



ATTENTION ON DECK

Atlanta Metropolitan Council Newsletter December 2006

Volume 17 No. 4

“From the Bridge” PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Harley Jones

This year has flown by. You wouldn't know that it is December with this great weather.

I want to thank everyone for their support this past year. If you are not a life member please remember to renew your national membership when it comes due. A portion of it is returned to your local council to support its activities. This distribution is not sufficient to fund out activities. In the past we have been able to do some fund raising at the Naval Air Station air show (it was held every other year however will cease when NAS is closed under BRAC) and the Navy Ball. To supplement the national distribution we solicit contributions to our Leadership Fund. These contributions fund our youth activities: five sea cadet units, awards to 37 high school Navy and Marine JROTC units, annual awards banquet, presentation of swords to top ROTC midshipmen at GA Tech and Morehouse, a fall welcome back ROTC reception, sailor of the quarter an year at NAS Atlanta, Navy Operation Support Center, Navy Recruiting District and Navy Supply Corp School. Additionally we would like to provide recognition and support to area Coast Guard and Marine Corps personnel and the USO. Individual Leadership Fund contributions are greatly appreciated. You may have a business affiliation or know of a business that would be receptive to becoming a Corporate member or contributing to the Leadership Fund, youth activities or awards to our serving military. I or a council member are available to tell them about the Navy League and our activities. Active Duty military are prohibited from solicitations. That is where the Navy League comes in. We can do so and make the presentations such as theater tickets, hotel stays, restaurant vouchers and the like. Your assistance is appreciated.

The nominating committee; chaired by Don Giles, is completing next year's board and committee members. They have worked hard getting some new faces. The new board will be installed at our Thursday, March 8 membership and guests dinner meeting. Our National President, John Panneton, is our scheduled speaker. Please plan on attending to help give John a warm Atlanta welcome.

Bonnie and I wish you a Merry Christmas, a safe holiday season and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Harley

Atlanta Council Reception To Mentor Morehouse College/Georgia Tech NROTC Midshipmen Huge Success

The Atlanta Metropolitan Council of the Navy League sponsors a program to mentor NROTC students and encourage non-scholarship students to pursue careers in the Navy and Marine Corps. The United Services Automobile Association (USAA) was a corporate sponsor this year.

The 3rd annual reception for Morehouse and Georgia Tech students was from 6-8 pm Tuesday, September 12 at the Morehouse College Leadership Development Center. Many of the students at Morehouse participate in NROTC, but are not yet on the scholarship program.



It was a great turnout for a rainy evening. Council President Harley Jones led 10 Navy League members who joined with 20 Active Duty Navy and Marine Corps Officers and Enlisted Personnel to give the over 100 students attending access to fleet experienced officers that have had successful careers, and discuss opportunities and rewards of a Navy or Marine Corps career.

Officers from every specialty and designator attended to answer questions and share experiences related to their warfare specialties.

Atlanta Council member Captain Pete Knoetgen, USNR, working with Captain [CAPT Wayne Radloff, USN, Professor Naval Science, Georgia Tech](#) coordinated the event which brought many complimentary remarks from the Midshipmen who were pleased to learn what would be expected of them. Council members commented that talking with these eager young adults renewed their faith in the younger generations interest is patriotism.

Dr. Taylor, Senior Vice President, Provost and Academic Dean, Morehouse College addressed attendees to open the reception. He told the Midshipmen this was an important meeting for their military careers that he was pleased they were interested in serving their country and thanked the Council members and active duty personnel for taking the time to assist the students and hosting the reception.

CAPT Radloff sent the following email to President Jones:

Harley,

I wish to extend my appreciation to you and all the members of the Atlanta Chapter of the Navy League for sponsoring last night's event at Morehouse College for all NROTC Atlanta Midshipmen. It was a huge success and exceeded our expectations. Even the rain couldn't dampen our spirits. It was fascinating and pleasing to watch all the interaction between Navy League members, Navy Reservists, NAS Atlanta leadership, NROTC faculty and staff and our Midshipmen from both battalions.

Council Welcomes New Area Commanding Officers

Metro Atlanta Council members and guests met September 28th for dinner at the Holiday Inn Select to meet CAPT Terry Bragg, USN, Commanding Officer, Navy Operations Support Center, CAPT Wayne Radloff, USN Commanding Officer., NROTC Morehouse/Georgia Tech. and CDR Greg Lafarve, USN, Commanding Officer., Navy Recruiting District Atlanta.

The Council was also pleased to welcome Ulrich Hunn Counsel General of Switzerland and his wife Marie-Claire Hunn-Gonseth to Atlanta..



It was an informative meeting as each Commanding Officer gave an overview of current activities at their commands. Counsel Hunn explained how the Embassy supports the Swiss community in the South East.

Commander Charles Duneheew, USN, Executive Officer NAS Atlanta invited all members to attend The Navy Ball October 14 at the Double Tree Hotel, 2055 South

Park Place, Atlanta, GA. The Ball commences with a cash bar reception at 6 pm followed by dinner at 6:45 pm. Navy League Vice President, Youth Activities, RADM Casey Coane, USNR (Ret) will speak. RADM Coane currently serves as National Executive Director, Naval Reserve Association in Washington, DC.

John Bierowka, Vice President and CEO, Transportation EXPO told the attendees about the North Georgia Air and Car Show October 21-22 at the Richard B. Russell Airport, Rome Georgia October 21-22.

Other military guests were CDR Ted Hill, USN Deputy CAG; CDR Julie Parsons, USN, Executive Officer Naval Recruiting District (who also just arrived in the area) and ENS Martin, Naval Recruiting District EPO.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Phillip J. Sullivan, VP Membership

Welcome Aboard to the following new members who have joined since October: Joseph Adams, Blairsville; S. Brian Benedict, Atlanta; Horace L. Carter, Woodstock ; William L. Crandall, Atlanta; Caleb Dortch, Atlanta; David C. Greer, Cumming; M.F. Martin, Brunswick; Clint Parry, Duluth; Rhonda M. Smith, Dallas; Russ Weakly, Marietta, and Sidonie Weakly, Marietta.



(L-R) Master Chief Jim Wallace (former SEAL and member of VFW Post 12002), VFW District Commander Jim Closs, Cadet Britney White, former sea cadet Harshanan Saddanathan, Cadet Kyle Summers, VFW Post Commander Al Lipphardt, Mr. Jim Trapp of VFW Post 12002.

2745th Seabee Battalion Celebrates USNSCC Birthday

By LTJG Jeffrey R. Batson, NSCC

The United States Naval Sea Cadet 2745th Seabee Battalion recently held a celebration of the USNSCC birthday in conjunction with a formal awards ceremony.

The ceremony was held at the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center in Marietta, Georgia. The sea cadet battalion has more than doubled in the past year and they were ready to celebrate. Indeed, 4 new cadets signed up into this dynamic group during the weekend and all 4 stayed and assisted in the background of the ceremony. Although not the intention, each cadet earned an award, from year service ribbons to medals awards by outside organizations.

Led by the bosun's pipe call to attention, by Senior Chief Brian Fleming, the cadets arrived in a simple parade, similar to a pass in review. For some new parents of cadets, this was the first time to see their children march in their dress uniforms.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States awarded 3 medals. The presenters were Post 12002 Commander Al Lipphardt, District Commander Jim Closs, and Mr. Jim Trapp. There were other decorated heroes from Post 12002 in attendance to lend their support to these future leaders. Commander Lipphardt remarked, "There are some things we can disagree upon, but we must all agree that these cadets are our future." Cadet Kyle Summers and Cadet Britney White received the VFW medals.

CAPT Bob Wise, Treasurer, Metro Atlanta Area Navy League Council awarded Cadet Tyler Richens and Cadet Stephen Fucito the USNSCC Citation ribbon. CAPT Wise, in his remarks, gave an excellent lesson in the history and current role of the Navy League as it relates to sea cadets. Many of the newer parents were appreciative of this explanation and it served as good lead in to the birthday cake cutting ceremony later in the program.

A representative from the Sons of the American Revolution, Mr. Bob Sapp, awarded the SAR Good Citizenship medal. Mr. Sapp made quite an impression with an authentic Revolutionary War era wardrobe. The medal recipient was Cadet Nick Batson.

The Commanding Officer, LTJG Tom Meyer, awarded all the other ribbon awards and letters of commendation. He also promoted Cadet White to E3.

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(NSCC Birthday continued from page 4)

Upon the conclusion of the awards and presenters' remarks, the youngest cadet, Navy League Cadet Corey Jones, and Mr. Sapp cut the USNSCC birthday cake using the LPO's saber.

Although the formal ceremonies were terrific, it was the interaction between the cadets and the award presenters and guests that proved to be the most enlightening for the cadets. Many thanks go to special guest Master Chief Jim Wallace of VFW Post 12002 for his inspiring informal conversations with the cadets.

2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 9 Business Meeting

January 18 Dinner Meeting – Speaker to be announced

February 9-10 Regional Meeting, Charleston, SC

February 13 Business Meeting

March 5-11 Atlanta Navy Week

March 8 Dinner Meeting - National President John A. Panneton, Speaker

March 13 Business Meeting

April 10 Business Meeting

May 8 Business Meeting

May 10 14th Annual Youth Banquet

NARS B-1 MARCHES IN VETERANS DAY PARADE

**Members of NARS B-1 pose prior to marching the Atlanta Veterans Day Parade
Saturday November 11, 2006**



Navy Recruiting Support

Don Giles

The Recruiting District Assistance Coordination (RDAC) Team is receiving renewed attention by the new NRD Atlanta Commanding Officer, Commander Gregory LeFave. If you would like to be identified as an RDAC member and get involved supporting Navy Recruiting, contact Don Giles at 770-509-3772.

The Navy offers tremendous opportunities for service with outstanding benefits, security and pay, but it takes 80 to 100 prospects to produce one sailor in the Fleet. A very big part of Navy Recruiting success is due to the support of citizens who influence young Americans including educators, youth workers, and various Friends of the Navy organizations like the Navy League. We need Navy Leaguers to join the RDAC and volunteer to adopt a local Navy Recruiting Station.

Currently, the Navy Delayed Entry Program (DEP) pool is healthy with 54% of the FY07 accession goal in DEP. The goals of 95 percent of recruits with high school diplomas and 70 percent who score at or above the 50th percentile on the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) are being achieved by our Navy Recruiters. The reserve Navy recruiting goal remains a big challenge. Navy Opportunities information can be reviewed on the internet at www.navy.com.

Region Meeting February 9 and 10

Tom Wright, South Atlantic Council Region President advises that we are in the final stage of planning our Region meeting in Charleston, SC Friday and Saturday, February 9 and 10, 2007. We'll have a social gathering Friday evening and the business and training sessions on Saturday from 8 AM to 3 PM. The schedule will include time for the NC, SC and GA area meetings. Location and motel information will be provided ASAP. Check the events section on the web site for details.

Council Officers, Directors and interested members are encouraged to attend.

2007 Ballot to be mailed in January

Our annual ballot for officers and directors of the Atlanta Metropolitan Council of the Navy League is expected to be approved at our Board of Directors Meeting on January 9th. Shortly thereafter copies of the ballot and dues notice will be mailed to all national and local members in the greater Atlanta area. The ballot and its cover letter will also be posted on our Council website <http://atlanta.navyleague.us>. We encourage you to vote, to pay your dues, and to support our Navy League Leadership Fund. Details will be in the mailing and on the web site. If you have any questions, please call Bill Schwendler, Receiver of Ballots, Dues, and Contributions, on 770-378-0225.

WARRIOR DIVISION Change of Command

ENS Rhonda "Smitty" Smith, NSCC relieved LTJG Laura McIntosh as Warrior Division Commanding Officer. Laura continues to serve as Metro Atlanta Council Secretary.

John A. Panneton National President Navy League of the United States To Speak At Dinner Meeting 7pm March 8

John A. Panneton is currently serving as National President of the Navy League of the United States, the only civilian organization dedicated to supporting the sea services of the United States – the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-Flag Merchant Marine.

As National President, John is responsible for leading the Navy League's more than 65,000 members who are dedicated to educating American citizens and elected officials about the importance of sea power. A Massachusetts native, he is the second U.S. Marine to hold this position since the Navy League was founded in 1902.

A life member of the Navy League, John has served at every leadership level including national senior vice president, a national vice president, region president for the Mid-Atlantic Region, Virginia state president, Roads (Virginia) Council.

While serving as a national vice president, John was responsible for the Navy League's Public Education program and made outreach education about the sea services his top priority. He also served as vice president responsible for legislative affairs and as vice president responsible for the Navy League's sea services programs. Additionally, John served on the Maritime Policy and Resolutions Committee and on several other national committees throughout his career in the Navy League.

Because of his long history of active involvement with the sea services, he has served as a member of the Base Closure and Realignment Commission chaired by Congressman Owen Pickett. He is a former member of the USO board of directors, the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce Armed Service Committees and a member of the Armed Services YMCA. He is a founding member of the USS Wisconsin Board of Directors and is a member on the advisory board of the March of Dimes.

John also brings his business experience to the Navy League. Since retiring from the U.S. Marine Corps in 1986, he has served as president and owner of a manufacturing company, and president of a computer software company where he was responsible for planning, coordinating management functions, administrative procedures and analyzing market opportunities.

John retired as a Lieutenant Colonel with over twenty years on active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps, but while attending college, also served four years in the U.S. Naval Reserve as an enlisted sailor. He has received numerous awards and letters of recognition including the Secretary of the Navy's Superior Public Service Medal, the General Douglas MacArthur Combined Military Service Award, and the Military Diplomats Exemplary Service Award. He was also inducted into his High School Hall of Fame for his performance on the gridiron as a quarterback and for his community service.

NAVY HAS NJROTC SCHOLARSHIPS AT OVER 130 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AVAILABLE FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS. INTERESTED STUDENTS MUST APPLY BY January 31, 2007

At our November Board meeting November 14th CDR Gregory Lafave, USN, CO Navy Recruiting District, Atlanta informed the board that Navy Recruiting District Atlanta has 100 NJROTC scholarship opportunities to fill by 1 December 2006. He has been granted 5 Immediate Selection Scholarships for highly qualified applicants. These scholarships worth up to \$180,000 and can be used at over 130 colleges and universities nationwide. Please contact Chief Benita Haith at 404-272-2938 or benita.haith@navy.mil for more information.



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Bobby Green, Don Giles,
Al Mota

TWO DINNER MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR HOLIDAY INN SELECT

January 18 - speaker to be announced

March 8 - Navy League National President John A.
Panneton. We need a large turnout for this event.

Reception 6:30, Dinner 7 PM for both events. Holiday
Inn Select 4385 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road, Atlanta.
RSVP details to follow.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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