

**USS Benjamin
Franklin
SSBN 640
Association**



MINUTES



TO: SSBN 640 Shipmates
FROM: Jim Albert, *Secretary*
RE: Minutes of the 9/20/2023 Annual Meeting (Philadelphia, PA)
Date: 24 September 2023

**2023-2025
Executive Committee**

Wes Williams
President
(413) 441-6343

Len Suschena
Vice President
(319) 270-0153

Jim Albert
*Secretary /
Chaplain*
(518) 527-7279

Harry Bryant
Treasurer
(856) 678-6091

Mark (Max) Miller
Member-At-Large
(203) 313-6382

Len Exelby
Membership Chair
(302) 456-9914

Kevin Owen
Webmaster
(813) 931-9267
Webmaster@SSBN640.com



The annual meeting of the **USS Benjamin Franklin SSBN-640 Association** was called to order on 20 September 2023 by Acting President, Wes Williams at 0907. Executive Committee members in attendance were Acting President, Wes Williams, Jim Albert, Secretary and Harry Bryant, Treasurer. Acting Vice President, Len Suschena and Acting Member-At-Large, Dave Holcombe were absent.

In addition, there were 26 members present: John Perkins, Cari Letscher, Gene Cashatt, Ted Merihew, Frank Pollack, Mark Miller, Bob Schweizer, Jeff Griffin, Gary Paioletti, Charlie Trowbridge, Bill Schaffer, Paul Ruggles, David Morgan, Ken Erickson, Mark Jeszenka, Ben Carlson, David Schrab, Warren Wolfe, Grant Day, Craig Megargle, Wayne Johnson, Neill Howey, Bob Christina, David Tucker, Tom Mscisz and Bill Emslie.

Secretary's Report – Jim Albert reported that there were 96 (53 shipmates & 43 guests) in attendance at the 2019 reunion in Savannah, GA. There was no cruise reunion in 2021 due to COVID-19. We considered a cruise for 2023 until we verified the high rate of COVID-19 passengers even in 2022. Therefore, we chose the member's second choice of Philadelphia, PA. This year, we have 57 in attendance (35 shipmates and 22 guests). The Reunion Brat was again our choice to organize the reunion.

The Executive Committee conducted five zoom conference calls between 2021 and 2023. During that period, President Jack Hogan decided to resign, at which case, Wes Williams took over as President and Len Suschena moved into the VP slot. David Holcombe offered to act as Acting Member-at-Large until the 2023 reunion.

Treasurer's Report – Harry Bryant gave the Treasurer's Report. The current balance is \$4,397.39 in the Association's checking account.

Membership Report – Jim Albert reported there are currently 137 life members and 5 annual members. Annual members will have the opportunity to become life members at \$150 or continue to pay the \$25 annual fee in order to get reunion discounts and have a vote during the annual meeting.

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Old Business – The Bylaws were revised at the 2019 reunion and presented to the membership today. A motion was made and seconded. A vote was taken to make the changes permanent. The vote passed.

New Business – Voting for the 2023-2025 Executive Committee. A slate of candidates was presented to the membership. Wes Williams, President; Len Suschena, Vice President; Jim Albert, Secretary, Harry Bryant, Treasurer and David Holcombe, Member-at-large.

Members were asked if anyone wanted to place his name in nomination for any of the five positions. Mark (Max) Miller placed his name in nomination for Member-at-Large. A motion was made and seconded and a vote was taken.

The 2023-2025 Executive Committee is:

- Wes Williams, President
- Len Suschena, Vice President
- Jim Albert, Secretary
- Harry Bryant, Treasurer
- Mark (Max) Miller, Member-at-Large

Wes Williams reappointed Len Exelby, Membership Chair & Kevin Owen, Webmaster for another two years.

2025 Reunion – Next, we discussed the 2025 reunion. The five sites chosen (votes) and discussed that were voted on were:

- Kings Bay, GA (21)
- Groton, CT (18)
- Annapolis, MD (17)
- Baltimore, MD (17)
- Cleveland (11)

Kings Bay was chosen for the 2025 reunion in mid-late September. The membership also approved the Reunion Brat to organize it for us. We will be working closely with them to get the ball rolling as quickly as possible.

Next Meeting – The Executive Committee will conduct its next meeting by zoom in the spring of 2024.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1026.