

"The Sea Chant," Contra Costa Council

2016 Second Quarter Edition

Volume 40, No. 3



NAVY LEAGUE of the UNITED STATES



President's Message

Pamela Speka

What a year to celebrate! Everyone deserves a grateful and heartfelt THANKS for your service to our council and our events. We have attended 6 changes of command and welcomed new leaders, hosted our annual dinners, and entertained by excellent speakers. None of this possible without the outreach we do, and the valuable relationships we each develop.

As we approach a new year ahead, new officers and a new board of directors; you are needed even more to make it all happen!

Everywhere I attended various events- the Navy League was held in such high regard, especially our council. I have relished my year as your President and delighted serving in the many roles this position demands. Now, lets see what a new board will bring!

As we close our 2016 year, and reflect on all we have done for our units, we can take a deep breath, and start all over again in 2017!

Receiving the State of California Award for our accomplishments is such an honor to us all. So grateful to State Senator Bill Dodd for the recognition.

Have a HAPPY NEW YEAR. See you all in 2017!

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Legislative Highlights

Legislative Affairs Update

Bill Kinsey Vice President Legislative Affairs, Contra Costa Council

NDAAs Passage: The NDAA passed both the House and Senate with veto-proof majorities. It is very similar to the President's Request, but makes increases in funding for operations & maintenance, and increases the number of Marines to 185K. If you'd like me to forward the detailed summary that went out earlier, please email me directly.

CR Status: The Continuing Resolution funds the government through the end of April 2017. Our biggest concern was funding for the Ohio-class replacement. Thanks to a funding anomaly included in the bill, the program will be able to move ahead on schedule. All other programs are funded at the same rate in FY2016. A CR during a Presidential transition is nearly unprecedented, but Republicans in Congress believe they'll be able to pass a bill more favorable to their priorities under the next Administration. President Obama has required any increases in defense spending to be paired with increases in non-defense discretionary spending, and the President Elect is expected to increase defense spending without the non-defense corollary, which is what Republicans are hoping to get with any funding later. The CR is currently held up in the Senate as Democratic Senators push for health benefits for coal miners, but since the House already passed the CR and has all but officially recessed, the Democrats have no leverage or alternative other than a shutdown. A brief weekend shutdown is possible.

Save the Fleet Campaign: I highly recommend reading this article from the *Navy Times* yesterday about an internal struggle between DOD and the Department of the Navy: <https://www.navytimes.com/articles/the-pentagon-told-the-navy-to-cut-17-billion-from-its-budget-the-navy-said-no> The Pentagon is forcing the U.S. Navy to incorporate \$17 billion in cuts over five years in its budget planning. The Navy is rightly refusing to absorb these cuts, as the need to rebuild the fleet is at a crucial crossroads. We created a new campaign in response, and we need Navy League members to act and tell our leaders that we prioritize the Navy and its needs and reject the \$17 billion in cuts forced by the Pentagon. The link for the campaign is <http://cqrcengage.com/navyleague/app/onestep-write-a-letter?5&engagementId=265993>; I encourage you to share on your council's facebook pages and send to your councils. We want to make some noise on this issue.

Merchant Marine Campaign: A bipartisan bill was introduced this week that requires a portion of LNG and oil exports to be carried on U.S.-flag ships. The Navy League was requested to provide a quote for the press release based on our reputation as an expert on sealift needs and the value of a strong U.S.-flag fleet. Even though this bill is not expected to pass this session given the timing, the bill release is an attempt to gather supporters, cosponsors, and create awareness for when it is resubmitted in the next session. Please also share this campaign with your councils, colleagues, and facebook pages to help spread the word so we can hit the ground running next year: <http://cqrcengage.com/navyleague/app/onestep-write-a-letter?2&engagementId=266413>

Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus: The Navy League co-sponsored a joint breakfast with the Congressional Shipbuilding and Submarine Caucuses this week and it was very successful. We had excellent turnout with about 90 attendees including the 9 Congressmen listed below, the Director of the Navy's Undersea Warfare Division RDML William Merz, and Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen Robert Neller. Admiral Caldwell's presentation featured many items that are Navy League priorities including the imperative of keeping the Ohio-replacement program on schedule, and the importance of the industrial base. We also had our submarine issue paper available along with several informational handouts from Naval History and Heritage Command and a segment from a 1942 edition of *Seapower* about the attack on Pearl Harbor. Every speaker took time to recognize the anniversary of Pearl Harbor and its continuing relevance. The event ran smoothly and overall attendees were very happy.

Joe Courtney (CT-2), Co-Chair
 Rob Wittman (VA-1), Co-Chair
 Bradley Byrne (AL-1)
 Derek Kilmer (WA-6)
 Morgan Griffith (VA-9)
 Bill Foster (IL-11)
 Bobby Scott (VA-3)
 Tim Murphy (PA-18)
 Tim Walz (MN-1)

Please note that this event was off the record, so no need to post about this one! We just want to keep you informed. We were especially pleased at the attendance of so many Representatives from non-Navy districts that attended—a good sign that our message is catching on with those that are newer to these issues.

A special thanks to Ron Turner from State Senator Bill Dodd's office presenting us with this award. What a surprise to us all, and we have worked hard this year and it does not go unnoticed by those around us!



Doomsday over Colorado



<https://www.rt.com/usa/367431-doomsday-plane-circles-denver/>

Navy Recruiters

Navy Recruiters Are No. 1

Congratulations to our Navy Recruiters! Navy Recruiting District, SF, has been selected as the TOP District in the nation. Our adopted Golden Hills Zone recruiters are part of Navy Recruiting District, SF. Let's give a rousing 'Atta Boys' to Petty Officers Zarate, Wiebe and MacMillan. Their office is in Pleasant Hill and at other sites in the area.

245th Marine Corp Birthday Ball Celebration November 5, 2016

Fabulous Dinner/Ball at the famous Blackhawk Auto Museum. Breathtaking evening as 10 of our members attended. The Marines did it up right- a 1st class event. Thought I was in a fairyland with sparkling lights streaming from the entire ceiling, and a feast. Thanks Marines for inviting us.

Here is proof of a great time with our Marines as enjoyed by Pete and Ann Gates, Liaisons to 6th ANGLECO, with 1st Sgt Ryan Lincoln and his Lady, then Deb Cole and Pam Speka joining rest of group - Loren and Sally Andersen, Mariam Clark and Jeff and Laura Hall. We dined and danced the night away!



Fleet Week, October 9th

Oct.9th- and we are on board the ASPEN for a day of fun and Sun watching the festivities courtesy of our Coast Guard- Station Sector SF. THANKS goes to our Trevor and Wren Hall for making this happen every year. Always a grand experience, ships all around and planes flying overhead to remind us of our dedicated servicemen and women protecting our country in so many ways. Our deepest and sincerest thanks to all.



Photo with LCDR Jason Vandenheuvel



Oct 9th sailing with these excited youth looking for their careers in the military.

Our guests getting on board!

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner, December 7th

Contra Costa Council, and several veterans' organizations in the area, paid tribute to the survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack of December 7, 1941 which took the lives of more than 3,000 personnel. The dinner meeting, with some 90 attendees, was addressed by Rear Admiral Winston Copeland, USN (Ret), a naval aviator, commanding officer of a carrier and former commander of a battle group in the Middle East. He also is credited with shooting down a MIG aircraft during the Vietnam war.

The Pearl Harbor Remembrance event was sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars, Marine Corps League, American Legion, Blue Start Moms, Military Officers Association of America and Navy Retired Nurses Association, in addition to Navy League members. The annual event, this being the eighth, was held at Zio Fraedo's in Pleasant Hill, and is the only such event held in Contra Costa County.



Sea Cadets presenting colors



Gynithe LaSalle opening remarks- set the evenings tone



Ron Turner presenting State Award, from State Senator Bill Dodd's office



Our speaker, RADM William Winston Copeland receiving state award for his service and leadership



RADM COPELAND AND PAM SPEKA --a hugh thanks!



Singing God Bless America

Christmas Brunch, December 17th

The Marine Corps' Toys for Tots collection and distribution campaign was enhanced again by the annual Contra Costa Council brunch held for more than 20 years at the home of Jeanne and Bill Sharkey in Martinez. More than 60 members and guests attended on a crisp December day the week before Christmas. Each attendee brought gifts to the occasion.

Each of the Council's 10 adopted units of the Coast Guard, Navy, Marine Corps and Naval Sea Cadet Corps was represented and received a Christmas gift. Adopted units include Coast Guard Station Vallejo; Coast Guard Station Rio Vista; USCG Aids to Navigation, SF; USCG Buoy Tender ASPEN; Navy Recruiting, Pleasant Hill; USMC Reserve Center, Concord; USN VQ3 Detachment, Travis AFB; USN Communications Detachment, Travis AFB; USCG Sector, SF; and Sea Cadet Diablo Squadron, a youth organization.

Vice Admiral Fred Midgette, USCG, Commander of the Coast Guard's Pacific Area, attended with his wife, Mary, and spoke briefly to the attendees extending his best wishes to the active duty personnel and Navy League members. The Admiral's area of responsibility includes all territory from the Rocky Mountains to the Orient, and from the North Pole to the South Pole. His headquarters is located on Coast Guard Island in Alameda.



Enjoying the Brunch.



Jeanne Sharkey receiving the Challenge coin from USS America- the ship she raised fund to commission from Soodjai Pongsuvantra. An honor well deserved.



Pam Speka presenting the award envelope for Sea Cadets to Marty Lantz



Shawn Fitchco from Station Rio Vista, and Lois Terrell receiving Holiday cash award



Marg Burns presenting Navy Communications and VQ3 cash award to OIC Soodjai Pongsuvantra.



Trevor Hall, Liaison to the ASPEN Receiving their cash award as Pam Speka enjoys his wonderful energy. (Master Chief Dawn Stevens looking on)



BMC Peter Brooks of Station Vallejo receiving cash award from Jo Romine, and Pam observing.



VADM Midgette addressing everyone with his thanks to Navy League.



Captain Anthony Ceraolo, Lorrin Andersen, and Pam Speka presenting Cash Award for Sector SF.



BMC Sevon, Aids to Navigation and Lorrin Anderson, P. Speka looking on.



Guests enjoying the Brunch in the sunny afternoon on the Sharkey's deck!



Here is the hard working, dedicated, mailing team working on another flyer!



" Our Faithful Mailing Team!"

OFFICERS 2016

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 Immediate Past President Jim Harbuck
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 VP Membership... ..
 VP Communications... .. William R Sharkey III
 VP Youth Affairs... .. Bruce and Christine Clegg
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UNITS WE SUPPORT

U.S. Coast Guard Station Rio Vista
 U.S. Coast Guard Station Vallejo
 USCG Sector San Francisco
 USCG Aids to Navigation Team – San Francisco
 USCGC Sea-going Buoy Tender ASPEN
 USN VQ-3 Unit Travis Air Force Base
 USN Strategic Telecommunications Detachment, Travis AFB
 USN Recruiting Station, Golden Hills Zone, P. H.
 USMC Reserve Training Center Staff, Concord
 Sea Cadet Diablo Squadron and Training Ship-Lorraine Hughey

You can renew annually with Sally Andersen but you will automatically receive a renewal notice from National on your renewal anniversary date. When submitting a payment to Sally Andersen please indicate if it is a renewal or a new membership on the form and check. Thanks

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES



The Navy League was founded in 1902 with a clear three-pronged mission: to support the members of the sea services and their families; to educate the American people and their elected leaders about the critical importance of sea power for their economic prosperity and national security; and to help build America's future through successful youth programs like the Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Whether you ever served in uniform or not, we invite you to join us today. Our mission, "Citizens in Support of the Sea Services," reflects both our commitment and our broad appeal to everyone concerned with support for our men and women in uniform. Join us in supporting the men and women of our Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine.

YES! PLEASE ENROLL ME AS A NAVY LEAGUER.

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

- Types of membership options including 1-year premium individual/international, 2-year premium, 3-year premium, 4-year premium, 5-year premium, life membership (to age 55, age 56-75, age 76+), and a \$25 membership option.

* Over 1-year rate

DONATION \$ _____

The Navy League is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations you make to the navy league are tax-deductible and support programs like sea cadets, youth scholarships and sea services awards.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Form fields for NAME, ADDRESS, CITY / STATE / ZIP, EMAIL, PHONE, DATE OF BIRTH, SPONSOR LAST NAME, SPONSOR MEMBERSHIP #, and PREFERRED COUNCIL*.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

CHECK ENCLOSED (MAKE PAYABLE TO CCNLUS - Contra Costa Council of the Navy League of the U.S.)

CHARGE MY: VISA, MASTERCARD, AMEX, DISCOVER

Form fields for BEST DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER, NAME ON CARD, CARD NUMBER, CVV2, EXP, and SIGNATURE.

SEND COMPLETED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO: Contra Costa Council of the Navy League of the U.S., Sally Andersen, PO Box 2876, Martinez, CA 94553

**Contra Costa Council of the
Navy League of the U.S.
4551 Alhambra Way
Martinez, CA 94553-4405**

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



EVENTS to be announced after the annual planning meeting on January 14th., 2017

www.cccnl.org

For all announcements, upcoming events, and important actions always check our website.

Thanks to Bruce Clegg for keeping us online and current.