



To Perpetuate the Fellowship of all Who Served Her - Founded September 10, 1998 in Hagerstown, Maryland

Preamble: Two score and fourteen years ago the USS Threadfin SS-410 was commissioned in the U.S. Navy. Through the years many have served her. With fond memory it was decided in Hagerstown, Maryland, site of her first reunion, to form an association with governing rules so the fellowship we once knew would continue through years to come. Listed below are the current bylaws which govern The Association and direct the duly appointed officers until the election at the next official reunion.

ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

ARTICLE I - CHARTER

This charter establishes USS Threadfin SS-410 Association, hereinafter referred to as "the Association." This is in accordance with the unanimous agreement of former Threadfin crewmembers attending the initial reunion held September 10-12, 1998 in Hagerstown, MD.

The purpose of the Association is to further enhance the camaraderie, fellowship, and personal relationships established among the officers and men who served on the USS Threadfin during her long and illustrious career. The Association will conduct reunions biennially at a location to be determined by the membership. The Association newsletter will provide a primary link of communication among and between the membership to share ideas and information.

The following officers are established to conduct the business of the Association on behalf of the members:

ARTICLE II - BOARD

The Board shall be elected by the membership and consist of five officers; President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one Member At-Large.

Responsibilities:

1. Review and approve all expenditures of association funds.
2. Establish the biennial dues amount at the biennial reunion business meeting (BBM.)
3. The Board may make adjustments to the current Bylaws during the course of their term for the good of the Association. The Board vote must have a four-fifths majority for approval; minutes and discussion of the change must be documented. Any change to the Bylaws by the Board during their term must be submitted to the membership at the following Reunion Business Meeting for ratification by the membership before the amendment is permanently added to the Bylaws.
4. Determine, enact, and maintain operating procedures to maintain the current bylaws as needed.
5. Review and/or approve standing committee staffing decisions recommended by the President.
6. Review and/or approve the President's recommendations to appoint a "Newsletter Editor/Publisher" and "Storekeeper."
7. Review and/or approve newsletter publication costs, and determine the profit percentage for ship's store merchandise.
8. Review standing committees recommendations and either approve, reject, or make suggestions for change

to the committees.

9. Prior to each reunion business meeting the Board shall appoint two members, who are not board members, to perform an audit of the records of the Treasurer. Such audit shall be conducted in conjunction with the business meeting, but accomplished prior to the meeting so the report can be presented during the meeting. The finished report shall become part of the business meeting minutes.
10. Appoint empty board positions when no one is elected to the positions at the reunion business meeting or if one is vacated during a term.

ARTICLE III - HONOR ROLL CRITERIA

1. Each elected Board shall decide which members of the Association have met the criteria, as described below, from their term of office.
2. Honorees shall be limited to those who have gone, "Above and Beyond," and made a substantial contribution to the Association during the two-year term.
3. Association members may be nominated for the Honor Roll more than once if they meet the criteria.
4. Names will be considered from the beginning of the new term until September 1 of the reunion year and then voted on by the Board members.
5. Three of five votes of the Board members are necessary for the selected member to be added to the Honor Roll.
6. The honoree will be awarded an item of his choice from the Ship's Store stock at the banquet.

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS

1. A business meeting to be held at each biennial reunion at a time and place designated by the sitting Board.
2. The business meeting agenda shall include elections of officers and presentation of business matters for the good of the Association.
3. Board meetings may be called by the President, or three Board members; business of the board shall be presented and discussed.
4. Roberts Rules of Order will prevail at all business and board meetings.

ARTICLE V - ELECTED OFFICERS

President

Responsibilities:

1. Lead and govern the Association; preside at and chair all board and business meetings; recommend appointments to standing committees; sign and implement all contracts, purchases, agreements, etc. as approved by

- the Board.
- Submit all committee recommendations to the Board for approval.
 - Submit a report at the business meeting of all official acts completed by the Board during the last term of office.

Vice President

Responsibilities:

- Assist the President in discharging his responsibilities.
- Act on behalf of the President if he becomes incapacitated or is otherwise unable to discharge his duties.
- Serve on the reunion committee as vice-chair.

Secretary

Responsibilities:

- Maintain the records of the Association and artifacts of the USS Threadfin SS-410.
- Maintain the membership roster, deceased roster, and mailing list. Ensure the distributor of the newsletter has the most up-to-date address list.
- Record and distribute minutes of the business meeting and any board meetings which make or change policy and/or these bylaws.
- Collect biennial and life membership dues and forward payments to the Treasurer for deposit.
- Receive nominations for office, proposed Amendments to the Bylaws, and proposed reunion locations and ensure their publication in the Conch Chowder.
- Prepare a ballot to include the names of all Nominees for office, proposed Amendments to the Bylaws and proposed future reunion locations, and ensure the distribution of these ballots to the membership with the Spring/Summer edition of the Conch Chowder.

Treasurer

Responsibilities:

- Maintain the treasury, investments, and checking account.
- Prepare a biennial financial report and present it to the membership at the biennial business meeting.
- Maintain financial records and prepare quarterly reports which include all income, and expenditures.
- Publish the quarterly reports in the newsletter.

Member at Large

Responsibilities:

- Assist the Association newsletter editor with the preparation, publication, and distribution of the T-Fin Conch Chowder.
- Serve the board in any capacity as deemed appropriate and/or necessary by the Board.
- Assume the duties of Election Master. The Election Master will receive and tally all postal mail and email ballots prior to the BBM and add the tally to the votes cast at the BBM.

ARTICLE VI - APPOINTED COMMITTEES

Newsletter Editor/Publisher

Responsibilities:

- Include, but are not limited to, the design, development, editing, and preparation of the T-Fin Conch Chowder.

- Publish, in a timely fashion, seven quarterly editions in each biennial reunion period.
- Distribution shall be to members in good standing and be posted on the Internet web site.
- Postal mailing will be sent to those members who do not have the ability to download the web site copy and may be accomplished by someone other than the editor.

Membership Recruitment Committee

Responsibilities:

- Search for new members using all sources available: Internet, sailing lists, Navy documents, etc; and forward an application form to all potential members.
- Forward all data gathered on shipmates to the secretary, copying all Board members.

Reunion Committee

Responsibilities:

- To assist the President in the planning, preparation, and implementation of the biennial reunion.

ARTICLE VI - STOREKEEPER

Responsibilities:

- Recommend items to be sold in the Ship's Store to the Board for approval.
- Submit proposed sale prices on an item-by-item basis to the Board for approval.
- Maintain records of purchases and sales of all merchandise purchased and sold through the Ship's Store. Submit all pre-payments received to the Treasurer for deposit within thirty days of receipt.
- Keep all unsold stock in inventory for future sales.
- Publish a store catalog on the web site and/or distribute to all members who request a hard copy.
- Set up the Ship's Store at all reunions and large gatherings of members.

ARTICLE VIII - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- The selection and election of officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Member-At-Large) will be accomplished at each biennial reunion at the earliest time possible.
- Nominations for office may be made by postal mail or email by members in good standing and must be received by the Secretary by April 30 of the year of the BBM. The nomination must be accompanied by a letter from the Nominee stating his willingness to accept the nomination and willingness to serve, if elected. If no nominations are received by April 30, nominations will be taken from the floor at the BBM. By common practice the Member At Large will be filled by the Past President unless declined.
- Officers shall be elected by a simple majority of the members in good standing voting. Voting at the BBM may be by secret ballot or a show of hands. No provisions will be made for proxy voting.
- Terms of office shall be for two years. The newly elected officers shall begin their term after their election at the biennial reunion, continue for two years, and terminate at the next biennial reunion business meeting (unless re-elected to the same or a new office).
- Officers may not serve more than three consecutive two-year terms in one or more positions. After leaving the board for two years one may run for office again.

ARTICLE IX - MEMBERSHIP

1. All shipmates who served aboard the USS Threadfin SS-410 shall be eligible for membership.
2. Shipmates who are current in their biennial dues will be noted as members in good standing and listed in the members roster.
3. Shipmates who are not in good standing will not be eligible to attend reunions, receive newsletters, view the members only area on the Internet site, vote on Association business, and will be listed in the non-members roster.
4. Shipmates not in good standing who, in the future, decide to rejoin the Association must complete a new application form and submit the initial payment as determined in the dues structure.
5. TAD, civilians who were assigned to the USS Threadfin, widows and immediate family members of former crew members may apply for associate membership with no voting or office holding rights. They may attend all Threadfin Association functions. TAD and civilians will be required to pay the same dues as members. Only one, either a widow or family member, may retain the dues status of the Eternal Patrol member. Depending upon that status, the associate may be required to continue paying any dues necessary to remain "in good standing."

ARTICLE X - MEMBERSHIP DUES

1. First time application cost to join the Association will be \$10 and an appropriate dues amount to keep the biennial cycle intact.
2. Subsequent dues shall be tendered on a biennial basis (reunion schedule; 2003-2004, 2005-2006, etc.); the amount shall be determined by the Board.
3. The Association's annual year shall run from January 1 to December 31 in two-year cycles for dues submission.
4. Associate members shall pay dues in the same amount as shipmate members.
5. Life membership is offered to all "members in good standing" as follows: 59 years of age and below \$100, 60 to 65 years of age \$75, and 66 years of age and older \$50. Credit for dues paid in advance will be deducted from the total due.
6. Those members who faithfully served during WWII aboard the USS Threadfin, or any other submarine, from September 1, 1939 to August 14, 1945 are entitled by the members of this association, to be given a free Life Membership in the USS Threadfin SS-410 Association. This membership may pass to the next of kin on the death of the member.
7. If dues are not paid by March 31st of the year after membership expiration, the shipmate will be removed from the Member Roster by the Secretary, placed on the Non-Member Roster and be considered "not in good standing." If the shipmate desires future membership, they must pay all delinquent dues. Allowances may be made at the discretion of the Board.
8. Funds collected will be used for expenses associated with reunions, publishing and distributing the quarterly newsletter, Association correspondence and communications, ship's store items, and miscellaneous expenses as authorized by the Board.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to this charter will be entertained from members in good standing by postal mail, email or from the floor at the BBM.
2. Copies of amendments must be submitted to the board and be available for members to review prior to the BBM.
3. Acceptance of an amendment shall be by a majority of those members in good standing voting.

ARTICLE XII-PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE REUNION LOCATIONS

1. Proposals for future reunion locations may be made to the Secretary by postal mail or email and must be received by April 1 of the year of the BBM.
2. The optimum time frame for reunions will be mid-October to mid-November.
3. Members making a proposal must agree to assist the President with forming a reunion committee to plan and implement the biennial reunion at that location.
4. Proposals for future reunion locations will be published in the Spring/Summer edition of the Conch Chowder and listed on the ballot included with the Conch Chowder mailed to those members without email.
5. If no postal mail or email proposals are received, proposals will be taken from the floor at the BBM.

ARTICLE XIII - ASSETS

1. In the event the Association should be dissolved, all assets shall be distributed to the USSVI National for purposes similar to that of this Association.

We have read this charter and bylaws of the USS Threadfin SS-410 Association, adopted at the first reunion and modified at the business meeting held on September 5, 2008 and we believe them to be true and correct as presented.

President: Lawrence A. Zolnik.

Term: September 5, 2008 to the next business meeting in 2010.

Vice President: Albert M. Stoll.

Term: September 5, 2008 to the next business meeting in 2010.

Secretary: Peter M. Birse.

Term: September 5, 2008 to the next business meeting in 2010.

Treasurer: Frank J. Fannan, III

Term: September 5, 2008 to the next business meeting in 2010.

Member At Large: George B. Lockwood.

Term: September 5, 2008 to the next business meeting in 2010.

