



THE HELMSMAN

Publication of the Broward County Council–Navy League of the United States

Glenn Wiltshire, President
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

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INSTALLATION

Broward County Council

will host the

Installation of Officers for 2016

aboard the Regal Princess

Port Everglades, Florida

on Sunday, January 10, 2016

at 11:30 AM
(boarding at 10:30 AM)

Guest Speaker: To Be Announced

The 2016 officers are:

President - Glenn Wiltshire
First Vice President - Erwin Sefton
Second Vice President - Marianne Giambrone
VP Legislative Affairs - Robert "Bob" Marks
Secretary - Shelley Beck
Treasurer: Thomas "Tom" Carney



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HOLIDAY PARTY

On December 4, the Council hosted our annual Coast Guard Holiday Party at Briny's Irish Pub.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we reach the end of 2015, I hope everyone had a great Holiday. December was a busy month for the Council, starting with us hosting our annual Coast Guard Unit Holiday Party at Briny's on Friday, December 4th. Both the Fort Lauderdale Council and Broward Navy Days co-sponsored the event with us, and we had a good turnout of Coast Guard men and women and their guests from all of the local units and members who enjoyed the evening. Our Council also represented the Navy League at Broward Navy Days annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony on Sunday, December 6th at the Coast Guard Station. Lynn Drucker, the Navy League South Florida Area President (and previous president of the Fort Lauderdale Council), joined us at our monthly Board meeting on December 7th to fill us in on the National Board of Directors meeting held the previous week. It was great to hear that the financial situation had stabilized. Lynn also gave us a preview of the changes to the dues structure that will go into effect in Spring 2016, reducing the number of dues categories, reducing the annual membership to \$55 (it was increased to \$65 two years ago), and creating a new eMembership category for \$25 annually that will not include receiving a paper copy of the Sea Power magazine (it's already available on-line to the public at no cost); this is something that our Board member Bob Marks has been suggesting for years as a way to increase membership. Our December dinner meeting was held jointly with the Fort Lauderdale Council on December 16th at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club. LT Mark Ketchum, Commanding Officer of our soon to be officially adopted unit Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale, spoke about the many missions of the Station and the numerous assignments during his Coast Guard career. The Fort Lauderdale Council also held their annual election of officers, and we extended our congratulations to new Fort Lauderdale Council President Oscar Romano and his officers and Board. Our Council also sponsored a number of wreaths that were laid on the grave sites of deceased veterans at the Pompano Beach Cemetery as part of the Wreaths Across America event on December 12th, and I once again collected stocking stuffer toys from local Dollar Tree stores on behalf of Operation Homefront and distributed toys to all of the local Coast Guard units and at Base Miami Beach and Naval Recruiting District Miami, and the Kiwanis Club of Miramar/Pembroke Pines distributed to NOSC Miami.

In January, we will be holding our Installation of Officers Luncheon aboard the REGAL PRINCESS on Sunday, January 10th. As noted last month, our current officers and Board will be returning for another year. Our thanks to Princess Cruises for once again donating the lunch, which allows us to use the proceeds from the luncheon to support our adopted units and youth programs. Please do plan on joining us to enjoy a great lunch aboard the newest ship in the Princess fleet!

January also brings the start of planning meetings for Fleet Week 2016, with four US Navy ship and one or two Coast Guard cutters expected to participate from May 2-May 9, 2016. The "fleet" will be led by our own adopted unit the USS BATAAN, which we haven't seen in Port Everglades in many years. Once again, our Council members will be filling key leadership roles on the Broward Navy Days planning team. Come on out to the planning meetings scheduled for January 13th, February 24th, and March 23rd at 9 AM in the Port Everglades Administration Building Auditorium if you want to be involved as well. Our Council will also be selling soda and water during Fleet Week and we'll need to identify volunteers to help with that as the date gets closer.

We also hope to schedule adoption ceremonies for Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale, Aids to Navigation Team Fort Lauderdale, and Coast Guard Tactical Law Enforcement Team South in Opa Locka in January, and will send out separate notices to let you know when those are confirmed.

I wish all of our members and their families a safe and prosperous New Year! As always, please feel free to contact me at 718-619-7402 or at wiltbrit@aol.com if you have any ideas on what our Council should be doing to make your membership more valuable to you.

Glenn Wiltshire
CAPT, US Coast Guard Retired
Broward County Council President



PEARL HARBOR DAY

On December 6, Broward Navy Days held its annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. One Pearl Harbor survivor was on hand for the event - CPO Ed Hammond who was only 17 years old on the day of the attack. He is shown below with Board member Erwin Sefton.



Below: Guest speaker Capt. Mark Fedor, Coast Guard 7th District Chief of Response with Lt Mark Ketchum, CO, Station Fort Lauderdale



Spruance Division Sea Cadets



HOLIDAY PARTY

The Fort Lauderdale Council and Broward Navy Days co-sponsored the annual Coast Guard Holiday Party with our Council. It was a fun evening with a great turnout of Coast Guard personnel and their guests from all of the local units. Navy League and Broward Navy Days members were on hand to spread holiday cheer and thank these fine military personnel who help keep South Florida safe.



DECEMBER DINNER SOCIAL

On December 16, the Council held a joint dinner social with the Fort Lauderdale Council at Coral Ridge Yacht Club. The Spruance Division Sea Cadets presented the colors. LT Mark Ketchum, Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale, was the guest speaker. LT Ketchum gave a very interesting talk about the various assignments he has had during his Coast Guard career. He also spoke about the many missions of the Coast Guard and of his Station in particular. Those in attendance did their part in ensuring that there would be toys for many needy children by donating to the Toys For Tots program.

Guest speaker LT Mark Ketchum with Council President Glenn Wiltshire



HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

Council members including President Glenn Wiltshire again participated in the Operation Homefront/ Dollar Tree Stores Holiday Toy Drive this year. From November 1 through December 3, generous shoppers at Dollar Tree Stores across Broward and Miami Dade counties donated toys for military personnel. Council members picked up the toys from Dollar Tree Stores and delivered them to Coast Guard Air Station Miami, TACLET, Coast Guard Base Miami Beach, Navy Recruiting District Miami and the Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale including the USCGC Gannet and the ANT unit. GANNET and ANT). The Kiwanis Club of Miramar/Pembroke Pines also collected toys and delivered them to the Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) unit in Hialeah.



USS BATAAN

Crew of our adopted ship, the USS Bataan, got into the holiday spirit (Facebook photo)



USS LEYTE GULF

The Leyte Gulf, our adopted ship, has selected their sailors of the year. The Council honored each of these outstanding sailors with a certificate of accomplishment and a monetary award.

Senior Sailor of the Year (top photo)
CMT1(SW/SS) Nathan Czuhajewski

Junior Sailor of the Year (middle photo)
STG1(SW) Nicholas Cederblom

Blue Jacket of the Year (bottom photo)
SH3(SW) Dree Dixon



SHOEBOX CHRISTMAS

Council members volunteered their time to assist Seafarers' House with their annual Shoebox Christmas program. Over 100 volunteers spent time wrapping and filling the shoeboxes as well as delivering them to visiting cargo ships. Board member Joe Giambrone coordinated the scheduling of volunteers to deliver the wrapped, filled shoeboxes to visiting mariners. Approximately 88 ships were visited this year with crew members from all over the world including countries such as Russia, Honduras, Italy, Ukraine, and Turkey. In 2014, over 330 volunteer hours were spent on this program.



Preparations began early, Board member Marianne Giambrone picked up empty shoeboxes from Off Broadway Shoes in Sawgrass Mills starting the end of August.

Volunteers including Board member Larry Ott (top) and Elaine Hogg (Fort Lauderdale Council) delivered wrapped, filled boxes to cargo ships.



MEETING DATES

The Council Board of Directors has approved the dates of the 2016 Board meetings. Any Council member interested in getting more involved is welcome to attend any board meeting. The meetings are held at the Port Everglades Administration Building starting at 6:30 PM.

The dates are:

January 4
February 1
March 7
April 4
April 25
June 6
August 29
October 10
November 7
December 5

The dates for dinner socials and events are:

January 10—installation of officers
February 11—dinner social
March 10—dinner social
March 19—Coast Guard Easter Egg Hunt & BBQ
April 14—dinner social
May 2—9—Fleet Week
May 12—dinner social
June 9—dinner social
September 14—joint event with Fort Lauderdale Council to honor the Sea Cadets
Oktoberfest—date to be determined
November 10—dinner social
December 8—dinner social

These event dates are subject to change and Council members should check our website, Facebook page or newsletter to confirm the event.



NAVY LEAGUE NEWS

The Navy League held a National Directors meeting on December 3-5. The following summary of that meeting was provided by John Vargo, the Florida Region President. Thanks to Lynn Drucker, South Florida Area President, for providing this and other information to the Council's Board of Directors.

The 2016 budget and finances were presented and approved. The financial situation is as strong as it has been in recent years, largely due to the hard work that went into refinancing the building. We now have some operating Capital to pay down the LOC and perhaps increase the staff to relieve them of the multi-tasking and long hours. They truly are a wonderful group who are totally dedicated to the Mission. The 2016 budget is a balanced budget. If executed, it will be the first balanced budget since 2000. The budget is built on reality and not optimistic projections but the one glaring feature is membership. We need to show growth.

The new Membership categories have been revised and now there are two categories for Individual members. There is an eMembership for \$25/year and regular membership for \$55/year with savings for multi year applications. The major difference is whether the member desires a printed copy of Sea Power magazine. It will be available online for those who want to read it. I anticipate these membership categories to be available in February. We need to push membership for 2016 and I would love to head into the National Convention with positive results and actual metrics.

The Capital Hill fly in was very, very successful. Sitting with the Congress and staff was such a wonderful experience and I highly recommend more participation from Florida National Directors in future years. Dave Sullivan did a great job coordinating with the National Staff to ensure we were very efficient and we ended up meeting 8 different Congressional staffs during the day. One takeaway I observed was that the members of Congress and staff WANT to be involved with the local Councils so I encourage you to reach out to the staff and coordinate events with their visits to Florida. Every single member wanted to be invited to events when they are present in Florida.

The Annual report (required to be submitted by each Council) will be online this year. The beta testing is wrapping up and will be available for online entry making it much easier in future years. The data will be collected and inserted in the new database which can be used for other items. I encourage everyone to start getting a committee together to tackle this report sooner rather than later.

The 2016 National Convention is in June in Charleston. I highly encourage members of each Council to attend. The 2017 Convention will be held in Milwaukee and 2018 is in Portland.

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

Are you looking for a way to advertise your business at a reasonable cost? Business card ads are available at a cost of \$125. The ad will appear in The Helmsman for one year (ten editions). If you would like to advertise your business or organization and provide financial support to the Council at the same time, contact Joe Giambrone at giambronejm@gmail.com or 954-389-0545.

Larry M. Ott
Funeral Director

**Kraeer-Fairchild
Funeral Home
and Cremation Center**
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LOCAL DUES

The Council depends on its membership to support our events. We also depend and appreciate those members who pay local dues. As most of you know, it is mandatory for an individual to pay dues to the Navy League of the United States in order to become a member of the organization. Many Councils, like ours, also have local dues which are optional. These funds go directly into the Council's budget so that we can continue to provide support to our local Sea Service units, our adopted units, a Sea Cadet unit, several JROTC units as well as other Sea Service related organizations. Just in this edition of the newsletter, you read about the Coast Guard holiday party, recognition of the sailors of the year from the USS Leyte Gulf and the donation to Wreaths Across America. Please consider paying local dues or making a donation to the Council so we can continue our efforts in 2016. Dues are \$35 for individuals and \$65 for husband/wife members. Make your check payable to BCNL and mail it to Broward County Navy League, P O Box 39252, Fort Lauderdale FL 33339-9252. Please be sure to indicate "local dues" or "donation" on your check.

SEA SERVICE NEWS



The Navy is in a race against the clock to keep enough fighter jets in the air to support deployments and train troops at home, forcing expensive and time-consuming maintenance that will continue

into 2016. With F/A-18C Hornets staying online years past their originally planned sundown, and F/A-18E-F Super Hornets rapidly approaching their 6,000 flight-hour limits, aviation leadership is working to keep the aging airframes in service while it waits for reinforcements in the form of the F-35C Lightning II. The Navy will be ready to deploy with joint strike fighters by 2018, according to the most recent calculations, but that is several years behind original plans. To make up for the lost time, the Navy has been burning through the 6,000-hour airframe lives of its Hornets and Super Hornets, pushing their use into the 2020s for the Hornets and perhaps as far as 2040 for the Super Hornets.



On December 20, Master Sgt. Eden Pearl, the Marine known as the most severely wounded military veteran to have fought in Afghanistan and survived, died peacefully in his sleep

after battling his injuries for six years. Pearl's resilience and fearlessness made him a prominent figure in the Marine and military community, and his passing was met with widespread grief. Pearl was among the first Marines to invade Iraq in 2004, and he was one of the first to join Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC) in 2006. Thanks to his bright red beard, muscles and intimidating tattoos, he was called a "Viking warrior" during his service. The Marine was injured when his team hit a roadside bomb in 2009. More than 90% of Pearl's body was damaged by burns, and he suffered a traumatic brain injury. With his wife and children at his side, Pearl underwent numerous surgeries and skin grafts over the next six years. It was with his family that Eden Pearl's suffering finally ended.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Amber Archer, a boatswain's mate from Coast Guard Station Tillamook Bay, Oregon, became the 7th female surfman in the Coast Guard. The surfman designation is the highest qualification a coxswain can achieve. As a surfman, Archer will operate in up to 30-foot seas, 20-foot breaking waves and winds of 50 mph.



On December 23, the Coast Guard accepted delivery of the 16th fast response cutter, the Coast Guard Cutter Winslow Griesser, in Key West. The cutter's commissioning is scheduled for

March 2016 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where the ship will be stationed. The cutter is named after Winslow Griesser, a keeper of the Buffalo, New York, lifesaving station who was awarded the Gold Lifesaving Medal for his heroic actions to rescue the crewmembers of two large boats that had broken loose from their moorings in 1900.



For the first time since its creation in 1957, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea's (CNFK) headquarters is no longer on a U.S. base. After the shift to Busan in July of 2015, it be-

came the only U.S. headquarters in Korea located on a Republic of Korea (ROK) base. More than 50 Navy Sailors, civilians and family members call Busan home, and after more than five years of planning and a year of construction, CNFK's official headquarters building is expected to be complete in early 2016. CNFK is the regional commander for the U.S. Navy in the Republic of Korea and provides expertise on naval matters to area military commanders, including the commander for the United Nations Command, the Combined Forces Command, and Commander, U.S. Forces Korea.

DECEMBER EVENTS



Board Member Shelley Beck and Broward Navy Days Executive Director Mary Anne Gray at Coast Guard Holiday Party



Ron Perkins, Chaplain at Seafarers' House, and Board Member Alan Starr

BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA COUNCIL, INC.
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