



Without Husband or Job, Widow Raises Three Children

'There's One Thing I Intend to Do'

by Norm Burkey



Pvt. Norman L. Burkey and wife Anna Miller Burkey at his parents' farm in 1944.

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Anna Florence Miller was born to Norman and Elizabeth Miller on September 13, 1919. Her father was a tenant farmer who rented several farms in Berks County, Pennsylvania, during his lifetime. Like many farmers in those days, he and his wife had a large family. Elizabeth, who as I recall was less than five feet tall, gave birth to 16 children between 1907 and 1928, 12 of whom survived into adulthood. All the surviving children were girls, except for the youngest, my Uncle Richard. My mom was the fifth youngest.

Although both my maternal grandparents died while I was in my mid-teens, from all appearances it was a relatively stable family situation. Later I learned there were some conflicts among the brothers-in-law, but I think my mom and her siblings had happy childhoods. They were farm girls living in the country who had to walk everywhere and depend on themselves for entertainment.

Not so with my father's family. My paternal grandfather, Raymond Burkey, was raised by an uncle and aunt on a small farm in the country outside Reading, Pennsylvania, in the heart of the Pennsylvania Dutch country. His mother died at an early age after giving birth to four children, and his father had a serious drinking problem. Raymond

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President's Message

by Judy Hoffman

Happy New Year AWONers.

Your board met in St. Louis in October and had a fun and productive meeting. At that time the board elected new officers for this year. I am resuming the presidency, Gerry Morenski remains as Vice President, Jerry Pinkerton is Treasurer, and Judy Hathaway is Secretary.

Ed Peters deserves more praise and kudos than I can heap on his head for leading the board through the past three years. His steadiness, good sense, fairness and leadership abilities were always evident in keeping AWON alive and vital for all of us. I know the membership joins the board in thanking him so much for his time and service to the organization.

Since he is the most tech savvy of all of us on the board, Ed will focus his energy in the coming year toward working with Rik Peirson to update the AWON website. He will be assisted by a board subcommittee of Norm Burkey and Bonnie Oates.

Gerry Morenski has done remarkable work on the AWON database, so ably started by AWON Founder Ann Mix. It is now automated for many functions essential to AWON's day-to-day

operations. It automatically sends new members to me and Judy Hathaway to log on to the Listserv, provides lists of members in geographic areas for the Regional Coordinators, provides conference lists, mailing lists, voting lists, and I am sure much more. Gerry has done excellent work.

Norma Nicol Hamilton is doing invaluable work by investigating how organizations store archives for the future. AWON's archives include minutes, website information, databases, books, electronic messages and other items. A scrapbook of newspaper and magazine articles is maintained by Ann Whelen O'Connor. The lovely father/child photo albums are maintained by President Emerita, Patricia Gaffney-Kindig.

Your board is doing some future planning. As we watch World War II organizations slowly fade away along with their members, your board is looking ahead to ensure that **our** stories, **our fathers'** stories, and **our mothers'** stories, do not die with us. A place for future disposition of AWON's archives should be safe, accessible to the public for research, and committed to ensuring AWON's

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AWON Directors Meet in St. Louis

On October 12, the AWON Board of Directors met in St. Louis, Missouri, for their annual in-person meeting to discuss broad issues and plans for AWON.

The AWON bylaws stipulate an in-person board meeting annually, with attendance open to all members. All members of the board were present except Judy Hathaway, who was traveling outside the country, along with guests member Ben Weber, and Pat Peters, wife of director Ed Peters.

Following regular business the board discussed several topics of long-term interest.

The group reviewed AWON's election process. Five director positions are up for election in 2014. The election date has not been set yet.



The AWON Board of Directors and AWON member Ben Weber sit around the conference table during the in-person board meeting.

Several directors expressed an interest in not running for re-election, which means new candidates need to be found. The board approved reducing director terms from four years to two, hoping

that encourages more interest among the membership to serve on the board. This means that in 2016 all board seats will be up for election.

For the first time the board approved emailing ballots to members who have a current email address on file with AWON. Members who don't have an email on file will be mailed a ballot. All ballots will need to be returned by mail.

Any orphan or family member interested in running for election to the board should contact Nominating Committee Chair Norm Burkey at normanburkey@verizon.net.

Another topic the board discussed was the AWON website, beginning with a

...Pres. Message, from page 2

legacy. You will be kept fully informed of progress in this area.

The members of your board are dedicated to AWON. They are hard workers, kind, honest, and wonderful, fun people to be around. I count them as friends for life. I urge all of you, if asked by the Nominating Committee chaired by Norm Burkey, to say "yes" to running as a candidate for the board. Boards remain vi-

tal with a periodic influx of new people with new ideas. To be honest, some of us, as much as we enjoy being with each other, feel the need for a break from board duties. At the St. Louis meeting we voted to return to two-year terms, feeling that four years, at this time in our lives, was just too much of a time commitment. Some of us have been on the board for many years and are not running again. We need some of you to step up and serve.

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Welcome New Members

Michel Lorquet, Belgium, grave adopter of PVT Joseph T. Lippi, Army
Clarisa Hubbard Alexander, AL, dau of PVT Melvin T. Hubbard, Army
Billilyn Friese, CA, dau of PVT Roy W. Parker, Army
Ellen Behl Trier, DE, dau of 2LT Roger K. Behl, Army Air Force
Kenneth Coleman, MI, son of PFC Warren M. Coleman, Army
Nancy Meyer, NY, dau of ILT Paul D. Meyer, Army
Debbie Cromarty Justice, VA, granddau of PFC George D. Cromarty, Army
Douglas Graff Comella, CA, son of SIC Kenneth E. Graff, Navy
Jeannette Ryan, CA, dau of ILT John (Bob) R. Ryan, Army
John A. Flynn, MT, son of SGT Clarence J. Flynn, Army

(new members since the October issue of *The Star*)

Waiting List for AWON Trip to Holland

The AWON group trip to Holland announced last spring is now full and has a waiting list.

More than 60 AWONers and companions have signed up for the one-week trip to Holland from May 21-28, 2015. The highlight of the tour is the 70th anniversary of Memorial Day at the Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial at Margraten.

In February 1945 the Burger Comité Margraten, or Citizens Committee Margraten, was formed to create a grave adoption campaign for their new American Cemetery. Adopters were asked to visit their adopted grave regularly and, if possible and appreciated, stay in touch with the next of kin.

Today, most of the 8,300 graves are adopted, and many of the relationships established almost 70 years ago still continue, now into the second and third generation for both adopters and next of kin.

With the aging of the members of the original citizens committee, and new ways to share information and communicate, the citizens committee's work is now carried out by the Stichting Adoptie Graven Amerikaanse Begraafplaats Margraten, or Foundation for Adopting Graves at the Ameri-



The AWON Margraten 'kids' in Holland in 2010.

can Cemetery in Margraten. The foundation also maintains the so-called Adoption Register, an extensive database with information about adopters and the graves they've adopted.

The Margraten Adoption Committee is hosting the AWON delegation, and has several activities and surprises planned.

If you have not reserved a space and are interested in being on the waiting list, contact Gerry Conway Morenski at dutiem@comcast.net. You must be an active member of AWON and have a family member resting at Margraten.

Daughter Remembers Tarawa Anniversary

AWONer Alexandra Bonnyman Prejean of Hawaii traveled to the Tarawa Atoll in November for a service to mark the 70th anniversary of one of the fiercest battles in the Central Pacific during World War II - a battle in which her father not only lost his life, but was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

From November 20-23, 1943, 35,000 American sailors and marines attacked Japanese forces during what is known today as the Battle of Tarawa. It was the first time the Japanese put up a strong resistance to an amphibious landing. The fighting was mostly centered on the small island of Betio. The costs were high as the unpredictable tide stranded many landing craft, giving Japanese snipers an advantage. In the book, *Across the Reef: the Marine Assault of Tarawa*, Col. Joseph Alexander, USMC (ret.) stated, "The capture of Tarawa knocked down the front door to the Japanese defenses in the Central Pacific." One could say the person who did the knocking was 1st Lt. Alexander "Sandy" Bonnyman Jr.

Bonnyman was a combat engineer, assigned to a shore party handling beachhead logistics. With troops pinned down at the end of the Betio Pier, under no orders Bonnyman organized and led five men over the open pier to the beach, obtained explosives, and directed the destruction of several hostile installations.

On the second day, Bonnyman led his teams in an assault on a bombproof shelter containing about 150 Japanese soldiers. The enemy position was about 40 yards forward of the Marine lines. Bonnyman advanced his team to the shelter's mouth and killed many of the defenders. Forced to withdraw for supplies, Bonnyman again pressed his attack and gained the top of the structure, flushing more than a hundred Japanese into the open where they were shot down. When the enemy fought back, Bonnyman stood at the forward edge of the position and killed



Presenting a wreath for the fallen Marines of the Battle of Tarawa, especially 1st Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Jr. are, left to right, grandson Clay Bonnyman Evan, youngest daughter Alexandra Bonnyman Prejean, and granddaughter Alexandra Bonnyman Prejean.

several attackers before he fell mortally wounded. Betio Island was declared secured the same day.

For his actions during the battle, Bonnyman was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. The medal was formally presented by Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal in 1947. Bonnyman's 12-year-old daughter, Frances, accepted the medal on behalf of the family. Bonnyman also received the Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three Bronze Stars, and the World War II Victory Medal.

According to the Defense Missing Personnel Office, Bonnyman's remains were reportedly buried at sea. However, now it is believed that he was buried in a mass grave somewhere on Betio. In 2010, a team from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command began a recovery mission on Tarawa, hoping to locate the mass graves and identify the remains of Bonnyman and other missing Americans.

... Burkey, from page 1

and his brother were separated from their other brother and their sister, who were adopted by other relatives. Raymond's wife - my grandmother, Naomi - also came from a troubled household due to her father's alcoholism.

Raymond and Naomi began their married life on his uncle and aunt's small farm. The uncle died in 1928, but the aunt, Mahala, survived until 1936. Grandma Naomi lived with this situation of living in someone else's house for almost 20 years. From what we know, my grandmother was greatly intimidated by Mahala, and my grandmother in turn was not an emotionally supportive mother-in-law to any of her daughters-in-law.

My father, Norman Burkey, had two younger brothers. The youngest married a German refugee who survived the war. She and her mother were starving after the war, but my aunt managed to get to America as a teenager. I remember my grandmother crying as my aunt was showing off her engagement ring to us. Not only did my aunt "take" my uncle from his mother, but she was also a German.

Of course, the backdrop for all of this was the Great Depression, followed by World War II. In short, my background is poor dirt farmers from Pennsylvania on both sides of my family.

My mother and father met in a small grade school located within a few miles of their

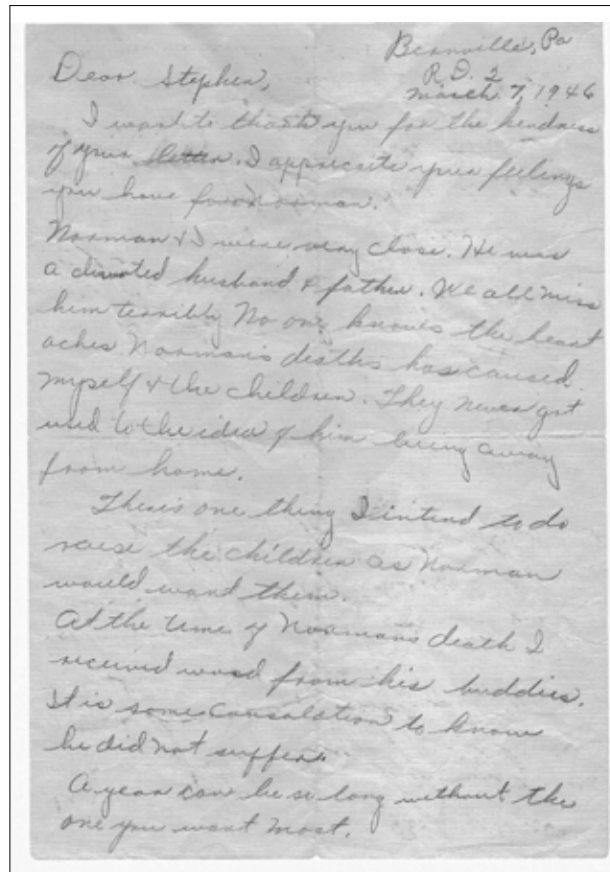
homes. My father graduated from high school in a nearby town, but my mother left school after the tenth grade. They were childhood sweethearts and were married when they were 20 years old. They began their married life by living with my dad's parents on that small farm.

I was born in 1940, my brother in 1941, and my sister in 1943. My father had full-time employment even before the war began and they managed to purchase a house in 1943 in Mt. Pleasant, a small hamlet within a few miles of the farms where each of them grew up. My father worked in Reading, first for a company that manufactured hosiery and later at a steel mill. He also was very active in their church, which was the center of most of their social activities. Among other things, he played violin in the Sunday School orchestra.

We all know what came next. My dad was killed in Italy with the 10th Mountain Division on March 12, 1945. This is about my mom, but I think this was the final straw for my paternal grandfather. He never went back to church after my dad was killed.

So, here was my mom, a young widow with three children and a tenth grade education. I can't imagine what those first weeks and months must have been like for her. Her in-laws certainly were very supportive in practical ways, but the emotional support came from her side of the family. However, there was no doubt that she was our primary caretaker.

Shortly after the war, one of my dad's comrades wrote a letter to my mom. She re-



The letter Anna wrote to her husband's war buddy in 1946. In it she writes, "(the children) never got used to the idea of him being away from home," and "There's one thing I intend to do raise the children as Norman would want them."

plied to him in 1947. He kept the letter, and his widow found it after the man died. My name was known within the 10th Mountain Division and the widow knew that my dad was in the same unit as her husband. She first sent a wonderfully sensitive letter to me, asking if I wanted my mom's letter. I met her at a 10th Mountain Division Association reunion several years ago and gave her a huge hug. Incidentally, without AWON I never would have thought about contacting the 10th Mountain Division Association.

My favorite part of the letter is where she says she intended to, "raise the children as Norman" would have wanted. She certainly did that. I might also add that the letter she wrote was very impressive for someone with such a limited education. This obviously is one of our family's prized possessions.

My mom never faltered in taking care of us, the house, and the finances. She was very conservative and private. Norman was the love of her life, and if she was ever tempted to begin dating, we never knew about it. She never worked out of the house so we were dependent on Social Security and the government life insurance. Remember, she was a child of the Great Depression and what you have is more secure than what you might lose if you make a change. There was a small factory in our small town and the companies occupying it turned over on a regular basis. She witnessed first-hand the negative possibilities. We were poor, but somehow I never felt we were destitute. We went to church every week and instinctively knew that school was very important. In particular, she was a whiz at keeping the coal furnace going all winter and got very upset the few times it went out.



Anna Burkey in 1939, left; and children, David, Anne and Norman Burkey in 1946, right.



However, having said all of that, I must say that we never could have made it without the extended family. Although there was very limited bus service into Reading, we were otherwise totally dependent on family and friends for transportation. A car was simply out of the question.

All three of us, but primarily my brother and sister, made her life a lot easier after we were established in life. Neither of my siblings married and my mom lived with my brother in our family home until she died in 1995. She got to see her three children succeed in life, she got to see her two granddaughters grow into adulthood and establish families of their own, and she got to meet her oldest great-granddaughter. She lived a simple, but a good life. The highlight of her year was the two weeks my kids spent with her each summer. She certainly had strong opinions on certain subjects. She was totally against outside babysitters for any reason and I received a tirade on the subject of pacifiers. But not my wife - they had an awesome relationship.

I spent 42 years in the corporate world and experienced the inclusion of both minorities and women in professional positions during the 1970s. I never had an issue treating women as equals or relating to them as supervisors. I also was able to successfully mentor several who had moved up from the clerical ranks. It came to me only a few years ago that this was certainly due to watching my mom do such a fantastic job of raising me and my siblings and managing our household. I had a living example of a woman as a competent manager who never got us into debt. Her example has served us all very well. Thank you for allowing me to introduce you to my mom, my hero.

AWONers Meet in September 2014

Alaska Cruise Option Added to Seattle Conference

For those wanting a little adventure after the 2014 AWON National Conference in Seattle, AWON has arranged an Alaska cruise.

The conference is September 4-7. The cruise is September 7-14.

The inside passage tour aboard a *Grand Princess* cruise ship will take travelers from Seattle to a day stop at the Alaskan city of Ketchikan, past the Tracy Arms Fjord, then on to Juneau and Skagway for day stops, before heading to Victoria, Canada, for the last stop before returning to Seattle.

Travelers will need a valid passport because of the port stop in Canada.

Following are the per person group rates:

Mini-suite w/ balcony	\$1,549
Balcony, midship	\$1,419
Balcony, aft	\$1,399
Inside	\$ 899

Third and fourth per person rates in same cabin are \$774, \$709, \$699, and \$448. Single rates are \$3,098, \$2,838, \$2,798, and \$1,438, accordingly. Taxes are an

additional \$165 per person. Transfers from pier to airport are \$24 per person.

Once an individual booking is made, the deposit is due within 24 hours. Balances are due June 18, which is when the penalty time begins. After June 18, bookings can still be made, subject to availability, however the total amount would be due at that time. The cancellation penalties are on a graduating schedule beginning with 20% on June 18 up to 100% at sailing time on September 7. Cancellation insurance is suggested.

For more information about the cruise, including deposits and cancellation insurance, contact Penny LeGrand at 520-907-1404, or pennylg@msn.com. Additional information about the ship, itinerary, activities, photos and what to pack are at www.princess.com.

For more information about the AWON Conference, contact conference co-chairs Barry Barr-Finch at barrfinch1@gmail.com, or Judi Hollis Kramer at ladybug5@juno.com.

A conference registration form appears on page 9.

2014 AWON National Conference Renaissance Seattle Hotel Hotel Reservations

**Conference Dates: Sept. 4-7, 2014
Group Rate Good Starting Sept. 2**

**Room rate for 1-2 persons - \$129 plus tax
Room rate for 3-4 persons - \$139 plus tax**

Reservations Online:

https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=10816218

Reservations by Phone: (877) 901-6632

Member Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Is this your first AWON Conference? (circle one) yes no

Do you want registration information listed in the conference roster? yes no

Do you have special needs? (If so, please indicate below) yes no

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AWON Connections

Pictures and Stories of Members
Gathering Around the Country



last year. It was a 70's theme party and the revelers got into it, with four Elvises making an appearance - two of whom were her sons. The birthday girl herself was *ABBA's* dancing queen, pictured at left, with Dianne on the right. *Dianne*



AWONer Dianne and John Baczynski attended AWONer Penny LeGrand's birthday party in Arizona, given by her children late

Annual York, PA Get-Together Set for April 5

The annual gathering of AWON members in the Pennsylvania area is set for Saturday, April 5.

AWONer Lynne Lecrone organizes the yearly gathering, which regularly draws 15-20 members and spouses to York.

As in years past, the group will meet at Hoss's Steak and Sea House from 11:30 to 3:30 for lunch and socializing. There will be time to share and remember fathers' stories.

Information will be sent in February to orphans in the area, including directions, local motels, and cities in the area.

If you would like to receive information or have questions, contact Lynne Lecrone at 717-757-9424 or 717-487-8677 (cell), or email her at lynnelec@aol.com.

Seven members of the SoCal AWON group met for their semi-annual luncheon at the Point Loma Cafe in San Diego in December. Pictured above, left to right: Roger Connor, Barbara Smith, Dale Roybal, Rita Blair, Ann Pogue, Sharon Connor and Vic Muller. As it was Pearl Harbor Day, they noted with sadness that the memory of that Day of Infamy is slowly fading from the national consciousness. Telling tidbit: a youngish newscaster commenting on the reminiscences of a group of Pearl Harbor Survivors said, "Pearl Harbor was their 9-11." Incidentally, four members present were born before Pearl Harbor (Barbara, Dale, Roger and Vic) while three were born after (Ann, Rita and Sharon). Four regulars were not able to attend: Barbara and Dick Swenson, and Linda and Bob Porter. Barbara Smith read a *New York Times* review of the book, *Vanished*, by Wil Hylton, an account of the efforts of Dr. Pat Scannon to find the remains of U.S. airmen lost in the Pacific War. Sharon met Dr. Scannon on several occasions. He collaborates with Pat Ranfranz, the man who facilitated Sharon's trip to Yap Island in 2006, where

she and her cousin conducted a memorial service for her father whose plane was lost returning from a bombing raid. Vic Muller gave an update on his brother's memorial in Germany. Roger noted that his cousin visited the Luxembourg cemetery where Roger's father is at rest. The SoCal group again expressed puzzlement that there is no local AWON group between San Diego and Santa Barbara. Despite the efforts of Barry Barr-Finch, who oversees AWON's Regional Coordinator program, no one in the Los Angeles area has volunteered to organize a group. AWON members there are missing out on the intimacy of small get-togethers with siblings. *Roger*



There they are! In the October issue we reported on Gail Eisenhower and Gerry Morenski meeting Stacy Roberts and Nancy Boothe in Maine for lunch in August. We didn't have a photo at the time but we do now. *Gail*



On their way to Texas, AWONer Barry Barr-Finch and Tom Brewer, right, of Seattle, stopped in New Mexico in September to have lunch with AWONer Lorin McCleary and his wife, Roberta, left. In Texas, Barry enjoyed some laughs with Jerry and AWONer Patty Temte, below. *Barry*



Stars of The Star

***Barry Barr-Finch
and all
Regional Coordinators***

***Thanks for ALL you do
keeping members
together at the
local level.***



... St. Louis, from page 3

review of its purpose. The board agreed that the website serves many functions, among them being the face of AWON to the world and other organizations, a resource for members and the public, membership outreach, and a memorial or tribute to our fathers' service in World War II. The board discussed the various ways the website is meeting these goals and how it could be improved.

A committee of Ed Peters, Norm Burkey and Bonnie Oates will discuss updating the website with AWON Webmaster Rik Peirson. The board set a date of May 1 for a revised website, and set aside \$6,000 in the budget for the purpose of website redesign.

For several years the board has been discussing what the future holds for AWON. Like other World War II organizations, AWON's membership is aging, bringing new challenges to its vitality. Some of these challenges include the planning, length and purpose of AWON national conferences; finding and retaining members; remaining relevant to members and the community; finding volunteers; potentially needing to pay for services currently provided by volunteers; and planning for the eventual permanent preservation of AWON materials and information.

The board agreed that the entire membership should

be involved in this discussion. The topic will be the focus of member roundtable discussions at the 2014 AWON National Conference in Seattle in September.

At the end of the meeting the board elected officers for the year: Judy Hoffman, president; Gerry Morenski, vice president; and Jerry Pinkerton, treasurer. The secretary position would be filled at the next regular

board meeting.

In addition to the all-day meeting, several board members toured the new National Personnel Records Center facilities and conducted personal research.

Minutes from the meeting will be posted on the AWON website after they are approved at the next meeting. The minutes also will be published in *The Star* in condensed form.

AWON Seeks Board Candidates

AWON is seeking candidates for election to the Board of Directors for 2014-2016.

The Board consists of nine seats held by orphan or family members. The five seats up for election in 2014 are held by Judy Hathaway, Judy Geis Hoffman, Kathy Le Comte, Jerry Pinkerton and Bonnie Oates. Some of those positions will be open. The term is for two years.

The Board is responsible for setting policy, adopting an annual budget and operating plan, overseeing AWON's activities, and future planning. Directors attend six bi-monthly meetings a year via telephone, and one in-person meeting.

The AWON Nominating Committee is seeking candidates with managerial and/or people skills, and a commitment to World War II orphans, AWON's mission, and activities. Those who are interested in running for the Board are asked to mail a brief biography to Norman Burkey, AWON Nominating Committee, 308 Colgate Drive, Forest Hill, MD 21050, or email it to normanburkey@verizon.net by MAY 1, 2014.

The AWON Election will be conducted by mail-in ballot. If AWON has your email on file you will receive a ballot by email. All other members will receive a ballot by mail.

AWON is operated exclusively by volunteers and is always in need of volunteers, especially in the areas of membership, conferences, website, public relations, publications, treasurer, non-profit tax preparer, and many others. AWON is your organization; please consider giving some of your time and talents to helping AWON continue its mission of finding and serving World War II orphans, and honoring our fathers.

Participants Needed for AWON Conference Panel Discussion

Dr. Vamik D. Volkan, M.D., reknowned international lecturer and Nobel Peace Prize nominee, will moderate a panel discussion by AWON members at the 2014 AWON National Conference in Seattle. The subject will be mother/child relationships.

Many orphans had good relationships with their mothers, and some did not. Whether your relationship with your mother was good, bad, or in between, Dr. Volkan is interested in your story.

Dr. Volkan is widely considered to be the world's foremost expert on the psychology of war-torn societies. He has lectured at past AWON conferences on topics such as transgenerational influences (how traumatic experiences can be transmitted from one generation to the next), and linking objects (objects that provide an emotional link to a person), and is the husband of AWONer Betty Palonen Volkan.

Those interested in participating in the mother/child relationship discussion are asked to write a one-page synopsis of their relationship with their mother after their father's death. Email your interest and story to Dr. Volkan at vamikvolkan189@comcast.net.

If you have any questions about the panel discussion arrangements at the conference, contact conference co-chairs Judi Hollis Kramer at ladybug5@juno.com or Barry Barr-Finch at barrfinch1@gmail.com.



Rainbow Over Margraten

The above photo was taken on October 29, 2013, at the Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial at Margraten - a poignant date and message for AWONer Ginger Gregory.

"My Dutch friends, Martien and Ellemien Salden, went to the cemetery on October 29th to visit my dad's grave," she explains. "It was 69 years ago that he was killed in action on that date. Look at the beautiful rainbow! God is telling us that all is well with our dads!"

Martien's son-in-law entered the photo in a calendar contest held by Stichting Adoptie Graven Amerikaanse Begraafplaats Margraten - the Margraten Adoption Committee. The photo was selected for the month of October.

To see all the winning photos, go to: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/107689818@N08/sets/72157638000819296/#>.

To order the calendar, go to: http://www.adoptiegraven.nl/shop/product.php?id_product=21.

LAST CALL for Inclusion in the AWON Photo Albums:

Our Fathers, Portraits of Men Who Died in WWII and the Children Who Love Them

These albums, which contain photos of AWON fathers and their children, will be digitized soon. To have your father and yourself included please send an 8 x 10 photo of your loved one who died in World War II with information including his name, rank, group, and date of death. Also send a photo of yourself as a child, no larger than 5 x 7, with your name and contact information. Photos will not be returned – please do not send originals! Your participation indicates your understanding that the albums, including your photos, will be displayed at events without further notification. Send to:

Patricia Gaffney-Kindig
1675 Glen Moor Parkway
Lakewood, CO 80215
303.238.9820
pabisue@gmail.com

Deadline to submit photos is March 1

DPMO Announces 2014 Family Update Schedule

The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) has announced its family meeting schedule for 2014.

DPMO holds periodic briefings around the country for families of American servicemembers who are missing in action. The events are designed to keep family members informed of the government's worldwide mission to account for those still missing, and to discuss in detail the latest information available about their specific cases.

At the annual and monthly update meetings, speakers include senior officials, experts, and scientists. During the meetings, there are formal presentations, question and answer sessions, and one-one-one discussions between government officials and

family members. About 150 to 200 family members and 30 government officials attend each meeting.

Families must register in advance to attend a meeting so that information will be available. For more information, visit the DPMO website at: http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/family_events/.

The meeting schedule for 2014 is:

January 11
February 22
March 15
April 12
May 10
September 13

Portland, OR
Houston, TX
Charlotte, NC
Las Vegas, NV
Minneapolis, MN
Pittsburg, PA

Mom Toughened by Hardships Out West

by Robert A. Wasmer

Marjorie Viola Dorcas was born July 24, 1921, near Flaxville, Montana, to Hazel and Dwight Dorcas. Hazel was trained as a nurse in Iowa. After she and Dwight married, they moved to Montana to live with her parents near Hay Coulee. Mom's grandmother was postmistress in Hay Coulee between 1915 and 1924. Hazel and Dwight had a grocery store there for a while and Mom's father delivered the mail between Hay Coulee and Haxby. Hazel also worked as a traveling midwife for 18 months, delivering 72 babies during that time. In fact, she delivered my mom herself because the doctor did not get there in time.

When Mom was a year old, she returned with her parents and older brother, Jim, to Nevada, Iowa, where Mom's sister, Evy, was born and where Dwight deserted them. They soon returned to Hay Coulee and in 1924, the extended family moved by covered wagons from Hay Coulee to near Missoula, Montana. The wagons weren't like those that traveled the Oregon Trail years earlier, but ordinary wagons with some kind of covered top. This trip began a series of moves for Mom (by my count, at least 11) before she finished high school in Dolores, Colorado, in 1939. I believe those frequent moves helped form her character and develop a willingness to move on, or in her words at one point, to "run," after my father was killed in November 1944.

When her family first moved to Rattle-

snake Creek, near Missoula, Hazel went to work as a traveling nurse for Thornton Hospital in Missoula. She often was away from home for days at a time. For three years she paid her parents, Elmer and Etta Orr, \$20 a month to feed, house, and provide for her three children. The Orrs and the three Dorcas children moved to Florence in the Bitter Root Valley sometime after that arrangement started, and then in 1926, to Clarkston, Washington. In 1927, the Orrs and the

Dorcas children moved again, this time to Corvallis, Montana. Hazel had divorced Dwight in 1925 and on July 12, 1927, married Claude "Mickey" Fullerton. Mom used the last name of Fullerton, though never legally. By December 1928, Grandma and Grandpa Fullerton, Mom, Jim and Evy, moved to Magdalena, New Mexico.

The five of them crowded into a Model A Ford. Grandpa Fullerton had built a side box on the driver's side of the car in which they put most of their belongings. The drive to New Mexico must have been a real adventure. Mom recalled it was freezing cold. How long it took she did not recall, but remembered that they had planned to cross the Colorado River at Lee's Ferry in Arizona, but because the ferry had sunk they had to go clear down to Needles, California, to cross the river, adding extra miles to the trip. They arrived in Magdalena before Christmas 1928. Grandpa's dad lived in Magdalena at the time, and worked for the highway crew on Highway 60. Grandpa



A Ford Model A

...continued on page 16

worked on the highway also. He had graduated from the University of Montana before marrying Hazel. He was trained in forestry and wanted to be a forest ranger. In the spring of 1930 he finally found the job he wanted, working as a U.S. Forest Ranger near Monticello and then near Hot Springs, now Truth or Consequences.

Life was hard in spite of the fact that Mickey was employed as he was away much of the time, which meant many of the chores fell to Mom and Jim. Chores like cooking, ironing, gathering wood, feeding the stock, and milking the cows fell mostly to Mom and Jim because Grandma wasn't working as a nurse at that time and wasn't well. They rode their horses to school, which had only five Caucasian students. The rest were Hispanic and mostly spoke Spanish.

The Depression was growing deeper and by October 1932, the U.S. Forest Service closed the ranger stations and moved Grandpa Fullerton to an office job in Magdalena. It must have been really hard for him to think about being confined to an inside job. After entering the University of Montana, he had spent the fall and winter of one year living in isolation with his college roommate in northern Idaho where they made their living trapping and hunting. He was the closest thing to a true mountain man I ever knew. He could not face the prospect of being confined to a desk, so he resigned from the Forest Service.

A month later, Grandpa decided to move his family to Colorado. He managed to pay the back taxes on his cousin's 40-acre farm near Cortez and reclaimed it from the state. There was a peach orchard, room for stock, and a "house" in which they would live. The move again took place in the middle of win-

ter. Grandma had a miscarriage shortly before they were to leave New Mexico. Grandpa bought a truck, and piled the household goods on the back, with a space for the oldest three children to ride in back between some mattresses and dressers. By now there was another young sister who rode in the front. On top of the load, Grandpa placed two butchered sheep, frozen solid. He would carve off some mutton chops to eat on the way. I have a mental picture of this move looking somewhat like the Jodes in the 1940 movie, *The Grapes of Wrath*. Mom didn't recall how many stops they made, but did remember that the truck broke down somewhere between Gallup and Shiprock, New Mexico. They were stranded for two days while first Grandpa and then Jim made two



Marjorie and Carl Divine on their wedding day.

successive hitchhiking trips back to Gallup for the correct part to fix the truck. A traveling salesman took Grandma and the three girls to Shiprock and made arrangements to find a motel with an attached café. They had no money, but were able to obtain a room. Grandma was really ill after the miscarriage, and white from the cold. By morning, she was blue. Mom asked the maid for help and finally the proprietor let them have some breakfast and stay until Grandpa and Jim showed up. Mom was fast growing up and really was the woman of the family at that time. Her responsibilities would increase

many times over the next few years.

They finally moved to the farm on Christmas Eve 1932. It must have been a shock! The house was really just a shack - no foundation, the outside was just boards nailed to 2x4s, straight down to the ground. The inside had no walls, just building paper nailed to wall studs and papered over and over with newspapers or pages from magazines. The kitchen floor had cracks in it large enough for marbles to fall through, and once a table

knife fell through to the ground below. The floor was so uneven that larger balls would roll from one wall to the other. Even though the former tenants, a migrant worker family, had moved on, they failed to take their bed bugs. The front room was also the dining room, and the three girls slept there in a double bed. There was no running water and, of course, no indoor plumbing. Although they had an electric washing machine and an electric iron, they had no electricity. They didn't get electricity on the farm until after Mom had married and left home.

Mom remembered the next few years as being really tough. Murphy's Law seemed to be in control. One of their horses had to be put down, leaving them without a team, and the calves they bought died of scours. Money was almost nonexistent. By that first spring, Grandma Fullerton was pregnant again and spent most of the next nine months in bed. Mom said her childhood really ended that summer when she turned 12 and did most of the cooking, washing, ironing, and caring for her siblings, as well as attending school. She helped pick and can peaches and helped her dad plant seven acres of Double Red Delicious apples for a new orchard. The trees were really just little sticks then; when her folks moved to Oregon in 1946, the trees were starting to flower. She never ate a single apple from the orchard she helped plant.

After her brother, Bobby Dale, was born, Grandpa was in the Civilian Conservation Corps for a year, repairing roads and building park facilities in Mesa Verde National Park. He was rarely home. When Bobby Dale was two years old, Grandma returned to private duty nursing and was home some of the time, but earned money when she worked. Grandpa was home from the CCC by then and worked on the county road crew. Grandma worked at the hospital

in Cortez fairly regularly and was gone for longer periods of time. She also worked as a special duty nurse at the Towaoc Indian Reservation and was gone for eight months.

Grandpa went by horseback once to see her, but that was all.

Even though things were tough, Mom finally graduated from Dolores High School in 1939, the only one of her siblings to do so. She continued to live at home. There was always a big garden with picking and canning to do, so life went on much as before. She worked for two falls after graduation, sorting apples at the Neal Apple Farm. As far as I know, that was the only job she ever had outside of the home.

While working at the Neal's she met another apple sorter,

Carl A. Divine, who was originally from Monte Vista, Colorado. Carl was a distant relative of the Neal's, and was living in Cortez where he also worked at a hardware store. Carl graduated from Sargent High School north of Alamosa, Colorado, and had attended business school before holding several positions in Monte Vista prior to moving to Cortez.

They were married on October 27, 1940, in Aztec, New Mexico. They lived in Cortez until after Christmas and then moved to Monte Vista. I was born October 30, 1941, in Del Norte, Colorado. We lived in Monte Vista until spring 1943, when Carl became the manager of Gordon's Men's Clothing Store in Casper, Wyoming. He left in May and Mom and I followed in late June. We went by train to Denver and Cheyenne, then by bus from Cheyenne to Casper. We were accompanied by Carl's mother, Fern Divine, since Mom was pregnant with my brother, Jerry, who was born August 26, 1943.

Editor's Note: This article will conclude in the April 2014 issue of The Star.



Hazel, Marjorie and Robert in 1942 in Cortez, Colorado.

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Shot on location in Belgium and Luxembourg, survivors of the Battle of the Bulge return to the battlefield exactly 60 years later and reflect on Hitler's brutal, surprise attack in the winter of 1944 and 1945. We also hear from AWON member Shirley Ricker Theis, who lost her father, Homer Ricker, in a fierce firefight outside Bastogne. Shirley shares what it was like to lose her father during the war and the impact it had on her for many years.

Both documentaries are regional Emmy award winners and have been aired on PBS stations nationwide. They are \$24.95 each plus shipping at wetbirdproductions.com.

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Depth of Grief Deep for Deaths at Sea

Editor's note: This is the final installment in our series about father burials that took place on the AWON ListServ last summer. More than 30 members shared their memories or knowledge of where their fathers are buried, the details that went into the decision, and their father's final burial service. The stories of those who gave permission for publication were published. By chance, this last installment has several contributions by navy orphans. They point out how naval losses add another, or at least a different, layer to their mourning.

My dad was a Japanese POW who died in the bombing of the *Enoura Maru* hellship in Takao Harbor, Formosa. His official status is "remains not recovered." However, as I researched and found Duane Heisinger, whose father died on the same ship, I found out that the bodies were taken ashore and buried in a mass grave.

After the war the remains were disinterred and reburied in 20 graves, multiple sets of remains in each grave, at "Punchbowl" in Hawaii. At the time, DNA technology was not available to identify the remains so no families were notified. When my sister and I were growing up, my mother just said he was buried at sea.

Now, the Taiwan POW Society and the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society have applied to the Veterans Administration to put a memorial stone up at Punchbowl telling the story of the *Enoura Maru* and the men in those graves. Currently we are at an impasse; the VA will not let us use the word "hellship" in the text because they fear it would upset some of the many Japanese tourists who visit Punchbowl each year.

Nancy Kragh
Daughter of Maj. Clarence H. White
U.S. Army Medical Corps
Japanese POW

MIA 11 January 1945
aboard *Enoura Maru*,
Takao Harbor, Formosa
shot attempting escape during sinking



My beloved dad had just turned 46 on May 13, 1943 and he was killed exactly two months later on July 13, 1943. (There is) so much talk about graves and burial grounds but nothing is mentioned about all the lives lost on ships, and especially the U.S. Merchant Marine. Those men volunteered to assist the armed forces. I simply give a bouquet of flowers to be placed on the altar of our church and also next to my dad's photo.

Wilma Stover Bergeret
Dau. of Chief Steward Frederick A. Stover
U.S. Merchant Marine
MIA 13 July 1943
aboard *SS Timothy Pickering*
anchored off coast of Avola, Italy



My mother was the one who decided to have my father buried at the Luxembourg American Cemetery. He was first buried at Foy, which was the burial place for many of those who died during the Battle of the Bulge (Battle of the Ardennes).

Mother told me that my grandmother, my dad's mother, wanted my dad's body brought home because in his last few letters he sounded so homesick for the mountains of home and said that once he saw them again he thought he'd never leave. My mother was

...continued on page 22

practical and Presbyterian. She told me, years later, that her decision was based on the fact that, "He isn't really there, you know," meaning that his spirit had moved on.

My only complaint is that he was separated from his crew members and buried mostly with Patton's 3rd Army, even though he was an airman. I thought his crewmates were in the Ardennes Cemetery. On checking the American Battle Monuments Commission website I found, to my surprise, that they are buried at Henri Chapelle American Cemetery - Richard Bills and Michael McEvilly, one from Massachusetts, the other from New York City.

Ellen Jones

Daughter of Cpl. William K. Jones
642nd Bomb Sq., 409th Bomb Gp., 9th AF
KIA 23 January 1945
Luxembourg
Buried at Luxembourg American Cemetery



I don't think anyone has mentioned those fathers whose graves are beneath the sea. My father is entombed in a submarine with his 85 crewmates in the South Pacific. There was never an option of transferring his remains home. In fact, we didn't even know where he was until eight years ago.

This is the story of many navy, especially submarine, children. So what we have had to do is to keep the memories we have - or more likely given to us by our families - in our hearts. Obviously visiting a cemetery is not an option, unless you're a technical diver. Holding these feelings of love and respect in our hearts is the best we can do for our fathers.

My father died when I was two; my mother remarried when I was five. My stepfather was good to me, although he was not a warm person. My mother and I were close, and I had a vast support system of relatives on

both sides of my family. Closest to me were my paternal grandparents. The only memory I have of anyone holding my hand when I was little was my grandfather when we took walks.

There was only one father/daughter function I remember attending in high school. It was pretty awkward, as Dad was somewhat of an introvert. When we were chatting with others, someone remarked on how much we looked alike. Dad and I just looked at each other and laughed. I don't think we explained why we thought that observation was amusing. And we didn't look anything alike!

I understand why it may be more difficult for men than women to have lost their fathers. All my life I would often feel sadness about this loss, but I guess today's term is "I just sucked it up." I didn't think anyone would be interested, even if they understood, which they wouldn't. But women didn't have the same male modeling problems that guys had. We modeled on our mothers.

After my father's submarine - the *USS Lagarto* - was found, and the story was in the news nationwide, I received phone calls, emails, and letters from across the country. The majority were from sons, although a few of you daughters got in touch with me, too. Some cried on the phone, saying they had never had anyone to talk to about their feelings. I had the same reaction after my book came out (*The Lost Submarine: A True Story of Love and War*). Based on this, I think sons had a double difficulty: the wrenching feeling of missing their fathers, and some not having a proper male role model. What a load to carry as they grew up.

Nancy Kenney

Daughter of SM1 William T. Mabin
USS Lagarto
MIA 3 May 1945
Gulf of Siam



Old feelings yet still vivid and unsettling." Maggie Fenstermacher's words hit me

as so appropriate for the many times that I react deeply when something reminds me of my dad or of my mom's grief after he died. Before AWON, I believed that depth of feeling was weird and embarrassing. Now, I know that many others also feel that loss, that "punch in the guts," now and then. Most of us have learned to endure these feelings and move on, knowing that we quietly and proudly bear witness to our parents' and our own sacrifice so that freedom could continue to thrive.

Maggie Malone
Daughter of Pfc. Richard J. Malone
Co. B, 119th Infantry, 30th Division, 9th Army
KIA 24 March 1945
On the Rhine Crossing, Germany
Buried at Margraten in the Netherlands



Editor's Note

The AWON ListServ is a member benefit. The ListServ is a great way to introduce yourself, tell your story, meet other members, and contribute to discussions like this. To register, contact Judy Hoffman at jghoffman@satx.rr.com, or Judy Hathaway at judy0305@yahoo.com.

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The Reservoir of Sadness

by Roger Connor

For a very long time I have had within me what I call The Reservoir of Sadness. Most of the time this Reservoir, this lake of melancholy, is just below my awareness. Only a thin veneer separates it from the surface of my life, the part other people see. It is always there, in good times and bad, a nearly physical presence.

I have always believed - known is probably the more accurate term - that the Reservoir is somehow connected to my father. Long before AWON, long before I learned so much about his life and death, mixed up with thoughts of my father was always this quiet sadness, this yearning for something I never knew or can't remember.

Other thoughts sometimes tap into the Reservoir. All involve a scene or sound or memory that touches me: patriotic music, World War II songs, the missing man table at AWON conferences, a song that reminds me of a long-ago romance.

No matter what my mood - light, reflective, contented, whatever - if I see or hear or think of something which penetrates the thin layer, I am suddenly aware of the Reservoir. When it comes to the surface, tears sometimes come with it - warm tears, sweet and cathartic, as well as sad.

I do not understand the Reservoir but it is such a part of me that I cannot imagine being without it. I would not get rid of it if I could. We are partners, me and the Reservoir of Sadness. My father is a silent partner.

The Reservoir of Sadness - the mysterious, watchful presence that seems to link my conscious self with the tangled, turbulent, submerged part of my psyche that never rests. I sometimes wonder, is it trying to tell me something and I just don't get it? Could it be as frustrated with my dullness as I am mystified by its longevity, its persistent intrusions? I don't know the answer and I don't think I ever will. Not this side of the Great Divide, anyway.

Recent IDs come from Burma, New Guinea, Germany, Tarawa

JPAC Identifies More WWII Servicemen

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) recently announced the identification of five World War II servicemen previously missing in action.

Tech5 Oneal Rush, 24, of Galivants Ferry, South Carolina, was aboard a C-47A Skytrain aircraft in Burma with six other servicemen on an air supply mission when the airplane failed to reach its destination. Army personnel attempted to locate the wreckage but were unsuccessful.

In March 2003, Burmese officials informed the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) team of a crash site and a local villager handed over material evidence that correlated to two crew members aboard the Skytrain. JPAC investigated the site in 2004 and recovered Rush's remains, aircraft wreckage and cargo.

Rush was buried in October in his hometown with full military honors.

On March 23, 1944, Army 2nd Lt. Vernal J. Bird, 26, of Lindon, Utah, was the pilot of an A-20G Havoc aircraft on an attack mission over New Guinea when other airmen in the formation saw Bird's aircraft lag behind. Bird's aircraft did not return to base and attempts to locate the aircraft, both during and after the war, were unsuccessful.

In 2001, a JPAC team located an aircraft crash site in a remote area of Papua New Guinea. A local resident gave the team human remains and aircraft parts that correlated to Bird's aircraft. The evidence was taken to JPAC's laboratory for analysis. In 2011, JPAC relocated the crash site, which contained significant amounts of aircraft wreckage. JPAC has not yet completed a full excavation of the site.

Bird was buried with full military honors in September in Springville, Utah.

Other World War II servicemen who have been identified recently are:

- 1st Lt. Louis L. Longman, U.S. Army Air Forces, who was lost April 16, 1944, in Papua

New Guinea. He was accounted for in November and will be buried with full military honors in Clinton, Iowa this spring.

- Capt. Franklin B. Tostevin, U.S. Army, who was lost March 20, 1945, when his F-6P aircraft crashed near Eigen, Germany. He was accounted for in October and buried with full military honors in Denver, Colorado, in December.

- Pfc. Manley F. Winkley, USMC, who was lost during intense fighting during the Battle of Tarawa on November 20, 1943. His remains were recovered in 2012 during JPAC excavation operations and was buried with full military honors in Madison, Indiana, in August.

AWON Mourns Loss of Austin Amos

The Star is sad to report the passing of member Austin D. Amos Jr., who passed away September 5, 2013, in Rising Sun, Maryland, at the age of 79.



He was born February 26, 1934, in Hickory, Maryland, the son of the late Tech5 Austin D. Amos Sr. and Hazel Lloyd Amos Todd. He was former mayor and commissioner of the town of Perryville, past president of the Community Fire Company of Perryville, and was inducted into the Maryland State Firemen's Hall of Fame.

Amos is survived by his wife, Anna Lee Taylor Amos; sons, Austin Dale (Dawn) Amos and Alan (Mary) Amos; daughter, Anna Amos Williams; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Amos was preceded in death by his daughter, Amy D. Amos; sister, Virginia Beck Smith; and son-in-law, Leonard E. Williams Jr.

AWON Board Business
In-person Board Meeting
St. Louis, Missouri
19 October 2013

Financial Report: The financial report was submitted prior to the meeting by treasurer **Jerry Pinkerton**. AWON's assets were about \$78,000 at the end of September. This figure includes designated funds for the wreath program and Margraten donations. The proposed budget for 2014 was discussed. The line item for archive advocacy was increased to \$2,000 to cover **Norma Nicol Hamilton**'s attendance next year at the Society of American Archivists in Washington, D.C. A line item of \$6,000 was included for website update expenses. **Norm Burkey** reported that the AWON phone line has received no calls other than solicitations. The board approved terminating the phone line and removing the line item from the budget. **Gerry Morenski** will talk with AWON Memorial Day Wreath program director **Sharon Connor** about plans for eventual use of the wreath fund monies. Jerry Pinkerton will send a revised budget to the board prior to the next meeting. This, most likely, will be a deficit budget due to archives expense and website update line items, as well as possible reduced income due to multi-year dues payment option.

AWON Election: Ballots will be emailed and members will print them and mail them in. Those without email will receive a ballot by mail. Norm Burkey was designated Nominating Committee chair. Seats vacant for the 2014 election are **Judy Hoffman, Judy Hathaway, Bonnie Oates, Kathy Le Comte** and Jerry Pinkerton.

Board Terms: Due to the fact that it is increasingly difficult to get a commitment from anyone for a four-year board term, the board amended the AWON bylaws so that directors serve two-year terms. Due to this change, all board seats will be vacant for the 2016 election.

Website Update: A committee of **Ed Peters, Bonnie**

Oates and **Norm Burkey** will contact and work with webmaster **Rik Peirson** about website updates and design improvements. The board agreed that it wants a website redesign and update in place by May 1, 2014. The committee will report back to the board by November 15 after contacting the webmaster. The board set aside \$6,000 in the budget for website redesign.

Future Planning: The board engaged in a discussion about AWON's future needs, including the possible need to pay for managerial services that currently are not compensated. Board members currently managing some of these services will research what they would cost in the marketplace and report to the board. The board agreed to request that a roundtable discussion about AWON's future loans and needs be added to the schedule of events at the AWON National Conference in Seattle in September.

Archives Advocacy: Norma Nicol Hamilton updated the board on her membership with the Society of American Archivists and their subgroup, the Military Archive Round Table (MART). Norma has been invited to speak to the MART subgroup at the SAA conference in August in Washington, D.C.

ABMC: Gerry Morenski reported that she is consulting with the American Battle Monuments Commission on a digital video project to interview war orphans whose fathers are buried or memorialized at ABMC cemeteries. Gerry will discuss archive placement suggestions with her contacts at ABMC.

Election of Officers: The board approved Judy Hoffman as board president, Gerry Morenski as vice president, and Jerry Pinkerton as treasurer. The office of secretary will be elected at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the AWON Board of Directors is Sunday, December 8, 2013.

Judith Hoffman, Secretary

This is a condensed version of the minutes. For the complete minutes, visit awon.org.

Guidelines for Submitting Material for Publication

- Topics considered for publication in *The Star* include, but are not limited to, unit reunions, visiting battle or crash sites, cemeteries, ceremonies, seeking or finding families and veterans, poetry, etc.

- Email copy-ready articles and photos to the editor in Word, WordPerfect, RTE, formats, or in the body of an email. High resolution jpeg, bitmap, gif or tiff images are preferred. Text and photos also can be mailed. Photos returned upon request.

- Please keep text to one page (500 to 1,000 words),

- Preference is given to material written by and about AWON members.

- Authors retain copyright to published original writing. Permission to reprint should be obtained from the author by contacting the editor.

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**Deadline for the
April Issue
is March 1**

AWON Board Business 15 September 2013

Financial Report: Treasurer **Jerry Pinkerton** emailed the financial report prior to the meeting.

2014 Conference Report: **Judi Kramer** emailed the board the 2014 conference budget prior to the meeting. The conference budget was approved as submitted. Judi updated the board on conference details.

AWON Website: Website discussion was pended until the October meeting in St. Louis.

Archives Advocacy; **Norma Nicol Hamilton** updated the board on her archives advocacy activities.

October Board Meeting: The board set an agenda of topics to discuss at the in-person board meeting in St. Louis in October. Topics include future planning for AWON and its archival material, AWON election procedures, the AWON website and the 2014 budget.

AWON Business Cards: **Norm Burkey** will contact **Walt Linne** about new business cards for board members.

ABMC: **Gerry Morenski** reported on an American Battle Monuments Commission project for PBS in which some AWON members have been interviewed.

Next Board Meeting: The next regularly scheduled board meeting is scheduled for October 19 in St. Louis.

Judith Hoffman, Secretary

This is a condensed version of the minutes. For the complete minutes, visit awon.org.

Reminders!

- **Consider Running for the AWON Board or Volunteering in Another Capacity (see page 12)**
- **Plan to Attend the 2014 AWON National Conference in Seattle in September (see page 8)**
- **Contribute to the AWON ListServ (see page 23)**
- **Update Your Contact Information (see page 23)**
- **Submit an Article to *The Star* and A Father Tribute to the AWON Website**

American WWII Orphans Network

Application, Registration & Renewal Form

- ☐ I would like to become a member
☐ Register my father/family member and me only
☐ Renew my membership

Information about You

(please print clearly)

Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ (home, work, cell, other)

E-mail _____

Do you prefer to receive *The Star* electronically? Y N

(Checking Y means you will not receive a copy in the mail. You will receive an email notification to read your copy online.)

Renewing members may skip to Dues Options.

Relationship to Serviceman _____

Your Date of Birth _____

Where did you hear about AWON? _____

Information about WWII Serviceman Who Died

Be as complete as possible. If you do not have some of the information, leave it blank and we may be able to provide it to you. Do not delay mailing the application for lack of information.

Name _____
Last First M.I.

Birth Date _____

Date of Death _____

Place of Death _____

Where Buried _____

Military Unit _____

Service Number _____

Additional details about serviceman's death
and/or service: (rank, medals, etc.)

Home Town and State _____

Wife's Maiden Name _____

Did widow remarry? Yes No

Names and addresses of your siblings with same father, and/or additional family members:

(Please include information on another sheet, if necessary.)

Membership Levels

Any child of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, Coast Guard or Merchant Marine, who was killed, remains missing in action, or who died in the line of duty or later died of wounds or injuries sustained during World War II, is eligible to join as an **Orphan Member**. Any direct relative is eligible to join as a **Family Member**. Any individual, including friends of those killed in World War II, those who wish to participate in AWON activities, or organizations with an interest in and compatible with AWON's purposes and goals, are eligible to join as an **Associate Member**.

Check Your Membership Category:

☐ Orphan ☐ Family ☐ Associate

Dues Options

Basic annual membership dues are \$25. Sponsor, Gold Star and Multi-year memberships also are available:

	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
Basic	\$25	\$70	\$110
Sponsor	\$50	\$140	\$220
Gold Star	\$100	\$280	\$440

AWON greatly appreciates gifts beyond these levels.

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

AWON is a humanitarian, nonprofit, nonpolitical, public service organization under Section 501(c)3 of the U.S. Federal Tax code (EINB #91-1538912). Membership is not required to register in our database.

Mail form and check payable to AWON to:

Jerry Pinkerton
AWON Treasurer
2848 Woodside St. #401
Dallas, TX 75204

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Springfield, IL 62704-2832

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The Star

"Breaking Down the Wall of Silence"

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www.awon.org



AWON Mission

To locate and bring together sons and daughters of those who died or are missing as a result of American involvement in World War II, honor the service and sacrifice of our fathers and provide information and support to these people who were orphaned by the war.

AWON Directory

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