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Contra Costa Council Navy League of the United States

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Now we are embarking on a **new year 2025**, as we say farewell to **2024**- which was another busy year of accomplishments for us. The



Council's Board was sworn in at our Planning meeting on January 4th to kick off our new goals, events, and our dinners. I wish to thank our incredible Board for their leadership and guidance for last year, and now focusing on 2025! Stay tuned to our newsletters for what is ahead. Thank you members for your support which keeps us

going and in the "chips" so we can continue our mission to our Sea Service Units. My deepest appreciation.

Pam Speka, President



CCCNL BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

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Please visit the CCCNL website for a complete list of Council Board Members and Liaisons at:
<http://www.ccnl.org>

Editor's Note

The Contra Costa Council of the Navy League celebrates our 70 years of service. We were chartered in 1954.

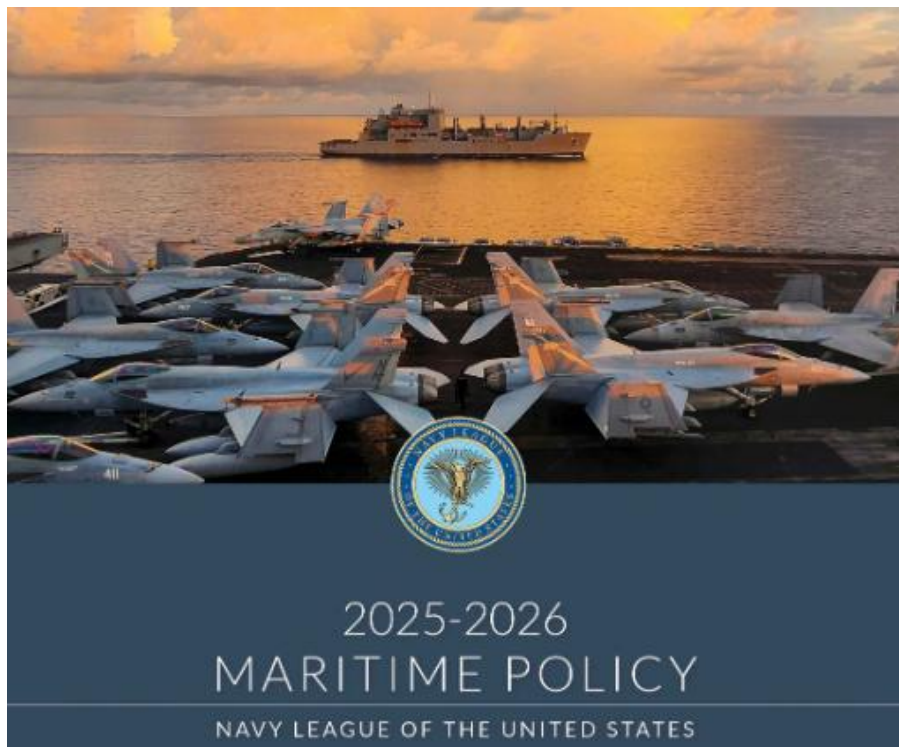
Bravo Zulu

Navy League Legislative Affairs – on the Hill!

Bill Kinsey, Vice President Legislative Affairs

Navy League legislative affairs activity is one of the means of informing our elected leaders of the importance of sea services and of supporting our sea service personnel. Our national legislative director and staff lead the mission at the nation's capital through development of informational resources on naval and maritime issues, direct contact with members of Congress, and conducting regular briefings for Navy League region and council legislative affairs volunteers. Local Legislative Affairs vice presidents pursue the mission with congressional staff members in the individual congressional districts throughout the country. The Contra Costa Council's assigned congressional district is California District 10 represented by Mark DeSaulnier.

One of the informational resources regularly produced by the national legislative affairs team is the Maritime Policy Statement. The 2025-2026 statement was recently released and distributed throughout the League's membership and beyond. The Maritime Policy Statement forms the foundation of the Navy League's Legislative Affairs Program over the course of a two-year Congress.



The result of extensive research by individuals with exceptional experience and expertise in the sea services, this document covers all aspects of the maritime domain. It also provides policy prescriptions for Congress to address any issues impacting America's readiness and future capabilities. The issues addressed within the Maritime Policy Statement, and the proposed solutions, form the guiding light for our legislative advocacy. It is both highly educational for staff members, and highly actionable for legislators.

CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL EVENTS

US Navy and Marine Corps Anniversary Dinner October 24, 2024

We welcomed our Navy and Marine Corps guests to celebrate their birthday/anniversaries from their beginning 249th years of operation. Celebrations throughout the Country to honor our Navy and Marines. We were so honored to have our new VQ3, Travis AFB Officer in Charge, LCDR Austin Wieny spoke about his new assignment and his career. His lovely wife, Amanda, also joined us! Dynamic speaker and certainly made our evening very special. Thank you Commander!

PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DINNER DECEMBER 6TH-2024

Another year to recognize this historic tragedy and what pulled the United States into WWII on Dec. 7th, 1941.



This year- we were so privileged to have RADM Bonnie Potter, the first female physician in the Navy Medical Corps to be selected for flag rank. We were all charmed by her stories of her career in the Military.

Her challenges, and successes by "sticking in there!" Amazing to hear all that this woman accomplished during her career and dedication to the Navy. As Chief of the Navy Medical Corps. In 1999, she received her second star, and subsequent duties included Fleet Surgeon, US Atlantic Fleet, Command Surgeon, Fleet Forces Command, Command Surgeon, US Joint Forces Command and Medical Advisor to Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic. Served on the USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy. Also, she served as Commander, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD.

She is now President of the Placer County Navy League. Continues to serve her country. Thank you, Bonnie Potter, for sharing your time and experiences with us on an historic evening for our Council, and guests.

We thank UBEO Business Services for providing printing services for this publication.

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Sea Services News

Navy Deploys First Operational Littoral Combat Ships Mine Countermeasures Packages

USNI News

March 18, 2025

USS Santa Barbara (LCS-32) and USS Canberra (LCS-30) quietly left San Diego, Calif., on March 10th with the long-awaited mission packages that will replace the Navy's aging mine hunting ships and aircraft, Navy officials confirmed to USNI News last week.

Assembled from a variety of separate systems, the MCM package stitches the components together, using the combinations of helicopter-borne and remote systems to find and neutralize sea mines from the surface to deep water. With the deployment of Santa Barbara and Canberra, the Navy is swapping out the forward-deployed Avengers in the Middle East and Japan, LCS program manager Capt. Matt Lehman and PEO USC mine warfare senior leader Sam Taylor told USNI News last week.

U.S. Marines Arrive for Australian Rotational Deployment; Marine South East Asia Unit Drills in Singapore

USNI News

March 17, 2025

U.S. Marines and sailors have arrived in Australia's Northern Territory to kick off the 14th annual rotation of the Marine Rotational Force – Darwin (MRF-D) Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

Meanwhile, Marine Rotational Force – South East Asia (MRF-SEA) began Exercise Valiant Mark 25 in Singapore on Monday, its final engagement before returning to the United States by the end of this month.

The Darwin deployment brings approximately 2,500 U.S. Marines and sailors to Australia to train and operate alongside the Australian Defence Force.

Coast Guard rescues 15 aliens from disabled vessel off San Diego coast

USCG Press Release March 12, 2025

SAN DIEGO — A Coast Guard Air Station San Diego MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter crew rescued 15 aliens aboard an adrift vessel approximately 60 miles southwest of San Diego, Tuesday.

Two Coast Guard rescue swimmers were deployed to bring the aliens aboard the helicopter.

All 15 aliens were safely hoisted and brought back to Sector San Diego over two separate flights due to passenger constraints.

The aliens were transferred to U.S. Customs and Border Protection custody.

Sea Services News

Coast Guard interdicts 9 aliens southwest of Point Loma, Calif.

USCG Press Release March 10, 2025

SAN DIEGO — The crews of Coast Guard Maritime Security and Safety Team Los Angeles/Long Beach interdicted nine aliens aboard a 20-foot boat approximately seven miles southwest of Point Loma, Monday.

In addition to Coast Guard Maritime Security and Safety Team Los Angeles/Long Beach, Coast Guard Cutter Petrel participated in the interdiction.

The Coast Guard took the nine aliens into custody and transferred them to U.S. Border Patrol personnel.

Pitch for Coast Guard ‘Arctic Security Cutter’ Part of FY 2025 Budget Negotiations

USNI NEWS MARCH 6, 2025

The final Fiscal Year 2025 spending bill could include a provision for a new Arctic Security Cutter that would operate in parallel with the ongoing Polar Security Cutter icebreaker program, according to two sources familiar with a draft version of the proposal.

The draft for the FY 2025 spending bill calls for up to three hulls in the reconciliation proposal that House and Senate Republicans are negotiating, the sources told USNI News.

The proposal for the Arctic Security Cutter, which would fulfill the need for medium ice breakers, comes as President Trump has called for a fleet of up to 40 U.S.-built “big icebreakers.”

Coast Guard interdicts 21 aliens west of Point Loma, Calif.

USCG Press Release March 1, 2025

SAN DIEGO — The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Haddock interdicted 21 aliens aboard a 25-foot boat approximately 20 miles west of Point Loma, Friday.

In addition to Coast Guard Cutter Haddock, Coast Guard Sector San Diego, Coast Guard Cutter Forrest Rednour, and a U.S. Customs and Border Protection Air and Marine Operations patrol aircraft participated in the interdiction.

The Coast Guard took the 21 aliens into custody and transferred them to U.S. Border Patrol personnel.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



YES! PLEASE ENROLL ME AS A NAVY LEAGUER

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP New Member or Renewal Membership

- \$55 1-Year Premium Individual/International (includes print edition of SEAPOWERS Magazine and Almanac)
- \$100 2-Year Premium Save \$10*
- \$130 3-Year Premium Save \$35*
- \$180 4-Year Premium Save \$40*
- \$225 5-Year Premium Save \$350*
- \$1,000 Life Membership (to age 55)
- \$750 Life Membership (age 56-75)
- \$500 Life Membership (age 76+)
- \$25 Membership includes electronic editions of SEAPOWERS and Almanac

* Over 1-year rate

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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.

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CHARGE MY: VISA MASTERCARD AMEX DISCOVER

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Contra Costa Council of the Navy League of U.S.
c/o Myriam Clark
680 Moraga Rd., #6
Moraga, CA 94556

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 Navel 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 the support of our men and women in uniform. Join in supporting our men and women of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and U.S. flag- Merchant Marine

Membership Alert: Members of the Navy League Contra Costa County Chapter will receive an automatic renewal notice from the Navy League of the U.S. on the renewal anniversary date. Members who wish to submit membership dues to the Contra Costa County chapter directly should note if payments are for new memberships or renewals.



Contra Costa Council of the Navy League of the U.S

4401 Orwood Rd.

Brentwood, CA 94513-5219

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

2025 Upcoming Events

Sea Services Awards Dinner	April 23, 2025
USCG Station Rio Vista BBQ	May 19, 2025
Coast Guard Birthday Dinner	August 14, 2025
Navy Marine Corps Birthday Dinner	October 23, 2025
Pearl Harbor Dinner	December 4, 2025