

## **2024 Spring Newsletter**

Save the dates. Oct.  $21 - 24^{th}$ . The 2024 reunion will be held in Branson. We're changing it up a bit this next reunion. Past reunions have always included some type of group activity on both days prior to the last. It was decided in Nashville that one outside-the-hotel activity was enough, so the schedule looks like this:

- Monday the 21<sup>st</sup>. Arrival. Evening reception in the hospitality room. Pizza and soft drinks provided.
- Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Dinner and show on the Branson Belle. A big change from previous reunions. No chartered motor coach as part of this trip. The reunion size is getting smaller each year, and chartering a coach adds significantly to the cost. At the Nashville reunion, all attending save for 2 shipmates, drove. There should be more than enough rides available. If not, we will assist in scheduling Uber or Lyft.
- Wednesday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Open day. Explore Branson. Take in the shows.
- Thursday, the 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - 1. 10:00 am. Memorial service.
  - 2. 10:30. Ladies Tea and Gift exchange.
  - 3. 10:30 Association business meeting.
  - 4. 5:00 6:00 pm. Cash bar. 6:00 9:00 pm. Banquet followed by entertainment.
- Friday, the 25<sup>th</sup>. Depart.

Switching topics now. Something we need to be thinking about. The current state of the association. Those of you who have attended reunions recently will recall discussions regarding folding our association into another, the CTA, or Combined Tender Association. Two of our sister ships, the Pine Island and the Currituck were already part of the CTA. The CTA has now folded into another association, the Mariner/Marlin Association. Everyone is having the same issue. Mother Nature is taking her toll. Previous discussions on this topic always ended with a desire to stay separate. For Joan and I, the reunions have been one of the high points of each year. We've both made new friends, and I was able to reconnect with guys I hadn't seen in almost 50 years.

Our treasury has enough in the bank to cover the association's part of the next reunion, and possibly one more after that. This year we were not able to get a complementary hospitality room. We just do not bring in enough business to the hotel. They were not willing to give on this one. The treasury will cover the room rental.

The association does not have any source of income save for the yearly dues. And as each year comes and goes, the roster shrinks. . Association dues are \$20.00 per year and should be mailed to Vic Fischer, 664 Fourth St., Lemont II., 60439.

I've been in touch with Doug Miles, the current MMA president. We don't have to be a part of the MMA to attend the reunions. Or, there's no reason individuals can't be a member of both. Check out their website at "https://marinermarlin.org". Their 2024 reunion will be in early October in San Diego.

If you are reading this newsletter using a link on the website, you probably do not have an email address registered with Vic Fischer, our secretary. Vic's email address is <a href="mailto:duffer664@sbcglobal.net">duffer664@sbcglobal.net</a>

Taps List:

Darrell Swenson (62-64) 10/23/23

William Gilmore (64-67) July 2023

Morris T. Hylland (65-67) 11/12/23

CAPT Richard Brooks (53-55) 4/19/2021