duties as Officer in Charge of the Ordnance Handling Safety Assistance Team (OHSAT), Norfolk, VA.

From August 2005 to August 2008, he was assigned to USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75), Naval Station Norfolk, VA, as the Weapons Department Head (Gun Boss). During this assignment, he deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and Maritime Security Operations. Captain Bindel was then assigned to Commander, Naval Air Systems Command, Patuxent River, MD, from September 2008 to September 2011 as the Senior Fleet Weapons Liaison Officer in Program Executive Office Unmanned Aviation & Strike Weapons (PEO U&W).

From October 2011 to June 2013, Captain Bindel was assigned to Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic, Norfolk, VA, as the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Officer (Gun Boss). From July 2013 to July 2017, he was assigned to Commander, Naval Air Forces/ Commander, Naval Air Force, Pacific, San Diego, CA, as the Force Gun Boss. His final assignment was to the Joint Information Operation Warfare Center, San Antonio, TX, as the Division Chief, Strategic Operations Division. He then retired in October 2019.

Captain Bindel holds a Master of Science Degree from Columbia Southern University in Organizational Leadership, Level III Certification in Program Management, Life Cycle Logistics, and Production, Quality, and Manufacturing from the Defense Acquisition University, and is an Acquisition Core Professional. He was the “Silver Eagle” senior Limited Duty Officer, as well as “Red One” senior Aviation Ordnanceman in the United States Navy. His personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3), Navy Commendation Medal (6), and Navy Achievement Medal (3), as well as numerous campaign and service medals.

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN 2023 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES


**CDR(RET)
Dion J. Edon
Biography**

CDR(RET) Dion J. Edon was born in Chicago, Illinois. He entered active duty as an Airmen Recruit in June 1981 and attended boot camp at RTC Great Lakes.

His assignments include VA-86, Naval Strike Warfare Center. USS Ranger (CV-61; HSL-33; VFA-22; NAS North Island; NAF Diego Garcia; USS John C Stennis (CVN-74); CVW-9; Strike Fighter Wing Pacific; USS Ronald Reagan (CVN-76); COMPACFLEET; Naval Airborne Weapons Maintenance Unit – One; and Naval Air Forces Atlantic.

His awards include the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), Navy-Marine Corps Overseas Ribbon (3), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (9), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation (5), Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3), Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal (5), and Meritorious Serve Medal (5).

He had an incredibly successful active-duty career,

moving from Airmen Recruit to Chief Petty Officer and Commander, serving as a Navy Mustang. His 34 years of dedicated service to

the Navy and the defense of our Nation is a testament to the enduring contributions and countless personal sacrifices he and his family have made to preserve the freedoms and liberties all Americans cherish.

As CAG 9 Gunner, he was the driving force in the virtually flawless 96% delivery rate of 585,000 pounds of fused ordnance on target during Operations ENDURING FREEDOM AND ANACONDA.

As the Commanding Officer of NAWMU-1, CDR Edon orchestrated one of the largest ordnance sentencing efforts on record, inventorying, inspection, and repairing 5,970 ordnance components aboard USNS AMELIA EAHART: improving accountability, material condition and saving \$3 million dollars. His direct coordination with NAVAIRSYSCOM weapons programs managers established AIM-9X missile section maintenance repair capability, reducing fleet costs and enhancing readiness.”

Upon Dion’s retirement from active-duty service in 2015, he continued to positively contribute to the success, professionalism, and reputation of the AO community as a government civil servant supporting the Fleet, Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division China Lake and Commander Naval Air Forces Atlantic as a Shipboard Weapons Integration Team (SWIT) team member and NAVAIR Liaison to Commander Naval Air Force’s, Gun Boss. His continued active commitment to the National and Chapter 4 Association of Aviation Ordnancemen. He is both a past President and Vice President of our Association. Everywhere he has served, he has infused the local chapter with enthusiasm & excitement. He currently serves on Chapter 4 and National Board of Directors. He was Commanding Officer 13 of Naval Air Weapons Maintenance Unit – ONE.

Life Member 1451, he is unquestionably worthy of our Aviation Ordnance Hall of Fame.

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN 2023 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

CWO4 (RET)
Robert S. Walecki
Biography

CWO4 (RET) Robert S. Walecki entered active duty as an E-1 on 21 January 1974 and attended boot camp at RTC Great Lakes, IL

His assignments include Aviation Ordnance 'A' School NATTC Memphis, TN; USS Midway (CVA-41); VA-52, NAS Key West FL; VAQ-132; VAQ-129; VPU-2; NAS Adak, AK; VFA-27; NAS Lemoore; VFA-22; and VFA-125;

CWO4 Walecki's awards include Southwest Asia Service Medal (2), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (10), Vietnam Service Medal (Operation Frequent Wind), National Defense Service Medal (3), Navy Expeditionary Medal (4), Meritorious Unit Commendation (4), Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2), Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal (3), and Meritorious Serve Medal.

Rob had an extremely successful active-duty career, moving through the ranks from E-1 to CWO4. During that career, his efforts made a significant and positive impact on the Aviation Ordnance community and the Navy as a whole. Since retirement, he has continued to contribute to the success, professionalism, and

reputation of the AO community through his continued high level of commitment to the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen and the Aviation Ordnance Community.

Following his military career, his contributions to the ordnance community included working as a civilian contractor supporting the Warfighter as a NAVAIR NAWCWD Fleet Weapons Support Team member from 2004 through 2016. He was recognized by NAWCWD with the Warfighter Support Award in recognition of his exceptional superior service and dedicated efforts as a member of the Fleet Weapons Support Team (FWST) and outstanding support to the Warfighter

He is a stalwart supporter of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen and has been involved with the Association for more than four decades since joining in 1982. He first attended a meeting with Chapter 3, Whidbey Island, WA. He founded Chapter 11, Barbers Point Hawaii, and has been a member of various Chapters for 30 consecutive years.

His contributions to the Association go far beyond the local Chapter level. He has been a National Board of Directors 2005-2105 and has participated on the John W. Finn Aviation Ordnanceman of the Year Board for more than 25 years. He served as the National Vice-President of the Association from 2015-2019. He has also participated on the Robert L. Crow Scholarship Committee. He has contributed significantly to fundraising for the Auxiliary's Association's scholarship programs, as well as being the auctioneer.

He is Life Member # 0948 and is most deserving of his induction into the Aviation Ordnanceman Hall of Fame.





**AOCM (RET)
Diane McQueen-Gibson
Biography**

AOCM (RET) Diane McQueen-Gipson entered active duty in January 1988 and attended boot camp at RTC San Orlando, FL.

Her assignments were: Aviation Ordnance 'A' School, NATTC Memphis, TN; VA-128; NAF El Centro, CA; NAS Agana, Guam; Naval Air Station Sigonella, IT; VS-41; HS-10; VS-35; USS Ronald Reagan (CVN-76); Naval Operational Logistic Center / Ammunition Management Office Pacific; USS Peleliu (LHA-5) Navy Munitions Command CONUS West Division Detachment San Diego, CA; USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71).

Awards include: Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Nation Defense Service Medal (2); Meritorious Unit Commendation (3); Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (5); Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (6); and Meritorious Service Medal (2).

Some of her specific contributions, special achievements, and superior performance include:

Sailor of the Quarter 4 times, Authorized to sign Safe for Flight in three different squadrons and two different Type Model Series Aircraft. As CVN-76 G3 LCPO, she led 165 Sailors through eight ordnance onloads totaling 2,571 tons of ordnance valued at \$284.3M during the 2005 Training and Fleet Readiness cycle.

While onboard CVN-71 as the Weapons LCPO she provided the leadership that enabled the CVN-71/CVW-1 team to successfully complete 1,510 sorties delivering 1,109,259 pounds of conventional ordnance on-target to include 1,089 Precision Guided Munitions in support of Operation INHERIT RESOLVE.

AOCM McQueen-Gipson was awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for 24 years of monetary support and sponsoring of seven children through Plan International as a foster parent, countless hours of voluntary support to the Bonita Vista High School Debate Team, Over 100 hours of highway cleanup with the Aviation Ordnanceman's Adopt a Highway program, and as Chapter Eight's Annual Family Day Picnic Coordinator.

Master Chief has been at the forefront of the Aviation Ordnance community for the past 35 years, she is currently a DoN Civilian Ordnance consultant with COMNAVSURFOR. Her contributions to the Aviation Ordnance community are reflected in her awards, qualifications, and top rankings in each active-duty command.

She was the 5th female promoted to AOCM in Naval history. AOCM Diane McQueen-Gipson is Life Member #8826 is unquestionably worthy of our Aviation Ordnance Hall of Fame.





MS

Mary Ellen Bailey Biography

MS Mary Ellen Bailey entered Federal Civil Service in July 1973.

A career civil service employee, she held the following positions: Naval Air Test Center Budget Analyst; NAVAIR AIR 3.1 Contract Service Analyst; NAVAIR PMA-201 Logistics Management Specialist supporting Harpoon, SLAM-ER, & AWW-13 pod programs; and Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division as Financial Management Analyst and Resource Funds Manager.

A dedicated civilian who, while never serving in the uniformed Armed Forces, has dedicated her entire adult life to the Ordnance community with over 50 years supporting our Fleet Marines and Sailors, Program Offices, and support activities in various roles. Ellen has excelled in every facet of Aviation Ordnance program office logistics support providing in unwavering and selfless efforts throughout her career which have made significant and positive impact on the Aviation Ordnance community which will be realized for years to come. With her retirement from civil service, and her deep desire to continue to support the Fleet Sailor & Marine, she continues her service as a contract support services employee

supporting the Program Executive Officer, Unmanned Air Vehicles and Weapons. Ellen's deep experience in Ordnance logistics documentation, budget exhibits and financial processes has been called upon by many Logisticians, Program Managers, Resource Sponsors, and Sustainment leads to help ensure they provide what is needed to sustain our legacy Aviation Ordnance inventory and provide sound logistical support planning for our next generations munitions. She provides the expert oversight in the program planning, budgeting, and execution of \$540M of operations and sustainment funding, \$18M in spare funding, and acts as a PEO U&W financial liaison to the Naval Aviation Enterprise execution of \$445M of Overseas Contingency Operations funding.

MS Bailey has not only devoted her life to the support of the Aviation Ordnance community through her performance as a civil servant, she has also dedicated her time to supporting various non-profit organizations that work to better the lives of our Marines, Sailors, and their families, both in service and after. Her dedicated efforts have provided donations of over \$16,500 to the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen Scholarship fund and also personally coordinated the fund raisers that donated over \$17,000 to the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home providing support to our retired veterans.

She is both a Lifetime Associate Member of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen and Lifetime Member of the Auxiliary to the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen. MS Bailey is most deserving of her induction into the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen Hall of Fame.



2023 AAO ROBERT L. CROW SCHOLARSHIP
AWARDEES

2021 Robert L. Crow

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS:

ERIKA F. CREWS (\$7,000)

Madeline Simpson(\$6,000)

SYDNEY A. ROBINSON (\$3,000)

2023 ADDITIONAL

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNER

In Memory Of LCPL Angela Ladao-Heppe Scholarship Donation

\$2,500 Scholarship Award

Jason Spaccarelli

In Memory Of Denise Walecki Scholarship Donation

\$2,000 Scholarship Award

Payton Spaccarelli

Donation from CWO-4 James F. Saxton Scholarship Donation

\$1,000 Scholarship Award

Alexandra Mullery

In Memory Of Ed Scott Scholarship Donation

\$500 Scholarship Award

Maxwell Lemieux

SCHOLARSHIP CONTRUBUTORS

AO3 James C. Sensing

AOCM Tom Lord

AOCM Richard A. Hastings

AOCM Edward J. Hannifan

AO2 John Steven Foshee

Mr. Douglas A. Brindle

AOC Adam T. Pierce

Mr. Philip Terzich (In memory of AO1 Tony
& Phyllis Terzich)

Mr. Lawrence R. Doyle

AO1 Gerald O. Terrell

Chapters 72, 22, 3, 39, 69, 9, 4, 8, 21, 5

IN MEMORIUM

Francis Carmichael – In Memory of LT John W. Finn USN Ret

Doris From – In Loving Memory of CWO3 Roy From USN Ret

AAO CH 9 – In Memory of CDR Floyd English USN Ret & CWO4 Ed Scott USN Ret

AAO CH 8 – In Memory of LCDR Jim Thompson USN Ret

AAO CH 3 – In Memory of AOCM Dave Michel USN Ret

AOC Chris & Maureen Carter – In Memory of LCDR Jim Thompson USN Ret

AOC Bob Underwood USN Ret – In Loving Memory of Dottie Underwood

AOCM John & Tess Lamaitre USN Ret – In Memory of CWO4 Mike Smith USN Ret

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN 2023 GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

The 2023 Convention is another great success and no major issues have come up. 2024 dates are July 25, 2024 to August 05, 2024 here at the Silver Legacy. Planning Conference for 2024 Convention to be held in Laughlin, NV at the Aquarius Hotel Resort on January 11th to 14th 2024. Reservation Code 'GR AAO24'. We are here at the Silver Legacy through 2027. Reminded Chapters to reserve tables for selling their gear.

By-Laws Committee, Kirk Brado, Chairman – No Changes were submitted.

AO Scholarship Committee, Jeff Sassone, Chairman Pro Tem-

Thanked the Chapters and the Auxiliary for their contributions to the Scholarship Fund. The Committee was comprised of six members, one Auxiliary member, and five retirees. The members represented over 273 years of Ordnance experience. A total of \$16,000 in Scholarships (broken up into 9 Scholarships) were awarded. There was 10 packages received, 3 of which were disqualified, leaving 7 applicants up for consideration. The reasons for disqualification include: 2 hand written and 1 did not have an official transcript. The winners were announced at the Awards Banquet and are presented here for the record:

Scholarship Winners for 2023:

Association of Aviation Ordnancemen Robert L. Crow \$7,000 Scholarship Award (1)

Erika F. Crews, Daughter of William E. Crews, Robert L. Crow \$6,000 Scholarship Award (1),

Madeline Simpson, Daughter of George Simpson, Robert L. Crow \$3,000 Scholarship Award (1)

Sydney K. Robinson, Granddaughter of Oscar J. Robinson

2023 Additional Scholarship Award Winners

In Memory Of LCPL Angela Ladao-Heppe Scholarship Donation \$2,500 Scholarship Award (1)

Jason Spaccarelli, Brother of Bryan Spaccarelli

In Memory Of Denise Walecki Scholarship Donation \$2,000 Scholarship Award (1)

Payton Spaccarelli, Brother of Bryan Spaccarelli

Donation from CWO-4 James F. Saxton Scholarship Donation \$1,000 Scholarship Award (1)

Alexandra Mullery, Daughter of John Mullery

In Memory Of Ed Scott Scholarship Donation \$500 Scholarship Award (1)

Maxwell Lemieux, Grandson of Alidor Lemieux

AO of the Year Committee, Tim Zimmer, Chairman –

The committee considered 42 packages. 13 Members, including active duty and retired members representing over 379 years of Ordnance experience, participated in the deliberations. The winners were announced at the Awards Banquet and are presented here for the record:

John W. Finn Aviation Ordnancemen of the Year for 2023: AO1 (AW/SW) Justin Weide. CVN-75 Harry S. Truman

Aviation Ordnancemen of the Year for 2023 Runner-Up: AO1 (AW/SW) Anita Zyskowski, CVN-77 USS George H.W. Bush

Membership Committee, Tim Zimmer, Chairman –

Overall, the National Association experienced good active member growth this last fiscal year, in both Life and Annual memberships. Thanked Todd and Amber for their work on the Web Site. The following is

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN 2023 GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Matt Arnold, President, called the 2023 Association of Aviation Ordnancemen General Business Meeting to order at 0904, 29 July 2023, at the Silver Legacy Resort, Reno, NV. He then led the General Membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Steve Varga, Chaplain, gave the opening prayer.

The Ordie song was then played.

The business of the Association was then initiated.

There were 60 members present for the Business Meeting. The Registration List is Enclosure (1) to these minutes.

General Announcements:

The President reminded everyone in attendance to fill out a General Business Meeting Registration card.

Official Announcements:

In accordance with ARTICLE VII, Section 2 of the By-Laws, the privilege of nominating, making motions, debating and voting is reserved for regular members of the Association during the course of this meeting.

Under Roberts Rules of order Article 31, when we get to the elections the President will, after giving ample opportunity to make nominations from the floor, with no further nominations forthcoming, close the nominations. A motion to close nominations will be in order.

Report on the Board of Directors Actions During the Course of the Year (since last Convention 2022):

- a. Approved the Board of Directors Minutes from Convention 2022 on October 8, 2022. Minutes are part of Appendix A.
- b. Approved the disestablishment of Spartan Chapter (Souda Bay) effective January 31, 2023 (January 14, 2023).
- c. Approved Board of Directors Minutes from January 14, 2023. Minutes are part of Appendix A. (February 7, 2023).
- d. Approved the 2023/2024 Budget. (May 27, 2023).
- e. Approved Chapter 805 (Pt. Mugu) Stand Up. (July 27, 2023)
- f. Approved extension for Conventions at the Silver Legacy through 2027.

John (JJ) LaMaitre, Secretary, reported that the minutes of the 2022 General Business Meeting was published in Red Shirt #149 with additional copies being available in the rear of the room and on the tables. A synopsis of the minutes was read after which the President called for any required corrections or deletions. A motion was made and seconded to accept the 2022 General Business Meeting Minutes as published. Without objection the motion was passed. The 2022 General Business Minutes are enclosure (2) to these minutes.

The Treasurer then gave the Financial Report. Copies of the 2023/2024 Approved Budget including the 2022/2023 Expenditure Report are available in the rear of the room and on the tables. The Treasurer then asked if there were any questions. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Financial Report as delivered. Without objection the motion was passed. The 2023/2024 Approved Budget is enclosure (3) to these minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

2023 Convention Committee, Kirk Brado, Chairman –

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN 2023 GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

provided for your information:

1. Total Association Regular Members	FY21-22	FY22-23		
Total Active Members	1458	1577		
Life (Includes Associate Members)	885	943		
Annual (Includes Associate Members)	428	487		
Honorary (Included above)	145	147		
Past Due (01 June 2022 – 31 May 2023)	149	143		
2. New Membership				
New Regular Members	149	91	-39%	
New Associate Members	2	3		
New Life Members	54	66	+22%	
3. Other Demographics				
Inactive Members:	8064	8151	+87	
Deceased Members	928	941	+13	
4. Life Member Demographics				
Life Members making payments	9	12		
Contributing Life Members	391	431	+43	Note 1
Aged Out Life Members	494	585	+23	Note 2
(Paid Life Dues have run out)				

Note 1: This positive gain is less than the amount of gained Life Members due to losing the Aged-Out Life Members in Note 2.

Note 2: This number includes all Aged-Out Life Members and those that were grand-fathered Life Members which makes last year’s number short of what is should have been.

Nomination Committee, Tim Zimmer, Chairman –

The following offices are open for election/reelection:

Vice President – Presently held by Tim Zimmer

Secretary – Presently held by John ‘JJ’ LaMaitre

Board of Directors (Two)- Presently held by Dion Edon and Angela Sobieski. One of these seats MUST be Active Duty to comply with the Bylaws.

Nominee for Vice President: Tim Zimmer (Incumbent)

Nominee for Secretary: John ‘JJ’ LaMaitre (Incumbent)

Nominees for the Board of Directors:

Dion Edon (Incumbent)

Angela Sobieski (Incumbent)

Naomi Deppe

If no nomination(s) are received from the floor, the President’s Office will be fill by voice vote by the members present.

If floor nominations are received a ballot will be required. The nominee must be present and accept the

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN 2023 GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

nomination. The voting will be conducted utilizing the ballots that were provided as the members checked in for the General Business Meeting and their membership status was verified to be current.

The voting procedures will be restated prior to the voting and again before each vote is taken.

AO Hall of Fame Committee, Jeff Sassone, Chairman –

There were five packages up for consideration. Six members (4 HOF members and 4 Commanding Officer’s) made up the committee and represented over 233 years of Ordnance experience. Encouraged Chapters to go find that deserving HOF candidate locally and submit a package. The winners was announced at the Awards Banquet and is presented here for the record:

Association of Aviation Ordnancemen AO Hall of Fame Selectee’s for 2023

CAPT (RET) William E. Bindel

CDR(RET) Dion J. Edon Senior

CWO-4 (RET) Robert S. Walecki

AOCM (RET) Diane McQueen-Gipson

MS Mary Ellen Bailey

AO Museum Committee, Tim Carroll, Chairman – No report.

AAO Website Report, Amber Roth, Chairman –

Amber was not in attendance. Capt. Matt Arnold President, gave an update on the website and the upgrades to the website over the past year. Both Amber and Todd Pendelton are always finding ways to improve the website.

Red Shirt Newsletter Report, Amber Roth, Chairman –

Capt. Matt Arnold President, gave an update on the great job Amber is doing with the Red Shirt. Reminded the Chapters or individuals to submit inputs.

Reunion Book Committee, Steve and Sheryl Varga, Chairman –

The Reunion Book is \$30 cash, check, or cards accepted as payment. Requested that everyone get their pictures taken early and stated that the evolution will commence at 1600 until 1745 in Silver Legacy B.

Chaplain Report, Steve Varga, Chaplain –

Was just appointed and will get a pass down from Mart Vance who had to step down last year. Please keep the members and family in your thoughts and prayers.

Safety Committee, Mike Gramolini Chairman –

Mike was not present. Capt. Matt Arnold President, gave a Safety Review submitted by Mike including shipboard forklift mishaps, historical 2018 – 2023 Mishaps, CODR’s and EER’s FY-22, Explosive Safety Deviations Worldwide, Shore and Shipboard Inspection trends in FY 22. Stressed that safety is paramount in our day-to-day business. Please forward to Mike or Captain Arnold anything you want to see in future briefings.

Chapter Reports:

There are presently 28 active Chapters:

Chapter 1	NAS Lemoore, CA	Chris Hathaway
Chapter 3	NAS Whidbey Island, WA	Angela Sobieski
Chapter 4	Tidewater Area, VA	Chelondra Hinton
Chapter 5	NAWC China Lake, CA	Rudy Ortiz
Chapter 8	San Diego, CA	Niomi Deppe

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN 2023 GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Chapter 805	Pt. Mugu, CA	Steve Lovette
Chapter 9	Jacksonville, FL	Kayla Slinger
Chapter 21	NAS Fallon, NV	Nicholas Duiette
Chapter 22	NAS Patuxent River, MD	Capt. (Sel) Steve Folsom
Chapter 34	NAS Pensacola, FL	Tyson Temples
Chapter 39	MCAS Beaufort, SC	Read into the record
Chapter 671	Guam	Melanie Diaz
Chapter 68	USS Nimitz (CVN 68)	No Report
Chapter 69 (CVN-69)	USS Dwight D. Eisenhower	Justin Rives
Chapter 70 (CVN-70)	USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70)	No Report
Chapter 71 (CVN-71)	USS Theodore Roosevelt	No Report
Chapter 72 (CVN-72)	USS Abraham Lincoln	Kayce Dennison
Chapter 73 (CVN-73) (RCOH)	USS George Washington	
Chapter 74 (CVN-74) (RCOH)	USS John C. Stennis	
Chapter 75 (CVN-75)	USS Harry S. Truman	No Report
Chapter 76 (CVN-76)	USS Ronald Reagan	No Report
Chapter 77 (CVN-77)	USS George H. W. Bush	No Report
Chapter 78 (CVN-78)	USS Gerald R. Ford	No Report
Desert/SW Chapter	NAF El Centro, CA	No Report
Chapter Key West	Key West, FL	No Report
Chapter Spartan	Souda Bay, Crete	No Report
Chapter LHD 1	USS Wasp (LHD 1)	No Report
Chapter LHD-4	USS Boxer (LHD 4)	No Report
Chapter LHD-8	USS Makin Island (LHD 8)	No Report
Auxiliary		Teresa Zimmer

Contributions to AAO Scholarship Fund received:

Total donations received was \$23,486.54 including Chapter donations, Friday night auction total \$11,425, and walk-up donations at the registration table of \$535.

Old Business: The President called for any further Old Business.

New Business: The President called for any further New Business.

2024 Convention Committee, Kirk Brado, Chairman –

Announced that next year’s Convention will be held here at the Silver Legacy, Reno, NV. The Convention is 25 July thru 05 August 2024. Chapters need to contact Kirk Brado or JJ LaMaitre (POC’s info in the Red Shirt) to set up tables to sell merchandise. Come early and set up for the AOLMC starting on Monday July 29th. Communication is the key to the success of all the planned activities at this convention. Room rates are \$84 Sunday – Thursday, and \$110 Friday / Saturday. Use the key link on the www.redshirtnation.com web site to make reservations.

Bylaw Change Proposals, Kirk Brado, Chairman.

A change to the Treasurers duty’s for submitting the annual financial report has been submitted.

President: Appointment of Committee Chairmen. Appointed Jim Fish and Dennis Patterson to start the turnover of the Scholarship Committee in 2024.

Absentee Voting Status, Tim Zimmer, Vice President –

Total ballots received: 0

Invalid ballots due to not being a member or associate member: 0

Invalid ballots: 0

Total ballots to count during voting: 00

Absentee ballots received last year (2022): 00

Election of Officers, Matt Arnold, President –

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN 2023 GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

NOTE: Article V (5) Section 3 states that "A minimum of two officers must be active-duty personnel, one of which must be on the Board of Directors" (Requirement met).

The President called for the election of Association Officers, he announced that the offices open for election are those of the Vice President, Secretary, and two seats on the Board of Directors.

The following individuals were nominated for the offices identified:

Nominee for the office of Vice President: Tim Zimmer, AOCS USN (Ret) (Incumbent)

Nominee for the office of Secretary: John 'JJ' LaMaitre, AOCS USN (Ret) (Incumbent)

Nominees for the Board of Directors: Dion Edon CDR USN (Ret) (Incumbent), Angela Sobieski LT USN (Incumbent), Naomi Deppe AO1 USN

Election for the office of Vice President, position currently held by Tim Zimmer.

The Nominees are: Tim Zimmer AOCS USN (Ret)

Tim Zimmer was re-elected via floor voice vote (actuation) to continue to serve as Vice President, term to expire 2026.

Election for the office of Secretary, position currently held by John 'JJ' LaMaitre.

The Nominees are: John 'JJ' LaMaitre AOCS USN (Ret)

John 'JJ' LaMaitre was re-elected via floor voice vote (actuation) to continue to serve as Secretary, term to expire 2026.

Election was held for the Board of Directors position currently held by Angela Sobieski.

The nominees for the Board of Directors: Dion Edon CDR USN (Ret) (Incumbent), Angela Sobieski LT USN (Incumbent), Naomi Deppe AO1 USN

Naomi Deppe was elected via ballot vote to serve on the Board of Directors, term to expire 2026.

Election was held for the Board of Directors position held by Dion Edon.

The nominees are: Dion Edon CDR USN (Ret) (Incumbent), Angela Sobieski LT USN (Incumbent)

Dion Edon was reelected via ballot vote to serve on the Board of Directors, term to expire 2026.

All officers will be installed after the Awards Banquet Dinner is completed.

Election of Officers up in 2024, Tim Zimmer, Vice President –

The following offices will be open for election/reelection in 2024:

Treasurer: M. Todd Pendleton CWO4 USN (Ret)

Board of Directors (Two): Jeff Sassone, CDR USN (Ret.), Al Dean, Capt. USN (Ret)

NOTE: Nominations for these Offices must be submitted to the Vice-President No Later than 1 April 2024. The Nominee must accept the nomination in Writing and be willing to fulfill the obligations of the office.

Jeff Sassone, Al Dean, and Angela Sobieski were all nominated and accepted to run for the offices on the BOD for 2024.

Further Business: The President called for any further business or input from the floor.

LTCOL Tallman USMC gave a state of the Marine Corps presentation.

Closing remarks & announcements, Matt Arnold, President –

The President announced that next year's 48th Convention would be held here at the Silver Legacy, Reno, NV from 25 July thru 05 August 2024.

Recognized 90-year young MGYSGT Terrance Shown USMC Ret. (In 1977) for one of his bucket list items, 'Attending the AO Convention.'

Waylon Williams is looking for A-7 Sailors for the A-7 Association.

Jeff Sassone will look at compensations currently allowed for in Appendix A and see if they are still relevant in today's environment.

BOD meet to be held at 1330 in Silver Baron B.

A moment of silence was held for those all of our departed Shipmates.

Chaplain Steve Varga delivered the closing prayer.

There being no more input from the floor and no more business to conduct the President closed the 2023 General Business Meeting of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen at 1120, 29 July, 2023.

Enclosures 1 thru 3 are on file with the National Secretary.

Submitted by:

John "JJ" LaMaitre
Secretary

Approved by:

Matt Arnold
President

IN SUPREME COMMANDERS SERVICE

AOCM Chris Monahan*** AO2 John Steven Foshee***
AOC Luis Miguel Quintana*** CWO3 Albert E. Allison***
AO1 Frank E. Cooper ***

* Info from FRA Today Newsletter/** Info from VFW Magazine/***Other

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

AO2 Nicole L. Whitby	Rodriguez	AO2 Anastasia K. Shellito
AO1 Johnny L. Smith	AOCS Anthony L. Hedgpeth	LTJG Sean H. Smith
AO1 Lawrence S. Nath	AO3 Adam C. Butner	CDR Jason E. Conyer
AO2 Mark A. Shaw	AO1 Mikal J. Weinke	LCDR Daniel J. Pratt
AOC Steven A. Lovett	AOC Adam T. Pierce	AOCS Cynthia D. French
AO2 John T. DeMonaco	LT Wesley J. Blyleven	MGySgt David G. Rubio
AO1 Taylor B. Jones	Mrs. Jeanie A. Moore	AOCS Frank E. Rough
AOCM Michael S. Catron	AO3 Judith A. McDonald	LT Randy D. Miller
CWO3 Lindsey M.	Ms. Mary Ellen Bailey	

NEW MEMBERS

AO1 Thomas D. Amyx	AOA Rylan S. Davis	AO2 Bill E. Britt
AO1 Josiah R. Feeney	AOA Nicholas Reece	AO2 Hugo F. Salazar
Sgt Rene S. Rodriguez	AOAA Triston G. Herrmann	AO2 Naython M. Ortiz
AO1 Lawrence S. Nath	LTJG Sophia S. Murillo	AO1 Richard A. Pagan
AO1 Ashley S. Folson	AO2 Victoria A. Wheeler	AO2 Nicole N. Rusk Bonilla
AO2 Jhassper Q. Santiago	AO1 Melanie M. Diaz	AO1 Chelondra M. Hinton
AO1 Shaquana M. Jackson	CWO3 James R. Lemar	AO2 Joshua M. Farren
AO1 Zachary T. Snider	AO1 Armando G. Rivera	AO1 Adeola B. Adeleye
AO2 Alvaro M. Benitez	AOC Bethany S. Turner	AO2 David U. Gaona
AO2 Keisha A. Garcia	AO1 James V. McDonald	AO2 Walter Johnson
AOC David L. Jordan	AO2 Jeremiah A. Acosta	LT Antonio Dominguez
AO1 Angelo G. Depina	AO1 Johnny L. Smith	CWO2 LeRhone Burch
AO2 Brian N. Michel	AO2 Myesha L. Harris	AO2 John A. Heiney
AOC Miranda C. Plaza	AO2 Arin R. Felton	AO1 Jamaal Davis
AO1 Max A. Mistecka	AO2 Kayla T. Slaughter	AO2 Dalton M. Slinger
AO2 Jonathan R. Maultsby	Cpl Ariana L. Hidzinski	AO1 Eric G. Goodson
AO2 Shadoe M. Culclager	AO2 Jane H. Park	SSgt Joseph J. Buttitta
AO2 Jason E. Borders	AO1 Dean A. Knepp	CWO3 Nikki M. Reiter
AO3 Sarah A. Cowen	AO2 Maryl V. Rubia	AO3 Kyle A. Holder
AO2 Emilee Lamb	LS2 Baosen Song	

LOCATOR

Can you help? Know where any of these members can be located? Let them know to go to redshirtnation.com, fill out the membership form to update contact info and if you have a mailing address or phone number, please contact me at nationalaaotreas@gmail.com, snail mail or give me a call.

AO1 QUINTON M. JOHNSON (NC)	MR. SCOTT D. KEENER (NC)	ATC RANDY A. BRENNEMAN (NC)
AO2 HUNTER S. MATHEWS (NC)	AO2 CHRISTIAN A. MENDOZA (NC)	AO3 RUBEN E. BRESIER (NC)
LT RYAN A. GROGAN (NC)	AO1 CAMERON M. THOMAS (NC)	AOCM DARRYL E. BURTON (NC)
AO1 ALEXANDER E. CALDERON (NC)	AO1 DEANNA D. AGUILAR (NC)	AO1 DAVID A. CAGE (NC)
GM2 CLAYTON L. CHAPMAN (NC)	AO2 WILLIAM G. CREWS (NC)	GYSGT ROBERT D. FARMER (NC)
AO1 DANIEL T. GOE (NC)	AO1 ANN R. BIGGS (NC)	AO1 STEVEN HERNANDEZ (NC)
LTCOL AUGUST F. MALSON (NC)	AOC CARY B. BUEL (NC)	AO3 ISAAC J. HERZOG (NC)
AOCS FREDERICK D. MARQUEZ (NC)	AO1 ARTHUR J. GERNT (NC)	AO1 ANTHONY D. JAQUES (NC)
AOC CHRISTOPHER J. MORGAN (NC)	LCDR ZACHARY A. MACDONALD (NC)	AOC WILLIAM B. KEEL (NC)
AO2 SEAN M. O'HARA (NC)	AO1 KEVIN F. MARBURY (NC)	AOC JOHN A. KNIGHT (NC)
AO2 JASON P. ROGNONI (NC)	AO1 DEVIN T. POSEY (NC)	AOCM PEDRO D. MALDONADO (NC)
AO1 SEAN D. SHELEY (NC)	AO3 WALTER STINNER (NC)	AO3 GUNNAR W. MARTINEZ-JACOBI (NC)
AO2 WILNER A. SISON (NC)	AO2 KEVIN L. MCEACHIN (RN)	AO1 CHRISTOPHER A. MCCUEN (NC)
AO1 BRIAN M. GROLL (NC)	AO1 DEVON D. MERRITT (RN)	AO1 BRENT W. NESBITT (NC)
AO1 RICHARD L. HOPKINS (NC)	AOAN ETHAN L. MONSKA (RN)	AO2 RUDY A. ORTIZ (NC)
AOC ERIKA A. MCDOUGALL (NC)	AOAN JOSEPH G. NAVARRO (RN)	AOCS ALICIA N. PARKS (NC)
AOAN DAVID FERNANDEZ (NC)	AOAN COLLIN W. OBERG (RN)	LT TRAVIS PEASE (NC)
AO3 CHANCE N. HALE (NC)	AO2 BRIAN G. SPACCARELLI (RN)	AO1 GIUSEPPE E. SALLESE (NC)
AO2 JUDE A. LOYA (NC)	CWO4 JOHN W. STOKELY (RN)	CWO2 CRYSTAL L. TOLES (NC)
AOC DELBERT B. MITCHELL (NC)	AO3 DARYL D. WALLS (RN)	AO3 JAVION K. TURNER (NC)
CWO4 ERIC E. RICHMOND (NC)	AO1 JONATHAN A. STONEHAM (RN)	MR. WAYNE WERFF (NC)
AO3 CURTIS L. ROBINSON (NC)	LCDR ZACHARY A. MACDONALD (RN)	AO1 MATTHEW WHITSON (NC)
AOAN SCOTT A. SAWYER (NC)	AO2 STEVE PENNY (RN)	AO2 KYLE A. BACHMANN (RN)
AO1 SYDNEY O. SMITH (NC)	AO2 KIANA M. GARCIA (RN)	AO2 BIONICA N. BOYD (NC)
AO2 MARINA L. VEGA (NC)	AO2 LEVI J. LITTLEJOHN (RN)	AO1 DEVON D. MERRITT (NC)
AOAN JOSE L. VELAZQUEZ (NC)	AO1 BRENT W. NESBITT (RN)	AO3 EVET GUTIERREZ (RN)
AO1 BRANDON Q. HUDSON (NC)	AO3 JAVION K. TURNER (RN)	
	AOC NICHOLAS A. BEEMER (NC)	

NOTES: (RN) = RENEWAL NOTICE RETURN / (RS) = RED SHIRT RETURN / (NC) = 2 YEARS NO CONTACT

CHAPTER LISTING

FIND YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER OR START ONE IN YOUR AREA.

GO TO WWW.REDSHIRTNATION.COM/ FOR THE APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES.

Chapter 1 - Lemoore, CA
 President-Christopher Hathaway
 Vice-President- AOC Christopher Masterson
 Secretary-AO3 Evet Gutierrez
 Treasurer-Johnny Wheat
 Fleet Reserve Club, D Street,
 Lemoore
 3rd Thursday, 1730

Chapter 3 - Whidbey Island, WA
 President- Taylor Serr
 Vice-President- Bethany Turner
 Secretary- Emilee Lamb
 Treasurer- Walter Johnson
 VFW Post 3037
 Fourth Wed of the month, 1130

Chapter 4 - Virginia Beach, VA
 President-AO1 Jaree D. Cokley
 VP-AO1 Jason Young
 Secretary- AO2 Chancelor Ellis
 Treasure- Maggie Despain
 VA Beach VFW #392, 2408
 Bowland Pkwy
 3rd Wednesday, 1800

Chapter 5 - China Lake, CA
 President-AOC Casey Wheelock
 Vice President (AO2 Rudy Ortiz)
 Secretary (AO3 Isaac Herzog)
 Treasurer (AO3 Javion Turner)
 chapter5chinalake@outlook.com
 VFW 4080, 117 N. Alvord
 Last Flex Thursday of Month,
 1800

Chapter 8 - San Diego, CA
 President-Michael Sheppard

Vice President-Diane McQueen-Gipson
 Secretary & Treasurer-Barry Stemler bstemler36@gmail.com
 American Legion Post 255,
 National City
 1st Thursday, 1900

Chapter 9 - Jacksonville, FL
 President-LCDR (Ret) Steve Cashat
 Vice President-AOCS(Ret) Dennis Patterson
 Secretary-LCDR(Ret) Steve Cashat ordy04@yahoo.com
 Treasurer-AOCM(Ret) Rick Wyman
 Fleet Reserve, Collins Road
 3rd Thursday, 1900

Chapter 11 - Kaneohe Bay, HI
 President-AO1 Wilson Leiva
 Wing 2 Bldg, (John Finn Bldg)
 1st Friday, 1600

Chapter 21 - Fallon, NV
 President-AO1 Brent Nesbitt
 Vice President-AO1 Juan Pelayo
 Treasurer-AO2 Taylor Jones
 Secretary-AO2 Jocelyn Nicolet
 American Legion Post 16 Fallon,
 NV.
 1st Wednesday, 1830

Chapter 22 - Patuxent River
 President-AO2 Brian Spaccarelli
 Vice President-AO3 Symone Gay
 Treasurer-AO1 Vasilisa Bingham

Secretary-Rob Pavel
 VFW, Post 2632 California, MD
 3rd Wednesday, 1800

Chapter 34 Pensacola, FL
 President-AO1 Ann Briggs
 chapter34ordie@gmail.com
 O'riley's Irish Pub downtown
 321 S Palafox St, Pensacola, FL
 1st Wednesday, 1830

Chapter 35-Lightning Chapter
 President-AO1 Garrett Ly-Kinhan
 CNATT Det Eglin JSF F-35 ATC
 3rd Thursday, 1500

Chapter 39 Dude Gilbert
 Beaufort, SC
 President-Rob Farmer
 Vice-President-Chris Hooper
 hoop9777@gmail.com
 Treasurer-Del Tingley
 Secretary-Jason Grayson
 After Burners Staff NCO Lounge
 1st Thursday 1645 When
 permitted with COVID
 restrictions

Chapter 671 - Guam
 President-AO1 Marcus Van
 Molly McGee's onboard Naval
 Base Guam
 3rd Thursday, 1900

Chapter Desert Southwest - El
 Centro, CA.
 President-AO2 Georgina
 Ahumada geenah90@gmail.com

Chapter LHD 1 - USS Wasp

President-AO1 Niko Batres
On Board

Chapter LHD 4 Gator Chapter

President-AO1 Trenton Hagley
On Board

Chapter LHD 7 - USS Iwo Jima

President-AO1 Rosalie A. Lashley
On Board

Chapter LHD 8 - USS Makin Island

President-AO1 Terrance Dukes
On Board

Chapter CVN 68 - USS Nimitz

President-AO1 Walter Adams
On Board

Chapter CVN 69 - USS Dwight D Eisenhower

President: AO1 Justin Rives
ssphiend08@gmail.com
Vice President: AO1 Adrienne Anderson
Secretary: AO2 Alvaro Benitez
Treasurer: AO2 Brian Michel
On Board

Chapter CVN 70 - USS Carl Vinson

President-AOC Jason Nixon
Secretary-AOC Jeffery V. Williams
Jefferywilliams085@gmail.com
On Board

Chapter CVN 71 - USS Theodore Roosevelt

President-AO1 Jose Pando
On Board

Chapter CVN 72 - USS Lincoln

President-AO1 Roden
On Board

Chapter CVN 73 - USS George Washington

President-AO1 Thurman McDowell
On-Board

Chapter CVN 74 - USS Stennis

President-AO1 Benjamin Llewellyn
On Board

Chapter CVN 75 - USS Truman

President-AO1 Dixon
Vice President-AO1 Flowers
Master at Arms-AO1 Everett
PAO-AO3 Nichols
Secretary-AO3 Bates
Treasurer-AO2 Crider
On Board

Chapter 76 - USS Ronald Reagan

President-AO1 Justin Fallone
On Board

Chapter 77 - USS George H.W. Bush

President-AO1 Rebecca Wright
On Board

FROM THE EDITOR:

HELLO RED!!! I hope you are all well and doing fantastic! Our 2023 convention was a success (as always).

RED SHIRT ARTICLES

20 JANUARY, 1 MAY, 20 SEPTEMBER

REDSHIRTEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

Chapter CVN 78 - USS Gerald Ford

President-AO1 Marbury
VP-AO1 Campbell
Secretary- AO2 Fetty
Treasurer- AO2 Soberg
VFW Post 3160 111 A View, Norfolk, VA
last Thursday of every month, 1400

Chapter Southernmost

Key West, Fl
President-
Sunset Lounge, at Sigsbee ANNEX

Chapter Spartan Souda Bay, Greece

President-AO1 Gilmore Estrill
Meeting Time and Location Varies
3rd Thursday of the month

ON THE TRACKER:

2024 AOLMC & CONVENTION PLANNING MEETINGS

11 – 14 January 2024

AQUARIUS RESORT

Laughlin, NV

Must call to make reservation

800/662-5825 Ask for Code: GR AAO24

Sun-Thu @ \$45.00 Fri & Sat @ \$75.00 +Plus Resort Fees and taxes; Rates Are Good For 3 Days Prior to 3 Days After

Cut-Off Date is 29 Dec 23.

AOLMC Meetings on Friday, 12 January at 1300 (?) Convention Meeting is Saturday, 13 January at 1000

The meetings are held to finalize details & plans for the 2024 Events.

Everyone is welcome! Plan To Join Us!!

CHAPTER ONE

Greetings from Chapter One! Lemoore, CA

Things have been slow for the Chapter as membership is down, and many Ordies are busy with work-ups or on deployment. We have rolled through the summer and had a great time in July at the Convention, catching up with some old friends we haven't seen in a while and meeting some new ones. Congratulations to AO3 Skyler Rice from VFA-146 for being selected as Chapter ONE's Outstanding Junior Sailor for 2023. We hope you enjoyed your time in Reno and join us again next year. We had a small turnout for the annual picnic in August, and it was a good time for those who attended. A sincere Thank You to Tom Lord and Carleton Roe for their donations to the scholarship fund in memory of Mr. Chuck Onken.

Congratulations to VFA-125 on passing the most recent MCI. Your hard work and professionalism were noticed. We expect nothing less as they continue to be the Premiere Training Squadron for the F-35C in Lemoore.

Welcome back to CVW-17 and everyone in VFA-22, VFA-94, VFA-137, and VFA-146 after a successful deployment. Thanks for keeping us safe back here at home. To everyone training and preparing for deployment, be safe and keep your head on a swivel. We appreciate your sacrifices and all that you do.

A hearty congratulations to all the selected Chief Petty Officers this season. Your service, pride, and dedication are unswerving.

AOC Jacob Lopez, AOC Mike Shea, AOC Kevin Bartshe

AOC Cole Hale, AOC Jacob Steeb, AOC Craig Bain

AOC Gennierose Palmer, AOC Scott Murray, AOC Eric Skoglund, and

AOC Travis Buske

Our Annual Holiday Party is on Saturday, December 9th, 2023. Mark your calendars, and I hope to see you there. Also, if you find yourself in our area on the third Thursday of the month, please stop by the Fleet Reserve at 17:30 for a cold beverage and share in the meeting. Until next time, take care and stay safe.

Cheers, Chris Hathaway, Chapter One President



CHAPTER EIGHT

Greetings from Chapter 8 in sunny San Diego, "Where it all started."

Since May, our Chapter's membership has continued to grow, and we have added 22 new Life Time Members.

On May 20th, we hosted our annual Chapter Family Picnic at Mariner's Park, located within Naval Base San Diego. The event drew a commendable turnout of local Ordies from the area. It was a day filled with wonderful moments as we came together with our families and friends, forging strong bonds and creating lasting memories. Bravo Zulu to Diane McQueen-Gipson for all her dedicated work coordinating every aspect of this event.

On Memorial Day, May 29th, the Chapter made a meaningful visit to the gravesite of John Finn and Alice Finn, where we expressed our deep respect and felt privileged to be present at their resting place.

During our July meeting, we conducted elections for the positions of Chapter Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. It is with great pleasure that we extend our heartfelt congratulations to AO1 Willie Bodiford, our newly appointed Vice President, and AO2 Jane Park, who will be taking on the role of Secretary. We are eagerly anticipating their contributions to our team and are excited to see them excel in their respective roles. Barry Stemler was re-elected as our long-standing Treasurer.

On July 4th, Chapter 8 proudly participated in the Coronado Parade, one of San Diego's most prominent and largest parades. A total of 11 participants marched with unwavering pride, representing our chapter with honor.

On July 27th-30th, Chapter 8 made a strong impression at the annual AAO. President AO1 Niomi Deppe represented us admirably, earning a position on the National AAO Board of Directors—an honor typically reserved for senior enlisted or commissioned officers. We're also thrilled to congratulate AOCM (RET) Diane McQueen Gipson for becoming the FIRST female Aviation Ordnanceman inducted into the AAO Hall of Fame since its establishment in 1986, leaving a powerful legacy for future generations.

Chapter 8 continues to thrive with our quarterly Highway Walks along the Coronado Silver Strand. A big thank you to all who have been participating!

Until next time, may our chapter continue to flourish and thrive. IYAOYAS! AO2 Jane Park

Chapter 8 Secretary



CHAPTER NINE

Greetings from Chapter 9 Jacksonville. Chapter 9 has just dodged another major hurricane. Every September we reach the height of the hurricane season. And this near miss comes on the heels of a very hot and dry summer, which provided much needed rain and cooler temperatures.

Another great symposium and Aviation Ordnance (AO) convention is history. Retired LCDR Steve “pocket Gunner” Cashat reminded us of a great opportunity coming in the future to celebrate our Nation’s 250th birthday, the AO Rate turning 100 years old, and the Aviation Association of Ordnance (AAO) organization reaching their 50 years milestone, which occurs in 2026. Start making plans now to attend that convention and celebrate history. Considering these milestones, Chapter 9-member retired AOC Ed Murphy has worked as an AO, with combined active duty and civilian service at NMC Jax totaling a combined 50 of the 100 years. “What an impact”.

Congratulations to AO1 Alexa Mendez, who is an instructor with Maritime Patrol Reconnaissance Weapons school (MPRWS) Jacksonville. She was selected as the first of four AOs of the Quarter for 2023. Our second Quarter selection was AO2 Jonathan R. Maultsby from Navy Munitions Command Atlantic, Detachment Jacksonville (NMC).

New Chapter officers elected in April include President AO1 Shadoc Culclager and Vice President AO2 Jonathan Maultsby, which have big shoes to fill. Kudos to outgoing President and newly selected AOC James Simmons, who just completed a second term and Vice President AO1 Mallory Burton for their service to the Chapter. Retired AOCS Tracy Townsend volunteered to serve as our Chapter Chaplain; his duties include tracking any AO deaths and serious health issues for dissemination/action to our Board of Directors (BOD) and members.

In August, we enjoyed a family picnic with great burgers, dogs, and many sea stories. It was hot but everyone had a good time. Many thanks to the cook, Retired Gunner Billy Crews.

A decision was made to discontinue providing our website due to lack of traffic and interest. Communications to our members from now will use Facebook and email. Many thanks to our Webmaster Steve Cashat for providing such a great Chapter communication vehicle for over a decade, but times and needs change.

Everything is normal, continuing with highway cleanups and preparing for our annual holiday help to fellow “Ordies” needing a hand up and our December break.

IYAOYAS!!!! Keep up the proud tradition as an AO. Everyone has equal value, treat all better than yourself. Always look out for each other and be other safe.

AOCM Richard Wyman



CHAPTER 22

Hello Ordie nation from Chapter 22. Hope all our brothers and sisters are safe and well. Chapter 22 is alive and well. We contributed a \$100 to the National scholarship fund. We did a local scholarship fund to switch things up and awarded \$400 to Tommy Pavel who is attending Stevenson University studying Business and playing soccer.

We also kicked off our 7th Annual Gun Raffle for future donations. Our Summer picnic was held enjoying great food, fun, and sea stories. Conducted our second highway clean-up of the year. Looking to the future we are planning our annual Christmas party and we have new chapter shirts coming out. We will post some pictures in the next Red Shirt Article in case anyone would like to purchase. Take care Ordies and as usual if you find yourself in the PAX River area look us up!

IYAOYAS!

V/R Rob Pavel

Chapter 22 Treasurer



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