



Vol. XIX Issue 34 Official Newsletter of the USS Charles S. Sperry DD 697 Association July 2012

### **President's Message:**

In this edition of the SIXGUN newsletter, you will find several articles that should be of special interest. First, the enclosed quarterly report and bank account activity shows that the Association is now operating in sound financial condition. It also provides complete documentation of all income and expenses.

Highlights of the Oklahoma City reunion are listed. During the business meeting, the election of officers for the coming year was held, and members selected Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as the site for our next reunion. **Calvin Dyk** was appointed as our Chaplain to replace **Roy Welch**.

Enclosed is a survey for members, to indicate their preferences about future reunion. Please review this survey and return it as soon as possible. Your comments and feedback will help us determine how our meetings in the future can be improved.

In addition, you will find the biographical review of the outstanding career of **Admiral James Aloysius "Ace" Lyons, Jr.**, who was the Captain of the Sperry from December 1966 to August 1968.

A new feature entitled, "**NAVY TERMS AND TRADITIONS**" describes the origin of terms and names that most of us heard about in our Navy days but we never knew where they came from.

We want to encourage all members to submit stories, photos, anecdotes, cartoons, and other interesting information for publication in your SIX GUN newsletter. Tell us about your liberty excursions, visits to foreign ports, unusual incidents, enemy engagements, etc. Every shipmate has stories to share. Please send them in.

B.W. JENNINGS

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**AN IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Recently, the death of one of our shipmates brought about undue stress to his family because they were not immediately able to find his DD214 Discharge form. This resulted in efforts to contact several Navy record sources, and cause unnecessary delays in seeking Veterans benefits. **WE URGE EVERY MEMBER TO LET THEIR FAMILY KNOW THE LOCATION OF THEIR DD214 DISCHARGE FORM, AS WELL AS OTHER IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS.** This will help families avoid undue stress during their time of grief and mourning.

Treasurer's Report:

**U.S.S CHARLES S. SPERRY DD697 ASSOCIATION  
 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT & BANK ACCOUNT ACTIVITY  
 JUNE 30, 2012**

**ACTIVITY FROM APRIL 1, 2012 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2012:**

	<b><u>APRIL 1, 2012 BEGINNING BALANCE</u></b>	<b>\$11,507.77</b>
<b>APRIL</b>	<b><u>INCOME:</u></b> MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS	\$140.00
	<b><u>INCOME:</u></b> REUNION INCOME:	
	SURPRISE BOX AUCTION WON BY ROBERT DYKES	\$445.00
	50/50 DRAWING WON BY BARBARA NEWHOUSE	\$105.50
	SILENT AUCTION (35 ITEMS DONATED BY MEMBERS)	\$551.00
	BEER AUCTION WON BY LINDA FRIEDRICH	\$60.00
	SHIP'S STORE SALES: (CAPS) McCARTHY; MAYBERRY; CHESSER; WORST	\$60.00
	MEMBERSHIP DUES RECEIVED @ REUNION	\$75.00
	<b><u>INCOME:</u></b> SHIP'S STORE: McCARTHY, EUGENE	\$42.00
	<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b> REUNION REG. REFUND: KIDD, EDDIE W.	(\$112.46)
	<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b> REUNION SUPPLIES: CHARLIE QUEHL	(\$290.32)
	<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b> POSTAGE; SUPPLIES; SHIPPING: JENNINGS, BOB (PER LIST OF RECEIPTS FROM 2/16/11 - 4/28/12	(\$221.79)
	<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b> REUNION EXPENSE: BILTMORE HOTEL OKLAHOMA CITY	(\$1617.74)
<b>MAY</b>	<b><u>INCOME:</u></b> MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS	\$175.00
	<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b> REUNION EXPENSE: JENNINGS, BARBARA (PLAQUE INVOICE # 12314)	(\$19.01)
	<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b> SHIP'S STORE: JENNINGS, BOB (NEW DESIGN HATS BY IMPRENTA PER P. O. # 686254)	(\$94.17)
	<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b> SUPPLIES, POSTAGE: POST OFFICE	(\$90.00)
	<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b> REUNION, BADGES: BAUER VISUAL GRAPHICS	(\$61.01)
<b>JUNE</b>	<b><u>INCOME:</u></b> MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS	\$25.00
	<b><u>INCOME:</u></b> SHIP'S STORE: ESPOSITO, FRANK	\$19.00
	<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b> (PER MEMBERSHIP VOTE) GIFT CERTIFICATE TO PRINTER OF NEWSLETTER FOR FREE SERVICE DURING LAST SEVERAL YEARS: REIMBURSED TO JENNINGS, BARBARA	(\$100.00)
	<b><u>JUNE 30, 2012 ENDING BALANCE</u></b>	<b>\$10,598.77</b>

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

## OKLAHOMA CITY ROCKED!

They said dynamite comes in small packages. **WELL!** The 2012 USS Charles S. Sperry DD 697 Reunion proved that statement true. The fun began on Thursday as soon as shipmates and guests received their registration packets. It did not take long for the Hospitality Room to begin to buzz.

Seasoned friendships were rekindled and new ones began. First timers **Joe Friend, Captain Ron Kaufman,** and **Peter Trabant** added spice and enthusiasm to this year's reunion. It was nice having **Audrey Wilhite,** widow of **Roy Wilhite** attend this year. **Audrey's** son was unable to attend so her friend **Linda Schroeder** came with her. Officers had their Executive Board Meeting and then joined everyone in the Hospitality Room.

Friday morning found everyone enjoying the complimentary breakfast buffet provided during our stay in the beautiful hotel restaurant. Registration continued during the day. Some of the shipmates and guests spent the day touring on their own. Some of the sites they visited were the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum and the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

Many of attendees gathered to enjoy the tasty lunch of American Hamburgers or Croissant Chicken Salad sandwiches served by the hotel.

Friday night found everyone scattering to the many outstanding restaurants enjoying food, fun, and fellowship. As attendees began to arrive, **Annette Dykes** hit the floor selling 50/50 tickets. The winner of the 50/50 drawing on Saturday night was **Barbara Newhouse.** **Barb** was a guest of **Skip** and **Kathy Belz.** **Barb's** share of the 50/50 was \$105.50. Everyone had a hard time trying to outbid **Barb** on the silent auction items. Bring lots of money next year as **Barb** felt so at home with everyone she is coming back.

Saturday morning some slept in and others were up early feasting on the breakfast buffet. **President Jennings** conducted the General Business Meeting that began at 0900. Important business matters brought before the floor were the approval of the membership to bestow Life Time Membership status to **Jess Mayberry** and **Gary Chesser.** Shipmate **Mayberry** has served the association with great integrity as treasurer and vice president. He has hosted two reunions in St. Louis. Shipmate **Chesser** serves the association as treasurer. He has been instrumental in keeping the association finances stable and growing. He also serves as the Web Master. **Chesser** keeps the web page updated and his hard work is paying off with shipmates joining the association.

**Jess Mayberry** reluctantly stepped down as vice president for the coming year due to health issues. Members elected **Robert Dykes** to fill the position of vice president. **Robert** is enthusiastic and dedicated to increasing the membership in the association.

Chaplain **Roy Welch** also stepped down due to health issues. **Roy** has done an outstanding job as chaplain and we will be praying for **Roy** and **Jess** as well as all the shipmates of the association who are facing health issues. **President Jennings** appointed former president **Cal Dyk** as the new Chaplain. **Bob Jennings, Barbara Jennings, and Gary Chesser** were re-elected by acclamation to the positions they previously held.

Also during the Business Meeting members voted to go to the Ramada Inn Philadelphia Airport next April 18 - April 21, 2013 in Essington, Pennsylvania. Your host for the reunion is **Joe Waegele**. Additional information will be in the October SixGun.

After some discussion and recommendations from the members, the Bylaws were voted on and approved. Following the business meeting, the silent auction bidding heated up. Bidding ended at 4:00 p.m. and winners were announced after the banquet.

The silent auction brought in a profit of \$551.00. **Robert Dykes** was the winner of the mystery box donated by the **Quehls**. The winning bid brought in \$445.00. A huge thank you went to **Charlie, Rose, and Vera Quehl** for all they have done - and continue to do - for the Sperry Association. **Charlie and Rose's** daughter, **Linda Friedrich**, was also recognized for her labor of love for the association.

The banquet tables were beautifully decorated with red, white, and blue napkins. The menu of Rib Eye and Tuscan Grilled Chicken Breast proved to be the right choice. After **President Jennings** welcomed everyone, **Fred Hilberer** led everyone in the pledge of allegiance and Chaplain **Cal Dyk** gave the invocation. After the meal, **Joe Friend, Charlie Quehl, and Cal Dyk** honored shipmates who passed this year with the Two Bell Ceremony. After the Ceremony, **Captain Murland Searight** installed the new officers.

Attendees took advantage of the remainder of the evening to visit and make plans to see each other next year in Pennsylvania. For RV members, the closest campground is the Timberlane Campground, Clarksboro, NJ 08020. It is only 16 miles from the hotel. Additional details will be published in the October SIX GUN.

**Crews News:** **Jim Callahan (49-52)** will be having carotid artery surgery on July 10. Drop him a card of encouragement at 107 Langley Ct., Toms River, NJ 08757.

**Fred (68-71 ) and Theresa Hilberer** left the reunion and went to Mississippi where they shared their 40th wedding anniversary with fellow shipmate **Gary Chesser (69-72)** and wife, **Linda**. They then traveled to Florida for a family wedding before returning home. **HAPPY 40TH!**

**HAPPY 59th anniversary to Jerry Smith, (52-53)** and his wife Sara on August 28.

**Margie Edwards**, wife of shipmate, **Kenny Edwards (53-55)** called to say "Thank You" for the card the association sent to **Kenny**. **Margie** shared how it lifted **Kenny's** spirits after surgery to have two stents put in. He also had surgery for cataracts and glaucoma. She wishes everyone well but does not think they will be able to make reunions in the future. Please send **Kenny** a card at 202 Elston Rd, Lafayette, IN 47909. The **Edwards** have a new telephone number: 765-418-4786. They no longer have Email.

**Cal Dyk (59-60)** and his family enjoyed a trip to the Black Hills in South Dakota. They were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. **HAPPY 50TH!**



## **Meet ADMIRAL JAMES “ACE” LYONS, JR.**

U.S. Navy Retired is President/CEO of LION Associates LLC, a premier global consultancy providing technical expertise in the areas of international marketing and trade, enterprise risk including anti-terrorism site and port security, foreign policy and security affairs along with defense and commercial procurement. He served as a member of the Board of Directors for several companies, including the Advisory Board to the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency and is a consultant to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory on issues of counter terrorism. Because of his political, technical, and business management expertise combined with his strategic planning and operational achievements, he is personal advisor to key officials in private organizations in the United States and overseas. He is actively involved with Project Hope and other humanitarian efforts at the highest levels of the U.S. government. **Admiral Lyons** is also Chairman of ESINC (Emergency Services Information Network Corporation) which provides HAZMAT information to over 2,000,000 first responders through dedicated communication networks, (NLETS, RISS) and through the use of Sprint/Nextel and now on Blackberry phones.

As an Officer of the U.S. Navy for thirty-six years, most recently as Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, the largest single military command in the world, his initiatives contributed directly to the economic stability and humanitarian understanding in the Pacific and Indian Ocean regions and brought the U.S. Navy Fleet back to China. He also served as Senior U.S. Military Representative to the United Nations. As the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations from 1983 – 1985, he was principal advisor on all Joint Chiefs of Staff matters and was the father of the Navy Red Cell, an anti-terrorism group comprised of Navy Seals he established in response to the Marine Barracks bombing in Beirut. Admiral Lyons was also Commander of the U.S. Second Fleet and Commander of the NATO Striking Fleet, which were the principle fleets for implementing the Maritime Strategy. **Admiral Lyons** has represented U.S. interests with military and civilian leadership worldwide – including China, Japan, and other Pacific Rim countries, the European continent and Russia. As Fleet Commander, he managed a budget of over \$5 billion and controlled a force of 250,000 personnel. Key assignments preceding Flag rank included Chief of Staff, Commander Carrier Group Four, Commanding Officer, USS Richmond K. Turner (CG-20) and Commanding Officer, USS Charles S. Sperry (DD697). He has been recognized for his distinguished service by the United States and several foreign governments. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Defense University.

**Admiral Lyons** has given numerous lectures, speeches, and interviews nationally and internationally. He also has written articles for the Naval War College Review and Naval Institute Proceedings along with other national and international journals.

InterAct, a leading provider of incident response, emergency management, and force protection software and solutions, announced on March 27, 2012 that **Admiral James “Ace” Lyons, Jr.**, USN, Retired, has joined InterAct’s Advisory Team. **Admiral Lyons** served as Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Senior Military Advisor to the United Nations. “Admiral Lyons brings to our team a unique understanding of the global security challenges facing our nation and those who serve it,” said Jeff Jones, Vice President, InterAct Federal. “He possesses outstanding leadership experience, and he is a visionary in the areas of force protection, anti-terrorism, and port security.”



## *The Heart Remembers*

Shipmate **Joseph G. Balash (58-59)**, **Elliott M. Saltsburg (53-54)**, **Richard Hegenauer (48-52)**, A memorial service was held for **Richard** on June 16, 2012 in Augers, MI. **James (Jim) McCabe (54-56)** passed away on July 4, 2012.

Their ship 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 setting their course by those beacons that were given to them have found their harbor safely. To those loved ones whom our departed shipmates have left behind, awaiting their own day of departure and voyage to that same harbor of eternal mercy, we offer our sincere condolences in this time of separation and loneliness.

***Vice President:*** Robert Dykes

Greetings Shipmates,

Allow me to introduce myself. I am your Vice President, **Robert Dykes**. I have been married 31 years to Annette. We have two daughters and three grandchildren, which are the joy of our lives.

I served aboard The Sperry from 1969-1971. While on board, I served as a boats man. During the Oklahoma City Reunion, **President, Bob Jennings** requested shipmates to take a list of inactive members and contact them. I hope everyone has completed his or her list of contacts.

I have searched various web sites looking for Sperry shipmates and I have emailed those I found encouraging them to join the Association and try to attend the reunions. Remember, active membership is a major factor in the success of any association.



Annual Reunion...A STAR-STUDED EVENT

OKLAHOMA CITY

April 26-April 28, 2012



Elise & Joe Waegle, Fran Dyk, Fred & Theresa Hilberer, Annette & Robert Dykes, Cal Dyk, George Newton, Gary Linda Chesser, Joe Friend,



Each chair has the name of someone who died in the Oklahoma City bombing.



Attendees enjoying a delightful General Business Meeting



President Jennings recommended Life Time Membership for Vice President Jess Mayberry and Treasurer Gary Chesser.

bestow the honor on these dedicated shipmates.



**First Timers**

Peter Trabant  
 Capt. Ron Kaufman  
 Joe Friend



Ranch hands Vera Quehl, Rose & Charlie Quehl and their daughter, Linda Friedrich, rode in for a delightful banquet.



*Liberty* was never so much fun for Robert Foad, Jess Mayberry, B. W. Jennings, Gary Chesser, Capt. John Holmes, Joe Waegele, Joe Friend, Eugene McCarthy, Peter Trabant, Robert Dykes, Fred Hilberer, Skip Belz, Ron Dilley, Marvin Worst, Barry Barker, Charlie Quehl, Capt. Ron Kaufman, George Newton and Capt. John Holmes



Cal Dyk, Skip Belz, Ron Dilley, Peter Trabant and Marvin Worst. Ship picture Was donated for the silent auction by Audrey Wilhite and won by Skip Belz.



## *USS Charles S. Sperry DD 697 Association Officers*



### ***B.W. Jennings, President***

2018 Concord  
Deer Park, TX 77536  
281.479.4844, Cell 281-635-5977  
[sperrydd697-president@yahoo.com](mailto:sperrydd697-president@yahoo.com)

### ***Robert Dykes, Vice President***

61045 Hwy. 278 East  
Amory, MS 38821  
662-256-9592, Cell 662-257-5169  
[Sperrydd697-vice-president@yahoo.com](mailto:Sperrydd697-vice-president@yahoo.com)

### ***Barbara Jennings, Secretary***

2018 Concord  
Deer Park, TX 77536  
281-479-4844, Cell 281-635-1553  
[Sperrydd697-secretary-@yahoo.com](mailto:Sperrydd697-secretary-@yahoo.com)

### ***Gary Chesser, Treasurer***

4044 Old Hwy. 12  
Starkville, MS 39759  
662.323.5059, Cell 662-418-8115  
[sperrydd697-treasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:sperrydd697-treasurer@yahoo.com)

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

*Visit the USS Charles S. Sperry DD 697 on  
Facebook.*

***Appointed Positions*** Web-Master - Gary Chesser

Chaplain - *Cal Dyk*, 2697 Hope St., Hudsonville, MI 49426, 616-669-9785,  
[dykfracald@aol.com](mailto:dykfracald@aol.com)

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

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