



U.S.S. Saratoga Association

447 Land 'Or Drive

Ruther Glen, VA 22546



- President/
Sammy King
- Executive Board
- Pres. Emeritus
Brad Senter
- Vice President
John Lipscomb
- Secretary
Ed McCready
- Treasurer
Ron Zellin
- Historian
K.C. Boles
- Ship Store
T.C. & Emma Chastain
- CVA/ CV-60
Liaison
Harvey Hirsch
- Parliamentarian
Chip Hayes
- Master at Arms
Skip Burnham
- Chaplain
Vince Beath
- Board Members
T.C. Chastain
K.C. Boles
Chip Hayes
Harvey Hirsch
Sammy King
John Lipscomb
Ed McCready
Brad Senter
Ron Zellin

Dear shipmates, family members & friends,

The 64th annual USS Saratoga held in Norfolk, VA was a huge success. Shipmate Harvey Hirsch and his committee gave us a great reunion. Trips to Jamestown and Williamsburg was the highlight of the reunion. Also a trip to Oceana and NAS Norfolk was fun too. Well done Harvey.

The 65th annual reunion will be held in Branson, MO this year, shipmate Wayne Burton will be charging this reunion. We've held reunions there twice before and we always had a grand time. The dates for the Branson reunion will be October 19th thru the 23rd. Reunion, tour & hotel reservation information will forthcoming in the June newsletter. If you wish to make your hotel reservation early, that information can be found on our website. www.uss-saratoga.com

The association's toll free number has been temporarily disconnected. We were not able to retrieve the number from Verizon so it could be set up with Sprint. A new number will probably be set up shortly, please check our website for updated information regarding the toll free number.

Message from incoming President Sammy King

New Year Greetings to all Saratoga Shipmates, their Ladies and our Association Friends. I hope that everyone had a blessed Christmas and are looking forward to a Joyous, Prosperous and Healthy New Year in 2016. As we go into the New year I would ask that we all stop and take few moments of reflection on the past year and those shipmates, friends & spouses that are no longer with us. The scythe of time has once again taken it's toll on us. We also have shipmates and friends that because of health reasons can no longer be with us each year at reunions. I would encourage you to reach out to them and let them know that "they are missed". I wish to thank the Executive Board, for the opportunity and the confidence shown in allowing me to serve as your "interim" President. And I would be remiss if I did not say a big "thank you" for the recognition shown to me at the business when I accepted the position. It was very humbling and I will always remember your kindness. It is my hope that during this "interim" I can help in keeping our Association "moving forward" and looking for ways to keep our Reunions "a fun thing to do" ... We are very close to being at the point where our reunions are "paying for themselves." On the subject of reunions, I wish to remind all, that this year we will be going back to "Veteran Friendly" Branson, MO. On October 19 through October 23. And at the business meeting in Norfolk, VA. The membership voted to go to Saratoga Springs, NY in 2017.

2016 is the election year for your Association officers. If you think you might want to get on board and do something for our group, then this will be the year for it. The president, vice president, secretary and treasurer's jobs are the only elected positions on the board. The rest are all appointed positions. If you're interested in running for one of these elected positions and would like an outline of what the job entails, you can contact any of the board members to get that information. Currently the Association is in better shape administratively and financially than it has ever been, with the exception of the dues. We're still struggling with that one.



As many of you may remember, the reunion was there in 1998 and was “the” largest attended.” We are presently negotiating what we hope will be a good contract for you folks. All of the comments we have heard concerning the Norfolk reunion were “very good, and enjoyable.” Kudos to Harvey Hirsch and all of the folks that helped make it a great event. As of press time for this article we have nothing further to report on the salvaging of Saratoga. As I’m sure most of you know, ESCO filed for bankruptcy last Spring. That put everything on hold. John Lipscomb is our “point of contact” with ESCO and has been trying to get information from them with little or no luck. Until ESCO comes out of bankruptcy or they get new owners, it is going to be difficult to determine where we stand in getting anything that can be made available in the form of mementos for our members. Mark your calendars “Branson, Missouri, next reunion October 19th through October 23rd.” Our headquarters will be the Radisson Hotel. Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve our Association again.

Message from the outgoing President Brad Senter

I just want to say a big thank you to the Executive Board members past and present for all your help and support for the past 20+ years that I served as your President. 20 Years ago when I took over as President of the Association we had a reunion in San Antonio and at the close of the reunion there was not enough money in our account to pay the hotel bill. Tony Tonelli and I both kicked in \$500 to cover the bill. Of course we got our money back. Now the Association is way into the black and the reunions are basically paying for themselves. This could not have accomplished without the hard work and dedication of your Executive Board. When I turned over the reins to Sammy in Norfolk, I knew the Association would continue in the same direction we’ve been going. Sammy served several years as the Association secretary so he knew basically how the Association is run. Once again it was my pleasure and honor to serve as your President for the last 20 years. I will continue to be around to give help and guidance as it’s needed.

Message from the Secretary Ed McCready

Fellow Shipmates, I know there was some confusion last year concerning the Association’s mailing address, but as shown on the newsletter and will be for the immediate future: **447 Land ’Or Drive, Ruther Glen, VA 22546**
The Norfolk reunion was outstanding! So many people chipped in to provide assistance when needed both at the registration desk and ship store as well as a host of other activities. It’s a lot of work putting on our reunions. Even though it’s a labor of love it is very gratifying to see hands go up when some extra help is needed. New members are the lifeblood of all organizations. If you are in contact with anyone whom you served with but has not yet joined our Association, reach out to them. The best advertising is word of mouth as we all know. This organization is special. I appreciate the Association and the friendships I’ve made over the years. It’s my goal at every reunion to seek out new members or shipmates that I have never met. When you see a new face at the reunion take a minute to introduce yourself and welcome them. The initial experience each person has at a reunion largely determines their comfort level and willingness to make the USS Saratoga Association a permanent part of their lives.

Ship store

T.C. Chastain has added many more new items to the ship store, see the enclosed list and you’ll be please with what you find.

New Position

The Association wants to add a new position, “Newsletter Editor”. The position will require composing a semi-annual newsletter to be mailed out in January and June. If this is something you think you’d like to do for your Association, contact any of the board members. It’s a pretty easy job. I did it for 20 years. Plans are to have an electronic copy for our website and a hard copy for mailing.

Master-at-arms

In Norfolk, Joe Champi had to resign from that position for personal reasons and Skip Burnham was appointed by the Executive Board to fill that position. Welcome aboard Skip.

In closing I’d like to wish all our shipmates, family members and friends a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2016. See you all in Branson.

Brad Senter CVA-60 1961-64