



Nuclear Weapons Technicians Association

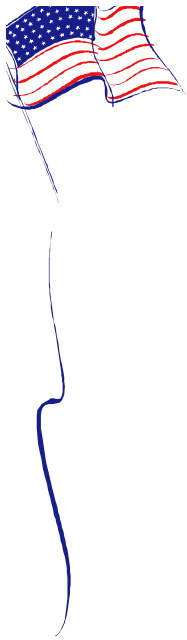
P.O. Box 9463
Albuquerque, NM 87119-9463

<http://www.usafnukes.com/>

NWTA Meeting
Convention & General Membership Meeting
8-10 May 2009
Albuquerque, NM

In Attendance:

George Alvord, President & Trustee	Clifford Miller, Vice President and Spouse	Ray Rieker, Treasurer
Albert Mac Elrath, Secretary	Ray Macallister, New President and Spouse	Anne Golembeski, Past-President
Jack Ramsey, Trustee & Membership Chairman and Spouse	Doug Chapman, Past-President and Spouse (Doug was 1st President of NWTA)	Neil Zampella, Trustee
Mr. & Mrs. David Burcham	Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Barrett-Smith	Mr. & Mrs. Max McDonald
Swinton Corley	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Crouch	Wayne Smith
Richard DesMarais	Mr. & Mrs. Allen Doeringer	Mr. & Mrs. Roy Aldridge
Harrison Hamer	Joseph Harker	Mr. & Mrs. William Hodgson
Stan Kinney	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Klein	Mr. & Mrs. Everett Klein
Jim Klein	John Kneale	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Kodak
Steve LeFevre	Jack Lenten	Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Baker
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Mathis	Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Mullins	Chuck Penson
Cliff Ruff	Robert Scheel	John Solimena
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Smiley	Peter Taylor	Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Teaford
Ray Tepfenhardt	Mr. & Mrs. Norris Thompson	Richard Vivian
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Welz	Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Wendel	Mr. & Mrs. Cyril Wieman
Mr. & Mrs. John Wyatt	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Yarian	Karl Butler
Mary Irons	Ralph Clayton	



Fri 8 May:

- *1200-1600 Registration and sales and hospitality room*
- *Optional tour of NMNSH storage yard*
- *1800 Icebreaker at museum*
- *2000 hospitality suite*

Sat 9 May:

- *0800- 0855 Breakfast at museum*
- *0900-0950 Harold Rarrick, SNL retired, "Weapon Facilities"*
- *1000-1050 Leon Smith, SNL retired, "Manhattan Project"*
- *1100-1200 lunch at museum*
- *1200-1250 Mr. Bopp, "Air Force Nuclear Enterprise"*
- *1300-1350 Warner Talso, US Army retired, "An Army View of Nuclear Weapons History, or What You Don't Know May Surprise You"*

NWTA General Membership Meeting 10 May 2009

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

George Alvord, President
Clifford Miller, Vice-President
Ray Rieker, Treasurer
Albert Mac Elrath, Secretary

Treasurers' Report:

Ray Rieker, Treasurer

After all bills relating to the convention are settled, it is estimated that we will have \$1800.00 in our account

Motion made, Seconded.

Vote: approve report as read

Membership Chairman's Report:

Jack Ramsey, Chairman

We had 172 members when the Ohio convention was held. At the time of the Albuquerque convention, we had 207 members. Included in this figure is Active and Inactive. Inactive has a number of deceased (7), Non-deliverable (9), Ineligible as active members, dropped (2), and the remainder (36) has not updated their membership (dues).



I do need help in recruiting members. It would be a great help if current members would contact their old co-workers and encourage them to join. That is the best way but if the member will just give me as much information as they have about a person I will try to locate them, I need the full name and city as a starter but I will try with whatever they are able to provide.

If you have any leads for Jack, you may send them via e-mail to IBRamsey@aol.com.

Motion made, Seconded.

Vote: approve report as read

Presidents' Report:

George Alvord, President

Old Business

Convention 2008 Comments:

Why not Nevada?

The subject of the Convention was discussed at several executive committee meetings. The vote of the General Membership at the October 2007 convention was to hold the 2008 convention in Las Vegas, primarily to visit the National Test Site. Each of the officers had investigated the requirements and feasibility of visiting the NTS. The unanimous conclusion is that it was not feasible due to the limitations and security restrictions imposed by the Government on visitors to the site.

We had received numerous status reports from Ray Mac Allister, on the Museum projects. One interesting item was that the new Atomic Museum in Albuquerque would open in March 2009. It was suggested that since members of the NAWTA are very involved in this project, that we schedule our next convention to coincide with the opening and take part in the dedication. It was the unanimous decision of the executive committee to pursue this course of action.

Election of Officers

At the General Membership meeting in October 2007, the Constitution was changed to have term limits & staggered terms of two years each for the President & the Vice-President. In order to facilitate the staggered terms, the incoming President (George Alvord) would serve a one-year term, ending at the next convention scheduled for October 2008. The incoming Vice-President (Clifford Miller) would serve two years, his term in office would end at the following convention, then scheduled for October 2009.



Since the meeting did not occur on schedule, the President, Treasurer, and Secretary had to serve beyond their technical term limits.

Membership

We wish to mention a special note of thanks to **Jack Ramsey** for his effort in increasing membership to all time highs.

New Business

Scholarships

The subject of Scholarships was discussed. General opinion was that the NWTa should pursue a scholarship program. The scholarship should go to children or grandchildren of NWTa members. Some discussion was that it should be similar to the American Legion program. The President appointed a committee to investigate & propose a scholarship program. They are to make a report to the executive committee in 90 days. The committee consists of **Richard Crouch, Chairman, Robert Scheel, John Solimena, and Barbara Klein.**

Certificates

A motion was made & approved for the NWTa to submit Certificates honoring individuals. The President appointed a committee to investigate & propose a certificate program. They are to make a report to the executive committee in 90 days. The committee consists of **Norris Thompson, Chairman, Anne Golembeski, and Neil Zampella.**

Associate Memberships

Discussion

Recent developments indicated a clarification of Associate Membership was required.

Vote – Change Constitution

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to amend the constitution Article IV to require direct approval of the executive committee for any Associate Member application.



Next Convention – 2010

Suggested Sites

Tucson, AZ
Oak Ridge, TN
Midland, TX

Discussion

Tucson, AZ

Pro

Pima Air & Space Museum, where history takes flight, is one of the largest air and space museums in the world, and the largest non-government funded aviation museum. You will see more than 275 aircraft and spacecraft including many of the most historically significant and technically advanced craft ever produced, both from the United States and throughout the world.

TOUR THE AMARG BONE YARD

*The Pima Air & Space Museum offers exclusive bus tours of the **309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (AMARG)**, also known as the "Bone yard." The facility is located adjacent to the Museum at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.*

The Titan Missile Museum is the only publicly accessible Titan II missile site in the nation. Tour the underground missile site. See the 3-ton blast doors, the 8-foot thick silo walls, and an actual Titan II missile in the launch duct. Visit the launch control center, experience a simulated launch and more!

Con

Hot

Oak Ridge, TN

Pro

Cheap – Good for East coast residence.

Con

East coast travel time from west coast.

Midland, TX

Pro

Recognized as one of America's premier aviation events for more than 50 years, AIRSHO is held at Commemorative Air Force Headquarters in Midland, Texas.

Each year, war birds gather to reenact historic battles at AIRSHO, a fitting tribute to American airpower and to those who fought to secure America's freedom.



VOTES

Tucson, AZ	37
Oak Ridge, TN	0
Midland, TX	1

Convention 2010 – Tucson, AZ

New Executive committee to pick date.

Convention 2011 – Dayton, OH with 51 MMS

A motion was Made, Seconded, and Passed to join the 51 MMS at Dayton Ohio in 2011.

Honorary Membership

The following individuals were nominated & approved for honorary membership in the NWTA

Leon Smith

Army Air Corps First Lieutenant Leon D. Smith served as a weaponeer in the ordnance squadron of the 509th Composite Group that was formed to drop atomic bombs. He was one of three weaponeers and by toss of a coin became the backup for the Hiroshima and Nagasaki drops. In early 1946, Leon was mustered out of the military in a 30-minute process to join the Z-Division of the Los Alamos group destined to Bikini Atoll to support Operation CROSSROADS, the nation's first postwar nuclear test. This time, Mr. Leon Smith, Electrical Engineer, would be the weaponeer for fuzing a bomb. Leon went on to join Sandia National Labs and rose to the Director level. Since his retirement, he has aided various groups, especially the Weapon Intern Program at Sandia and our group at no charge, by passing his great knowledge to all of us. He is the original, quintessential Weaponeer. We should recognize him for all his accomplishments as a pioneer in and a supporter of our career field.

Brien Bopp

Brien joined Sandia National Labs over 40 years ago as a lowly draftsman and rose to manager status with a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering. About 20 years ago, he joined Sandia's Military Liaison Dept and headed our Re-entry Vehicle Team. He spent nearly 20 years working with the services to ensure the safety, reliability and maintainability of our RV/RB stockpile. Since we formed the NWTA, Brien has



supported us with his expertise at no cost to us.

Harold Rarrick

Since his entry into the business over 40 years ago, Harold has become a recognized worldwide expert in both the radiological testing and facilities areas. His unique knowledge makes him a singular source of information on the facilities that we have all worked in but did not quite know the why and how that they were built. Harold has supported our organization since its inception and energetically continues to do so.

Warner Talso

Warner may probably be the last of the Army types who actually worked the systems and understands them. After completing a career as a Nuclear Weapons Officer in the Army, he joined Sandia as a contractor in the Safety area. He has provided us with a unique perspective of the Army way of doing business and by showing us that we were all in the same boat, just pulling different oars.

Alexander Hachigian

Al may well be the most famous of all the instructors in Sandia's Military Liaison Dept. Starting in 1960 and continuing for over 35 years his name became synonymous with the PAL program, the B43 and several other systems including the B61. His close rapport over many years with his military students (among others) is a tribute to his depth of knowledge and communication skills. He continues to this day to work as a consultant to Sandia National Labs and the Nuclear Weapons Complex. He deserves recognition from our group if only for his expertise and dedication to our business.

Election of Officers

President (two-year term) Ray Macallister

Treasurer (one-year term) Ray Rieker

Secretary (one-year term) Albert Mac Elrath

NOTE: The present Vice-President, Clifford Miller, has one year remaining on his present term.



TRUSTEES

The normal tour for a Trustee is three years. However, since this is the initial election for this office, the vote was for a three year, two year, and one year term of office. Next year, and all subsequent years there will only be an election for one individual, who will serve a three-year term.

Three-Year Term

Nominated was:

Neil Zampella 17 votes

George Alvord 13 votes

Two-Year Term

George Alvord – No opposition candidate. The Secretary was directed to cast one vote for Mr. Alvord.

One-Year Term

Jack Ramsey – No opposition candidate. The Secretary was directed to cast one vote for Mr. Ramsey.

Amend the Constitution to add a Chaplain

Vote

In Favor 7

Opposed 23

Amendment Denied.

Special Presentation by Joseph Mathis

Joseph Mathis explained role of the Convention committee.

51 MMS

Ray Aldridge, 51 MMS requested that there would be a Final Roll Call, per their custom, at the dinner.

A motion was Made, Seconded, and Passed in favor of Mr. Aldridge's request.



The meeting was adjourned at 16:12 hours.

Incidental

Jack Ramsey tendered his resignation as membership chairman in order for the new president to start with a clean slate of appointees.

President Ray Macallister's first act as new president was to appoint Jack Ramsey as membership chairman with the full endorsement of the executive committee.

Next Meeting: TBD

Note from Secretary ~ Al Mac Elrath

Since the organization has members throughout the United States, most communications must be done electronically. Please check the web site frequently and especially check http://www.usafnukes.com/members_list.htm to see if we have your preferred e-mail address.

If you are receiving a mailed copy of this and you have e-mail, it is because we do not have your e-mail on file, or my file address is in error.

If your e-mail address needs to be changed, please notify our web master, Mark Sadler. His e-mail address is sadler@d50.org

In addition, our web site <http://www.usafnukes.com/index.html> is updated every Saturday, so please check for changes frequently.

Please send any additions or corrections to this report to me at Wb5ium@aol.com

Respectfully Submitted,

**Albert Mac Elrath,
Secretary,
Nuclear Weapons Technicians Association**