

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 the IRS code 501 (c) 19. This is an association of shipmates who served aboard USS Bon Homme Richard CV/CVA 31.

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 perpetuate the camaraderie that developed among the men who served on this proud ship. 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 USS Bon Homme Richard Shipmates Association if he is still carried on the roster. Widows of shipmates are associate members.

Section 2: The annual membership dues shall be payable on or before January 31st of each year.

Section 3: Members, widows and their guests may attend reunions, however only members who served aboard USS Bon Homme Richard CV/CVA31 may vote and hold office.

Article IV - Officers

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

Section 2. All officers will hold office for three (3) years. 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 all the business of the Association.

Duties of 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 representative shall take possession of all the Associations physical properties. This includes; photos, books, memorabilia, flags, ship store items and surplus liquor. He shall also make sure all 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 his responsibility to plan 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 will meet with the hotel and banquet managers and others, set up the registration and hospitality room, insure banquet facilities are prepared in accordance with the contract.

The Association President presides over business meetings and reunion banquets. The President has the final word on all matters regarding the Association though he 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 approval. The President is authorized to delegate duties to other officers and members. The President has signatory status on Association Funds.

Duties of 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 Associations tax-free status. He shall keep accurate minutes of all Association business meetings, assist the Association President in all activities involving this Association, pay the Associations 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 assist with setting up the reunion and oversee any financial aspects of the reunion.

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 along with the other officers will arrive at the reunion site on Tuesday of reunion week to set up the reunion. He will assist as needed to set up the registration and 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.

Reunion Committee

The Reunion Committee shall be made up of the Associations three officers. They will oversee and coordinate with any reunion host or event planner to ensure that the reunion will go forward and in accordance with our RFP.

Compensation

The Association will make use of any complimentary rooms provided by the hotel to help cover the cost of the officer's rooms. However, if reunion attendance (room nights) is insufficient to cover their complimentary rooms, then these rooms will be paid for from the Associations general fund.

The President and Secretary/Treasurer will in addition, receive complimentary tickets to all reunion tours. Officers 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.

Article V – Finances

Section 1: Following the general business meeting, 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 \$1000 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 or scholarship.

Article VI – Reunions

Section 1: The Association will hold a reunion every year. The location of future reunions is to be decided three (3) years in advance.

Section 2: A member in good standing who wishes to host a reunion can make a proposal (bid) at the business meeting. All reunions are under the supervision of the reunion committee.

Section 3: If no member volunteers to host a reunion, then the President on behalf of the reunion committee, will ask the assembled members where they would prefer to go. Upon consensus the committee will do their best to see that the reunion is held in that city.

Article VII – Dissolution

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

Article VII – By Laws

Section 1: Changes to these by laws may be made by a simple majority vote at a membership meeting.