



RENO

100 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE, WELCOME AVIATION ORDNAMEN



[HTTP://REDSHIRTNATION.COM](http://redshirtnation.com)  
NEWS LETTER NUMBER 160 MAY 2026

THE RED SHIRT

Harrah's

Harrah's

NATIONAL AAO  
LEADER NOTES  
PRESIDENT

CAPT Steve Folsom USN  
nationalaaopres@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

AOCS Tim Zimmer, USN(Ret)  
nationalaaovp@gmail.com

SECRETARY

AOCM John 'JJ' LaMaitre,  
USN (Ret)

nationalaaosec@gmail.com

TREASURER

CWO4 Todd Pendleton, USN (Ret)  
nationalaaotreas@gmail.com

CHAPLAIN

Steve Varga  
gunner.varga@yahoo.com

Board of Directors

Lindsey Smack- nationalaaobod1@gmail.com

Steve Kashuba- nationalaaobod2@gmail.com

Dion Edon- nationalaaobod3@gmail.com

Niomi E. Deppe- nationalaaobod4@gmail.com

Jeff Sassone- nationalaaobod5@gmail.com

Al Dean- nationalaaobod6@gmail.com

REDSHIRT

redshirteditor@gmail.com

WEB SITE

redshirtnation.com  
nationalaaowebmaster@gmail.com



|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| PRESIDENT                  | <b>3</b>  |
| VICE-PRESIDENT             | <b>4</b>  |
| SECRETARY                  | <b>5</b>  |
| TREASURER                  | <b>5</b>  |
| AAAO                       | <b>6</b>  |
| CONVENTION CHAIRMAN        | <b>7</b>  |
| CHAPLAIN'S CORNER          | <b>7</b>  |
| SUPREME COMMANDERS SERVICE | <b>8</b>  |
| NEW LIFE MEMBERS,          |           |
| NEW MEMBERS, LOCATOR       |           |
| BYLAW CHANGES              | <b>9</b>  |
| CHAPTER LISTING            | <b>17</b> |
| CHAPTER BUSINESS           | <b>19</b> |
| 2026 AAO CONVENTION        | <b>23</b> |

QR CODE:



REDSHIRTNATION.COM

RED SHIRT ARTICLES

20 JANUARY, 1 MAY, 20 SEPTEMBER

PRESIDENT

Fellow Shipmates and Marines,

For over 100 years, the bedrock of naval air power has always been the Aviation Ordnanceman, and your recent actions in the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR) have proven this once again. I watched with great pride as you continue to execute the mission under the most demanding of conditions. The sheer volume of ordnance you have built, tested, staged, and loaded onto our strike aircraft is staggering. From the magazines deep within the ship to the chaotic, unforgiving environment of the flight deck and the expeditionary based airfields, your precision and tireless dedication have been the driving force behind the success of Operation Epic Fury. Your hard work is directly responsible for the strategic victories we are witnessing. The flawless assembly, safe and efficient loading of weapons have enabled our aircrews to execute their missions with devastating lethality. Because of the bombs you built and the missiles you test and loaded, the Iranian Navy combatants have been sent to the bottom of the seabed, and the Iranian Air Force has been thoroughly decimated. You have ensured that when our aircraft launch, they do so as lethal instruments of naval power.

The long hours, the physical toll, and the sacrifices you are making do not go unnoticed. The Association, fellow Shipmates and Marines, our veterans, and your families back home stand in awe of your dedication to the mission and to each other. Keep taking care of your teams, keep your heads on a swivel, and continue to set the standard for excellence. Thank you for your service, your grit, and your unwavering commitment to the fight.

The 2026 Convention in Reno will not be just another gathering; it will be a monumental chapter in our history. We will be converging in Reno to celebrate three major anniversaries that define who we are as a community, an Association, and a family. During this historic convention, we will honor the following milestones: 100 Years of the Aviation Ordnanceman Rating (USN) and Military Occupation Specialty (USMC), 50 Years of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen, and 35 Years of the Auxiliary of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen. This will surely be a convention for the ages, and I look forward to seeing as many of our Association members there! Lastly, please keep submitting the Aviation Ordnanceman of the Year, Hall of Fame and Scholarship packages so we continue to acknowledge and reward our best of the best!

See you all in Reno! Peace Through Power!

V/R, Steve



VICE-PRESIDENT

Redshirt Nation!

For our brothers and sisters deployed, and there are a lot of them, keep your heads on a swivel and take care of one another. We look forward to getting you back safe and sound after you take care of the Nation’s business. We’re getting things in place for this year’s convention and can’t wait. If your chapter plans on having a table to sell swag, make sure you contact JJ (nationalaaconvcoor@gmail.com) to reserve your spot. Dates for this year’s event are 30 July – 02 August at the Silver Legacy in Reno. All details, ticket sales and room reservations can be made on our website, redshirtnation.com. Make sure you make your reservations prior to 30 June.

The offices up for election this year are Vice President, Secretary, and (2) Board of Director (BOD) positions.

Nominees for these positions are:

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Vice President Tim Zimmer (incumbent)    | BOD #3 and #4               |
| Secretary Bill Taylor (acting Secretary) | Dion Edon (incumbent)       |
| Chris Hathaway                           | Niomi Demichele (incumbent) |
| Mike Gramolini                           | Bill Taylor                 |
|  | Diane McQueen-Gipson        |
|  | Travis Semone               |

During the General Business Meeting, there will be a call for nominations from the floor for the offices up for election. All nominees must be present (unless excused by the BOD) and accept the nomination. Also this year there are some more bylaws changes that must be approved by the membership before being adopted. If you’re unable to attend convention this year, you can submit absentee ballots for the above via the website. Votes can only be submitted by members in good standing of the Association.

John W Finn Aviation Ordnanceman of the Year (AOY), Robert L Crow Scholarship and Hall of Fame (HOF) Committees will proceed on Friday the 31st. Information about any of these committees can be found on the website. You can also contact the

Committee Chairmen:

- AOY – Lindsey Smack (aoychairman@gmail.com)
- Scholarship – Rick Garza (rgarza511@gmail.com)
- HOF – Jeff Sassone (nationalaaobod5@gmail.com)

See you in Reno!

Tim



## INT-SECRETARY-BILL TAYLOR

Greetings Shipmates and Marines –NOW is the time for you to get your reservations and plans ready for Convention 2026 July 30th – August 2nd at the Silver Legacy Resort. Go to the website [www.redshirtnation.com](http://www.redshirtnation.com) for one stop shopping, pay for your registration fees, Social and Award tickets on line. There is also a direct link to the Silver Legacy for hotel reservations using our Group Code. See the flyers and other info in the Red Shirt for reservations info, etc. Group prices are good for three days before and after our dates. Do NOT call the hotel directly (it gets answered in Las Vegas as part of the Caesars family). We have elections coming up for Vice-President, Secretary and 2 Board of Directors (BOD).

Chapters need to contact [nationalaaconvcor@gmail.com](mailto:nationalaaconvcor@gmail.com) (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 reserved, we were able to accommodate but cannot guarantee there will be room this year.

Chapter Officers – The Association needs your reports. Chapter Reports have gotten better HOWEVER the rubber has hit the road, and this will be an agenda item at this year's BOD at Convention. I need Chapter Reports submitted to me to me on a regular basis so we do not put your Chapter into an 'Inactive' status. Please forward the minutes, etc. to [nationalaaosec@gmail.com](mailto:nationalaaosec@gmail.com).

It has been a Privilege and Honor to serve as your Interim Secretary for the past 3 months. Thank you for your support and I hope to earn your vote at elections in Reno. If there is anything I can do to assist just give me a shout. Look forward to see and meet some of you all in Reno.

R,

William (Bill) Taylor

AAO Secretary



## TREASURER

Our 2026 Convention, 50th anniversary, is under two months away and quickly approaching. Please take a hard look today at your plans for attending and get registered now and make hotel reservations now for the 2026 Convention at the website.

The 2026 Convention will be held 30 Jul-2 Aug 2026, decide now and get registration completed now. The hotel reservation under Group Code (found on registration form) cut-off date for reservations is 1 Jul 2026 through the link on [www.redshirtnation.com](http://www.redshirtnation.com), less than a month away. Don't call the hotel, you probably won't get the Group rate on your final bill, use the hotel link before the cut-off date, 1 Jul 2026.

The cut-off for Convention Registration will be 17 Jul 2026. A late fee of \$10 will be charged after that date for Registration only, NO additional fee for meals, meal prices will remain the same. Look for all the updated information on the website. All attendees must pay the Registration Fee, even if only attending one event or no events.

Chapter Officers, take a look at your current memberships' status and encourage your members that are not National members to join National. It is easy now, go to [www.redshirtnation.com](http://www.redshirtnation.com) and join via the website. If you are an inactive member, contact me via email and get current on your annual dues or become a Life member. We want you to stay involved and contribute what you can; knowledge, time, expertise or donations. Remember, all elected Chapter Officers are required to be National members in good standing for that year to hold their office, per the National by-laws.

The Annual Chapter Financial Reports are due at the General Business Meeting in Reno. Chapters should submit their annual financial report after the end of May 2026 and before 15 Jul 2026 to the National Treasurer. If your chapter has yet to submit the past years' Annual reports, please do so now.

TREASURER

Those reports are part of our income tax filing and records. Chapter Treasurer's, if you need the format for the annual report, email me as soon as possible and I will send you the Form.

Also, a new procedure in Appendix A was approved for all Chapters regarding Chapter Bank accounts. DO NOT open Association bank accounts in someone's name and SSN. The IRS will come to a member or former Chapter Officer to pay taxes on a Chapter's account income; it has happened before. Contact me for the Tax ID (EIN) 501(c)(6) and open an Association account for your Chapter. All Chapters, go to your banking institution and change the name on your accounts to have the Chapter # or name (i.e. Chap 1, SMC Key West) listed first on the name of the account. It's an easy change on a one-page request, at least at NFCU it is.

Have you had a promotion, change of status (recently retired) or contact info changed? 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 "Info Update Only" on the form. When I get a Renewal Notice card or Red Shirt returned, I am removing that person from the Red Shirt mailing 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 your Red Shirt electronically via the "Info Update Only" method!! You can make the updates via filling out a membership form from the web site (www.redshirtnation.com) and note "Info Update Only" and e-mail them to me. If you see your name on the Locator list, please send an email with your updated address to get the next Red Shirt. If you see someone you know on the Locator, it's because I don't have a current mailing address or email address to send them updated materials.

Thanks,

IYAOYAS! Happy Anniversary, 250th America, 100th AO rate, 50th AAO and 35th AAAO.

M. Todd Pendleton, CWO4 (Ret)

(360) 632-7828

nationalaaotreas@gmail.com

National AAO Treasurer



Hello to all of AAAO Auxiliary members,

I can't wait to see all of you in July at convention. I always look forward to our events. We have some great things planned for convention this year. We hope you all can join us in Reno. We have a few new items that the Auxiliary will be selling this year. We will also be hosting some raffles as well. We are always striving to raise more money for the Scholarship fund.

I hope you all are doing well and preparing for the summer months. We're going through May Gray here in San Diego but still love the place.

We will have the following positions up for election this year: Treasurer and 2 BODs'. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions, I would love to assist you.

As always please let me know if you have any items that you or your Chapter are planning to bring to the Convention this year for our Friday night Auction. We certainly appreciate all of the donations. My email is [treasz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:treasz@sbcglobal.net). I know of a few items already that are going to be

AWESOME!

Teresa Zimmer



## CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

Start NOW making plans now for Convention 2026, It's the 35th Anniversary of the Auxiliary, 50th Anniversary of the Association, and 100th Anniversary of the AO Rate to be held at the Silver Legacy Resort Reno, NV from 30 July thru 02 Aug 2026. Chapters need to contact myself or Tess LaMaitre (POC info in the Red Shirt) to set up tables to sell merchandise. Come set up early at the AOLMC starting on Monday 27 July.

Fortunately, we were able to keep our registration, Social, and Award Banquet costs the same as last year. The Association cannot afford to lose money on Convention.

We need inputs in Reno in 2026 for Convention sites for 2028 and beyond. Will need a POC for the proposed site in order to have a smooth transition. A lot of factors go into the decision including meeting spaces, room rates, ease of transportation to and from the airport, and costs associated with those items and more (coffee, meals).

In other words, 'Best Bang for the Buck' for the membership. The National leadership is sensitive to the costs of attending Convention and we will continue to strive to hold costs down.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Sheryl and I are very excited about this year's "EXTRA" special AAO Convention where we will celebrate the Nation's 250th, our Ratings 100th, the Association's 50th and our Auxiliary's 35th. What a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and celebrate our shared profession and fraternity. If you are sitting on the fence, jump on over and join us in Reno-you won't regret it.

A lot is being asked of our Navy these days and we are rising to the challenge and hitting on all cylinders. The War in Iran is certainly proving to be a historic showcase of our Ordies at the "Tip of the Spear", but with these challenges come longer deployments and the added stressors they bring. You are not alone, you are loved by your Families at home, supported by Brothers and Sisters in and out of uniform and by our Heavenly Father. May God bless and keep you all in these trying times.

As I write this, just days after another attempt at violence towards our Commander in Chief (and his Cabinet members), I am deeply saddened by the level of hate manifested in Social-Media. The would-be assassin, whatever perceived motive, has thrown away his life and will suffer the consequences of his actions, forever changing the balance of his days. When differences of opinion cannot be resolved with open dialogue and civility, beware the click-bait that is abundant and waiting to pounce. We are all God's children and we should show each other common courtesy and respect.

Please pray for our fellow Ordies (and their loved ones) who have passed since our last Convention, each year that number grows, expected with the march of Time, but never easily accepted. Please know that you can always reach out to me if you need a sympathetic ear and some encouragement, my email address is listed along with all of the AAO Leadership.

Steve Varga

AAO National Chaplain



IN SUPREME COMMANDERS SERVICE

|                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| AO1 ROBERT BRADSHAW***  | CW4 RUSSELL E. HAYWARD*** |
| AO1 CLAYTON LIHILIH***  | AO1 JOSHUA W. FARRIS***   |
| AO1 JOSE L. RIOS***     | AO2 DONALD HAMPSHIRE***   |
| AO1 WARREN L. WALKER*** |                           |

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

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

|                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| AOCS Jacob E. Soriano     | AO2 Rick D. Riffel         |
| AO1 Hamlet Urroz-Cardenas | AOC Andy L. Conner         |
| CWO5 John M. Frees        | AO1 Christopher G. Chilson |
| AO1 John T. Mooney        | AO1 Max A. Mistecka        |
| AO1 Scott M. O’Leary      | AOCS David Torres          |
| AO1 Merrissa R. Robinson  | AOC Garrett W. Askins      |
| AO3 Michael R. Strobe     | MAJ Matthew A. Beard       |

NEW MEMBERS

|                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| AO2 Chrostopher A. Smith | AO3 Kenice F. Tibbs        |
| CWO3 Lisa E. Broadfield  | AO1 Raymond A. PenaPaulino |
| AO1 Matthew B. Smith     | AO1 Justin D. Wirth        |
| AO1 Ervin M. Perezzapata | AO1 Berly J. Lue           |
| AO3 Addie J. Murphy      | CDR Travis W. Semones      |
| CWO2 Fiero L. Ceaser     | AO1 Alex J. Maldonado      |
| LT David B. Currier      | AO2 La’Tara P. Ingram      |
| AO1 Bryant K. Naylon     | AO1 Koy Keihl              |
| AO2 Daniel L. Copado     | CWO4 Quindoly L. Lucy      |
| AOCS Jeremy S. Sanchez   |                            |

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.

|                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| AO2 Ammon N. Acuff (RN)           | AO1 Rudy A. Ortoz (RN)    |
| AO1 Wanda E. Carrasquillo (RN)    | AO1 Saudia M. Sutton (RN) |
| AO2 Emmanuel O. Yiaadeyadoga (NC) |                           |

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

SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTORS

|                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| A1C James R. Manion USAF (Ret) | CWO4 James F. Saxton |
| AOC John Cataldi Jr.           |                      |

## National Bylaws Changes

### Change Article IV, Section 1

From: Section 1.

Membership in The Association shall be acquired by the recommendation of a bonafide regular member, the payment of the dues and shall meet the following eligibility criteria:

**REGULAR MEMBER:** Any person who served or is serving within the Aviation Ordnance Rating/Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) (enlisted) or Aviation Ordnance Specialist Designator/MOS (Officer, Warrant Officer) in the United States Navy or Marine Corps (active or reserve).

**ASSOCIATE MEMBER:** Any person who believes in and supports the objective of The Association and is sponsored by a regular member.

**HONORARY MEMBER:** Any person who has made a significant personal contribution in the field of Aviation Ordnance or to The Association. Honorary membership shall be by recommendation of any regular or associate member and approved by the Board of Directors or the general membership. Spouses of deceased members in good standing at the time of death, will become Honorary members in The Association. Presentation of Honorary memberships shall be conducted at the annual convention/symposium banquet.

To: Section 1.

Membership in The Association shall be acquired by the payment of dues and shall meet the following eligibility criteria:

**REGULAR MEMBER:** Any person who served or is serving within the Aviation Ordnance Rating/Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) (enlisted) or Aviation Ordnance Specialist Designator/MOS (Officer, Warrant Officer) in the United States Navy or Marine Corps (active or reserve).

**ASSOCIATE MEMBER:** Any person who believes in and supports the objective of The Association and is sponsored by a regular member.

**HONORARY MEMBER:** Any person who has made a significant personal contribution in the field of Aviation Ordnance or to The Association. Honorary membership shall be by recommendation of any regular or associate member and approved by the Board of Directors. Spouses of deceased members in good standing at the time of death, will become Honorary members in The Association.

## National Bylaws Changes

### Change Article V Section 1

From: Section 1.

The Officers of The Association shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Board of Directors and Chaplain (non-elected).

To: These officers shall be elected officials. The offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer must be regular members of the Association. All officer's dues must be current."

### Change Article V Section 8:

From: Section 8.

The Chaplain shall be appointed by the President, with ratification of the Board of Directors. He shall serve at the will of the President and Board of Directors.

To: The Chaplain shall be appointed by the President, with ratification of the Board of Directors. They shall serve at the will of the President and Board of Directors.

### Change Article V Section 11

From: Section 11.

Nominations for officers shall be made to the Elections Chair. The consent of each candidate must be obtained before the name is placed in nomination. To ensure an orderly transition of office, candidates must be present at the annual general business meeting. Absence of a candidate from the annual general business meeting requires the approval of the Board of Directors. To qualify for absentee ballot, nominations must be received by the Elections Chair on or before the date set by the Board of Directors at its annual meeting. The date will be published in the newsletter issue that immediately follows the convention and subsequent issues. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the general business meeting.

## National Bylaws Changes

To: Section 11.

Nominations for officers shall be made to the Elections Chair. The consent of each candidate must be obtained before the name is placed in nomination. To ensure an orderly transition of office, candidates must be present at the annual general business meeting. Absence of a candidate from the annual general business meeting requires the approval of the Board of Directors. To qualify for absentee ballot, nominations must be received by the Elections Chair on or before the date set at the general business meeting. The date will be published in the Redshirt issue that immediately follows the convention and subsequent issues. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the general business meeting.

Change Article VI Section 5

From: Section 5.

The Board of Directors shall conduct necessary business between regular business meetings and such other business as may be referred to it by The Association. The Board of Directors will approve the annual budget. It will authorize the Treasurer to expend funds as budgeted. Emergency/unbudgeted expenditures exceeding 5 percent of the approved budget will require approval of the Board of Directors. The Board shall create committees, standing and otherwise, as are deemed necessary to support the Charter of the Association. None of the Boards' acts shall conflict with action taken by The Association. It shall present to The Association a complete written report of all action taken in Board of Directors meetings during the year. Funds bequeathed to The Association and not designated for a program, i.e., Convention, Scholarship, etc., shall be distributed by the Board to Association accounts in the best interest of The Association.

To: Section 5.

The Board of Directors shall conduct necessary business between regular business meetings and such other business as may be referred to it by The Association. The Board of Directors will approve the annual budget. It will authorize the Treasurer to expend funds as budgeted. Emergency/unbudgeted expenditures exceeding 5 percent of the total approved budget will require approval of the Board of Directors. The Board shall create committees, standing and otherwise, as are deemed necessary to support the Charter of the Association.

## National Bylaws Changes

None of the Boards acts shall conflict with action taken by The Association. It shall present to The Association a complete written report of all action taken in Board of Directors meetings during the year. Funds bequeathed to The Association and not designated for a program, i.e., Convention, Scholarship, etc., shall be distributed by the Board to Association accounts in the best interest of the Association.

### Change Article VII Section 4

From: Section 4.

Four members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board of Directors. During the Board of Directors Meeting the privilege of making motions, debating, and voting is reserved for the elected Officers of The Association. The President shall withhold his vote in order to break or cause a tie, whichever is in the best interest of The Association.

To: Section 4.

Four members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board of Directors. During the Board of Directors meeting the privilege of making motions, debating, and voting is reserved for the elected Officers of The Association.

The President shall withhold their vote in order to break or cause a tie, whichever is in the best interest of The Association.

### Change Article IX Section 1

From: Section 1.

Any member may submit a letter of intent and request permission to establish a Chapter of The Association. The Chapter must have at least ten regular members of the Association. All members must be members (regular or associate) of The Association.

To: Any member may submit a letter of intent and request permission to establish a Chapter of The Association. The Chapter must have at least fifteen members of the Association. All members must be members (regular or associate) in good standing of the Association.

## National Bylaws Changes

### Change Article IX Section 3

From: Section 3.

The Chapter shall be organized along the guidelines of The Association and shall have as its minimum the objectives of The Association as described in Article II, Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Bylaws.

To: Section 3.

The Chapter shall be organized along the guidelines of The Association and shall have as its minimum the objectives of The Association as described in Article II, Sections 1, 2 and 3 of these Bylaws.

### Change Article IX Section 8

From: Section 8.

If a Chapter remains inactive for one year, the Chapter will receive a letter from the Secretary, with copies to the President, Vice-President, and Board of Directors, warning said Chapter of its inactivity and giving ninety (90) days to take appropriate corrective action to get the Chapter functioning properly. Inactivity includes failure to submit all reports, minutes and transactions/information deemed necessary by The Association and failure to conduct bi-monthly meetings. The Chapter will be required to submit a written report to the Secretary on appropriate action taken to correct deficiencies. If no appropriate action has been taken at the end of this ninety (90) day period, the President, Vice-President and the Board of Directors will take action to disestablish that Chapter. Upon approval from the Board of Directors, the Secretary will give that Chapter written notification of its disestablishment. That Chapter may resubmit a request after one (1) year to re-established, provided all requirements outlined in The Association Bylaws are met. The exception to this rule will be allowed by aircraft carriers established as a chapter during overhaul periods. The chapter will be required to submit a letter of intent to down size during this period of overhaul to include a proposed conclusion date. For administrative purposes, the one year inactivity starts, once the overhaul period ends for disestablishment proceedings.

## National Bylaws Changes

To: If a Chapter remains inactive for one year, the Chapter will receive a letter from the Secretary, with copies to the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Board of Directors, warning said Chapter of its inactivity and giving ninety (90) days to take appropriate corrective action to get the Chapter functioning properly. Inactivity includes failure to submit all reports, minutes and transactions/information deemed necessary by The Association and failure to conduct bi-monthly meetings. The Chapter will be required to submit a written report to the Secretary on appropriate action taken to correct deficiencies. If no appropriate action has been taken at the end of this ninety (90) day period, the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and the Board of Directors will take action to disestablish that Chapter. Upon approval from the Board of Directors, the Secretary will give that Chapter written notification of its disestablishment. That Chapter may resubmit a request after one (1) year to be re-established, provided all requirements outlined in The Association Bylaws are met. The exception to this rule will be allowed by aircraft carriers established as a chapter during overhaul periods. The Chapter will be required to submit a letter of intent to downsize during this period of overhaul to include a proposed conclusion date. For administrative purposes, the one-year inactivity starts once the overhaul period ends for disestablishment proceedings.

### Change Article XI Section 1

From: Section 1.

Proposals for amendments to these Bylaws will be submitted to the Board of Directors by January in order to allow time to meet all administrative requirements for inclusion on the absentee voting ballot. Proposals submitted after that date will be accepted but are not guaranteed to be completed in time to meet voting requirements for that year.

To: Section 1.

Proposals for amendments to these Bylaws will be submitted to the Board of Directors by February 1st in order to allow time to meet all administrative requirements for inclusion on the absentee voting ballot. Proposals submitted after that date will be accepted but are not guaranteed to be completed in time to meet voting requirements for that year.

Change signatures to:

Prepared by Bylaws Committee

Kirk Brado

Robert Neville

Submitted by: William Taylor Secretary

Approved by: Steve Folsom President

CDR Johnny King & CDR Michael Gramolini

Two great AOs that became friends in 1984 as Recruit Company Commander in Great Lake and still friends after 42 years, we both retired as Weapons Officers LDO Commanders!

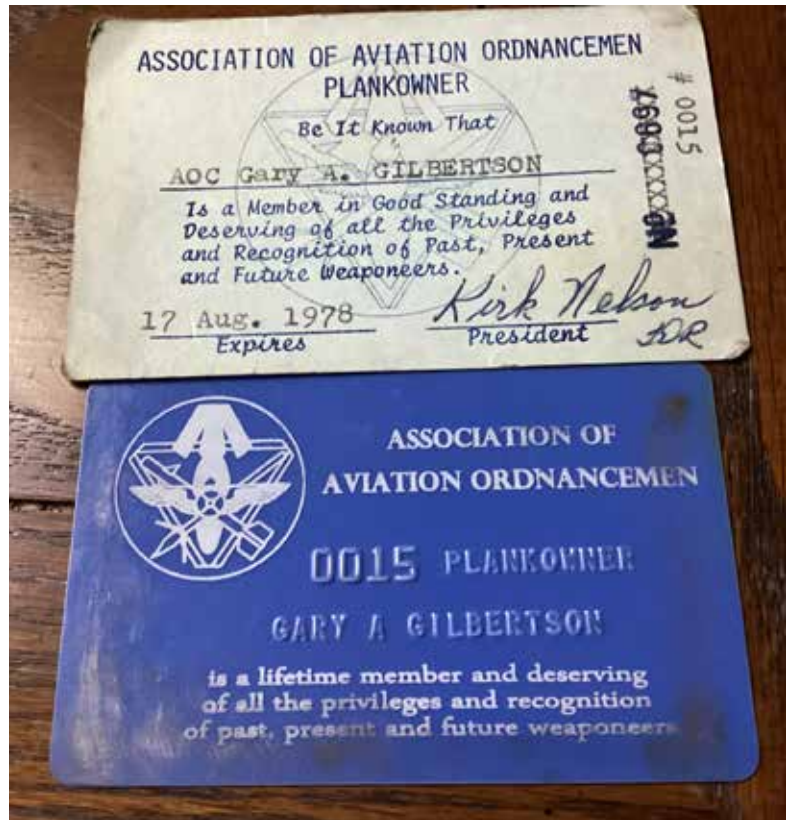
Submitted by: Sheryl Varga



Gary Gilbertson, Mon, Mar 23, 10:48 PM

I just received my Redshirt magazine and as always enjoy the articles and pictures.

Though it might be interesting to see how many AO ASSN "plank owners" are still around. I was #15 to join the Assn. the first week that it came into fruition . I was in AO school at Jax, Fla. I have also been a life member for a long while.



# CHAPTER LISTING

FIND YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER OR START ONE IN YOUR AREA.  
GO TO [WWW.REDSHIRTNATION.COM/](http://WWW.REDSHIRTNATION.COM/) FOR THE APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES.  
MANY CHAPTERS ARE DELINQUENT OF MINUTES NOT BEING SUBMITTED.

AS PER THE AAO NATIONAL BYLAWS, IF MINUTES, CORRESPONDENCE, AND TREASURER REPORTS HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED FOR ONE (1) CONSECUTIVE YEAR, THE CHAPTER WILL BE SENT A WARNING LETTER OF DISESTABLISHMENT. IF CORRESPONDENCE IS STILL NOT RECEIVED, THE CHAPTER WILL BE OFFICIALLY DISESTABLISHED

## 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 CA  
3rd Thursday, 1730

## Chapter 3 - Whidbey Island, WA

President- Niomi Demichele  
Vice President – Andrew Walker  
Secretary- Collin Bosley  
Treasurer- Albert Baca  
Board of Directors  
Nikki Reiter, Damon McGinty,  
Tiffany Voakes, Taylor Serr,  
Enrique Flores  
VFW Post 3037  
Fourth Wed of the month, 1130

## Chapter 4 - Virginia Beach, VA

President - AO1 Brittaney Hernandez  
Vice President - AO1 Zachary Zehner  
Treasurer - CWO4(Ret) Ron Jerasa  
Secretary - AO1 Kristen BrownVA Beach VFW #392,  
2408 Bowland Pkwy,  
Virginia Beach VA  
3rd Wednesday, 1800

## Chapter 5 - China Lake, CA

President- Joshua Edwards;  
ejedwards13@gmail.com  
Vice President- Anai Hudgens;  
anaigonzalez58@gmail.com  
Secretary- Steve Gentry;  
spgentry6541@gmail.com  
Treasurer- Christal Bennett  
Board of Directors:  
Cody Smegner  
smegner.cody@gmail.com

## Steve Maxwell

smaxwell@synecsolu.com  
Greg Paulsen  
paulsengt@gmail.com  
VFW 4080, 117 N. Alvord  
Last Flex Thursday of Month,  
1800

## Chapter 8 - San Diego, CA

President: AO1 Jane Park  
VP: AO2 Jose Luna  
Sec: AO1 Donald Cowgill  
Treas: CWO3 (Ret) Barry Stemler  
Board of Directors:  
CWO4 (Ret) Gunner Goose  
CWO4 (Ret) Lester Gipson  
AOCM (Ret) Diane Mcqueen-  
Gipson  
AO1 (AD) Quentin Tabb  
AO1 (AD) Max Mistecka  
American Legion Post 255,  
National City  
1st Thursday, 1900

## Chapter 9 - Jacksonville, FL

President- LT David Currier  
Vice President- Daniel Pratt LCDR (ret)  
Secretary - Mike Gramolini CDR (ret)  
Treasure Rick Wyman AOACM  
BOD  
Lindsey Smack AOC (ret)  
Rett Maner CWO4 (ret)  
Steve Cashett LCDR (ret)  
Ed Murphy AOC (ret)  
Bill Taylor AOC (ret)Fleet Reserve,  
Collins Road  
3rd Thursday, 1900

## Chapter 11 - Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii DISESTABLISHED

## Chapter 21 - Fallon, NV

President- AO2 Arin Felton  
Vice-President- AO2 Christopher Bennett  
Secretary- AO2 Bailey Kennedy  
Treasurer- AO2 Ashley Li  
American Legion Post 16 Fallon,  
NV.

1st Wednesday, 1830

## Chapter 22 - Patuxent River

President: AO2 Emmanuel (EJ) Yiaadeyadoga  
Vice-President: Vacant  
Treasurer: Rob Pavel  
Secretary: Ellen Bailey  
Board of Directors:  
Tom Brouwer  
LT Chris Shelton  
Mike Bruns  
Mel Swartz  
VFW, Post 2632 California, MD  
3rd Wednesday, 1800

## Chapter 34 - Pensacola, FL

President-AO1 Zachary Snider  
chapter34ordie@gmail.com  
Vice-President: AO1 Victor Tovar  
Treasurer- AO1 Ashley Brown  
Treasurer- SGT Nathan McLain  
Secretary- AO1 Kyliegh Love  
Public Affairs Officer- AO2 Nicole Ruskbonilla  
Master at Arms- AO2 Jeremiah Acosta  
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  
 DISESTABLISHED

Chapter 555 -  
 The Triple Nickel, Washington,  
 D.C.  
 President - MSgt David Myhre  
 Vice President - Maj Chris Johnson  
 Secretary - MGySgt Paul Schutze  
 Treasurer - Mr. Ham  
 Urrozcardenas  
 Board or Directors  
 LtCol Matt Beard  
 LtCol Freddy Topete  
 CDR Rick Garza (ret)  
 LtCol Darren Gallagher (ret)  
 Maj Chris Nolting (ret)  
 MGySgt Chris 'Mac' McGuire (ret)

Chapter 671 - Guam  
 President- Mikko Delosreyes  
 Molly McGee's onboard Naval  
 Base Guam  
 3rd Thursday, 1900  
Chapter 805 - Point Mugu

Chapter Desert Southwest -  
EI Centro, CA.  
 DISESTABLISHED

Chapter LHD 4 - Gator Chapter  
 DISESTABLISHED

Chapter LHD 7 - USS Iwo Jima  
 President- AO1 Rosalie A. Lashley  
 On Board  
Chapter LHD 8 - USS Makin Island  
 DISESTABLISHED

Chapter CVN 68 - USS Nimitz  
 President- AOC Wilson Leiva  
 Secretary- AO1 Brandon Barber  
 Treasurer- AOC Andrew Reimund  
 PAO- Tyler Nicolet  
 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- AO1 Kittles  
 Vice-President- AO1 Halcomb  
 Secretary- AO1 Oclima  
 Treasurer- AO2 Blackmon  
 MA: AO1 Masolo  
 On Board

Chapter CVN 71 -  
USS Theodore Roosevelt  
 President- AO1 Jose Pando  
 On Board  
Chapter CVN 72 -  
USS Abraham Lincoln  
 President- AO1 Chris  
 Geschwender  
 Geschie805@gmail.com  
 Vice-President- AO1 Sophia  
 Mattos  
 Sophiamattos00@gmail.com  
 Secretary- AO2 Hannah Getz,  
 Hannagetz21@gmail.com  
 Treasurer- AO1 Anthony Harrison  
 Harrisonanthony2008@gmail.  
 com  
 Public Affairs- YNSN Devonte  
 Legier  
 Training- AO2 Harvey Cappel  
 Community Service- AOAN  
 Shakeem Brown  
 Master At Arms- AOAN Austin  
 Tolber  
 MWR- AOAN Allen Andrada  
 On Board

Chapter CVN 73 -  
USS George Washington  
 President- AO1 Derrick  
 MinnittSharp  
 Vice-President- AO1 Ashley  
 Ketchup  
 Secretary- AO1 Wanda  
 Carrasquillo  
 Treasurer- AO1 Julian Colbert  
 Master-at-Arms- AO2 Christian  
 Carter  
 On-Board

Chapter CVN 74 -  
USS John C. Stennis  
 President- AO1 Benjamin  
 Llewellyn  
 On Board  
Chapter CVN 75 -  
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 76 - USS Ronald Reagan  
 President- Andrew Dominguez  
 andrewdominguez1994@yahoo.  
 com

Vice-President- Celine Delpesh  
 delpesh@icloud.com  
 Secretary- Elisnett Velez  
 elisnettvelez@gmail.com  
 Treasurer- Orlando Wheatley  
 orlandowheatley@gmail.com  
 On Board

Chapter 77 -  
USS George H.W. Bush  
 President-AO1 Everett  
 Vice-President-AO2 Urquijo  
 Secretary-AO2 Salcedo  
 Treasurer-AO1 Francois  
 Master At Arms-AO3 Stromile  
 On Board

Chapter CVN 78 -  
USS Gerald Ford  
 President-AO1 Livermon  
 Vice President-AO1 Braunius  
 VFW Post 3160 111 A View,  
 Norfolk, VA  
 Last Thursday of every month,  
 1400

Chapter Southernmost -  
Key West, Fl  
 Sunset Lounge, at Sigsbee  
 ANNEX  
Chapter Spartan-  
Souda Bay, Greece  
 President-AO1 Gilmore Estrill  
 Meeting Time and Location Varies  
 3rd Thursday of the month

Greetings from Chapter ONE in Lemoore, California.

We hope this finds everyone well. The Chapter once again participated in the Cal-Trans Adopt-a-Highway clean up. Thanks to all those who came out and supported the occasion. We also supported Lemoore High School Baseball which proudly displays our banner centerfield. Thanks to all those who donated.

Navy Munitions Command Detachment Lemoore celebrated the 100th Birthday for the Aviation Ordnancemen rating by having a cake cutting ceremony. A special thank you to Mr. Tony Craighead (Our most seasoned AO) and AOAN Logg (Our most junior AO) for sharing in the event.

To all the Sailor's attached to Squadrons in Lemoore that are deployed, be safe and vigilant. We truly do appreciate the sacrifice and hard work that you all do to keep us secure here at home. Also, if you find yourself in our area or need some place to go on the third Thursday of the month, please stop by the Fleet Reserve Association on "D" Street in Lemoore to share in our meeting. Spread the word and we hope to see you all there. Until we meet again, stay safe and keep your head on a swivel.

Cheers,

Chris Hathaway  
Chapter ONE President



### Chapter 3 Red Shirt Input to National Aviation Ordnance Association – February through May Report

Chapter 3 proudly submits this update to the National Aviation Ordnance Association, highlighting our activities and achievements from February through May in celebration of the 100th year of the Aviation Ordnanceman (AO) Rating.

Merchandise sales have been a resounding success, fueling our celebrations and chapter initiatives. For the AO Rate's 100th birthday, we distributed cupcakes alongside sales, receiving 60 newly designed beanies sold at \$25 each; selling a 100 skeleton portrait design of John Finn on hoodies with means to order more; 45 out of 60 red shirts; 50 out of 60 brown shirts; 150 out of 200 AO poker chip coins; and 30 crayon patches. Flight line sales of red shirts, brown shirts, hoodies, and more generated a profit of \$1,786.58 pending in the bank. Current orders for hoodies, shirts, and beanies are expected next week, with new placements for 50 John Finn hoodies, 40 red shirts, and 40 brown shirts. Also, new merchandise is in the works for the 100th celebration, including Fallout design coins (ordering 250, with the first 100 serialized) and a new Fallout patch design once production is complete. Ideas for additional coins and patches are being discussed, with designs to be posted on our Facebook page for voting on the best artwork. We also voted to contribute \$1,000 toward a brick for the Veterans Memorial in San Diego, representing Chapter 3.

Ongoing efforts include plans for cleaning the Guardians Statues outside NASWI in June, and discussions about attendance at Nationals from July 30 to August 2. Chapter 3 continues to honor the AO legacy through these events, sales, and service—thank you for your support, and we look forward to connecting at Nationals! Follow us on Facebook for updates.

## Tidewater Chapter IV

Submitted by AO1 Brittany Hernandez and CWO4 (Ret) Ron Jerasa

Tidewater Chapter IV extends greetings to Aviation Ordnancemen and women worldwide. We appreciate your service to the AO community and look forward to advancing our shared legacy. Chapter IV meetings are held monthly on the third Wednesday at 18:00 at VFW Post 392, Bowland Parkway, Virginia Beach.

Tidewater Chapter IV commenced 2026 with a focused initiative to commemorate several significant milestones: the 100th Anniversary of the AO Rate and planning for the 50th Anniversary of the Association, and the 35th Anniversary of the Auxiliary. At the January meeting, the chapter also had the privilege of honoring LCDR (Ret) Jimmy Harman for his distinguished and extended career. Jimmy concluded his service with the NAVAIR Fleet Weapons Team in December, marking over six decades of generational contributions to the Aviation Ordnance Community both in uniform and in Government Service. His work has made substantial impacts throughout the Navy – Marine Corps Aviation Ordnance Community. Well Done, Gunner!

Captain Steve Folsom presents LCDR (Ret) Jimmy Harman with a Letter of Commendation during the January meeting, recognizing over 60 years of dedicated service to the AO Community.

At the February meeting, the Chapter initiated preparations for the 100th Anniversary of the AO Rating, intending to gather the AO Community aboard the USS GERALD R. FORD (CVN 78) to celebrate a century as a distinct aviation rating. Due to operational and global circumstances, these plans were reconsidered. In March, AO1 Brittany Hernandez (Chapter President) guided the chapter in commemorating its centennial with remarks from Captain Steve Flosom, AAO National President, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony. The ceremony featured LCDR (Ret) Jimmy Harman, the oldest AO present, and AO2 Cody Murphy, the youngest member, attending.

AO2 Cody Murphy and LCDR (Ret) Jimmy Harman cutting the 100th Anniversary Cake!

### Chapter IV 100th Anniversary Attendee's

In April, Chapter IV initiated planning for the 2026 NAS OCEANA Air Show, scheduled for 19-20 September. Visitors are encouraged to stop by the Chapter IV booth on the flight line for AO memorabilia and membership registration opportunities. Additionally, April marked the commissioning of AOC Tom Harbeck as Ensign LDO. Congratulations on this significant career achievement.

Chapter IV President AO1 Brittany Hernandez, Ensign Tom Harbeck and

Chapter IV Treasurer CWO4 (Ret) Ron Jerasa

Chapter IV continues to support community activities throughout the Hampton Roads Tidewater Area, not only monthly "Clean the Park" at OCEANA Gardens and the annual "Shamrock Marathon" sponsored by the City of Virginia Beach. Till next Time IYAOAS!



## AAO Chapter 8 Red Shirt Inputs for Jan-Apr 26

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

Since January our Chapter's membership has continued to grow, and we have added six new Lifetime Members.

1. At our January meeting, we held Chapter 8's Annual Holiday Party during which the members that were present from USS Essex received the "Lone Sailor" award for consistent participation in Chapter meetings/events. Additionally, the Chapter presented five special recognition awards to the following personnel who consistently support our meetings and community support projects: David "Goose" Nelson, Tom Lord, Mike and Sandra Bornstein, Tom Crosby, Carol Knot, Lester "Gunner Gip" Gipson and Diane "Master D" McQueen-Gipson.
2. At our February meeting, the National City American Legion and the Maytime Band Review committee recognized our member Tom Crosby's participation as the Grand Master of ceremonies during the National City Salute to Veteran's Parade.
3. During February, the Chapter held its first 2026 Adopt A Highway cleanup on the Coronado Silver Strand with a great showing from our dedicated members.
4. At our March meeting, the Chapter voted on and approved the purchasing of a 12" X 12" commemorative brick to be laid directly in front of John Finn's statue located at the future Freedom Park near the USS Midway Museum.
5. On March 6th, the Chapter proudly celebrated the 100th birthday of the Aviation Ordnanceman rate. The traditional cake cutting was done by the youngest and oldest attendees, AO3 George Rodriguez (youngest) and Tom Lord (oldest), which showcased the legacy and the future of the AO rate.
6. At our April meeting, the Chapter awarded AO1 Donald Cowgill, CNSSC AMMOPAC, as our Aviation Ordnanceman of the Quarter for the First Quarter 2026. This well-deserved honor highlights his unwavering dedication, exceptional work ethic, and outstanding contributions to the Chapter. Bravo-Zulu— on a job well done!!!  
Chapter 8's current Leadership.
  - President: AO1 Jane Park
  - VP: AO2 Jose Luna
  - Sec: AO1 Donald Cowgill
  - Treas: CWO3 (Ret) Barry StemlerBoard of Directors:
  - CWO4 (Ret) Gunner Goose
  - CWO4 (Ret) Lester Gipson
  - AOCM (Ret) Diane Mcqueen-Gipson
  - AO1 (AD) Quentin Tabb
  - AO1 (AD) Max MisteckaIYAOYAS,  
Donald M Cowgill  
AO1 Donald Cowgill Chapter 8 Secretary



Greetings from and latest news from Chapter 9. Happy 100th birthday to all, what a pivotal year to celebrate. Our Nation turns 250, We AO's have existed since 1926, and Chapter 9 has met since 1984. The war with Iraq is winding down thanks to the overwhelming military might of the United States weapons technology and strong leadership of our country. Weapons will always need someone to build, handle, upload, and arm. We AO's will always be needed and are here to stay. Peace through power is on display once again.

2026 is now in full swing, we had a huge birthday party 2 March on board NAS Jacksonville with Pizza, drinks, and birthday cake. Ordie's from all commands were well represented. Our BOD has just approved new by-law changes. Our annual financial audit was completed. The Chapter brick to be displayed near the statue of John Finn in San Diego's memorial park has been fully funded. Best of all, new officers for the next year were just elected. Thanks to the 2025 Officers for a job well done.

Congratulations go out to AO1 Devonae L. Bradley of VP-26, the Chapter selectee as AO of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2026.

The Chapter recently voted to establish a AO of the Year to select one AO from the four previous Quarterly selections. Congratulations go out to AO1 Jeremy D. Murphy, outgoing President and currently deployed, as the First Chapter 9 AO of the Year for the year 2025.

On the local front, if you pass through Jax International Airport, There is now a Military lounge available just for you. Don't forget to attend our monthly meeting as well when you are in town.

2026 is going well , each year seems to pick up more speed. Look out for each other, be proud of the AO legacy, and do your best to support your local Chapter. IYAOYAS!!!!!!! See you at the Convention, don't miss out.

AOCM (USN,Ret) Richard Wyman



The 2026 Convention will be held 30 Jul-2 Aug 2026, decide now and get registration completed now. The hotel reservation under Group Code (found on registration form) cut-off date for reservations is 1 Jul 2026 through the link on [www.redshirtnation.com](http://www.redshirtnation.com), less than a month away. Don't call the hotel, you probably won't get the Group rate on your final bill, use the hotel link before the cut-off date, 1 Jul 2026.

The cut-off for Convention Registration will be 17 Jul 2026. A late fee of \$10 will be charged after that date for Registration only, NO additional fee for meals, meal prices will remain the same. Look for all the updated information on the website. All attendees must pay the Registration Fee, even if only attending one event or no events.



*The Red Shirt*

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION  
ORDNANCEMEN

2251 N. RAMPART BLVD. #359  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89128-7640