



Center House Association

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31 January 2020

From: President and Chairman of the Board of Directors
To: Center House Association (CHA) Members and Prospective Members
Subject: 2019 Annual Report

Greetings, as we lean forward into a bright new decade for Center House Association! We plan to continue building on our past membership recruiting successes as we link the current generation of Marine Barracks, Washington D.C. Officers and their predecessors; we will use our familiar tools of camaraderie-promoting social events and projects to preserve the history of the Barracks for the enjoyment of all.

During 2019, we were pleased to sponsor a luncheon to commemorate the Barracks' 218th birthday on 3 April (Guest Speaker: LtGen James B. Laster, USMC (Ret)), and a Post-Parade Season BBQ on 19 October. Both events successfully connected current and former Barracks Officers and General Officer Residents in the furtherance of "camaraderie-building exercises".

CHA also served the interests of the Barracks and the CHA membership in 2019 by conducting the following projects/events:

- Replaced 3 worn and battered end tables in Center House with sturdier, historically appropriate end tables
- Obtained, through the permission of the Barracks Commanding Officer, Evening Parade seats for 6 CHA members and their guests
- Redesigned the CHA logo for use in a wider variety of applications -- including for use in CHA's new letterhead, above
- Continued enhancing the CHA website with information of interest to our membership. Examples include:
 - MBW Command Brief (2019) and Motivational Video
 - Sea Stories from our membership (12)
 - An updated roster of all Officers who have served and lived at Marine Barracks Washington since 1801
 - A (draft) listing of Barracks Residents since 1801 who have lived in all Quarters, including Center House (Quarters 5). *This listing is still under development, and any input you may have is welcomed.*

CHA membership continued to grow in 2019; an 8% growth in membership led to a total membership of 224 members as of 31 December. Of those, 32 are 10-Year members, 20 are Lifetime and Honorary Lifetime members, and 50 are currently-serving Barracks Officers and General Officer Residents. Our goal in 2020 is to find and contact all former Barracks Officers and General Officer Residents who have served since 1950 to ensure they know that CHA exists and are given the opportunity to come aboard, and we would very much appreciate your help!

Perpetuating the traditions and privileges of the Center House Officers' Mess

We ask that you look through your address book for names/contact information of any fellow MBW Officers/ General Officer Residents, and:

- Contact them to find out if they are already a CHA member. If they are not, direct them to the home page of the CHA website (www.centerhouse.org) to click the "Join" button
- **OR**, send CHA the name/contact information you have, and we will be glad to contact them if they are not already a CHA member
- Finally, if you know of any former Barracks Officer/Resident who is deceased, please do let us know

In the November/December, in accordance with the CHA Bylaws, CHA members elected the next Board of Directors to serve during the 2020-2022 term. We are pleased to again draw your attention to your duly elected Board of Directors, with thanks to all who participated in the election effort:

LtGen Ron Christmas, USMC (Ret)
Maj Donna Gerlaugh, USMC (Ret)
LtCol Greg Jones, USMCR
LtCol Peter McCarthy, USMC (Ret)
Col Mike McGowan, USMC (Ret)
Mr. Bob Murtha
Col Dan O'Brien, USMC (Ret)
Gen John M. Paxton, USMC (Ret)
BGen Dave Reist, USMC (Ret)

We are also proud to present CHA's duly appointed Advisory Board Members, effective 1 January 2020:

Mr. Jim Barry
Col Ernie Beall, USMC (Ret)
LtCol Dave Bethel, USMC (Ret)
LtCol Larry Ezell, USMC (Ret)
LtCol Harry Gardner, USMC (Ret)
LtCol Glenn Gearhard, USMC (Ret)
LtCol Dennis Guzik, USMC (Ret)
Dr. Gene "Keith" Huddleston
LtCol Matt McKinney, USMC
LtCol William "Dave" McSorley, USMC (Ret)
Col Paul Montanus, USMC (Ret)
Col Charles Pangburn, USMCR (Ret)
Mr. Steven Reinemund

Additionally, there is good news in our 2019 financials, which show a continuously growing, robust organization. We ended the year with positive revenue of more than \$9,000, as shown in [CHA's 2019 End of Year Financial Report](#). Because we've kept our expenses as low as possible, CHA dues have remained the same (yearly/annual dues are \$35, 10-year dues are \$350, and lifetime membership is \$750). **We ask that you help us manage expenses by ensuring that CHA e-mails don't end up in your Spam/Junk folder. We have discovered that many e-mail systems consider CHA e-mails "Spam" or "Junk" because CHA e-mails are sent to a large number of e-mail addresses, which can look to an e-mail system like they came from a spammer. Don't miss information of interest/importance to you – please check your Spam/Junk folder and identify any e-mails you find from cha@centerhouse.org as being "Safe/Allowed" to your e-mail system. CHA only sends approximately six e-mails per year and never sells or shares e-mail addresses under its control.**

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The use of e-mail over "snail mail" for CHA communications adds up to significant savings for our membership – it's a fast, efficient, low-cost way to "spread the word"!

Finally, to continue CHA's recent robust momentum and growth, I personally request that you continue to maintain your dues payments and continue to join us at the great activities we offer our members. **If you live outside of the Washington, D.C. area and are not able to travel to the Barracks for MBW/CHA events, your dues help CHA sponsor a currently-serving Barracks Officer at our camaraderie-building events. Because CHA is an IRS Code 501(c)(19) Veteran's Organization, CHA dues and any additional contributions are tax-deductible**, subject to your particular tax situation. Signup and dues payment are easy – we believe the CHA website makes it easy to join or renew, but if you have any questions at all, just contact us using any of the contact information contained in our letterhead. We welcome your inquiries and stand by to assist.

As a reminder, benefits of CHA membership include:

- Invitation to at least two yearly social events: MBW Birthday Luncheon and Post-Parade Season Social/BBQ
- Invitation to CHA-sponsored PME sessions, featuring distinguished guest speakers and Center House Ale (no cost)
- Opportunity to obtain prime Friday Evening Parade tickets in 1 or 2 South (no cost)
- Avenue to enhance Center House/Barracks via gifts coordinated with the desires of the Barracks Commanding Officer
- Invitation to CHA Board of Directors' meetings held at Center House approximately quarterly (no cost)

As always, thank you very much for your continuing interest in, and support of, Center House Association, and I hope to see you at our upcoming events in the very near future!

Sincerely,



Ron Christmas
LtGen, USMC (Ret)
President and Chairman
Center House Association

Encl: 2019 End-of-Year Financial Report

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