

THE HELMSMAN

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

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Welcome to our 2023 Officers



Captain Eric Smith CO of Air Station Miami installing our new council officers. Pictured L-R are Capt Smith, VP Legislative affairs Bob Marks, new President Glenn Wiltshire, 1st Vice President Tom Melville, Treasurer Tom Carney and Secretary Shelley Beck. Absent are 2nd VP Bruce Gottsch and JAG Julie Carlson

Fleet Week - it's almost here

That fun time of the year is here again, our annual Fleet Week hosted by Broward Navy Days at Port Everglades. And as always, Broward County Council will be there helping out and enjoying the company of our many visitors. In this issue we will have preliminary coverage of the many events which take place. So get ready, April 23rd is right around the corner.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Navy Leaguers,

This is my first newsletter after being elected as President at our last dinner meeting. My thanks to all for your confidence in me as well as to the rest of the Board members that agreed to remain onboard. First, a special thank you to Larry Ott for his outstanding service as Council President over the last four years after taking over from me. The

Council went through some challenging times during the COVID pandemic but Larry led us through that, switching to Zoom Board meetings and maintaining our programs as the Council continued our award-winning adopted unit program and received multiple awards for our Council accomplishments, newsletter, and web site. I know that he will continue to remain active as a Director on our Board since he has plenty of free time after recently retiring from his long career as a funeral director (just kidding, he deserves the break!).

The success of any Council only occurs because of its members. Our goal this year is to both increase our membership as well as the active participation of our members in Council events. With the return of our annual Easter Egg Hunt and picnic for Coast Guard families on April 1st, we're looking for a great turnout of member volunteers to assist Shelley pull it all together.

This year at Fleet Week we will also once again be selling soda, water, and Council coins during the days that ship tours are scheduled during Fleet Week, which is the last week of April this year. As of the most recent information, there will be two US Navy ships, one USNS ship (crewed by civilian US merchant mariners), and hopefully a US Coast Guard cutter. New this year is the addition of evening ship tours during the week to replace the morning tours during the week. Since this is our primary fundraising events available to support our many programs, I will be sending out a request for volunteers and donations the first week of April, so please do consider helping out.

I also want to recognize Rich Fournier for all of his efforts as Membership Committee Chair for our Council. Rich joined the Board last year and has done a great job cleaning up our membership roster to reach out to all our members to get updated emails (and mailing addresses for those members without email) to ensure that National has a current roster of our members. Communications with our membership is critical, and thank your Rich for performing this critical "behind the scenes" function.

As before, feel free to contact me directly by phone at 718-619-7402 or email at wiltbrit@aol.com if you have any questions about the Council or any thoughts on what we can do to improve your membership experience.

Very Respectfully,

Glenn A. Wiltshire
Capt. USCG Retired
President, Broward County Council

Coming Events

April 1st, 2023

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt held at Coast Guard Station Ft Lauderdale

May 11th, 2023

Dinner Social at Tropical Acres

April 23rd - April 30th, 2023

Here before we know it, Fleet Week 2023

June 7-11, 2023

The 2023 national convention will be held in Dallas Texas

2023 Officers

Thanks for serving!

Glenn Wiltshire - President
Tom Melville - First Vice President
Bruce Gottsch - Second Vice President
Tom Carney - Treasurer
Shelley Beck - Secretary
Robert Marks - Legislative Affairs
Julie Carlson - JAG

March Dinner Meeting and Officer Installation

On March 9th we gathered at Tropical Acres Restaurant on Griffin Rd to hold a dinner meeting and to install our 2023 officers.

In addition to many members and spouses we had a good representation from the Coast Guard.



Shelley Beck and Diane Schmidt

Chaplain Braswell delivering invocation

March Meeting – Featured speaker



Our featured speaker was Capt Eric A. Smith, the Commanding Officer of USCG Air Station Miami. He provided a very interesting talk on how the increase in illegal migrant vessels has affected their operation. He also shared other interesting news about things going on at the station.

Thank you Capt Smith!



Glenn and Capt Smith exchange Challenge Coins



Glenn, Capt Smith and Rachel Smith

March Meeting – Thank you Larry



Glenn presenting outgoing President Larry with a plaque thanking him for his service



Larry reflecting on his time in office

March Meeting – New Member



Former President Larry Ott and new member Ken Stolar



Larry presenting Ken his BCNL name tag



News from National



This year our National Convention will be held in Dallas, TX at the Renaissance Dallas Addison Hotel. Reconnect with Navy League volunteers from across the country as we gather for a weekend of social events and networking, *hosted by the Dallas Navy League Council.*

A schedule of events, which will take place from Wednesday, June 7 to Sunday, June 11 is on the NLUS website at

<https://www.navyleague.org/meetings-and-events/national-convention>

Dallas has many activities and attractions for members and their families to enjoy during National Convention. We are asking attendees to please indicate which activities they would like to participate in. You can find a list of potential activities and attractions on the website.

Make Plans to Come Early or Stay Late

Stay in the official Navy League hotel, the Renaissance Dallas Addison Hotel. Our discounted room rates are available for three days before and after our schedule of events.



Legislative Affairs



Advocating on behalf of the Sea Services

Advocacy is a main pillar of the Navy League's mission. As a nonprofit organization, we are able to mobilize our grassroots membership to get to the heart of the issues that matter to the sea services, both on Capitol Hill and in our local communities.

Presently the NLUS has several campaigns underway. You are encouraged to go to their website <https://navyleague.quorum.us/NLUScampaigns/> and provide your support.



Fleet Week Preview



This year's Fleet Week will take place at Port Everglades and other venues from April 23 thru to Sunday April 30th when the ships depart.

As of the time of this writing we don't know which ships will be in attendance other than there will be three US Navy ships and possibly a Coast Guard cutter.

Fleet Week offers a multitude of opportunities to interact with the men and women of our armed forces, in addition to the ability to socialize with other advocates of our sea services. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity.

Also new this year is that there will be no morning tours during the week but instead there will be tours given during evening hours. This should prove to be a help for those who have daytime commitments.

Not new this year will be the BCNL refreshment table. As we have done in the past we have set up a table selling water, sodas, snacks and council Challenge coins to our visitors. Our little refreshment table is a win-win for the council and its members. First it's a very nice revenue source for the council. Additionally it is a great opportunity for the members manning the table to meet our visiting service members. Bottom line, for those able to volunteer to work the table you will have an enjoyable time.

Stay tuned for an email from Glenn explaining what he needs and how to sign up.

Wanted!!

Volunteers!!

BCNL is an active participant each year at the Broward Navy Days Fleet Week event. Aside from sponsoring our own affairs such as our JO Party we also provide support for the many other activities which transpire during the week.

To take advantage of these many opportunities go to the Broward Navy Days website

<https://browardnavydaysinc.org/volunteer>
and sign up.

You'll be glad you did!

Schedule*

April 23rd from 0700- 1000

Ships will parade south along Fort Lauderdale Beach and into Port Everglades

April 23rd from 1800-2000

All hands on deck meet and greet at Las Olas, Ocean side Memorial Park

April 24th from 0800-1300

JROTC Stem Summit

April 24th from 1800-2000

Ship tours

April 25th from 1300-1600 and 1800-2000

Ship tours

April 25th from 1800-2100

Junior Officers Reception at McSorley's on the beach

April 26th from 1300-1600

Ship tours

April 27th from 1300-1600 and 1800-2000

Ship tours

April 28th from 1300-1600 and 1800-2000

Ship tours

April 29th from 1300-1600 and 1800-2000

Ship tours

April 30th

Ships depart

* For the most up to date information it's a good idea to go to the Broward Navy Days website,

Remember!!

Due to Navy security requirements during Fleet Week Port Everglades, tours must be ticketed in advance and all adults must undergo a background check by Broward Sheriff's Office. Registration will open at 8 a.m. on Monday, April 3. The links to register will be posted on the Broward Navy Days website

<https://browardnavydaysinc.org/>

odds & ends...

From Jan 2, 2023 Navy Times

Here comes the first-ever surface drone fleet



An unmanned Saildrone Explorer at work off the coast of Bahrain earlier this year. The Navy plans to stand up its first-ever unmanned surface vessel fleet in 2023. (Navy)

Send in the sea drones!

Er, or the “unmanned surface vehicles,” in the preferred Big Navy nomenclature.

Either way, 2023 should see the sea service stand up its first ever unmanned surface fleet by the end of the summer.

While the Navy and the U.S. military in general spent much of 2022 focused on the European theater following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, not to mention the whole China situation, the Navy’s drone arm has been quietly hard at work in the Middle Eastern waters of U.S. 5th Fleet testing and developing all types of drone platforms.

Task Force 59, stood up in September 2021 to oversee the effort, has in roughly the past year operated surface drones in area waters for more than 25,000 hours, and the Saildrone Explorer in particular logged 220 consecutive days at sea with no refueling or maintenance.

“The pace of innovation is amazing,” Capt. Michael Basseur, TF 59’s commander, said in a statement. “We are challenging our industry partners in one of the most difficult operational environments, and they are responding with enhanced capability, fast.”

“By harnessing these new unmanned technologies and combining them with artificial intelligence, we will enhance regional maritime security and strengthen deterrence,” Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, 5th Fleet’s commander, said in a statement. “This benefits everybody.”

From Military.com

US Coast Guard Gives 'Round of Appaws' for Rescue of Dog that Fell Through Ice



A Coast Guardsman pets a dog that was rescued from the Detroit River, Dec. 31, 2022. (U.S. Coast Guard photo via Facebook)

DETROIT – A U.S. Coast Guard crew rescued a dog that fell through the ice into the Detroit River over the holiday weekend, officials said.

USCG Sector Detroit called for a “round of appaws” for Petty Officer Cole Harper and the boat crew that successfully rescued the struggling dog, according to a Facebook post.

The crew from Station Belle Isle was underway when they spotted the dog struggling in the water near Grayhaven Island, the post said.

The dog was removed from the water and wrapped in blankets, the post said. She was later turned over to Detroit Animal Care and Control.



A member of the U.S. Coast Guard pulls a dog that fell through the ice out of the Detroit River. (U.S. Coast Guard photo via Facebook)

News from our Adopted Units

USCG Margaret Norvell – WPC-1105



Margaret Norvell CO LCDR Colin Weaver, EPOQ recipient MK1 Jose Diaz and Council President Glenn Wiltshire



In that the Margaret Norvell was underway when we had our Holiday Party, we presented their MWR fund with a gift certificate. Pictured here are the CO, Unit Morale Officer, ENS Alison Kneiblher and Glenn

USCG Air Station Miami



AET1 Terry Garnett was presented her award as EPOY for her work as the unit's MH-65 (helicopter) Training Petty Officer where she coordinated qualification and certification of unit members and mentored trainees. She also received a Coast Guard Achievement Medal from the command for her accomplishments.

Pictured are Command Master Chief AETCM Bryan Salazar, AET1 Terry Garnett, Glenn and Air Station CO CAPT Eric Smith



CS1 Joshua Montiel was presented his award as EPOQ for his work in the Air Station Galley preparing food for a number of cultural heritage events. He also received a Coast Guard Letter of Commendation from the command for his accomplishments.

Pictured are Command Master Chief AETCM Bryan Salazar, CS1 Joshua Montiel, Glenn and Air Station CO CAPT Eric Smith

News from our Adopted Units

USS Paul Ignatius – DDG 117

From Dec 22, 2022 Navy Times

The guided-missile destroyer Paul Ignatius returned to Rota, Spain, on Tuesday from a patrol in the 6th Fleet – its first as a Forward-Deployed Naval Forces-Europe ship.

The Ignatius' homeport shift from Mayport, Florida, earlier this year aligns with the Navy's plan to rotate the destroyers based in Rota and comes as the service aims to bolster its destroyer fleet in Spain from four to six warships in the next several years.



Sailors assigned to the destroyer Paul Ignatius single up a line as the ship arrives in Riga, Latvia, Sept. 15. The ship, part of the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group, was under the command Task Force 61/2 in the U.S. Naval Forces Europe area of operations. (MC2 Aaron Lau/Navy)

During the patrol, which kicked off in August, the ship operated in the Arctic Ocean, Baltic Sea and North Sea conducting theater antisubmarine warfare, air and missile defense, surface warfare training, and exhibiting expeditionary warfare capabilities.

Bernard C. Webber – WPC 1101



Congratulations to EPO Master Chief Nicholson and Ops officer LTJG Kylee Ballard on their recent promotions



The destroyer integrated with the Kearsarge Amphibious Readiness Group and Marines from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit in the Baltic Sea to conduct interoperability operations with NATO allies. Additionally, the ship participated in the Finnish Navy Commanded exercise “Freezing Winds” in the Baltic Sea, along with units and personnel from 11 other countries.

“I couldn’t be more proud of this crew,” Cmdr. Corry Lougee, executive officer of Paul Ignatius, said in a Navy news release. “We have been operational since February, and this ship continues to excel. Our Sailors executed the most successful homeport change to date, fought through the adversity of patrol, and now return to our new homeport stronger than ever. The mental toughness of this crew is beyond words, and we are so appreciative of the overwhelming support from our families, the base, Destroyer Squadron 60 and the amazing Spanish people of Rota.”

The ship was commissioned in 2019 and is named after former Secretary of the Navy Paul Ignatius, who served during the Lyndon B. Johnson administration. The destroyer arrived in Rota June 17.



The destroyer Paul Ignatius remote live-fires a Mark 38 25mm machine gun during a pre-action calibration Dec. 5 in the Baltic Sea. (MC2 Aaron Lau/Navy)

USS Leyte Gulf – CG 55



Sailors assigned to the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55) prepare to launch an MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter attached to Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 46. The WCSG is on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. Naval Forces Europe area of operations.

News from our Adopted Units

USCG Robert Yered – WPC 1104

Recently Council President Glenn Wiltshire visited the USCG Robert Yered to present EPOQ awards. Additionally because they were underway when we had our Holiday Party he presented the unit a \$100 gift card for their MWR fund.



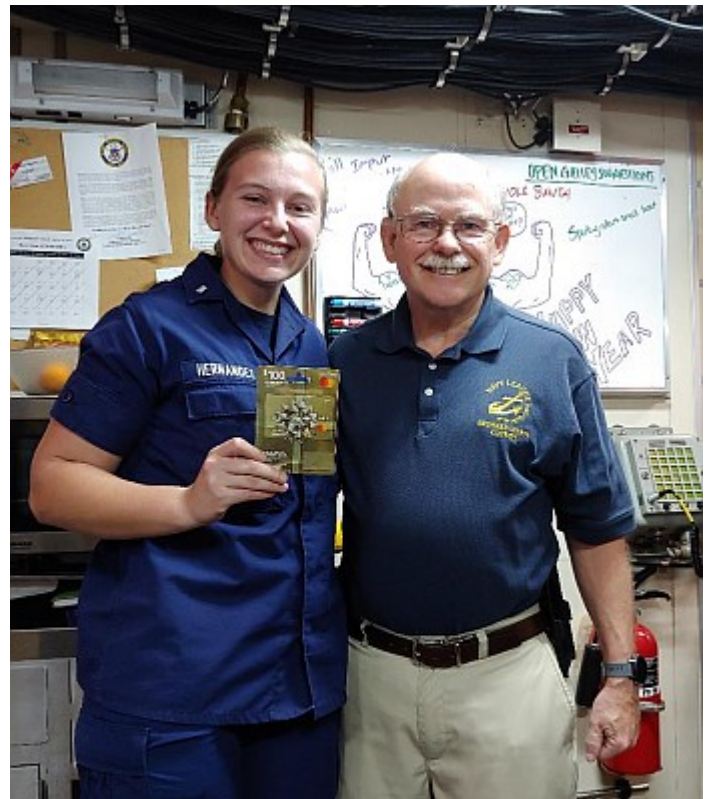
BM1 Damien Niebla



BM2 Thomas Knight



EM1 Montrese Clay



The Unit Morale Officer, LTJG Sydney Hernandez, accepting the gift card.

and in closing...

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

April 23rd – April 30th

