



BLUE & GOLD

Navy League Of The United States San Diego Council 48-01 | January 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JON BERG-JOHNSEN

Are you ready for 2018?? We have a full plate set for this year starting out with our Breakfast Meeting on 12 January. Every Active Council member we have on file with an email or street address has already been sent an email or post card with the itinerary and this is to confirm the game plan. 0700 Breakfast meeting with RDML Byrne, Commander, Carrier Strike Group FIFTEEN as our Guest Speaker, 0830 Members Meeting to vote on the Board of Directors, and 0900 or immediately after completing the Members vote, we will have the Board of Directors vote on the Officers and Chairs.



To clarify a recent question and to be sure everyone is aware, I was notified a legal review was being conducted by Navy League National external legal personnel due to some questions raised by at least one member (we do not know if there was more than one person) regarding the validity of the notification of members for the vote on 15 September 2017 to approve the Bylaws previously approved by the San Diego Council Board of Directors on 26 August 2017. The review upheld the legality of the notification process for the vote and therefore the Bylaws approved on 15 September are legal and binding.

As I have always said, we are here to ensure the Council will carry on the Mission of the Navy League, and you should be proud of the efforts of a small number of incredible people who are volunteering their time to make sure that happens. One perfect example of this is the Spouse of the Year (SOTY) event held on 30 November. I want to thank Ms. Lorraine Santirosa, as the SOTY Committee Chair, who led whole effort that turned into another exceptionally memorable day for all the nominees. It was great way to recognize all the contributions they made for their service members and family members. There is more information about this event, but we were hosted by Ms. Peg Shoemaker and her husband, VADM Mike Shoemaker, who participated in every part of the event, and were kind enough to let us hold it at their Quarters on NAS North Island. It was another spectacular San Diego afternoon and perfect weather for an outdoor luncheon event!

Unfortunately, we need more willing members to step up and support our events. Supporting comes in many forms, like chairing an event or simply attending a breakfast meeting. With the help of you, our dedicated members, we can continue our proud tradition and mission of serving those that serve our sea services and this great nation. To those people, Thank You! If you care about the mission, please make an effort to help.

Breakfast Meeting January 12, 2018

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

ADMIRAL BAKER CLUBHOUSE

GUEST SPEAKER

REAR ADMIRAL WILLIAM D. BYRNE, JR.
Commander, Carrier Strike Group 15

“Underway on
nuclear power.”

— Commander Dennis Wilkinson
Commanding Officer USS Nautilus
(SN-571) Jan 17, 1955

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RECOGNITIONS



The San Diego Naval Sea Services Spouse of the Year Nominees that could attend are flanked by (l) Council President Jon Berg-Johnsen and (r) Vice Admiral Mike Shoemaker, Commander, Naval Air Forces/Commander, Naval Air Force, US Pacific Fleet.



Elias Santos, representing First Command Financial Services, accepts their Community Affiliate plaque from Council President Jon Berg-Johnsen. Welcome Aboard!!!



Council President Jon Berg-Johnsen congratulates Council Secretary upon her selection as the Council's 2017 Navy Leaguer of the Year. Congratulations!!!



Council President Jon Berg-Johnsen presents Rick Mitrovich, Director of Events, Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego his award for being the Community Affiliate of the Year. Congratulations!!!



(l-r) Council President Jon Berg-Johnsen Mrs. Veronica Case, Coast Guard Spouse of the Year; San Diego Gas & Electric awards sponsor representative, Ray Robeson, Mrs. Theresa Viveros, Marine Corps Spouse of the Year; Mrs. Christina Campo, Navy Spouse of the Year and Vice Admiral Mike Shoemaker, Commander, Naval Air Forces/Commander, Naval Air Force, US Pacific Fleet. The council wishes to thank Vice Admiral Shoemaker and Mrs. Peg Shoemaker for opening their home to have the luncheon for this worthy event.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I know everyone cannot be there at every meeting or every event, but it can be as simple as showing up for one or two breakfast meetings a year. I think anyone who has volunteered to support an organization like Navy League, and especially if you are a Board Member, you should make every attempt to attend as many events as possible. Board Members should be at every one if at all possible. That's what makes our Council work and shows a commitment.

Events coming up include Commander Squadron ELEVEN Annual Submarine Ball on 25 January, the USS OMAHA (LCS-12) Commissioning Ceremony here in San Diego on 3 February 2018. We have asked the CO of the Ship to speak at our 2 February. Stay tuned for more updates and enjoy the rest of the great articles and information in this Newsletter! Thank you for your support.

Thank you—*Jon Berg-Johnsen*

Attention Members!!!

The below are the nominations to fill the 6 slots on our Board of Director's. Voting for these 6 will be on at the 12 Jan 218 Annual Meeting at the Admiral Baker Clubhouse.

Nominated by the nominating committee:
Hugh Butt, George Jones, Dave Grundies, Sara Jackson, Lorraine Santirosa, Elias Santos.

Nominated from the floor by Gerry Nifontoff:
"Pursuant to the Council bylaws and 15 days prior to the 1 December 2017 meeting, I nominate the following highly qualified individuals for election to the Council board of directors. I note that these nominees, individually and collectively, embody decades of active support to the Council and more generally service to the Navy personnel."
Ed Langmaid, Gerry Nifontoff, Henry Johnson, Jason Minter, Jim Kelly, John MacIntyre, John Schiltz, John Schmidt, Randy Bogle, Ray Roth, Larry Wilske

Nominated from the floor: Joan Mitchell

ON THIS DATE IN...

JANUARY

Jan 1 – HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

Jan 1, 1950 – Mary T. Sproul is commissioned as the first female doctor in the Navy.

Jan 1 – HAPPY 55th BIRTHDAY U.S. NAVY S.E.A.L.'s.

Jan 3, 1944 – CDR Frank Erickson USCG, flew plasma in a Coast Guard HNS-1 helicopter from Brooklyn to a hospital in Sandy Hook, NJ in the first recorded lifesaving flight conducted by a rotary-winged aircraft.

Jan 5, 1875 – CDR Edward Lull begins expedition to locate best ship canal route across Panama.

Jan 7, 1969 – The Medal of Honor was posthumously awarded to Lt. V.R. Capodanno, Chaplain Corps, USN, killed in action on 4 Sep 1967 in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

Jan 10, 1934 – VP10F flies the first non-stop formation flight from San Francisco to Pearl Harbor, arriving 11 Jan.

Jan 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day!!!

Jan 12, 1923 – Title "Commandant" was authorized for the service head of the Coast Guard.

Jan 15, 1974 – The first group of women ever enlisted as "regulars" in the U.S. Coast Guard began their 10-weeks of basic training at the Coast Guard Training Center in Cape May, NJ.

Jan 16, 1944 – LT Stewart R. Graham became the first person to make a helicopter take-off and landing aboard a ship underway at sea when he piloted a Sikorsky HNS-1 off of and back on the SS *Daghestan* in the North Atlantic.

Jan 16, 1991 – Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm as forces of the allied coalition launched an all-out air campaign against targets in Iraq and occupied Kuwait in an effort to liberate Kuwait and enforce the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

Jan 17, 1955 – USS *Nautilus* (SSN-571), the first nuclear-powered submarine, casts off lines at 1100 and sends message "underway on nuclear power."

Jan 18, 1911 – The first aircraft landing on board a ship, USS *Pennsylvania* by Eugene Ely.

Jan 18, 1951 – Marines of the 1st Marine Division began mopping-up operations against guerillas in the Pohang area, South Korea, following the Division's return from its epic battle with Communist Chinese troops at the Chosin Reservoir.

Jan 20, 1914 – The school for naval air training opens in Pensacola, Fl.

Jan 21, 1918 – The 1st Aeronautical Company arrived at Ponta Delgada, Azores, for anti-submarine Duty. The unit was one of the first completely equipped American Aviation units to serve overseas in World War I.

Jan 22, 1969 – Operation Dewy Canyon, perhaps the most successful high-mobility regimental-size action of the Vietnam War, began in the A Shau/Da Krong Valleys when the 9th Marines, commanded by Colonel Robert H. Barrows, and supporting artillery were lifted from Quang Tri.

Jan 25, 1856 – Marines and seamen from the U. S. sloop *Decatur* went ashore at the village of Seattle, WA, to protect settlers from Indian raids.

Jan 25, 1963 –The 1st Seabee Technical Assistance Team arrives in Vietnam.

Jan 27, 1945 – The commissioning of USS *Higbee* (DD-806), the first U.S. Navy ship named after a woman member of the U.S. Navy.

Jan 17, 1973 –Paris Peace Accords signed, ending U.S. participation in the Vietnam War.

Jan 29, 1991 – The first serious ground fighting of Operation Desert Storm broke out when Iraqi troops mounted an attack into Saudi Arabia along a 40-mile front.

Jan 31, 1981 – The era of Enlisted Naval Aviators ends when the last pilot retired.

Rear Adm. Bill Byrne, a native of Pacifica, California, attended the United States Naval Academy and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science in 1987. In 2004 he received a Master of Arts in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.



He is a surface warfare officer who served aboard USS Cook (FF 1083), USS Lake Champlain (CG 57), USS Vincennes (CG 49), USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55), and commanded USS Halyburton (FFG 40) and USS Cape St. George (CG 71).

His assignments ashore include aide/flag lieutenant to Commander, Naval Forces Marianas, in Guam and several Pentagon tours including resource sponsor for the Director, Surface Warfare (OPNAV N86); warfare analyst for the Director, Warfare Integration (OPNAV N70); division chief for antiterrorism/force protection programs in the Operations Directorate of the Joint Staff (J-3); chief of staff for the Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet; and commandant of midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy.

His Flag assignments include Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea and Commander Carrier Strike Group 11 embarked on USS NIMITZ (CVN 68). He assumed command of Carrier Strike Group 15 in October 2017.

His decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Cheon-Su National Security Medal from the Republic of Korea. In 2015, the National Football Foundation honored Byrne with their Outstanding American Award.

**The Council Wishes to thank
the Sponsors of the
San Diego Sea Services
Spouse of the Year Luncheon:**

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FLOWER SPONSOR

Mrs. Joan Mitchell

San Diego Council



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

***Welcome 2018 with a resolution to come and support the Council's
activities to help educate our local, national leaders
and the nation; support the men and women of the sea services
provide assistance to sea service families and to support or youth programs.***



San Diego Council



2018 Enlisted Women of the Year

March 28, 2018

Town & Country Resort 11 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

VISA/MC: _____ Exp _____

Company (for table sponsorship) _____

Address: _____

I would like to be a sponsor. (Please check appropriate sponsorship)

_____ Table Sponsor: \$400 (Four seats for my use)

_____ Flower Sponsor: \$300

_____ Individual tickets: \$40

_____ I'd like to sponsor a service member at \$40 each

MAIL TO: San Diego Council of the Navy League, 2115 Park Blvd., San Diego, CA 92101, Fax to (619) 230-0302 or go to our website, www.navyleague-sd.com for credit card purchases. For an invoice, please contact Jay Lott at (619) 230-0301 email: jay@navyleague-sd.com .

TWO FRIENDS

James D. Mellos, Jr. as seen in this photo with his wife Helen, was a friend of Lt. John W. Finn since the 1940s. After the war Lt. Finn opened up a fix-it shop near Jim's business Palomar Market in San Diego. However, years later, Lt. Finn moved out of the area and the two men lost track of each other. Then years later, while Jim was visiting the Waterfront Bar, the oldest bar in San Diego, Jim mentioned to some of his friends that he was heading over to Honolulu for the 75th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Whereupon one of his friends mentioned that his friend Lt. John Finn was also headed over to Pearl Harbor and if Jim knew him. Jim stated that he indeed was a friend of Lt. Finn but lost track of him after he moved from the area. Jim's friend then called up Lt. Finn and put Jim on the phone with him.

Eventually the Mellos' met up with Lt. Finn at his home located in the rural area of east county of San Diego. They renewed their friendship after so many years. It was one of the most wonderful afternoons the couple spent with this very honorable man. He had so many interesting stories to tell of all of his adventures after the war, including his many visits to the White House and the different Presidents he met. He also proudly showed his Medal of Honor and his Purple Heart. He was truly a very humble man.

At a later date, Jim and his son, Jim III, were invited to attend Lt. Finn's 100th birthday party celebration which was held at NAS North Island.

The Mellos's were also invited to attend the naming of the



newly built enlisted officers barracks located at NAS North Island.

Jim wanted to be present at the commissioning ceremony of the USS John W. Finn, DDG 113 at Pearl Harbor. Since he was unable to attend, he did watch a live stream of the ceremony and was very impressed.

In the meantime, Jim III, reached out to Jay Lott of the Navy League of San Diego, to see if he could obtain a hat and other souvenirs that were made available after the commissioning ceremony. Jay, as always worked his magic, and put him into contact with the Jane Ferreira of the Honolulu Navy League. She graciously mailed 2 hats and other memorabilia. One of the hats Jim is wearing in this photo.

Jim would like to express his gratitude for the 2 hats and other memorabilia that he received from the Jane Ferreira of the Honolulu Navy League, as well as Jay Lott and his son.

San Diego Council

UPCOMING 2018 EVENTS

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| March 28 | Enlisted Women of the Year Luncheon (<i>looking for someone to Chair this event</i>)
Town and Country Resort & Convention Center |
| April 25 -02 May | The 2018 International Frigate Working Group (IFWG)
Admiral Kidd Club at Point Loma North Harbor Drive Annex |
| September 29 | Chalet at the MCAS Miramar Air Show
MCAS Miramar (<i>looking for someone to Chair this event</i>) |
| September | The Armed Services Family Readiness Volunteer Recognition Ceremony
Place and Date TBD (<i>looking for someone to Chair this event</i>) |
| October | 243rd Navy Birthday Ball
October 13 at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina |
| November | 243rd Marine Corps Birthday Luncheon
Place and date TBD (<i>looking for someone to Chair this event</i>) |
| December | San Diego Sea Services Spouse of the Year Recognition Lunch
Place and date TBD (<i>looking for someone to Chair this event</i>) |

Please support one or more of your council's events. And don't forget the monthly recognition of service members at our breakfast meetings. Through your belief in our mission, strong sea services and our commitment to our men and women in uniform, we can make 2018 better!



Welcome Home

USS CORONADO (LCS-4) | HSC-8 "Eightballers" | HSM-75
VRC-30 Det. 8 | VMFA-323 "Death Rattlers" | USS Howard (DDG-83)
USS PRINCETON (CG-59) | USS LAKE ERIE (CG-70)
USS PICKNEY (DDG-91)



WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT *San Diego Corporate Members & Community Affiliates*

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San Diego Council,
Navy League Of The United States
2115 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101

Return Service Requested

Membership

Mark Your Calendar...

*THE MONTHLY BREAKFAST & LUNCH DATES AT
ADMIRAL BAKER CLUBHOUSE ARE LISTED BELOW:*

**BREAKFAST DATES
7:00 a.m - 8:30 a.m.**

January 12, 2018*

February 2, 2018

March 2, 2018

April 6, 2018

May 4, 2018

June 1, 2018

July 13, 2018

August 3, 2018

September 14, 2018*

October 12, 2018*

November 2, 2018

December 7, 2018

** Denotes 2nd Friday of the month*

NEW MEMBERS

Desmond Allen	Wanda Richardson
Tanya Atkinson	Kathleen Ruiz
Sybil Benard	William Scott
Margo Cavazos	April Stanley
Eric Cho	Arnell Stewart
David Cook	Diangela Stuckey
Desmond Debnam	Victoria Tillman
Tim Doscher	Michael Trout
Brigette Engstrom	
Judith Jones	
Walter Levengood	
Rochelle McMichael	

* Life Members
@ New Community Affiliate

Husband & Wife Members
^ Student
+ Active Duty Spouse

Be a Navy League Volunteer

Volunteers are needed on committees all year long. If you would like to volunteer to help make an event successful, contact Jay Lott at 619-230-0301

CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE

Have you moved? Changed your phone number, or Email Address?

WE VALUE YOUR OPINION

The San Diego Navy League takes pride in its publications and seeks to continually improve upon them. We welcome your comments.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please send your letters on all subject matters concerning the Navy League or our brave service men and women directly to:

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You can make a difference and enroll on-line @ www.navyleague-sd.com!