



BOXER SHORTS March 2025 – Issue 190 – Volume 1 Page 1

## LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

HAVE YOU TALKED WITH A SHIPMATE YOU SERVED WITH ON THE BOXER?  
WHY NOT INVITE THEM TO THE REUNION AND CATCH UP ON OLD TIMES?



Reunion information is on the bottom of page 6.

Registration form is on page 7.

.....  
Ship Store (Leon Carpenter) new phone Number: 817-948-8103

Visit our website: [USSBOXER.COM](http://USSBOXER.COM) for ship store listing.

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Presidents Message

It was at the 2014 reunion in Branson that Lane Wletschak asked me if I would consider running for president of the association; his reasoning then was that he felt that I was healthy enough to be able to keep the association going for a while longer. I promised Lane I would do whatever I could. That was 11 years ago. Sadly Lane passed away in 2016 just two weeks prior to the reunion in Rapid City , and thankfully I am still blessed to still be in fairly good health and still willing to keep going. I have given many president's messages since 2014 and this is being the hardest for me because we have some very difficult decisions to make regarding where we go from here. It certainly is not my decision to make; it is yours-- the members of this association. Listed below are what I feel are the facts and options that should be considered in making our decisions.

Future of the association:

These are the facts as I see them

1. The USS Boxer CV21-CVS21-CVA21 and LPH4 was commissioned on 16 April 1945.
2. This association was started in 1986 as a non-profit corporation through the state of Alabama.
3. Our first and second reunions were in 1986 and 1987 in Omaha Nebraska.
4. Let's just say all the sailors on board in 1945 were 20 years old. They would now be 100 years old in 2025.
5. The ship was decommissioned in 1969 and if sailors on board then were 20 years old they would now be 76 years old.
6. We currently have 76 and older members who are doing the work necessary to keep the association afloat, but because of age, health or family situations are not able to keep going and I certainly understand that.
7. And with so few members we are now seeing at our reunions--and the raising cost to attend--we have to ask ourselves how we want to go on from here.
8. Without new members from Boxer LHD4 we don't have a very long future ahead of us. As of now only a few sailors from LHD4 who attended the reunion in San Diego are still willing to keep up their membership, even though their first two years were free.
9. One bright spot is that Ken Wyant will probably continue having his annual mini reunions, which has as many attendees as we have at our main reunions. Thankfully many of our members live near Ken.

Our Options as I see them

1. Continuing as things are now means someone will need to sponsor future reunions. There is some talk of Washington D.C. in 2026 as a final reunion **IF NECESSARY**, meaning no additional interest from LHD4 sailors.
2. Our 2025 reunion will be in Las Vegas. Hopefully that will bring in enough LHD4 sailors who would be willing to take things over. If so they would take over the necessary positions in 2025. They can do it. I'm sure we started out slow in the beginning also. And I'm sure there are enough of us willing to help in any way we can.
3. Not have reunions annually and change to every other year or so.
4. Turn the reins over to the LHD4 sailors who still have membership, if willing to accept it, to do what they can with it.
5. Consider merging with another ship's association. But even with that we are still not getting any younger

I would like to hear from everyone who reads this message. If you have better ideas or think one of the options listed is the way to go forward, please share them with me.

My email address is [gtorlina@gmail.com](mailto:gtorlina@gmail.com)

Gary Torlina  
President

## Minutes

### General Membership Meeting, Saturday, August 10, 2024, 3:00pm

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance to United States of America was given by the members.

Invocation was offered by Joe Mitchell.

President Gary Torlina welcomed everyone to the 39th Annual Reunion.

#### **President Torlina recognized the following special guests and groups in attendance:**

**Past Presidents** – None attending

**First Timers** – Ron Dodd and Scott Lawrence

**Plank Owners** – Mike Swesey- Ron Dodd- Scott Lawrence

**Marines** – None attending

**Pilots** – None attending

**Banner Curator** – Not Attending

**Treasurer** – Leon Carpenter

**Boxer Shorts Editor** – Barb Miller unable to attend due to medical issues

**IT Manager / Web Master** – Salvador Sanchez

**Scholarship Committee** – Gary Torlina covering till new Chair

**Store Keeper** – Leon Carpenter

**Association Officers:** President, Gary Torlina; VP, Joe Mitchell; Treasurer, Leon Carpenter

**Board Members:** Lucy Dixon- Mike Swesey

**Auditor** – Unable to attend

**Chaplain** - Joe Mitchell

**Special mention** – Paul Schnell – 93 years old and attending 33 reunions

Angel Frias – 94 years old

#### **MINUTES:**

**A motion was made, seconded and approved** to suspend the reading of 2023 Branson Membership Meeting Minutes that were published in the January 2024 Boxer Shorts.

#### **OFFICERS REPORTS:**

##### **President's Report:**

Thank you to Lucy Dixon and Neal Davis for their 2-year service on our board. We will need to nominate two more directors at this meeting to take their places.

Also a big thank to John and Janet Pescatore for their many hours of work to revamp our roster. Their work showed that 48 percent of the Boxer Shorts were being mailed to no recipients, saving around \$2,000.00 per year. They also made many improvements in ways that the roster can be sorted. These improvements made it possible to mail out dues notices to our annual members, which has not been done for several years. Also,

Salvador Sanchez' expertise made it possible to send out the Boxer Shorts via email helping in the savings process.

The reunion attendance continues to be a concern and hopefully strides will continue to grow the membership.

**A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the President's report.**

**Vice Presidents Report: No report**

**Chaplain's Report:** Memorial Service will be read during The Ft. Sam Houston Tour

**Treasurers Report:**

Treasurer report as of July 15, 2024 was read by Treasurer, Leon Carpenter.

Checking	\$10,759.26
Savings	\$ <u>657.02</u>
12 Month CD	\$10,125.93
Total	\$21,542.22

**A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report subject to audit, seconded and approved.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Auditor's Report:** *Wayne Lemma* was unable to attend. Treasurer Leon Carpenter noted that all records are available for review.

**Boxer Shorts Report:** Editor Barbara Miller was unable to attend but continues to encourage everyone to submit ship memories and articles of interest to publish as well as updates of contact information changes.

**Scholarship Committee Report:** Gary Torlina reported 4 applications were received. However, 2 of the 4 were from dependents of non-association members and had to be disqualified. This year's recipients are Jessica Varnadoe and Pierce Shipp. Jessica is the granddaughter of Jim and Peggy Varnadoe and will be attending Gordon State College. Pierce is the grandson of Will and Linda Knox and will be attending the University of Pittsburgh.

The board of directors voted, by email, to approve two scholarships for next year.

The Scholarship application may be accessed on our website for all member requests.

In the interim of having a committee chair, Gary has been leading the committee. *If anyone may be interested in leading this program, please reach out to a Board member.*

**Ship Store:** *Leon Carpenter* reported that this is the last year the ships stores will be at the reunions. It is too difficult to transport all the items, and he is looking into having payments to items to be paid by PayPal, cash app and others, which can also be used for membership and dues payments.

**Reunion Reports:**

**2024 Reunion** San Antonio TX. Attendance is 27, with Ron Dodd and Scott Lawrence being first time attendees.

**2025 Reunion:** Sal Sanchez is sponsoring in Las Vegas NV. More information will be on our website and Boxer Shorts. There is support within the board and others to assist Sal.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Travis Powers:** In 2017 he was found guilty of stealing roughly \$65,000.00 from our association which was all the money we had in our treasury. In August of 2021 he was arrested and charged with the following felonies: Contact minor with intent to commit sexual offense, contacting minor to commit sexual offense. In June of 2023 he pleaded no contest to the charges and his sentencing has been postponed so many times that it's hard to keep up with. His new sentencing date is now set for October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Patty Church, granddaughter of Angel Frias, mentioned that this is the first reunion for her and also that she is a past scholarship recipient and is very thankful to the association for helping her in her education.

Treasurer Leon mentioned that he would like to eliminate the savings account and move that money in the association regular account. After a discussion of members his suggestion was approved.

### **Nomination of Officers:**

The President and Secretary positions are up for election this year for a 2-year term, expiring 2026.

Gary Torlina was nominated for President and accepted. With no additional nominations brought forward he was unanimously approved.

Lucy Dixon was nominated for Secretary and accepted. With no additional nominations brought forward she was unanimously approved.

### **Election of Association Directors:**

Lucy Dixon and Paul Schnell were nominated, accepted and seconded to fill the two positions available this year. With no further nominees brought forward, they were unanimously approved for a 2-year term expiring in 2026.

The \$100 Scholarship Challenge was changed to the Tracey Knox go-fund me challenge and raised \$950.00 in addition a vote was approved by the membership to also donate \$1,000.00 from its treasury for a total of \$1,950.00.

Also, Gary and Susan Flynn made a very generous \$1000.00 donation to our scholarship fund.

**THANK YOU TWO VERY MUCH!!**

With no further business brought forward, Chaplain Joe Mitchell offered a closing benediction.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Torlina - President

(Played Taps at the conclusion.)

## **Reunion Update**

Sorry this issue of the Boxer Shorts is a little later than normal. There were issues with the first contract proposed by Gatherings Plus and we wanted to make sure that we had the reunion itinerary and registration form in this issue. They are also available on their website at [gatheringsplus.com](http://gatheringsplus.com) and clicking on “my event”.

There were three different tours available **each with a price of \$233.44 per person**. I convinced them that we could not go forward at those prices and needed a contract with no tours. However if you go to [vegas.com](http://vegas.com) or other sites, there are tours available at better prices. You just need to book them on your own. Also you may want to spend your money on the many shows available in Las Vegas or you may decide to leave your money on the gambling tables. The choice is yours. Our previous reunion in Las Vegas was set up the same way and everyone seemed to have a great time. Hope to see a lot of you there.



Any Group, Any Where, Any Time

# Booking Branson & Beyond!

| 155 Industrial Park Drive, Hollister, MO 65672 | 417-338-4048

## USS Boxer Registration Form July 30, 2025 thru August 03, 2025

Attendee #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Attendee #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee #3: \_\_\_\_\_ Attendee #4: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone:(\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Request: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Time	Event	Cost	#of Ppl	Total Due
07/30/2025	3:00 PM	<b>Reunion Package:</b> Registration   Custom Neck Wallet Name Badge   Welcome Reception   Hospitality Room   Banquet Dinner  Association Fee / Complimentary Breakfast Buffet Included Daily	<b>\$250.07 Per person</b>		

*\*All Credit Card payments are subject to a 4% fee*

**Total Due: \$**

**Cancellation Protection Plan:** *Individuals may cancel up to 48 business hours prior to the start date of the event with no penalty. The cost of the CPP is non-refundable for any reason.*

**\$24.95 Per Person**

**# of PPI**

**Total CPP**

**\$**

**GRAND TOTAL DUE**

**\$**

**Hotel Information: Hampton Inn  
Tropicana Hotel** 702-948-8100 |  
4975 Dean Martin Dr. | Las Vegas,  
NV 89118

**Room Rate: \$129 + Tax Wed &  
Thurs. \$149 + Tax Fri & Sat**

**If you would like to pay by credit  
card please call our office at  
800-542-6768  
Mon. thru Fri. 9am – 5pm**

**Reservation Deadline:  
June 23, 2025**  
Reservations received after  
this date cannot be guaranteed

**Mail Completed Form & Payment to: Gatherings Plus | 155 Industrial Park Drive | Hollister, MO  
65672 OR Email to : rsvp@gatheringsplus.com**

Accredited by



**Policy:** No refunds will be made on the package after Cancellation Protection Plan has been purchased. All cancellations must go through Gatherings Plus and are subject to Cancellation Protection Plan is purchased.



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**Hi shipmates.** All shipmates are invited to join us in Las Vegas, Nevada for our annual reunion and enjoy sharing time with shipmates from ALL classifications of the USS Boxer.

Important reminder: You are not required to participate in any or all tours.

We Want YOU



and YOU



and YOU



..... in Las Vegas July 30 thru August 3, 2025.

2025 Reunion of the USS Boxer Veterans Association