USS EVERETT F LARSON DD/DDR 830

WINTER 2015 Official Publication of the U.S.S. Everett F. Larson Association Newsletter Address: 83 Stonehedge Lane South, Guilford, CT 06437 www.uss-everett-f-larson.com



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For those of you who missed 2014 San Francisco reunion, I wish you could have been there. Clyde and Deb Bingham did an excellent job in putting together

the program. In addition to the tour of San Francisco, we had an emotional memorial service aboard the aircraft carrier Hornet as we remembered Everett F. Larson and the shipmates who passed away in the last year. We also remembered our honorary plankowner and friend Edith, Everett's twin sister. As we gathered on the fantail, Donna Kendall tossed the memorial wreath into San Francisco Bay.

At the business meeting, our tireless Larson Historian Gene Maresca was recognized with the Everett F. Larson Spirit Award.

We also made some minor changes to the by-laws; primarily word-smithing. Other changes increased the dues as voted on by the members present. Details are covered elsewhere in this newsletter. And there was an election of officers.

When I was elected President to a two year term at the Nashville reunion last year, it happened so fast that we forgot to elect the other officers. We (officially) went a full year without other officers. However, they served with distinction until we could remedy the situation. Re-elected to a two year term as Vice President was John Clements. Terry Weathers was re-elected Secretary. David Pickett was elected Treasurer. Don Erskine and Dave Noel were elected as two year members of the Executive Committee. Doug Rice is serving his third year of a three year term on the Executive Committee.

Our next reunion is set for Jacksonville, Florida in October. Ellis and Marlene Warmkessel have already put most of the elements in place for a good time in the Sunshine State. I hope to see all of you there.

Bill Forbes

From the Vice-President

The holidays are behind us now and I hope you had enjoyable ones. The New Year is upon us and we are

looking forward to some warmer weather and the thought of the next reunion comes to mind, since it will be in sunny Florida. My wife and I are looking forward to seeing you in Jacksonville. Be well and be safe this winter season.

- John Clements



From the Treasurer

The balance in the association checking on January 1, 2015 was \$2679.15. In addition \$2000 was

advanced for the Jacksonville reunion next Fall. \$240.00 funds from 2014 deposited in 2015, and \$4708.03 leftover reunion funds returned. Final Year End Balance: \$9627.18

- Your shipmate, David Pickett



Notes from the Larson Historian

Thanks to all you guys for the certificate of appreciation and ship's bell! (Although the wife has declined

to bong me aboard when I come home!)

I really enjoy unearthing your stories and putting you in the Navy Memorial. If you aren't in there yet, please fill out the information on the "cheat sheet" and send to me with a photo of you in uniform. You do NOT have to be dead to be in there. In fact, once you are, it's almost impossible to get the stuff it would take to do a good job for you. Some of the stories:

One of the major news magazines reported in 1941 that a man whose son had been killed at Pearl Harbor dragged his remaining son to the Navy recruiting office and made him enlist. He later would become one of our plank owners. Bob Gorman talked Jayne Mansfield into being Miss E. F. Larson for a ship's party. (Photos on the web site)

Several of us have done very well in the Navy. At least two of our officers made vice admiral and several white hats later became officers, at least one worked his way up to 4-striper. In civilian life, other white hats became highly successful business people (and at least one officer died homeless.)

Four men that we know of died in Viet Nam after leaving the Larson. Their inscriptions can be seen on our web site.

And EM2 James Peters, who served in the Larson from 1949–50, later switched to submarines, worked his way up to senior chief and went down with the Thresher.

As you can see, not all the stories are happy, but they are all part of Navy (and American) history.

Larson Historian Continued

Navy Memorial Cheat Sheet:

If interested, please fill out the information below, and email or mail along with a picture to Gene.

Name:

Rate/Rank: Service Branch:

Service Dates (Mo/Yr):

Date of Birth:

Place of Birth:

Significant Ships or other Duty Stations:

Significant Awards:

Contact Info: Name, Address, Phone, EMail

Mail To: Gene Maresca

701 Aqui Esta Dr #153 Punta Gorda, FL 33950-3003

Email: GeneMMaresca@aol.com

From the Secretary



Your Secretary has been working on compiling a hardcopy file of Association newsletters while Webmaster Harold

Vaughn has been regularly adding newsletters to the website. The website is currently complete back to 2008 while the hardcopies are reasonably complete back through 2003.

This is essentially a plea to Association old-timers. If you have copies of any newsletters dated 2002 or earlier, would you please advise me by whatever means is most convenient to you. My contact information is on the first page of this newsletter. Thanks in advance.

- Terry Weathers



In Memoriam Departed Shipmates (since last newsletter)

Chaplain Francis E. Juntunen

EM2 Eugene A. Squires 1945 (Plank Owner) Passed away 8/4/2014

Condolences to daughter, Jane (Mrs. Carl) Garnand, 1605 N. Keyes St., Wellington, KS 67152-4624

Donation to Bucklin Cemetery Fund, c/o Minnis Mortuary, Box 516, Bucklin, KS 67834

CAPT Donald G. Hay 1957-58 Died 8/28/2014

ENDCM Franklin J. Adams 1950-52 Died 10/12/2014

MM3 Louis J. Cirillo 1952-1954 passed away 8/24/2014 Widow is Dorothy "Dot" Cirillo, 25 High St., Bristol RI 02809

Donations to Firemens Memorial & Welfare Committee, PO BOX 775, Bristol RI 02089

- Gene Maresca Page 2

Mail Call



Gene Maresca, former Association President and (we hope) permanent Larson Historian, accepts the Everett F. Larson Spirit Award at the 2014 reunion in San Francisco. The award was accompanied by a certificate that reads: Everett F. Larson Spirit Award presented to Gene Maresca

- For best promoting the spirit and mission of the USS Everett F. Larson (DD/DDR 830) Association.
- For researching military records to recruit shipmates and to keep the USS Everett F. Larson (DD/DDR 830) Association roster current.
- For enrolling shipmates in the Navy Memorial's Navy Log
- For compiling and sharing those records of Larson Sailors in the Navy Log.

Everyone who knows Gene will tell you that this award is richly deserved.

My cousin, Jim Lovell, was 92 years old last Sunday. He fought in World War II, anti-aircraft warfare. He was in combat on Iwo Jima when they captured the island from the Japanese. He also saw the historic raising of the flag on Iwo Jima. His parents, Oscar and Ethel Lovell, had 12 children. 5 out of 6 boys fought in world war II, and 5 returned home after the war. How amazing!!

He was getting old and paunchy And his hair was falling fast And he sat around the Legion Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in And the deeds that he had done In his exploits with his buddies They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors His tales became a joke All his buddies listened quietly For they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer For ol' Joe has passed away And the world's a little poorer For a Veteran died today.

He won't be mourned by many Just his children and his wife For he lived an ordinary Very quiet sort of life. He held a job and raised a family Going quietly on his way And the world won't note his passing 'Tho a Veteran died today.

When politicians leave this earth Their bodies lie in state While thousands note their passing And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories From the time that they were young But the passing of a Veteran Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution To the welfare of our land Some jerk who breaks his promise And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow Who in times of war and strife Goes off to serve his country And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend And the style in which he lives Are often disproportionate To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Veteran Who offered up his alls paid off with a medal And perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the politicians With their compromise and ploys Who won, for us, the freedom That our country now enjoys?

Should you find yourself in danger With your enemies at hand Would you really want some copout With his ever-waffling stand?

Or would you want a Veteran His home, his country, his kin Just a common Veteran Who would fight until the end?

He was just a common Veteran And his ranks are growing thin But his presence should remind us

We may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict We find the Veteran's part is to clean up all the troubles That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor While he's here to hear the praise Then, at least, let's give him homage At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline In the paper that might say:

"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING, A VETERAN DIED TODAY."

PLEASE pass on the Patriotism. YOU can make a difference.

More from the Treasurer David Pickett:

The greatness of the USS Larson and what I learned by going to reunions

Most of us served on the Larson for a short period of time compared to the overall life of the Larson. But during the 28 years the Larson was commissioned,

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it had a distinguished career. Here are some of the highlights I learned from going to the ship's reunion. In 1945 the Larson was involved in dropping off Australian and New Zealand scouts on Japanese held islands to determine if the island should be invaded or bypassed. That same year the Larson was the first ship to enter Nagasaki after the atomic bomb. The DVD that is available has incredible pictures of Nagasaki.

During the Cuban missile crisis the Larson detected and trailed a Russian submarine for several weeks. Later in the 60s Larson trailed a Russian trawler on the West Coast. During that period the crewmembers used the weather balloon and a cardboard box painted black to look like a camera and floated it over the trawler. To the delight of the crew – the Russians shot down the balloon thinking it was real.

In the last years, Larson was involved in the recovery of the USS Evans, shore bombardment in Vietnam and almost being run over by USS Ticonderoga.

Being decommissioned did not stop the greatness of the Larson. After being part of the South Korean Navy, it is now a museum in South Korea.

I would like to encourage everyone to attend the Larson reunions. It is a chance to meet with plank owners who served on the ship in the very beginning, to shipmates that served at the end. Memorable experiences for me were:

- · Meeting Everett F Larson's twin sister who attended all the reunions until last year when she passed away.
- Talking to a plank owner that had atomic bomb veteran on his jacket
- Going to the Grand Ole Opry for the introduction of our ship and another ship. The other ship sounded like it had about 10 people at their reunion where we had close to 60.
- Seeing pictures taken by Bill Forbes when he visited the Larson in South Korea But the best part of a reunion is seeing others that served on the Larson and renewing friendships from 40 years ago.

Can you guess who these guys are?



** Has Anyone applied for VA disability due to PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress

** Has Anyone applied for VA disability due to PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)? If so please contact Gene Maresca to help out a fellow veteran in need!

GeneMMaresca@aol.com or (317)786-5788 **

THANKS JUST ISN'T ENOUGH - Cemetery Watchman

My friend Kevin and I are volunteers at a national cemetery in Oklahoma and put in a few days a month in a 'slightly larger' uniform. Today had been a long, long day and I just wanted to get the day over with and go down to Smokey's and have a cold one. Sneaking a look at my watch, I saw the time, 16:55. Five minutes to go before the cemetery gates are closed for the day.

Full dress was hot in the August sun. Oklahoma summertime was as bad as ever—the heat and humidity at the same level—both too high. I saw the car pull into the drive, '69 or '70 model Cadillac Deville, looked factory—new. It pulled into the parking lot at a snail's pace. An old woman got out so slow I thought she was paralyzed; she had a cane and a sheaf of flowers—about four or five bunches as best I could tell. I couldn't help myself. The thought came unwanted, and left a slightly bitter taste: 'She's going to spend an hour, and for this old soldier, my hip hurts like hell and I'm ready to get out of here right now!'

But for this day, my duty was to assist anyone coming in. Kevin would lock the 'In' gate and if I could hurry the old biddy along, we might make it to Smokey's in time. I broke post attention. My hip made gritty noises when I took the first step and the pain went up a notch. I must have made a real military sight: middle-aged man with a small pot gut and half a limp, in marine full-dress uniform, which had lost its razor crease about thirty minutes after I began the watch at the cemetery.

I stopped in front of her, halfway up the walk. She looked up at me with an old woman's squint. 'Ma'am, may I assist you in any way?' She took long enough to answer. 'Yes son, can you carry these flowers? I seem to be moving a tad slow these days. "My pleasure, ma'am.' (Well, it wasn't too much of a lie.) She looked again. 'Marine, where were you stationed?" Vietnam, ma'am. Ground-pounder. '69 to '71. 'She looked at me closer. 'Wounded in action, I see. Well done, Marine. I'll be as quick as I can. 'I lied a little bigger: 'No hurry, ma'am. 'She smiled and winked at me. 'Son, I'm 85-years-old and I can tell a lie from a long way off. Let's get this done. Might be the last time I can do this. My name's Joanne Wieserman, and I've a few Marines I'd like to see one more time. "Yes, ma 'am. At your service.

'She headed for the World War I section, stopping at a stone. She picked one of the flower bunches out of my arm and laid it on top of the stone. She murmured something I couldn't quite make out. The name on the marble was Donald S. Davidson, USMC: France 1918. She turned away and made a straight line for the World War II section, stopping at one stone. I saw a tear slowly tracking its way down her cheek. She put a bunch on a stone; the name was Stephen X. Davidson, USMC, 1943. She went up the row a ways and laid another bunch on a stone, Stanley J. Wieserman, USMC, 1944. She paused for a second and more tears flowed. 'Two more, son, and we'll be done. 'I almost didn't say anything, but, 'Yes, ma'am. Take your time.' She looked confused. 'Where's the Vietnam section, son? I seem to have lost my way. 'I pointed with my chin. 'That way, ma'am."Oh!' she chuckled quietly. 'Son, me and old age ain't too friendly. 'She headed down the walk I'd pointed at. She stopped at a couple of stones before she found the ones she wanted. She placed a bunch on Larry Wieserman, USMC, 1968, and the last on Darrel Wieserman, USMC, 1970. She stood there and murmured a few words I still couldn't make out and more tears flowed.

'OK, son, I'm finished. Get me back to my car and you can go home. 'Yes, ma'am. If I may ask, were those your kinfolk? 'She paused. 'Yes, Donald Davidson was my father, Stephen was my uncle, Stanley was my husband, Larry and Darrel were our sons. All killed in action, all Marines. 'She stopped. Whether she had finished, or couldn't finish, I don't know. She made her way to her car, slowly and painfully. I waited for a polite distance to come between us and then double-timed it over to Kevin, waiting by the car. 'Get to the 'Out' gate guick. I have something I've got to do. 'Kevin started to say something, but saw the look I gave him.

He broke the rules to get us there down the service road fast. We beat her. She hadn't made it around the rotunda yet. 'Kevin, stand at attention next to the gatepost. Follow my lead.' I humped it across the drive to the other post. When the Cadillac came puttering around from the hedges and began the short straight traverse to the gate, I called in my best gunny's voice: 'TehenHut! Present Haaaarms! 'I have to hand it to Kevin; he never blinked an eye—full dress attention and a salute that would make his DI proud. She drove through that gate with two old worn—out soldiers giving her a send—off she deserved, for service rendered to her country, and for knowing duty, honor and sacrifice far beyond the realm of most. I am not sure, but I think I saw a salute returned from that Cadillac. Instead of 'The End,' just think of 'Taps.

'As a final thought on my part, let me share a favorite prayer: 'Lord, keep our servicemen and women safe, whether they serve at home or overseas. Hold them in your loving hands and protect them as they protect us. 'Let's all keep those currently serving and those who have gone before in our thoughts. They are the reason for the many freedoms we enjoy. 'In God We Trust.

If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under!

From: tmw@sisqtel.net

Sent: September 29, 2014 12:39:41 AM EDT

To: GeneMMaresca@aol.com

Subject: Check out CAPTAIN DONALD GEORGE HAY UNITED STATES (RETIRED) NAVY Obituary: by Tri-City Herald

Gene.

I've probably told you the story of the 1958 Larson Pre-deployment inspection in Long Beach before we headed for WestPac. We're all dressed up and lined out topside while skipper Tom Harbert was leading around some four-striper from ComCruDesPac. They get to my Engineering Dept. and skipper introduces me.

Insp.: "Mr. Weathers, where did you go to school?"

Me: "Illinois Institute of Technology, sir."

Insp.: "What was your major?"
Me: "Mechanical Engineering, sir."

Inspector grunts approval and moves to Don Hay, next to me. Skipper introduces Don with, "This is Ltjg Hay who will be relieving Mr. Weathers in a couple of months."

Insp.: "Mr. Hay, where did you go to school?" Don: "Iowa State Teacher's College, sir."

Insp.: "What was your major?"
Don: "Elementary Education, sir"

Inspector says nothing, but turns to Skipper with a look that says, "Lotsa luck, Captain." I found it interesting that Don went on to a 30 year career, with most of his assignments being of a technical nature.

Terry

I was a Sonarman 3
on the Lanson 870 in 46447.
I some the sinking of the Jap Dubo as shown in the
Nowo letter.
I was on watch on the bridge standing right
next to the Jap comanding
adminal whitnes to the
outloing Very impressing.
I am mour 89 years alotter.
Enjoy my news letter.
John W Rodgera
708 Sara Lane
Prattrille 02.36067
334-365-7950

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This Stealth Attack Boat May Be Too Innovative for the Pentagon



On the northern edge of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Maine, past the security checkpoint and high-tech stations for refurbishing nuclear submarines, is a derelict warehouse that once doubled as a sawmill. Building 129's corrugated metal exterior is rusted and overgrown with bursts of ivy. Broken glass in some of the windows has been replaced with clear plastic. Inside, it takes a moment to adjust to the cavernous silence and dim orange lighting, but one immediately senses the hulking presence of the hangar's inhabitant: a vessel called *Ghost*.

Matte gray, with the chiseled angles of a Nighthawk stealth aircraft, *Ghost* doesn't look like a boat. Its 38-foot main hull is designed to travel above the water's surface, propped up by two narrow struts, both 12 feet long and razor-sharp at the front so they can cut through ocean debris. Underwater, each strut is attached to a 62-foot-long tube that contains a gas turbine engine. Hinges allow the struts to move up and down like wings. While parked, or traveling through shallow waters, they can be extended to the side. In deeper waters, at speeds of eight knots or higher, they can rotate downward to lift the hull into the air, eliminating the jarring impact of waves.

Four propellers positioned at the front of the tubes are powered by the two 2,000-horsepower engines. They pull the craft and, with the help of air funneling down through the struts, create a gas bubble around each tube—an effect known as supercavitation that can reduce drag by a factor of 900. In short, *Ghost* makes a bubble and flies through it.

"It's such a smooth ride, you can sit there and drink your coffee going through six-foot swells," says Gregory Sancoff on a recent trip to the hangar. A self-made millionaire who started a string of medical technology companies, he's looking up at *Ghost*, grinning. This is his baby. Sancoff came up with its design, leased the ramshackle hangar, and built the vessel entirely on spec. His 18-person startup, Juliet Marine Systems, has invested \$15 million in the project.

Ghost, Sancoff says, could be used as a kind of "attack helicopter of the sea"—conducting coastal defense and anti-terrorism missions and protecting massive naval vessels from swarm attacks by armed speedboats. Built from aluminum and stainless steel, the vessel is nonmagnetic and difficult to target using sonar. "We came up with the name Ghost because the boat is intended to have no radar signature at all," says Sancoff. "With Ghost, you can get into denied-access ocean areas and loiter for 30 days with the fuel on board. You can listen to cell phone conversations, you can monitor what's going on, you can launch operations and leave, and no one knows you're there." He adds, "That's not something the government can do right now."

CURRENT EVENTS - PLEASE READ WE NEED MORE STORIES!!!

We have received some very interesting and personal emails and letters from those who served on the Larson, that you will find under the "Mail Call" heading.

There have to be hundreds of these stories.

We would ask you to think back to those years on the Larson and email it or write it down and send it to drice@ctslabs.com or Doug Rice,

83 Stonehedge Lane South, Guilford, CT 06437.

Give us as much detail as possible, with dates, names and we will share it with the Larson crew in our next newsletter!

Larson hats, shirts and jackets will be available from EMBROIDERY CREATIONS, 5050 Nebraska Avenue, Ste. 8, HUBER HEIGHTS, OHIO. Phone: 937-235-0441. Fax: 937-235-0487. Contact Chuck Hertzman Website: www.embroiderycreations.com or info@embroiderycreations.com

LARSON PATCHES AVAILABLE - Vern Smith, 1855 E. Oakmont Ave., Fresno, CA 93720, (e-mail: yttim2@dslextreme.com) has Larson Patches available and the cost is \$4.00 which includes mailing cost.

THIS IS NOT A DRILL Its still important to get dues paid and to get new members. We need to do both! DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Get Your Larson Newsletter Via Email
With every edition, your Association mails out
354 Newsletters and Emails 141 Newsletters to
members. Please let Doug Rice
(drice@ctslabs.com) know if we can just
provide you with the email version. With the
rising costs of stamps, envelopes and printing,

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR SHIPMATES

costs. Thank you for your help.

we would appreciate your help in cutting our



Middle is Jake Jacobsen MM3 - Hong Kong 1965 or 1966

Attention on Deck!

The members present at the San Francisco reunion voted to increase our dues. Effective March 1, 2015, annual dues are \$20 and Lifetime Membership is \$150.

As you know, once you pay a Lifetime Membership, you no longer pay annual dues. If you were already a Lifetime member, you **do not** owe anything more.

Members present at the San Francisco reunion voted to increase annual dues immediately. However, the shipmates who were not there wouldn't know of the increase. Therefore, your Executive Committee unanimously decided that the increase would not become effective until March 1. For those who didn't know and have already sent in your \$10 annual dues, you did so in good faith so you are paid in full. For those of you who knew and have already paid \$20 for this year's dues, you are also paid in full for next year at the rate of \$10. We thought that it would not be fair to collect \$10 from some and \$20 from others. To refund that extra \$10 would be a book keeping nightmare.

There is more than one reason the increases are necessary. (1) The Association paid more than \$1,400 last year on newsletter postage. The Postal Service NEVER decreases the cost of postage. (2) There is a cost to keep our web site active (http://uss-everett-f-larson.com/)

It's easy enough to forget a \$20 payment once a year, but shipmates, if you are not a Lifetime Member, please send your dues payment to David Pickett. His address is on the first page of the newsletter. If you do it before March 1, 2015, you will save \$10 for annual dues and save \$30 for Lifetime membership. Here's an idea, on January 1 every year..... no wait, you might want to wait until January 2...(New Year's Eve and all you know)! On January 2 every year, send in your annual dues. **OR**, when you receive the Winter Edition of the newsletter, that's a good reminder, send it in. **OR**, those of you with a computer calendar, pick a date and make it a reoccurring event on your calendar. Please send it in.

Welcome to Jacksonville, Florida and the 2015 USS Everett F. Larson Association Reunion

- Reunion Dates Wednesday October 7th through Sunday October 11th
- Hotel Crown Plaza Jacksonville Riverfront, 1201 Riverplace Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32207
- The reservation number is 843–760–5839 or 888–233–9527. Be sure to identify yourself as part of the USS Everett F. Larson Navy group.
- The room rate is \$99 a night plus tax. Good for 3 days before and after, and includes breakfast each day. Also available are junior suites at a rate of \$139/night, includes a large room with a king bed, sitting area, and a pull out sofa, mini fridge and microwave. Also a room overlooking North Bank and St Johns River is \$119/night.
- The hotel offers Free Parking and complimentary breakfast each day you are a registered guest

Date	Event	# 01 People	Amount
Wednesday October 7	REGISTRATION, informal gathering w/ dinner \$7.00 per person		\$
Thursday St Augustine, tour and shopping at area outlet malls. Lunch on October 8 your own \$55.00 per person			\$
Friday October 9			\$
Saturday October 10	12 Noon general meeting & raffle with complimentary light lunch and beverage 6:30pm Cash Bar 7pm Buffet Dinner & Music \$60.00 per person		\$
Sunday October 11	Breakfast & Checkout Thanks for a great time, see you next year in LAS VEGAS!		
	TOTAL AMOUNT ENC	LOSED	\$
Spouse/Gues	Ame:First Name for Name Tag: Douse/Guest:First Name for Name Tag: ddress: ty/ ST / Zip:		
Phone:	e-mail		
What years d	id you serve on Larson?		

Please complete the form and make your check payable to Ellis Warmkessel Return by 8/15/15

Ellis Warmkessel, 13740 Coronado Drive, Spring Hill, FL 34609

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I will mail my dues payable to USS Everett F. Larson (DD/DDR 830) Association separately to: David Pickett, 1930 Crestview Dr., Orville, OH 44667				
Larson Association dues:				
Before March 1, 2015:	After March 1, 2015			
Annual dues\$10.00 Lifetime dues\$120.00	Annual dues\$20.00 Lifetime dues\$150.00			
Associate membership\$5.00	Associate membership dues\$5.00			

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