



John Geraghty  
Ken Werth  
President Emeriti

Ruth Geraghty  
Secretary /Treasurer  
18 E 37th St.  
Bayonne, NJ 07002.  
Phone: 201-339-5155  
Email: [rwgeraghty@verizon.net](mailto:rwgeraghty@verizon.net)

Bill Kastens  
President  
1824 SW Village Dr.  
Topeka, KS 66604  
Phone: 785-272-2604  
Email: [bmk1930@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bmk1930@sbcglobal.net)

Bob "Willie" Williams  
Vice-President  
1829 Kathleen Ct.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464  
Phone: 757-479-2733  
Email: [griswold5@verizon.net](mailto:griswold5@verizon.net)

DIRECTORS: Warren Hopkins, Kent Thomas, Ron Orszag, Jack Chesnick

## MARCH 2012 PIEDMONT NEWSLETTER

Attention on deck!! We have finally signed contracts for our Hotel facilities and the Bus Tours. The 2012 reunion dates had to be moved up to accommodate the hotel availability, plus considering it might be somewhat cooler in mid-Oct in Omaha, NE. We will check in on Wed., Sept. 26 and leave on Sun., Sept. 30, 2012. Now for some of the details.

**HOTEL:** The host hotel is the COMFORT INN & SUITES, Omaha Central, 7007 Grover St., Omaha, NE 68106. The phone no. is 402-934-4900 and website is [www.omahacomfortinn.com](http://www.omahacomfortinn.com) For those driving in, the hotel is located just off I 80 at the exit for W. 72<sup>nd</sup> St., about 2 blocks to Grover St. Comp shuttle service to and from Omaha airport is available as well as service within a 5 mile radius of the hotel. Free auto and RV parking. The hotel is recently renovated and features the Firewater Grill for dining service. There is a complimentary Deluxe breakfast including biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs, sausages, cereals, pastries, yogurts, Belgian waffles, juice, coffee, etc. USA TODAY & Omaha World Herald are available at no cost. There is a work-out room and indoor swimming pool. Comp 24 hour coffee service is available. Rooms with a king or double queens are available; up to 4 people per room; and pets are welcome. All of this for \$68.00 per room per night, plus 18.16 % taxes. These rates are in effect 3 days prior and after reunion dates. Be sure and ask for Piedmont Reunion rates. If there are any problems, please let me know. There will be a Wed. evening, Sept. 26 pasta buffet starting at 6 PM and the Sat. evening, Sept 29 banquet at 6 PM. These will be included in the registration fee. If you have special dietary needs or ADA needs, please specify at time of your reservation. **HOTEL ROOM RESERVATION DEADLINE IS SEPT. 5, 2012.**

**BUS TOURS:** The Thursday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> tour is from 8:00 to 5:00 PM and both coaches will travel together. However on Fri., Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, each coach will have their own schedule due to visiting sites that can take only a limited number of people at one time. The sites that will be visited on Thurs. include an Omaha city tour with guide, lunch(buffet, you pay) and tour of Boys Town, and the Strategic Air and Space Museum at Ashland, NE. All admission fees will be included in registration package.

The Friday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> tour bus # 1 will leave at 8:15 AM and return by 4:30 PM. Bus # 2 will leave at 9:15 AM and return at 5:00 PM. Both buses will be together for lunch at the Czech Bohemian Café, excellent food and plentiful. The sites visited will include the Toilet Paper Factory (has contract for all military TP supplies), American Soldier Exhibit at the Durham Museum, and a 1927 pipe organ performance that has a patriotic flavor. It is unique in that it is installed in a very large private home in a residential area, well worth seeing and hearing.

**HOSPITALITY ROOM:** We will use Ballroom A & B for registration and meetings. The dinners will be served in Ballroom D. Registration opens at 12 noon Wed., Sept. 26. Jack & Marge Chesnick along with Willie & Aslaug Williams will stock snacks, drinks, etc. in this room. We can serve our own beer, wine, etc. or a bar will be set up and serve these at a cost of \$2.50 each.

There will be space for Piedmont mementos as well as **GIFTS TO BE RAFFLED ON FRIDAY NIGHT FUNDRAISER.** Be sure and bring something for the raffle.

**NOW FOR SOME SAILOR "CHATTER":** John Bartholomeo, Norristown, PA ; EM1 43-46 (PLANK) sent a letter to Ruth Geraghty concerning the benefits of being registered on "The Navy Log" at the US Navy Memorial Foundation, Washington D.C. I agree and am on the "Log" at the Foundation. For a copy of your Navy Awards (if unknown) contact Bureau of Naval Personnel, Retired Records Section, PERS-313E, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132. John says to send your application to US Navy Memorial, 701 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D. C. 20004-2608. An online look can be had at [www.lonesailor.org/log](http://www.lonesailor.org/log) or [www.navymemorial.org](http://www.navymemorial.org) and you can set up your log information.

Jim Christopher, New Brighton, MN wrote asking for a picture of the Piedmont which I sent along with some other Piedmont items. He was preparing a package of WW II for his Dad for Christmas. Anyone remember a Piedmont sailor named Christopher aboard in WW II days??

Al Sarracino, Wood Ridge, NJ; Diver MM 43-46 (PLANK) sent an obit of Rev. James Francis Heffernan, 86, who died 12/ 21/11. He entered the Navy in 1952 as a Chaplain for 14 years and among his various assignments was the USS Piedmont. Then in 1966 he entered the US Army as a Chaplain until his retirement in 1973 as a LT COL.  
CHANGES TO THE ROSTER SINCE NOV. 1, 2011:

Paul Bodurtha, Camden, ME; Cook 45-46 died 10/18/10 at age 84

Phillip O'Donnell, Oakhurst, NJ; EMC 43-47 (PLANK) died 10/20/11

BARRY, John, Kearney, NE; MR2 71-75

BEIGEL, Sy, Virginia Beach, VA; DC 52-56, Ret. CWO E-- oldsygone@cox.net

BEYER, Dorothy, died 9/18/11; wife of Arthur, Staunton, IL; EM 44-46 (PLANK)

CHERNICH, Ken, Norridge, IL; RM3 61-63 E-- bingoken@yahoo.com

CRAWLEY, June, died 12/24/08; wife of Frank, Bethany, OK; Cook 52

CHRISTMAN, Dennis, Spokane, WA; GM1 59-61 E— studio812@q.com

DERBY, Terry & Diane, 1002 Main St., Harlan, IA 51537 712-755-2506 TM 66-69

JERSILD, David, 2417 Prairie Dr., Modesto, CA 95355 209-526-2357

KEENEY, Michael, 213 W. Walnut, Apt. 5, Watseka, IL 60970 815-432-0817

LASKEY, Robert, 9107 W. 70<sup>th</sup> ST., Merriam, KS 66204 913-469-5093 MU2 44-45 PLANK

LAMBETH, Tom, 5830 Old Myrtle Rd., Suffolk, VA 23434 757-235-5124 TMCM 73-76

MACALISTER, Bruce R. & Kathryn, Richmond, VA; E— w4bru@arri.net

MINARIK, Tom, Bellevue, NE 68123

OLSON, Jerry & Carolee, 703 South F St., Spokane, WA 99224 509-869-1002 RM3 63-66

E—olsonjc2@gmail.com

RHINE, Russell, Whitefish, MT; GMT1 & WO-1 67-70

SARRACINO, Al & Marie, Wood Ridge, NJ; E— sarracinoa@verizon.net

SCHLEIFER, William, 23886 Farmway Rd., Caldwell, ID 83607 208-455-6229 SFM 58-59

e-mail is OK

SCHWARTZ, Rob, Sheridan, WY; 307-672-5217 E— robschwartz72@yahoo.com

STARK, Charles & Shirley, Elkland, MO; E-- dukestark@wildblue.net

WROTEN, Bruce, Terry, MS; IC Gyro Shop 50-54

Don't forget the registration deadline is SEPT. 2, 2012 and needs to be sent to Ruth Geraghty with payment to "Piedmont Reunion". See Ruth's address, ph. no. & e-mail in the masthead of this newsletter.

Monica and I look forward to seeing many of you in Omaha Sept. 26-30, 2012. All rates are less than what we were able to have in Norfolk or Atlanta. See you there!! Bill Kastens