

Leger Lines

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E-MAIL: admin@navymusicians.org

NMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terry Chesson, President
1723 Willow Creek Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
E-mail: TerrySax43@aol.com
Tele: 757-495-0697
Cell Phone: 757-615-8007

Bob Leketa, Exec V-Pres
2432 Treyson Trail
Virginia Beach, VA 23456-8224
E-mail: bleketa@aol.com
Tele: 757-961-9729

Kim Holl, Vice-President
2409 Deepwater Way
Virginia Beach, VA 23456
E-mail: kimholl@cox.net
Tele: 757-416-9508

Doyle Church, Secretary
134 Delaney Circle
Summerville, SC 29485
E-mail: dchurch688@aol.com
Tele: 843-875-2121

Cecil Strange, Treasurer
P O Box 2294
Plant City, FL 33564-2294
E-mail: bandy@rapidsys.com
Tele: 813-601-3868
Fax: 813-707-9207

William K Allen, Editor of LL
1623 Farmstead Road
Rock Hill, SC 29732-8181
E-mail: tiggerwka@comporium.net
Tele: 803-324-7423

David Blakeley, Website Manager
8320 Nolandwood Lane
Villa Rica, GA 30180-4191
E-mail: admin@navymusicians.org
Tele: 770-456-4636

Bill Namack, Legal Counsel
5310 Dominica Circle
Sarasota, FL 34236
E-mail: bill@whnamack.com
Tele: 941-378-3582

Ambrose O'Donnell, Equipment Mgr
136 Treetop Lane
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
E-mail: 3hits_1miss@live.net
Tele: 609-813-2125

Wilbur Smith, Member-at-Large
130 Moyses Road
Winter Park, FL 32792
E-mail: smuffsan@yahoo.com
Tele: 407-671-7447

President's Letter

Reunion 2010! R U ready? I'm just practicing my rudimentary texting skills!

Plans for our annual get-together in San Antonio, Texas, scheduled for June 23-27, 2010, at the Doubletree Airport Hotel are coming along nicely and Bob Leketa informs me that 35+ reservations have already been made. I've made mine, too!

How can I not be excited about a reunion in San Antonio, one of my favorite US cities, with my favorite assembly of shipmates —the Navy Musicians Association? I am hoping for a big turnout with many first time attendees. In my career as a MU, I recall that there was an abundance of Texas talent in the Navy Music Program. Let's get new members, long-time members, and some of the organization's plank owners to San Antonio next June. We honor and respect ALL Navy MUs of every rank, length of service, and duty stations. Register early with the NMA and make your reservations with the hotel.

Last month, Equipment Manager Ambrose O'Donnell and member Phil Heim came to Virginia Beach and spent three days in our storage unit inventorying the NMA equipment. Now, everything the organization owns is marked, inventoried, numbered, and photographed. We are in the process of placing a value on it all and will purchase insurance for our gear, thanks to the research and recommendations of member Bill Sterck.

We are having a Board of Directors meeting at the end of January 2010 and will consider Bill's choices of insurance for our gear. I offer my sincere thanks to these guys and to all of our board members who work tirelessly for the good and the growth of the Navy Musicians Association. Also of note is the fact that these members are unpaid volunteers who travel on their own nickel to work for you, our membership. Many, many thanks!

I would also like to take an opportunity to thank Phyllis MacDonell for her generous contribution to the McMillan Scholarship Fund in memory of Phil Austin who passed away this year. This scholarship provides help to a deserving music student enrolled in a music program.

I wish for all of you, my friends, shipmates, and spouses of members a very happy and joyful holiday season with hopes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2010. Please stay in touch with me. I appreciate your greetings, input, well wishes, and even your criticism.

See you in San Antonio!

Terry Chesson, President

TAPS

Jack "Flauto" Estlinbaum
Michael Masciola
Leamond Landford "Noonie" Wilson, Sr
Jerome S Zadera



Boston Navy Band 1957

This band was requested to go to Quonset Point Naval Air Station in Rhode Island to play honors for President Eisenhower's arrival. Chief Dan Richardson was the leader and decided to have us travel in civvies to save our uniforms for the actual gig.

When we arrived at Quonset Point, the XO of the base jumped on the bus and told Dan to get the band on the tarmac for a rehearsal ASAP!! Dan tried to tell him we had to change but he said, "NO time, just get out there!"

Here's the picture from that day. It was taken at the behest of the Quonset CO who went ballistic when he saw us fall out. He sent this picture to our Admiral in Boston saying, "This is the way your band showed up for honors for the President." Poor Dan got chewed out and we got copies of the picture.

In this band, there was Jim Thumpston, his brother Ron, Bill Blizzard, Chuck Edgerly, John Estey, Keith Williams, "Pogo" Gordon and me (Jack Rodway) behind the tall trombone player, Munthy, and Swede Neilson. We had every kind of civvies on from jeans and t-shirts to a full suit and tie worn by John McIntire on snare drum.

(Story and picture submitted by Jack Rodway)



Commander Fleet Forces Atlantic Fleet Admiral and Mrs. Greenert, our guests at the banquet at the June 2009 Reunion. Admiral Greenert was headed to Washington, DC, for a Vice CNO slot. It was Mrs Greenert's birthday and we sang "Happy Birthday" to her. Their attendance was appreciated and he and his wife were cordial and responsive.



ROCK BAND

Preparing for a performance at 2009 Reunion. Leader Pete Codispoti; Keyboard Tom Wholley; Guitar Frank Mullen; Bass Bill Sterck; Drums Jim Roberts; Tenor Sax John Pastini; Trumpet Mike Frain; Trumpet Gary Wolfe; Trombone Leon Harris



