

# Internet-Newsletter July 2017



## *AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS SACRAMENTO VALLEY CHAPTER*



*IF YOU SERVED IN THE  
U.S. MERCHANT  
MARINE, IN PEACE OR  
WAR, YOU ARE  
WELCOME TO JOIN  
OUR ORGANIZATION.  
WE ALSO WELCOME  
THE U.S. NAVY ARMED  
GUARD.*

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The Web Site is owned and paid for by Bob Ulrich for the benefit of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the American Merchant Marine Veterans.

Electronic and picture editing by Bob.


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**This issue..**

**Prez Sez by Ken Blue**

**Minutes by Larry Starn**

**Comments from the Editor by Bob Ulrich**



IMPORTANT MESSAGE PLEASE READ THERE IS NEVER A GOOD TIME TO DO WHAT I AM ABOUT TO DO! DUE MOSTLY TO FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES, I CAN NO LONGER SERVE AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (AKA PRESIDENT) OF OUR SACRAMENTO VALLEY CHAPTER OF THE AMMV.

Both ladies with which I reside have special needs and, as most of you know, I am not doing very well myself.. Wife Helen needs a lot of help and daughter Becky, the major care giver, is her self inflicted with an allergy. I am the only driver and serve as 'gopher' by doing the major shopping and laundry and many errands.

Back to business. I am calling for our regular meeting July 10, 2017, 11:00AM at the Legion Hall, please attend . There will be a call for nominations for a new slate of officers. I would be pleased and surprised if there were those ready and willing to serve. I must be ready for no nominations. It remains up to me to close the chapter. I must account for monies on hand and on deposit, We have several property items and we have three government agencies which must be notified. For you loyal members, I have talked to Frank Mendez of the Golden Gate Chapter and he says you would be welcome as members of their chapter. Also you could transfer to Member at Large status under the National Headquarters. I would hope you would accept one or the other and not drop out.

About the money and properties, I believe we should give some to our host Legion Post 447 where we have been welcomed for about 28 years. We could also donate\ some to the Jeremiah O' Brien and of, course, our National Office who are currently trying to get HR 154 through the House of Representatives (Congress). Your thoughts will be welcomed at the meeting.-

Ken Blue



AMMV Meeting of June 21, 2017

Present: Bill Carter, Sally Raanes, Larry Starn, Bob Ulrich, Ken Blue, Steve & Bonnie Banks, Bill & Bea Fairfield , and Deana Armitage

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by President Ken Blue

The pledge was recited.

There was a minute of silence observed for lost shipmates and Nelson Cabel.

Ken mentioned that since Memorial Day a year ago we've had a heck of a year. The program at Mather AFB was wonderful. We met Maritime Day at the Anchor in Old Sac. We had a nice Christmas get together. Veteran's Day was great.

Financial Report from Ken Blue reported and accepted. We received a nice amount from the Conference.

At the convention in Reno Dave Yoho spoke. He was a main speaker at the National Veteran's Day Celebration at the Washington D.C. Veterans Monuments in D.C. It was carried live by Fox News as part of their 4<sup>th</sup> of July coverage and later linked by our AMMV folks to Facebook. It gave a lot of publicity to the Merchant Marine with over a million and a half views. Next month starts a new fiscal year.

Bob added to the list of accomplishments for our Chapter to be proud of. Bob said that to his knowledge we are maybe the only chapter that still has a active web site. He also said he has sent the 40 sheets of the music of Heave Ho to about 100 bands. This music is identifiable as it is date stamped Capt Force, Kings Point, March 1943. Since the music is out of print, most bands around the country are getting their sheet music from copies of our original. These are achievements for this past year.

The next National Convention will be in St. Louis, probably in March.

Steve Banks brought in a portion of his military collection:

Several German Naval Swords captured in Europe. We had a good time looking them over closeup.

Bob said that the Salty Dog newsletter has some good stuff in it and read some of the highlights.

Bill mentioned that the American Legion sacrificed their bar today to let us meet in there since the air conditioning in the normal meeting room was down.

Today's program featured Bill Fairfield reading from official log books of the Jeremiah O'Brien from D Day and discussing the the invasion of Omaha Beach. Bill spent 20 years on the O'Brien, some of that as chairman of the Board of Directors.

Bill explained that he had met a guy who had run a LCM unloading the invasion fleet including the Jeremiah O'Brien at Omaha Beach. This was at the Bar in Rio Vista. He was having a cocktail and was talking to a friend when Bill said, "you see that Rio Vista Bridge? I steered a liberty ship through that narrow bridge."

The man within hearing range said, "How old are you?" Bill said, "91." The guy asked if Bill was on the O'Brien. Bill said he sailed it back from Normandy. The fellow then said he had put the dent in the bow of the O'Brien. At Omaha Beech every invasion vessel had an exact spot to be. The J.O. was assigned an anchorage where she was unloaded onto LCM's. Being in deeper water they were frantic to unload and get the ammo and supplies onto the beach.

The idea was to get the cargo off and get out of there—do or die. The guy working this LCM accidentally rammed the O'Brien while underway and then backed off hence the dent which remains on the ships bow to this day. See the picture in last months issue.

They passed within 100 yards of 2 mines. A ship next to them exploded and burned. There were enemy planes overhead.. The ship's guns opened fire—it was too dark to see clearly. Bombs were dropped but none hit the O'Brien thankfully. The O'Brien was firing its two 5 inch cannon and 50 mm anti aircraft guns.

The J.O. log books at Omaha Beech from which Bill read were finally declassified and released in July of 1961.

Good program Bill.

Newcomer Bill Rowland said he shipped out on a T-2 Tanker. He applied for the documents on the T-2 including the ship's roster in 1944. Rowland was listed as a quartermaster for the Rock Island Shipping Company.

Meeting concluded. Lunch. Raffle. Larry

### **From Your Editor:**

I have been vice president and editor of your newsletter for many years now and it appears that maybe that to will be ending soon. Like the song says. "One should know when to hold em and know when to fold em" Maybe it is getting near time to fold em. I take my drivers license test next week and I don't know what I am going to run into when I go in there pushing my walker.

If we close the Sacramento Chapter I will probably hook up with Golden Gate or if not will stay a member at large. Most likely I will probably dismantle the web site which I have had about as long as 2006 .

This is my opinion but I hope you agree that we should all remain as members even if we have to let the chapter go. That I intend to do till the day I die. I hope you will continue as well. I am trying to convince my children, two of whom are members, to remain members even after I am gone. Bob

end eNewsletter July 2017: Editor Bob Ulrich