



NAVY LEAGUE

of the United States
"Citizens in Support of the Sea Services"



Vol. XI, No. 36

Colorado Springs Council

Spring 2017

~~~~~ HALYARDS ~~~~~

2014 #1 and 2015 #2 NLUS Small Council Newsletter

<http://www.navyleague-coloradosprings.org/>

COUNCIL CALENDAR
Apr 1 - Board Meeting, 0900, Mimi's, N. Academy
May 3 - Council Dinner Meeting, 1730, Falcon Club
May 6 - Board Meeting, 0900, Mimi's, N. Academy
Jun 17 - Board Meeting, 0900, Mimi's N. Academy

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

60 Years of Commitment to the Sea Services

On 3 December 1957, the Colorado Springs Council was formed by 73 charter Navy League members. Happy 60th Birthday to the Council! Since its inception, we have developed a stable membership base of roughly 90 civilians, a neutral cash flow with over \$12,000 in assets, and strong corporate partnerships. Through the years, the Council has focused on its key missions. In this update, we reflect on Council successes in 2016. The numbers are powerful!

- **Enhance Morale & Support for Sea Services Personnel and Families:** 2 Major sea services-related events hosted (75th Anniversary Pearl Harbor Day Observance and U.S. Navy Birthday Ball); 3 Commands/units supported including USNORTHCOM Navy Element (210 USN/USMC/USCG), NOSC (230 USN/USMC) and NRD Divisions 4 & 5 (32 USN/USMC); 3 SEAPOWER Subscriptions given to supported units; Member of USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee; financial support to the PCU Colorado (SSN-778); support to military families included NOSC annual summer picnic; Sea service recognitions honored PO1 Daniel T Griffin (KIA) and the Bruce McCandless Veterans Community (ship's bell and plaque)
- **Support Youth Programs That Introduce Sea Services Values:** 4 NJROTC Units sponsored; 7 Awards given to NJROTC Cadets, 4 SEAPOWER

Subscriptions provided to units, \$1000 Annual support given; 82 Volunteer hours contributed in youth activities; 3 STEM talks facilitated for students; Plan for a 4-year college scholarship initiated

- **Educate Citizens about Importance of Sea Services Through Activities:** 7 Presentations made to local schools; 3 Joint activities with other civic groups and veteran service organizations; 3 Sea services and public education activities held with partners, civic organizations and the community; 3 Issues of the *Halyards* newsletter published and Council website maintained; 3 Navy League information/membership booths at public education activities
- **Educate Congress Through Advocacy and Legislative Outreach:** 5 Letters sent to Congress; 2 Presentations to Congressional Members (or their staff); 2 Invitations to Representatives to speak at Council events; 2 Legislative updates to Council members; Participation in the grass roots program
- **Conduct Council Operations:** 11 Directors meetings; 5 General Membership meetings

Thanks go to those volunteers and partners who have vigorously supported the Navy League in recent years, including O'Donnell & O'Donnell, the Boeing Company, Ent Credit Union and Financial Services, Lockheed Martin Corporation, Northrop Grumman Corporation, NAVY FEDERAL Credit Union, USAA Financial Center, and FirstCommand Financial Group. The result has been steady growth and development through the Council's first 60 years! Looking ahead, your Board has adopted a strategic plan that will guide Council's support of the Sea Services tomorrow and in the years to come.... *Full steam ahead!*

Sincerely,
Randel L. Zeller, CAPT, USN (Ret)

WHAT'S NEW

Council Dinner Meeting – May 3

Location: Falcon Club Sunrise Room, 3120 Academy Dr. USAFA

Social hour: 5:30 pm. Dinner: 6:30 pm.

Meal Options: Pasta Primavera w/Veggies, \$25; Herb Roasted Chicken Breast, \$30; London Broil au Jus, \$30

Speaker: Dr. Lance Blyth, Command Historian, NORAD-USNORTHCOM

Please RSVP by April 27 to Bunny Blaha at bunny_blaha@msn.com or 471-8527.

Please indicate if attendee is a non-DoD ID card holder so arrangements can be made for escort onto USAFA.

Anyone interested in Navy League, the sea services, or our speakers/topics is welcome at any of our events. You don't have to be a member of NLUS!

Wanted: VP for Programs.

Ideally, the incumbent will coordinate board and council participation in, support of and/or management of events such as NJROTC awards ceremonies, Sailor of the Year awards presentations to local sea service personnel, Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, Pearl Harbor Day, the Navy Birthday Ball, PCU Colorado crew member visits to the local area, council dinners and speakers, etc. For some of these activities, we are the lead or a key contributor; for some we are just participants. If you don't have time to do it all, other board members are willing to take responsibility for parts of the job. If you are willing to take on only some functions, that would be helpful too! For details, contact Randy Zeller, Steve Bethke or Bunny Blaha.

New Members

Welcome aboard to new members, James Powers and Tom Menza! Everyone else, don't forget to renew your NLUS membership at <http://navyleague.org/>. An e-membership is only \$25/year! Your NLUS membership makes you a council member; no council dues. Two memberships for the price of one. What a deal!

US Navy Birthday Ball 2017

Save the evening of October 14, 2017, for the Rocky Mountain Region's annual US Navy Birthday Ball. If you have an interest in helping us make this event another huge success for our men and women in uniform, please contact Randy Zeller or show up for the first planning meeting at 1630, April 5, in the Heritage Room at the PAFB Club.

RECENT COUNCIL EVENTS

January Council Meeting

Kicking off 2017, the general membership met on January at the U.S. Air Force Academy's Falcon Club, which recently completed renovations. After a delicious dinner and a discussion about the global war against terrorism, outgoing President Roy Rogers installed newly elected officers to the 2017 Board of Directors. Congratulations go to Randy Zeller, President; Bill Lockwood, VP for Membership; Art Cyphers, VP for Finance and Youth Programs; George Sugars, VP for Legislative Affairs; Candice Green, VP for Public Relations; and Bunny Blaha, Secretary. Appointed officials for 2017 include Wayne Wolfe, Webmaster; Bunny Blaha, *Halyards* Editor; and Debbie Zeller, Chaplain.



Art Cyphers, Bill Lockwood, Randy Zeller, George Sugars, Candice Green, Bunny Blaha

USS Colorado Crew Visit

During the last week in January, USS Colorado (SSN 788) crew members were hosted by the Commissioning Committee for a three day visit to the state. Their tour included speaking at numerous schools, visiting the Center for American Values in Pueblo, and participating in Military Appreciation Day at the Capitol. In support of this visit, the Council's Vice Presidents for Finance and Public Relations joined in the activities at the Capitol. Steve Bethke, Council Scholarship Chair, and a Panorama Middle School Science Teacher, hosted the crew for a science lesson with a group of about 100 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Art Cyphers, Vice President for Youth Programs, greeted the crew upon their arrival to the school. The students had a great time learning from the Executive Officer, Chief of the Boat, and two nuclear qualified Sailors. The children were completely engaged in talking about science, technology, engineering, mathematics and art during this class.



Steve Bethke, (rear, center), school staff, PCU Colorado crewmembers and Panorama Middle School students

Junior ROTC Drill Meet

CDR Matt Masi, USN (Ret); Senior Chief Petty Officer Tony Cook, USN (Ret); and the Mesa Ridge High School’s Naval Science Department hosted the regional Junior ROTC Drill Meet Competition on January 21. Eight units competed, including all four Navy JROTC Units sponsored by the Colorado Springs Council: Doherty HS, Mesa Ridge HS, Montrose HS, and Widefield HS. Competitions included physical training, color guard drill, armed drill, unarmed drill, and an academic exam. Midshipmen from CU Boulder NROTC served as judges along with a Marine Gunnery Sergeant. Both the Council President and VP for Youth Programs attended that morning to meet the Cadets and their instructors. In the afternoon, KRDO TV filmed the activities. Montrose Cadets won the day with the highest set of overall scores.



Montrose High School NJROTC cadets



Fountain-Fort Carson High School AJROTC cadets

March Council Meeting

Members gathered again on March 8 for dinner, presentations and council business. Birthday congratulations were extended to the US Navy Reserve

Fall 2016 *Halyards*

on its 102nd year and to Candice Green. Kudos go to Dick Cooper, Region National Director, for sharing his personal reflections and photos on commemoration events at Kaneohe Bay, HI, during the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. We also extend thanks to JJ Mackin, Chair, USS Colorado (SSN 788) Commissioning Committee, for presenting the new video on the boat and its crew, and the Committee’s endeavors to support them. Commissioning is now projected for late October or early November, 2017. During the March meeting, Randy appointed our new Judge Advocate, Tom Menza, and the 2017 budget was approved, including a funded four-year academic scholarship. More details will follow soon on this initiative in partnership with the Navy League Foundation.



JJ Mackin, Randy Zeller, George Sugars



PCU Colorado at 2016 christening

Navy Recruiting District Denver Honorees

The NRD has nine divisions in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah. Two Sailors from [Divisions 4 and 5](#) in the Council region were honored at the March Council dinner for their outstanding contributions to the command and the Navy. NRD Commanding Officer Renee Tanaka, CDR, USN, related their accomplishments and assisted Council President Zeller in the presentation of two Council awards. LS2 Heather Hopkinson, who serves in Colorado Springs, received an award for 2016 Sailor of the Year and was joined by her husband at the dinner. AO1(AW) Nathan Chavez, who serves in Pueblo, was presented the 2016 Recruiter of the Year Award. He was accompanied by his spouse at the event. Hearty congratulations go to both LS2 Hopkinson and AO1(AW) Chavez for jobs well done!



LS2 Hopkinson, CDR Tanaka, AO1 (AW) Chavez

News Flash

In the February/March 2017 issue of [SEAPOW](#), our local Navy Leaguers were highlighted in activities marking the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. On pages 67- 68, you will find six paragraphs of details about the local commemoration as well as that held in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, where National Director Dick Cooper and his wife Gail honored Petty Officer 1st Class Daniel Griffin, a Colorado Springs resident who was likely the first American casualty of WWII.

USNORTHCOM SOY Honored

In March, our council recognized the 2016 Sailor of the Year at USNORTHCOM’s Navy Element, IS1 Lawrence Goglin, on the occasion of his End of Tour (EOT) award ceremony. Presenting the SOY award were Bunny Blaha and George Sugars, accompanied by wife Peggy. Congratulations and BZ to Petty Officer Goglin on your accomplishments and contributions! And Fair Winds and Following Seas in your new civilian endeavors to become a, no doubt, award-winning chef!



George Sugars, Bunny Blaha, IS1 Goglin

New Board Member

In March, the Council welcomed Thomas “Tom” Menza as both a new Navy League member and newly appointed Judge Advocate (legal advisor) on its Board of Directors. He served in the Air Force from 1976 to 1988 as a pilot with assignments that included Special Ops, Airlift, Tankers, Flight Instructor and staff duties. His other experiences have included serving in the National Air Service in Saudi Arabia as both a ground training instructor and legal advisor, working for a defense industry consultant, and teaching law and history at the Fall 2016 *Halyards*

USAF Academy and Chapman College. Tom has been in private practice since 1988, when he was admitted to practice law in Colorado. He has been active in family, juvenile and elder law, criminal defense, contract litigation, real estate law, civil post judgement procedures, and international and aviation business matters. Tom graduated with a JD from the University of Denver in 1987, an MA from CU Boulder in 1974, and a BS in Civil Engineering from the USAF in 1967. Tom and his wife, Deborah, have three adult children, one currently serving in the Navy. Welcome aboard, Tom, and thank you for supporting Navy League!



Tom Menza

Other board members’ biographies may be viewed in previous editions of the *Halyards* and on our website

IN OTHER NEWS

Potential U.S. Coast Guard Cuts

The Navy League has issued a call to action regarding the recent [news](#) that the president's fiscal 2018 budget proposes [cuts](#) totaling more than 14 percent to U.S. Coast Guard funding. You are urged to send a letter to the president, vice president, governor and Congressional representatives urging them to strongly oppose these cuts by clicking [here](#).

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
Elected Officers	
President	Randy Zeller rzeller.navyleaguecos@gmail.com
VP Programs	vacant
VP Membership	Bill Lockwood bklockwood@earthlink.net
VP Finance/Treasurer	Art Cyphers cypherspace65@msn.com
VP Legislative Affairs	George Sugars gsugars@comcast.net
VP Youth Programs	Art Cyphers cypherspace65@msn.com
VP Public Relations	Candice Green cgreen.navyleaguecos@gmail.com
Secretary	Bunny Blaha bunny_blah@msn.com
Immed Past President	Roy Rogers roykimrogers@gmail.com
Appointed Officials	
Webmaster	Wayne Wolfe wayne.wolfe@gmail.com
<i>Halyards</i> Editor	Bunny Blaha bunny_blah@msn.com
Chaplain	Deb Zeller dzeller.navyleaguecos@gmail.com
Judge Advocate	Tom Menza tfmenza@hotmail.com