



THE SEA CHANT

Contra Costa Council Navy League of the United States

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are on a roll. Our new Recreational Program is up and running. There is a proposal for ways we can co-sponsor events with the USCG Auxiliary. We just received the **Sea Services Unit Adoption Excellence Award** from National for our efforts in serving our 12 sponsored units actively which includes



Congressional Certificates for performance along with our own CCCNLUS Award. Thanks to our amazing supportive Board members that lead this Council and members that standby us and our mission. Now, with new efforts and programs described in this newsletter, we should greatly increase our exposure and membership. That is our goal as we support

our 12 military units and their events, Change of Commands and other requested needs that we can address.

I thank you so much and look forward to an even better year as we are engaged in 2022! So, look for new events and tours, so important to spend time together.

Pam Speka

Never forget those that served this Council and have passed. Their involvement helped guide us into the Council we are today:

Jeanne Sharkey, Roger Meininger, past president, Board Member, Rich Radigonda, Mary Brumbaugh, Dick Brumbaugh, Wilfred J. Wilcox, Jack LaSalle, Betty Wyrick, and Gus Perscheid. And those that have left us we remember their service to this Country and Navy League.

CCCNL BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022

Pam Speka, President
Lorin Andersen, Vice President
Frank Wallace, Past President
P. Speka, Legislative Affairs
Jeff Hall, Judge Advocate
Myriam Clark, VP Membership
William R. Sharkey, Communications Advisor
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Bruce Clegg, Web Master
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Bill Kinsey, Recreational Dir., *LA Advisor*

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

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 • USCG • USCGC Tern • USMC MCAC B, Reserve Center • USN VQ-3 Unit Travis Air Force Base • USN Strategic Telecommunications Detachment, Travis AFB • USN Recruiting Station, Golden Hills Zone, P. H. • Sea Cadet Diablo Squadron and Training Ship-Lorraine Hughey. USN Recruiting Station, and USMC Recruiting Station, Pleasant Hill, CA.

Legislative Affairs

From the NL National Annual Report 2021

“The Legislative Affairs team directs the energy and passion of our members toward producing maximum impact on federal legislation related to the sea services. Our men and women in uniform need committed, informed, and organized advocates who can work with Congress to deliver critical resources. When America’s sea services need help, Navy League members are the ones who step in to provide it.” *This summarizes our Council’s goals as our LA representative continues to work with local Congressional Members to keep them informed of Sea Service needs.*

REGIONAL MEETING-APRIL 23

President, Pam Speka, and Recreational Director, Bill Kinsey represented our Council at this meeting and mingled with other councils. We found it mazing to hear about all the accomplishments from other councils. Each is different in serving their units, and we all get the job done!

NATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT: As the premier organization whose mission is focused on supporting our U.S. Sea Services – the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine – the Navy League of the United States, and its 30,000-member base, aligns its core functions under three pillars: education, advocacy and support. Through its councils, which are 200 strong and located around the globe, the Navy League makes all citizens aware that the United States is a maritime nation, that our national defense and economy rely on safe and secure waterways, and that American freedoms are only realized through a strong maritime industry and combat-ready naval forces that are capable of supporting our national defense and maritime strategy. We craft this mission into various educational sessions and tools, both at the council and headquarters levels, aligning our legislative priorities to the urgent needs of the sea services through our legislative grassroots campaigns. The councils are the lifeblood of our sea services support. Through councils’ unit and ship adoptions, commissioning ceremonies, youth activities support, scholarships, Navy balls and more, Sailors, Marines, Coasties and Mariners around the globe are provided the morale opportunities that assist in the mental focus and resiliency required to maintain operational focus. In late 2021, the Navy League made some of its most significant structural changes in recent history. First, in November it stood up a think tank, the Center for Maritime Strategy. Headed up by its Dean, retired Adm. James Foggo, the center studies the relationship between maritime power and national power, policy research that strengthens that relationship, and advocacy and education to advance those policies. Secondly, in December 2021 it officially launched its campaign to incorporate active-duty membership into the organization, after the passage of a change in the bylaws by the board of directors in the spring. This historical change has shifted its membership from an all-civilian organization to a joint civilian and active-duty military organization. One year after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic changed many plans for the organization. 2021 saw a return to some sense of normalcy. However, both headquarters and Navy League councils had to be agile and adaptable in the face of the virus.

HIGHLIGHTING BILL KINSEY- OUR NEW RECREATIONAL DIRECTOR:

Once again, this young man leads the way for this Council with this new approach to working with our Sea Service Units! He has already coordinated (4) hiking events for the MARINES, and our USCG. Coming up is another event for our Navy Units at Travis AFB. He received our Outstanding Navy Leaguer for 2018. Modestly, because this young man is brilliant and has set the pace for this new program as an example of what other Councils can do as well.



Hike to the Summit of Eagle Peak on Mt Diablo

On April 22, Bill Kinsey and Navy Leaguer Steve McCabe lead a group of 11 Marines from MCAC B (Concord Marines) on an exhilarating hike to the summit of Eagle Peak in Mt. Diablo State Park. Strict safety protocols were followed including a pre-hike safety briefing and periodic "head counts". Now that this peak has been conquered, should we call it "Eagle, Globe and Anchor Peak"?



Councils Joined to support USCGC PIKE. Gave crew two (2) "goodie boxes" full of waters, chips, granola

bars, fine chocolate bars, 🍫 😊 -- from Navy League councils: Santa Clara Council and Contra Costa Council partnered together to make this happen! The crew sure loved this idea as they travel to Alaska on board. What a great day and a fantastic experience cruising around the Bay with these Coastie's before they leave for Alaska. We even got a gourmet served luncheon on board!

Sector San Francisco – Award Presentations on April 24 – with Captain Lam and Master Chief Travis Cutler as part of this special event on base. Lorin Andersen, a former Navy Pilot and Sector Liaison, presented awards for Sector. Ron Rogness, Council Liaison, on board to present Aids to Navigation their ‘Best of the Best’ Award. Trevor Hall, Council Liaison, for USCGC ASPEN! Pete Van Putten, Council Liaison for the USCGC TERN joined in support of this special presentation.



Lorin Andersen and Awardee, **MST1 Christopher Brandshagen**



Ron Rogness with **BM2 Fatima Maestro**



Trevor Hall with USCGC ASPEN Awardee, **DC3 Joseph Lackey!**



Thanks Lorin Andersen and Captain Lam for pulling all of us together to honor these fine young top performers with the USCG for these Awards!

Master Chief Travis Cutler is always ahead of us in getting things done so it all comes together perfectly. Our appreciation for all you do for us.

RIO VISTA DOES IT AGAIN WITH THEIR ANNUAL BBQ AND AWARD PRESENTATION



Chief Mike Bennett, Awardee Karene Hansen, and Council Liaison, Lois Terrell

What a grand day with our hard-working Coasties at Rio Vista! Luncheon with great food, even grilled Chicken, fresh strawberries, Endive salad, and dessert. A feast thanks to our Liaison, Lois Terrel, and Council helpers, Chris Clegg, Myriam Clark, and Steve Cruikshank. Chief Mike Bennett welcomed us and then a big surprise, USCGC TERN joined the group to feast on the goodies and share time with our Council.



BM3 Jake Whitlock, Steve Cuikshank, BM2 Grace Sweeney, Liaison Lois Terrell and SN John Seals heading to a Boat Ride!!!



WE ARE ON THE MOVE WITH THE USCG AUXILIARY ANNUAL LEADERSHIP MEETING MARCH 24-25



Our two best ambassadors represented us to the USCG Auxiliary Annual Leadership Meeting in Sparks, Nevada. They were **Carrie Barnecut**, Regional President, and **Bill Kinsey** of the Contra Costa Council and former Auxiliary Officer. We had their attention as Carrie performed as the Luncheon Speaker to show our interest in working with the Auxiliary's flotillas.



Carrie and Carry Barnecut at USCG Awards Dinner! Always supportive! Thank you so much for your dedicated service to Navy League over all these years.



USCG Auxiliarist Bryce Lienan, Outstanding Performance Award presented by our Regional President, Carrie Barnecut. Also a standing ovation during our award presentation at the close of the Conference.

NLUS SCROLL OF HONOR PRESENTED TO OUR FINEST: JUNE 9TH**Commander William R. Sharkey III**

Commander Sharkey lives in Martinez, Ca. in the same house he was raised in all his life.

Enlisted into the Navy 1948 as a reservist and entered the Officer Candidate Program. Then attended the University of the Pacific in 1953 before entering the **Korean War – 1953-55**. During this war he served as the Division Officer of Military Command in charge of all troops on board three troop ships in the Pacific. Also he was responsible for all medical staff onboard these troop ships which consisted of 2 doctors, the Chief, and staff. Following the war period, he joined his family newspaper as the *Managing Editor* until 1963.

Went to **Shell Oil** in the Public Relations Dept. in Richmond before going home to Martinez and continuing with Shell at the Martinez Refinery until 1964. He then was the Employment Director for all new hires for this company from Aug. 1968- Apr. 1991. He truly loved this time at Shell and retired after 24 years.

He states that his wife, Jeanne, did all the Navy League Duties, and he supported her totally. **He is well known at the Contra Costa Council as the “Duty Driver.”**

One of our best moments – thanks to Carrie Barnecut, Regional President “After Angus Blackwood, San Francisco Council President read the award proclamation,(William Sharkey III) on his way to age 93, was visibly moved. He took the microphone and said that he was always grateful for all that he could do to help Jeanne, the First Lady of Contra Costa Council, support the Sea Services. This award was special to him.” *Quote from Central Pacific Newsletter*



Jeanne's Flowers for this Memorial Service as

Bill accepted his NL Scroll of Honor Award, we were there with all of the Council's support for all he has done over the years.

June 3rd Notice from Outgoing Regional President: "GREAT NEWS"

As I close out my 3rd year as your Pacific Central Region President, I am making a final appointment to the slate of Region Officers. I'd like to introduce you to **William (Bill) Kinsey**, a key member of the Contra Costa Council. Bill is former Coast Guard Auxiliarist. Through his connections I hope that our region can foster a collaboration with the District 11 North Auxiliary. Bill is working on two approaches for our working together:

1. Coordinate congressional staff visits to Coast Guard Auxiliary outreach - initially boating safety days.
 - o During these visits, Navy League can talk about continued/additional legislative support for the Sea Services.
2. The auxiliary offers 15 boater safety courses, of which several audiences are for youth the age of Sea Cadets.
 - o Bill can coordinate getting the training to our Cadets (and possibility to Junior Reserve Officer Training (JROTC) participants

With Bill's help, our councils will know who to ask for someone from the Auxiliary to make a presentation at council meetings. I think such presentations will encourage further collaboration between NLUS councils and Auxiliarists. Carrie Barnecut

Bill Kinsey doing what he does best representing the NL at events. Here at our Rio Vista BBQ explaining what our Council, and the Navy League does for all our Sea Service units! We are so fortunate to have him on board! Thank you, Bill, for all you do in front and behind the scenes.



DINNERS AND EVENTS

Upcoming – Just so you know!

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, December 7 -- Reserve this Day!

This dinner is a touching experience to attend. We sponsor this dinner annually. We are so fortunate to have other organizations donate so much to assist in putting this dinner together so we can honor our WWII servicemen and women who still remember that day, as do we all that had families involved at that time. We will again host this special dinner this year - TBA.

CHANGE OF COMMAND DISTRICT 11

Vice Admiral Michael F. McAllister, Commander, Coast Guard Pacific Area and Commander, Defense Force West will host the Coast Guard Eleventh District Change of Command. Rear Admiral Brian K. Penoyer will be relieved by Rear Admiral Andrew M. Sugimoto, on Friday, the 24th of June

JUST WANT TO SHARE ...

We are proud of all the awards we have earned over the years and events that we have sponsored/participated in including the many ship Commissioning's and all of the Change of Commands we have supported. Coming up will be our newest National Award from National Headquarters, The "Excellence Award for sponsoring Units". It is truly an honor to receive this recognition of our efforts and service to the 12 sponsored units.



Recreation Program Pending: Hike with our Naval Unit at Travis AFB. Bill Kinsey is currently working with one of the USCG Sector SF commands to plan the hike on San Pablo Ridge scheduled for June 30. DCC Justin Critcher of the Health, Safety, and Work-life Safety Afloat Detachment is working with Bill to coordinate this hike. They met at the Sector SF Treasure Island and discussed this upcoming 5k run in May. Once the route and time frame have been worked out we will be on our way to enjoy this hike!

Board Meetings are once a month – 1st Monday, 5PM. Currently on Zoom platform, and very successful since so easy for members to attend and no travel! Our Council so fortunate to have these dedicated folks that have served on the board for years, and never miss a beat! We are always looking for new council members to join us. This is the body that creates our dinners, events, and other type of special outings. Often we work with other Regional Councils to support them at some of the their events, or we partner to sponsor certain needs together.

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

 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

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____ DOB _____

Sponsor Last Name _____ Sponsor Membership # _____

 Preferred Council

METHOD OF PAYMENT

 CHECK ENCLOSED (make payable to NLUS)CHARGE MY: VISA MASTERCARD AMEX DISCOVER

Best Daytime Phone Number _____

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____ CVV2 _____ EXP DATE _____

Signature _____

SEND COMPLETED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO:

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 Council 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 Council 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



UPCOMING EVENTS

Navy Hike - TBA

USCG Birthday Dinner, August 10 – Wednesday

USN and USMC Birthday Dinner, November 16 – Wednesday

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner, December 7 – Wednesday

***** Announcement *****

President Pam Speka will be calling members soon to just see how you like our newsletters, various notifications, and brief information on the importance of our legislative affairs. Your involvement to support this effort is so simple and important for our Sea Services. We need your continued efforts.