



Internet-Newsletter August 2017

AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS SACRAMENTO VALLEY CHAPTER

*IF YOU SERVED IN THE
U.S. MERCHANT
MARINE, IN PEACE OR
WAR, YOU ARE
WELCOME TO JOIN
OUR ORGANIZATION.
WE ALSO WELCOME
THE U.S. NAVY ARMED
GUARD.*

OFFICERS: You may contact our officers below by clicking on their email address or go to our web site by double clicking on the web site address.

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For larger print, at the top of the page, click + For smaller click - ,
This issue..

Prez Sez Ken Blue

Minutes of the last meeting..Larry Starn

Editors Comments and Ramblings. Bob Ulrich



THE PREZ SEZ by Ken Blue

Since being chartered August 1, 1991, that is 26 years, the American Merchant Marine Veterans Sacramento Valley Chapter has operated smoothly by having monthly meetings in the Old North Sacramento Legion Hall and by publishing a monthly newsletter. Some of our highlights over the years include trips to the Reserve Fleet Facility in Benicia, hosting a National Convention here in Sacramento, co-hosting, with Golden Gate Chapter, the western region mini-conventions in Reno and also co-hosting, with Golden Gate Chapter, the National Convention in Reno. Sacramento Valley also has had a web site on the internet for the past ten years. This was courtesy member, Bob Ulrich who both paid for and programmed the site. I believe we have had a very good run, but time has taken its toll. In the beginning our members were mostly in their sixties. Now even the youngest of us is 90. "yes, time has taken its toll".

This will probably be the last newsletter published by Sacramento Valley AMMV. At the July 19, 2017 meeting, I asked two questions 1) Are there any persons prepared to serve as officers of this chapter? The question received no response. Question 2) Do I hear a motion to close this chapter? A motion was made to close the chapter. The motion was seconded. A call for the vote received a passing vote. (Note: refer to the minutes on the July 19 meeting, submitted by Larry Starn.)

There followed a discussion. Here is a summary of that discussion. National Headquarters must be notified. We must also properly notify three government agencies: IRS, (federal), State of California Board of Equalization, and California State Attorney General's office (Charities and Scholarships). We also need to divest ourselves of money and property. We have formed a three person committee, consisting of William Fairfield, Bob Ulrich, and Kenneth Blue to oversee this,

Upon closing the meeting of July 19 it was suggested we keep our traditional Christmas luncheons in mid-December, and observe Maritime Day in Old Sacramento on May 22.



Minutes by Larry Starn

AMMV Sacramento Valley Chapter of July 19, 2017

Present: Ken, Bob, Larry, Steve, Bonnie, Bill, Bea, Phelps, Dina Armitage

Meeting called to order at 11:00 by President Ken Blue

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

There was a moment of silence for fallen shipmates

Larry recited a politically incorrect history of the cause and part of the result of the Second World War based on his readings. I think most of us found this very interesting.

Ken announced that because of his age and increased demands on him for home involving care giving, etc, he was tendering his resignation as President of our chapter.

He called for nominations for Sacramento Valley Chapter offices for 2017 since the fiscal year just started.

Bob said that for many of the same reasons he was giving up his position as Vice President. Bob said he could no longer produce the newsletter and would probably discontinue the Sacramento Valley Chapter Web site soon. There was a discussion.

Ken called for nominations for Sacramento Valley Chapter offices for 2017. He noted that we did not have candidates to continue the chapter.

Bob moved that we disband the chapter. Larry seconded.

We have money left in our treasury. It was suggested that we split it between several entities. Possibly the J. O'Brien, our partners in the conference's Golden Gate chapter, National AMMV, the American Legion Hall where we have been welcome so many years, etc.

Larry made a motion to form a committee to disperse (determine who and how much) the remaining funds composed of Ken, Bob and Bill. Steve seconded. Anyone with suggestions for the committee may call either Ken, Bob or Bill to explain their views.

Ken asked about the public address system. Bob said he has a place to keep it so we will still have it to use at our Tower Bridge Monument on Maritime Day and other events we may still wish to have. The group decided to have our usual Christmas party on December 14, 2017, a Thursday. We hope a large group will attend. Its a chance to see each other again.

The meeting was adjourned after the raffle.

Past Memories.

2007 August the late Frank “Bud” Schmiedel on the left and the late Bill Murphy with their home made parade float representing the Merchant Marine.





The Editors Comments and Ramblings.... *By Bob Ulrich*

Well I guess this is our last newsletter. As you know we dissolved the chapter at the last meeting. We did this reluctantly mostly because both Ken and I felt our bodies weren't working as well as they should anymore and each of us had to drive a considerable distance. We felt we need to quit driving the high speed freeways. For those reasons and Ken's caregiver problems we decided to resign our positions as President and Vice President. No one else wanted to take on the offices so we moved to close the chapter. We have had a good run.

I forget exactly how many years I have been doing this except that I that I was Treasurer in 2004. The late J.O. Nelson was president and we held a National Conference in Sacramento with Stockton and Golden Gate chapters. I recall that I was concerned about whether we would lose money. We were okay as it turned out. I think we even made a little. In hind site however I wish that we had chartered a bus and taken the attendees to Sacramento's Old Town or Railroad Museum. I think we looked into it and found that it would not work for us financially. In Reno, where charter buses are common it did work and added a lot to our conferences. All of this came to mind when I recently found a cd of the opening ceremonies of the 2004 National Conference that I had recorded and which I passed on to Bill Fairfield who was MC then as he was for many years. Time seems to just run away from you unless we have something to hang on to that reminds you of a moment or event.

About 2004 I began making CD's of the entire conferences and making them available to National and to any chapter. I don't think the National Presidents (all from the east coast) were very interested. No one expressed much interest. I thought it was a little short sighted but it wasn't the first time my ideas had been rejected. I think at least a couple of them had merit but no regrets. Most of you know that I have been in the communications business my whole life. I worked in Radio broadcasting during and after college. Then in Television in about 1951 or 1952 when Television was brand new to Central California and most other places. Everything was done live because there was no video tape yet. My record was 25 live commercials in one day. The early TV news business was pretty much radio with pictures. The problem was the pictures. I had no staff so I would hunt pictures (news) all day, process and develop the film myself, edit the film, write the stories and read the news on camera. Finally when I took the News Directors job in San Jose where I had gone to college, I had 10 employees. Reporters film editors, etc but we still shot our own film, edited and wrote. Leaving television I became Press Secretary for two San Jose mayors, one of whom, Norm Mineta became a congressman and then served as Secretary of Transportation for the Bush administration. In 1998 I was hired by the University of California's Cooperative Extension system as a radio broadcaster and then was appointed to manage the Visual Media unit which had about 10 people, photographers, a videographer, artists, etc. I still worked in the field making training films all over California as a working manager. I know this sounds like my resume but I don't need a job. I just firmly believe that communications is important to any organization and I am proud to have worked in it. Let me try to communicate this final thought to you.

It seems that as members of the AMMV we have a better hold on the actions of our organization if we belong to a chapter. I hope our Sacramento Valley folks will now fold into the Golden Gate chapter. I certainly hope that no one quits and if you just want to be a member at large that's okay. I think we are best served however, by belonging to a chapter. Most of us sailed out of San Francisco so it's a natural. It's dues time so I hope you will

do as I did and send your dues...\$35 to

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PS. I did pass my driving test this week. Here's a twist. I had to take my glasses off to read the chart. Please scroll down for the form for "At Large" membership if you should need it. God bless. Bob

