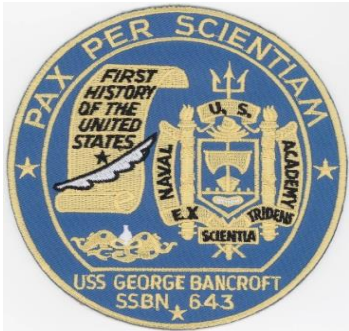


BYLAWS
OF
THE U.S.S. GEORGE BANCROFT SSBN 643 - ASSOCIATION

(Revised January 21, 2025 by Ricky A. Hockensmith, Commander)

ARTICLE ONE - ORGANIZATION

1. The organization shall be called THE U.S.S. GEORGE BANCROFT SSBN 643 ASSOCIATION; and, operates exclusively as a Veterans' Organization under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) 26.S.C§501(c).
2. The organization shall use the official seal of the USS George Bancroft SSBN643 and respect its motto: "PAX PER SCIENTIAM". ("Peace through Science").



3. The organization may change the name of the Association at the bi-ennial meeting by two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the Board of Directors; or, a two-thirds affirmative vote of the membership in good standing present at the meeting.

ARTICLE TWO - PURPOSES

1. To provide the Crew Members who served on the USS George Bancroft SSBN643 from its commissioning on January 22, 1966 until its decommissioning on September 21, 1993, an enduring organization that:
 - (a) Serves as a legacy to their United States Submarine service; AND
 - (b) Maintains a social connection for their families, descendants and friends to continue their legacy into perpetuity; AND
 - (c) Honors and defends the Constitution of the United States of America; and, Supports the United States Armed Forces.

ARTICLE THREE – MEMBERSHIP

1. Any crew member who served on the USS George Bancroft SSBN643 between January 22, 1966 (Commissioning) and September 21, 1993 (Decommissioning) may be eligible to be a member of the “Association”.

2. Annual “Dues” are established by the Board of Directors. A member of the “Association” paying a calendar-based yearly due is defined as “a member in good standing” (MIGS). Members in good standing have the privilege of holding an elective office in the “Association”; and, may exercise their right to vote in “Association” business at regularly scheduled meetings. “Dues” are set at \$25.00 per annum and may be paid to the USS George Bancroft SSBN643 – Association. Payment may be made electronically; or, by check, money order and cash. Payment is due by January 15th of each year. The Board of Directors may decrease or increase the annual dues based on the financial well-being of the Association.

(a) “MIGS” may enjoy discounts on “Association” events; e.g. registration fees, at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The amount of a discount shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

(b) Crew members who chose not to pay an annual due are defined as “*at-large*” members; and, shall not have the privileges of a “MIGS”.

3. “Lifetime Membership”: A crewmember may become a “lifetime member” of the Association through a one-time fee based on their entry date of reporting on-board the “Bancroft”, as follows:

- (a) 1965 -1970: \$100
- (b) 1971 -1980: \$150
- (c) 1981 -1993: \$200

4. An “Associate Member” is defined as a person who is sponsored by a “MIGS” to join the “Association”. An “Associate Member” shall pay the annual dues established in Item 2; and, shall have equal privileges to a “MIGS”. An “Associate Member” is approved for membership by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

5. A “Honorary Member” is defined as a person who is sponsored by a “MIGS” to join the “Association”. An “Honorary Member” is exempt from the annual dues in Item 2; and, shall not have the privileges of a member in good standing. An “Honorary Member” may serve on an “Association-Standing Committee”, as authorized by the “Commander” of the Association, to contribute to the well-being of the organization.

5. Any member may be expelled from the “Association” for conduct that is deemed detrimental to the purposes of the organization. A Board of Directors “Special Meeting” will be held to review any case for expulsion. A “MIGS” reserves their right to be represented at the special meeting. A majority vote of the Board of Directors shall determine the outcome of a case.

ARTICLE FOUR – MEETINGS

1. The Board of Directors (BOD) shall determine the date and location of the bi-ennial meeting. The bi-ennial meeting date and location may be set by the “BOD” to recognize significant dates in the USS George Bancroft SSBN643 history, e.g. Launch date: March 20, 1965; Commissioning date: January 22, 1966; and Decommissioning date: September 21, 1993. Dates and locations may be suggested by crewmembers, in person, at the bi-ennial meeting.
2. The bi-ennial meeting (aka the “Business Meeting”) will usually coincide with the Association’s “Reunion”.
3. The criteria for conducting the “Association” business at the bi-ennial meeting are:

(a) The “Commander” or “Vice-Commander” shall be present and be the “Chairperson” of the meeting.

(b) A roll-call of all members in attendance will be conducted. “MIGS” as defined in “Article Three-Membership” will be counted and recorded to establish a quorum.

(c) Twenty percent (20 %) of the “MIGS” will constitute a quorum, e.g. 100 members x 0.2 = 20 members.

- (1) If a quorum is not met; then, the meeting will be adjourned by the presiding Chairperson. A “Special Meeting” date will be scheduled by the “Commander” to discuss options for future bi-ennial meetings.

(d) Order of Business

- (1) “Call to Order”; and, “Roll Call”
- (2) “Pledge of Allegiance”/and “Eternal Patrol-Memorial”
- (3) “Minutes” – Most recent “regular monthly meeting”
- (4) “Treasurer’s” report
- (5) “Standing Committee” reports
- (6) “New and On-going” business
- (7) “Election of Board of Directors”/Voting

4. “Board of Directors” (BOD) meetings shall be held “quarterly per calendar year”. as determined by the Association “Commander”. These meetings are open to all members of the Association; and, people approved by the “Commander”. A meeting is usually held via a virtual process. Meeting requirements are:

(a) A quorum is established by a majority of the current “BOD” being present; e.g. “3 of 4”; or “2 of 3”. If a quorum is not met; then, the meeting is cancelled by the ranking Director.

(b) All attendees will identify themselves during a rollcall and their purpose for attending.

(c) The order of business at a meeting via a virtual process, as follows:

- (1) The "Commander" chairs the meeting; or, a Director in the absence of the "Commander". A rollcall of attendees is conducted and the chairperson announces that the meeting is recorded.
- (2) A "Moment of Silence" to honor crewmates on "Eternal Patrol"
- (3) The "Secretary" reads the most recent "BOD" meeting minutes
- (4) Treasurer's report
- (5) "Standing Committee" reports
- (6) "On-going business"
- (7) "New business"

5. "Special Meeting" is defined as a meeting that may be held at the discretion of the "Commander" for an issue that may affect the best interest of the organization

- (a) The majority of the current "BOD" may request in writing to the "Commander" that a special meeting be scheduled for a specific issue. The "Commander" shall consult with the Directors on the issue. If the issue is not resolved, then a special meeting shall be scheduled within thirty days (30) of the request.
- (b) Twenty percent (20%) of the Association "MIGS" may submit a written request to the "Commander" to schedule a special meeting for a specific issue. The "Commander" shall discuss the request with the "BOD". If the issue is approved by the "BOD" for consideration; then a special meeting shall be scheduled within thirty days (30) of the request.
- (c) A notice of a scheduled special meeting shall be posted on the Association website: www.Bancroft643.org.

ARTICLE FIVE - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. The "Association" Board of Directors ("BOD") shall consist of a "Commander"; "Vice-Commander"; "Treasurer"; and "Secretary" elected by the membership at the bi-ennial business meeting.
2. The "BOD" shall have the control and management of the organization's administration of business to the benefit of its membership.
3. The "BOD" shall hold quarterly meetings in a calendar year as determined by the Association "Commander".
4. The "BOD" may make such rules of order and process at any Association meeting to ensure positive outcomes for the organization.
5. The "BOD" shall fill a "vacancy" on the Board by a majority affirmative vote of The current "BOD" at any Association meeting.
6. Each "Director" has one (1) vote on Association business. No proxy votes.

7. The Board of Directors shall govern the expenses of the Association by these caveats:
 - (a) No member shall be a salaried employee
 - (b) Reimbursement for expenses to members for Association business will be made at the Board's discretion. No member shall receive reimbursement for travel; personal time; or, correspondence.
 - (c) Receipts for reimbursement are mandatory.
8. A "Director" may be removed from the Board of Directors in accordance with "Article Three-Membership, Item 5." A "Director" has no special protections from being removed from their position.

ARTICLE SIX – DIRECTORS

1. Commander—Serves a two-year term upon their election at a bi-ennial meeting; AND,
 - (a) Serves as the "Chairperson" of the Board of Directors.
 - (b) Appoints "Chairperson" of "Standing Committee(s)"
 - (c) Oversees the duties and responsibilities of the "Vice-Commander; Treasurer; and "Secretary".
 - (d) Approves all expenditures submitted by the "Treasurer"; and, shall act as a signatory to financial documents, as necessary.
 - (e) Has such authority that may be reasonably construed as belonging to an Executive Officer of a like organization.
2. Vice-Commander—Serves a two-year term upon their election at a bi-ennial meeting. The Vice-Commander may move to the Commander position after two years to give continuity of leadership to the organization. The Vice-Commander shall report to the Commander on all matters of the Association; AND,
 - (a) Serves as "Acting Commander" should the Commander be unable to perform their duties and responsibilities. As "Acting Commander" they will have all the authority of the Commander in "Item 1".
3. Treasurer—Serves a two-year term at their election at a bi-ennial meeting; AND
 - (a) Shall be responsible for the Association's financial accounting processes by generally accepted accounting procedures.
 - (b) Shall be the primary signatory of all checks and financial documents drawn on the Association treasury with the approval of the "Commander".
 - (c) Shall provide a written fiscal report to the Association at the bi-ennial meeting.

4. Secretary-Serves a two-year term at their election at a bi-ennial meeting; AND,
- (a) Shall be the primary recordkeeper for all meeting minutes; Maintain any certificates required by federal or state statute; and, coordinate with the Association "WebMaster" to manage communications through www.Bancroft643.org; and, other social media sources.
 - (b) Shall coordinate with the "Chairperson-Membership Committee", the "Treasurer"; and, the "WebMaster" to maintain the Association membership rosters to ensure accountability of the organization's focus on members wellness and the Association's financial stability.

ARTICLE SEVEN-STANDING COMMITTEES

1. The Commander shall appoint the "Chairperson" of permanent standing committees of the "Association". A chairperson reports directly to the Commander and should attend quarterly meetings when available; or, as requested to attend. Committees may be formed to work on projects significant to the legacy of the USS George Bancroft SSBN643; the Crew Members; and the history of the submarine.

(a) "Membership Committee": Serves to identify and locate all crew members who served on the USS George Bancroft SSBN during its period of active operations (1966-1993). The chairperson coordinates with the "Secretary" and the "WebMaster" to maintain and update crew member lists as necessary.

(b) "Special Events Committee": Serves to plan and manage the Association's "Bi-Ennial Reunion/Business Meeting."

(c) "Special Projects Committee": Serves to develop projects approved by the "BOD" which recognize the legacy of the USS George Bancroft SSBN643 and the crews who served on-board during 1965-1993.

ARTICLE EIGHT – WEBMASTER: www.BANCROFT643.org

1. The "Commander" establishes the position of "WebMaster". A "MIGS" may volunteer for this vital job to manage and maintain the Association's web site: www.Bancroft643.org. The website is the primary resource for all members of the organization; and, the general public to communicate with the organization. Our website is the heart of our Association. It is the focal point for everyone to learn about the history of the boat; and, visually experience through photographs and documents and testimonials of crewmembers the legacy of the boat.

ARTICLE NINE-ELECTIONS

1. The Board of Directors (BOD) shall be elected at the bi-ennial meeting.
2. Nominations for the "BOD" shall be submitted by any member in good standing (MIGS) at the bi-ennial meeting.
3. Nominations will be taken in this order: "Commander"; "Vice-Commander"; "Treasurer" and "Secretary". The duties and responsibilities of each Director as written in these "Bylaws" will be read aloud at the meeting.
4. Nominees who accept shall have their name written on a master ballot.
5. If, a first round of nominations does not have at least one (1) nominee for each position; then, a second round of nominations will be held. Nominations will continue until there is a minimum of one candidate per position.
6. A master ballot listing the four positions and nominees will be created on a standard "8 x 11" paper sheet. One ballot shall be given to each "MIGS". No ballot shall have the name of the voting member on it. After selecting their choices, a member will fold their ballot.
7. The "Commander", or designee, shall collect all ballots. Ballots shall be counted by at least two "MIGS" and a Director. Written results will be tabulated and the "Commander", or designee, will present the results to all members.
8. A "tie" in any position will be decided by a run-off vote through a show of hands by members in good standing.
9. New "Directors" shall begin their service at the close of the bi-annual meeting.

ARTICLE TEN - MANAGEMENT OF BYLAWS

1. The "Association"-Bylaws shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors at a bi-ennial meeting; and, at a quarterly "BOD" meeting each calendar year; or, as necessary to maintain the efficient and effective administration of the "Association".
2. Recommendations for revising any part of the "Bylaws" shall be submitted in writing to the "BOD". A "MIGS" may submit a recommendation at any time. The "BOD" will review all recommendations for consideration. Recommendations that are accepted by the "BOD" shall be presented to the membership at the bi-ennial meeting; or, if deemed necessary by the "BOD", a "Special Meeting" may be held to discuss the recommendation in accordance with "Article 4, Item 5."
4. A recommendation that receives a majority affirmative vote of the current Board of Directors; and/or, a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the "MIGS" present at the bi-ennial meeting; or, a "Special Meeting" shall be incorporated into the existing "Bylaws".