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## YAGRGRAM #82 - July 2019

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view & print this YAGRGRAM in color at <http://www.yagrs.org>

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### from Lee Doyel - Upcoming Reunion Cruise Update

You can still register and sign up for the reunion cruise in September (Sep 15-22) although it will now require you to pay the full price of the cruise on registration. To date (5/21/19) there are only 25 members that have completed their registration and paid the fare. You can even wait into the first part of September to sign up for the cruise but cabin choice may be limited at that time. Details

and registration for the cruise are in this YAGRGRAM and those deciding now or in the near future should contact Brian Forrester (480-332-7294). If you are considering going I urge you to act now because in mid July I am going to decide whether or not to formally consider this a YAGR reunion.

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For those of you that plan to use the hotel before the cruise, our group booking link for the pre-cruise hotel is now ready for use.

### **Booking**

**Link:** <http://group.hiltongardeninn.com/yagrsassociation/hctours>

**Hotel:** Hilton Garden Inn Ridgefield Park, 70 Challenger Road, Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660

**Group Name:** YAGRS ASSOCIATION/HCTOURS

**Arrival Date:** 14-Sep-2019

**Departure Date:** 15-Sep-2019

Calling Hotel direct - Office Phone Number: 201-641-2024, ask for Reservations, mention group code HCS or YAGRS Association

Rate; \$159 for King or Double Queen Rooms – includes full American breakfast buffet.

Reservation Cut-Off Date: August 16, 2019 \*\*

Once we know the exact amount of reservations on this date – we will arrange for a shuttle to the New York City pier. Cost will be based on participation.

Questions; email [brian@hcttravel.com](mailto:brian@hcttravel.com)

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SUBJECT - IRS TAX EXEMPTION FOR YAGRS ASSOCIATION - Lee Doyel

### BACKGROUND

Last year Armand LAMARCHE, the YAGRS Treasurer since 2011, informed me that he needed to resign his position as Treasurer. Ray OSTROWSKI volunteered to fill the position. The turnover took place at the September reunion in New Orleans. Prior to that, arrangements were made with the Bank of America in Billerica, MA where the Association bank account was maintained (which is also the hometown of Armand) for change of treasurers. During those arrangements the bank on its own volition applied for a tax identification number for YAGRS. The Association subsequently received a letter from the IRS dated August 31, 2018, giving us the EIN 83-1763477.

I checked with my neighbor, who is CEO of a large CPA company in Florida. Businesses can on their own get a tax number for an organization. I think the bank did this on its own to cover themselves in case of a bank audit or other inspection of bank procedures and policies. The lady handling the YAGRS account informed Armand that no tax return or action was required of the Association because of the IRS letter. I was not so sure. I showed the IRS letter to my neighbor. He confirmed my doubts. YAGRS would have to formally apply for tax exempt status and make annual tax returns.

### ACTION

A detailed search was made as to which section of the tax code we could use to get exempt status. After extensive research it was decided to apply under section 501(a), Section 501©(7), Social Clubs. The form required copies be submitted of articles of formation, a financial report, list of officers, type of activities, publications, etc.

I then worked up a set of by-laws for YAGRS which was required as articles of formation. I worked with Ray and Mel HARDER, Secretary, on the drafts and we all signed the finish copies as required by the form. The by-laws had to be approved by the Association members. However since we would not meet again until September 2019, and the IRS letter was dated in August 2018, I back dated that the by-laws were approved at the New Orleans business meeting on September 22, 2018. A copy the by-laws is attached to this memo. We can formally adopt them at our next business meeting.

The financial form was the most time consuming as it required a current statement of revenue and expenses and a budget for the next two years. Working closely with Ray and my neighbor, and after several weeks of revisions and fine tuning, we managed to get one that was suitable. We would have been in a world of hurt if it had not been for Ray's effort and patience. He would fill out the form and my neighbor and I would check it and make changes and back to Ray with the revisions. This took several weeks as my neighbor was working this in between his regular work and was doing it free.

### RESULTS

The application was submitted to the IRS on January 15, 2019 with a \$600 filing fee, and they acknowledged receipt on March 18, 2019. Ray, I and my neighbor spent the better part of three months working on the application. Apparently the effort was well spent as Ray received a letter from the IRS dated April 30, 2019 giving us tax exempt status. My neighbor said that was unusually fast and the IRS almost always asks for additional information and explanations before granting exempt status. We made it on the first try!

I did this with the Executive Council (Ray and Mel and myself) along with my neighbor without input from members and formal procedures which I would normally do and apologize for leaving the members out. But I saw no other expeditious way to get the tax exempt status other than the way I did.

### BY LAWS OF THE YAGRS ASSOCIATION

#### ARTICLE 1: NAME

The formal name will be The YAGRS Association, more commonly called YAGRS.

#### ARTICLE 2: HISTORY

The YAGRS Association is a group of sixteen (16) ships that served as radar picket ships from 1955 to 1965 during the Cold War. There were eight (8) ships on the East coast and eight (8) ships on the West coast and served as the seaward extension of the Distant Early Warning system (DEW line) of Canada and the United States. The ships were there for radar surveillance and intercept of hostile aircraft approaching the coasts of Canada and the United States. The ships were controlled by and reported to the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD). The ships were converted WWII Liberty Ships and equipped with the latest electronic and radar equipment. The ships were originally designated YAGRS but was subsequently shortened to AGR. The ships were the USS Guardian AGR-1, USS Lookout AGR-2, USS Skywatcher AGR-3, USS Searcher AGR-4, USS Scanner AGR-5, USS Locator AGR-6, USS Picket AGR-7, USS Interceptor AGR-8, USS Investigator AGR-9, USS Outpost AGR-10, USS Protector AGR-11, USS Vigil AGR-12, USS Interdictor AGR-13, USS Interpreter AGR-14, USS Tracer AGR-15, USS Watchman AGR-16 and repair barges YR-23 and YR-63.

### ARTICLE 3: PURPOSE

YAGRS purpose is to reunite officers and enlisted personnel and families of crew members of the 16 ships and repair barges allowing them to renew friendships and generate new ones and generally socialize. It accomplishes this by conducting an annual gathering of former members of Radar Picket One (RADRON ONE) (West coast ships) and Radar Picket Squadron Two (RADRON TWO (East coast ships). It also allows members to relive and recount those days of active duty missions, responsibilities and comradeship.

### ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

Any person who served onboard one of the 16 radar [picket ships and repair barges that were stationed on the East and West coasts during the Cold War and their commissioning from 1955 to 1965.

### ARTICLE 5: DUES

Annual dues will be an amount established by majority vote of the membership present at the annual reunions.

### ARTICLE 6: OFFICERS

The Association will have three (3) officers which will be: Chairman, Secretary & Treasurer.

### ARTICLE 7: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

#### CHAIRMAN

1. Responsible for organizing annual reunions in the city selected by the members in a business meeting held at the reunion.
2. Does site survey visit to the selected city checking out various hotels and soliciting request for proposals (RFP) from various hotels and selecting one for the next reunion.
3. Signs contracts for the Association with hotel and selected tour companies.
4. Checks invoices and submits approved invoices for reunion and association expenses to the treasurer for payment.
5. Coordinates the activities of the reunion and presides over the annual business meeting held at each reunion.
6. Takes minutes of business meetings.
7. Chairman receives no compensation or salary form his position.

#### SECRETARY

1. Records minutes of the business meeting.
2. Complies and produces an Association newsletter 3 or 4 times a year containing general information of interest to Association members.
3. Information to include upcoming reunion location, hotel, tours, costs, etc. and registration procedures.
4. Complies reunion registration attendance lists and makes name tags for attendees.
5. Maintains a master list of members.
6. The Secretary receives no compensation or salary for his position or work.

#### TREASURER

1. Maintains a checking account with a bank making deposits and writing checks to cover Association expenses.
2. Maintains accurate account of Association income and expenses making an annual report to members at the annual reunion.
3. Writes checks to various tour companies and hotel costs for each reunion as well as for normal expenses (newsletter, postage, printing, etc.) in the operation the Association.
4. Makes up reunion attendance lists of paid registrants for reunions and provides the list to the Chairman as well as the Secretary for name cards.
5. Collects and accounts for annual dues.
6. Keeps Chairman informed of all income and disbursements.
7. Makes annual tax return to the IRS.
8. The Treasurer receives no compensation or salary for his position or work.

### ARTICLE 8: PUBLICATION(S)

A newsletter type publication called the YAGRGRAM will be compiled by the Secretary and published three (3) or four (4) times a year containing items of interest to members as well as reunion information (location, room rates, tours, etc.)

and mailed to current paid up members.

#### ARTICLE 9; ELECTION/APPOINTMENTS

The Chairman will be elected by majority vote of attendees at an annual reunion business meeting as the need arises (death, resignation, etc.). The Chairman appoints the Secretary and Treasurer positions.

#### ARTICLE 10: AMENDMENTS TO THE BY LAWS

These by laws may be amended by a majority vote of the membership present at a business meeting of the members.

#### ARTICLE 11: DISSOLUTION

If and when The YAGRS Association is determined by majority vote at a business meeting to no longer be viable as an association of the radar picket ships, the organization will be dissolved. All outstanding debts are to be paid by the Treasurer and remaining funds be given to the USS Massachusetts BB-59 Memorial at Battleship Cove, Fall River, MA 02721.

Adopted and approved this 22nd day of September 2018

Attested to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lee DOYEL - Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mel HARDER - Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ray OSTROWSKI - Treasure

Note: Signatures are on original to IRS and on copies that Ray

#### Ships Stores - Lee Doyel

As stated at the New Orleans reunion I feel the ships store has pretty much run its course and will close down when present inventory is depleted.

I have the following in inventory:

4 Coffee cups with the YAGR logo - \$15

2 Drink coasters with YAGR logo - \$5

12 YAGR Challenge coins - \$10

1 Cigarette lighter with AGR-10 logo - \$20

1 Cigarette lighter with YAGR logo - \$20

4 Black baseball caps with YAGR logo - \$20

1 Each of the following ships hats Dark blue color - \$20

AGR-1 AGR-4

AGR-7 AGR-9

AGR-14 AGR-15

48 Three inch diameter YAGR patches (\$5) that can be sewn on hats, garments, etc.

Ships patches, 4" diameter - \$10

11 AGR-1 5 AGR-11

6 AGR-2 0 AGR-12

3 AGR-3 6 AGR-13

11 AGR-4 8 AGR-14

8 AGR-5 1 AGR-15

7 AGR-6 6 AGR-16

10 AGR-7 4 RADRON-1

0 AGR-8 5 RADRON-2

6 AGR-9

5 AGR-10

I also have hat pins of all the ships logos and RadRons in various quantities - \$5

I also have some past reunion hat pins in various quantities - \$5

Photo copies of the YAGRS Legacy (\$25), YAGRS Association (\$35) and the 16 ships surrounded with their logos (\$25) will still be available as the vendor has them on file and can be ordered at any time.

All prices are post paid.

## 2019 Reunion Cruise - from Brian Forrester, YAGR reunion planner

As you know the 2019 reunion is a cruise in the Northeast onboard the Norwegian cruise ship Escape.

Dates of the cruise are September 15 - 22, 2019. Attached is a registration form and flyer. Full payment for the cruise is due by May 18, 2019. You may register for the cruise at any time up to 20 days (Aug 25, 2019) before the cruise. However if you register after May 18, 2019 you will be required to pay for the cruise in full at time of registration. You can register now and subsequently cancel for unforeseen reasons until May 15, 2019, and be refunded your full deposit. So go ahead and reserve your cabin now while the rates are lower.

Below are some amenities that you can chose, complimentary, for your cruise:

Amenities: PICK TWO Offer

Ultimate Beverage Package\* - 1st and 2nd guests in cabin only

Prepaid Service Charges - 1st and 2nd guests in cabin only

Commitment Ceremony - cabin

Internet Package - per cabin, not per person in cabin

\$50 Per Port Shorex Credit - per cabin, not per person in cabin- max of 4 ports

Dining Package - 1st and 2nd guests in cabin only

20 Photo Package - per cabin, not per person in cabin

Below are links you can click on for more information on the cruise and also for the ship. Also provided is a telephone # for questions you may have for Travel Protection, which is highly recommended

Ship Information for the Norwegian Escape - <https://www.ncl.com/cruise-ship/escape>

Required Travel Documentation - <https://www.ncl.com/freestyle-cruise/cruise-travel-documents>

Register Online / You will need to do this at some point - <https://www.ncl.com/shorex/register>

Travel Protection/Insurance/Information/Cost - <https://www.ncl.com/freestyle-cruise/booksafe>

**\*\* Any questions you need answered regarding, when to purchase, Pre-existing conditions or other health issues,**

**Call NCL's insurer, Aon Affinity @ 800-722-5672**

NCL Cruise Frequently Asked Questions - <https://www.ncl.com/faq>

Shore Excursion Info - <https://www.ncl.com/shore-excursions>

For other information that is not listed above, go to [www.ncl.com](http://www.ncl.com) or call Brian Forrester @ 480 332 7294 to register.



Norwegian's Canada & New England cruises offer views of Bar Harbor's granite cliffs, the lighthouses of Maine and the seaside villages of Halifax, and when you top it off with the freedom of Freestyle Cruising®, you've got one picture-perfect cruise.

#### Freestyle Cruising® in Canada & New England:

- Norwegian's Shore Excursions include options like visiting picturesque Peggy's Cove, Kennebunkport and the Bay of Fundy
- Cruise the peak weeks of September and October
- Enjoy amazing entertainment, a relaxing spa, the best Casino at Sea, shopping and so much more

There's no better time of year to see nature's most spectacular show and also enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow YAGR friends and family Sail along the rugged Eastern Seaboard and see fall's changing colors, picturesque seaside villages, lighthouses and colonial towns.  
**CALL BRIAN TODAY @ 480 332 7294 while premier space is still available**



**HOLIDAY CRUISES AND TOURS**  
480 332 7294  
brian@hctravel.com



**7-DAY CANADA & NEW ENGLAND FROM NEW YORK**  
NORWEGIAN ESCAPE  
Sep 15, 2019 - Sep 22, 2019  
Inside Staterooms starting from  
**\$from 859.00\***

HOLIDAY CRUISES AND TOURS OF SCOTTSDALE  
8502 E VIA DE VENTURA # 110, SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85258  
BRIAN - 480 332 7294

YAGRS Cruise Registration Form

2019 Can/New England Reunion Cruise, New York, NY September 15th to 22nd – Norwegian Escape

\*\*\*Please use legal first and last names as they appear on your passport or birth certificate\*\*\*

Passenger #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Passenger #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email (Important) \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Home# \_\_\_\_\_ Work# \_\_\_\_\_ Cell# \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING\*\*\*

Inside Cabin from \$859 + \$191.76 per person  
 Oceanview Cabin from \$1099 + \$191.76 per person  
 Balcony Cabin from \$1249 + \$191.76 per person  
 Studio Cabin from \$1449 + \$191.76 per person (for single occupancy only)  
For Suite or 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> persons in a cabin pricing, please call Brian at 480 332 7294

The above fares include all applicable government fees, taxes, onboard meals, onboard nightly entertainment & 2 onboard amenities of your choosing. Fares are cruise only, per person, based on double occupancy are capacity controlled and subject to change/availability. gratuities (unless selected as an amenity), transfers, pre/post hotel accommodations, and transportation costs to and from the ship are not included in the above pricing.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE: DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT**

If purchased within 14 days of initial deposit, receive coverage if pre-existing medical conditions force you to cancel or interrupt your trip. Prices vary depending on age and cruise purchase amount. Call Brian for current rates and coverage

**PAYMENT BY CHECK:** Please make checks payable to Holiday Cruises and Tours and mail to the address above. If you have any questions, please contact Brian Forrester at 480 332 7294 or email him at [brian@hcttravel.com](mailto:brian@hcttravel.com)

**CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS:** (Check Card Type) \_\_\_\_\_ Amex \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to auto charge final payment to this card? (Circle) YES NO

**DEPOSITS:** A deposit of \$250 per person is due at time of booking to secure your cabin assignment. Final payment is due by May 1, 2019. For best availability and cabin assignment, please secure your cabin ASAP. Deposits are fully refundable up until the time of final payment.

**\*\*Documentation:** For round-trip sailings (cruises that depart from and return to the same U.S. port), you may sail with a valid passport, proof of citizenship and a valid government-issued photo I.D. (driver's license with a photo), or any other WHTI compliant document. Proof of Citizenship examples include: \*State certified U.S. birth certificate -\*Original certificate of U.S. naturalization - \*Original certificate of U.S. citizenship, US Passport card -Note: Baptismal paper, hospital certificates of birth and Puerto Rico birth certificates issued prior to 7/1/10 are not acceptable.

New YAGR Treasurer

Ray Ostrowski - USS Vigil & USS Lookout

Ray Ostrowski and is replacing Armand as treasurer. Please send dues payment to me at the address below.

Ray Ostrowski  
123 Barbara Dr.  
Newburgh, NY 12550

e-mail: [rayrosie@hotmail.com](mailto:rayrosie@hotmail.com)  
Phone: 845-565-6243 cell: 845-245-5707

Use the dues payment form below. Make checks out to YAGRS.

**Dues Payment Form - dues are \$17/year**

Make checks out to YAGRS. Mail to Ray Ostrowski, Treasurer, 123 Barbara Dr., Newburg NY 12550. Current membership year ends May 31, 2020. Highlighted date on address label is the date your current membership expires. If that date is **5/31/19** or earlier, please update your membership by making a dues payment. Upon dues payment, you will receive an updated membership card and crew list. Please complete the information below and mail to Ray Ostrowski with dues payment.. You may pay for more than one year.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

**ship's coordinators** - Ship's coordinators maintain an email list that is used to forward memos from the chair and advance notices of reunion plans to crew members. If you wish to be included, send an email to your ship's coordinator. We still need a coordinator for the USS Picket (AGR-7).

- AGR-1 Frank St Mark [smarks117@hotmail.com](mailto:smarks117@hotmail.com)
- AGR-2 Ralph Rappuhun [rrappuhn@aol.com](mailto:rrappuhn@aol.com)
- AGR-3 Chuck Parker [chuckparker@gmail.com](mailto:chuckparker@gmail.com)
- AGR-4 Steve Mierzejewsk [stevejackie43@gmail.com](mailto:stevejackie43@gmail.com)
- AGR-5 Bob Werstler [rdwerst@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rdwerst@sbcglobal.net)
- AGR-6 Lee Doolittle [tleedoo@u.washington.edu](mailto:tleedoo@u.washington.edu)
- AGR-7
- AGR-8 Ron Stasiak [ronstasiak@rocketmail.com](mailto:ronstasiak@rocketmail.com)

- AGR-9 Frank Mahaffey [franknbets@gmail.com](mailto:franknbets@gmail.com)
- AGR-10 Paul Langenus [plangenus@cox.net](mailto:plangenus@cox.net)
- AGR-11 George Sleeper [gsleeper@roadrunner.com](mailto:gsleeper@roadrunner.com)
- AGR-12 Jesse Germany [jgermany31@gmail.com](mailto:jgermany31@gmail.com)
- AGR-13 Richard Willhite [willys55nut@comcast.net](mailto:willys55nut@comcast.net)
- AGR-14 Joe Jackson [jacksonj@pldi.net](mailto:jacksonj@pldi.net)
- AGR-15 Lee Doyel [mldoyel@cox.net](mailto:mldoyel@cox.net)
- AGR-16 Frank McNamara [ec2sc1@comcast.net](mailto:ec2sc1@comcast.net)

YAGR'S BOOK ORDER - from Joe Maurer, USS Vigil

Cost is \$22.00 each including postage.

No. Ordered \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amt. Due \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

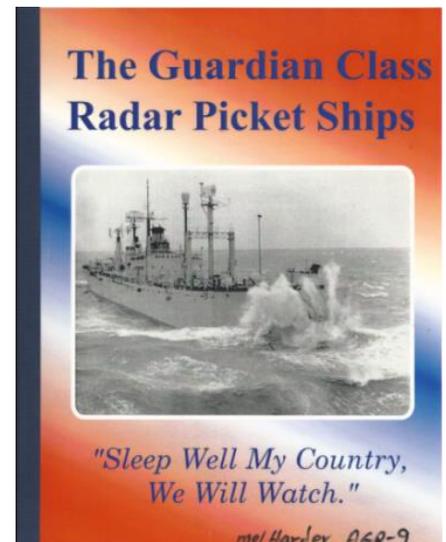
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Detach and keep for receipt:

Paid to: Joe Maurer, 2127 S. Bristol Drive, Marblehead, Ohio 43440

E-mail: [runinmuck@yahoo.com](mailto:runinmuck@yahoo.com)





Harry Miller - founder of YAGR'S Association  
YAGR'S 8th Reunion - 2003  
Pensacola Florida

photo by Mel Harder