



# TOWLINE

Hernando Beach Yacht Club

February 2020

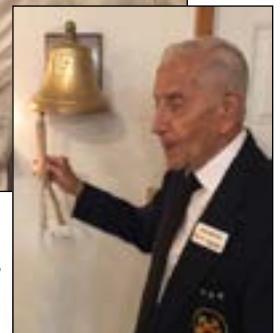
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## Change of Watch



With military precision, new and old HBYC Board members take the oath as 99-year-old Hank Quattro (right) solemnly rings eight bells. Left to right, Board members Donna Savage, Mike Belshaw, Dick Weichman, Aaron Nangle, and Lidia Verdon.



**T**hree HBYC Bridge officers and one HBYC Board member were sworn in at the Club's annual Change of Watch ceremony January 8th.

The Change of Watch is an annual time-honored tradition held to honor and thank the outgoing Bridge and Board members and to swear in those members newly-elected.

HBYC Bridge officer positions Vice

**Commodore, Treasurer, and Fleet Captain** changed hands. Susan Myers replaced Aaron Nangle as **Vice Commodore**, Terry Lemmons replaced Susan Lemmons as **Treasurer**, and Dennis O'Keefe filled the vacant position of **Fleet Captain**.

Rose Procopio replaced Terry Martin on the HBYC Board

See *Change of Watch photos*, p. 10



# 2020 Bridge and Board Members

## Bridge Members

### Commodore

P/C Patti Ames  
206-919-8921

### Vice Commodore

Susan Myers  
845-551-9346

### Rear Commodore

Ralph Kennedy  
813-480-3015

### Fleet Captain

Dennis O'Keefe  
352-442-4942

### Treasurer

Terry Lemmons  
352-600-2580

### Secretary

Judie Kennedy  
813-469-6191

### Asst. Secretary/ Treasurer

VACANT

## Committee Chairs

### Budget and Finance

Terry Lemmons

### Membership:

VACANT

### Planning

Jim Secrest

### Building and Grounds

Ralph Kennedy

### Ways & Means/Social

Susan Myers

### Memorial/Repast

Susan Myers

## Board Members

- P/C Mike Belshaw  
352-683-0537
- Rose Procopio  
352-540-0395
- Donna Savage  
352-382-0205
- Lidia Verdon  
352-556-5691
- P/C Dick Weichman  
352-597-2535
- P/C Aaron Nangle, Immediate Past Commodore  
727-916-0001

## Life Members

- P/C & Mrs. Don Bendickson
- P/C Sally Cosenza
- Mrs. Betty Ferguson
- Mrs. Jan Johnson
- Mrs. Stella Kelly
- P/C Bill & P/C Carmen Lavin
- P/C Dan McCann
- P/C Hank Quattro
- P/C Jim Secrest
- Mrs. Nancy Tooman
- P/C Dick Weichman

## Appointed

**Bar Manager**  
Susan Myers

**Bartenders**  
Susan Myers,  
Rose Procopio,  
Patti Ames (back-up)

**Kitchen Manager**  
Susan Myers

**Rental Manager**  
Rose Procopio

**Chaplain**  
Stella De Jesus-Kelly

**Dock Master**  
Dennis O'Keefe

**Roster**  
Terry Lemmons

**Historian**  
VACANT

**Towline**  
Terrence Dunne

**Web Master**  
Fred Ganz



## Commodore's Corner

Warm greetings HBYC members!

The year 2020 got off to a fantastic start at the HBYC. We began the New Year with the **Change of Watch** ceremony January 8th, an annual time-honored tradition. We had 35 people in attendance and P/C Sally Cosenza performed superbly as Master of Ceremony.

This evening was our opportunity to honor and thank the outgoing Bridge and Board Members for their service to the Club during 2019, and to swear in newly elected Bridge and Board Members to their positions for 2020. It was a lovely evening and a **two-page photo spread** of the Change of Watch is on p.10.

We filled our vacant Board Member position at the January Board Meeting. The Board of Governors unanimously voted to accept **Rose Procopio** as our newest member of the Board. Please join me in welcoming Rose to the Board and thank her for her willingness to volunteer her service.

We finished off the month with the Commodore's Ball and what a Ball it was! When I walked in the door, the amazing atmosphere took my breath away!

I would like to thank **Stella Kelly**,

as she was the mastermind behind this event. I know for a fact that she began planning it way back in November! And of course, I'd also like to thank her "**partners in crime**" that worked so

hard to create this stunning event:

Suzanne Lemmons, Rose Procopio, Jeane Vernon, Ann Vogel, Donna Savage, Carol Quattro, and Judie Kennedy.

My thanks also go out to **Susan** and **Tom** for preparing our fabulous meal and to Rose for bartending during the Event.

P/C **Jim Secrest** was a great Master of Ceremony and of course I want to thank everyone who attended the event to join me in celebrating my upcoming year as Commodore. We



Commodore Patti Ames

have a great yacht club and I am very proud to be the Commodore for 2020.

Upcoming February Events include our **Annual Superbowl Party** on Sunday February 2, a **Valentines Dinner Dance** on Wednesday February 12, W and **Dinner With Live Entertainment Featuring JoJo Jones** on Wednesday February 26.

So Mark your calendars and join the fun!

*Patti Ames*

*When I walked in the door, the amazing atmosphere took my breath away!*

**Hernando Beach Yacht Club**

**Annual Super Bowl Party**

**Sunday February 2nd**  
**Doors Open at 5:00**  
**Game time: 6:30**  
**Tickets: \$10.00**  
*Only \$5.00 if you bring wings (1 person discount)*

**Buffet by Susan will include:**  
Sandwich platters, macaroni salad, potato salad, coleslaw, beans, ziti, meatballs, sausage & peppers  
We will also have the annual Vogel Super Bowl Cake

*We will hold our annual Chicken Wing Contest so pull out your best "wings" recipe and bring your winning dish to the party!*

**"Bill's Betting Boards" will be available to buy your squares, so bring some extra \$\$\$!**

**We will also have Super Bowl Commercial BINGO**

Call Patti Ames for reservations (required) by Wednesday January 29 at 5 pm  
See you there....



**Member Profile**

# Donna Savage

Donna Savage grew up in Mystic, CT, with her Mom and dad, three brothers and a sister. Shortly after marrying, she moved to the U.S. Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. There she worked at the base marina where she learned to sail and became a certified scuba diver. She quickly became smitten with cruising on boats and the island lifestyle.



### Adventures in Paradise

After Puerto Rico, Donna was offered a job at **The Moorings**, a yacht charter outfit in **Tortola, British Virgin Islands**. Her job consisted of briefing new clients on **50' Gulf Star** sail boats they were chartering. After three years Donna returned to Mystic, CT, with her daughter and secured a job at **Sea-port Marine**, a boat building and yacht maintenance facility.



50' Gulfstar

There she met her second husband who owned a **65' Huckins** motor yacht. Longing to return to the tropics, they left cold New England and headed south with Donna intending to return to her previous job in Tortola. However, by the time they reached Florida, it was evident the **Huckins** wood hull was not suitable for the warmer climate and they sold that boat for a **42' Grand Banks** trawler. Still in Florida and about ready to contin-

ue their journey to Tortola, they traded the **Grand Banks** for a **42' Kadey Krogen** trawler, which was a more comfortable live-aboard boat equipped with freezer, washer, dryer, ice maker, and many extras that made cruising a lot more comfortable.

### Venezuela

When the **Krogen** was ready for long range cruising, they headed once more for the **British Virgin Islands**, intending to return to Tortola for a job at

**The Moorings**. However, along the way they decided to continue their cruising lifestyle. They cruised through the islands of the Caribbean, ending in Venezuela. That journey took four and a half years. It was then they decided to head back to the states, replenish their funds, and work towards retirement. The journey back to Florida took two months.

### Fort Lauderdale

Returning to the states, Ft. Lauderdale was quite a shock for Donna. There was all this talk about computers and floppy discs. While still

*They cruised through the islands of the Caribbean, ending in Venezuela. That journey took four and a half years.*

living aboard the **Krogen**, she got a job first at the **Sun Sentinel** newspaper and then at the **Summerfield Boat Works** where their boat was docked. She decided to enroll in college and secured an **Associates Degree in Accounting** but soon realized she would not be happy pursuing a CPA degree. Donna and her husband decided to enroll in **Sea School** and both received **100-Ton Captain Licenses**.

The best part about the job at the Summerfield boatyard was it was very slow in the summer months. For 13 years, Donna and her husband were able to leave their jobs in July, August, and part of September,



65' Huckins Motor Yacht

## Donna Savage (cont. from p.4)

cruise the **Abaco Islands** of the Bahamas, and then return to their jobs come fall. It was a fantastic life.

### Claims Adjusting/Insurance Investigation

After leaving the **Summerfield Boat Works**, Donna was hired by a young claims adjuster from **Lloyds of London** who started **Global Claims**, a claims adjusting business in Ft. Lauderdale.

Donna took the job as a bookkeeper but her boss quickly became aware of her knowledge of boats and, also, her knowledge of the areas where most of their insurance claims were occurring. As a result she was

asked to handle **Global Claims' CHUBB Account** as their third party administrator, handling claims up to \$750,000. Here she



42' Kadey Krogen Trawler



42' Grand Banks Trawler

secured her **Accredited Claims Adjuster (ACA)** license.

That job led to insurance company **Marsh & McLennan's Mega Yacht Division**. Here Donna secured her **International Association of Marine Investigators (IAMI)** license as well as a **Concealed Weapons Permit** for that position. Donna worked as an investigator and advocate

for **Marsh's** high net worth clients to ensure the insurance companies were living up to the terms and conditions of their policies.

Donna retired from **Marsh** as **Assistant Vice President of the Yacht Practice**.

**Retirement** When Donna was near retirement she moved to Homosassa

to be near her brother and his invalid wife. **Marsh** set Donna up with a home office in Homosassa with the promise she would

work and train someone to take her position. It was then that Donna lost her husband, the love of her life and soul mate, after almost 30 years. She continued to work after his passing.

Missing the close relationship she had with her husband, a friend set her up with a dating site called **Match.Com**. On that site she met another wonderful man who had also lost his soul mate. His name is **Dick Weichman** and he lived just 13 miles away.

**Dick and Donna** have been together for almost seven years. They travel almost monthly and they are active members of the yacht club. **Dick and Donna** serve on the board and constantly volunteer for various events at the club.



Donna Savage and Dick Weichman





# February Events

## SUPER BOWL PARTY Sunday Feb 2



**Dinner:**  
HUGE Buffet, see Super Bowl flyer p. 3

- 5:00 pm Doors open
- 6:30 Kick off
- Reservations required by January 29, 5:00 pm

## BUNCO Tuesday Feb 4



- 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm at the HBYC
- If you are interested in playing, there is still room for people to fill in when someone cannot make it
- Contact Lidia Verdon: [ldverdon@gmail.com](mailto:ldverdon@gmail.com)

## BOARD MEETING Monday Feb 10

6:00 pm. Members welcome

## VALENTINE'S DINNER DANCE Wednesday Feb 12



- **Dinner: Stuffed Pork Chop, catered by Zig Zag**
- Doors Open 5:30 pm
- Dinner 6:30 pm.
- DJ from 6:00 – 9:00 pm

### Poetry, Short Stories, History

Much can be written about our beautiful Hernando Beach by the sea. Submissions of poetry, short stories, and local history anecdotes will be accepted for future issues of the Towline.

Brevity will be valued. For example, a typical poem could fill one, maybe two columns in the Towline's triple-column format. A short story or historical anecdote might take up a whole page but no more. The goal is to make HYBC's Towline newsletter more interesting to its readers. Send submissions to [tdunne3@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:tdunne3@tampabay.rr.com)

## DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT FEATURING: JOLO JONES Wednesday February 26



**Dinner: Sonny's BBQ**

- Doors Open 5:30 pm
- Dinner 6:30 pm.
- DJ from 6:00 – 9:00 pm

### February Anniversaries

February 29, 2008  
Terry & Suzanne Lemmons

### February Birthdays

- **February 1** Bobbye Raney
- **February 19** Patti Ames
- **February 21** Claire Ganz
- **February 22** Frank Pietrucha
- **February 25** Mitch Strong
- **February 26** Joe Procopio

# New Members

## William & Norma McCreery



William and Norma McCreery met in Prescott, AZ, in 2006 and married in 2010.

For both, it was their fourth marriage and, although, as they say, it was not their First Rodeo, they wanted to do something a little different so they rented a riverboat on the Colorado River and, with 30-plus guests, had a joyous wedding celebration. The couple will be celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary in April and will be going on a cruise to the eastern Caribbean.

They settled in Chino Valley, AZ, in a two-story octagon log house on three acres. They worked on restoring that house, (with much help), and sold it in 2016. They knew they wanted to live somewhere else and became interested in Florida, especially since Bill's sister and brother-in-law lived in Spring Hill. They bought their present home in Spring Hill in 2016.

They often accompanied Jack and Nancy Tooman to the Hernando Beach Yacht Club. Finally, they decided it was time to apply for membership and since have truly enjoyed the friendly members and fun events at the club. They joined the Pinochle Club and consider it great fun.

They enjoy living in Florida and appreciate all it has to offer. They say they can always find something to do and friends to do it with.

## William McCreery

William McCreery was born June 5, 1937, and raised in San Francisco, CA.

He graduated from Lincoln High School in San Francisco in 1955.



His first employment was with the Southern Pacific Railroad at its main office in San Francisco. Then two years active duty in the U.S. Army, ultimately joining the California National Guard and working as a Radar and Computer Repairman at the Surface to Air Missile Site that was part of the San Francisco Air Defense for 15 years. He moved to Fresno, CA, to work in Avionics Repair for the National Guard and from 1979-1994 worked for the Federal Aviation Administration. He finished his working career with defense contractor Raytheon and then the Harris Corporation in Los Angeles, CA (Air Traffic control) retiring in 1998.

See Bill →

## Norma McCreery

Norma McCreery was born November 8, 1946 in

Fitchburg, MA. She was raised in Phoenix, AZ.



She attended Phoenix Community College and Arizona State

University. For many years, she was employed as a Subdivision Land Development Trust Officer.

What followed was employment in accounting for an awesome Land Developer, then she moved to Prescott Valley, AZ, where she did accounting for a Real Estate Broker that ultimately directed her into getting her real estate license.

During these years, she had three marriages and raised two wonderful sons. Her passions are reading (she started a book club), trying new vegetarian and vegan recipes (poor

See Norma →

## Bill (cont)

After retiring, William moved to the Chino Valley in Northern Arizona where he invested in land and rental properties. He has two children, three grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren.

Bill currently belongs to the Elks Club, the Hernando Computer Club, and the Hernando Beach Yacht Club.

## Norma (cont)

Bill endures bravely), socializing with friends, and last but definitely not least — travel. The couple is planning a Europe adventure for 2021.

Norma belongs to the Elks Club, the Blue Gems (ladies group), the Hernando Computer Club, and the Hernando Beach Yacht Club. She also enrolled in the Academia Hernando Lecture Series. Life is good in Florida.

More New Members, next page →



# New Members

## Bruce Reagin

Bruce Reagin was born in December, 1955, in **Mount Clemons, MI**. He attended elementary school in **Davenport, IA**, and High School in **Geneseo, IL**.

Bruce joined the U.S. Navy in 1973 and he was on active duty during the **Vietnam war, Persian Gulf war, and Operation Desert Storm**. Bruce served on submarines, minesweepers, and aircraft carriers, with a tour of duty as a Navy Recruiter during his 20-year career. He retired from the Navy in July, 1993.



After retiring from the U.S. Navy in 1993, in **Mayport, FL**, Bruce remained in Florida in the Hernando county area for about five years before relocating to North Georgia for several years and returning to Hernando County in 2013.

After a second retirement in 2017 Bruce bought a sailboat and joined the Hernando Beach Yacht Club in October 2019.

During his time in the U.S. Navy, Bruce served two years in **Antigua, West Indies**, where he fell in love with the Carribean. He hopes to be able to return to the Carribean via a sailboat for an extended trip through the islands.

## Terrence Dunne

Terry Dunne was born December 6, 1947 in **New York City, NY**. He graduated from St. Sebastian's elementary school and William Cullen Bryant HS.

He joined the U.S. Marine Corps at 17 and was honorably discharged at 21. He did two tours in **Vietnam** with the 1st Marine Division, serving as an infantry Machine Gunner on the first tour and an infantry Platoon Sergeant on the second. He served alongside his brother on the second tour, U.S. Marine infantry Captain Edward Dunne.



Terry used the GI Bill to get an education and graduated from the University of Colorado with a Masters degree in Journalism. First job out of school was Editor of the Telluride Times in **Telluride, CO**. He moved back to New York City in 1991 and switched careers from newspaper reporting to technical writing (documenting financial software.)

In 2004, because of 9/11, he was able to move his job laterally from New York City to **Tampa, FL**, and retired in 2014 as an eLearning consultant, last assignment at Price Waterhouse Cooper.

Terry is happily partnered with Barbara Keener. For socializing, he likes nothing better than rubbing elbows with his fellow Americans.

## Barbara Keener

Barbara Keener was born October 24, 1941, in **New Castle, PA**, and graduated in 1959 from Wilmington Area High School in **New Wilmington, PA**.

Barbara was married in 1961 and, when she moved to Ohio, raised her son Douglas as a single parent. She worked as a secretary/waitress/bartender at various locations in Pennsylvania and Ohio for 20 years.



In 1977, the General Motors plant in **Lordstown, OH**, added a third shift at the plant to build sub-compact cars and hired 1,500 people. Barbara was hired and she joined the United Auto Workers. She retired from General Motors in 2006.

Barbara was also a UAW representative to the United Way, where she helped coordinate United Way's annual campaigns at various corporations and businesses.

Barbara moved to Florida in 2012 after caring for her aged mother for 10 years.

In addition to her son Doug, Barbara has two grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Barbara's interests are music and dancing, and she sings in the choir at the First United United Methodist Church of Hudson.

Barbara is a ballroom dancer and has been dance partners with Terry Dunne for five years.

# New Members

## Len & Marleen Gravitz

Len and Marleen have five children between them who, for better or worse, were all adults when they met 35 years ago in **Connecticut**. Life together continued in **North Andover, MA, San Marcos, TX, Tarpon Springs, FL**, and now **New Port Richey, FL**.

Len was born and grew up in **New York City**, went to college at Cortland, University of Missouri and ended with a Doctorate from University of Massachusetts. He initially spent his working life in the U.S. Navy in CIC and playing soccer in every Mediterranean port. After military life he worked in the not-for-profit arena before beginning life in academia, leading the Social Work Department at Rochester Institute of Technology with tenure. When he left Rochester he became involved in a variety of capital and

annual fund raising projects for not-for-profit organizations.

In Tarpon Springs he and Marleen



initiated the **Music On The Beach** program of monthly concerts that is now in its 20th year. He also served on the city's planning and zoning board.

Marleen was born in **Detroit, MI**,

## In Sympathy

### Jennifer Gravitz 1958–2019

It is with deep sadness that we share this email from Marleen and Len Gravitz. Their daughter Jennifer passed away on January 24 in Rochester, NY. Marleen and Len were by her side.

*It is with great sorrow that I tell you that our lovely Jennifer has completed her earthly journey. Yesterday evening, in Rochester, she succumbed to the disease she had been struggling with for several years.*

*As we were all gathered together to be with Jennifer this past week she told each of us that she loved us, over and over. It was the nature of her loving heart to continue to try to care for us.*

*Denise Lemcke, her daughter-in-law, encapsulated some of the things we all learned from Jennifer, (Bubbee), in the document to the right. The American*



*Sign Language (ASL) sign for "I Love You" is in the upper right hand corner. Denises' intention is for all the children to "Live like Bubbee".*

*Jennifer would be humbled, but pleased.*

*Especially the last item.*

A friend of Jennifer's, Heather Menchel, said: "We will miss her in our lives. Boldness has genius and magic and power in it. May we, like Jennifer, forever be bold, in our living and in our loving."

but grew up on a small island just outside the city. After graduating from Oakland University, she taught school in **Connecticut**, became a mother, and worked for several not-for-profit organizations. She became a real estate broker in 1980 and developed specialty service products for client corporations. She and Len were married in 1988 and moved to **Texas** in 1990, where she earned a Master of Applied Geography degree at Texas State University, then on to **Florida** in 1997.

In **Tarpon Springs**, Marleen served on the Heritage Preservation Board, the Public Art Committee, and the board of the Leepa Rattner Museum.



*Above: The things that Jennifer loved. The ASL sign for "I Love You" is in the upper right hand corner.*



# 2020 Change of Watch



At the table, Club members (L-R): Terry Dunne, Aaron Nangle, Dick Weichman, and Donna Savage



A cake for a Change of Watch



At the table, Club members (L-R) Mike Belshaw, Dominic Fickeria, Sally Cosenza, and Elsie King



At the Club bar, (L-R) Sally Cosenza, Mike Belshaw, Bill Vogel (back to camera), Jeane Vernon, Ann Vogel, bartender Rose Procopio, and Donna Savage



New officers are sworn in by, on left, Commodore Patti Ames. Officers (L-R) are Master of Ceremonies Sally Cosenza, Board member Donna Savage, Rear Commodore Ralph Kennedy, Board member and P/C Mike Belshaw, Fleet Captain Dennis O'Keefe, Board member and P/C Dick Weichman (hidden), Treasurer Terry Lemmons, Board member and P/C Aaron Nangle, Secretary Judie Kennedy, and Board member Lidia Verdon



At the table, Club members (L-R) Dick Weichman, Donna Savage, Hank Quattro, Carol Rockwell, Norma McCreery, William McCreery, Terry Dunne, and Aaron Nangle



At the table, Club members (L-R) Hank Quattro, Carol Rockwell, Norma McCreery, William McCreery, Nancy Tooman, and Terry Dunne



HBYC Bridge members preside over the Change of Watch ceremony



At the bar, Club members (L-R) John Ames, Dick Weichman (between Jeane Vernon and Bill Vogel), Terry Dunne, Sally Cosenza, and unidentified woman.



# 2020 Commodore's Ball



Commodore's Ball Receiving Line



Cake decorated with Hermit Crab sculpture by Stella Kelly



Commodore's Ball Conga Line



Club Members (L-R) Hank Quattro, Carol Rockwell, Donna Savage, Dick Weichman, Terry Dunne, Joe Procopio



Commodore Patti Ames with husband John Ames



Club dancers Sally Cosenza and Dominick Fickeria



Cooking for the Club: Judie Kennedy



Line dancers (L-R) Judie Kennedy, ClaiSre Ganz, Lidia Verdon, Carol Rockwell, and Donna Savage



Club dancers on the dance floor



Treasure chest for Commodore Patti Ames filled with gifts from the sea



Husbands/wives (L-R) Judie & Ralph Kennedy, Suzanne & Terry Lemmons, Patti & John Ames