

HRANA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 8 September 2021

The BOD meeting was held on 8 September at the NAS Oceana O'Club. CO Rick Rudell called the meeting to order at 1600. The following board members were present: Fred Metz, Carroll Bains, Doug Williams, Jim Dobberteen, Judy Ready, Chris Swanson, and Rick Rudell. John Allen and Charles Walker were absent.

An impromptu meet and greet with the new PAO of the base, Jackie Parashar, started off the meeting. Each member introduced themselves and Jackie then discussed her experiences and the current PAO projects at NAS Oceana. She is a Naval Reserve Officer (LT) and drilling reservist. This was an excellent opportunity to reset our relationship with NAS Oceana public affairs following the pandemic lockdown, and the departure of the previous PAO Jennifer Hayes.

1. **Secretary's Report** – Rick Rudell – The July minutes were approved and posted on the web site.
2. **Treasurer's Report** – Jim Dobberteen distributed the Statement of Financial Position as of August 31, 2021, before the meeting. One Platinum plaque was purchased for the Donor Wall. The General and Monument Funds continue to be adequately funded.
3. **Membership Report** – Doug Williams discussed an excel spread sheet of the 366 HRANA members. Each board member was again asked to review the list in detail and note the names of those who are no longer members, including the deceased. Send Doug the names for deletion from the roster.
4. **Plans and Programs** – Judy Ready – Social events are cancelled for 2021 until further notice. The BOD decided to have a combined BOD and happy hour with food at the LSO School on November 10, time TBD. It will also be an opportunity to say goodbye to CDR Swanny Swanson (new XO of VAW-120) and welcome CDR Tom Jillson (F/A-18F and Truman Mini-Boss) as OINC of the LSO school.
5. **PAO Report** – Rick Rudell – An article was submitted to WOG for the Summer issue. The Wings of Gold deadline for the Fall/Winter combined issue is 15 October. The proposed article for the next issue will highlight the squadron's participation in the POW/MIA National Recognition Day at the Flame of Hope Memorial Park on September 17. An additional article on the F-14 Tribute Dedication will also likely be submitted for the combined issue.
6. **Monument Report** – Fred Metz- The 2 storyboards were replaced in July. Two of the statues were recently reconditioned and the city of Virginia Beach will be encouraged to take over the responsibility for this cleaning task. Lights continue to be a problem due to water intrusion. Jim Smith will soon determine board whitener requirements, e.g. the Intruder board, at the NAM. The flags were replaced.

7. **Luncheons** – New covid restrictions are curtailing efforts to initiate a new hybrid program for having a presentation followed by happy hour at the Oceana O’Club. The BOD will continue to pursue this possibility.

8. **Old Business**

- BOD Openings – There are 4 open positions on the board: Admin, Operations, PAO, and Website Administration. Please contact a board member if you are interested in one of these positions.
- Proposed Organizational Changes – a committee will soon be working on the proposed changes, along with the PDL initiative.
- “MailChimp” is now the primary squadron group email tool, with a current list of 288 members. Fred sent out the initial “HRANA News/Updates” email on July 8 to those on the group list. This email is from “HRANA Board”. This email is now distributed monthly to inform members of current and upcoming events.
- The NAS Oceana Airshow for September 18 & 19 was cancelled due to increased covid positivity rates. We had plans in place for a great Chalet.
- Flame of Hope – The flame has been extinguished for the past 4 months as the result of a gas leak. The Virginia Beach Jaycees are leading the effort to restore the flame to operating condition in cooperation with the Virginia Natural Gas Company.
- F-14 Tomcat Tribute/Monument - the formal dedication ceremony was conducted on Thursday, September 16 at the NAM.

9. **New Business**

- The summer performances of “Aviator and Afterburners” began July 2 and continued through August 22. All members were asked to attend a show during the summer. Rick attended the show on July 11.
- HRANA participated in a wreath laying at the Flame of Hope Memorial Park for National POW/MIA Recognition Day @11:30am on September 17
- The board had initial discussions regarding potential activities with local NROTC and NJROTC Units.
- Discussions regarding airwing homecomings (i.e., fly-ins) and VFA-106 patching ceremonies were tabled until the next board meeting.
- ANA Annual Membership Meeting – October 21; virtual; refer to ANA site

10. **CO Comments** – Despite the airshow cancellation I want to recognize the significant amount of work and passion displayed by Bob Foster, Paul Stott, and Natalie Bell in their planning for a top notch HRANA Chalet. BZ

11. **Next Meeting** – **November 10, 2021, at the NAS Oceana LSO School; time TBD.**

12. **Adjourned** - 1815