

BY - LAWS OF THE
USS BENNINGTON ASSOCIATION, INC.

ARTICLE I

ORGANIZATION

The name of the association shall be USS BENNINGTON ASSOCIATION, INC.
(Incorporated as a non-profit 501(C)7 association)

Founder & President Emeritus, Rupert Marshall (Plankowner) CV-20

ARTICLE II

PURPOSES

The purpose of the Association is to promote and maintain a strong cohesive organization comprised of "former" Ship's Company, Air Group and Marine Detachments that served aboard the USS BENNINGTON from its commissioning date of 4 August 1944 through its decommissioning date of 15 January 1970. The goal is to foster the spirit of goodwill among its members, afford opportunities of communication, enjoyment, recreation, involvement among shipmates, to perpetuate the camaraderie that developed among the men who served in the United States Navy and to preserve the ship's prominent place in history, as a predominate warship in the service of the United States of America.

Other purposes shall include:

- To stimulate the exchange of information by means of publications, meetings and reunions.
- To plan and arrange annual reunion meetings.
- To locate former shipmates and urge their participation.
- To establish, administer and accept voluntary contributions.
- To contribute mementos, pictures, plaques, artifacts, insignia, papers, letters or other memorabilia relating in any way to the activities of USS BENNINGTON

In the event of the Association's dissolution, all monies and memorabilia will be turned over to the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola, Florida to preserve the part that the USS Bennington played in the aircraft carrier history of the United States Navy.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all that served on the USS BENNINGTON in a permanent or temporary status, whether Ship's Company, Air Group or Marine Detachment.

CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP

Regular Members:

All personnel who served aboard the USS BENNINGTON are eligible for membership. Regular Members in good standing have full voting rights and are eligible to hold office.

Family Auxiliary Members:

Wives, widows, and family members of personnel who are eligible for Regular Membership are eligible for membership in the Family Auxiliary. Family Auxiliary Members are ineligible to vote or hold an elected office in the Association.

Honorary Members:

The Board of Directors may bestow an Honorary Membership to a person not eligible for Regular or Family Auxiliary membership status, for accomplishments and/or contributions made to the Association. No dues are to be assessed during their lifetime. Honorary Members are ineligible to vote or hold office in the Association.

Lifetime Members:

Current Lifetime Members who served aboard the USS Bennington are 'Grandfathered' in per the decisions made by the President of the USS Bennington Reunion Association. This category is not available for Regular Members of USS Bennington Association, Inc. at the time of the writing of the USS Bennington Association, Inc. by-laws.

ARTICLE IV

DUES

Members in good standing in the Association requires that dues, in an amount as may be prescribed by the vote of the membership, be paid annually but no later than the next reunion meeting. The membership year begins on September 1st and ends August 31st of each year. Money collected for dues shall be used for purposes of furthering the work of the Association, publishing and mailing newsletters, supporting the website presence on the Internet and such other Association business as may be determined by the general membership and/or the Board of Directors.

Members not in good standing are those who fail to pay their dues as established by the Board of Directors. Payment of overdue membership dues will reinstate that member as a Regular Member in good standing in the Association.

Annual dues for the fiscal year 2014 (and every fiscal year prior to 2014) are \$10.00, covering the membership year of September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014.

Annual dues for the fiscal year 2015 (and every fiscal year after) are \$25.00, covering the membership year of September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015.

All dues should be forwarded to the Treasurer and all checks, money orders, etc., shall be made payable to the USS BENNINGTON Association, Inc.

ARTICLE V

VOTING

SECTION: 1 - PRIVILEGE

Voting privilege shall be extended to all Regular Members with a membership card validating that they are a member in good standing ONLY and the majority vote of those Members in attendance shall determine passage of the matters under consideration.

SECTION: 2 - PROXY / ABSENTEE VOTING

There shall be no voting by proxy or absentee ballot. Only votes cast by Regular Members in good standing shall be considered valid.

ARTICLE VI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION: 1 - ELECTED OFFICERS

Term of office shall be for three-years.

Elections are held at the Association's reunion business meetings, by open or closed ballot.

Open or closed ballot will be determined by the board of directors prior to the business meeting.

The staggered election schedule is as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| President | 2014, 2017, etc. |
| Vice President | 2013, 2016, etc. |
| Secretary | 2013, 2016, etc. |
| Treasurer | 2014, 2017, etc. |
| Master-At-Arms | 2014, 2017, etc. |
| General Director #1 | 2013, 2016, etc. |
| General Director #2 | 2014, 2017, etc. |

Any board member whose position will be open for election can be a nominee for any open position in that election cycle.

Names for all nominees must be submitted to the Secretary at least 30 days prior to the Reunion for any election positions.

Nominees can only be considered for one position during each election cycle and a board member can hold one position on the board of directors.

If a board member's position becomes open unexpectedly:

- Fellow board members will take on the responsibilities of that position until a special election.
- The special election will be held at the next Association's reunion business meeting.
- The newly elected officer will serve for the remainder of the term.
- The existing board members will ensure that all Association records and property are returned to the Association.

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

President

- The President oversees the activities of the Association.
- Presides at Association meetings.
- Establish Committees and appoint Special Assistants when needed for order and management of the Association.
- Directs the activities of the Board of Directors and Support Staff.
- To vote on matters affecting the general administration of the Association.

Vice President

- In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall chair the annual business meeting.
- Along with the Association's Chaplain, he will extend an expression of sympathy to the family of the deceased shipmates and get well wishes to those shipmates who are ill.
- To vote on matters affecting the general administration of the Association.

Secretary

- Shall keep a record of all proceedings of all meetings.
- Initiate and answer correspondence as directed.
- He may be one of the officers eligible to sign checks and drafts of the Association.
- Maintain a record and file of all Association correspondence.
- Maintain copies of the By-Laws.
- To vote on matters affecting the general administration of the Association.

Treasurer

- Shall collect all membership dues.
- Shall Be responsible for all Association funds
- Shall keep accurate accounts of all Association receipts and disbursements.
- Shall be responsible for the payment of any and all approved Association expenses.
- Maintain a list of members who have paid their dues.
- Create and forward membership cards to eligible members.
- Prepare a Financial Report to be presented at the Reunion Business Meeting showing Association funds and expenses.
- Establish an USS BENNINGTON Association, Inc bank account.
- To vote on matters affecting the general administration of the Association.

Master-At-Arms

- Shall escort dignitaries and visitors to the rostrum or other designated places as needed.
- Shall be responsible for properly placing the American Flag at all appropriate functions.
- To vote on matters affecting the general administration of the Association.

General Directors

- To vote on matters affecting the general administration of the Association.
- To perform duties as specified by the President of the Association.

SECTION: 2 - SUPPORT STAFF POSITIONS

The Board of Directors has established five (5) key support functions

Webmaster

- Shall maintain the Association's website.
- Serves as a permanent member of the Support Staff until such time as he relinquishes his position.
- To vote on matters affecting the general administration of the Association.

Historian

- Shall collect and maintain historical materials, information and artifacts of the USS BENNINGTON, compile a narrative of the ship's history, maintain appropriate materials, photographs and records.
- Shall assist the Webmaster with placement of articles, etc., into the Association's website.
- Serves as a permanent member of the Support Staff until such time as he relinquishes the position.
- To vote on matters affecting the general administration of the Association.

Ship's Storekeeper

- Shall be responsible for all activities associated with the Ship's Store.
- Shall maintain an appropriate record related to the sales of USS BENNINGTON memorabilia.
- Serves as a permanent member of the Support Staff until such time as he relinquishes the position.

Chaplain

- Shall be responsible for opening and closing of all meetings with prayer.
- Correspond with the family of deceased shipmates, offering condolences.
- Serves as a permanent member of the Support Staff until such time as he relinquishes the position.

DataBase Administrator

- Maintain Association membership biographical data.
- Assist the Treasurer with dues and other financial reporting.
- Assist the Secretary with mailing lists and newsletters.
- Assist the reunion hosts with mailing list and registration information.
- Serves as a permanent member of the Support Staff until such time as she relinquishes the position.

ARTICLE VII

ANNUAL REUNION

A reunion of the Association Membership shall be held each year. The location of the reunion shall be determined two years (2) in advance by majority vote of the Regular Members in attendance at the annual meeting. All Regular Members, Honorary Members, Family Auxiliary Members and other family or friends are invited to attend the annual reunion.

An annual business meeting of Association Regular Members shall be held in conjunction with the annual reunion. The purpose of this meeting is to act on such matters as may be presented and to elect officers for the Board of Directors. The conduct of the annual meeting shall be in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order. The majority vote of those Regular Members in attendance shall determine passage of the matter under consideration. The order of business in the annual meeting shall be as follows:

- Welcome and acknowledgement of members.
- Moment of silence for the deceased shipmates.
- Election of Officers (when required)
- Reading of minutes from previous meeting.
- Treasurer's Report.
- Old Business.
- New Business.
- Adjournment.

ARTICLE VIII

BY - LAW REVISIONS

These Association By-Laws may be amended at any subsequent business meeting by at least two-thirds of the Regular Members in good standing in attendance.

The proposed amendments and reasons therefore shall be submitted to the Board of Directors at least 90 days prior to a business meeting and will be posted on the Association's website (www.uss-bennington.org) 30 days prior to the business meeting.

ARTICLE IX

USS BENNINGTON NEWSLETTER

An Association newsletter will be published twice yearly and at such times, as the Board of Directors may deem appropriate.

These newsletters will be mailed to all Regular Members in good standing ONLY.

A 3-year subscription for the Association's newsletter is available for purchase by Auxiliary members or other family members of a shipmate.

The 3-year subscription cost "at this time" is \$30.00

All subscription money and subscriber information should be forwarded to the Treasurer.

All checks, money orders, etc., shall be made payable to USS Bennington Association, Inc.

Subscriber information must include the following:

Subscriber Name
Address
City, State, Zip code
Phone number
Relationship to Shipmate
Shipmate's Name

ARTICLE X

USS BENNINGTON STORE - "BENNINGTON EXCHANGE"

An Association store known as "Bennington Exchange" will be maintained on the website with an assortment of items listed for sale (Instructions for ordering and payment of items will be listed).

At the annual reunion, an appropriate room with tables will be provided for the Bennington Exchange to setup and sell an assortment of items.

