



Savannah Steamer

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Savannah Council United States Navy League A Word from the President

We had a great turnout at our January meeting with 91 members and guests. The program was outstanding and we are all very appreciative of Michael Jordan's reporting and presentation. We had about 10 more people than we planned for but that's a good problem to have. We had 71 reservations and we allow for about 10% more so the Hunter Club staff had to scramble a bit to seat everyone and provide enough food. Please be sure to make reservations if you can. However, we don't want to discourage people from attending if they find they can make it but don't have a reservation. We can accommodate you.



We are changing the layout of the Hunter Club to make a more efficient meeting place. The sign-in table will be moved to the lobby entrance and the membership and visitors table will be inside the main room. This should lessen the lines and avoid confusion. The idea behind the member/visitor table is to greet our visitors and ask them to log in so we can properly recognize them. We also have membership materials and forms and other information members may need. If you have visitors, be sure to stop by the member/visitor table.

Hunter has some good A/V facilities that we have not been using. There is a large projection screen and a PC projector built-in where the buffet is set up. Betty McCarthy and I met with the manager and reconfigured the room. The buffet will now be set up at the opposite end of the room, and the podium and speaker area will be in the former buffet location. This will give us better sight lines and more room up front for the program. Let me know if you think these changes are an improvement.
See you soon. Gary Johnson

February 28th Dinner Meeting 6:00 PM Hunter Club

Navy Leaguers – don't miss the next meeting! Speaking to us will be Navy Captain Dennis Fitzpatrick, Commanding Officer of the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy.

Captain Fitzgerald became Commanding Officer of the USS John F. Kennedy in October 2004.

The Captain has over 3,100 hours of flight time including 655 carrier-arrested landings. His awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal; Air Medal with combat "V"; Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with three Gold Stars and Combat "V"; Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medal and various unit and campaign awards.

And don't forget to RSVP

Call Sybil Cannon at 964-5366 by February 27th to secure your reservation.



Sea Cadets

Our council sponsors the Adolph H. Blumenthal Division Sea Cadet Unit of Savannah, Georgia.

The Sea Cadets are a separate entity and have their own chain of command but the Navy League plays an important part in their operation and finances. Russ Parmerter is our liaison between the board and the Sea Cadets.



Sea Cadets and Leaders

The CO of the Sea Cadets is Commander Kevin Hay who is ably assisted by his wife Nanci. Their son Jordan is a leading petty officer. Cadets are instructed by both Sea Cadet Officers and senior cadets through classroom and applied instruction in subjects such as basic seamanship, military drill, and leadership.

One of our main missions is to support youth programs in the community. We are fortunate to be able to sponsor such a fine Sea Cadet unit.

Check our website to learn more about the Sea Cadets and what they do.

We all appreciate them posting colors at our meetings.

Bylaws

Revisions to the bylaws have been made and approved by the Board of Directors. The revisions are to the last set of bylaws dated July 28, 1998.

Our bylaws specify that any amendment or other changes in the bylaws must be approved by a majority of a quorum of the Board of Directors and confirmed by a majority vote of a quorum of at least twenty-five (25) members in good standing at a general meeting for which notice of the proposed change has been given. It also specifies that any alteration, amendment, repeal or addition to the bylaws will be mailed to the membership a month in advance of the vote to be taken at the next regularly scheduled Savannah Council meeting.

The insert enclosed in the newsletter summarizes the changes and shows the current wording and proposed wording. The proposed bylaws are available on our website.

We will have a vote on the amendments at our March Meeting

Betty McCarthy
Chairman Bylaws Committee.

St Patrick's Day

The Navy League will host a reception for visiting ships and local military at 6:00 PM, March 15th, 2006. We are looking forward to the arrival of a Landing Ship Dock (LSD). The ship's name will be announced a week before the visit.

Other activities include the Jasper Green Ceremony on the 16th and the parade on St Patrick's Day. The crew from the ship will be marching in the parade and we will have a car carrying our President and the Navy Leaguer of the Year, John Findeis.

Items of Interest

Upcoming Programs.

Attention Navy Leaguers. We have an excellent lineup of speakers for you over the next several months. This month, on 28 February, Captain Dennis Fitzpatrick, Commanding Officer of USS John F. Kennedy will speak to us about the mission of the aircraft carrier.

Major General Webster and the 3rd Infantry Division troops have just returned from Iraq. In March, General Webster will give us a first hand account of the war in Iraq.

In April we will be getting National Navy League news from Jim Offutt, National Navy League Vice President from Washington, D.C.

In May we will learn about our nuclear submarine force - speaking to us will be Captain Michael McKinnon, Commanding Officer of the Submarine Base at King's Bay, Georgia. Don't miss any of these great events. Mark your calendars now.

Charles Gibowicz.



USS Kennedy CV- 67

New Members

As the Savannah Council of the Navy League begins its new year with President Gary Johnson at the helm, I'd like to express appreciation to Charles Gibowicz for his outstanding effort as Membership Chairman during the past two years. Under his leadership our Council increased its membership roster in 2005 by 29 members, about 11%. Currently we have 295 active members including nine individuals who have joined our ranks since December. Please join me in welcoming aboard new members Dr. Tom Newton, Robert Marks, Janie Rovolis, Mary Jane and William Mataxas, Francis Hayes, Rev. W. Everett Tumblin, Joy Tumblin and Audrey Gibowicz.

Please talk with your friends, neighbors, business associates and colleagues about the benefits of Navy League membership. The sea services of our country need our support now more than ever. 2006 promises to be an exciting year. Activities planned by the Board of Directors include interesting and relevant speakers at our monthly dinner meetings, receptions on board U. S. Navy and Coast Guard ships during their visits to Savannah and opportunities for rides on some of those ships.

As your new Membership Chairman, I'm excited about our mission. Please let me know how I can assist you in our collective effort to increase the membership of the Savannah Council. Our goal is to have a roster of at least 325 active members by the end of 2006.

Jim Keller

Regional Meeting

The SAC Region met at US Submarine Base, Kings Bay, GA, on February 10-11, 2006. Camden-Kings Bay Council did an outstanding job in hosting the meeting. A majority of the SAC Region councils and all Area Presidents and National Directors attended.

SAC Region President Tom Wright opened the meeting with a brief discussion of the Navy League's national organization and the requirement for annual reports due March 1st. He also congratulated the North Carolina Area on forming the *USS North Carolina* Commissioning Committee. Camden-Kings Bay and Atlanta will take the lead in the "Return to Service" ceremony for *USS Georgia*. Tom reminded councils that regular visits to local recruiters are effective in supporting our sea services.

The meeting adjourned at noon on February 11, 2006. Attendees then toured the Submarine Base and a drydocked submarine as guests of CAPT Mike McKinnon, USN, Sub Base Commander.

Board Report



2006 Officers and Directors

President
Gary Johnson

Vice Presidents
Betty McCarthy
Charles Gibowicz
Ray Cuthbertson
Gene Buttle

Secretary
Debbie Keller

Treasurer
Ellen Snedeker

Judge Advocate
Gwendolyn Waring

Directors
Jim Chapman
Neil Bodenstein
Joost Gompels
Jim Beck

Al Naismith
David Dix
Robert Cannon
Pat Lynch

Jim Keller
Ed robb
Aunette Shipes
Bill Edwards

First Past President
Hugh Robinson

Our treasurer reports that we have received 137 local dues payments from the dues invoices that were included in the January newsletter. We have approximately 300 members and instead of sending out statements through the mail we are enclosing another with this newsletter. Please pay your dues. It's a big part of our budget. If you haven't paid, please get your dues to Ellen Snedeker ASAP.

Council Facts

Our January meeting attendance was 91 members and guests.

Our budget for the year is:

Income: \$ 15,550

Expense: \$ 14, 870

In order to reduce mailing and printing cost the newsletter will not be mailed to approximately 130 members receiving email copies.

We have to mail at least 200 copies to qualify for the bulk mail rate, of about 12 cents per copy, so some members will still receive a hard copy. We realize this is confusing but the bottom line is we will save about \$1100 per year in mailing and printing cost.

The Navy League of the United States is a civilian organization dedicated to informing the American people that the United States of America is a maritime nation and that its national defense and economic well-being are dependent upon strong sea services-United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard and United States Merchant Marine. **Email gary.john@comcast.net or call Gary Johnson (644-7220) with change of address or email.**

Check our website at <http://savannah.navyleague.us>

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