

# Buddy Line<sup>®</sup>



Newsletter of Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School, Key West, Florida

February 2017

## Reunion Registration Time

**FO/UWSS Reunion 2017**

**MAY 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Holiday Inn Bayside San Diego, CA**



The time has come for us to take care of details such as reunion registrations, room reservations, and travel plans. See accommodation information on page 3. Your reunion registration form is included in this issue of the Buddy Line. If you get the printed format, you can cut off the last two pages, or photocopy them. If you get the email format, print the last two pages. The reverse side of the registration form is for pre-ordering logo gear at a reduced price for delivery at the reunion. There will be some logo gear for sale at the reunion, but pre-ordering assures you get the size and color you want.

Always include both pages when you mail your registration and check even if you are not ordering logo gear. The reunion committee would like to receive completed registrations early for event planning.

Reunion check-in will be in the beautiful Harborview Room from 1500 to 1700 **Thursday, May 4th**. Preordered logo gear will be available for pickup at check in, and you can drop off memorabilia items for the auction. The Ice Breaker follows at 1700 to 2100 in

the Harborview Room. With its full length balcony and views of the harbor and boats, the Harborview room will be ours every day for our hospitality room, events, and meetings.

**Friday, May 5th** events include a visit to the Dive Center and the Shark Rider with a cookout in the afternoon. Buses will be provided for transportation to and from the day's activities. The Memorabilia Auction is in the evening. Members without military ID's who would like to drive on base can secure base access by filing a name list with security

The **Saturday, May 6th** business meeting will be followed by free time until the Banquet in the California Room

**Sunday, May 7th** the Harborview room will be available until noon for visiting and good-byes.

## Reunion Schedule

### Thursday, May 4th

**1500-1700 Sign in, get goody bags, badges – Harborview Room**

**1700-2100 Ice Breaker - Harborview Room**

### Friday, May 5th

**0900-1100 Visit to Dive Center**

**1200-1700 Cookout - Admiral Baker Park**

**1900-2100 Memorabilia Auction – Harborview Room**

### Saturday, May 6th

**0900-1100 Business Meeting – Harborview Room**

**1100-1800 Free time**

**1800-2200 Banquet - California Room**

### Sunday, May 7th

**0800-1200 – Harborview Room available**

**UWSS LOGO ITEMS**

**All prices include shipping.**

Beefy-T t-shirt.....	25.00 ea
white or ash gray, large logo back, small logo pocket	
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*	
Long sleeved t-shirt.....	28.00 ea
white or ash gray, large logo on back,	
small logo on front (no pocket)	
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*	
Polo shirt 50/50 cotton/poly.....	28.00 ea
white or ash gray, small logo on pocket.	
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*	
Pique polo all cotton.....	29.00 ea
birch gray, embroidered logo left front ,(no pocket)	
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*	
Blue denim shirt, short sleeves .....	38.00 ea
embroidered logo above pocket	
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*	
<b>*All shirts size XXL add \$2.00 ea</b>	
Cap – natural with logo .....	20.00 ea
Baseball cap – blue, embroidered logo.....	30.00 ea
<b>Cap 3.00 less if ordered with shirt</b>	
All service mug – old logo, service logos back ...	20.00 ea
Embroidered Patch .....	12.00 ea
UWSS logo decal – transparent or white .....	3.00 ea
UWSS Plaque – bright brass on blue .....	60.00 ea
UWSS commemorative coin .....	12.00 ea
enameled brass, raised design, 1 5/8 inch diameter	
UWSS all-service commemorative coin.....	15.00 ea
enameled brass, raised design, 2 inch diameter	
Bright LED pocket flashlight, shark rider logo .....	10.00 ea
Key Chain with enameled logo medallion .....	10.00 ea

**Make check to FO/UWSS**

**Send with order to Bob Shouse Jr., Treasurer**  
**274 Boca Ciega Point Blvd N.**  
**St Petersburg, FL 33708**

Questions? e-mail: [stonefish8@gmail.com](mailto:stonefish8@gmail.com)  
 or phone (561) 391-6727

*All logo items are pictured on the web site*

**Secretary/Treasurer's Report**

Membership February 2017

Members in database	271
Members in good standing	203
Account Balance November 2016	\$15,297.33
Dues	+48.97
Logo gear sales	+252.52
Logo Gear postage	-50.15
Logo Gear Purchase	-\$1,714.50
Buddy Line printing & mailing	-202.07
Account Balance February 2017	\$13,632.10

**FO/UWSS Mission**

The Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School was formed in order to keep lines of communication open between personnel of the armed forces who were staff or students at the U.S. Naval Underwater Swimmers School Key West, Florida from 1954 to 1973.

One of the most important reasons for our existence as an organized group is to plan for and participate in biannual reunions, which are held at various locations selected by members' votes.

**FO/UWSS Officers**

President..... Bob Bureker  
 Vice President..... Dave Byers  
 Secretary/Treasurer..... Bob Shouse Jr  
 The Buddy Line newsletter is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. Buddy Line editors are Don and Art Stone.

e-mail: [buddyline@uwss.org](mailto:buddyline@uwss.org) phone: (561) 391-6727  
 snail mail: 1440 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432

**WEBSITE: [www.uwss.org](http://www.uwss.org)**

**Buddy Line by email**

You may prefer receiving the email version of the Buddy Line newsletter. It is delivered to your inbox as a pdf file for Adobe Acrobat Reader.

The benefits to you are faster delivery and **color** photos (when originals are color). The benefits to the FO/UWSS are the savings on printing and postage for the Buddy Line mail out. To receive the Buddy Line by email, send your request to [buddyline@uwss.org](mailto:buddyline@uwss.org).

**Dues** (\$25.00 for 2 years) are payable in May of odd numbered years. Your paid thru date can be found on your label or in the Buddy Line delivery email. Make check to FO/UWSS and send to Bob Shouse Jr., 274 Boca Ciega Point Blvd N., St Petersburg, FL 33708.

## Reunion Accommodations

Holiday Inn Bayside in San Diego has blocked a group of rooms for the UWSS 2017 Reunion and will accept reservations at the group rate of \$129 per day until April 13, 2017. California tax brings the total room cost to \$145.90 per day. After April 13<sup>th</sup>, reservations based on availability.

The group rate is available for three days before and three days after the reunion dates of May 4-6, 2017 (based on availability) for those who want to take advantage of some of the many activities and attractions in the area. Room reservations may be made by phone or on-line.

To make room reservation by phone: Call Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside (619)224-3621 and ask for reservations (Ext: 701) or call toll free (in USA) 1 (800) 662-8899. You will need our group code "USN" and tell them you are with US Navy Underwater Swimmers Reunion.

To make room reservation on-line: Control-Click on this link [US Navy Underwater Swimmers Reunion 2017 Room Reservations](#) or copy the link to your browser. The link goes to the standard reservations page with our group code preloaded. You will enter your arrival and departure dates and click "Check Availability" to go to the group's specific rate and availability page. From there you will select a room type and input personal details to complete the reservation (scroll down to see all available room types). Guests may also use their IHG Rewards number with the group rate. If you have any questions or problems with the link, call Shannon Booth at 1-800-650-6660. Reservations may be changed or cancelled without charge up to three days before reservation date.

Holiday Inn Bayside is located across the street from a small naval installation, Point Loma Naval Base, and is within walking distance of restaurants, sport fishing and whale watching marinas.

Amenities include WiFi throughout, Business center, Fitness center, Free parking, Shuttle to airport and shopping, and Weekday Happy Hour at the Bayside Bar. The highly rated on site restaurant gives 10% discount to guests over 55.

## Memorabilia Auction

**Look over your UWSS memorabilia and bring to the reunion all you can bear to part with for a fundraising auction. Suggested are blasting crimpers, compasses, old K-Bars, UDT life vests, patches, old SCUBA regulators, face masks, depth gauges, posters, etc. You can help raise money for a good cause and take home some treasures too.**

## Checked Personal Affairs Lately?

By Jack Reider

I would like to thank all of the current and past FO/UWSS Presidents and their Board Members who have set their busy lives aside to make the FO/UWSS the outstanding organization it is today. When I receive my Buddyline News Letters. I go through them cover to cover. I especially enjoy reading the various stories of individuals that went through UWSS training and what they did in the diving community both in and out of the Navy. Keep up the good work!

I would like to share a health issue I endured this past year which put me in the hospital for over a month and a half. It is a rare non-communicable disease called Myasthenia Gravis meaning grave muscle weakness and some of the signs and symptoms look like that of a Stroke. They don't know what causes it and there is no cure for it at this time. They can only control the signs and symptoms with medication at this time. What happens is something triggers the bodies autoimmune system and it starts attacking the healthy cells in the body, this disconnects the brain from making voluntary muscle movement such as moving the arms and legs. In my case, it slurred my speech, I couldn't swallow, it shut down my breathing and then I lost control of my arms/legs and all body functions. I was a prisoner in my own body for about 3-4 days on 2 separate occasions with nothing to do but think and pray.

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## The Executive Corner

Bob Bureker, President

A late Happy New Year 2017 is in order. About this time of the year, you are still trying to remember to write 2017 on those checks. Most folks are getting numbers together for the taxman or thinking about buying TurboTax this year. Planning is always important; please take note of the coming 2017 UWSS Reunion and make your Hotel reservations early. Also submit those reservations for your attendance as soon as possible so we can plan for another great time with our formerly very wet shipmates.

As you may have noticed, we have been using MailChimp, which is a bulk email program, to send out notices to the membership. I am sad to report that most of them have been about members that have "crossed the bar". (See the poem below by Lord Alfred Tennyson)

If you have not received the bulk email notices, make sure you check your junk mail folder because many email programs recognize bulk email and will move it to the trash automatically. We sent out notices to 238 members' email addresses and had 53.9% opened (or 123 members). Actually, that is pretty good for bulk email. We need to do better and if you want to be assured that you do not miss an email notice check your junk folder as often as you can and look for mail from UWSS.ORG, MailChimp, or webmaster@uwss.org. If you find one in your junk email folder mark it as "Not Junk" with your email program and then you will be sure to see all your future email notices from UWSS.ORG.

We are all getting older and that is a good thing in my book. However, we need to know where we want to take this Organization. When the president job was handed to me by default there was little or no interest in anyone else taking on the responsibility and some question about the continuation of the FO/UWSS. There were no rules or By-Laws so I appointed two volunteers as Vice President and Treasurer. One of the main things that needs to be decided by the FULL membership is where do we go from here.

Some of you may have noticed that there is a new tab on the website for voting and I want have a vote by the full membership to see if we continue and invite all government-trained divers into the organization or if

we shut down with a "last man standing" situation. This is something that should not be decided by a few members at a Reunion. It would be totally unfair to members that have supported us for years but cannot make it to a Reunion for health or other reasons. Of course, not everyone has a good email address. However, most members get the Buddy Line so we will have a ballot with the publication for your vote. We need your input and if more information is needed, please send your questions or comments to [board@uwss.org](mailto:board@uwss.org).

Wait for more information as the ideas and comments roll in and look for a ballot soon via the Buddy Line, vote notice on the website, and by bulk mail.

Very Respectfully, Robert J. Bureker

### *Crossing the Bar by Lord Alfred Tennyson*

*Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar,  
When I put out to sea.*

*But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless  
deep  
Turns again home.*

*Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
When I embark;*

*For though from out our bourne of Time and  
Place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crossed the bar.*

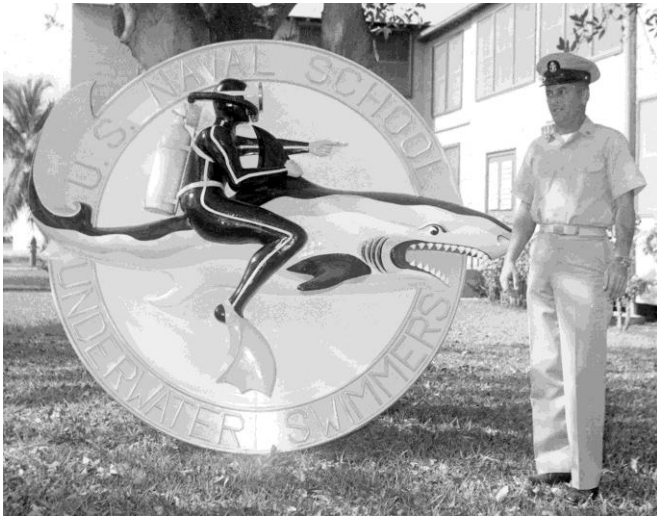
## Welcome new member

Jeffrey A. Moser Allentown, PA  
USN 72-97, Scuba Groton 74

## Morris "Lee" Barber

Husband, Father, Patriot

(Burkey), Son FO/UWSS member Lee Barber, age ninety-one, passed away peacefully on December 27, 2016 with his wife and daughter by his side. Lee was born in Columbiana County, Ohio on August 25, 1925. He enlisted in the United States Navy at the age of seventeen. During a twenty plus year career he served as a member of UDT-11, UDT-3, UDT-1, UDT-12, and eventually as a UDT instructor. He was an instructor at Underwater Swimmer School from 1958 to 1962.



Lee was awarded a Purple Heart with Valor and a Presidential Unit Citation for duties performed during the Battle of Balikpapan, Borneo during WWII. He was honorably discharged on May 20, 1964 achieving the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer. After retiring from the Navy, he embarked on a civilian career with the Department of Defense that spanned more than three decades.

He is survived by his wife of nearly fifty-two years, Jean Ann Barber, daughter Lisa Ann Dorrelrell Donny Lee Barber, son and daughter-in-law Billy D. Barber and Kimberly Estes Barber, daughter-in-law Lisa Ann Burkey (Wehnert), nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Lee was an avid golfer and enjoyed working in his yard, relaxing on his back porch, and spending time with his family. Internment will take place at Arlington National Cemetery on March 15, 2017 at 11:00 AM There will be a Chapel Service and Burial with Honors..

## Editors Corner by Don Stone

I am deeply saddened by the passing of my friend, Lee Barber. He was like a brother to me, an outstanding dive buddy, a guy you could always count on. We served together at UWSS and again at SEAL/UDT training at Coronado. He was a really good person, smart, kind, and easy going, but tough when he had to be.

A member of FO/UWSS since 2002, Lee has contributed many photos which enhance the telling of the history of the organization, both on the web site and in the archives. His fondness for UWSS shows in the selection of the photo with his obit – Lee standing beside the shark rider emblem.

Rest in peace, my friend.

### UWSS Class of '61 remembers Lee Barber

**Christian Seger:** I always was indebted to Lee for not flunking me in the ditch and don maneuver with the Scott Air Pac. I couldn't blow that damned thing clear of water without taking a large amount down my nose. After two failed attempts Lee told me to don the mask full of water, swim a complete lap around the pool underwater, and come up where he was standing on the edge. I did so and he said "you passed."

**Bruce Hulbert:** He was a great example of what a Chief Petty Officer should be.

**Robert Holmberg:** May he RIP. He was, in my limited experience, the quintessence of career Navy Chief Petty Officers.

**Peter Wells:** You're absolutely right. He was the epitome of a great Chief.

**Joe Kennedy:** Indeed CPO Barber was an outstanding Navy Chief and I had many over 31 years including 5 MCPOC's. But he was also one of the nicest men one could ever meet. I remember him well from our reunion in 09 and his son who took good care of him. He will be missed.

**Editor's Corner** continued from page 5

**From Mickey Kappes:** Don, I just got word via Rudy Enders that Capt. William Hamilton, USN (Ret.) died early this morning, 23 November at 0530 at age 89. Bill was a good friend of both Rudy and me. I first met Bill when I reported to Indian Head for EOD training where he was on staff. Later during his time with the CIA, I worked for him when he was Chief of Maritime Branch / Special Operations Division.

**CAPT William H. Hamilton, Jr**

**CAPT William H. Hamilton, Jr.** US navy (Ret.), 89, passed away on November 23, 2016 in Virginia Beach He was a native of San Diego, CA and was the son of the late Adm. William H. Hamilton, Sr. and Marjorie P. Hamilton

CAPT Hamilton was a top graduate of Greenbrier Military School and of Bullis Preparatory. He was a 1949 graduate of the US Naval Academy and was a US naval Aviator thru the Korean War. CAPT Hamilton entered UDT in California and became the Chief of UDT of the East Coast. He was then ordered to the Pentagon to organize a Special Ops group, which was named SEALS, making him the "Father of the SEALS". The CIA then recruited him for 6 years. After the CIA he returned to the Navy. His book "Night Fighter" was just released and it covers his life from Korea to SEAL Team 6.

Survivors include his wife Barbara, his children; Jean, Bill and Jan, 6 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

**Checked Personal Affairs Lately?**

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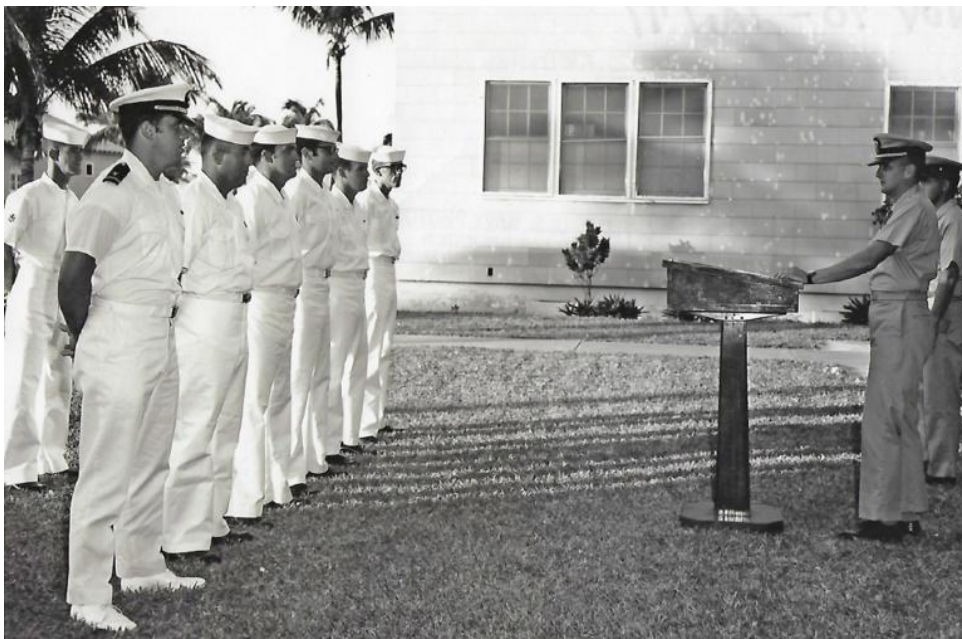
I couldn't sleep, eat or talk. It also caused 2 flatlines and a pacemaker to be implanted. This disease normally attacks men over 60 and women under 40 years of age and affects .002% of the nation's population. There is information on the Internet by Googling Myasthenia Gravis if you are interested in learning more about it.

What's more important than what I went through is what my spouse and family went through. They were at the hospital almost all the time, as I am sure that most UWSS Graduates and Divers families are when their loved one is in the hospital. The mental and physical stress I observed showed on their faces and would have made it hard to make the hard decision whether to pull the plug or not and any final arrangements that might have to be made. After my hospital stay, I checked out our personal affairs information that I thought were in order, I found many problems. We had a trust but it had not been reviewed or updated annually as recommended, I had an advanced health care directive which wasn't up to date with my current wishes for disposition of my remains and burial arrangements. My go to list, located in a safe of who to contact to close out my DFAS, VA, Social Security, other personal accounts and who gets what out of the estate. What was important here is that the spouse can open the safe in a time of mental stress to get to the important papers.

While I was in the Navy they had an annual drive to review all of our personal affairs, after I retired I sort of forgot to do it. If your personal affairs are not in order, I hope this will help, so the spouse that has to make the tuff decisons has a road map for making those decisions.

May the good Lord shine his light of Internal Peace on your journey through life, no matter which side of the grass you are on.

Photo from Jack Reider. Graduation Day January 1971 EOD Scuba Class. Front row: Wagaman, Reider, Ball, Sathe, Hughes, Kosmalski.



# Logo Gear Order (for pickup at reunion)

## Special Reduced Prices – Save Shipping Charges

White Beefy-T t-shirt – logo on pocket and back  
 Circle size: S M L XL XXL 19.00 ea \_\_\_\_\_



Ash gray Beefy-T t-shirt – logo on pocket and back  
 Circle size: S M L XL XXL 19.00 ea \_\_\_\_\_



White Beefy-T long sleeve logo t-shirt  
 Circle size: S M L XL XXL 21.00 ea \_\_\_\_\_



Ash gray Beefy-T long sleeve logo t-shirt  
 Circle size: S M L XL XXL 21.00 ea \_\_\_\_\_



White polo shirt –50/50 Cotton/Poly - logo on pocket only  
 Circle size: S M L XL XXL 22.00 ea \_\_\_\_\_



Ash polo shirt –50/50 Cotton/Poly - logo on pocket only  
 Circle size: S M L XL XXL 22.00 ea \_\_\_\_\_

Pique polo –all cotton, birch gray – embroidered logo left front (no pocket)  
 Circle size: S M L XL XXL 24.00 ea \_\_\_\_\_

Blue denim shirt, short sleeves, embroidered logo above pocket  
 Circle size: M L XL XXL 31.00 ea \_\_\_\_\_

**Add 2.00 for each size XXL shirt ordered** 2.00 ea \_\_\_\_\_

Cap – natural, printed logo 15.00 ea \_\_\_\_\_



Baseball cap –navy blue, embroidered logo 21.00 ea \_\_\_\_\_



UWSS Commemorative coin 7.00 ea \_\_\_\_\_



UWSS Commemorative all service coin 10.00 ea \_\_\_\_\_



UWSS logo decal – transparent or white 3.00 ea \_\_\_\_\_

**Total for Logo Gear** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***We will have limited logo items available for sale at the reunion.  
 Preordering will assure you get the items and sizes you want.***

### Registration Information

Name of member \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Check in date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of guest \_\_\_\_\_

# FO/UWSS Reunion 2017 Registration

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ 130.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Late registration (after April 4th) 140.00  
 Includes: Thursday Icebreaker, Friday Cookout at Admiral Baker  
 Park, Saturday Banquet and Dues for 2017-2019.

Preferred name on badge \_\_\_\_\_

Wife/Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_ 105.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Late registration (after April 4th) 115.00  
 Includes: Thursday Icebreaker, Friday Cookout at Admiral Baker  
 Park, Saturday Banquet.

Preferred name on badge \_\_\_\_\_

Total of pre-ordered logo gear from other side: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to FO/UWSS** **Check Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mail form (both sides) and checks to:**

**Bob Shouse Jr.**  
**274 Boca Ciega Point Blvd N.**  
**St. Petersburg, FL 33708**

**New Member Application**  
**Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City St Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Buddy Line Newsletter by email \_\_\_\_\_ or snail mail \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates & Class # at UWSS \_\_\_\_\_

Bring copy of class picture if you have one.      2 Year Membership of \$25.00 is included in reunion registration fee.

Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School  
 Buddy Line Newsletter  
 1440 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
 Boca Raton, FL 33432