

BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETING  
NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES – NEWPORT COUNTY  
WYNDHAM ATLANTIC RESORT – MIDDLETOWN, RI  
13 JUNE 2022

Attendees: Rob Winneg, Mike Slein, Matt Griffin, Walt Wasowski, Pat Burke, Len DiLorenzo, Peg Murray, Jean Peterson, Tony Cercena, Tom Feeney, Merrilee Zellner, Francisco Guterrez, Alex Abatecola.

Meeting called to order by Interim President Rob Winneg at 1700 – Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome: Commander of American Legion Post #18 Francis (Cisco) Gutierrez.

Reports:

1. Secretary – Minutes of 2 May 2022 Board of Directors meeting were distributed. Motion to approve as written.
2. Treasurer’s Report – Walt Wasowski reported that we are in good shape and ahead of last year. Annual report was sent to the Rhode Island Secretary of State and Form 9090 was submitted to the IRS. Motion to accept report and passed.
3. Membership Report – (Len DiLorenzo) – Total membership is 214 (noted 4 members per CA); all time high. Navy League Sea Power monthly magazine reported that Newport County was fifth in the country for new members.
4. Sea Cadets – Board member Brandi Bensemer was unable to attend meeting – report in July.
5. Military Appreciation Night – Date of 27 October 2022 and Speaker (Marc Genest) are confirmed. Navy Band will be contacted by BM Pat Burke. “Save the Date” cards (Walt/Pat) will be sent out soon to members.

Current Business:

- a. Calendar reviewed through September for recognition events and Community Affiliates meetings. Assignments made. Coast Guard Cutter Ida Lewis will be visited this week (15 June) by Board Members Mike Slein, Peg Murray, Pat Burke and Tony Cercena for presentations to SOQ/SOY. OCS graduations – still not participating in person. Rob Winneg/Mike Slein will review with Director of OCS. Pat Burke visited CA Netsimco Mike Slein reported that the MOAA luncheon meeting speaker on Wednesday, 24 August, will be Senator Whitehouse.
- b. Planning for active duty memberships: Awaiting JAG opinion on contact methods – continued follow up by President Winneg. Each Command determine recruitment guidelines.
- c. Information from National – update
- d. USCG Fast Response Cutter (FRC), (Sentinel Class), Program. Projected commission schedule:
  - USGC Maurice Jester 1152 – Bristol, RI in Spring 2023 (June)
  - New London, CT – November 2022 - Newport Council attend?Committee: Rob Winneg, Mike Slein, Len Di’Lorenzo, et al. Invitees TBD.
- e. Award recap: OCS (plaque), no in person; War College graduation – BM Mike Slein represented the Navy League; Coast Guard Cutter Ida Lewis (SOQ/SOY) – presentation by Mike Slein, Peg Murray and Tony Cercena. Thank you letter received from NAPS graduate selected to receive the Naval Academy watch from the Navy League Newport County. New member Francis Gutierrez noted that eight (8) graduates of Portsmouth High School received military academy scholarships this year.

### New Business:

- a. Military Appreciation Night – 27 October 2022. Guest Speaker: Marc Genest.
- b. Website Proposal (Moonbird Studios): Board Member Matt Griffin met with Moonbird for an exploratory meeting to discuss options for updating and maintaining our Council website. He presented details to the board which included the website revealed broken links and features that no longer work properly, and contains wrong information. Design of the site starts with a template but can be tailored to meet our specific preferences and requirements. More details will follow. President Winneg suggested we look at three other sites including Sea Cadets, other councils' websites, and check with National for best websites (Matt and Rob). BM Alex Abatecola suggested using social media, i.e. Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn for sharing of information. Update at next board meeting.
- c. International Student Picnic – NCC, NSC. Date to be discussed – 13 August?
- d. Future Event Possibilities:
  - i. Guest Speakers
  - ii. Team up with other local organizations to jointly host Speaker series (VFW, American Legion, MOAA).
- e. 15 June SOQ presentation, USCGC Ida Lewis.

### Other Business:

Military Appreciation Night in October – discussion of honoring Ambassador J. William Middendorf, II, (former Secretary of the Navy).

Recent announcement that a new Arleigh Burke- Class guided missile destroyer of the United States Navy will be named after the Ambassador (announced 10 June 2022).

**NEXT BOARD MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, 11 JULY 2022 AT THE WYNDHAM, 1700.**

Meeting adjourned at 1800.

