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President's Corner

It has been inspirational to watch the rejuvenation of our council over the past six months. My goal, upon assuming the leadership reins, was to focus on our end users-those fine young men and women who serve us daily in the Newport area Sea Service commands. In order to accomplish this, we first restocked the Board of Directors with a group of proven leaders who have provided sage counsel and direction. Later in this letter, I will list them and their contact information. I would like our membership to feel free to contact our Officers with ideas and suggestions - and join us at our weekly recognition events. Our ultimate goal is to attract more Navy League members at these events to celebrate and honor the accomplishments of our local Sea Service men and women.



We have reinstituted several programs such as the **“Sailor of the Quarter”** award ceremonies onboard Coast Guard Station Castle Hill, CG Cutters *Ida Lewis*, *Juniper* and *Oak*. These have provided a unique forum for us to thank all those onboard for their daily sacrifices and hard work in support of our community safety. We have added monetary awards and plaques to the weekly top performers at **Officer Candidate School HI Moms Ceremonies** and quarterly Department Head Course Graduations at **Surface Warfare Officers School (SWOS)**. Without exception, we find these OCS ceremonies (Thursday afternoons 5-6PM) truly showcase the best young men and women that this country has to offer. I encourage members to join us at these events by phoning or e-mailing any of our Officers and requesting to accompany the award presenter. We will connect you. It is truly one hour well spent!

This past winter, during the Government shutdown, we had the

(continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events:

1 October:

Navy Officer of the Year and Coast Guard Enlisted of the Year Luncheon - Wyndham Newport Atlantic Resort

7 October:

Board Meeting 4:30PM Mainstay Inn (Open to all)

12 October:

Navy Birthday Ball Officers Club

17 October:

OCS Hi Moms Reception

4 November:

Board Meeting 4:30PM Mainstay Inn (Open to all)

7 and 26 November:

OCS Hi Moms Reception

8 November:

Senior Enlisted Academy Graduation

2 December:

Board Meeting/Christmas Social Atlantic Resort (Open to all)

January TBD:

Coast Guard Person of the Year Luncheon
BM1 Carl Heise USCG, CG Cutter Sanibel

January TBD:

Visit to Electric Boat (EB), Quonset Point

(continued from page 1)

privilege to distribute gift cards to the Coast Guard Junior Enlisted members who were in need due to the Government shutdown/Homeland Security pay freeze. It was truly humbling to witness their gratitude. These gifts were made possible through your generosity in last year's annual appeal. Please support the 2019 appeal which will be forthcoming within a week.

In Newport we are blessed with Sea Service Commands who, not only are exceptional training and operational commands, but also contribute so much to the fabric of our community through volunteerism. Please join us in honoring them.

Mike Slein

62nd Military Appreciation Night - May 29, 2019 featured Jeff Geiger, President, GD Electric Boat

The Newport Council hosted more than 200 Sea Service, Industry and Civic Leaders to thank our local military men and women who serve us so well daily throughout the year. Music was provided by the 88th Army Band (Governor's Band); Colors posted by the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps (Naval Construction Battalion Division) and a fine meal served by the **Wyndham Hotel Newport, our newest Business Associate**. Seated among the more than 30 Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Commands represented were LT J. Striker Brown, JAGC USN, Officer of the Year; Boatswains Mate First (BM1) Carl Heise, USCG, Coast Guard Person of the Year; Operations



Specialist First (OS1) Joshua Umphress USN, Senior Enlisted Service Member of the Year; OS2 Nyesha Adams USN, Junior Enlisted Service Member of the Year; and HM3 Kassandra Betancourt USN, Blue Jacket of the Year.

Captain Marnie Buchanan, CO Naval Health Clinic NE stands with Blue Jacket of the Year, HM3 Kassandra Betancourt USN, Command Master Chief Randy Swanson and a fellow Hospital Corpsman at Military Appreciation Night in May.

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

Harry Winthrop, former Director of Planning at Electric Boat and past Mayor of Newport, introduced the principal speaker, Mr. Jeff Geiger, President, General Dynamics Electric Boat,



whose truly dynamic speech garnered the full and undivided attention of the audience. He addressed the pressing national security needs of a new generation of submarine which will result in local employment growth to more than 17,000 highly skilled, highly paid workers required to build the more than 30 Virginia Class and 12 Columbia Class Submarines over the next 16 years. In addition, the industry supplier base must nearly triple to accomplish this challenging procurement plan – all positive news for Rhode Island and New England workforce, business base and its resulting flow-down economic impact. The speech was truly one of great import and impact to the entire audience. We are most grateful to Jeff Geiger for his leadership and contribution to our National Defense.

Naval Complex Newport Enlisted Service Members of The Year Luncheon

On Friday, 28 June, the Newport Council NLUS and the Kiwanis Club of Newport, led by DR. Hakan P. Durudogan, local Government dignitaries and Military leaders assembled at the Wyndham Newport Atlantic Resort to honor the three Enlisted Service Members of the Year - **OS1 Joshua Umphress** USN (War Gaming Dept., Naval War College) Senior Enlisted Member of the Year; **OS2 Nyesha Marie Adams** USN, (War Gaming Dept, Naval War College), Junior Enlisted Service Member of the Year; and **HM3 Kassandra Betancourt** USN (Naval Health Clinic NE), Blue Jacket of the Year.

Each was cited for his/her superb leadership capability, extraordinary drive, professional acumen, military bearing and significant community involvement and volunteerism. When one reads their accomplishments, it is no surprise why each was selected as the “best of the best” from a large cadre of high performing sailors. We are all proud to live among them on this island.

Each was presented with City /Town tiles by Middletown Councilwoman Theresa Santos and Portsmouth Town



Captain Rob Winneg USN (Ret), Council Board Member stands with Secretary Peg Murray and Council Members Lorraine McBride and Marcia Sallum at the Enlisted Service Members of the Year luncheon in June.



During 2019 we have provided custom made plaques by Pat Burke (each with a picture of the unit/ship), monetary awards and council coins to each of the honorees as follows:

January:

**PO2 S. L. Van Lent USCG and
PO3 Alex Manning USCG**
CG Station Castle Hill
CWO Kevin Bentle,
Commanding

March:

DC2 Casey Boyle USCG
USCGC Ida Lewis
CWO Damon Santucci,
Commanding

July:

SN Jade Smith USCG
USCGC Ida Lewis
CWO Damon Santucci,
Commanding
CS3 R.B. Jamison USCG
CG Station Castle Hill
CWO Kevin Bentle,
Commanding

August:

ET2 Matthew Bohannon USCG
USCGC Oak
LCDR Gordon A. Hood,
Commanding

(continued from page 3)

Manager Rich Rainer. The Newport Council presented the **Ambassador J. William Middendorf II** monetary award and a "Memory Book" comprised of Congratulatory letters and citations from the Rhode Island Governor and Congressional delegation, Newport Mayor and each awardees home state Government and Legislative leaders. (Board Member Jean Peterson is to be lauded for her diligence in the monumental task of collecting and preparing the Memory Books, which are a lifetime treasure).

Congratulatory remarks were provided by Mike Slein, Council President; Dr. Peter Durudogan, President Kiwanis Club; CDR Alvaro Lima, XO Naval Station; Captain Mike Quan, Deputy Chair Wargaming Dept. and Capt. Marnie Buchanan NC USN, Commanding Officer NHCNE.

Coast Guard Sailors of the Quarter

The local Coast Guard units are likely the most visible of the Sea Services in our community as they daily provide a multitude of services to include harbor and port security, search and rescue missions, fishery enforcement, ship boarding, drug enforcement and aids to navigation maintenance. This year we have reinstituted quarterly visits to **Coast Guard Station Castle Hill** and the four



Council President Mike Slein and Secretary Peg Murray present Sailor of the Quarter Award onboard USCGC Oak 15 August to ET2 Mathew Bohannon USCG as Oak Commanding Officer, LCDR Gordon Hood USCG, looks on.

(continued on page 5)

Anne Huot volunteered to serve as the Newport Council NLUS liaison to the Newport Military Spouses organization

She attended the August meeting at the Rotunda on Easton's Beach where she manned the Navy League table and her efforts resulted in the signing of 10 spouses to a Navy League free trial spousal membership. Thank you Anne!

(continued from page 4)

cutters based at the Naval Station: Cutters Ida Lewis (WLB 551), Juniper (WLB 201), Oak (WLB 211) and Steel Head (WPB 87324). These ceremonies provide the civilian community- through the Navy League- the opportunity to, not only recognize and honor the 'Sailors of the Quarter", but also the opportunity to express our gratitude on your behalf to the entire command for their selfless dedication to the Coast Guard, this area and the country. They are a remarkable cadre of accomplished and dedicated men and women. Again, we invite our membership to join us at these quarterly ceremonies onboard Station Castle Hill and Newport-based cutters and witness these Sea Service personnel in their operational environment.

RADM Joseph C. Strasser, USN



On 21 June of this year, the Navy and the Navy League lost the consummate naval officer, leader and mentor to so

many. The world lost the finest caring and kind gentleman we have known. Throughout his life of giving to others, he gave his all to our Newport Navy League Council. While serving as the longest-tenured President of the Naval War College and as Director, Naval War College Foundation, Joe never missed a Navy League Board Meeting where his mentorship and quiet, sage advice guided us over many years. Admiral, we miss you.

Naval War College International Students Family Picnic

Naval Command College and Naval Staff College 10 August 2019
Carr Point recreation Area

The Newport Council hosted more than 300 Senior and Junior International Officers and their families for the annual Welcome Picnic at Carr Point. It was a fine Navy day of sunshine, warmth, food and fun-filled camaraderie. Classes 2020 were welcomed by RADM Mike White USN (Ret), Council Vice President and Dean College of Maritime Operational Warfare; Bob Sylvia, President Middletown Town Council and Capt. Rich Rainer USN (Ret), Portsmouth Town Manager. This event is always a very special day as we welcome these very select officers and their families from more than 75 countries who will be spending the upcoming year with us in our Aquidneck Island community.



This was the NCC/NSC picnic at Carr Point Recreation area held on 10 August. The Newport Council hosted more than 300 students and their families for a fun-filled afternoon of food, play and camaraderie.

Junior Officer of the Year Luncheon in honor of LCDR Striker Brown, JAGC, USN

On 1 October The Newport Council Navy League and the Rotary Club of Newport hosted a luncheon at the Wyndham Hotel Atlantic Resort to honor the Newport Naval Complex Junior Officer of the Year, LCDR J. Striker Brown, JAGC,USN. He was accompanied by his wife, Kara, and his daughter, Finley.

LCDR Brown was selected from hundreds of high-performing Junior Officers from more than 50 tenant commands onboard Naval Station Newport and was cited for his exemplary leadership, military bearing, physical fitness, extraordinary work ethic and hundreds of hours of community volunteerism throughout the year. He distinguished himself as the “go-to mentor” within the command and as the standout performer among the many superstars within the Naval Justice School and Naval Station Newport.

He was presented with **Ambassador J. William Middendorf II** monetary award by the Newport Council and a “Memory Book” containing letters of congratulation from Senators, Congressmen, Governors and mayors from both Rhode Island and his home state of Louisiana. In addition, University of Indiana Law School and University of Louisiana at Lafayette Presidents sent letters of congratulations honoring LCDR Brown.

CDR Alvaro Lima, Naval Station Executive Officer; Theresa Santos, Middletown Town Councilwoman; Mike Slein, Newport Council President and Jason Hill, President, Rotary Club of Newport led the attendees in congratulating LCDR Brown and his family.

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Business Associates:

Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems

Raytheon

Integrated Defense Systems



USAA

Wyndham Newport Hotel at the Atlantic Resort



Community Affiliates

Bank Newport



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ARMY
MARINE CORPS
NAVY
AIR FORCE
COAST GUARD
VETERANS

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