

NCPOA July 2022 Newsletter

NCPOA Officers and email addresses:

President: AZCM(A/C) Robert McCauley bobmccauley2@cox.net

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Treasurer: PRCS Lowell Heath senorchief43@yahoo.com

Secretary: ENC(SW) Ed Wakeman ncpoasecretary@gmail.com

Presidents Message:

2022 CONVENTION: Place Pensacola, Florida: Date: 10 through 13 October 2022. More information will be forwarded to the membership as soon as the details are locked down. The primary topic will be the future of the NCPOA and where do we go from here.

HELP – We are in a critical situation now regarding our longevity. Our leadership has grown old and there is no new blood stepping up to fill the ranks. Me, as your President will be stepping down this year because of my wife's mobility and as I turn 83 this year. Likewise, our VP (Roger Howes) who by the way just turned 90 while a patient at Kaiser hospital in San Diego, can't continue to serve for his health reasons. Additionally, our secretary, (Ed Wakeman) has resigned effective October for reasons he will discuss below. That leaves only our Treasurer (Lowell Heath) who said he could serve another year, but only as treasurer.

So, if we cannot fill the ranks, we're history. Are you willing to serve your NCPOA? What it takes is attending our next convention meeting in Pensacola and raising your hand. If we cannot fill the ranks, the next question is do we still have the need for an association? Does our purpose still exist? The answer seems obvious, NO. Even other social clubs that have a charitable goal like the FRA, VFW, Elks etc. their membership is declining at a steady pace.

The new generation of CPO's are now electronic communicators. This Change in thinking to online rather than in person has left us older Chiefs wondering what happened. We used to meet for lunch at the CPO club, and maybe a beer after work too. That all has gone by the wayside. Now we Email, Facebook or search google if we have a problem and are looking for a solution. Face time is not dead yet, but we don't want to travel to far for facetime with a known shipmate or former shipmate. Therefore, reunions are still viable to share experiences of the past with shipmates. NCPOA is not a Reunion organization, but an association of like-minded, initiated Chiefs from all over. But now I think we should close ranks to keep us alive for a while. Maybe some consolidation is in order, or even expanding more regional get together by State , County

or City. Use the NCPOA as a vehicle to announce such regional CPO get togethers or events (like a tournament, or vacation) were a few couples meet up for a few laughs.

I did not mention the expenses of attending these events. Airfare is not cheap; hotels are over \$100. A day. May need a rental car. Banquets and tours also add up. I budget \$2000. For our annual NCPOA. These expenses are mitigated if you are doing a local get together.

Now, what is your pleasure? Attend our potential last convention and help determine our fate.

AZCM (NAC) Robert L. McCauley, USN (Ret)

Treasurers Report:

Checking Account Balance: \$4,113.44

Savings Account Balance: \$36,077.46

Secretary's Message:

Let me start off with a bit of bad news. Effective 01 October 2022 I will be stepping down as Secretary, I am doing this for several reasons but mostly because I just do not have enough time to so this job the way it should be done. I will also not be attending the Convention in Florida, this is not out of a fear of getting COVID, I have had the shot and been exposed more times than I want to think about, I just don't like flying and it's too far for me to drive by myself. I look forward to working with the new Secretary to ensure a smooth turn over.

Last night I put together a letter to the other Officers regarding how we got to our current situation I will include that here.

Thoughts on where we go from here:

First off where are we. When I took over as Secretary, I was given a roster with 918 names and contact info, today we have 228 with fourteen members whose membership expired on 1/1/2022. They all have been notified and have not replied. So how did we get to 228, when COVID first started, and I was stuck at home I decided to review the membership person by person. I sent emails to every member that had an email address and a letter to everyone that did not. I also did an internet search on each member. Here are the results

I was unable to contact 338 members via email or USPS, I attempted to contact the members with email three times via email and once via USPS, every member without email got a letter via USPS. Some letters were returned for incorrect address and unable to forward and a few where just never replied to.

Fourteen people who were on the roster were not CPO's. A few were spouses of deceased members and at least three were never CPOs there seemed to be confusion regarding WW2 rates.

274 members have passed away either before I took office or since. Some of these members were still being carried on the roster when I started. I confirmed a lot of our passed members via internet searches, some had family members who replied to my emails and others were reported to me via other sources. I'm sure that of the 228 members we have on the roster some have passed away and have not been reported.

Of our current membership 147 are life members and eighty-one are annual members. I personally believe we maybe have 100 members. Last time we planned a convention I got fifty positive responses.

How did we get here: Well, we could blame it on Face Book, the internet, or twitter? Frankly I blame it on a lack of communication and the fact the young guys think we are a bunch of old guys who sit around in smoky VFW's, Fleet Reserve Clubs, and the bar at the CPO Club. All the CPO clubs are long gone. All you need to do is go to any VFW, American Legion Post, or AMVET's and it is a bunch of old guys drinking beer.(no more smoking inside at least in Ohio). There is no more going to the CPO Club for lunch on base, the CPO mess is not the mess we knew back in the day. Hate to say it guys but we have become dinosaurs and the younger Chiefs do not relate to us. It all started when initiation went away and became a social event. Someday when ships go to sea to fight war, they may realize that doing away with tradition was not such a good idea. Face it most if not all of us would be in the brig within a week in today's Navy.

What do we do: I hate to give up, but I do not know what else to do? In the past year two of my ship's reunion groups have folded, my chapter of the Destroyer Escort Sailors Association has closed, the National Destroyer Escort Sailor's Association is holding its last convention and the last time I visited the local VFW there where five people there and one of them was the bar tender.

Membership renewal/donation checks: Do not send checks to ENC Wakeman I do not have access to the bank accounts. All checks should be payable to NCPOA and sent to PRCS Lowell Heath, 792 Highway 26E, Poplarville, MS 39470.

1. **All membership applications/renewals must be in the proper format IE:** use the attached form. If you need a form, contact ENC Wakeman, ncpoasecretary@gmail.com, 8040 Plains Road, Mentor, Ohio,44060 or (440)227-5593. Try not to call me between 0700 and 1630 EST, I still work and those are working hours.
2. **Email:** Please include your full name in your emails, trying to find you with just an email address is a real pain in the butt.

3. **Membership status:** I get asked all the time when does my membership expire, it is on your membership card. Two years ago, I changed the format of the cards, so all memberships expire on the last day of January. Example if you paid your dues anytime in 2021 for 2 years your membership expires January 31st, 2023. No prorating membership this is not the DMV
4. **Membership Status:** Current membership is 228, 147 Life members, eighty-one dues paying members and 14 members who have not renewed their expired membership. That gives us 214 members in good standing.

Members who have passed away since the last newsletter:

None Reported

New Members Gained

None

WEBSITE: The Website is up and running. www.ncpoa.club

Facebook: Yes, we have a Facebook page it is “National Chief Petty Officers Association.”

Membership: As stated above, we are down to 228 members most of whom are Life members we need to recruit some new blood. We all know a lot of us are avoiding going out to our favorite hang outs IE; VFW, Fleet Reserve etc.: But all of us have shipmates we stay in contact with other ways so go on the website print out some membership applications and send them. Do not forget we take Coast Guard CPO’s, Officers, and Warrant Officers anybody who was a Chief at some point in their career.

Window Decals: We currently have a limited supply of window decals. If you want one send contact ENC Wakeman, if the demand exceeds the supply he will order more. The lead time is about 2 weeks. We now have one inch and 4-inch diameter decals.

Postage: If you change your email or move, please update ENC Wakeman so we do not lose track of you.

