



## Letter From The President

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2024. Foremost, let me thank those who contributed to our Annual Appeal in December. The successes we enjoy could not be possible without the generosity of the many who answered the call. Your Newport County Council remained busy throughout a wet winter, with a series of Officer and Sailor recognition ceremonies and some events new to our organization.



President  
Capt. Rob Winneg, USN  
(Ret.)

The year started off with a bang when your Council hosted the leadership of the New England Region of the Navy League. Leaders from the Casco Bay (Maine), Massachusetts Bay, and Portsmouth, NH Councils traveled to RI to attend the annual NE Region meeting at the Wyndham Newport Hotel in Middletown. The highlight of the event was a National update by Navy League National President Christopher Townsend, in RI for the event, supported by NLUS CEO Mike Stevens (former Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy) who joined via Zoom. After the formal presentation, Chris entertained a number of questions from the attendees.



In March, Council members attended the U.S Naval Sea Cadets (Falcon and NCBC Divisions) annual inspection and award ceremony held at the U.S. Coast Guard Station Castle Hill, RI. This inspirational event allowed us to see these energetic young people standing for inspection and answering difficult questions from the Inspecting Officer.

In early April, we will host members of Newport's U.S. Coast Guard Cutter community to join the Council for a traditional "Cuttermans' Call," a casual reception with refreshments at the Coddington Brewery in Middletown. This event included the Commanding Officers and crew of USCGC Sycamore and USCGC Campbell. We hope to have more of these casual come-as-you-are pop-up events in the near future, where friends share their interest in the Maritime environment.

Thank you for all your support and see you at the next event!

- Rob Winneg

## Board of Directors

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Matt Griffin

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**Newsletter:**  
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## Newport County Council Events

### 19 January: Newport County Council Hosted Meeting of NE Regional Councils at Newport Wyndham Hotel, Middletown

A first for the NCCNLUS was hosting the Annual Meeting of the North East Regional Councils of the Navy League, US. Local Council President, CAPT Rob Winneg, USN (Ret) welcomed Navy League National President, Christopher Townsend, Guest of Honor, who presented an update of the National Council activities, advice and encouragement to the Councils from his days as a President of the Central Florida Council prior to becoming Vice-President, then President of National NLUS. Regional presidents attending the meeting and presenting reports were Casco Bay, ME, President Rusty Robertson; Massachusetts Bay Council President, Tom Hennessey; and Portsmouth, NH Council President Kevin Galeaz. The report given by Len DiLorenzo, NCCNLUS Membership Chair, highlighted the local Council's outreach to the Business Community in support of the Military Sea Services and maritime industries of Narragansett Bay. The meeting was organized by the NE Regional President, Bob Shaughnessy and supported by NLUS CEO Mike Stevens who joined the business meeting via Zoom.

Navy League Portsmouth, NH Council President Kevin Galeaz gave an overview of the effort led by his Council to erect the USS Thresher memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. The monument was dedicated on September 26, 2019, commemorating the service and sacrifice of the crew of the USS Thresher (SSN-593), the world's most technologically advanced nuclear-powered submarine of its day. On April 10, 1963, Thresher sank during deep-diving tests off the coast of Massachusetts, killing all 129 personnel aboard: 16 officers, 96 enlisted sailors and 17 civilian technicians. It was the deadliest accident in submarine history, leading the Navy to establish the SUBSAFE Submarine Safety Program.



Newport Board Members listening intently



Local President Winneg (left) thanks National President Christopher Townsend



NLUS Council President Portsmouth, NH Kevin Galeaz discusses the Thresher Monument

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## Member News

### Tribute to Joe McEnness Sr.

Commodore Joseph F. McEnness, a long-time resident of Newport, RI and a life member of the Newport Council NLUS, passed away on 10 February in Palm Beach Gardens, FL.

Joe was an accomplished Marine Engineer, spending nearly 50 years at sea, retiring as The Commodore Chief Engineer, Texaco Marine. A dedicated Navy Leaguer, he served in 2002-2003 as co-chair of the Commissioning Committee of the guided missile destroyer USS Chaffee (DDG-90) in Newport. He spearheaded a most successful fundraising effort for the Commissioning which was a banner day for Newport and the Chaffee family.



Commodore Joseph F. McEnness Sr.

CDR Mike Slein, USN (Ret.)

## National Events

### 27 January: Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro Celebrates the Naming of USNS Robert Ballard (T-AGS 67), Washington, DC

Announced in December 2022, the future USNS Robert Ballard (T-AGS 67) honors Dr. Robert Ballard, a retired U.S. Navy Commander. The keel for the ship was laid in October at the then-Halter Marine shipyard in Mississippi and is projected to be delivered to the fleet in 2026.

The Pathfinder-class oceanographic survey ship will be a multi-mission vessel that will perform acoustic, biological, physical and geophysical surveys providing much of the U.S. military's information on the ocean environment.

Ballard, a tenured professor of oceanography at the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography and National Geographic Explorer at large, is widely known as a discoverer of the final resting place of the RMS Titanic. The name selection of T-AGS 67 follows the tradition of naming survey ships after explorers, oceanographers and distinguished marine surveyors.

Secretary Del Toro and Dr. Ballard discussed the celebration of the ship naming, National Geographic's relationship with the Navy, and the importance of science and exploration to the maritime services.



Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Geographic Society Jean Case moderates a discussion between Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro and Dr. Robert Ballard, namesake of the future USNS Robert Ballard (T-AGS 67)

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## Sea Services News



### **8 January: Celebrating Success: Navy Supply Corps School**

In a fitting finale to 2023, the Navy Supply Corps School (NSCS) is proud to unveil the past year's impressive graduation numbers, which is a testament to the hard work and dedication of NSCS instructors and staff in shaping capable Naval Supply Officers who are "Ready for Sea." The collective efforts from everyone at the NSCS have culminated in the successful graduation of 1,469 students from all programs.

Whether active military, Training and Administration of the Reserves (TAR), Government Service (GS) employee, instructor or support staff, each individual has played a crucial role in the success of NSCS's training programs. The schoolhouse will carry this momentum into 2024, where its impact will undoubtedly be felt even further. (Source Jessica Nilsson - NSCS Public Affairs Officer)



### **8 February: Commander, Navy Installations Command's (CNIC) Retention Excellence Award for FY 2023**

The Award was received by two Navy Region Mid-Atlantic installations, Naval Station Newport being one. It honors Navy installations which lead the way in retaining the most talented Sailors in the Navy and recognizes their efforts to meet or subceed attrition benchmarks for the entire year.

"Your dedication and commitment to Navy career programs not only exemplify your superb performance, but also attest to your concern for the professional needs of your Sailors," wrote Commander, Navy Installations Command, Vice Adm. Gray, in his official announcement to recipients.

"I want to thank you for creating and setting the tone where your Sailors feel like 'staying Navy' is the right thing to do," said Capt. Henry Roenke, Naval Station Newport's installation commanding officer, in an email following the award's announcement. (Source Katie Hewitt - Navy Mid-Atlantic Region Public Affairs Officer)



### **20 February: VCNO Adm. Jim Kilby visits RI, Meeting Industry Leaders at Electric Boat, Quonset and SEA Leadership, NAVSTA Newport**

While at Quonset Point, Kilby received updates on the company's work on the Navy's Virginia-class fast-attack submarines and the Columbia-class ballistic-missile submarine to include engineering and design, construction, and overhauls and repairs. The Columbia-class will replace the Ohio-class as the Navy's contribution to the nuclear triad, which remains the most survivable leg of the U.S. nuclear strategic deterrent force.

"This is the future of our nation's undersea dominance," said Kilby. "We must deliver our submarines on time and on budget and we can't do it without our industry partners, Congress and the immense support of the New England community."

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## Changes of Command, Graduations, and Awards



### 1 March: Change of Command SWCS

Commander, Naval Surface Forces Vice Admiral Brendan McLane presided over the ceremony where Captain Joseph A. Baggett relieved RDML Brian T. Mutty as SWSC's Commanding Officer. Congratulations to Captain Baggett as he begins his tour as SWSC's Commanding Officer, and thank you to RDML Mutty for his outstanding leadership over the last two years. Best of luck at your next tour in Naples, Italy!



### 28 March: Change of Command SEA

Master Chief Veronica Holliday relieved Master Chief David Martinez and assumed the responsibility for the operation of the course of instruction for selected senior enlisted personnel to prepare them to better fulfill their leadership and management responsibilities, improve their communications skills, and enhance their capabilities and knowledge in the areas of military personnel and material resources, national security affairs, physical readiness and Sailor professional development, during a change-of-charge ceremony. A Reseda, California native, she is the second female director of the U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy (SEA). Bravo Zulu.



Master Chief  
Veronica Holliday

### Graduations:



#### Officer Candidate School

Presenters Board Members Pat Burke and Jean Peterson

26 January

15 February

8 March



#### Senior Enlisted Academy

Presenter Board Member Matt Griffin

26 January

23 February



#### Supply School Graduation

Presenters Board Member Pat Burke

29 March



#### Surface Warfare School Command

Presenter Board Member Tom Feeny

29 February

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## Sea Cadets



### 16 February: NCBC Battalion Awarded 2024 Heart of the Lion

Newport Lion's Club presented the NCBC Sea Cadet Corps with their 2024 Heart of a Lion Award at the Wyndham Resort Newport for the Corps' assistance with the White Cane Day Fundraiser, held each year to help sponsor a Seeing Eye Dog for a local person living without the gift of sight. Thank you, Cadets!



Lions Club President, Dave Dittman, presents the award to NCBC CO Brandi Bansemer, LTJG



### 23 March: First Joint Annual Inspection of NCBC Battalion and Falcon Division US Naval Sea Cadet Corps, RI

The inspection was held at Castle Hill Coast Guard Station, Newport hosted by NCBC Battalion, which included the Regional Director. NCBC received a perfect personnel score as well as a 103.5% score on their Training score including Coursework completed, Trainings graduated and Promotions received! The extra points are thanks to the 4 Sea Cadets who graduated from more than 1 Advanced Training this year. A big Shout out to the 4 cadets responsible for the extra points; CPO Grace Rutherford, PO2 Emily Bolanos, PO2 Alex Sulyma & PO3 Cyrus Anand. The entire unit continues to make their CO very proud. Hooyah!



Following the inspection was the formal CPO Pinning Ceremony for Chief Petty Officer Timothy J Lynch. Chief Lynch has been attached to NCBC Battalion and T.S. Walter Boll since 2015 when he was 10 years old! After 8+ years of devotion, growth, education, training and leading we salute you, Chief Lynch! And we loved the cake.



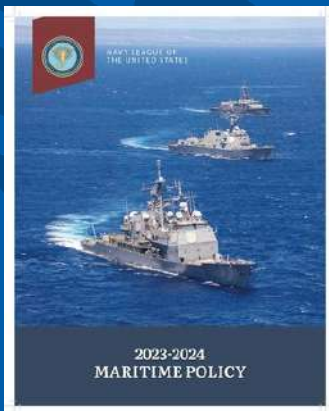


## National Navy League is Ready to Make Your Voice Heard

**Make a difference, Advocate for the Sea Services on a National level**

Seriously interested in where the Navy League's rubber hits the road?  
Read the full doctrine at this link:

[https://www.navyleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Maritime-Policy\\_2023\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.navyleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Maritime-Policy_2023_FINAL.pdf)



The Navy League's Maritime Policy statement is produced by the organization's Maritime Policy Committee. The analyses and recommendations therein are derived from multiple sources, including the expertise and decades of experience of our members, open-source materials and public information from the seagoing services.

The views expressed in this document are those of the Navy League of the United States and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Maritime Administration.

The Navy League of the United States exists to educate the American public about the importance of the sea services to include the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and U.S.- flag Merchant Marine.

**Then check out your choices at VOICE TO QUORUM**

<https://navyleague.quorum.us/homepage/>

### Newport County Council Navy League

Invites you to their monthly Board Meetings held at 5PM the FIRST Monday of every month, unless it is a public holiday at the WYNDHAM RESORT NEWPORT, Aquidneck Ave. Middletown, RI

**Monday, June 3**  
**Monday, July 1**  
**Monday, August 5**  
**Monday, Sept. 9**

**Monday, October 7**  
**Monday, November 4**  
**Monday, December 2**

We usually have a diner's pleasure casual wine and dine after the meeting and catch up on all things sea worthy at 6:15. Council Members are welcome to attend, no reservations necessary. Contact [info@newportnavyleague.us](mailto:info@newportnavyleague.us) to confirm the meeting.

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**Thanks to the following businesses for their membership.  
Please support us by supporting them!**

We truly appreciate your support and it is essential to our organization! We look forward to continuing our partnership in the future!

**Regular Corporate Member**



**Local Business Associates**



**Community Affiliate Members**



The Roberts-Mouliné Group at  
Morgan Stanley



**The Newport County Council Welcomes New Individual Members!**

1 Year: \$55   2 Years: \$100   3 Years: \$130   4 Years: \$180   5 Years: \$225

Above includes a hard copy subscription to Seapower Magazine (four issues per year)

1 Year membership with e-subscription only to Seapower Magazine: \$25

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