

## **Bylaws of USS THOMAS C HART FF-1092 VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

### **ARTICLE I** **NAME AND PURPOSE**

#### Section 1

The name of the organization will be USS THOMAS C. HART (DE/FF-1092) VETERANS ASSOCIATION, hereinafter called The Association.

#### Section 2

The Association is a fraternal organization for current or previous United States Navy Members who served aboard the destroyer escort/ fast frigate USS Thomas C. Hart (DE/FF-1092). The primary purpose of the Association is for former shipmates who share a common background of service aboard the T C Hart to enjoy camaraderie and to provide the opportunity for members to actively participate in reunions and other activities of the Association.

#### Section 3

The Association will be non-profit and will not have nor issue shares, stocks, or dividends.

### **ARTICLE II** **OFFICERS, TERMS OF OFFICE, COMMITTEES**

#### Section 1

The elective officers of The Association will be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. They will be elected at the biennial meeting and their terms of office will be two (2) years. No President will serve more than one consecutive term.

#### Section 2

There will be a Chaplain, a Storekeeper, a Historian, a Newsletter Editor, and a Webmaster appointed by the President and approved by the voting members. A Photo master may be appointed if Webmaster needs assistance with photos on the website. All appointed positions will be for terms of two (2) years but may serve consecutive and unlimited terms.

#### Section 3

The President may form committees, including but not limited to a Membership Committee, a Newsletter Committee, and a Reunion Committee and may appoint chairmen for such committees as necessary to conduct the business of The Association.

#### Section 4

Elected and appointed officers will serve as the Nominating Committee for selection of the next slate of nominees. The Vice-President will serve as Chairman of the Nominating Committee and will be responsible for ensuring that the committee completes its work in time for the biennial business meeting and election of officers.

#### Section 5

All elected officers and immediate past President will comprise the Board of Directors. The immediate Past-President will be Chairman of the Board. In his absence, the sitting President will be Chairman of the Board. The Board shall have the authority to replace any officer for cause. The Board is responsible for managing Association monies and will approve all disbursements.

### **ARTICLE III** **DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

#### Section 1

The President will preside over all meetings of The Association, preserve order and decorum, and will perform all duties incident to the office of President. He will give notice of all meetings and conduct the correspondence of The Association. He will provide newsworthy information to the Newsletter Editor for each Newsletter's scheduled distribution.

## Section 2

The Vice-president will render such assistance to the President as he may require and will perform the duties of the President in his absence or disability. The Vice President will normally succeed the President and serve as President for the next two years. He is the primary recruiter for the Association and the Chairman of the Membership Committee.

## Section 3

The Secretary will be responsible for taking and reading the minutes and notes of all Association functions. He will normally publish an Association Sailing List annually for the Newsletter. There is no limit on his term of office, but he must be nominated and elected each time.

## Section 4

The Treasurer will keep the accounts of The Association, other than the Storekeepers Fund and the Reunion Hosts Fund, and report thereon in each issue of the Newsletter. The Treasurer's Summary will be reported at the biennial meeting. His accounts may be audited by an Auditing Committee appointed by the President. The majority of said committee will be the elected officers of The Association. At least one elected officer will be co-signers of The Association Treasury; however, only the Treasurer is required to sign checks for paying The Association bills. He will forward all Memberships Forms to the Secretary to facilitate entry of the new member's information onto the Sailing List. If requested, he will provide the President with monthly financial statement and a status of the current membership dues. There is no limit on his term of office, but he must be nominated and elected each time.

## Section 5

The Chaplain will be the primary point of contact for notification of illness/death of any Association Member or T C Hart Shipmate. In addition, he will initiate contact with relatives of the infirmed or deceased and keep the Association informed via direct e-mails and the official Association Website, of specifics, regarding the illness or death. He will send appropriate get well, condolences or sympathy cards on behalf of the Association and tender his signature to the card using the "Chaplain, USS Thomas C. Hart FF-1092 Veterans Association" tag line. When notified, he will report any illness or death to the Association. The Chaplain will offer the invocation at the reunion banquet.

## Section 6

The Storekeeper will be responsible for the Ship's Store. He will maintain a Storekeepers Fund and an inventory of all Ships Store items. Proceeds from all sales will be provided to the Treasurer for recording and deposit. Invoices for all merchandise purchased will be reviewed and paid by the Storekeeper from the Storekeepers account. The Storekeeper will decide on items to be purchased for the benefit of The Association. The Storekeeper will keep his accounts and report thereon at each biennial meeting. His accounts may be audited by an Auditing Committee appointed by the President. The majority of said committee will be the elected officers of The Association. At least one elected officer will be appointed as co-signer of The Storekeepers Fund; however, only the Storekeeper is required to sign checks. When selecting products for sale in the Ship's Store, all effort should be made to buy American made products when possible.

## Section 7

The Historian will be responsible for maintaining the archives of the Association, receiving, recording and maintaining donations of memorabilia. He will also store backup medium of the Associations records, including CD's of computer data and photographs. He will report a written inventory at least biennially at the Association meeting and to the Newsletter Editor.

## Section 8

The Newsletter Editor will assemble the Newsletter inputs in the style of his choice and arrange for printing and mailing of the proper number of copies to the paid membership of record, whose USPS addresses are known, and who do not have E-Mail addresses, as of 1 April of each year. Expenses for postage and other related expenses are reimbursable when receipts are presented to the Treasurer. The Newsletter will be distributed three times a year in the months of March, July, and November.

#### Section 9.

Association Reunion Host will be responsible for determining the facilities, menu, music, entertainment, etc., for the reunion. He will maintain a Reunion Fund as decided by the Board, and services purchased by the Reunion Host will be reviewed and paid by the Reunion Host from the Reunion Fund. The Reunion Host will keep his accounts and report thereon at each biennial meeting. His accounts may be audited by an Auditing Committee appointed by the President. The majority of said committee will be the elected officers of The Association. At least one elected officer will be co-signer of Reunion Fund; however, only the Reunion Host is required to sign checks for paying the reunion bills. Funds left over from the reunion will be turned over to the Treasurer. With board approval, reunion hosts may use a reunion planning service.

#### Section 10

The Webmaster will be an experienced Webmaster with one or more published web sites being available for review prior to being appointed. He will maintain/update the official website as necessary. Expenses associated with website hosting and domain purchase are reimbursable by the Association.

#### Section 11

The Photo master will be asked to take photos of TCHVA families during the reunions and other functions that he may attend... Expenses incurred by the Photo master in the performance of his duties are reimbursable from the Treasurer.

#### Section 12

At every biennial reunion, Association Members will determine a city in which to hold the next reunion. Volunteers to host will be solicited at the meeting and the site will be determined by a vote of all attending members.

### **ARTICLE IV**

#### **MEMBERSHIP, DUES, CONTRIBUTIONS**

##### Section 1

All persons who served in USS Thomas C. Hart (FF-1092) as a member of the U.S. Navy at any time are eligible for membership in The Association.

##### Section 2

Children and parents of veterans, living or deceased, who served aboard the USS Thomas C Hart (FF-1092), are entitled to become Auxiliary Members by paying the established dues. Spouses of deceased veterans who would like to remain affiliated with the Association will be exempt from paying dues and will be considered life Auxiliary Members. Auxiliary members will receive all the rights and privileges of Association Membership with the exception of voting. Persons who did not serve in USS Thomas C. Hart (ff-1092) but have contributed to the success of the Association may be designated by the membership as honorary members. Honorary Members will not be entitled to vote.

##### Section 3

Annual dues will be \$10.00 (amount to be determined at the biennial business meeting) and will cover a period from 1 January through 31 December. To reduce the administrative burden of annual dues collection, all dues will be collected in two year increments (\$20). Upon expiration of membership, a 60 day grace period will be authorized. Members whose dues are unpaid on 1 March will forfeit any/all Association benefits. New members, paying their dues after 1 October of the current year, will have their dues credited to the next calendar year. Any change in annual dues will require a majority vote of the paid-up members present at the biennial business meeting. Dues will be paid to the Treasurer who will provide a paid-up list to the Secretary & Newsletter Editor for publishing.

##### Section 4

Donations and contributions will be accepted for the purpose of funding the functions of The Association. All such donations or contributions will be forwarded to the Treasurer for recording and deposit.

**ARTICLE V**  
**MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1

Members will assist in locating former shipmates and forward their names, current address and, if possible, e-mail address, telephone number to any Association officer, for addition to the Sailing List...

Section 2

Members may assist in obtaining newspaper, television, radio, and magazine coverage for reunions and distribute flyers and/or bulletin board notices of same.

Section 3

Members are expected to keep the Chaplain informed of illnesses and deaths of TCH Veterans that they may hear of and all members should actively recruit shipmates for membership in the Association.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**MEETINGS, REUNIONS, ELECTIONS**

Section 1

All members in good standing may attend the biennial business meeting. Only paid-up members of the Association are eligible to vote.

Section 2

There will be a biennial reunion to be held in a city chosen by a majority vote taken at the previous biennial business meeting.

Section 3

All members attending a reunion should be present at the biennial business meeting to elect officers and/or vote on other matters.

Section 4

Officers will be elected from the slate of candidates determined during the biennial meeting by a majority vote of those paid-up members attending the biennial meeting. The results of the election will be announced at the reunion banquet, or other suitable gathering, and officers introduced.

Section 5

Roberts Rules of Order, The Modern Version, will be the official guide of The Association for conducting business and/or settling issues of parliamentary procedure.

Section 6

There should be at least one Board of Directors meeting during non-reunion years. This may be done by telephone conference or by e-mail conferencing if travel to a common meeting place is not feasible. Not less than a majority of the Board must be present at the meeting/conference to constitute a quorum for making decisions and/or approvals. The Chairman may call for a meeting at the reunion site during the reunion year and determine the place/time of meeting/conference to facilitate the meeting between reunion years.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**PROTECTING THE ASSOCIATION**

Section 1

No member of The Association, acting in the name of The Association, will engage in any activity for self profit in the form of money or assets, arising from business transactions or dealings.

Section 2

Any member whose actions dishonor or jeopardize the existence of The Association will be subject to review and possible expulsion from The Association by the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS**

Section 1

These by-laws may be amended at any meeting of the members provided that:

- A. Proposed by law changes are presented and discussed in biennial business meeting
- B. The amendment is passed by a two-thirds vote of the paid-up membership of The Association attending the meeting.