

BYLAWS

USS BON HOMME RICHARD SHIPMATES ASSOCIATION

Article I - Name

The name of our Association is USS BON HOMME RICHARD SHIPMATES ASSOCIATION. It is a non-profit/tax free organization under IRS code 501 (c) 19. This is an Association of shipmates who served aboard the USS Bon Homme Richard CV/CVA 31 and the LHD-6.

Founder and President Emeritus, Ralph Pound

Article II - Purpose

Our purpose through this Association is to preserve our ships' place in naval history and afford opportunities of communication, recreation and to perpetuate the camaraderie that developed among the shipmates who served on these proud ships. This Association shall be non-profit, non-sectarian and non-political.

Article III - Membership and Privileges

Section 1: A shipmate is considered a member of the USS Bon Homme Richard Shipmates Association if their dues are paid for the current year. Spouses of deceased shipmates are Lifetime members and not required to pay dues.

Section 2: The annual membership dues shall be payable on or before January 31st of each year. The current rate is \$25 per year.

Section 3: Members, spouses and guests may attend reunions, however, only members and spouses may vote and only shipmates may hold office.

Article IV - Officers

Section 1. This organization shall have three (3) elected officers. They are President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer.

Section 2. All officer terms are for a period of three (3) years, furthermore, all officers can be re-elected without limit so long as they are willing to serve and so long as they keep the Association intact and carry out the business of the Association.

The President

The Association President oversees the overall operation of the Association and presides over the annual reunion. Only the Association President's signature or that of his appointed representative is valid on agreements and contracts made on behalf of the Association.

The Association President or his/her designee shall take possession of all the Association's physical properties. This includes; photos, books, memorabilia, flags, ship store items and surplus liquor. The President or his/her designee shall also make sure the above-mentioned items are transported to the next year's reunion, returned for storage and be available for sale after the reunion. It is the President's or his/her designee's responsibility to arrange for the transportation and storage of these items before and after each reunion.

Along with the other officers, the President will arrive at the reunion site on Tuesday of reunion week to take charge of the overall preparations. He/she will meet with the host, hotel and banquet managers and others, set up the hospitality room, insure banquet facilities are prepared in accordance with the contract and purchase the needed supplies for the hospitality room.

The Association President presides over business meetings and reunion banquets. The President has the final word on all matters regarding the Association though he/she may be over ruled by consensus of the other two officers. No officer or member is authorized to spend or promise Association funds or commit this Association's participation in any event without his/her approval. The President is authorized to delegate duties to other officers and members. The President has signatory status on Association Funds.

The Secretary / Treasurer

The Secretary/Treasurer oversees the membership roster and is responsible for all Association funds, records, books, applications and other papers belonging to this Association, including the filing of pertinent IRS forms to maintain the Association's tax-free status. He/she shall keep accurate minutes of all Association business meetings, assist the Association President in all activities involving this Association, pay the Association's bills and give a report to the membership at the annual business meeting. The Secretary/Treasurer has signatory status on Association Funds.

Along with the other officers, the Secretary/Treasurer will arrive at the reunion site on Tuesday of reunion week to set up the registration room, assist with setting up the reunion and oversee any financial aspects of the reunion.

The Vice-President

The Vice-President will take over as President if for any reason the current President is unable or unwilling to continue in that capacity.

The Vice-President shall stay abreast of the latest regulations governing Associations such as ours. The Vice-President, along with the other officers, will arrive at the reunion site on Tuesday of reunion week to assist with setup of the reunion. He/she will meet with the reunion host, hotel and banquet managers and others, setup the hospitality room, insure banquet facilities are prepared in accordance with the contract and purchase the needed supplies for the hospitality room.

It is the responsibility of the Vice-President to take charge of the hospitality room and make sure a bartender is on duty during its hours of operation as posted.

Reunion Committee

The reunion committee will be the three Association officers headed up by the President. They shall choose reunion sites based on the vote of Association members at the annual reunion business meeting.

Compensation

Officers of the Association shall not be paid for their service or the time they put in. They will only receive reimbursement for out of pocket expenses such as gas, meals, seminars or rooms while on Association business with the pre-approval of the President and Secretary/Treasurer.

The Association will make use of any complimentary rooms provided by the hotel to help cover the cost of the officers' rooms. After utilizing all comped rooms, the Association will pick up the balance of room costs up to four (4) nights for each officer. Each officer and their spouse shall pay for their own banquet meals and tours.

Article V – Finances

Section 1: Following the general business meeting and upon request, the financial books of this Association will be made available by the Secretary/Treasurer for review by any member who has paid dues for the current year.

Section 2: The annual dues amount shall be determined by motion and voice vote at a business meeting.

Section 3: Any expenditures exceeding \$1,000.00 shall require the approval of all three (3) officers.

Section 4: Any expenditure outside the normal operation of the Association must be voted on by the membership at a business meeting and shall require a simple majority for passage. An example would be committing Association funds for a memorial.

Article VI – Reunions

Section 1: The Association will hold a reunion every year, if feasible.

Section 2: A member in good standing who wishes to host a reunion can make a proposal (bid) at the business meeting.

Section 3: The membership will then vote on which of the proposed sites they prefer. All reunions are under the supervision of the Reunion Committee.

Article VII – Dissolution

In the event of this Association's dissolution, all monies and memorabilia will be turned over to a naval or veteran's organization, such as the National Museum of Naval Aviation Pensacola or Navy Relief. This will be decided at the Association's last general business meeting.

Article VIII – By Laws

Changes to these Bylaws may be made by a simple majority vote at a membership meeting.

Article IV – Contracts

If the Association deems it necessary, the Association may contract with outside consultants for special occasions, services or events.

Accepted by the Association at the annual business meeting on September 23, 2022.