



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



Vol. XI, No. 38

Colorado Springs Council

Fall 2017

~~~~~**HALYARDS**~~~~~

2014 #1 and 2015 #2 NLUS Small Council Newsletter

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

| <b>COUNCIL CALENDAR</b>                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct 7 - Board Meeting, 0900, Zeller's home                                                 |
| Oct 14 - U.S. Navy Birthday Ball, 1730, Hotel Elegante                                     |
| Nov 2 - RSVP Deadline for Nov 8 Dinner                                                     |
| Nov 3 - Board Meeting, 1630, The Club, PAFB                                                |
| Nov 8- Council Dinner, Annual Membership Meeting & Election of Officers, 1700, Falcon Club |
| Dec 2 - Board Meeting, 0900, Mimi's N. Academy                                             |

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**Commitment to the Sea Servicess**

On August 4<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the 227<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the U.S. Coast Guard. Happy Birthday to our seafaring partners in the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Hurricanes, heroes & hope ... Over the past several weeks, we all witnessed the destruction of both Hurricanes Harvey and Irma along the Texas Coast, Florida, and the Eastern Caribbean. The storm wreckage severely impacted millions and reminds us of how vital it is for help to be there in time of crisis. The U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard have heroically served our fellow citizens during and after both hurricanes. CAPT David Cooper, USCG (twin brother of our September dinner speaker), and his pilots based on the Texas Gulf coast conducted hundreds of search and rescue missions in Texas saving many lives. RDML Blake Converse, U.S. Fleet Forces Command Operations Chief, and the men and women of CTF 189 delivered over 250,000 pounds of humanitarian aid, supplies and cargo to the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Saving lives and easing suffering were common, and uncommon bravery and compassion proved the mettle of the sea services. BZ.

Thanks to our distinguished speakers who have spoken at recent Council dinners! We all enjoyed our September guest speaker, CAPT Tom Cooper, USCG.

Tom is currently serving as the Director for Interagency Coordination at U.S. Northern Command and NORAD.

Bravo Zulu to the Falcon Club for a wonderful venue and catering services at our membership dinner meetings.

The National NLUS Convention was held in June at the Hyatt Regency in Milwaukee, WI. Thanks go to Dick Cooper for representing our Council. One of the sessions included a presentation by Jay Donnelly, National Vice President. It summarized the key point that the sea services are at a tipping point in terms of force structure and capitalization. One of the greatest challenges is that current budget caps are lower than FY 16 and FY 17 levels for the defense side and the Coast Guard. Navy League headquarters is changing this conversation, but they need help from the grassroots.

This is where you come in. You can connect with your members of Congress to promote the Navy League's legislative priorities at the 2017 Anchors Aweigh "Fly-in." NLUS will train you on how to do this on the afternoon of November 15 at the Holiday Inn Dulles Airport in Virginia. Then shuttles will take Navy Leaguers to Capitol Hill on November 16 to talk with legislators about the Sea Services. Key points will be Coast Guard funding and Navy readiness. Contact me if you are interested in participating.

Looking forward, the Colorado Springs Council will partner with the USS Colorado Commissioning Committee in support of the forthcoming October visit by crewmembers of the PCU Colorado (SSN 788). School visits will be scheduled to educate students about STEM presentations and more is being planned in the Springs. Four USS Colorado sailors will be special guests at the U.S. Navy Birthday Ball this year.

Go Navy!

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

## WHAT'S NEW

### **Council Dinner Meeting – November 8**

Location: Falcon Club, USAFA

Social hour: 5:00 pm. Dinner: 6:30 pm.

Sunrise Room, Falcon Club, 3120 Academy Dr, USAFA

Meal Options: Pasta Primavera w/Veggies \$25, Herbed Chicken Breast \$30, London Broil \$30

Speaker: LCDR Asa Kim, CO, NOSC Fort Carson

Please RSVP by November 2 to Bunny Blaha at [bunny\\_blaha@msn.com](mailto:bunny_blaha@msn.com) or 471-8527.

Non-DOD ID holders may enter USAFA through the North Gate before 5:00 pm. If you are unable to enter before 5:00 pm, a DOD ID holder can meet you outside and escort you in. If you need help with that, contact Bunny.

**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!**

### **U.S. Navy Birthday Ball**

The Navy League is proud to host the 2017 Rocky Mountain region Navy Birthday Ball celebrating the U.S. Navy's 242<sup>nd</sup> birthday. The event will take place on October 14 at the Hotel Elegante. Since 1972, each CNO has encouraged a Navy-wide birthday celebration to enhance a greater appreciation of the Navy's heritage, and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the Naval service. The Navy League is honored to host this celebration of the Navy's birthday in partnership with many organizations in Colorado Springs. Please join us as we honor 242 years of service to our country. This year, we are fortunate to have the Honorable John Suthers, Mayor of Colorado Springs, as our keynote speaker! It promises to be a fantastic celebration. Please see event and registration details on our website. Please join us! We hope to see you there!

### **Call for Volunteers to Serve as 2018 Elected Officers**

The Navy League consists of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer supporters. We are looking for a few members who are willing to partner with others on the Council's Board of Directors to ensure our continued support of the Sea Services. Several elected positions need to be staffed for one-year terms beginning in 2018. If you would like to learn more about it, contact Bunny Blaha at [bunny\\_blaha@msn.com](mailto:bunny_blaha@msn.com) or 471-8527. Nominations are due by October 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **2018 Board of Directors Slate**

At the Council Annual Meeting and dinner on November 8, council members will vote on a slate for next year's Board of Directors. At press time, the slate so far is as follows:

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## Elected Officers Nominees

|                            |                                         |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| President                  | Tom Gregory                             |
| VP for Programs            | open                                    |
| VP for Public Affairs      | Candice Greene                          |
| VP for Legislative Affairs | open                                    |
| VP for Membership          | Wayne Wolfe                             |
| VP for Youth               | Art Cyphers                             |
| Treasurer                  | Art Cyphers                             |
| Secretary                  | Bunny Blaha (would like to be relieved) |
| Past President             | Roy Rogers                              |

Appointed Officials Nominees (to be chosen and appointed by the 2018 President-Elect):

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Editor, Halyards | Bunny Blaha |
| Webmaster        | Wayne Wolfe |
| Chaplain         | open        |
| Judge Advocate   | Tom Menza   |

Additional nominees/volunteers in addition to those already identified are welcome!

### **Membership Report**

Our roster currently includes 76 members. New members this past quarter are Richard Burton, Rob Kroeckel, and David Mintus. Returning members are Terry Etnyre and Jim Downing. Welcome aboard, all!

## RECENT COUNCIL EVENTS

### **July Council Dinner Meeting**

Joe Bonnet, NORAD/USNORTHCOM J7 Director for Training and Exercises, gave an informative and entertaining presentation at our council dinner on July 12 on his national training program and recent exercises. Joe is responsible for all joint training, education, and exercises for both commands and their respective regions, components, and subordinate commands.



Joe Bonnet addressing council members on July 12

**September Council Dinner Meeting**

At our council’s September 13 dinner meeting, CAPT Thomas Cooper, USCG, Deputy Director on the J9 Interagency Directorate at NORAD gave an informative “Coast Guard 101” presentation, followed by an interesting discussion of the Coast Guard missions around the globe, including actions during Hurricanes Katrina, Harvey and Irma.



CAPT Tom Cooper briefs council members

**IN OTHER NEWS**

**NOSC Change of Command**

Council friend and supporter, LCDR Colin O’Neil, was relieved as commander of Navy Operational Support Center Fort Carson on July 16 by LCDR Asa Kim. Fair winds and following seas, Colin! We’ll miss you at our dinners. Welcome aboard, Asa! We look forward to collaborating with you.



(L to R) LCDR Asa Kim, Candice, LCDR Colin O’Neil, Bunny, Sue, Art

**Colorado at Sea**

USS Colorado SSN 788 put to sea for Alpha and Bravo sea trials in August, submerging for the first time, and making high-speed runs on and below the surface. The crew performed extremely well, testing the boat to its design limits. After an in-port period, the boat will return to sea for additional inspections.

Coincidentally, SSN 788 completed her sea trials on August 30<sup>th</sup>, the day that marks 94 years since commissioning of USS Colorado BB-45, the last Navy vessel to carry the state’s name.

(Credit to: [Commissioning Committee Website](#))

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USS Colorado (SSN-778)

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



USCG rescue swimmer with Hurricane Harvey rescuee (Credit to Houston Chronicle)