

55th Reunion Dinner Gala Aboard the Midway Museum

Status:

- Midway is Booked
- We have exclusive access to the boat
- Substantially discounted Cost
- Lesson going forward

Current Planning Focus: Determine Gala Format

Basic Concept:

- Flight Deck: Pre-Event/No-Host Cocktail Party
- Hanger Bay: Dinner

Planning Factors:

- Number of attendees
- Cost
- Maximize opportunity to mix ... or not

Flight Deck Reception:

- Commence at Sunset
- Duration one hour
- City & Harbor Views
- Beer, Wine and tray passed Hors d'oeuvres
- Tall cocktail tables with a fractional number of folding chairs.
- Number of Bars TBD. Midway recommends one bar per 100 people.
- There are various lighting options to consider ... each with associated costs.
- Total cost TBD

Hanger Bay Dinner Options:

Platted Dinner:

- Most formal, most comfortable & safest.
 - Best suited for an emcee lead program.
 - Best suited for entertainment.
 - Best suited for those requiring special meals.
 - Least suited for mixing ... meeting & greeting.
 - Estimated cost \$80+ gratuity (\$2-\$3 per person)
- (This cost includes Hor d'oeuvres for the flight deck)

Buffet Dinner:

- Has many of the features of the "Platted Dinner, e.g., comfort, safety and conducive to entertainment and an emceed program.
- Multiple buffet tables would be set up to minimize wait time in line.

- May not have an opportunity for “special meals”.
- Little improvement, if any, in ability to mix.
- Significantly lower cost for comparable meal, i.e., \$65 per, plus gratuity. (This cost includes Hor d’oeuvres on the flight deck.)

Food Stations:

- Maximizes opportunity for mixing.
- Opportunity for up to four separate entrée stations, plus one desert station that would force folks to move about to be fed.
- Tables would be identified by battalion or company tags to provide gathering points.
- Format would be more challenging for those with mobility problems or those just feeling their age.
- May not provide an opportunity for “special meals”.
- Least suited for an emceed program or entertainment.
- Best suited for a “themed dinner “. For example, a “Ports of Call” theme could have stations representing entrees from the various Pacific ports visited while on deployment.
- Cost equivalent to the “Platted Dinner”.

Miscellaneous:

Attire

- Steel decks and trip hazards for high heels suggest causal footwear
- “Ports of Call” theme would suggest “California Casual”.

Embellishments:

- Ship’s Store (No cost)
- Midway Theater (May be a good option if we select food stations. but there is a cost)
- Flight simulators (A distraction and there is a cost)
- Docent tours (A distraction & a cost)
- Entertainment
 - Music (Makes it harder to converse)
 - USO style show. (Short duration show may fit with a platted or buffet dinner. Not so much for a mixer.)

Cost Target:

- 2011 Mid Term cost aboard the Berkeley was \$100
- 2013 50th in Annapolis was \$100, but was subsidized by other reunion fees (\$10). Alumni Hall was rent-free.
- **2018 ceiling recommended at \$125**

Liability Insurance?