



While no one could ever replace Nate and the tireless work he did for the Newcomb group, we have to try. One of the areas that needed to be picked up and continued was this newsletter. I volunteered at once when Nate put out the call for help. A few other Shipmate family members have volunteered to help but in reality, everyone can help through constructive feedback, relaying pertinent information, donating and assisting as contributors.

**It is important for updates, news items, and general information to keep coming in. When I first talked to Nate about taking over this newsletter, I expressed my fear that I would not have the same access to Shipmate information as he did. Nate was a nucleus of information when it came to the group. Shipmates routinely called, wrote, or emailed him updates that he could then pass on to the group through the newsletter. I hope that you all continue this through me. I would be honored to hear from any of you. Do not hesitate to call, write, or e-mail me any updates on Shipmates or their families, no matter how small you may think it is. I promise you, I will value it more than you can know.

***I also would love some feedback. I have very thick skin so do not worry about hurting my feelings. I would love to know what works for you, and what you can do without. I am very open to suggestions as to features that we can run in this newsletter or any ideas you may have to improve what I am doing.

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**It is also important to make sure that we show our appreciation by giving to the Newsletter Fund. Any bit helps. It can be expensive to put out a newsletter. From postage to copy fees it adds up quickly. Without your donations to the newsletter, there cannot be a newsletter as I do not have the means to cover any large overages. I have set up a separate account for the Newcomb Newsletter. I will share the transactions of that account with anyone who requests it.

***With that said, I want to move on to some of the ideas I have for the newsletter and explain some of what I want to do. As I stated before, I will not have the huge amounts of shipmate news that Nate did. I know this is a reality that cannot be avoided. I also know that another reality is that Shipmate numbers are decreasing, leaving family and friends to carry on the memory and traditions of the 586 as well as its legacy. For that reason, I want to start gearing the newsletter toward the families of the shipmates. While I will still be putting every morsel of information about shipmates in here that I can find, I am also hoping to attract younger generations to the story of the Newcomb and to the group. I talked to Nate about this and we both dreamed of reunions still meeting long after the last shipmate passes. Hopefully that dream will be realized.

***To that end you will be seeing more feature based items in here. I will invite anyone who wants to contribute a guest article or comment. I will be including information from the latest scams to watch out for to reunions or organization activities that may interest you. There will be veteran news, stories about resources on the web, and even a place for you to brag on your grandkids (a right and a duty). You will get the idea as we go.

***I hope that you enjoy some of the new features. I am like you, while I do not like change, especially when something works, I know it is inevitable. Hopefully we can make the best of this change. Thanks for letting me be such an important part of your family. I am forever grateful.

-Jason LaValle