

# THE ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN



FEBRUARY 2023  
NEWSLETTER



[HTTP://REDSHIRTNATION.COM](http://redshirtnation.com)



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LEADER NOTES

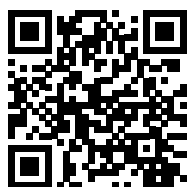
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**FYSA**

When submitting  
articles DO NOT submit  
photos embeded in the  
document. On ONE  
email send your article,  
and then attach photos  
on to that email.



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**AAO NATIONAL PRESIDENT  
CAPTAIN MATT ARNOLD**

Greeting fellow warriors, past and present, and your family members. I hope that all is well with you and yours and that the beginning of this year has brought you many blessings and opportunities. It is hard to believe that we are almost finished with the first month of 2023. I am thankful for the opportunity you have provided me to serve each of you and this great organization as its president. I challenge each of you to continually look for new opportunities to improve our Armed Forces, to further promote our great organization, to honor our veterans, and to support the citizens of our great nation.

The planning for the next convention has started in earnest. Many of the elected officers and committee members met in Laughlin, Nevada during January to discuss the arrangements. A multitude of topics were discussed over the weekend in an effort improve both the convention and the Joint Navy and Marine Corps Aviation Ordnance Managers and Leaders Continuum. I was able to attend both days this year and we accomplished a lot of work in a short period of time. I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank the attendees for their efforts in support of our organization. As usual this event offered the participants a chance to socialize and break bread together. The food and alcohol were both good and plentiful and the fellowship was abundant. I believe all who attended had a good time.

I am amazed by both the sheer

quantity and quality of the work being performed by our members throughout the organization. I continue to receive information about our chapters actively participating in “Adopt-a-Road” programs, conducting charity events of their own or supporting the events of other organizations, coordinating professional development activities, and offering a helping hand to struggling members of our armed services or the less fortunate in our communities. I commend all of you for your efforts and offer my personal and professional appreciation for your continued service. These efforts serve to increase the visibility of our organization within our community while also enriching the lives of others and making our cities, states, and nation a better place in which to live. Please continue to utilize the “Red Shirt” to recognize our members and identify their good works.

In closing I wish you and yours Good Luck and Good Health in the coming months. I ask that you keep our Sailors, Marines and civilian employees, wherever they are stationed or deployed, in your thoughts and prayers. Please continue to support this organization, its members, and our Navy and Marine Corps Aviation Ordnance Team. Sail Safe.

IYAOYAS,

Matt



**AAO NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT****AOCS(RET) TIM ZIMMER**

Ahoy there!

Hope everyone had a good holiday season and is on their way to a booming (get it?) new year. We just completed the convention planning meeting in Laughlin where we took care of some Association business (some unfortunate), made final decisions for this year's convention (more unfortunate news), discussed the AOMLC and, last but certainly not least, had a good time hanging out with a bunch of ordies!

The business we had to finalize was the disestablishment of the Spartan Chapter in Souda Bay, Crete. They were unable to keep up the interest in the Association and we had no choice but to disestablish the chapter. One of the things I did while in Laughlin was to send emails to all of the chapters we haven't heard from in a while. As I always say, the Association is only as strong as our chapters, so helping you out is job one. I've received some responses but have quite a few to go. So, please reach out to your local chapter officers and make sure they are talking to us at National.

One of the decisions we had to make



concerning convention is one we all hated. Like last year, and for the same reason, we have to raise prices again. We received the 2023 prices from the Silver Legacy and everything, and I mean everything, went up. As I said last year, the Association does not make any money from convention, all hotel costs are made from ticket sales, no more, no less. So, prepare for registration, Friday Social and Saturday Awards Banquet tickets to increase. Trust that we are always looking for ways to cut costs and will do our damndest to keep tickets as low as we possibly can.

AOMLC is back on schedule to begin the Monday prior to convention, 24 through 27 July, with convention running from the 27th until the 30th. We will have all of the information up on the website. Remember that you can buy your tickets there as well.

This year there are (4) offices up for election, Vice President, Secretary, and (2) Board of Director positions. If you wish to nominate someone for one of these positions, go to the website ([redshirtnation.com](http://redshirtnation.com)), click "2023 National AAO Officer Nominations" and fill out the information. Or, you can send me an email ([nationalaaovp@gmail.com](mailto:nationalaaovp@gmail.com)) with the nominee in the CC line. I will contact the nominee to get their concurrence. Nominations for the above-mentioned offices must be received by 1 April 2023. At convention, nominations will also be taken from the floor during the General Business Meeting (GBM). All nominees must be present at the GBM unless their absence has been previously approved by the Board of Directors.

If you haven't already started working on John W Finn Aviation Ordnancemen of the Year packages, WHY NOT? I'll be drafting the naval message this month for release but there are no changes to the packages.

Until next time, keep your powder dry.

IYAOYAS

Tim



## AAO NATIONAL SECRETARY AOCM(RET) JJ LAMAITRE

Greetings Shipmates and Marines – Hope you all is well with you and yours, and had a normal Holiday Season after the COVID restrictions were lifted. Please take the necessary precautions to keep safe. We had really good numbers (35+) in Laughlin for the Convention Planning Meeting, saw some new faces. A BIG thank you for all of the folks who showed up over the Martin Luther King Weekend. Was a good time for all of us to catch up, socialize, and break bread because in Reno, we are pretty busy attending the multitude of things that come up. We will be there next year again over the MLK weekend, so save the date.

Start NOW to make your plans for this year's Convention to be held at the Silver Legacy Resort, Reno, NV from 27 July thru 30 July. NOTE: ALL hotel reservations and registration, Social, and Award banquets need to be done through the AAO website (redshirtnation.com). See the flyer elsewhere in the Red Shirt.

Unfortunately we had to raise our rates to cover the associated costs to put on the Convention. Quick example of the raised cost's from last year; a gallon of coffee ran us \$40.00 (plus 19.5% service fee) to this year \$49 (plus 20%). Both meals went up as well. The Association cannot afford to lose money on Convention.

Myself, and Tess (my bride) will be taking over from Kirk Brado as Convention Committee Chairman hopefully by the end of this year's Convention. Kirk has been doing an exceptional job, and it's time for him to be relieved.

This year the Board of Directors (BOD) will make the decision for the Convention

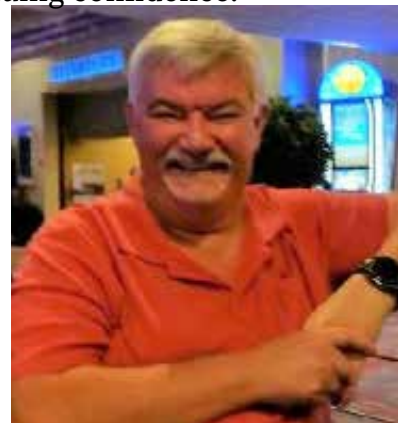
sites for 2025 and beyond. If you or anyone else want to make a proposal to have the Convention someplace other than Reno, NOW is the time to speak up. You will need to submit a 'Request for Proposal' (RFP) from whatever place/ property you want to have it. The RFP must have room rates, resort fees, menu options, meeting spaces (costs!), and transportation available to and from the airport. Although we are NOT associated with the AOLMC, it would benefit the Association to have the two events co-located at the same property. A lot to be sure, but the Association needs to have the best bang for the buck. We will be going out for a RFP from the Silver Legacy as well.

Chapters need to contact Kirk Brado (POC info in this Red Shirt) to set up tables to sell merchandise. Years past we had several Chapters show up with goodies to sell with NO tables were reserved, we were able to accommodate, but cannot guarantee there will be room this year.

Chapter Officers – It saddens me to report that the following Chapter has been disestablished – Souda Bay Spartan Chapter. It was voted on by the Board of Directors (BOD) IAW the National By-Laws (Article IX). You are required to submit your minutes to me, and submit Red Shirt articles. Do not let this happen to your Chapter!

I am up for re-election this year, I humbly ask for your vote to continue as your Secretary. It has been a privilege to serve as your Secretary for the past 9 years. Thank you for your continuing confidence.

R,  
JJ LaMaitre  
AAO Secretary



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

Convention Planning for AAO23 in Laughlin was a great success. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the meeting and those who donated to the Scholarship Fund.

Chapter Officers, take a look at your members and encourage all that are not National members to join National. It is very easy now, go to [www.redshirtnation.com](http://www.redshirtnation.com) and join via the website. If you are an inactive member, please contact 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 are required to be National members in good standing to hold their office.

The Annual Financial Reports are due at the General Business Meeting in Reno. If your Chapter has yet to submit their annual financial report, please do so after the end of May 2023. Those reports are part of our income tax filing and are necessary. Treasurer's, if you need the Form for annual report, email me as soon as possible and I will send you the format.

Convention 2023 information: As most know, the cost of everything has and is still going up. The planning committee has determined that we will need to raise the cost of attending the Convention in order to pay for the event and stay in the black/even for costs. Therefore, the costs are now as follows: Registration \$65 (Late \$75), Social Dinner \$75 (Late \$85), Awards Banquet \$85 (Late \$95), AAAO Luncheon \$35 (Late \$45) plus PayPal fees. Late amounts listed will be in effect as of 14 July 2023. Register as soon as possible on the website, [www](http://www).

[redshirtnation.com](http://redshirtnation.com), when the application is available.

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 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 via filling out a membership form from the web site ([www.redshirtnation.com](http://www.redshirtnation.com)) and note "Contact Info Update Only" and you can e-mail them to me at [nationalaaotreas@gmail.com](mailto:nationalaaotreas@gmail.com). If you see your name on the Locator list, please send an email with your updated address in order 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!

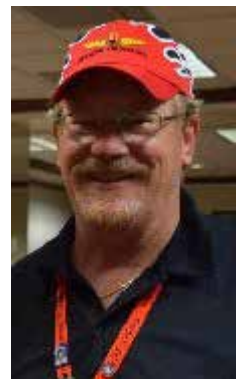
Thanks,

Todd Pendleton

(360) 632-7828

[nationalaaotreas@gmail.com](mailto:nationalaaotreas@gmail.com)

National AAO Treasurer



**AAAO PRESIDENT  
TERESA ZIMMER**

Hello Everyone,

Let me first say I can't believe it's 2023 already! I want to wish all of you a very Happy New Year! I hope this finds everyone in good health. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at Convention this year that are going to be able to attend. Please join us on our General Business Meeting / Brunch this year. We are changing it up. We have lots of fun. We would love for you all to join us.

We are always up for new members and ideas to join the Auxiliary.

We will have elections as well so if any of you that would like to be nominated, let us know. TBA which positions.

Thank you to all of you that has donated those special items for our Auction night to raise scholarship dollars. We have some great items already planned for this year. Anyone that

would love to donate please reach out to me. It's always appreciated.

We had a fantastic turnout this year for the planning meeting in January in Laughlin. It was great seeing you all.

Thank you for all your support to the AAAO!

If anyone needs anything from me drop me an email @ [Treasz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Treasz@sbcglobal.net)

Teresa Zimmer – AAAO President



**MEMORABILIA MARKET PLACE**

Please fill out the below form with a check or money order made payable to "AAAO", and send to Teresa Zimmer, PO BOX 121387 Chula Vista CA 91912.

You can also email Teresa at [Treasz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Treasz@sbcglobal.net) to let her know that you are ordering.



MEMORABILIA ORDER FORM			
ITEM	UNIT PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
Duffle Bag	12.00		
Bear w/Red Shirt	10.50		
Car Sunshade	10.00		
Red Grocery Tote	4.00		
Red Ruby Lanyard	8.00		
Stadium Blanket	15.00		
			+20% S&H
<b>TOTAL ORDER</b>			



NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

SHIP TO: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_



ATTENTION TO ORDERS:

FROM: SUPREME COMMANDER

TO: ORDNANCEMEN WHO SERVED AND THOSE THAT SUPPORTED

SUBJ: PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION FOR THE FOLLOWING:

AOCM RICHARD W. DUSABLON\*\*\*

LT HERMAN C. ELROD\*\*\*

AOC ROBERT E. UNDERWOOD\*\*\*

CWO4 JOSEPH P. ROSE\*\*\*

1. YOU STAND DETACHED FROM YOUR CURRENT ASSIGNMENT AT 1ST CIVAIRWING AND DIRECTED TO REPORT TO COMMANDING OFFICER, AT BARRACKS HEAVEN, AVIATION ORDNANCE DETACHMENT FOR DUTY.

2. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED 0 DAYS DELAY AND 0 DAYS PROCEED ENROUTE TO YOUR NEW DUTY STATION. LEAVE IN CONJUNCTION WITH ORDERS IS NOT AUTHORIZED.

3. ORDNANCEMEN REPORTING FOR DUTY DURING WORKING HOURS SHALL BE IN SERVICE DRESS UNIFORM.

4. SNM SHALL FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH INTERIOR GUARD MANUAL PRIOR TO REPORTING FOR DUTY.

5. UPON REPORTING TO THE STAFF DUTY OFFICER, SNM SHALL STATE: "... ONE MORE ORDNANCEMEN REPORTING SIR"

GOD'S SPEED OUR FRIENDS. IYAOYAS. YOU WILL BE MISSED.

TILL VALHALLA.

\* INFO FROM FRA TODAY NEWSLETTER/\*\* INFO FROM VFW MAGAZINE/\*\*\*\*OTHER



### **NEW LIFE MEMBERS**

AOCM Larry J. Numa  
Mr. Morgan M. Herrera  
MSgt Dennis M. Colbert  
AO3 Allen E. Steiner  
AO2 Apiffany E. Caldwell

Sgt Franklin E. Inman Jr.  
MSgt Dennis M. Colbert  
Sgt John D. Borges  
CWO2 Travis M. Turner

### **NEW MEMBERS**

AO2 Zachary T. Strouse  
AO1 Bernard Luigi G Custodio  
AO1 Jeremiah Fitzgerald  
AO2 Julio A. Olmeda  
AO1 Jacob A. Anderson  
AO1 Dominique S. Hydell  
AO2 Ivan C. Martinez

AOC Adam T. Pierce, Ret  
AO2 Anastasia K. Shellito  
AO1 Richard E. Oliver  
Ms. Crystal C. Eyster  
AO3 Melanie F. Salcedo-Walden  
Mr. Jeffrey R. Bresch  
AO2 Mathieu J. Thilbodeaux

### **SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTORS**

AOCM Edward J. Hannifan  
Mr. William Peters  
Mr. Adolph Johnson  
AO3 Allen E. Steiner

MSgt Dennis M. Colbert  
AO2 Mark D. Wendell  
CWO4 James F. Saxton  
Sgt Franklin E. Inman Jr.

### **LOCATOR**

Can you help? Know where any of these members can be located? Let them know to go to [redshirtnation.com](http://redshirtnation.com), fill out the membership form to update contact info and if you have a mailing address OR phone number, please contact the AAO Treasurer, Todd Pendleton at [nationalaaotreas@gmail.com](mailto:nationalaaotreas@gmail.com), snail mail or give him a call.

Notes: (RN) =Renewal Notice Return / (RS) = Red Shirt Return / (NC) = 2 years no contact

Mr. Daryl D. Walls (RN)  
AOAN Collin W. Oberg (RN)  
AO3 Javion K. Turner (RN)  
AO1 Albert J Bennett (RN)  
AO2 Bionica N. Boyd (RN)  
AO2 Benjamin M. Durby (RN)  
CWO2 Thomas W. Lang (RN)  
AO3 Symone A. Gay (RN)  
AO1 Devon D. Merritt (RN)  
AO2 Brian G. Spaccarelli (RN)

CWO4 John W. Stokely (RN)  
CWO4 Ronald W. Gwyn (RN)  
AOC Michael W. Day (RN)  
AOC Michael W. Priest (RN)  
AOCM Eugene M. Grey (RN)  
Mr. Jonathan D. Padilla (RN)  
AO3 Christian K. Delacruz (RN)  
AO1 Desmond A. Murff (RN)  
AO2 Phillip F. Touseull (RN)





2023 CONVENTION PLANNING MEETING DINNER





# CHAPTER

FIND YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER OR START ONE IN YOUR AREA.

## Chapter 1 -

### Lemoore, CA

President-AO1 Cindy Valdivia  
Vice-President-Bionica Boyd  
Secretary-Chris Hathaway  
Treasurer-Johnny Wheat  
Fleet Reserve Club, D Street,  
Lemoore  
3rd Friday, 1730

## Chapter 3 - NO ARTICLE

### Whidbey Island, WA

President-AO1 Jennifer Watson  
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 - NO ARTICLE

### China Lake, CA

President: AO2 Ortiz  
VP: AO2 Liedel  
Secretary: AO3 Pettengale  
Treasurer: AO2 King  
PAO: AO3 Clark  
chapter5chinalake@outlook.com  
VFW 4080, 117 N. Alvord  
Last Flex Thursday of Month, 1800

## Chapter 8 - San Diego, CA

President-AO1 Chris Geschwender  
Vice-President AO1 Laura Jamerson  
Secretary-AO1 Deppe, Niomi  
Treasurer- CWO3(ret)Barry Stemler  
American Legion Post 255,  
National City, 1st Thursday, 1900

## Chapter 9 - Jacksonville, FL

President- AO1 James Simmons  
Vice President- AO1 Mallory Burton  
Secretary- AOCS(ret) Dennis  
Patterson  
Treasurer- AOCM (ret) Rick Wyman  
Board Of Directors  
AOC Dani Tilbury, AO1 John  
Mcminn  
AO3 Chase Spingett, AO1 Patrick  
Williams, AO1 Kayla Stinger, AOC  
(ret) Bill Taylor, AOCS (ret) Tracy  
Townsend, AOC (ret) Ed Murphy  
Fleet Reserve, Collins Road  
3rd Thursday, 1900

## Chapter 11 - NO ARTICLE

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

## Chapter 21 - NO ARTICLE

Fallon, NV  
President-AO1 Juan Pelayo  
Vice President- AO2 Jordan Buckner  
Treasure-AO2 Timothy Mathews  
Secretary- AO2 Michael Durby  
American Legion Post 16 Fallon, NV.  
1st Wednesday, 1830

## Chapter 22 -

Patuxent River  
President: AO2 Brian Spaccarelli  
Vice President: AO1 Jayson Pressley  
Treasurer: Rob Pavel  
Secretary: AO2 Stephanie Sandria  
VFW, Post 2632 California, MD  
3rd Wednesday, 1800

## Chapter 34 - NO ARTICLE

Pensacola, FL  
President-AO1 Collins  
chapter34ordie@gmail.com  
Vice President-AO1 Dickson  
Secretary-AO2 Minzlaff  
Treasurer-AO2 Townsel  
Social Coordinator-SSgt Marion  
O'riley's Irish Pub downtown  
321 S Palafox St, Pensacola, FL  
1st Wednesday, 1830

## Chapter 35 - DISESTABLISHED

## Chapter 39 - NO ARTICLE

"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 - NO ARTICLE

Guam  
President- AO1 Nathan Gibson  
Vice President- AO2 Glenn Novak  
Secretary- AO2 Kendal Scott  
Treasurer- AT1 Travis Hermsen  
Molly McGee's onboard  
Naval Base Guam  
3rd Thursday, 1900

## Chapter Desert Southwest - NO ARTICLE

El Centro, CA.  
President- AO2 Ahumada  
geenah90@gmail.com)  
Vice President- AO2 Heinrich  
Secretary- AO1 Upchurch  
Treasurer- AO1 Squires

Meetings held every 4th Tuesday of  
the month at 0900 at NMC El Centro  
Bldg. 529

RED SHIRT ARTICLES are due **20 JANUARY, 01 MAY, &**

# LISTING

**GO TO WWW.REDSHIRTNATION.COM/ FOR THE APPROPRIATE GUIDLINES.**

**Chapter Southernmost- NO ARTICLE**

**Key West, Fl**

President- AO2 Brandon Hurd  
 Vice President- AO3 NiccaRizelle VidalPreze  
 Treasure- AO2 Juan ColonaRosa  
 Secretary- Ann Anderson  
 Sunset Lounge, at Sigsbee ANNEX

1st Wednesday, 1730

**Chapter Spartan - DISESTABLISHED**

**Chapter LHD 1 -NO ARTICLE**

USS Wasp  
 President-AO1 Niko Batres  
 On Board

**Chapter LHD 4-NO ARTICLE**

Gator Chapter  
 President-AO1 Trenton Hagley  
 On Board

**Chapter LHD 7- NO ARTICLE**

USS Iwo Jima  
**DISESTABLISHED**

**Chapter LHD 8 - NO ARTICLE**

USS Makin Island  
 President-AO1 Alyssa Bruns  
 On Board

**Chapter CVN 68 - NO ARTICLE**

USS Nimitz  
 President- AO1 Dolanski  
 Vice President- AO1 Sicignano  
 Secretary- AO3 Ayers  
 Treasurer- AO2 Merry  
 PAO- AO3 Tuggles  
 Master At Arms- AO2 Navarro  
 On Board

**Chapter CVN 69 - NO REPORT**

USS Dwight D Eisenhower  
 President-AO1 Cory McIntyre  
 On Board

**Chapter CVN 70 -**

USS Carl Vinson  
 President-AO1 Josiah Feeney  
 Vice President-AO1 William Beauchamp  
 Secretary-AO1 Lisa Irwin  
 Treasurer- AO1 Andrew Quick  
 On Board

**Chapter CVN 71 -NO ARTICLE**

USS Theodore Roosevelt  
 President-AO1 Jose Pando  
 On Board

**Chapter CVN 72 - NO ARTICLE**

USS Abraham Lincoln  
 President-AO1 Roden  
 On Board

**Chapter CVN 73 - NO ARTICLE**

USS George Washington  
 President-AO1 Thurman McDowell  
 On-Board

**Chapter CVN 74 - NO ARTICLE**

USS John C. Stennis  
 President-AO1 Benjamin Llewellyn  
 On Board

**Chapter CVN 75 - NO ARTICLE**

USS Harry S. 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 CVN 76 - NO ARTICLE**

USS Ronald Reagan  
 President-AO1 Justin Fallone  
 On Board

**Chapter CVN 77 -**

USS George H.W. Bush  
 President-AO1 Rebecca Wright  
 On Board

**Chapter CVN 78 - NO ARTICLE**

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

## Editor notes:

**RED!**

**Hope you ALL are well in this wonderful New Year!**

**Like Most I am a busy person. This year will be even greater for me as I have 2 graduations to plan for; My son will be graduating High-School and then Navy boot camp! That being said I will not be attending the 2023 convention, first time missing it since 2016...WOW.**

**Please take tons of pictures and forward to me for RS151. I will miss seeing all of the old crowd and seeing the newbies standing in awe of our great organization.**

**Somebody tell Ashley hello for me, or maybe just give her a copy of this RS.**

**Love to you all**

**Amber**

**redshirteditor@gmail.com**

**20 SEPTEMBER** send to [redshirteditor@gmail.com](mailto:redshirteditor@gmail.com)

Greetings from **Chapter One**. Lemoore, CA.

I want to start off by wishing everyone a safe and Happy New Year. Let 2023 bring happiness and joy to all of us and our families.

The end of 2022, was very busy for us here in Lemoore. On October 21st, we witnessed the following Aviation Ordnanceman get pinned to Chief Petty Officers: Frank Alfano, Emmanuel Martinez, Mark Turner, Christopher Adams, Abby Fox, Michael Mihalcoe, Daniel Rodi, Christopher Masterson and Cindy Valdivia. IYAOYAS!!!

We had our Christmas party at the Fleet Reserve Association on Dec 10th, 2022. It was nice getting everyone together to hang out, eat and have a good time. A huge shout out to Tiffany Wheat for decorating for the second year in a row. Thank you Tiffany!

The flight line has been super busy as well. Shout out to VFA-2 for a successful CWTPI! They showed us how they conduct business. CAG 17 departed San Diego on December 3rd, 2022 with 3 of our Squadrons: VFA-22, VFA-94, and VFA-137. We wish you guys a successful deployment...Stay safe out there guys!!

VFA-113!! The 'Stingers' of Strike Fighter Squadron 113 received the 2022 Strike Fighter Wing Pacific Scott F. Kirby Ordnance Proficiency Award for Ordnance Excellence. This award recognizes professionalism and safety in ordnance handling and delivery. Clearly, the Stinger Ordies have been killing it! Congratulations, keep up the good work.

AOC(AW) Valdivia

Chapter One President

What is up RED NATION!!!

Happy New Year from all of us at **Chapter Four** Tidewater!!! We hope you all had an awesome Holiday and that you all got what you asked for from the big guy in the RED suit!!! All of us here at Chapter Four hope 2023 brings you all lots of blessings and happiness. 2022 ended with a BANG! Despite COVID still having a significant effect, we were able to hold our monthly meetings, have our park cleanups, welcome ten new members, and most importantly have our Annual Holiday Party at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 392 in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

It was great being able to get everyone together to hang out, eat, and IYAOYAS without having to conduct "business". Thank you to everyone who showed up and played a part, as always it was a huge success. Everyone from the youngest to oldest person had a great time! There was so much food that everyone was able to go home with their very own pie, cheesecake and bag of fried chicken! Haha. A MASSIVE shout out to Pat Edon, Vanessa Bernal, Maggie DeSpain and Christina Bradley for the decorations this year, they were awesome! Oh, and our little Ordie Jenna for blessing the food before we chowed down.

Shout out to CNATTU Oceana and SFWSL who have been training up fleet ready Ordies left and right! CAG 7, which comprises squadrons VFA-143, VFA-103, VFA-86, VFA-136, VAQ-140, VAW-121, HSC-5 and HSM-46, recently embarked on the USS George H. W. Bush (CVN-77) and CAG 8, which comprises squadrons VFA-37, VFA-87, VFA-31 and VFA-213, recently detached to Fallon, Nevada. We wish you all a successful deployment and detachment. Stay safe out there! Until next time, IYAOYAS!!!

V/r,

AOC Jason Young

CH.4 President



CHAPTER FOUR

Annual Holiday Party at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 392 in Virginia Beach, Virginia.





Greetings from **Chapter 8**, San Diego, “The Chapter Where It All Started.” Since September 2022, our Chapter membership has welcomed twelve new attendees and eight new Chapter 8 lifetime members.

In September, Chapter 8 continued its partnership with Ordiamart by selling John Finn Medal of Honor coins which totaled up to \$2,350 for the year. The Chapter also voted for the new chapter president position, resulting in AO1 Niomi Deppe, our Chapter Secretary, being selected! AO1 Deppe thanked everyone for their mentorship and the opportunity which opened the Chapter Secretary position to be filled. Chapter 8 also congratulated its two Chief selects, Sandra Baldwin, and Victor Aquino, on a job well done, and BRAVO ZULU to them both.

At the October meeting, a moment of silence was taken for the passing of AAO Hall of Fame Inductee #73, LT (Ret) Herman Jack Elrod. After that, it was announced that AO1 Willie Bodiford would be the new Chapter 8 Secretary.

The Chapter then announced that our Holiday Party would be held during the November meeting providing tons of food, fun, and prizes. Capt. Arnold then briefed the Chapter about the 2023 Continuum and Convention Planning Meeting in Laughlin, NV, and the importance of procedural compliance. Later that week, the Chapter held its Quarterly Adopt-A-Highway walk to continue its contribution to the surrounding communities by collecting eight bags of trash! Chapter 8 also voted to approve a donation to AAO Chapter 34 which will be used to replace worn flooring in the John W. Finn Museum/ Room at NAS Pensacola, FL.

November turned out to be an exciting month which started with AO1 Erika Kidd being announced as the LCDR James E. Thompson Aviation Ordnanceman of the Quarter (3rd Qtr)! The Chapter then jumped into the Holiday party, which included a great family experience, tons of fantastic food, and



many prizes. Special thanks go out to:

1. Tess LaMaitre who saved the Chapter from untold hundreds of dollars with her awesome raffle gifts. Tess went above and beyond by professionally putting together over 12 gift basket items and did a magnificent job with the kid's gifts by making sure each gift was specially suited for every child that attended. JJ LaMaitre also supported Tess by getting a truckload of bins and party items to the American Legion to help set up everything.
2. Lester Gipson and Diana Gibson saved the Chapter around \$400 by buying the brisket and rolls at COSTCO and then smoking the brisket at home, which turned out to be delicious!
3. Al Ten Eyck: Donated \$100 to the bar for sodas and water.
4. Jim Saxton won the 50/50 and donated \$80 back to the Chapter.
5. All who brought deserts saving the Chapter a lot of money and providing an excellent assortment.
6. To all who helped set up and clean up for the party and the Chapter members who helped planning the event months in advance!

November was also the kick-off of our annual AOCS Jason P. May Holiday hand-up. The Chapter awarded six families totaling \$600 in VISA gift cards to help for the holidays. The Chapter would like to thank AO1 Deppe, AO1 Jamerson, and Barry Stemler for presenting the gift cards to the various commands and the board of directors for their coordination.

November also held another quarterly Adopt-A-Highway clean-up on the silver strand. The Chapter thanks the individuals who came out and supported their community!

The December meeting started with a moment of silence for the passing of AOCM (Ret) Wilmer Sewell. Then there was a shout-out to the Ordnanceman of the U.S.S. Lincoln (CVN-72) for their contribution to the Midway Museum who sent a crew over to help download two MER weapon stations loaded with 500-pound bombs off an A6 aircraft. Our final Jason P. May Holiday hand-up for the year was also held, which awarded seven AO families with \$1,050 in VISA gift cards. Thank you to everyone who helped coordinate supporting our navy service members and families. The Chapter then reminded everyone that December 4th was the feast day of ST. Barbara, the Patron Saint of AOs. Finally, the Toys for Tots program, organized by Carolyn Thomas (AAAO), ended up being a huge success. Several Chapter members participated with the Marine Corps League 1209 in collecting and processing over 100 boxes of toys from around the San Diego area that would go to children for the holidays.

Chapter 8 sends its best wishes and hopes everyone had a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year! Until next time, putting warheads on foreheads since 1926! IYAOYAS!

V/r

AO1 (AW/SW) Bodiford, Willie

Chapter 8 Secretary





Greetings from **Chapter 9** Jacksonville, Florida.

A new year of new beginnings has begun. The year of 2022 was very good for our chapter and we look forward to bigger and better things in 2023. The challenges COVID presented are behind us with Chapter business and attendance returning to normal. There have been many highs and some tremendous losses this past year.

Most of you know one of our superhero's and a backbone member of Chapter 9, retired LT. Jack Elrod (AAO HOF 2015) reported to the "Supreme Commander" late last year. His health had been in decline from the cruel effects of Parkinson's disease. Jack had a major influence on the AO community all his adult life serving with the Naval Junior ROTC program for 21 years and the Fleet Reserve Association Branch 126, since he retirement from the USN. He will be sorely missed. Keep his loving wife Cherie in your prayers.

Congratulations to AO2 Francisco Sanders (VP-16) and AO1 Shadoe Culclager (NMC Jacksonville) who were selected as our AO of the Quarters for the third and fourth quarter of 2022.

We continued our tradition during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season providing a helping hand to needy AO's and their families, by donating commissary gift cards to help out with meals and other holiday expenses.

Thanks to AO2 Springett of HSM-74 who volunteered to fill the role as the Chapter Safety Petty Officer. He is also taken the lead to develop new designs for Chapter Merchandise. Our goal is to offer these items at the 2023 year's AAO convention.

We held our last quarterly highway clean-up for the year in November, along with

a family picnic to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. The northeast Florida weather was beautiful and all in attendance had a great time with food, fun, and plenty of Sea Stores to go around for the young and old Ordies alike.

The "Blue Angels" returned in October for their annual fall air show to NAS Jax after a two year hiatus due to COVID complications. Chapter Nine worked one of the official Blue Angel souvenir booths as a major fund raiser. The crowds for Saturday and Sunday were record breaking and the "Super Hornet" was eye opening to this "Tomcat" vet.

Continue to show your pride as an AO and keep each other safe.

AOCM Richard Wyman (Ret.)

Hope all is well with the rest of Ordie Nation.

**Chapter 22** is alive and kicking. Hope everyone enjoyed some good food and relaxation over the Holidays.

We have been continuing with our regular meetings and representing Redshirt Nation by giving back to the community. We completed our final Highway Clean-Up for 2022 in October. We also distributed 3 food baskets with the help of AOC Swansey at VX-20 to help our Sailors at NAS PAX River for a more enjoyable Thanksgiving.

In November, we held elections for our Vice President and Secretary. Congratulations to AO2 Stephanie Sandria who was re-elected as Secretary and AO1 Jayson Pressley as Vice President.

We had our annual Christmas party at the Wildewood clubhouse so a special thanks to those who helped with the planning and those who attended.

A big thanks to Tom Brouwer for the success of CH22 first football pool through the 18 weeks of the football season. Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to those who bought tickets and supported the event. This allowed us once again to make our annual donation in 2022 to the National Scholarship fund.

That is all from Chapter 22 stay safe and healthy and as usual, if you find yourself in the PAX River area look us up! IYAOYAS!  
Very Respectfully,  
AO2 Stephanie Sandria  
Chapter 22 Secretary

CHAPTER 22 Officers

President: AO2 Brian Spaccarelli

Vice President: AO1 Jayson Pressley

Treasurer: Rob Pavel

Secretary: AO2 Stephanie Sandria

BOD: Tom Brouwer, Michael Bruns, Michael Bracero,

LT Michael Bracero, LT Everett Peeples,

AOC Justin Roach.

Greetings from **Chapter 77!** Weapons and AIMD Ordies have had an amazing year onboard the George H. W. Bush. We are currently on month six of deployment, but we have put a lot of hard work in this past year. From workups to deployment, we have been grinding! Although, we have been underway for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's, Chapter 77 has been a family for this holiday season. With our return to home port coming soon, we are staying focused on the mission so that we may come back home to our loved ones.

This deployment Chapter 77 has been striving to impact our Sailors and give back. We have started two training programs for Ordies onboard. One is IYAO University, this is an instructor led training that covers qual/cert lectures on power points. This has enabled us to promote 35 Sailors in Weapons Department. And yes, we are thankful to

finally promote some well-deserved AO3's. The second training program we started is AUR Warrior, this is training that covers various work-life balance topics that teach Sailors to be All-Up-Round. And to name a few, Home Buying, Navy College Programs, Grit and Determination, and Controlling Emotions.

Lastly, we wish fair winds and following seas to CDR Sandifer! It has been a pleasure for us to have her as our Gun Boss. From Chapter 77 to GB Sandifer, THANK YOU, we are proud to call you our Gun Boss. And of course, WELCOME ABOARD CDR Schaffer!

V/R

AO1(AW/SW) Hydell, Dominique S.

USS George H. W Bush (CVN 77)

AAO Chapter 77 Vice President





RED SHIRT



RED SHIRT

## **2023 AAO CONVENTION**

27July – 30 July

A dedicated website is now available for booking your rooms please use the following link

<https://book.passkey.com/go/AAO23>

In the event you would still like to call the hotel for booking

800-687-8733

Book Code: AAO23

### **Must Make Reservations By 2 July**

Rates are good from 21 July thru 31 July

Sunday – Thursday Standard Room - \$82

Friday & Saturday Standard Room - \$107

Resort FEE included

Deluxe Spa Suites Are Available

Free Airport Shuttle

For Convention Information, Call:

Kirk Brado 619-962-6158 or email: [kbrado1@hotmail.com](mailto:kbrado1@hotmail.com)

Make your Reservations Early



### **On the tracker:**

24-27 JULY 2023 CONTINUUM

27-30 July 2023 AAO CONVENTION

SILVER LEGACY RESORT & CASINO

RENO NV

**GET YOUR HOTEL AND COMPLETE YOUR REGISTRATION ALL FROM OUR WEBSITE!**

**<https://www.redshirtnation.com/convention-information>**



## **HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS**

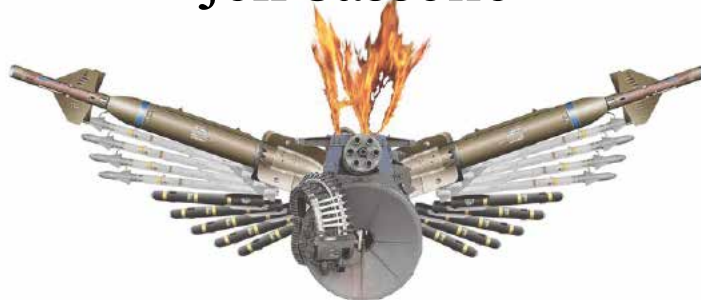
Hall of Fame nominations by mail must be received by 15 July 2023 at the following address:

AAO HOF  
c/o Jeff Sassone  
20812 Flour Mill Court  
Great Mills, MD 20634

Hand carried Hall of Fame nominations will be accepted up to Thursday 27 Jul 2023 at the convention but you must have an original & three copies.

Hope to see you all at convention!

Jeff Sassone



**ROBERT L. CROW**

**2023 AAO EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP**

AAO RLC Scholarship applications must be postmarked  
**NO LATER THAN**

**15 JUNE 2023**

Committee Chair: Rick Garza

## **BOLO:**

A message soliciting nominations for AMRAAM Outstanding Performer and AIM-9X Cutting Edge Awards for performance during CY2022 will be released FEB/MAR time frame.

## **BOLO:**

A message soliciting nominations for the John W. Finn, Aviation Ordnanceman of the Year will be released MAR/APR time frame. Head over to [redshirtnation.com](http://redshirtnation.com) to view the example package & submittel requirements.

## **WEB SITE ANNOUNCEMENT**

Soon the web site, [redshirtnation.com](http://redshirtnation.com) will house ALL past Red Shirt Newsletters!

### **\*\*IN SEARCH OF\*\***

If you or someone you know has the following

Red Shirt Newsletters

81, 86, 100, 101, 102, and 123

PLEASE contact

[redshirteditor@gmail.com](mailto:redshirteditor@gmail.com) or  
[nationalaaovp@gmail.com](mailto:nationalaaovp@gmail.com)

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

The original AO A School was in Norman, OK. (John Finn went there). Then on to NAS JAX, Norfolk, Memphis, and finally to Pensacola.



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