



The Cotten Growl



U.S.S. Cotten - DD669

Reunion Association Newsletter

(Formerly The Daily Growl)

Winter 2010

Vol. 18 No. 2

Director's Winter Letter

By Dick Myers

You may have noticed that the title above is different than in past issues. As we reported before, we have made a slight change in our organization.

We voted in our 2009 reunion to take steps to merge with other ship's reunion groups. During the past year I completed the paperwork to create a new non-profit organization called **DESRON 30 ASSOCIATION INC.** This group will sponsor all future reunions and mailing activities for the Cotten, Daly and Gatling. I hope that all shipmates on these three ships will continue to support this organization as they have the previous Cotten, Daly & Gatling Reunion Associations. I won't bore you with the details, but a separate item after this newsletter covers the By Laws for this new organization. At the 2010 reunion we voted unanimously to adopt these By Laws and elected three directors to oversee the corporation business.

The obvious reason for our merger was to allow for reasonable pricing by hotels which bid for our reunions each year. Without a sizeable number of members attending, we are unable to negotiate the low hotel rates we have gotten in the past. A windfall side effect was that as a 501(c) (19) corporation we can reduce our post office mailing expense and avoid some state taxes on our purchases. We saved almost \$600 on mailing the Cotten Growl summer newsletter and another \$200 on banquet taxes at San Antonio. These savings more than paid for the expense of incorporation, and the savings will continue in future years.

As a non-profit organization of past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States, we must maintain member lists and determine active members by those who pay dues. We voted to have annual dues of \$10 for all active members. You do not have to pay dues to receive our communications, but you must do so to vote on corporation matters in the future. The only items

we expect to be voted on in future meetings will be to elect directors and (if necessary) revise the By Laws.

You can read more about the meeting in a separate article on the business meeting held in San Antonio. Each ship has decided to continue to send out newsletters. We will all have the ability to save postage due to our new non-profit status. Ships will also continue to have their ship websites, and DESRON 30 has built a site of its own (see article below).

I hope that all Cotten sailors continue to support our organization with their dues and contributions. You may not be aware of it, but many shipmates and relatives (sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, etc.) send us contributions over and above the dues we charge. Checks should be made out to "DESRON 30" and mailed to me at the corporation address (same as mine).

DESRON 30
c/o Richard Myers
428 Lockwood Terrace
Decatur, GA 30030-2732

Please feel free to contact me at home by telephone at (404) 373-1020, email (ramunlim@yahoo.com) or regular mail to ask questions about the new organization or to suggest any changes you would like.

In Memoriam

By Dick Myers

As of November 1, 2010, we have received the following information on shipmates who are deceased. Our deepest sympathies are extended to the families of our deceased members.

LAST NAME	FIRST	MIDDLE	RANK
Blackburn	Roy	T.	LTJG
Burse	Charles	R.	StM2c
Cushing	Mike		SN
Freeman	W.	Brice	
Jones	Arthur	Dan, Jr.	CAPT

LAST NAME	FIRST	MIDDLE	RANK
Lanois	Rene	T.	EN3
Lesperance	Richard		
Muller	Carl		S2c
Offutt	Ollie	Jr.	
Sanders	Bobby	G.	
Shotwell	Charles	R.	S2c

Tucson, AZ, Here We Come!

By Dick Myers

Next year (2011) the reunion will be held in late September in Tucson, AZ. Details are being finalized and more information will be provided with the Spring newsletter. The host for the reunion will be Dennis Holt from the USS Gatling.

2010 Reunion Attendees

By Dick Myers

The following members attended the 2010 reunion held at the El Tropicano Hotel in San Antonio, TX. This was the same hotel where the U.S.S. Cotten held their reunion in 2003. Back then, it was known as the Four Points Sheraton Hotel.

Joyce & Tim	Ahles
Blainetta	Barnes
John	Bielot
Essie	Bowman
John	Brady
Martha & Wallace	Crisp
Evelyn	Cuda
Carl	Duncan
Rita	Fairchild
J. D.	Hatfield
Bill & Lois	Kenney
Betty	King
Charlotte & Don	Lamont
Wanda	Lewis
Paul	Marcucci
Bev & Tony	Marzola
Betty & Dick	Myers
Shirley & Tony	Opperman
Barbara & James	Rabbitt
Deborah & Eugene	Redman
Joe & Trudy	Sbarro
Marie	Siebecker
Ed & Yoshiko	Thornton
Myra & Philip	Toconita

Angelo, John, & Michael	Urato
Deborah	White
Linda	Williams
John	Yeater

Reminder: Website

By Dick Myers

For those members who have access to the internet, you now can access DESRON 30 by means of the URL "desron30.org". On that site you will have access to information about the ships. The public will be able to view our site and see the various ships' websites. They also will have the ability to communicate with us on the website. This will allow input of changes such as new members who find us, changes in status of present members and even deaths of former shipmates.

This website is available for you to see now. For members, one nice feature will be to have the ability to continuously update contact information for all members. You will be able to input changes for your own personal information using the website input. In order to maintain privacy, we have provided password protection to avoid having this information available to the general public (insurance salesmen, etc.)

Therefore to see contact information on any ship personnel, you will have to enter a user name and password. The user name is the ship name (cotten, daly or gatling) and the password for all ships is "*****". This password will be changed whenever necessary to protect the members' privacy.

Sunshine Corner

By Jean Killian

If you know of any U.S.S. Cotten member or spouse who is ill or recuperating, please contact Jean Killian and we'll get a card out to them.

Newly Found Members

By Dick Myers

Patrick K. Baker	Plainwell, MI
Joseph C. Garren	Hendersonville, NC
Michael Lisi	Altamonte Springs, FL
John J. McGarvey	Yonkers, NY
Early McMullen	Center Hill, FL
Roy K. Paxton	Lakeland, FL
Willie (Billy) Purcell	Conyers, GA
Raymond Rader	Indianapolis, IN
Eugene Sadler	Montgomery, AL
Burley Sharbaugh	Silverdale, WA
Don Smith	Boring, OR

Chester W. Strong
A. J. Tereba
Robert Williams

Hemphill, TX
Van Nuys, CA
Berwick, PA

2010 Business Meeting Minutes

By John Bielot

DESRON 30 Reunion Association Annual Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 15, 2010 El Tropicano Hotel, San Antonio, TX

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 AM in Monte Carlo Room A at the El Tropicano Hotel located in San Antonio, TX, by President Dick Myers.

Old Business:

There was a short delay starting the meeting as the hotel was making copies of the bylaws so that they could be distributed.

President Myers took the trouble to incorporate the group. He explained that to incorporate, you have to go to the state and register, file various forms and other legal material and have directors. We are now a corporation called, "DESRON 30 Association Inc." Then he filed with the federal government as a non-profit veterans' organization, just like the VFW. The only difference is that he did not file for the more complicated entity which would allow for people give us money as a tax deductible contribution. That involves a very significant amount of additional paperwork. So, donations made to the group will just go into the bank in the group's account, but you can't use it as a tax deduction.

So now when the newsletter is sent, we can save a significant amount of money. President Myers found a mailing house that does work for non-profit groups and saved approximately \$600 for the most recent mailing for the Cotten Spring 2010 newsletter. The cost was approx. \$800, where it would have been approx. \$1,400 if we did it ourselves. They are located in Pennsylvania and they hire handicapped people to do the work. All he did was e-mail the files that the Newsletter Editor (John Bielot) assembled and a current mailing list. They printed the hard copies, collated them, stapled them, stuffed the envelopes, addressed them and mailed them.

The fee to incorporate was approximately \$426. Additionally, because of our non-profit status, we saved approx. \$200 in taxes with the hotel for the banquet. President Myers just had to apply to the state of Texas for a non-profit exemption, and then

provide a copy of the exemption letter to the hotel.

These savings will continue in future years. President Myers spoke with Dennis Holt and we expect to do all the printing for all the ships' newsletters this way. We'll probably have two mailings a year, which is what the Cotten has been doing previously.

Next he explained the law. The law is that you must incorporate in a state. It can be any state; it does not have to be Delaware. You go to the state house, get the forms and register. Since he lives in GA, it seemed logical to him to incorporate in GA. There's no tax advantage to incorporate anywhere else. We are now a GA corporation. That means if we want the tax exemption in Texas, we need to file paperwork in Texas to get recognized. Not every state recognizes every other state.

Part of the rules for the corporation is that 75% of the members must be either active or former military members. Reports need to be made to the federal government annually. As long as we don't exceed \$25,000 in savings in our bank account, the report is fairly simple and can be made on-line using the internet. President Myers also needs to report to the state of Georgia who the officers and directors are.

That being said, the first item on the agenda was - do you all agree that we become a non-profit corporation? A motion was made and seconded, and the motion passed.

In Georgia you have to have two incorporators and three directors. Betty and Dick Myers are the incorporators, and Betty and Dick Myers and Dennis Holt are the directors.

Then President (now Director) Myers said we did not want to ignore the WW2 shipmates. He wanted to recognize the WWII members were in attendance. There were three present: **Wallace Crisp, Carl Duncan, and Don Lamont.**

In WWII, the Cotten was in DESRON 50. The Gatling, the Cotten, and the Bronson were in Division 99, which was part of DESRON 50. For the WWII members, the new organization could have been DESRON 50, but since the vast majority of the members remaining are from the Korean war, and the Navy evolved us into DESRON 30, it was decided to use the DESRON 30 name. When the ship was re-commissioned in 1951, the new organization was named DESRON 30.

We (DESRON 30) now have a website, which will become more user friendly as more work is done on it. There are links on it to each of the ships' websites. We presently have three ships that are part of the DESRON 30 organization. The other

ships have been invited to join, but at this time no others have accepted.

President Myers said we have to vote on two more things: confirming the bylaws (these had previously been created and accepted by the founding directors), and vote for directors. Georgia laws require a minimum of three directors.

A discussion then occurred about the money saved by sending correspondence via email instead of sending hard copies via regular postal mail. It was pointed out that all members who agree to accept communications by e-mail will receive it that way. Other members will receive a hard copy in the U. S. mail.

At this point, the hard copies of the bylaws were distributed and a five minute recess was taken to allow the members present to read them.

A motion was made to adapt the bylaws and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to elect three directors (Elizabeth Myers, Richard Myers and Dennis Holt) and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

We have to keep an active members list. An active member is defined as someone who wants to be a member and who pays his dues. The Gatling had previously requested dues of \$10. The Cotten requested \$10 for many years, but had moved to \$15 several years ago when there was not enough to provide for the mailings. With the decrease in cost for the mailings, \$10 is likely to be enough. A motion was made to have the dues be changed to \$10. It was seconded and approved.

The only other thing that we needed to decide upon was where to hold the reunion in 2012. Dennis Holt previously volunteered to host the reunion next year in Tucson. Dues this year will be sent to President Myers, Dennis will be the President next year. For the Cotten, the decision of where to hold reunions has been up to the membership. The Cotten membership likes to move around to different parts of the country. This year we went the central part of the country. Next year we'll be going west. Therefore, in President Myer's opinion, we should go east. We've been invited by Appleton, WI; Kalamazoo, MI; Knoxville, TN; Nashville, TN; and Dayton, OH. Bob Smithson also had a proposal from Eugene, OR, for 2012, 2013 or 2014. Discussion then took place regarding the various locations mentioned.

Dennis Holt then discussed the Tucson reunion to be held next year. It will again be a Sunday to Wednesday evening reunion held the first weekend in October. Dennis has narrowed the hotel choices to two, so he does not have the specific hotel

finalized at this time. Plans are being completed to visit a museum, the old Tucson Movie Studios, an air force base, and the Pima Air and Space Museum, (*Editor's note: for information on Tucson, visit <http://www.visittucson.org>*).

A motion was made to go to Knoxville, TN, in 2012 and seconded. Discussion occurred regarding various sites to see in Knoxville. The motion was then withdrawn.

A vote was then taken for the locations mentioned above to reduce the list to the top three locations.

LOCATION	# OF VOTES
Kalamazoo, MI	15
Nashville, TN	10
Knoxville, TN	9
Dayton, OH	17
Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN	15
Seattle, WA	4

The top three votes were for Kalamazoo, MI; Dayton, OH; and Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN. Discussion then occurred regarding these three sites. A vote was then taken to get to the top two choices.

LOCATION	# OF VOTES
Kalamazoo, MI	15
Dayton, OH	16
Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN	14

The top 2 votes were for Kalamazoo, MI, and Dayton, OH. A final vote was taken with Dayton, OH, garnering the most votes.

LOCATION	# OF VOTES
Kalamazoo, MI	9
Dayton, OH	17

Therefore, Dayton, OH, will be the reunion destination for 2013. President Myers then asked if later in September is OK. The consensus was that it was fine.

Dennis Holt then brought up the issue of privacy on the Internet and the need to password protect access to the roster content, which will now be available at the new website. The proposal is that the password will be changed on an annual basis. That way the general public won't have access.

President Myers indicated that he'd leave information that he has received on members that we've lost this year on one of the tables in the hospitality room.

Dennis Holt mentioned that one of the members from the first cruise of the Gatling, Ken Melton passed away.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.