



THE CUSHING ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 27 September 2026

Members in Attendance: Shannon V. Mickens, Gene Lavastida, Zach Trueblood, Jon Moulton, Cat Bartrug

Members Absent: Amy Laetzsch

1. Reunion Planning - Gene Lavastida

- Gene provided an update on his ongoing research for the Nashville reunion.
- He met with one of the potential vendors and believes this vendor may be a strong primary option for hosting the reunion.
- The vendor appears to have sufficient space to support all reunion activities.
- Gene will follow up with the vendor to discuss menu options, food service styles, bar service and drink options, and additional venue requirements.
- The board recommended that Gene also identify a backup vendor in case negotiations with the primary vendor do not progress as expected.
- The board expressed appreciation for Gene's continued efforts and time invested in the planning process.
- Gene will provide an update at the next meeting regarding coordination with the primary vendor and research and communication with a secondary vendor.
- Gene also noted that there are numerous hotels located near the potential reunion venue area.

2. Reunion Merchandise - Jon Moulton

- Jon discussed vendor options for reunion merchandise, including hats, shirts, and hoodies.
- He recommends continuing with the current vendor for hats and switching to a different vendor for shirts and hoodies.
- Jon is developing multiple shirt designs and color-coding options specifically for the reunion.
- He plans to create a social media post outlining the merchandise process, directing members to the USS Cushing website for purchasing.
- The board approved Jon to move forward with vendor coordination, merchandise structuring, and preparing items for advertisement.
- Jon provided preliminary pricing recommendations, but pricing will not be published until the cost analysis is complete.
- Shannon raised concerns about potential logo legal issues, including trademark and federal protections.
- Other board members agreed and will follow up on legal guidance if needed.
- The board formally approved Jon to continue all reunion merchandise efforts.

3. Financial Discussion - Cat Bartrug

- Cat reported no major updates since the previous meeting.
- She confirmed that financial conditions remain unchanged.
- Cat will coordinate with Shannon to finalize the setup of the Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU) account in Washington State.
- Shannon will provide the required information to be added as a signer on the account.

4. Review, Discuss, and Vote on Documentation - Zach & Cat

- Zach is continuing work on the redline version of the bylaws.
- The updated bylaws are expected to be ready for board review at the next meeting.
- Cat will also provide a redline version of the reimbursement form for board review at the next meeting.

5. Round Table Discussion

- Shannon plans to send an appreciation letter to SECNAV for considering the USS Cushing Association's proposal to name the sixth Navy vessel after William B. Cushing.

6. Next Meeting

- Date: October 25, 2026
Time: 6:00 PM Central Time
- Minutes prepared by: Shannon V. Mickens • Date: September 27, 2026



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