

**NEWPORT COUNTY  
COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

**2020 FALL**      **NUMBER 20-1**  
*OFFICERS AND  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2020/2021*

President:  
Michael White

V. President:  
Rob Winneg

Secretary  
Peg Murray

Asst. Secretary:  
Len DiLorenzo

Treasurer:  
Walt Wasowski

Asst. Treasurer:  
Pat Burke

Membership:  
Len DiLorenzo

Roy Callahan  
Tony Cercena  
Tom Feeney  
Juan Garcia  
Keith Humphreys  
Anne Huot  
Anne Mishley  
Jean Peterson  
Rich Rainer  
Mike Slein  
Rod Smith  
Jose Taboada  
Mark Turner

*NEWPORT COUNTY COUNCIL  
DIRECTORS EMERITUS:*

Robert Belenger  
James Hogg, ADM USN (ret)  
Ed Webb



**Navy League of the United States**



***“Citizens in Support of the Sea Services”***

I hope that this finds each of you healthy and safe during this tumultuous time of the COVID pandemic. I wanted to follow up my brief email introduction with a short update from your council.

We were delighted to hold our in-person board meeting in September, masks and all, at the Wyndham Newport Hotel in Middletown, who continues to be a tremendous supporter of our council. It was energizing to share some of the terrific work that has been on-going despite the pandemic. We continue to deliver recognition packages to deserving Sailors and Coast Guardsmen, even when we cannot personally present them. You will see a few pictures in this Newsletter of these important events that demonstrate your support to these wonderful young men and women in uniform. We will continue, and are looking to expand, our outreach to more commands in the local area. We hope to include more members and Community Affiliates in recognition ceremonies at the local Coast Guard and Navy commands when the Pandemic allows. The Coast Guard Cutters have offered day working cruises to Navy League Members when the time and weather permits.

The pandemic has impacted our ability to network with our many sponsors, but we continue to conduct outreach in new ways. Your council recently built over 100 “SWAG BAGS” for the virtual spouse orientation at the Naval War College, each of which had the application for free spouse membership in the Navy League, and some information about our council. We also received our annual distribution of funds from your memberships in the Navy League of the United States. We are in a stable position financially but want to be prepared to continue our support to local commands and to resume our larger events like the Military Appreciation Night when conditions permit. So, we ask that you continue to talk about the Navy League and encourage others to join.

I wanted to keep this short in order to share a terrific article from ENS DiPippo from the Cranston Sea Cadets. We were delighted to present her with a check at the annual meeting, and you can see the impact it can have. Be inspired by these young leaders!

Stay safe, and wishing you all the best,

**Mike White**



# Upcoming Events:

**2 November**  
Board Meeting  
Wyndam Newport Hotel

**12 November**  
OCS Graduation

**20 November**  
SEA Graduation

**3 December**  
SWOS Graduation  
OCS Graduation

**7 December:**  
Board Meeting and  
Christmas Social;  
Wyndam Newport  
Hotel  
(Open to all)

**18 December**  
SEA Graduation

## LOCAL SEA CADETS CONTINUE FULL STEAM AHEAD

Cranston, RI — Not even COVID-19 could stop a group of U.S. Naval Sea Cadets from holding their training on Saturday right on the waterfront of Narragansett Bay. The group, named Falcon Division, has met continually since May of 1963 and plans to keep it that way.

Cadets from Northern Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts met in person for the third time since the pandemic hit in mid-March.

Cumberland resident Joy Teixeira, 17, serves as the group’s Command Chief Petty Officer, operating out of the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Cranston next to the Johnson and Wales Harborside Campus. Chief Teixeira said the unit is tough, determined, and ready to lead as they gathered together to train on Saturday.

“The Program is great for kids who want to do something different and something that matters,” she said of the Sea Cadet Program.

All Cadets work to earn ranks, attend diverse training seminars, and continually develop leadership skills. “There is almost no limit to how many things we do and learn together,” Teixeira explained.

Cadets also gain basic military knowledge, hold fundraisers, do community service projects, and more.

“We do everything from color guards for local events, to supporting our local VFW, American Legion, and Navy League,” Teixeira continued.

With aspirations to attend the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Teixeira has been a member of the Program for over four years and has been taking advantage of every opportunity the youth program has to offer. She said the experiences and friendships she has had made all the difference.

Out of the many valuable experiences Cadets can have, Teixeira said, is that everyone learns about the many different occupations in and out of the military someone can have, and it helps guide their future of who they are and what they want to be when they grow up.

“In the last year, I attended training seminars in Field Operations, Leadership, Aviation Ground School, and Wargames in partnership with the Naval War College in Newport,” Teixeira said.



Falcon Division met virtually via Zoom during the height of the pandemic in the Spring, but now armed with the appropriate personal protective equipment and social distancing protocols in place, Teixeira said, the Cadets are back in action in full force. It is good to meet again, as most clubs and afterschool activities are not being held locally, she said. For some of the Cadets, the youth program is all they have for activities out of the house that will give them a sense of structure and camaraderie with others of similar interests and aspirations. Falcon Division currently has 19 Cadets, ranging in age from 10 to 17.

Among them is Luke Graham, 14, a freshman at LaSalle High School, who hopes to become a Navy SEAL when he gets older.

He joined the Naval Sea Cadet Corps in September of last year.

"I wanted a challenge and to really learn how to be a leader, I looked online and I found the Naval Sea Cadet Program," Graham said. "I'm really looking forward to attending the Naval Special Warfare Orientation Course Sea Cadets offers since that's what I want to do after high school. It just makes sense to try it now before I sign a contract for something I might not like to do later."

He said joining Falcon Division has allowed him to gain exposure to things his peers haven't and that is giving him a competitive edge for later on down the road.

"Because of Sea Cadets, I've had so many experiences and mentors," he said. "My goal of being a Navy SEAL after high school seems more within reach if I'm able to train with former SEALs and Marines. In a few months, I've been able to accomplish and learn more than any sport or club could offer."

Graham said he is looking forward to the unit's upcoming training evolutions and activities since any events his school would be hosting are canceled for the foreseeable future.

Graham is a Naval Sea Cadet Seaman and was newly promoted to the rank which allows him to gain more leadership responsibilities of the group on Saturday.

"I've become a better person," Graham said of what he feels can be gained from the program. "I've learned skills I need in life that school just doesn't teach me, I care more for others, and I've really started gaining new leadership skills in line with the mission of our program."

Graham added that he was happy that the program was still meeting locally and how it has been something he can rely on for stability.

"School might be virtual and I might be stuck at home, but I know I always have my unit, my fellow Cadets, and the Officers who volunteer with the unit who care about giving opportunities when it seems like there is none."

Falcon Division's Petty Officer First Class Sean Kinahan, 16, from Wrentham, was also there on Saturday

"I really enjoy the family we have here," he said. "I've really become a leader who cares about not just my Cadets but also my community. I've really learned what it means to be part of a team. It's not just me to get to the common goal, it's everyone working together."

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC) is a youth program that helps middle and high school students gain a competitive edge to stand out and excel beyond their peers when applying to college, military academies, scholarships, and job opportunities. We are a team that strives for excellence! Our mission: create leaders with character. We are officially supported by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard. Boasting over 350 units and 12,000 Cadets Nationwide, Naval Sea Cadets are taught about leadership, the sea-going military services, community service, citizenship, and teamwork. Units operate similarly to a military reserve unit, with Physical Fitness Standards, professionalism, and hands-on skills from experts in their fields following a "learn-do-learn" learning model. Naval Sea Cadets are authorized to wear the U.S. Navy uniform and do so with pride! After completing Recruit Training, Cadets can attend Advanced Training in the fields of U.S. Navy Sailing Operations, U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Operations, SCUBA Certification, Special Operations,

Those interested in becoming a part of Falcon Division, please call 401-808-5390 or email [bdipippo@seacadets.org](mailto:bdipippo@seacadets.org).

# Newport County Council Happenings

Presentation photos by Tony Cercena



President Mike White presents an engraved plate to CAPT Mark Nicholson and his wife Joey for their steadfast leadership of Officer Training Command here in Newport.



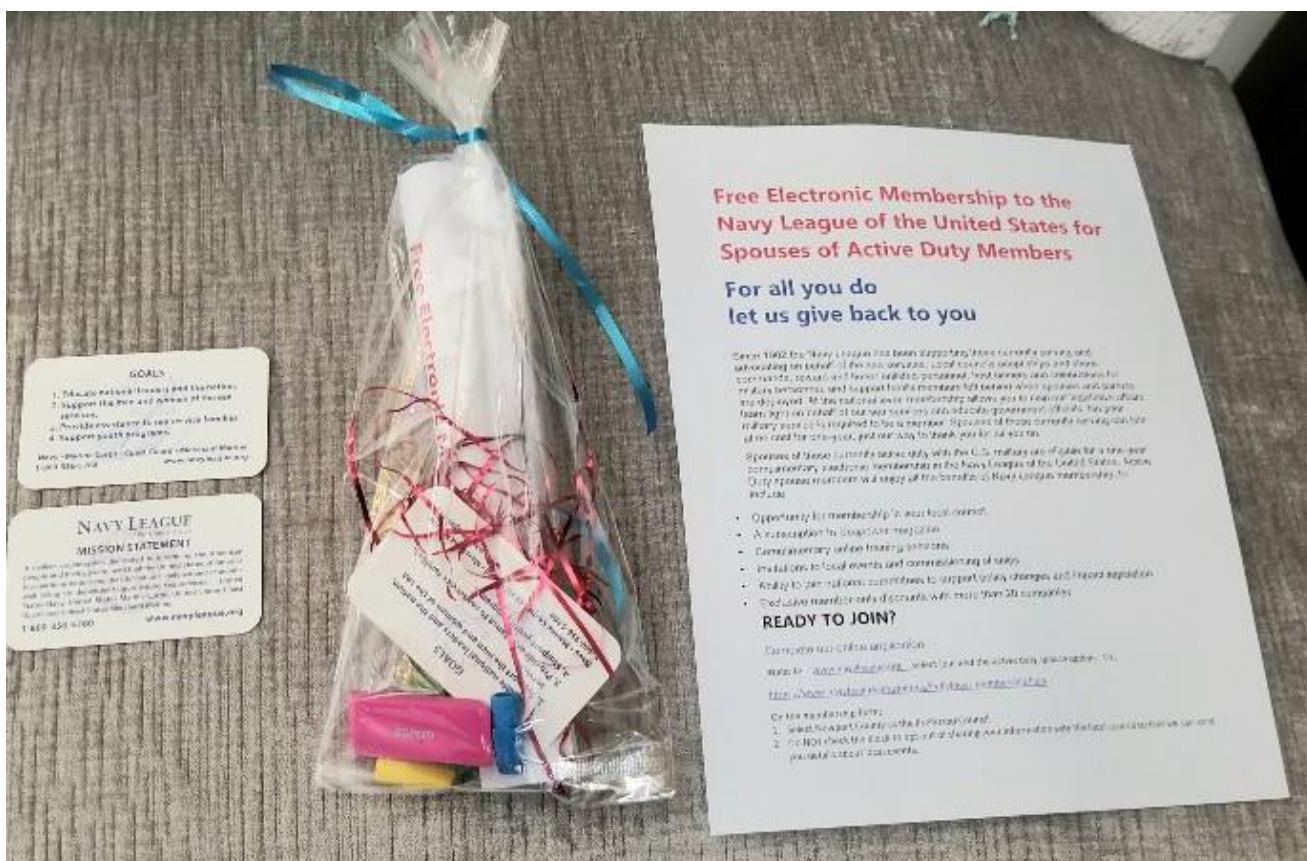
Previous Newport Council President Mike Slein presents a Community Affiliate Plaque to Steve Kyriakides of the Wyndham Hotel in Newport for their continued support of your Navy League.



ENS DiPippo receives a check from the Newport Council Treasurer Walt Wasowski for the Sea Cadet Program in Cranston. LT Jose Taboada, Commanding Officer of NCBC Battalion, Quonset Point, was unable to attend the meeting. He was forwarded a similar check in support of his unit.



**Mike Slein, Peg Murray and Tony Cercena recognize the USCG Oak Sailor of the Quarter PO1 Bohannan with a plaque, coin and gift card.**



**“SWAG” bags presented to the Newport Military Spouses at a drive-thru event. The bags contained treats, information about the Newport Council, and applications for free active duty spouse membership in the Navy League**

## **CONTACT INFORMATION FOR OFFICERS**

President: RADM Michael White 225 Kaufman Rd, Tiverton, RI 02878 c: 719 373-5390  
Email: [fa18magwai@gmail.com](mailto:fa18magwai@gmail.com)

V. Pres.: Rob Winneg 23 Small Pox Trail, Richmond, RI 02892  
c: 401 439-3812  
Email: [rsweagle@hotmail.com](mailto:rsweagle@hotmail.com)

Secretary: Peg Murray PO Box 743, Newport, RI 02840 401 847-3114 c: 401 675-6801  
Email: [green2place@aol.com](mailto:green2place@aol.com)

Asst. Secretary: Len DiLorenzo 5 Harbor Bluff Rd., Hyannis, MA 02601  
c: 401 440-4089  
Email: [amglad1@comcast.net](mailto:amglad1@comcast.net)

Treasurer: Walt Wasowski 8 Osage Dr., Middletown, RI 02842  
401 848-9653 c: 401 338-9222  
Email: [w\\_wasowski@hotmail.com](mailto:w_wasowski@hotmail.com)

Asst. Treasurer: Pat Burke 545 Spring St., Newport, RI 02840  
c: 401 864-4028  
Email: [burke.patrickl@gmail.com](mailto:burke.patrickl@gmail.com)

Membership: Len DiLorenzo 5 Harbor Bluff Rd., Hyannis, MA 02601  
c: 401 440-4089  
Email: [amglad1@comcast.net](mailto:amglad1@comcast.net)

### **Business Associates:**

Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems

USAA

Wyndham Newport Hotel

### **Community Affiliates**

Bank Newport

First Command Financial Services

Navy Federal Credit Union

Rite Solutions

**Raytheon**  
Integrated Defense Systems



 **WYNDHAM**

 **BANK NEWPORT**

**NAVY FEDERAL**  
Credit Union

ARMY  
MARINE CORPS  
NAVY  
AIR FORCE  
COAST GUARD  
VETERANS

 **FIRST COMMAND**  
Get Squared Away.

**rite**   
SOLUTIONS