

THE HELMSMAN

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



Larry Ott, President
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

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www.bcnavyleague.org

browardnavyleague@gmail.com

SEA CADET NIGHT

Broward County and Fort Lauderdale Councils

Invite you to join us at

SEA CADET NIGHT

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Coral Ridge Yacht Club
2800 Yacht Club Blvd
Fort Lauderdale

6:00–7:00 PM Cash Bar
7:00 PM–Dinner and Meeting

\$40 per person
Checks should be made payable to
Fort Lauderdale Council NLUS

Please phone your RSVP to 954-522-8995
no later than 9AM on Monday, September 16

Admittance by reservation only



JUNE DINNER SOCIAL

On June 13, the Council hosted its dinner meeting at Tropical Acres Restaurant. The guest speaker was Captain Todd Cooper, Co-Managing Pilot of the Port Everglades Pilots' Association. Todd has spent many years on the seas, both as a civilian and a Navy reservist, and shared some interesting stories. Council President Larry Ott made presentation to Captain Cooper



Mark Lemay recently joined the Council and has agreed to serve on the Board of Directors. Welcome!



Photos provided by Charlie Schmidt

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Although the council has been on a summer vacation (no meetings), we have been quite active with several events. There have been changes of commands, ship adoptions, National Convention, a ship commissioning, and we have added some new members.

Beginning with the change of command at Coast Guard Seventh District. Rear Admiral Peter Brown was transferred to the Washington DC area and his replacement is Rear Admiral Eric C. Jones. Captain Michael E. Platt left command of US Coast Guard Air Station Miami with Captain Shawn S. Koch taking over the leadership. The third change of command saw BMCS Dax N. Burgrabe being relieved by BMC Raymond K. Coleman at the Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. We will miss our friends who are leaving but look forward to working with the new leaders.

Two ship adoptions include the USCGC Manatee at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale and the USS Paul Ignatius. The Manatee makes the fifth Coast Guard Cutter we have adopted. No sooner than the Paul Ignatius was adopted than moments later we adopted the ship. The Paul Ignatius is the third Navy ship adopted by the council.

The Commissioning of the USS Paul Ignatius was the culmination of months of planning. It was an honor for all of us to have former Secretary of the Navy, Paul Ignatius, present for the commissioning as well as many of his family. Hats off to the capable leadership of Mary Anne Gray and the resources and dedication of the commissioning committee for this splendid event. Best wishes to Commander Robby Trotter and the officers and crew.

What an honor for our council to receive five awards at the National Convention this summer. Only one other council in the US received all five as well. Marianne and Joe Giambone accepted these awards on our behalf. Our dedication to the mission of the Navy League earned us these honors with the help of all our members. Thank you all and let's keep up the momentum.

Welcome to our new members and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. Two of which will be joint meetings with the Fort Lauderdale Council. The Sea Cadet Night will be held in September at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club - you won't want to miss hearing the experiences these young Sea Cadets had during their summer training. Also we will have an Octoberfest. Come join us for German festivities and dinner.

And in closing I would like to encourage our members to get involved with the council. As we take on new responsibilities, there are more opportunities for service. New members are already getting engaged. As a reminder, there is no cost for active duty spouses to become members of the Council; visit navyleague.org to enroll.

Best regards and we hope to see you soon.

Larry M. Ott

Council President



KEEP CONNECTED

Don't forget to visit and like our Council's Facebook page where you will get up-to-date information about many of our adopted units, other sea service news as well as events we are hosting

www.facebook.com/Browardcountynavyleague/

Also visit our website where you can read about our adopted units, get the latest event news and find previous editions of The Helmsman. You'll also find links to other related websites such as Operation Homefront and Broward Veterans Coalition.

bcnavyleague.org

Don't forget to visit the Navy League website. You'll be able to utilize the Voice to Congress feature, learn more about Navy League programs, shop for Navy League merchandise and more. It is recommended that you create a user name and password that will enable you to view additional information that is not available to the general public. It will also enable you to easily pay your membership dues.

Navyleague.org

RECOGNITION AT OUR ADOPTED UNITS

In July, the Council recognized the 3rd Quarter Sailors of the Quarter onboard our adopted ship, the USS LEYTE GULF CG55. These outstanding sailors were recognized with a certificate of accomplishment and monetary award. No photos are available.

Sailor of the Quarter: EM1 Jon Lugo
Junior Sailor of the Quarter: FCA2 Qunisha Lytch
Blue Jacket of the Quarter: OS3 Aiverson Mansapit

On July 25, Past President Glenn Wiltshire recognized the achievements of two Enlisted Persons of the Quarter during his visit to the USCGC BERNARD C WEBBER. GM1 Don LaSanta (top photo) and BM1 John Loy (bottom photo) were recognized with a certificate of accomplishment and monetary award. Photos supplied by Glenn Wiltshire.



On July 12, Council President Larry Ott and board member Alan Starr recognized the Enlisted Person of the Year of the Aids to Navigation unit (ANT). BM2 Giovanni Santiago was recognized for his outstanding accomplishments with a certificate and monetary award.



On August 20, two outstanding Enlisted Persons of the Quarter were recognized onboard the USS Paul Clark. MK2 Kristian Fowler was selected in quarter 1 and ET2 James Encinas in quarter 2. Council President Larry Ott presented both with certificates of accomplishment and monetary awards. Shown in the photo from left to right are Captain Dan Jones of Sector Miami, ET2 Encinas, Larry, MK2 Fowler and LCDR Kristopher Ensley.



In June, ME2 George Soto was recognized as the Enlisted Person of the Quarter at TACLET South. Alan Starr presented ME2 Soto with a certificate of accomplishment and monetary award. No photo is available.

USS PAUL IGNATIUS

The official adoption agreement of the newly commissioned USS PAUL IGNATIUS was signed by Council President Larry Ott and Commander Robby Trotter, with Paul Ignatius looking on (shown in photos below). The Council looks forward to building our relationship with the 310 officers and enlisted personnel that make up the crew of the PAUL IGNATIUS. The ship is home ported in Mayport alongside our other two adopted Navy ships, the USS BATAAN and the USS LEYTE GULF.



The Council has already been able to recognize the sailors of the quarter for our newly adopted ship. Each sailor was recognized by the Council with a certificate of accomplishment and monetary award.



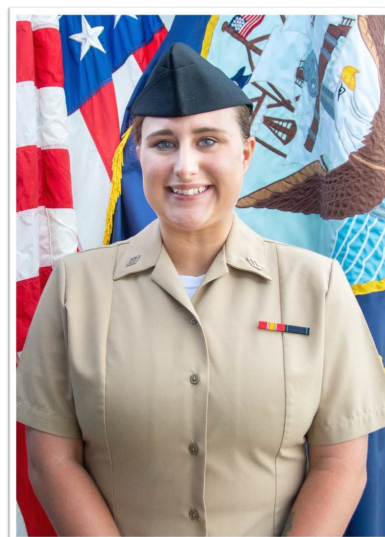
Senior Sailor of the Quarter: SH1 Jeffery L. Meade



Sailor of the Quarter: IT2 Jacob J. Wilson



Junior Sailor of the Quarter: CS3 Alvin L. Manarin



Blue Jacket of the Quarter: GMSN Kayla R. Holbrook

CHANGES AT OUR ADOPTED UNITS

On June 20, Captain Shawn Koch relieved Captain Michael E. Platt as the commander of Coast Guard Air Station Miami during a change of command ceremony. Capt Koch previously served as the chief of incident management for District 7. Captain Platt transferred to the position of executive assistant to the Coast Guard Director of Governmental and Public Affairs at Coast Guard Headquarters. Rear Admiral Eric C. Jones, commander of Coast Guard 7th District, presided over the event. Shown in photo is Capt Platt, RADM Jones and Capt Koch.



On July 19, Lieutenant Nathan D. Neuhardt was relieved by Lieutenant Ryan G. Montvydas as the Commanding Officer of USCGC BERNARD C. WEBBER (WPC 1101). The change of command was held at Coast Guard Base Miami Beach. No photos are available.

On July 12, BMC Raymond Coleman relieved BMCS Dax Burgrabe as the OINC at Aids to Navigation (ANT) located at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. Shown below is BMC Coleman with Council President Larry Ott who provided the photo.



In July 2019, the commanding officer of our adopted unit, USCGC MARGARET NORVELL was promoted. In a ceremony presided over by Captain Joann Burdian, In photo below, Lieutenant Commander Christopher O'Meara had his shoulder boards swapped out by his spouse and MKC Woody. Congratulations! (from MARGARET NORVELL's Facebook page)



Council President Larry Ott and Past President Glenn Wiltshire attended the change of command and also presented a gift to Captain Platt.

SILVER ANCIENT MARINER & USCGC MANATEE

In March 2018, Master Chief Boatswain's Mate Mathew J. Coppola was selected as the thirteenth Silver (Enlisted) Ancient Mariner. On May 31, Master Chief Damage Controlman Russel Cox assumed the title from BMCM Coppola at a change of watch ceremony at Coast Guard Station. Admiral Karl Schultz, Commandant of the Coast Guard, made remarks and conducted the change of watch. The Ancient Mariner title recognizes the officer and enlisted person with the earliest designation as a permanent cutterman and requires a minimum of ten years of sea time. The award recipients must personify and uphold the core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty, along with the professionalism and leadership associated with long service at sea. Shown in photo is Coppola (left) and Cox.



The retirement of Master Chief Coppola was the final ceremony held. The Council commends the Master Chief on his outstanding 30 year career and wishes him the best in his retirement. Coppola is shown in photo with Captain Burdian.



Following the change of watch ceremony, the change of command ceremony took place at which time Senior Chief Jason Brennan (in photo below) relieved Master Chief Matthew Coppola of the duties of Officer in Charge of the USCGC MANATEE. Captain Jo-Ann Burdian, Coast Guard Sector Commander made remarks. Senior Chief Brennan previously served as Officer in Charge of Coast Guard cutters IBIS and HAMMERHEAD homeported in Cape May New Jersey. The Council welcomes Senior Chief Brennan and his family to South Florida.



Joe and Marianne Giambrone welcomed Admiral Schultz back to South Florida!

JUNE DINNER SOCIAL & USCGC MANATEE

On June 13 during the June dinner meeting, the Council signed the official adoption agreement with USCGC MANATEE WPB87363 that is homeported at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. Several crew members were in attendance at the dinner to witness the official signing of the adoption agreement that was signed by Council President Larry Ott and OINC BMCS Jason R. Brennan (photo below). A check was also presented to the cutter for their MWR fund. The MANATEE is one of the Marine Protector Class Coast Guard patrol boats and is considered to be one of the most advanced coastal patrol boats in the world. We look forward to developing a relationship with the officers and crew of the MANATEE and recognizing their outstanding crew. (photos provided by Charlie Schmidt)



Seated: Joanne Melville, Diane Schmidt, Rosa Reeves Standing: Tom Melville, George Reeves, Rick Ciravolo



Seated: Elaine and Bob Hogg, Florida Region President Lynn Drucker, Barbara Makris Standing: Todd Cooper and Olga Botcharova



MK3 Omar Rivera, BMCS Jason Brennan, President Larry Ott, BM1 Anthony Acosta and Past President Glenn Wiltshire



CMC Aaron Zimmer and Alan Starr

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Second Vice President Marianne Giambone and Board Member/National Treasurer Joe Giambone attended the National Convention in Norfolk Virginia from June 19 - 22. The convention was held at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel located adjacent to the Elizabeth River. The convention schedule consisted of committee meetings, sea service updates and training sessions on the website, Mackie awards, ship adoptions and more. In addition to the various seminars, the convention is a great way for attendees to meet and share information with Navy Leaguers from all over the world. Council awards were presented during a luncheon held on June 21. Marianne and Joe Giambone accepted five awards for the Council's performance and activities during 2018. The awards were: Outstanding Council, Donald M. Mackie awards for our three areas of communication - newsletter, website and social media (Facebook) and the new Sea Service Adoption Excellence Award. (Detailed information about each of these awards were outlined in the June 2019 edition of The Helmsman.) The official board meeting and members annual meeting were also held on June 21. At that time, William A. Stevenson III was elected as the new National President. Joe Giambone was reelected as National Treasurer. Marianne Giambone was elected as South Florida Area President. Lynn Drucker was reelected as Florida Region President.



Incoming President William Stevenson addressed the group

Official announcement from National:

The Navy League is pleased to announce that we have elected a new national president, long-time Navy League member Bill Stevenson.

Stevenson has held many leadership positions within the Navy League before accepting the role of national president, including national director, national vice president and special adviser to the national president. While working closely with two Navy League administrations in these positions, the organization has made great advancements in its financial portfolio, has had an increase in membership and has made critical changes to the headquarters staff.

As national president, Stevenson is sharply focused on the volunteers that make up the Navy League, giving them the valuable time and leadership they need to achieve the Navy League mission. While strengthening the current membership, he is striving to introduce a younger demographic to the organization, providing a strong future for the its councils worldwide.

"It is critical that we take a fresh, forward-thinking approach to the Navy League that attracts new members while retaining our valuable core membership," says Stevenson. "We must create new opportunities for our organization worldwide that elevate our brand, so we can maintain our strong support for the sea services for decades to come."

Most recently, Stevenson served as the vice chairman of the Arizona Sports and Entertainment Commission, a position he held for nearly six years. He has directed eight major events, including College Football's Biggest Party and the Fiesta Bowl National Band Championship. He also helped raise \$1.1 million for the Fiesta Bowl and Cactus Bowl from 1992 to the present.

Stevenson joined the Navy League in 1992 as a member of the Phoenix Council and was assigned by the Arizona area president to reorganize the council in 2012 as council president. Thanks to his efforts, the Phoenix Council received an 80 percent Retention Award and Meritorious Council Award in 2014. He was also recognized as Navy League's top recruiter in 2015 and 2016. He later served as Arizona area president and on the Pacific Southwest Region nominating committee.

Stevenson succeeds Alan Kaplan as national president.

USS PAUL IGNATIUS COMMISSIONING

On July 22, the Navy's newest Arleigh-Burke class destroyer, USS PAUL IGNATIUS DDG117, arrived at Port Everglades and was greeted by members of the commissioning committee. For the rest of the week, there were numerous events held in connection with commissioning week. Sailors were able to go fishing, attend a Marlins game, visit the Dolphins training camp, have a pizza party and more. A luncheon was held at John Knox Village on July 24 and several Council members were able to attend thanks to Dorothy Porges, a long time supporter of the Navy League. A commander's reception was held on July 25 at Terminal 4 in Port Everglades. The reception was an informal event which allowed those in attendance an opportunity to meet other people who supported the commissioning and also to meet Paul Ignatius and members of his family. On July 26, the chairman's reception was held at the Lauderdale Yacht Club. Several speeches were made, gifts were presented to the ship and guests were able to again socialize with supporters of the commissioning as well as many of the ship's officers. On July 27, the culmination of many months of planning and raising funds took place as the USS PAUL IGNATIUS was christened. The Spruance Division of the Sea Cadets led by our own Alan Starr presented the colors. Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer was the principal guest speaker. Other guest speakers included Broward County Mayor Mark Bogen, SOUTH-COM Commander Adm Craig Faller and Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz. Dr Elisa Ignatius, youngest granddaughter of Paul Ignatius, brought the ship to life when she called for the crew to man the rails.



Above: Marianne Giambrone and Paul Ignatius at the Commander's Reception Below: Paul Ignatius is shown with members of the Ignatius crew



Navy Leaguers Nels Pearson and Phyllis Bannister with crew members at the John Knox Village luncheon (photo courtesy of Shelley Beck)



Lynn Elsasser, Pat Dumont, Melissa Pitalo and Council President Larry Ott at the Chairman's Reception

USS PAUL IGNATIUS COMMISSIONING



National President William (Bill) Stevenson, Senior Vice President Pat Dumont and National Treasurer Joe Giambrone at the Chairman's Reception



Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz and CDR Trotter during the commissioning ceremony



Oscar Romano, Joe Giambrone and Mary Anne Gray. Mary Anne served as the Commissioning Committee Chairperson while Oscar and Joe served as co-chairs.



The crew waited on land for the call to "man the rails" and did so when the call went out by Dr Elisa Ignatius



Fort Lauderdale Postmaster David Guiney presented a beautiful postal display to CDR Robby Trotter and Paul Ignatius at Chairman's Reception



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Once again, Operation Homefront, Dollar Tree Stores and our Council have joined forces to collect school supplies for our local military children. This is the 11th year that Council members have visited their local Dollar Tree Stores and collected the supplies donated by its customers. Past President Glenn Wiltshire reported that he collected over 5,400 items from six stores and delivered those supplies to Coast Guard Base Miami, Sector Miami, Coast Guard Air Station Miami, Coast Guard TACLET South, Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale and Navy Recruiting District Miami. Our Council is pleased in doing our part to help alleviate some of the financial burden for our local military families.



Special thanks to Glenn and to his wife Estella who sorted, boxed and delivered these supplies to our local units.

ACTIVE DUTY SPOUSE

The Navy League now has a complimentary electronic membership available for spouses of those currently serving in the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. An e-membership will provide access to more than 30 discount programs and e-members will receive an electronic subscription to Seapower magazine. More importantly, the membership will help the active duty spouse learn about the support provided by the Navy League and our Council. In addition, by becoming a member of our Council, they will get information about local Navy League events as well as military issues that may be relevant to their spouse.

Please reach out to any Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard spouse you know and ask them to take advantage of this free membership. Becoming a member is easy – go to navyleague.org and click on “join us” to find the active duty spouse application or use this link navyleague.org/spouse-membership. If they are local, ask them to request Broward County Council as their council of choice. If they wish, they can request to join a council closer to their homeport.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members—two are active duty spouses!

Rick Braswell of Pembroke Pines

Christina Frazier of Miramar (active duty spouse)

James Quaye of Pembroke Pines

Norma Rivera of Pembroke Pines (active duty spouse)

We hope to see you soon at one of our events!

If you have a friend, neighbor, co-worker or family member who may be interested in becoming a member of our Council, please have them contact our Membership Chairperson Marianne Giambone at browardnavyleague@gmail.com. An e-membership is only \$25 per year.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

One of the missions of the Navy League is to educate Congress on the importance of our sea services to our nation's defense, well-being and economic prosperity. There are several ways Navy League members can accomplish this mission. One of the easiest is by visiting the Navy League website regularly and clicking on the Voice to Congress tab. There you will find a list of issues related to our sea services for which your help is needed. Once you click on an issue, you can read more about it, its solution and why you are being asked to take action. You will also find a message that is ready for you to send to your legislative leaders – all you need to do is enter some personal information and the message will be sent to the appropriate legislators. You can also sign up for alerts so that you can be notified when new issues are posted. Voice to Congress works because our Congressional leaders want to hear from you – the voter – so please visit the website often and let your voice be heard.

Another way we educate Congress is through the efforts of our Vice President of Legislative Affairs Bob Marks. Bob keeps in contact with the Members of Congress assigned to our Council – Ted Deutch, Lois Frankel and Alcee Hastings—to keep them up-to-date on the needs of our sea services. Bob recently attended several Town Hall meetings hosted by Congressman Deutch and provided the photo.



COUNCIL CALENDAR

On Wednesday, October 16, Council members will once again join with Fort Lauderdale Council for an Oktoberfest celebration. The event will be held at the Old Heidelberg Restaurant at 6:00 PM.

On November 14, the Council plans to host a dinner social at Tropical Acres Restaurant.

On December 13, the Council will host its annual Coast Guard holiday party. The event will once again be held at McSorley's on the Beach.

Additional information on these events will be sent out via email and appear on our Facebook page and website.

SLATE OF OFFICERS

The election of our 2020 Council officers will take place at our November 14 dinner social. Members must be present to vote.

The following is the slate of Council Officers for 2020

President: Larry Ott

First Vice President: Tom Melville

Second Vice President: Bruce Gottsch

Vice President, Legislative Affairs: Robert Marks

Secretary: Shelley Beck

Treasurer: Tom Carney

JAG: No candidate

Write-in candidates will be accepted by the secretary until October 31, 2019. The name of the proposed candidate and office for which they wish to be considered must be accompanied by 20 signatures of council members in good standing. Mail information to Secretary, BCNL, P O Box 39252, Fort Lauderdale FL 33339.

AMERICAN HERO DOG



This year's American Humane top military working dog sniffed out bombs and explosives over three combat tours with the

Marine Corps across Iraq and Afghanistan and is now competing for the grand prize title of American Hero Dog. Sgt. Yeager, a Marine Corps improvised explosive detection dog, carried out nearly 100 combat patrols and was awarded the Purple Heart after an IED explosion in Helmand province, Afghanistan, in April 2012, took out part of his ear. His handler, Marine Lance Cpl. Abraham Tarwoe, was killed in that explosion during a dismounted patrol in Helmand province's Marjah district. The pair were both assigned to 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment. Yeager was transported back to U.S. and treated for his injuries and eventually retired from the Marine Corps. Yeager is now headed to Hollywood, California, on Oct. 5 where he will be one of seven dogs to receive a 2019 American Humane Hero Dog award. The American Humane Hero Dog Awards are a nationwide competition held every year to recognize dogs that do amazing things.

BUSINESS CARD AD

Larry M. Ott
Licensed Funeral Director

**Kraeer-Fairchild Funeral
Home & Cremation Center**
4061 North Federal Highway
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308
954-565-5591
Fax 954-565-7899
Larry.Ott@DignityMemorial.com
www.kraeerfairchild.com



BCNL member
discount with
this ad

Do you own your own business or know someone that does? Please consider supporting the Council by placing a business card ad in the Council's newsletter, the Helmsman. For \$125, your ad will appear in the newsletter for an entire year (normally 10 issues). The Helmsman is sent out to more than 300 people including local politicians, military personnel and other military-related organizations. For more information, please contact Marianne Giambrone at browardnalyeague@gmail.com.

SHOEBOX CHRISTMAS

Planning has begun for this year's Seafarers' House Shoebox Christmas program. Shoeboxes wrapped with holiday paper will be filled with socks, toiletries, and holiday cheer and delivered to some of the more than 150,000 seafarers who come from all over the world into Port Everglades. The program was launched in 2008 and last year, more than 2,000 shoeboxes were delivered.

Seafarers' House is located on Port Everglades across from terminal 18. It is a non-profit organization supported by the faith-based community as well as by labor, business and civic leaders with a mission to provide the mariners with access to pastoral care and counseling, money transfer services, emergency assistance, local ground transportation and other on-shore and on-board services. But the holidays can be especially difficult for many of these mariners who are away from their families. Many are overjoyed to receive the shoebox, possibly the only gift they will receive during the holiday season.

Volunteers and donations are needed to help make this program a success again this year. Empty adult-size shoeboxes and the items needed to fill them are needed. Cash donations to purchase the personal care items are always appreciated. Volunteers are needed to wrap the shoeboxes - at home or at Seafarers' House's "Shoebox Central" and also to fill the boxes. Students can get volunteer hours - 15 minutes for wrapping a box or 1 hour for wrapping and filling a box with the required items. Volunteers are also needed to deliver filled shoeboxes to the mariners aboard their ships. These volunteers will get a first-hand look at life aboard a cargo ship or tanker. This year, deliveries will be made from November 29, 2019 through January 7, 2020.

For more information, please contact Joe Giambrone at giambronejm@gmail.com or Marianne Giambrone at giambrone11@gmail.com.



Council President Larry Ott delivers shoeboxes every year. Photo courtesy of Seafarers' House

BROWARD COUNTY COUNCIL RECEIVES AWARDS



At the National Convention, Executive Director Mike Stevens, National President William Stevenson, National Treasurer and Council member Joe Giambone, South Florida Area President and Council Second Vice President Marianne Giambone, and outgoing National President Alan Kaplan display the five awards earned by the Council for their 2018 activities.

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
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