

# **ECHOES FROM THE PRESIDENT**

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## **Important Association News**

At September's annual General meeting of the NSA held during the reunion in Branson, there were only four NSA Members in attendance - two Officers and two Directors.

In the past 24 months, we have lost two of our directors and our Secretary due to their deaths. Most recently our Ping Jockey (PJ) Editor/Publisher resigned due to an illness in his family. Note that these positions have not been replaced.

Frank Crawford formed the National Association of Sonarmen – now known as the National Sonar Association or NSA in 1982. He created and published the Ping Jockey newsletter every two months, providing the fledgling association with names of newly joined members, their duty stations, and contact information. He provided relevant sonar information about ratings, ships & equipment. At that time, most of the information was first hand and available from shipmates, friends and Navy organizations. However, the passing of time has made it more difficult to operate the NSA in this manner. The fact is that most of today's membership is aged, growing older and declining in numbers. Right now, we have approximately 160 dues paying members. As such, getting our present membership involved in the organization and/or increasing the membership has shown to be very difficult.

Recognizing our situation, we are at a time that a decision must be made as to whether we continue to operate or dissolve the NSA. It is true that many social organizations have been forced to fold because of inadequate funding. However, with over \$30,000 in our treasury, this is obviously not our problem.

Those in attendance at the General Meeting in Branson, voted that unless we can get a firm backing from our membership and generate new interest in the organization, we should abandon the NSA ship. I don't think this is a popular decision but it is up to you, the members.

**Do you want to continue the National Sonar Association or have it dissolved?** If dissolved, monies remaining from the process would not be distributed to the membership, but given to deserving Naval charities.

**If you want the NSA to continue operating what then will you do to help?** If it is decided that we should continue the operation of the NSA, we must immediately find a replacement for the PJ editor. We must become ambitious in recruiting new members and younger members, especially in the military, and expand our coverage of all types of underwater detection schemes and their sources. In short, we need to adapt and change going forward.

**Who is capable of doing the PJ job and who is willing to do it?** If you have experience with news letters and graphics or know of someone who has and would be interested in editing the PJ, please contact me or one of our Officers or Directors. Another alternative would be to have it done professionally. But then who supplies the information and the data?

**The future of the NSA is now up to you the members.** It is imperative that you advise your thoughts and preference as to the destiny of our organization. Phone, send an email, a postcard or letter to me or one of our Officers or Directors. Please let us know what you think we should do. Also, advise other members to do the same as soon as possible. We sincerely hope that the National Sonar Association can be preserved.

Thank you.

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Or send your message to [sonarshack@sonarshack.org](mailto:sonarshack@sonarshack.org). It will be distributed to each of the following individuals.

Ron Kohler, President  
Doreen Kohler, Treasurer  
John Russo, Director  
Colorado Green, Director  
Peter Hill, Director  
Dexter Saito, Director  
John Bedford, Past Treasurer