

Leger Lines

www.navymusicians.org

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President's Message

NAVY MUSICIANS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION JUNE 27 to JULY 1, 2012, ORLANDO, FLORIDA.

Can't say it any louder than that! Will you attend? The reunions grow every year and you will certainly meet shipmates from your past who served with you as a Navy musician. I have been to most of them and am still pleasantly surprised at the number of shipmates that I see for the first time in many years. Putting this affair together and running the day to day operations of our organization is a heck of a lot of work for myself and the NMA Board of Directors but we are rewarded again and again by seeing the joy our members display on those 4 days. Come on down to Orlando and see for yourself. All of the information that you need is on our new, easy to navigate website. If I can make my plans and reservations using the website, anyone can! While you're at it, suggest a new member to us or try to sign a new member up if you can. We are a proud and patriotic veteran's organization and we want to share this pride with all of our former Navy MUs. Actually ALL MUs past and present are welcome as we have members from World War II to active duty Navy personnel.

Just a reminder to pay your 2012 dues if you have not already done so. I realize some of you pay at the time that you register for the reunion but for those of you who will not be able to attend this year, please send them to our treasurer, Cecil Strange.

At the reunion, as we have done at every reunion, our audition board will select a deserving recipient of the OL McMillan Scholarship Award and furnish a cash award to a young musician whose name

was submitted to the board. The rules for submission are also on the website. For first time attendees at the reunion: you can bring your instrument if you desire to play in our concert band, dance band, rock band or the jam session in the lounge that has been known to run 10 to 12 hours or so. Haven't played in awhile? Now you have time to work on getting your chops back before June. Don't play anymore? Fine. Come to visit old friends and listen to the music played by your friends. This event welcomes wives or husbands who contribute so much to our Navy Musician's career even if the career was for four years. Members bring their children, grandchildren, and friends. It is a gathering like no other, I guarantee it! We had a Board of Director's meeting in Florida this past January and I personally thank the board members who attended and the agenda items sent to us prior to the meeting. Our organization is healthy and we are trying our very best to help it grow. Suggestions and offers to help are welcome. Additionally, contributions to the scholarship fund and to the reunion travel fund, which helps members with financial difficulties attend the reunion, are always welcome and I sincerely thank you members who have helped in the past.

I hope to see you all in June and, as always, I am available to you the member, if you want to talk about the NAVY MUSICIANS ASSOCIATION.

OK?

Terry

- TERRY CHESSON

I Gotta Be Frank - Frank Mullen

My membership in the NMA helps me look at what I owe, not what I am owed. This is a distinct change from my days on active duty, when I grumbled twice a month over the fact that the U.S. Government was inadequately expressing its gratitude for my crucial contributions in support of the defense of the United States, the mission of the Navy and the breweries of Milwaukee.

So I'm still pondering something Terry Chesson said at our Membership Meeting in Virginia Beach last June. Of course, that was on a Saturday morning, a time when MUs are often still under the effects of Friday night. So let me remind you that, during his remarks, President Chesson asked each of us to look for ways to serve the NMA.

Yes, I know, the concept of "service," like "work," evokes memories of scrubbing toilets, hauling bass drums up gangplanks and standing next to flagpoles with a trumpet in your mouth and sleep in your eyes. But we are no strangers to service. Every single one of us, at one point, chose to serve in the United States Navy. True, some of us were encouraged by a letter that began, "Congratulations! Your friends and neighbors have selected you..." Still, we chose to serve in the Navy because it was the best choice life offered us. We could have taken tests and qualified as signalmen or quartermasters, but we offered to bring to the service the skills we'd been honing for years.

As Terry said, the NMA still needs the service of its members. Fortunately, the basic requirement is simple willingness. Job One, for example, is attracting new members. The position of NMA Recruiter is not an assigned duty; it's everyone's collateral duty. Ask any member—even yourself—what led him or her to join us, and you're likely to get an answer that involves a member's invitation. If each of us convinced just one old pal to join, we'd be awash with MUs.

Attendance at reunions is a form of service. Yes, sweetie pie, we love you just because you're you, and, yes, your mere presence is a precious gift from above. But the fact is, our reunions have unwritten, yet real personnel requirements. We need to fill out the clarinet section in the concert band, the rhythm section in the dance band and the Liar's Section in the lounge. And—surprise—we need audiences, too. If you no longer play but are willing to come to a reunion with a seabag full of encouragement and applause, we'll be grateful for your service. Our reunions succeed because we show up to make them successful.

Jobs, family life, health and community obligations can keep members at home in June. Yet many MUs remain dues-paying members of the NMA even during those years they can't attend the reunion. To them, our fraternity of Navy musicians is more than an annual jam session. Maintaining your membership keeps the organization funded, the roster full and you involved. Naturally, we'd prefer to have you trading sea stories with us in the lounge, but even if you can't come, your continued support is a valued service.

Recruit new members, maintain your membership and attend reunions when you can, and you'll find yourself once again in the service. Though it's not the kind of service that requires haircuts and shoe polish, it does offer rewards.

But beyond these basics, there may be more you can do. Perhaps you have some certain experience or ability to offer.

Leon Harris spent a number of years helping Ambrose O'Donnell handle the vital, often unseen duties of NMA equipment manager. Now Leon's know-how has allowed him to take over those responsibilities, giving Ambrose the break he's earned.

My particular talent, apparently, is Having a Big Mouth. It's not much, but I use it as best I can. As well as torturing you here in Leger Lines, I've recently taken over running our website. This has allowed former webmaster David Blakeley to relieve Bill Allen of the editorship of this newsletter after Bill's many years of service.

Like Bill and Ambrose, many of our other officers have been serving us for a l-o-o-o-n-g time. Some, no doubt, will want to retire from their positions in the next few years. Will you consider accepting a position on the board of directors? (Continued next page)

I Gotta Be Frank

If making a hands-on contribution is impractical, financial support for the NMA or its scholarship and travel funds is always welcome. While they don't brag about it, a number of members make donations above and beyond their annual dues. Some add a little extra when sending in their annual dues. My old shipmate, Dave "C.Z." Czohara came to his first reunion in Virginia Beach last year with a check for \$500, the result of an appeal for donations from musicians in his community.

Attending reunions often requires travel, and that doesn't always leave a lot of bucks to spare. But if you happen to live in the town where we're holding the reunion, your expenses are minimal, requiring no cash outlays for travel, lodging or restaurants. If you're one of these lucky few, you might make a special donation--a "homeporter's contribution"--to the NMA. (I assure you that if we ever hold our reunion here in Corncob Corners, Illinois, I'll fill the coffers with the money I'll be saving).

Look at your schedule, your checkbook, your address book and in your heart, and you'll find a way to serve the Navy Musicians Association. And you don't need to wait. When someone like the incomparably slothful Dave Czohara--one of the out-and-out laziest human beings ever to have worn the lyre of the U.S. Navy Musician--goes out of his way to raise funds to bring to his first reunion, you don't need to have passed the signalman's exam to get the message.

- FRANK MULLEN

URGENT MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

It is now the middle of March and a quick check of the records shows that 256 members have not paid their dues for 2012. The lack of response from these 256 is creating a lot of extra work for me, and I will have to ask that my salary be doubled if this continues. When you read this, please write a check immediately to the NMA for \$30 and mail to:

Navy Musicians Association, P. O. Box 2294, Plant City, FL 33564.
If you can't remember whether or not you have paid for this year, call me or send me an email.

Cecil Strange, Treasurer

813-601-3868

bandy@rapidsys.com

Wanted: Your Memories

Do you have a sea story that needs telling? A reminiscence that screams to be shared? A photo that depicts a memorable day in your life as a Navy musician? Leger Lines, the official publication of the NMA, is looking for submissions that reflect the past and present lives of Navy musicians. Your contributions help make Leger Lines a valued benefit of membership in the Navy Musicians Association. Please send your submissions to legerlines@navymusicians.org.



TAPS

Donald E. Borenstein
Joseph F. Gallagher
William Mark
John B. May, Sr.
Tom D. Parkhurst
Renick E. Ross

NMA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM
 DOUBLETREE UNIVERSAL HOTEL
 ORLANDO, FLORIDA (JUNE 27 – JULY 1, 2012)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TEL _____ EMAIL _____

DATES SERVED AS A NAVY MUSICIAN _____ RATE AT END OF SERVICE _____

ANNUAL DUES (IF NOT PAID EARLIER)	\$30.00 X	I	=	_____
PREREGISTRATION (Regular Member)	35.00 X	I	=	_____
REGISTRATION (Member on-site)	40.00 X	I	=	_____
PREREGISTRATION (Spouse)	25.00 X	I	=	_____
REGISTRATION (Spouse on-site)	30.00 X	I	=	_____
BANQUET (Each Attendee)	45.00 X	—	=	_____
DONATION TO MCMILLAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND			=	_____
TOTAL			=	_____

INSTRUMENTS YOU WILL BRING TO PLAY _____

DANCE BAND _____ CONCERT BAND _____ ROCK BAND _____ COMBO _____ TUB BAND _____

Mail this form with a check or money order (no cash, please) to:

Cecil Strange, NMA
 PO Box 2294
 Plant City, FL 33564-2294

Note: You must also make a reservation with the hotel at 1 (800) 327-2110. Use rate code "NMA" to get special rate of \$97.00 per night. This rate is good for 3 days before and after the reunion.

Note from the Secretary

As many of you know, some of the positions on the Board of Directors will soon need to be rotated. We believe this is necessary to keep the Board current and reflective of the membership, and to attract new members. Terry Chesson has indicated that the position of President will be open, and other members have indicated that their positions are also up for rotation. Similarly, the Secretarial position will be open for the election process in 2013 in Virginia Beach. If you are interested or know of someone who is, and would like to throw your hat in the ring, please let me or any member of the nominating committee know. I can provide the duties and responsibilities to anyone upon request. Looking forward to seeing every one of you in Orlando!

Doyle Church

Stories? You want stories? Stories I got....

My beginning as a Navy Musician was about as inauspicious as any... but possibly not altogether too different from many.

2 Jun 1955, 1000 hours, in the Office of the Bandmaster, Great Lakes, IL. I was met by an EXTREMELY efficient man in a dark suit with lots of stuff on his left sleeve, who smiled, shook my hand and said, "Good morning, Son... I'm Chief Temple".

I was new in this world, but was finally able to mumble a reply to his greeting: "Good morning, Mr. Temple".

This small but mighty man looked me in the eye, and said in his best command voice, "That's CHIEF Temple, Son".

"Chief Temple", I said... "Sorry."

"Yes", he said, "Well, let's get to it... did you bring a mouthpiece?"

I'd come for a euphonium audition, and pulled from my pocket an ancient Bach I7 with NO visible plating. In my mind, this was THE mouthpiece. I now know that it was more likely made for holding the bait down for bottom feeders.

"You call THAT a mouthpiece? It's a wonder you aren't dead from brass poisoning."

Stuffing the thing into a Conn I4-I he had for me, I sat quietly.

"Are you going to warm up?"

"Oh, yes, Sir."

"DON'T CALL ME SIR... I WORK FOR A LIVING!"

I could see he was becoming somewhat agitated.....

After a couple of blasts on the ol' Conn, I was ready.

"OK, Son, I want you to play a couple of scales for me... let's start with F Major... a couple of octaves will do."

Nothing... no movement... nothing.

He approached closer... "SON, I SAID F MAJOR, TWO OCTAVES... and begin NOW!"

"I'm sorry, S... I mean Chief... but what's a Major scale, and where's F?" This was the first time I had seen him at a loss for words. It would not be the last.

"Well," he said exhibiting remarkable control, "Let's see how you read."

He opened a folder, and selected a piece... even put it on the stand for me.

Seeing that I was apparently frozen in time, he kindly asked me to begin HERE.

"Chief Temple, I can't read this." It was in bass clef, and I was, like many, a converted cornet player.

Chief Temple didn't even speak, but went straight to his piano. "Play this note", he said. I did. Play "Mary Had a Little Lamb", and begin on this note." I did. Time went on, and the tunes got harder and harder, and began on many notes, and I was able to play most of them.

He stopped. "Son," he said, "I've never seen anything like this... how'd you learn music?" I told him that I'd been singing with my family group on the radio back in Kansas since I was three, and depending on which of my sisters was not there, I sang lead, alto, or tenor parts.

"Hmmm", he said, "Kansas, huh? Should've known. Get the horn, and play a harmony part with this", and he played a simple melody on the piano. I did.

"Now I'll play two parts, and YOU put in a third part." I did.

Then the man uttered words and phrases that I had not yet heard before in my entire life, and looking me straight in the eye when he was finished, said, "Son, I think I'm going to take a chance on you. You aren't much, but you have potential."

(Continued next page)

I later saw his evaluation sheet: "This man has not a clue, but he does it pretty well."

When my boot camp, schooling and tours of sea duty were done, I reported for duty with the 4th Naval District Band in Philadelphia, PA, where I was met by an EXTREMELY efficient man in a dark suit with lots of stuff on his left sleeve. He smiled, shook my hand and said, "Welcome aboard again, Son". For those who may not know, Chief Russ Temple was a superb example of a good man, a good friend, and a great leader. I still have one of the buttons he cut from his uniform and handed to me on the day he retired from the Navy in Philadelphia, and I will treasure it always as a mark of my respect for him.

Oh, and speaking of Philadelphia, when Chief Max Ring and Chief Russ Temple both retired just before I left the band in 1959, they were replaced by the first Super Chief I'd seen up close... another good man, Cecil B. Strange. We got on very well.

This callow lad went on to serve as Principal Euphonium, Brass Audition Chief and Designated Enlisted Director of the U.S. Naval Academy Band, retiring after a twenty-year career as Director, U.S. Navy Band, CNATRA.

Carl Vail, MUCS, USN (Ret)

2012 NMA REUNION SCHEDULE (Tentative)					
	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
0900		Registration / Dance Band	Concert Band		
1000		“	“		
1100		“	“		
1200		“	“		
1300	Registration	Concert Band	Dance Band		
1400	“	“	“		
1500	“	“	“		
1600	“	“	“		
1700	“	“	“		
1800	Combo (Lounge)	Combo (Lounge)	Combo (Lounge)	Reception	Banquet
1900					
2000					
Combo will also play Friday and Saturday after Reception and Banquet until closing.					
NOTE: SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME! CHECK THE BOARD ADJACENT TO THE REUNION OFFICE FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION.					

Fill out the entire form (or write the requested information on paper) and mail to:

Cecil Strange, Treasurer of NMA

PO Box 2294

Plant City, FL 33564-2294

(Dues are for 1 January - 31 December 2012 and are \$30.00)

*(Make checks payable to NMA. **NO CASH PLEASE**)*

NMA APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name _____ Spouse _____

Mailing
Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ E-Mail Address _____

Dates Served as MU _____ to _____ Instruments _____

Comments _____

Thank You

Return Service Requested

Leger Lines
8320 Nolandwood Lane
Villa Rica, GA 30180-4191