



The USS Canon Signal

"Freedom Is Not Free"

July 2009

Newsletter of the

Wisconsin Naval Ship Association, Inc.

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Darlene Caswell, Ship's Store Manager
Mike Woodburn, Legal Officer
Char Pachniak, Fund Development

The USS Canon's Historic Naval Ship Project's Mission

WINSA's mission is to bring the Navy's Patrol Gunboat USS Canon (PG-90) to Sheboygan, Wisconsin permanently as a historic naval ship. In Sheboygan she will serve as a veteran's museum/memorial, an educational site for young Americans, a tourist attraction, to preserve military history, to document Sheboygan's patriotic industrial role during World War II and to display Sheboygan's maritime heritage.

From the Bridge ~ by CAPT Dick Caswell, USNR (Ret), President

WINSA continues to pursue the USS Canon (PG-90) as Sheboygan's historic naval ship. Since the June newsletter, many good things have happened or are scheduled to happen. Among them,

- Sheboygan's Mayor Bob Ryan issued a proclamation (see page 4) in honor of WINSA's efforts to bring the USS Canon to Sheboygan as a historic naval ship and positively supported the project by an extremely strong letter of endorsement.
- VADM David B. Robinson USN (Ret) has joined WINSA's Honorary Board of Directors. As a Lieutenant Commander, the Admiral commanded the USS Canon in Vietnam during the 11 August 1970 Bo Dee River ambush when the ship took hostile fire from both sides of the river. With a seriously damaged ship and a crew that picked up many Purple Hearts and other honors that day, the crew beat off the attackers and saved the Canon. As a highly decorated officer with multiple command experience on many ships as well as service in a wide variety of responsible billets, the Admiral brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to WINSA's efforts to save the USS Canon and to bring her permanently to Sheboygan. WINSA is extremely pleased to have the Admiral's help and expertise as we pursue the USS Canon.

- WINSA has scheduled a major fund raising event at the Stefanie H. Weill Center for the Performing Arts in Sheboygan during the evening of 25 September 2009 - so mark your calendars and order your tickets. Featuring the ever popular John McGivern, it should be a fun evening for all who attend. Details are shown in a following article.
- WINSA has just learned that two tour Vietnam Navy Veteran and famed Naval and Aviation Artist Michael Donegan is working on a 18" by 24 " painting of the USS Canon which he will donate to WINSA to help raise funds for the project. Michael is the artist that painted the USS Des Moines (CA-134) painting that was made into a limited number of prints with each print numbered and signed by the artist. The impressive prints raised significant funds for the organization. A similar program is planned for the USS Canon painting. Michael's connection to WINSA besides being a Navy Veteran, is that he is also a member of WINSA's Honorary Board of Directors.
- The Navy set up new guidelines for preparing an application for the USS Canon. They have broken the application process into three phases. The First Phase is due in Mid-August and includes a Letter of Intent and an Executive Summary. WINSA has a good start on the Phase I USS Canon Donation Application. In the overall process, many of the items included in the USS Edson Application can be applied to the USS Canon Application with slight modifications.

WINSA is on the move and the NAVMECS program is moving forward. We have much to do and it is no slam dunk, but the momentum is positive and that's good! When I was a SEABEE Battalion Commanding Officer or a Regimental "Commodore", I could tell when the command was on the defense and I could tell when it was on the offensive and in my mind it was much better to be on the offense. WINSA and the USS Canon Project are definitely on the offense and positive things are happening!

The Naval Museum and Education Center of Sheboygan

The Naval Museum and Education Center of Sheboygan (NAVMECS) is a project of the Wisconsin Naval Ship Association, Inc. (WINSA). With the USS Canon serving as the anchor of the project, NAVMECS will serve to fulfill WINSA's mission to preserve an understanding of the American commitment to freedom, honoring veterans and recognizing their sacrifices to maintain our freedom. With ship visits, American youngsters will be given an opportunity for practical hands on experiences in applying math, sciences, and the many technologies involved in operating a naval ship. This will be done by partnering with educators, veteran organizations, youth groups and serving the general public.

NAVMECS' Fund Raiser with John McGivern ~ 25 September 2009

The Naval Museum and Education Center of Sheboygan is pleased to announce their first Annual Fall Fund Raiser - Neighborhood Tales with John McGivern at the Stefanie H. Weill Center for the Performing Arts on Friday September 25th at 7:30pm.

As a versatile and talented performer, John McGivern is the author and star of many personally written one-man shows and has received critical acclaim across the country. His monologues are based on his real life experiences as a Catholic boy growing up in an Irish-Catholic family in Milwaukee. His stories of family and friends are told with sincerity, compassion, and humor.

McGivern has appeared in numerous productions written for the stage and is a frequent guest on Milwaukee television and radio. John has a track record of selling out shows for the Sheboygan area.

Hosting the show, the Sheboygan Theater was constructed for the Milwaukee Theater Circuit of Universal Pictures Corporation in 1927. The theater's grand opening occurred on 18 February 1928, and featured Laura LaPlante in the silent movie *Finders Keepers*, accompanied by Melvin Peacock on the Wurlitzer organ and an orchestra conducted by Ignatz Gadsby.

The theater was a success and became Sheboygan's premier motion picture and theatrical facility. Over the years popular Hollywood and New York performers graced the stage of the theater, which included appearances by Abbot and Costello, the Marx Brothers, Duke Ellington, Guy Lombardo, Glen Miller and many more well known performers. On 31 December 1996 the Weill Center Foundation, Inc. purchased the building for the purpose of preserving, restoring and overseeing the future operation of the historic theater.

The property was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior and the State of Wisconsin Register of Historic Places by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin on 22 December 1999.

Proceeds from this event will benefit the Naval Museum and Education Center of Sheboygan as they bring the USS Canon permanently to Sheboygan for docking on the Sheboygan River as the anchor for their museum. Tickets go on sale at 10:00am on Friday, 10 July 2009 and can be purchased on line at www.weillcenter.com or by calling the ticket office at (920) 208-3243.

Special Note: Anyone interested in sponsorship opportunities for this show or an ad in the program that will be distributed to the 1,100 attendees should call Char at (920) 254-1584.

Navy Changes the USS Canon Application Process!

WINSA was recently notified that the USS Canon Donation Application Process has been changed significantly. On 15 June 2009, the Navy instigated a Three Phase Donation Process that requires Navy acceptance of the First Phase Application Submittal for an organization to remain eligible to continue the pursuit of the USS Canon. The Phase I USS Canon Donation Application is due in Washington in Mid-August 2009. It includes a Letter of Intent and an Executive Summary. The Second Phase Application Submittal will be due one year after the acceptance of the Phase I Submittal and it includes input on the Business/Financial and Environmental Plans. The Third Phase Submittal will be due 6 months after the acceptance of an organization's Phase II Submittal and it will include input on the Towing, Mooring, Maintenance and Curatorial/Museum Plans. One change that complicates the process is that the organization that successfully pursues the USS Canon is now responsible for the cost of dismantling the ship should that become necessary.

City of Sheboygan's USS Canon Project Proclamation! See Next Page!

Office of the Mayor
City of Sheboygan

Proclamation

WHEREAS,

When the City of Sheboygan prepares for their annual 4th of July festivities, we celebrate the fact that the United States is truly a diverse nation made up of a dynamic people. As Sheboygan celebrates that freedom and independence, we are pleased to give recognition to the unwavering effort of the Wisconsin Naval Ship Association, Inc. as they work towards bringing the distinguished naval patrol gun boat, the USS Canon (PG-90), permanently to Sheboygan. This ship and its crew worked towards the preservation of freedom as it served with distinction during the Vietnam War. As the anchor for the Naval Museum and Education Center of Sheboygan (NAVMECS), the USS Canon docked on the Sheboygan River will become an integral part of future 4th of July Celebrations for the City of Sheboygan. ; and

WHEREAS,

The USS Canon and NAVMECS will serve as a veteran's museum and memorial to honor those who served our country in the past and who continue to serve our country in her current time of need; and

WHEREAS,

The USS Canon and NAVMECS will serve as a patriotic training platform for young Americans to learn that "Freedom Is Not Free."; and

WHEREAS,

The USS Canon and NAVMECS will preserve military history, document Sheboygan's patriotic industrial role during our country's conflicts and display its maritime heritage; and

WHEREAS,


The USS Canon and NAVMECS will draw large numbers of visitors to the community to financially boost Sheboygan's tourist industry at no cost or risk to the city or county of Sheboygan.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Bob Ryan, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Sheboygan, do hereby extend my personal congratulations and those of the entire City of Sheboygan to the Wisconsin Naval Ship Association, Inc. on the occasion of their continued efforts to bring the Navy Patrol Gun Boat USS Canon (PG-90) permanently to Sheboygan as a historic naval ship.

IN TESTIMONY THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of Sheboygan to be affixed. Done this twenty-second day of June, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and nine.




MAYOR BOB RYAN

Dan Gill Elected to WINSA's Governing Board

Dan Gill has been a WINSA Member since 01 January 2003 when he assumed responsibility as the organization's Treasurer. Running a tight ship in handling WINSA's financial affairs and well experienced in non-profit rules and regulations, Dan has set up an outstanding system for controlling and reporting WINSA's financial matters. In June of 2009 he was elected to WINSA's Governing Board of Directors. As a business professional and a Certified Public Accountant, he brings to the board business skills that will prove very beneficial to the organization as we pursue the USS Canon .

Help Preserve Our Local History

If you personally have a story to share, or if you know of someone with a story to tell — please contact Bill Wangemann, Historian at (920) 458-2974. Bill is conducting interviews of veterans that will become part of a digital history. This information will be collected and preserved for viewing at the Naval Museum and Education Center of Sheboygan. It will be available for special programs for educators and many other interested groups. The effort is sponsored in part by the Early Bird Rotary Foundation of Sheboygan.

For more information call Char at 920-254-1584

Spare Time? Join the Dedicated Ranks Of NAVMECS Volunteers!

As the Naval Museum and Education Center of Sheboygan continues to work in earnest to secure the USS Canon as the anchor for NAVMECS, volunteers will become critical to their efforts. Volunteers will do a variety of tasks. For example, they may research local histories, document local veterans and their stories, as well as distribute information for fund raisers and special events. They may even build a float for community parades. For more information call Char at (920) 254-1584.

Memorial Gifts

As a way to honor veterans and the service they have given, the USS Canon and the Naval Museum and Education Center of Sheboygan will accept memorial gifts given in the name of a veteran that has passed on. For more information, call Char at (920) 254-1584.

***“Don’t give up the ship!”
Join the Crusade and send in your donation today!***

Yes ~ I want to see the historic naval ship USS Canon permanently berthed in Sheboygan Wisconsin to serve as a Naval/Veterans Museum, educate young Americans, be a memorial for all veterans, serve as a tourist attraction, document Sheboygan's maritime and patriotic past, and to preserve military history.

Please print your information legibly and send it to WINSA!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Signature _____

I'm committed to this project and have enclosed a tax deductible contribution of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other \$ _____

Please make your check payable to WINSA and mail it to:

WINSA
Post Office Box 144
Greendale, WI 53129-0144

Visit WINSA’s Website at www.usscanon.com

USS Canon Ship's Store Order Form

Item Description	Qty.	Price	Amount
USS Canon Navy Blue Baseball Cap		\$15.00 ea.	
Embroidered with USS Canon, PG-90 and Ship Logo. Gold Scrambled Eggs on the Bill.		For 1 to 3 Caps Add \$5.00 Shipping	
Golf Shirt: White, Royal Blue, Black, Forest Green, Maroon, Navy Blue, or Red. Embroidered with USS Canon, PG-90 and Ship Logo. 100% preshrunk,		Circle Size & Color	
Small, Medium, Large & Extra Large Golf Shirt		\$22.50 ea.	
		For 1 to 3 Shirts Add \$5.00 Shipping	
Double Extra Large Golf Shirt		\$24.50 ea.	
		For 1 to 2 Shirts Add \$5.00 Shipping	
Sweat Shirt: White, Khaki, Natural, Oxford (Gray), Black, Deep Purple, Forest Green, Gold, Maroon, Peri Blue, Royal Blue, Navy Blue, or Red. Embroidered with USS Canon, PG-90 and Ship Logo. 100% preshrunk, heavyweight cotton/polyester jersey with rib collar, cuffs and sleeves.		Circle Size & Color	
Small, Medium, Large & Extra Large Sweat Shirt		\$22.50 ea.	
		For each Shirt Add \$5.00 Shipping	
Double Extra-Large & Triple Extra-Large Sweat Shirt		\$24.50 ea.	
		For each Shirt Add \$5.00 Shipping	
Walnut Wall Plaque with the Ship's Logo, USS Canon, PG-90 and plaque printing in black. Logo and printing are laser generated. Customer to provide descriptive wording for plaque.			
Plaque size 7" x 9"		\$35.00	
Plaque size 8" x 10"		\$43.00	
Total Plaques		Add \$6.00 Shipping Ea Plaque	

Please allow two to three weeks for delivery	Total Order Amount	\$.
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Shipping Information – Please Print

Ship To: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

Make your check payable to WINSA and mail it with the order to:

**WINSA
 Post Office Box 144
 Greendale, WI 53129-0144**