

# UNTDA Board Meeting

## President's Report

December 13, 2022

To say there has been a lot of activity since our October meeting would clearly constitute an understatement! I want to thank all of you who pitched in to make the AGM, a success.

Preparation for the AGM on Zoom was a new challenge for us. Special recognition to Ken McCaw for the incredible work he put into meeting the requirements of a successful meeting on Zoom including, managing the registrations, determining the electronic meeting process to avoid technical problems and devising plans to deal with any problems arising. The meeting only went smoothly because he anticipated and prepared for all potential problems. Thanks also to Ross for helping to identify the voting memberships, pointing out to registrants what they had to do to vote, if their memberships had expired, and for his timely action in getting materials on the website to ensure that the members had a full picture of the issues they would be dealing with. Finally, my thanks to Bob for being quick to address legal questions around the various resolutions.

There were 74 registrants. The meeting was a good example of what we can accomplish together. In that connection I am pleased to congratulate all the Board members on their re-election. I am delighted to report to those of you who had to miss the AGM, that all of the Board's recommended resolutions were passed by the membership. The members approved the Incorporation, the by-laws, the decision to increase the maximum number of directors and expand our membership to all ranks. They also approved the actions of the Board and further underlined this by electing the recommended slate.

I have with the advice of the EC prepared a letter to all our membership reporting on the AGM. It is important all members be informed as we not only established our new corporation and its basic operating system but crucially, the members approval of our new membership structure marks a turning point in the ongoing evolution of the UNTDA from an association that was built solely around the

successful UNTD program from 1943 to 1968 to a new national naval reserve association.

The decision to expand the membership stands out. The approval of such a fundamental change established that the membership was prepared to endorse the advice from so many of our post UNTDs that a broad-based membership was essential to the long-term future of a viable organization. I think it is worthwhile noting that there was only one negative voice on the issue, and it came from a non-voting member. That said if we had been meeting in person, I am sure there would have been more discussion. The letter is important to ensure that those who did not attend and perhaps did not read the materials on the website, understand the rationale and logic for this basic change.

I have written to Commodore Montgomery (Commander Naval Reserves) to advise him of the membership expansion and Jennifer and Daniel will be liaising with the Naval Reserve Board to ensure it is up to date on our activities and to hear any advice they may have concerning our major initiatives.

While as a board we have made considerable strides, it is sobering to note that our Centennial conference is only five months away and there is much to be addressed if we are to achieve our basic goal of readying the association for the building of the new naval reserve association.

The Executive Committee is aiming to accomplish two basic goals to be achieved for the Centennial Conference:

- a celebration of the UNTD, already well under way under Roger's steady hand; and
- the effective establishment of a diverse, energetic and representative leadership team of the association to undertake the major responsibility of defining and building of a new naval reserve association.

To accomplish the latter, I see us undertaking the following over the next five months:

#### NCM Issues

You have a proposal to take the next step with NCMs. We had initial consultations through Marta's committee. This key next step with non-

commissioned members of the reserves to attempt to determine their basic interests and expectations concerning involvement in the new Association and in the process identify any practical barriers to full participation. For example, our membership forms ask questions that are clearly irrelevant to non-officers.

### Association Name Change

While Marta's committee discussed some names it is important that the membership be able to make their own proposals for consideration. Consequently, another key step is engaging them in the process. We plan to ask the general membership for their personal suggestions while providing a list of possibilities they might wish to chew on. Once we have response to that initial request, we will send out a short list for comment and on receipt, the Board will make the final decision. If we can launch this early in the New Year, there is little reason to believe you will not be able to make a recommendation to the AGM in May!

### Restructuring Director Positions

The EC committee will meet in January to consider the restructuring of the Board Director positions which would lay the basic groundwork for the Governance and Nominations Committee as it prepares its recommendations for the Annual General meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The issues considered will include regional coverage, the desirability of performance expectations, any issues around non-commissioned directors etc. Any future board must include non-commissioned members. The proposals for director restructuring will be reported to the Board for discussion and approval.

The make-up of the Board is basic governance so changes to the board structure may require the need to a call for a board meeting earlier than the scheduled March meeting. I expect that the name change may take a little longer but still should be ready for your consideration before the notice required for the AGM.

While you can see from the Treasurer's Report we are in decent financial shape, it may well be that we will have to draw down some of our resources to accomplish our short-term goals.

It is important that the preparation is done well and that as a Board we have ample time to consider these key issues before making our recommendations to the AGM.

There is much to do, and perhaps it is easier to appreciate what we must accomplish if I summarize what I think it is we want to achieve in time for the May conference:

- Agree on a new board membership structure
- Nominate new board members for election in May, effectively reflecting the expanded membership base and ensuring diversity of the naval reserve.
- Present a recommendation to the membership for a new name.
- Create a volunteer committee of UNTDs to recommend tangible ways to memorialize the UNTD program and consider possible home for any memorabilia.

I will continue my ongoing work on the Policy and Procedures Manual and Board restructuring, and the Nomination Committee once established, and under the Committee Chair, Jennifer, will develop its terms of reference for your approval and initiating the nomination process for the May 2023 AGM.

I would encourage Committee Chairs and Executive members to start to develop turnover notes for their roles and positions in anticipation of the integration of new Board members, including NCMs as we move to encourage not only expanded membership, but broad engagement.

I am looking forward to our meeting and full discussion around our important goals. It is vital that all directors are clear on the course we are setting and are in full support.