



Six Gun

Official Newsletter of the USS Charles S. Sperry DD 697 Association October 2021

USS Charles S. Sperry DD 697

N. Myrtle Beach, South Carolina Reunion

September 19 – 22, 2021

**Stronger
Together**



President's Message:

Greetings all!

We've just completed another successful reunion and this one was held in conjunction with the USS CONWAY.

The two Associations and everyone who attended appeared to mesh really well which contributed to making this year's reunion successful. Everyone working on any of the reunion committees is to be congratulated for a job well done.

Next year's reunion is slated to be held in Buffalo New York and again with the USS CONWAY. It too should prove to be another successful event. Keep your eyes on future issues of the Six Gun for further details.

All of our committees are in need of augmentation to continue to bring you these successful reunions and events that we participate in. If you can find some time to help with this it would be appreciated. So far the women have contributed to make our reunions successful. As far as I can remember, women didn't serve aboard ship at that time. Any time you can contribute you can make our reunions successful.

Once again keep your eyes on the Six Gun for future updates. You can make the Six Gun more successful by submitting your photos and memories to the Six Gun to share with our members.

Fair Winds and Following Seas,

Frank Smith

Vice President – Robert Dykes

We just arrived home from the 2021 joint reunion with The USS Conway. Great to see old friends and we met a lot of new ones. Some of you know that I was on both ships. The USS Conway was my first ship. July 1969- Nov. 1969. If you were unable to attend the reunion, you missed a great one.

Annette and I stopped in Charleston, SC on our way home and toured The Laffey. (The last of the Sumner Class). That brought back lots of memories.

I am still searching the internet for shipmates. We all have a shipmate buddy, please contact them and invite them to the reunion.

Secretary – Barbara Jennings

It is an honor to be back assisting the officers and association. I want to give a huge thank you to Lee Barnes and Beverly Rayfield for a job well done in producing the Six Gun the past six years. As always stories are always needed. Please email to barbobjennings@yahoo.com. Share your time aboard the Sperry, favorite reunion, vacations and special family memories.

Please remember the Quehl family in your prayers. Charlie, his two daughters Linda and Connie, sister in law, Vera arrived Sunday evening. Monday morning, they received a call there was an emergency at home and had to leave. Sadly, it was Vera's grandson. He passed away unexpectedly. No other details.

Webmaster/Reunion Coordinator – Gary Chesser

We've had a very disappointing couple years on many levels. All of our lives have been changed through loss, sickness, or just the stresses brought on by fear and limits of freedoms. This year's joint reunion was a breath of fresh air, though only a respite, it is encouraging as we plan for the Buffalo reunion next year. We will try to plan the 2023 reunion in Albuquerque in late April or early May and pray for a return to normalcy.

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*We Remember 2020 – 2021*



John Atkins (45-46); Robert Berlinski (50-52); Richard (Dick) Biondo (58-60); Alfred Bitetti (52-55); Joseph Bowles (68-71); John Callahan (44-47); James Coffey (44-45); David Davies (50-53); Robert Dispio (71-73); Wilton Dorris (52-51); Thomas Doyle III (44-46); Calvin (Cal) Dyk (59-60); Arthur Ellis (50-51); Charles (Charlie) Fields, Sr., no service date available, Jonathan Fischman (72-73); Robert Foad (44-47); Charles Gary (57-69); William (Bill) Glahn (53-56), Peter Greco Sr. (56-61); William (Skip) Hinichs (64-66); John Holmes ; Robert Jefferies (44-46); Eddie Kidd (48); Glenn Knotts (65-66); Drexel Lawson (55-58); Zed Lee, Sr. (57-60); Earl Levy (53-56); Donald Litz (59-61); John Loewen (60-62); Robert Logan (71-73); Carter Lueders (44-46); Walter Makowski (60-65); Eugene McCarthy (67-68); George McCrackin (44-46); David Nixon (49-51); James O'brien (62-64); Harley (Fuzzy) Orange, Jr. (61-64); Edward Osann (44-46); Thomas Richie 952-56); Efrain (Frank) Santana Jr. (64-66); David Schenkler (44-46); George Smith (61-63); John Stevens (45-46); Bobby Stewart(48); Gerald Stocke (48-51); John Stone (59-60); Menzo (Zo) Sullivan (58-61); Louis Sweezey (48-52); Leonard Swindler (46-48); Salvatore (Sal) Termine (44-46); William Trovinger (54-56); George Verfaillie Sr. (48-52); Ralph Voellings (46-48); Cletis Wooton (58-60); Richard Yaeckel (57-60).

We lost so many shipmates during the past two years. Please remember their families in your prayers.

Treasurer – Ron LaPlaca

| DATE      | CHECK<br>TYPE | MEMBER OR PAYEE               | DUES<br>YEAR | DUES<br>PAID | SHIP<br>STO. | GIFT    | REU.<br>FEES | INCOME<br>EXP | TRANS.      |
|-----------|---------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
|           |               | <b>2nd QTR ENDING BALANCE</b> |              |              |              |         |              |               | \$24,933.65 |
|           |               | <b>JULY 2021</b>              |              |              |              |         |              |               |             |
| 7/2/2021  | 153           | DETHLEFSEN -REU/DUES          | 2021         | \$25.00      |              |         | \$305.00     | \$330.00      |             |
| 7/3/2021  | 21425         | ESPOSITO - DUES               | 2021         | \$25.00      |              |         |              | \$25.00       |             |
| 7/9/2021  | 10016         | HILBERER- REU/DUES            | 2021         | \$25.00      |              |         | \$366.00     | \$391.00      |             |
| 7/13/2021 | 1581          | DYK - REUNION/DUES            | 2021         | \$25.00      |              |         | \$376.00     | \$401.00      |             |
| 7/13/2021 | 1742          | WALLACE - REU/DUES            | 2021         | \$25.00      |              |         | \$376.00     | \$401.00      |             |
| 7/16/2021 | 2479          | LAVON-REU/DUES                | 2021         | \$50.00      |              |         | \$561.00     | \$611.00      |             |
| 7/16/2021 | 2190          | MAROON-DUES                   | 22/23        | \$50.00      |              |         |              | \$50.00       |             |
| 7/23/2021 | 125           | HOLMES,M-REUNION              |              |              |              |         | \$366.00     | \$366.00      |             |
| 7/26/2021 | 1294          | BRINKMAN-REU/DUES             | 2021         | \$25.00      |              |         | \$928.00     | \$953.00      |             |
| 7/29/2021 | 9648          | QUEHL-REUNION                 |              |              |              |         | \$309.00     | \$309.00      |             |
|           | DEPOSIT       |                               |              | \$250.00     | \$0.00       | \$0.00  | \$3,587.00   | \$3,837.00    | \$28,770.65 |
| 7/15/2021 | DEBIT         | MAIL MANAGERS-SIX GUN         |              | (\$367.71)   |              |         |              | (\$367.71)    |             |
| 7/29/2021 | DEBIT         | ORIENTAL TR-GIFT BAGS         |              |              |              |         | (\$64.59)    | (\$64.59)     |             |
|           | EXPENSES      |                               |              | (\$367.71)   | \$0.00       | \$0.00  | (\$64.59)    | (\$432.30)    | \$28,338.35 |
|           |               | <b>AUGUST 2021</b>            |              |              |              |         |              |               |             |
| 8/13/2021 | 2846          | CHRISTENSON,GL-REU/DUES       | 2021         | \$25.00      |              |         | \$366.00     | \$391.00      |             |
| 8/17/2021 | 6511362       | CHESSER-REU/ASSOC DUES        | 2021         | \$25.00      |              |         | \$366.00     | \$391.00      |             |
| 8/17/2021 | 2750          | LAPLACA, P - REU/DUES         | 2021         | \$25.00      |              |         | \$274.00     | \$299.00      |             |
| 8/19/2021 | 6020          | ENGELHARDT, D + ASSOC-DUES    | 2021         | \$50.00      |              |         |              | \$50.00       |             |
| 8/20/2021 | 942           | OPEL - DUES                   | 2021         | \$25.00      |              |         |              | \$25.00       |             |
| 8/20/2021 | 971           | GESSNER - DUES                | 21/22        | \$50.00      |              |         |              | \$50.00       |             |
| 8/20/2021 | 2037          | MILLER- DUES                  | 2021         | \$25.00      |              |         |              | \$25.00       |             |
| 8/20/2021 | 933           | BROCK - DUES                  | 2021         | \$25.00      |              |         |              | \$25.00       |             |
| 8/20/2021 | 4190          | CLAYTON - REUNION             |              |              |              |         | \$274.00     | \$274.00      |             |
| 8/20/2021 | 3230          | KROEPER - SHIP STORES ORDER   |              |              | \$34.95      |         |              | \$34.95       |             |
| 8/24/2021 | 7569          | MEISLAHN - DUES               | 2021         | \$25.00      |              |         |              | \$25.00       |             |
| 8/25/2021 | 2560          | SMITH, F - REUNION/DUES       | 2021         | \$25.00      |              |         | \$275.00     | \$300.00      |             |
| 8/26/2021 | 26367808      | BUCCINO, C+2 ASSOC - REU/DUES | 2021         | \$75.00      |              |         | \$545.00     | \$620.00      |             |
| 8/27/2021 | 8001          | JOHNSON, J - DUES             | 2021         | \$25.00      |              |         |              | \$25.00       |             |
| 8/28/2021 | 6262          | GEORGE, R - REUNION/DUES      | 2022         | \$25.00      |              |         | \$366.00     | \$391.00      |             |
|           | DEPOSIT       |                               |              | \$425.00     | \$34.95      | \$0.00  | \$2,466.00   | \$2,925.95    |             |
| 8/14/2021 | DEBIT         | CUSTOM LANYARDS               |              |              |              |         | (\$344.49)   | (\$344.49)    |             |
| 8/22/2021 | 1096          | BOND/HOLMES - REU REFUND      |              |              |              |         | (\$366.00)   | (\$366.00)    |             |
|           | EXPENSES      |                               |              | \$0.00       | \$0.00       | \$0.00  | (\$710.49)   | (\$710.49)    | \$30,553.81 |
|           |               | <b>SEPTEMBER 2021</b>         |              |              |              |         |              |               |             |
| 9/1/2021  | 1352          | PECK, J - DUES                | 2021         | \$25.00      |              |         |              | \$25.00       |             |
| 9/21/2021 | CASH          | SHIP CLOCK RAFFLE             |              |              |              |         | \$250.00     | \$250.00      |             |
| 9/21/2021 | CASH          | 50/50 RAFFLE                  |              |              |              |         | \$360.00     | \$360.00      |             |
| 9/21/2021 | CASH          | 50/50 RAFFLE DONATION         |              |              |              |         | \$365.00     | \$365.00      |             |
| 9/21/2021 | CASH          | LUGGAGE #1                    |              |              |              |         | \$320.00     | \$320.00      |             |
| 9/21/2021 | CASH          | LUGGAGE #2                    |              |              |              |         | \$470.00     | \$470.00      |             |
| 9/21/2021 | CASH/CK       | SILENT AUCTION PROCEEDS       |              |              |              |         | \$915.00     | \$915.00      |             |
| 9/22/2021 | CASH/CK       | SHIP STORES ORDERS REUNION    |              |              | \$360.00     |         |              | \$360.00      |             |
| 9/26/2021 | 4398          | BARNES - DUES                 | 2021         | \$25.00      |              |         |              | \$25.00       |             |
| 9/26/2021 | 2871          | SPELLMAN - DONATION           |              |              |              | \$50.00 |              | \$50.00       |             |
|           | DEPOSIT       |                               |              | \$50.00      | \$360.00     | \$50.00 | \$2,680.00   | \$3,140.00    | \$33,693.81 |
| 9/6/2021  | 1097          | BUCCINO,C - REUNION REFUND    |              |              |              |         | (\$545.00)   | (\$545.00)    |             |
| 9/12/2021 | DEBIT         | STAPLES - BADGE SUPPLIES      |              |              |              |         | (\$28.34)    | (\$28.34)     |             |
| 9/12/2021 | DEBIT         | WALMART-BADGE SUPPLIES        |              |              |              |         | (\$1.07)     | (\$1.07)      |             |
| 9/22/2021 | DEBIT/CAS     | REUNION EXPENSES              |              |              |              |         | (\$1,038.50) | (\$1,038.50)  |             |
| 9/23/2021 | 1099          | USS CONWAY REU DINNER/TOURS   |              |              |              |         | (\$7,645.00) | (\$7,645.00)  |             |
|           | EXPENSES      |                               |              | \$0.00       | \$0.00       | \$0.00  | (\$9,257.91) | (\$9,257.91)  | \$24,435.90 |
|           |               | <b>3rd QTR ENDING BALANCE</b> |              |              |              |         |              |               | \$24,435.90 |

## **Save the Date**

### **2022 Reunion will be September 11-15 in Buffalo, NY**

#### *USS CONWAY -USS CHARLES S. SPERRY REUNION MEMORIES*

*2021*

*Sunday, 9/19/21* Attendees arrive and get to know each other. Evening was topped off with a Pizza/Salad Party.

*Monday, 9/20/21* USS Charles S. Sperry DD697 Executive Board Meeting followed by the USS Conway Executive Board Meeting. At 4:10 p.m. everyone carpooled to the Original Benjamins Restaurant for a fantastic seafood buffet. The evening was topped off with an outstanding show at the Carolina Opry. The evening was filled with laughter, outstanding singing and fabulous clogging dance. Attendees were blessed to meet Aunt Dessie. Many of the performers had performed with such artist as Billy Ray Cyrus, John Michael Montgomery and the Oak Ridge Boys. The female dancers not only perform for the Carolina Opry they have danced with noted dance companies such as The School of American Ballet in New York, Alvin Ailey, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and part of the dance team for the Cleveland Cavaliers.

*Tuesday, 9/21/21* Wonderful day on the scenic paddle boat Barefoot Queen. Lunch was at the Wicked Tuna. After lunch it was back to the Beach Cove Resort. Everyone feasted on a delicious Italian Buffet for dinner. After dinner everyone retreated to the Hospitality Room for the Auction/Silent Auction/50/50 drawing. Attendees had a fun filled time bidding against each other. James (Muffin) Belander from the USS Conway won the 50/50 from the Sperry. His part was \$365. A true gentleman he donated it back to the Sperry. WOW! Nancy Brinkman won the 50/50 from the Conway. To honor the Quehl family for their years of donating the surprise auction items the Sperry provided two suitcases for the auction. The smaller suit case was won by Warren Vail from the Conway and Ann Marano won the larger one from the Sperry. Barbara Jennings was successful in getting a clock donated for auction as she had done in the past. Robert Dykes won this year. Overall, everyone had an outstanding relaxing time.

*Wednesday, 9/22/21* The Sperry held its General Business Meeting. Officers for 2021-2022 were elected. They are: President, Frank Smith, Vice President, Robert Dykes, Treasurer, Ron LaPlaca and Secretary, Barbara Jennings.

*After the Sperry General Business Meeting the Sperry and Conway had a joint Executive Board Meeting. Everyone was in agreement that the two ships were blending well and the Sperry agreed to go to Buffalo, NY in 2022 and host the 2023 reunion. Gary Chesser will be working with Albuquerque for hosting that reunion.*

*The reunion came to a close with an outstanding banquet and emotional Two Bell Ceremony. The Sperry had 56 shipmates to honor. Past President Cal Dyk was one of the honorees and his wife, Fran and son, Jeff lit a candle in his memory. After the Conway and Sperry honored their shipmates, Taps was presented by Rich DiNardo. It was a very beautiful and moving ceremony. Many retreated to the Hospitality Room for last good-byes. Some even danced and sang. Be on the lookout for Robert Dykes either on Dancing with the Stars or America Got Talent. SCARY*

### **Plans for 2022 in Buffalo.**

The hotel is the Adams Mark – Buffalo Grand Hotel. Tour will include the Naval Park, USS Sullivan which is a Fletcher Tin Can.

Day 1 – Lunch on the Little Rock which is a light cruiser.

Day 2 – Niagara Falls - boat ride. Rick Miller will inquire about handicapped accessible. We will be going under the Maid of the Mist where we will have lunch at a restaurant nearby. We will also tour the Tesla Hydro Plant also. More details as they become available

*If nothing ever changed, there'd be no butterflies.*

*-Author Unknown*

*A picture is worth a 1,000 words*









