



# USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee Newsletter #1 — October 2014

This issue marks the inaugural newsletter of the USS Colorado (SSN 778) Commissioning Committee. It is our intention to send these newsletters out about quarterly to provide interested individuals with an update on our activities and news of the boat and its crew.

## Committee Purpose

The Commissioning Committee's purpose is to:

- Raise awareness within the state about the construction and commissioning. Create enthusiasm and support.
- Promote relations between the state and the ship's crew. Initiate a long-term relationship.
- Coordinate activities surrounding the commissioning.
- Raise funds and finance appropriate events and activities associated with these objectives.

Our goal is to raise in excess of \$250,000 to support the events of Commissioning Week.

## 501(C)(3) Status Achieved

The Committee has been active for over a year. Our initial actions were establishing a liaison with the state and getting approval as a 501(C)(3) organization. We have obtained that designation as part of the Navy League of the United States which takes a prominent role in the commissioning's of all Navy ships.

## USS Colorado License Plate

The past several months have seen momentum growing for the Committee. In June, Governor Hickenlooper signed into law the **USS Colorado License Plate** Bill sponsored by Senator Bernie Herpin of Colorado Springs, a former submariner. The license plate should be available for sale after the first of the year. CDR Ken Franklin, Prospective Commanding Officer, visited Denver to attend this ceremony as well as address the Submarine Veterans Submarine Birthday Banquet and attend the annual Grayling Memorial Ceremony at Sloan's Lake.

## Erie Air Fair

In August the Committee sponsored a booth at the Erie Air Fair which was attended by about 3500 persons. Many participants visited the booth and expressed interest in learning more about USS Colorado. This was the Committee's first public event. The Committee now has brochures and a video available on our website, [usscoloradocommittee.org](http://usscoloradocommittee.org).

## Construction Status

Meanwhile back on the East coast, construction continues on the boat. NAVSEA reports that construction is nearly 60% complete. The initial increments of the crew have reported with about 60 onboard as of now.

## Ship's Crest Design Contest

The Committee is about to kick off a contest within the state for the design of the ship's crest. This will be a two-tiered contest with a Senior and a Junior division. The Commanding Officer will select the winning entry from each division. The contest will be open until February 3. **For more details see the information on our web site.**

## Fundraising

Now that the Committee has obtained our 501(C)(3) status, we are ready to commence the fundraising phase. To learn more about USS Colorado (SSN 788), the Committee's activities and how you can contribute to Commissioning, **visit our website [usscoloradocommittee.org](http://usscoloradocommittee.org) and like [USS Colorado \(SSN 788\)](#) on Facebook!**

