



## Navy League of the United States St. Augustine - Palm Coast Council

# BOSUN'S LOCKER

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### FROM THE BRIDGE:



Fellow Navy Leaguers:

Our year is fleeting by and your Navy League Council continues to be highly engaged. The Council Board of Directors has undertaken some special meetings outside of the regular meetings held at the Southeast Branch Library in order to stimulate more attendance and to bring some variety to our Navy League Council. March and April will have the regular meetings at the Southeast Branch Library but then we will shift to the St. Francis Barracks Officer's Club for our May meeting. The Blount Island Marine of the Year will be a part of the evening's program along with food and refreshments. June's meeting will be held at the Flagler College Solarium where we will be honoring our Coasties from USCG Sector at Mayport. We will also have food and refreshments at this event as well.

February's regular meeting was set aside and in its place we had a social event. Dave Sullivan organized a movie night at the local Epic Theater to see a featured film on the lifesaving heroics of the USCG in a film entitled, "The Finest Hours". It was a true story that took place in the 1952 era off Cape Cod. We had 24 members attend and afterwards many went out for dinner and beverages at a local restaurant. Great job, Dave on getting this organized.

**Save the Date:** On 28 April we will be hosting our final Individual Augmentee (IA) Luncheon at NAS/JAX Officers Club. Luncheon cost is \$15 per person. We are very fortunate to have RADM Jack Scorby as our keynote speaker. Many will remember NAS/JAX Base Commander Capt. Jack Scorby was responsible for the IA Appreciation Program back in Nov. 2007. It is only fitting and fortuitous that we have him back wearing some heavier hardware as our final speaker as we honor these deserving sailors. I will be distributing a separate flyer with all the details on how to sign up and where to send your check.

Your Council has submitted their Annual Report for CY 2015 highlighting all the Councils activities and achievements during the year. As a part of the Annual Report, we have also submitted a Council scrap book giving a pictorial collection of this year's events. Thanks to the superb work of Lee Figliuolo and Garry Cohn for the outstanding work in submitting a very professional collage and depiction of Council events. Let's now hope the Awards Committee judge us again this year for what we are....An Outstanding Council.

Our adopted unit's liaisons are doing a yeoman's job of honoring our Sailors, Coasties, and Marines at the SOQ/SOY awards ceremonies. However, they could use some beefing up by more of our members attending these very special events.

*Bill Dudley*

President  
SA-PC Council  
Navy League of the United States

### USCG, "The Finest Hours"



On the day Bernard (Bernie) Weber, a crewman at the Coast Guard station in Chatham, Massachusetts is due to ask his C.O.'s permission to marry, the SS Pendelton shears in half off the Chatham coast after getting caught in a nor'easter. With the majority of the station's crew already underway with the rescue of the similarly-afflicted SS Fort Mercer, Bernie is dispatched to pilot Coast Guard Motor Lifeboat 36500 to rescue the Pendelton. Bernie selects Andrew Fitzgerald, Ervin Maske, and Richard P. Livesey as his crew.



Meanwhile, the Pendelton's engineer, the senior officer on the stern of the stricken ship, which contains most of the crew, organizes the surviving seamen to steer the sinking stern of the tanker onto a submerged reef, where it can lodge until rescuers arrive.

When Miriam, Bernie's fiancé, hears that Bernie is leading the rescue effort, she, like a number of other townspeople, thinks this is a suicide mission. Between the Chatham harbor and the open sea lies a bar, a series of shoal that are very dangerous even in good weather. She repeatedly asks Bernie's C.O. to recall the mission but is rebuffed and ordered to leave the station.

## USCG, "The Finest Hours" (Continued)



Bernie must time bursts of his engine to ride each approaching wave before it breaks as he pilots the 36500 across the bar. He manages to make it over the bar, though in the process he loses his compass.

Bernie steers the 36500 to the stricken tanker. Even though his boat is only designed to take on 12 people, Bernie manages to rescue 32 crewmen. The stern of the Pendleton begins sinking more rapidly during the rescue and goes down shortly after the last crewman comes aboard Bernie's boat. Relying on his knowledge of the coast and prevailing winds in place of his compass, Bernie steers the 36500 toward home--a task made more difficult as Chatham loses power. However, his fiancé and the other townspeople drive their cars to the pier and turn on their headlights to guide Bernie in.

A closing segment of the movie briefly documents the aftermath of the rescue using photographs from the actual events. Two months later, Bernie and Miriam are married; they stay together for 58 years until Bernie's death in 2009. Webber and his crew receive the Coast Guard Life Saving medal.

## USS The Sullivans (DDG 68):



On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, Council Liaison Gary Cohn presented the USS The Sullivans (DDG 68) Senior Sailor of the Year (2015) award to HT1(SW) John Franco as the ship prepared for its most recent deployment. The award package includes a plaque, a recognition certificate for the sailor's permanent service record, letters of appreciation from area congressional members, dinner at one of numerous participating restaurants, passes to local attractions, a City parking pass, \$100 cash and two night courtesy lodging from Jalaram Hotels.



The Sullivans Command Officer, Cdr. Jennifer Blakeslee surprised Liaison Cohn with a framed action photo of the ship conducting live-fire practice. With XO Cdr. Gilbert Clark and CMC Stephens assisting, CO Blakeslee also presented the ship's periodic medals and Sailor of the Quarter awards. Also in attendance were Navy League members Jeanette Cohn, Bill Dudley, Claude Caviness, George Costa,

George & Ellie Grech and civilian guests of Grech, Tom Arbano and daughter Cristine (who has signed her USN enlistment papers).



**Claude Caviness - SA-PC NL Public Relations**

## VR-58 "Sunseekers":



Fleet Logistics Support Squadron Five Eight (VR-58) held an awards ceremony on March 5<sup>th</sup> to recognize their 4Q2015 Sailors of the Quarter, 1Q2016 Sailors of the Quarter (SOQ), and their 2015 Sailors of the Year (SOY). Our Council was represented at the ceremony by Bill Dudley (President), Ian Pollitt (Military Affairs Officer), Claude Caviness, Garry Cohn, and Gene Finck (VR-58 Liaison).

The ceremony started at 0800 with Gene Finck presenting plaques on behalf of the Navy League. 4th Quarter SOQ recipients for Full Time Service were, AWF1 Kory Geesaman, AWF2 Shawn McDuffier, and AT3 Earl Strong. AM1 Paul Harris, AD2 Paul Romano, and PR3 Bessie Gomez were the Selective Reserve awardees. Full Time Service 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter awardees for 2016 were NC1 Stacyann Lopez, AZ2 Annie Epps, and AT3 Edward Niedzielski. Representing the Selective Reserve were AM1 Thomas Gribben, AE2 Dennis Buchanan, and LS3 Ashley Nagbe.

The 2015 SOY awardees for Full Time Service were AWF1 Kory Geesaman, AWF2 Shawn McDuffie, and AD3 Quinton Swanson. The 2015 Selective Reserve Sailors of the Year were AM1 Paul Harris, AD2 Paul Romano, and PR3 Bessie Gomez. In addition to their SOY plaques, they were presented with Letters of Appreciation from Congressman Crenshaw's office, compliments of his representative Jackie Smith. The Senior Sailors of the Year then received the standard SA-PC benefits package for a weekend in St. Augustine, to include dinner and admission to numerous attractions, compliments of the St. Augustine Chamber of Commerce. Upon completion of the awards ceremony, Command Master Chief Don Carr invited SA-PC Navy League members to the Chiefs Mess for snacks, refreshments, and some time to chat with his VR-58's Sailors of the Year. It was memorable occasion for all that attended.

**Gene Finck - Liaison VR-58**



## **USS Hue City (CG 66):**

On March 11, 2016, members of the SA - PC Navy League council gathered on the quarterdeck of the USS Hue City to present the awards for 3 & 4Q2015 & 1Q2016 Sailors of the quarter and the SOY and Blue Jacket of the Year awards for 2015.

CMDCM Terri Zehnacker is pictured below with the awardees, Front row l to r:

2015 Sr. SOY - SDH1(SW) Maria Torresguevara  
 4Q2015 Jr. SOQ - HM2(SW) Serena Yesenofski  
 2015 Jr. SOY - CTT2(SW) Melissa Donaldson  
 3Q2015 BJ SOQ - STG3 Ronald Barnes

Back row l to r:

2015 BJ-SOY - LSSN Kristin Ceresola  
 1Q2016 Sr. SOQ - STG1(SW) Marcus Butler  
 4Q2015 Sr. SOQ - FC1(SW) Llyod Lewis  
 1Q2016 Jr. SOQ - OS2(SW) Engimer Abreu



The awards were presented by the Commanding Officer of the Hue City, Capt. Wyatt Chidester with assistance from XO, Cdr. Chadrick Withrow and CMDCM Teri Zehnacker. Council attendees included President Bill Dudley, VP Military Affairs Ian Pollitt, Angela Gale (wife of Hue City Liaison Willard Gale) and photographer Gary Cohn.

## **USCG HITRON:**



February 17, 2016 was a special day for many members of USCG HITRON who received recognition for great performance throughout the 4Q2015 as well as during the entire year of superior mission accomplishment by HITRON.

Among the many who were honored during an "All Hands" Commander's meeting were the SA-PC Navy League awards to EPOQ 4th Qtr, IT3 Gary Rholeder; Perchard award recipient, AET2 Daniel Trujillo; and the 2015 EPOY award winner, AMT1 Travis Francisco. Awards were presented by Navy League Liaison to HITRON; BGen Paul Kimmel, USAF (ret) under the direction of HITRON Commander Captain Gavin, Executive Officer, Commander Horne and Command Master Chief Kalita.

IT3 Gary Rholeder was singled out for his selfless dedication to the unit's critical Information and Communications systems. He deployed multiple times and notably provided IT help to an allied vessel. He often sacrificed his Liberty time to assist in Coast Guard functions setting up audio and visual systems.

AET2 Daniel Trujillo received the coveted Perchard Award for his "phenomenal performance" during a Nov-Dec deployment. He was largely responsible for 8 TOI's, 2 drug busts and the interdiction of 30 million dollars worth of illegal cocaine! He played a critical role in deescalating a potentially tragic event by calming five detainees during a "stand-off" with CG and Navy personnel.

AMT1 Travis Francisco was awarded the EPOY over fierce competition from numerous squadron mates who, by all standards, aided HITRON in achieving its most productive year since its inception. He deployed 102 days during the calander year and performed many minor miracles due to his maintenance expertise. He personally performed or supervised 12 engine changes, 10 engine 600 hour overhauls, 7 maintenance gear box replacements and countless pre and post deployment MX package inspections. His extraordinary talent in performing a one day pier-side "Hard Landing" inspection enabled the helicopter to be back in service on the Coast Guard Cutter "Diligence" in record time.



Congratulations to HITRON and those well deserving Coast Guard members!

**Paul Kimmel - USCG HITRON Liaison**



## USS Farragut (DDG 99):



The USS FARRAGUT held a change of command ceremony on March 18<sup>th</sup> onboard NS Mayport. Halfway through a very intense six-month underway period, CDR Megan A. Thomas relieved CDR Cory R. Applebee as Commanding Officer. On hand to represent the SA-PC Navy League were Bill Dudley (President), Gene Finck (Farragut Liaison), Garry Cohn, and his grandson Jordon Reeves.

CDR Applebee provided his departing remarks and stated "I will never forget the time I have spent aboard Farragut; it has been my honor serving as Farragut's captain." He also thanked his crew for their tireless efforts. It should be noted that FARRAGUT earned

numerous prestigious awards under CDR Applebee's leadership, to include the Battle "E" award for 2014 and 2015.

After the reading of their orders, CDR Thomas (pictured to the right) officially relieved CDR Applebee and proceeded to provide her remarks. After thanking CDR Applebee for his outstanding leadership over the past three years, CDR Thomas stated that she was "truly excited and honored to take command of USS Farragut and her exceptional Sailors." She also welcomed CDR Casey Baker as the new Executive Officer. It was quite evident that she plans on taking FARRAGUT to even greater heights during her tour as Commanding Officer. Upon completion of the ceremony, the ship held a cake cutting ceremony in the Port Helo Hangar complete with refreshments as the crew interacted with guests.



The USS FARRAGUT held an awards ceremony on March 24<sup>th</sup>, during a brief stop in Mayport, FL. The SA-PC Navy League Council was represented by Bill Dudley (President), Gene Finck (FARRAGUT Liaison), Gary Cohn, George Costa, and John Baker (Guest). Command Master Chief Martin Roberts greeted the SA-PC party on the Quarterdeck and escorted them to the Chiefs Mess where he presented each member with a newly minted Chief Petty Officers coin. While the ship made final preparations for the ceremony, members were provided refreshments and time to socialize with some of the Chiefs. The Commanding Officer, CDR Megan Thomas, welcomed all aboard and escorted the SA-PC members to the fantail where the ceremony commenced. CDR Thomas kicked off the ceremony by introducing the SA-PC members and afforded our President, Bill Dudley, with the opportunity to address the crew.



Bill Dudley took to the podium to explain the mission of our Navy League to the crew, and he also expressed how proud and thankful we are for their service to our country. Gene Finck followed to present GM1(SW) Cody A. Kuhlers, FC2(SW) Brian S. Moranor, and FC3(SW) Cody N. Williams with plaques in recognition of being named SOQ 4Q2015. The 1Q2016 SOQ's to receive plaques were HM1(SW) Jacob A. Seekins, BM2(SW) Lucas T. Foley, and HM3(SW) Isiah A. Teasley. FARRAGUT Sailors of the year (SOY) OS1(SW) Jasper D. Lee, BM2(SW) Francisco M. Carlos, and FC3(SW) Drew C. Bryant were also presented with their plaques as well as Congressional Letters of Appreciation from Congressman Crenshaw's office, compliments of his representative Jackie Smith. FARRAGUT Senior Sailor of the Year, OS1(SW) Lee, also received the standard SA-PC benefits package for a weekend in St. Augustine, to include dinner and admission to numerous attractions, compliments of the St. Augustine Chamber of Commerce.

Commander Thomas graciously hosted the SA-PC members in the Wardroom for a luncheon following the ceremony with CDR Baker and Command Master Chief Roberts also in attendance. As with everything FARRAGUT does, the event was top notch. CDR Thomas presented the SA-PC members with officer coins, which were just as impressive as the earlier coins, and it was easy to recognize how much times have changed because this Navy chow was absolutely delicious. While FARRAGUT had to shift colors to get back underway on Saturday morning, they made this an event to remember. The SA-PC Navy League wishes her fair winds and following sea's as we look forward to her return to homeport.



Gene Finck, Sr SOY - OS1 Jasper D. Lee, CDR Thomas

**Gene Finck - USS Farragut Liaison**

## **YOUTH ACTIVITIES:**

### **JROTC Units:**

The Allen D. Nease High School Navy JROTC Sanctioned Drill meet was held on February 6, 2016. Eleven Naval JROTC teams competed in the event. The twenty five judges of the event consisted of volunteers from NAS JAX Marine Aviation Maintenance School, sailors from VP 30, and Hospitalmen from the NAS hospital.

As the SA-PC Council Representative, I presented the 1st through 3rd place trophies to the Armed Basic Drill teams. First place was awarded to the NJROTC unit from Gainesville GA. The overall first place drill meet trophy also was awarded to the Gainesville team. This team made an 8 hour bus trip to be at this event.

This years schedule for the JROTC Annual awards are as follows:

April 28, Thursday, at 1800 hours. St. Augustine Army JROTC at First Coast Technical College.

May 2, Monday, at 1830 hours. Allen D. Nease Naval JROTC at Nease H.S. auditorium.

May 4, Wednesday, at 1800 hours. Matanzas Army JROTC at Matanzas H.S. auditorium.

May 17, Tuesday, at 1800 hours. Flagler - Palm Coast USAF JROTC at Flagler H.S. auditorium.

A member from each High School JROTC unit will be presented a \$500 cash scholarships, in addition the NL Theodore Roosevelt Youth medals will also be presented.



### **St. Augustine Naval Sea Cadet Battalion:**



The Battalion's annual inspection was conducted on March 5, 2016 by the Regional Staff and appeared to go very well. Based upon the initial results we expect the unit to be ranked high. Final results will not be available until all the units within the region are inspected.

We have recently announced our first Battalion CPO promotions. Pictured to the right, they are:

CPO Nolen Johnson  
CPO William Shaw



Petty Officer Marcus Sanders, pictured on the left with VP Youth affairs Bill Hamm, was accepted and will attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, however he is still awaiting an answer to his application from the United States Naval Academy.

PO Sanders is currently the Battalion Commander of the Allen D. Nease HS Naval JROTC unit. This NJROTC unit consists of 270 cadets and is ranked number one in the nation. Sanders has certifications as Sailing instructor, Scuba (NITROX and Open Water) and rappelling. He is a varsity team member of Cross Country and the Track and Field Teams. He is ranked in the top 20% of his graduating class and is a member of the Steller Academy of Engineering Program at Nease High School. He has earned many awards among which are the NL Theodore Roosevelt Medal for Leadership awarded in 2015 as a Junior in the NJROTC program and again awarded the medal as a member of the St. Augustine Naval Sea Cadet Battalion in 2016.

Another notable Battalion Petty Officer, Oscar Arline, has been awarded a scholarship to attend the Citadel.

**Bill Hamm** - VP of Youth Affairs

### **2016 Golf Tournament:**

Our major annual fund raising golf tournament will again be held at the Grand Haven Golf Club in Palm Coast on Monday, October 10, 2016. This will be the 20th anniversary of this event and it will be the seventh year in a row that it will be held at Grand Haven. The members at the Grand Haven Golf Club have adopted our tournament as one of their own which is evidenced by the large turnout of club members each year.

This year, in addition to seeking prize sponsors, hole sponsors (\$100) and sponsors for military players (\$85), we are seeking three additional levels of sponsorship, they are:

**Platinum - \$2,000** - Sponsors lunch for players and volunteers. The sponsor is recognized in all promotional materials, has a sign posted in the club house, Receives a foursome registration in the tournament, receives a sponsor appreciation plaque and recognition in the tournament brochure.

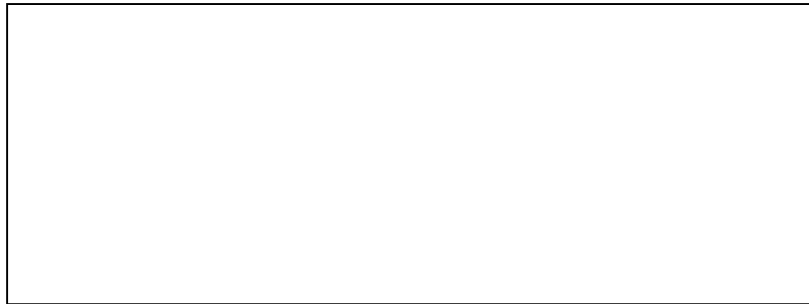
**Gold - \$1,000** - Receives a foursome registration in the tournament, recognition in all promotional material, a hole sponsor sign with logo, sponsor recognition plaque and recognition in the tournament brochure.

**Silver - \$500** - Receive a two player registration in the tournament, hole sponsor sign, recognition plaque and recognition in the tournament brochure.

Help us make this the most successful tournament in our history. Find ways to get friends and businesses you interact with interested in providing support for our council and in our efforts to support the men and women of our sea services, our Sea Cadet Battalion and our High School Junior ROTC programs.







#### COMMUNITY AFFILIATE MEMBERS



#### BOARD of DIRECTORS

President	Bill Dudley	904-794-7814
Past President	Mike Zollar	904-460-1251
VP Military Affairs	Ian Pollitt	904-610-1680
VP Membership	Cecil Bateman	904-471-2407
VP Communications	Lee Figliuolo	386-447-3640
VP Public Affairs		
Recording Secretary	Barbara Price	904-718-2118
Treasurer	Bob Price	904-718-2118
Judge Advocate	Jack Capra	904-524-7893
Programs & Events	OPEN	
VP Finance	OPEN	
Legislative Affairs	Dave Sullivan	386-447-3174
Board Member	Don Manson	786-374-4921

#### MILITARY LIAISONS

USS Hue City	Willard Gale	904-379-6609
USS Farragut	Gene Finck	904-489-2480
VR 58	Gene Finck	904-489-2480
USS The Sullivans	Gary Cohn	904-797-5828
USCGC Valiant	OPEN	
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USCGC Sawfish	Don Manson	786-374-4921
USCG ANT	Claude Caviness	904-535-7832
USCGC Diamondback	Don Manson	786-374-4921
DESRON 14	OPEN	
CG HITRON	Paul Kimmel	386-986-8260
Marine Blount Island	Jana Teehan	904-824-9311
JROTC Units	Bill Hamm	386-447-5271
Sea Cadets	Bill Hamm	386-447-5271

#### PUBLIC AFFAIRS

OPEN

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Garry Karsner	904-540-4652
	Boyd Guttery	904-471-1651

#### CHAPLAIN

Nickolas Marziani 904-460-0535

#### ARCHIVES

Gary Cohn 904-797-5828

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The St. Augustine - Palm Coast Council of the Navy League of the of the United States is a civilian organization whose mission is to: Support the objectives of the National Navy League of the United States and selected active duty Maritime Military units within our reach in the St. Augustine area and to support local High School JROTC programs



St Augustine HS  
Matanzas HS  
AJROTC



Flagler/Palm Coast HS  
AFJROTC