

.John C. **Butler** Arizona Destroyer Escort Sailors Association
Meeting of 14 APR 08

1100: Call to order; Twenty-five members present; welcome Lester Ross guest of Larry Smith DD 497 and Bud Fronk guest of Del Krause DDE S47. Mr. Fronk **DD** 822 later "enlisted" as a new association member; guest speakers were Brent Phillips, (Noise). CDR, USN and Robert Wong. CPO, USN introduced by Torn Roell DD779. Welcome to each of you, we were pleased to have you aboard.

Cdr. Phillips, a naval aviator, XO Navy Recruiting, Phoenix, briefly gave us his biography of being raised in a military family, from the Naval Academy then to flying off the decks of aircraft carriers. He updated us on the modern navy, although reduced in numbers, is mightier than ever because of superior training and the high quality of the naval personnel operating our nation's ships and planes. CPO Wong advised us of his approach to potential recruits in arousing their interest in a possible naval career. He stated they have no problem filling the quota for women recruits, but the young male applicants fail to qualify at a 70% rate. Both emphasized that those who qualify are at or near top of the line. Just the way we ol' sailors were, right?

The CDR and the Chief were inspiring speakers to say the very least and if we were a bit younger some of us would have shipped over right then. We are very fortunate to have men of their quality and integrity serving our country and we couldn't have picked better people, of which, to hand over the torch. Our membership thanked them profusely for taking the time to speak and sharing chow time with us. They, of course, returned the compliment.

Members Bob And Barb Tull **DE 365** left on 15 APR for their home in Kansas and will be back in OCT. We wish them both a pleasant summer in their hometown and will be looking forward to seeing them upon returning to the valley where the sun spends the winter and winter never comes.

The membership is invited to attend the Memorial Day Ceremonies at the National Memorial Cemetery at 0800 on 26 May 08. The program lasts about an hour consisting of, flyovers, music by the Arizona National Guard Band, guest speaker and placing of the wreaths honoring our deceased military comrades. If you can be there it is suggested you arrive a bit early, two huge tents provide shaded seating and they fill up fast. The "Skipper" DE 365 will place the Association's wreath at the ceremony.

Rob Smithson DD 763 requested and the members voted to donate \$50.00 to the Marcos De Niza JROTC to help with travel expenses for their upcoming competition. We wish them total success.

John Rusinek DDR 808 won the 50/50 draw, donating his share, \$48.00, back to the treasury. Thanks John for your generosity. Did you buy a lottery ticket after the meet? Should have with your good luck.

The generosity doesn't end there. Henry Hlight **CVE 68** donated \$100.00 for postage along with Chaplain Al Guier DDE 719, Tom Roell DD 779 and the "Skipper" each donating \$20.00 for same. 50/50 total was \$97.00, dues \$ 10.00 and badge fines \$3.00. \$270.00 total collected for the day and deposited by Lloyd Brown DE 365, XO who reports \$1094.39 in the bank as of 27 APR. The postage for 20 care packages of \$179.00 is our only debt at this time. Cost of two care packages was donated for a total 22 boxes sent to Chief Rockwell in Afghanistan on 17 APR 08.

Many thanks to the members who stayed after the meet to help pack the boxes. Sure made it a lot easier on the "Skipper." **Our** thanks and appreciation to the good folks at Rush truck Center for their donations to our Care Packages Program and brought in by Ron Tullgren DDE 499 and also to Nan Hausher a supporter of our efforts who sends care package items to our meetings via Tom Roell.

Next Meeting: Hometown Buffet, Scottsdale, 1100, 12 MAY 08

Calm seas and fair winds...Tom Alexander "Skipper"