

A photograph of the USS Charles S. Sperry (DD-697) at sea. The ship is a dark grey destroyer, viewed from a side-on perspective, moving through the water. The hull number '697' is clearly visible on the side. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

The SixGun

Vol. XVII Issue 32 Official Newsletter of the USS Charles S. Sperry DD 697 Association January 2012

President's Message: B. W. Jennings

Most of us in the Sperry Association are aware that our membership has slowly dwindled in the past several years. Some of the reasons for this decline are:

- Age (we have lost members each year)
- Relocation (members move and fail to submit their new address)
- Apathy (some members decide not to renew their annual membership)
- Failure to increase recruiting efforts

Although we cannot avoid the inevitability of death among our members, there are steps we can take to increase our membership. Some things we can do are:

1. Using the current Comprehensive Master Roster, develop lists of members who served aboard the Sperry during a particular time period.
2. Contact current active members who served aboard the Sperry during each particular time period, and who will agree to become a recruiter for the names on the list.
3. Using the current Comprehensive Master Roster, generate lists organized by state, showing name, address, city, state, zip code, telephone number and e-mail address.
4. Contact an active Sperry member in each state who will agree to become a recruiter for that state, and will contact each name on the list.
5. Using the names from the Honor Roll and the current Comprehensive Roster, develop a list of names of spouses of deceased shipmates.
6. Prepare an appropriate letter of condolence to the spouse and family of deceased shipmate, paying tribute to his loyal service to the Navy and the United States. Explain that widows, as well as children of Sperry shipmates may become Associate Members of the Association by submitting an application and paying the annual dues. They are entitled to participate in the activities and events of the Association,

Recruiting efforts will be documented. The name of each recruiter, as well as the date, name of person contacted and the results are to be reported and will be published in the SIX GUN newsletter.

Vice President's Report: Jess Mayberry reports he continues to make contacts with former shipmates and some have become members. Many have seen the website and have joined because of finding the association on the internet. Jess does ask that members continue to get on board and assist in seeking new shipmates. Please advise him of any contacts you may make with former shipmates.

Treasurer's Report: Gary Chesser

**U.S CHARLES S. SPERRY DD697 ASSOCIATION
 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT & BANK ACCOUNT ACTIVITY
 DECEMBER 31, 2011**

ACTIVITY FROM OCTOBER 1, 2011 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2011:

	OCTOBER 1, 2011 BEGINNING BALANCE	\$2,799.10
OCTOBER	<u>INCOME:</u> MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS	\$725.00
	<u>EXPENSES:</u> SHIPPING: FOR 2011 REUNION ITEMS REIMBURSED TO BARBARA JENNINGS	\$-91.64
	<u>EXPENSES:</u> US POST OFFICE, FOR STAMPS	\$-88.00
NOVEMBER	<u>INCOME:</u> MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS	\$535.00
	<u>INCOME:</u> SHIP'S STORE: SALE TO JAMIE REAL	\$41.25
	<u>INCOME:</u> SHIP'S STORE: SALE TO ROBERTA FLICK	\$78.00
	<u>INCOME:</u> REIMBURSEMENT: FROM BLAIR ROUGEUX THROUGH THE TARRANT COUNTY, TX, DISTRICT ATTORNEY	\$5,000.00
	<u>EXPENSES:</u> SHIP'S STORE: PAY TO: ACE T-SHIRTS INV. # 2904 FOR JAMIE REAL ORDER	\$-38.09
	<u>EXPENSES:</u> WEBMASTER: PRINTSHOP SCAN OF CRUISE BOOKS PAY TO: PROGRAPHICS, INC. STKV., MS	\$-25.68
	<u>EXPENSES:</u> WEBMASTER: SHIPING OF CRUISE BOOK PAY TO: UPS, STKV., MS	\$-15.45
DECEMBER	<u>INCOME:</u> MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS	\$350.00
	<u>INCOME:</u> 2012 REUNION REGISTRATION	\$99.28
	<u>EXPENSES:</u> LITIGATION: SPERRY ASSOC. V. BLAIR ROUGEUX: PAY TO: POPE, HARDWICKE, CHRISTIE, SCHELL, KELLEY & RAY, LLP, OF FORT WORTH, TX.	\$-643.42
	<u>DECEMBER 31, 2011 ENDING BALANCE</u>	<u>\$8,725.35</u>

Gary Chesser
 Treasurer,
 U.S.S Charles S. Sperry DD697 Association

WE PROUDLY REMEMBER:

Shipmates **LCDR (CPT USN retired) Robert M. Brownlie, Charles C. "Chick" Chiusano, Ivan Fowler, Capt. Cary Hardison Hall, Sr., Willis A. Matson, II and Richard "Dick" Huebner**, sailed through life's cruises meeting their share of calms, storms, adverse tides, and favoring winds. Their ship of life has now come to its final anchorage in a harbor unknown to mortal man.

We who remain do not know the course to steer and we believe our shipmates are setting their course by those beacons that were given to them and have found their harbor safely. To those loved ones who our departed shipmates left behind, awaiting their own day of departure and voyage to that same harbor of eternal mercy, we can offer our sincere condolences in this time of separation and loneliness.

*****Be sure to pay close attention to the registration reunion deadline of February 26, 2012. There will be a \$10 late fee after that date.**

REUNION PRE-REGISTRATION IS NEEDED

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Hotel contracts are much different now from those in the past. Under our contract with the hotel, February 26th is the last day that we can cancel the reunion without severe cost to the Association. The timeframe was negotiated down from 90 days to 60 days. Therefore, we need to know how many attendees we can expect because we have a "break even number". If we do not have close to that "break even number" to register before February 26th, we may have to cancel the reunion due to excessive charges levied by the hotel.

There are always some who won't know if they can come until the last few weeks and there is always a possibility that some registered members may have to cancel due to health or unforeseen problems. We can deal with these cases. But, we ask you to, please, send in your registration forms before February 26th, or otherwise let us know that you're attending before that date so we can be assured that we'll have enough to meet the hotel contract minimums. If your copy of the registration form becomes lost or unusable, you can print one out from our web site or simply call Barbara or me and we will help.

Gary Chesser
Webmaster/Treasurer
USS Charles S. Sperry DD-697 Association

If you have not made your reservation at the Biltmore Hotel in Oklahoma City be sure to do so and tell them you are with the USS Charles S. Sperry DD 697 Association.

Nominating Committee: The nominating committee for the 2012 election of officers are: Jim Callahan, chairman, 732-240-6204, Fred Hilberer, 734-475-9349, and Bob Henk, 651-429-0347. If you are interested in an office, please contact one of the committee members. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

CREW'S NEWS:

Jerry Smith reports that he is now in remission from cancer. He and Sarah are planning to see everyone in Oklahoma City.

While trying to get correct emails, contacts were made to **R.W Adams, William Beuthin, Michael Gaboardi, John Johnson, Sumner Moore, Larry Pettett, Lyle Radley, Menzo Sullivan, William Tobin, and Al Trendel**. Many are hoping to make the reunion. If you served with any of these shipmates please make a personal contact and encourage them to attend. All are doing well but like so many in the association, they have some health problems.

Received an email from Doug Sebold requesting information on the reunion. Doug served aboard the Sperry from 1961 to 1963, in M Division. He is planning to come to the reunion. If you served with Doug, he said he would love to hear from you. Contact him at: 6970 Cnty Road V, Marshfield, WI.54449, 715-884-2577.

Roy Welch reports he has been busy squeezing oranges. **Roy** stated they had a good Christmas and that his son Gary is now living in Florida and is able to walk. Cathy has had a couple of mild strokes but seems to be moving forward. They hope to see us in Oklahoma City. Please take a few minutes to drop them a card. **Roy** has done a wonderful job serving the association as chaplain.

Be sure to bring your door prizes and silent auction items.

Membership Renewal Time

If you have not renewed your membership, now is the time to get on board and be an active member of this great association. Please fill out the enclosed membership application and mail to the treasurer: Gary Chesser, 4044 Old Hwy. 12, Starkville, MS 39759. This is a reminder that the dues increased to \$25 at the last reunion in Annapolis.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

**B. W. JENNINGS
2018 CONCORD
DEER PARK, TX 77536
281-479-4844**

VICE PRESIDENT

**JESS MAYBERRY
132 GRANITE WAY
WENTZVILLE, MO 63385
636-332-3260**

TREASURER

**GARY CHESSE
4044 OLD HWY. 12
STARKVILLE, MS 39759
662-323-5059**

WEBSITE ADDRESS: <http://usscharlessperrydd697.com>

SECRETARY

**BARBARA JENNINGS
2018 CONCORD
DEER PARK, TX 77536
281-479-4844**

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Web Master

**GARY CHESSE
4044 OLD HWY. 12
STARKVILLE, MS 39759
662-323-5059**

Chaplain

**ROY WELCH
144 TRIPLE R LANE
CROSSVILLE, TN 38571
931-484-0375
NO EMAIL**