

Fact Sheet



Norton-March Alumni Association

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NORTON-MARCH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (NMAA) HISTORY

Lineage. The Norton-March Aircrew Association (NMAA) was established on 20 Jun 2015 at an Association discussion and establishment meeting during the 2015 Norton-March Aircrew Reunion. NMAA was established with an initial group of Board Members, Officers, Committee and Ad-Hoc Committee Chairs. A corporate resolution filing for Corporate status was initiated by current and former Aircrew Members: Kenneth H. Goode, Jr., Timothy J. Wrighton, and Thomas H. Block. On October 14, 2015 the office of the Secretary of State of the State of California approved Norton-March Aircrew Association, Inc. as a non-profit corporation. From the initial nine (9) Board Members, the first Corporate Officers designated were: Timothy J. Wrighton (Pres/CEO), Kenneth H. Goode, Jr. (Vice-President), Michael Fortanas (Treasurer/CFO), and Majella A. Vito (Corporate Secretary).

On November 23, 2016 the Internal Revenue Service approved and designated NMAA as a 501 (c)(3) Charitable Organization. Reflecting a desire of inclusive Membership of all Active Duty, Reserve and Civilian who served at Norton & March the Board of Directors approved a name-change on 27 October 2016. A certified name-change authorization was filed in Riverside County, California to the Norton-March Alumni Association on 20 April 2017. On 1 May 2017, the State of California granted NMAA its Tax-Exempt Status.

Association Founding. The founding of the NMAA stemmed from the popularity and activities of several Reunions or get-togethers that started back in 2010. That year after someone's passing it was realized how much nicer to be able to get together and rekindle friendships, before another former co-worker was lost. A BBQ-get together was initiated and organized by MSgt (Ret) Joyce Hemphill, from the 730 AS (Loadmaster/Admin Ops) along with MSgt. Craig Kellerher (730AS, Loadmaster), and MSgt. Carlos deJesus (730 AS, Flight Engineer). They labeled it a 'C-141 Aircrew Reunion', though current Reservists also attended. It was held on 30 October 2010, for a \$10-20 donation. The BBQ Reunion was held outside Bldg 2418, March ARB in the late afternoon, and there were 30-40 people who participated.

Several other former squadron members from around the country over the next year heard of this event, and expressed regret they didn't know about the Reunion. Inspired with the successful event, MSgt (Ret) Thomas Block (729 AS, Loadmaster) who was in attendance in 2010 took it upon himself to organize a more formal all-day reunion in 2012. That 18 August 2012 ('B' UTA weekend) the first, more formal Norton-March Aircrew Reunion was held at March ARB. Activities including 452 AMW/CC, 452 OG/CC, 729 AS/CC Welcoming Briefings, a Tour and opening up the C-141 (60257) at the March Air Museum (and Luncheon), a March ARB Static Display & Ramp tour, and a fun-filled Banquet Dinner at the Hap Arnold Club and the famous March Aircrew Bar, Sally's Alley. Some 70 personnel attended.

After open discussions held during the Banquet Dinner, it was recommended that a planning group be formed to organize and plan for the next one. It's purpose was to look at start up of an Association, pool resources together to take off the stress of mostly relying on one person to oversee future events, to hold these more formal reunions every 2 - 3 years, and look at continuing the smaller off-year get together as well. It would initiate programs that meet the needs of alumni, and become a catalyst that brings back old members back, as well as provide them an opportunity to see what current base units are doing today. The next BBQ-Reunion Joyce Hemphill organized was held again at March ARB on June 15, 2014.

The 2nd formal Reunion was held Jun 18-20, 2015 at March ARB & Riverside, CA. With additional assistance from a planning group, MSgt (Ret) Thomas Block organized the 2015 Event and put together a 3-day template from Thursday-Saturday. A variety of events again including the Wing Commander welcoming briefing. Events also included 18 holes of Golf, Museum Tours & luncheon, C-141 power-on at the March Air Museum, a C-17A, KC-135R, and MQ-1/MQ-9 Static displays & tour on March ARB, a BBQ at Sally's Alley at the Hap Arnold Club, and a Banquet Buffet Dinner at the Marriott Inn at the Convention Center in Riverside, CA. Approximately 110 people attended the various functions throughout the three days. That Saturday, on 20 June 15 a group of former Aircrew members came together at a luncheon at the Hap Arnold Club, and initiated the Norton-March Aircrew Association.

In continuing its now new traditions, a Spring BBQ for current Reservists & local Retirees (after Saturday UTA sign-out) was held in March of 2016 at the 452 ACLF Hanger at March ARB. The next and 3rd formal Reunion is scheduled to be held again at March ARB and the Marriott Inn at the Convention Center, Riverside, CA on May 18-20, 2017. It will add two new events as well as offering discounts at optional local restaurants, as well as some of the most popular events in 2015. Thursday is designated an extra fun day with an added Temecula Cable Car Wine Tour besides 18-Holes of Golf. Saturday added a tour of the Norton AFB Museum and driving tour of the old Norton AFB Flight-line.

Association Memberships. To help fund the Association and offer incentives to the Membership the following NMAA Memberships were offered: **Founding Memberships** (in the year 2015 only), which were Lifetime Membership, at \$250, a 3-Year Membership at \$65.00, and a 1-Year Membership at \$25. **Active Memberships** (after 2015) also include Lifetime Membership, at \$250, a 3-Year Membership at \$65.00, and a 1-Year Membership at \$25. **Associate Memberships** (for interested Individuals or Businesses) are also offered to include Lifetime Membership, at \$250, a 3-Year Membership at \$65.00, and a 1-Year Membership at \$25. Members receive 10-15% discounts at Events & other NMAA purchases and can participate in NMAA discounts as they are offered Off-year BBQs for Members are Free. As a tax-free Charitable organization, additional donations are always welcome.

Association Member Components. Members of the Norton-March Alumni Association were stationed or served at Norton AFB, March AFB, and/or March ARB, California and had served in the following Wings and Organizations: **NORTON AFB-63 Military Airlift Wing, Norton AFB** (14th Military Airlift Sq, 15th Military Airlift Sq., 53rd Military Airlift Sq.) **NORTON AFB-445 Military Airlift Wing, Norton AFB** (445th Command Sec., 445th Operations Grp, 728 Military Airlift Sq., 729 Military Airlift Sq., 730 Military Airlift Sq., 68 Aeromedical Evacuation Sq.); **MARCH AFB/ARB-452 Air Mobility Wing** (452 Command Sec, 452 Operations Grp., 729 Airlift Sq., 730 Airlift Sq., 336 Air Refueling Sq., 452 Aeromedical Evacuation Sq., 452 TALCE).

President/CEO's. Col. (Ret) Timothy J. Wrighton, USAF - 20 Jun 2015.

Board of Director's. Initial Board Members include - 20 Jun 2015: MSgt. (Ret) Thomas H. Block, Col. (Ret) Michael Fortanas, Lt Col. Kenneth H. Goode, Jr. USAFR, Lt Col (Ret) Robert Johnson, Col (Ret) Bill Marshall, CMSgt. Jo (Carrillo) Keller USAFR, Majella A. Vito, MSgt. (Ret) Al Williamson, Col (Ret) Timothy J. Wrighton.

Point of Contact

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