



Savannah Steamer

Newsletter: May 2005

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Savannah Council United States Navy league

The Rhumb Line

The job as your President is humbling. Our organization has unrecognized heroes, individuals who work for the Savannah Council quietly doing their jobs "on the sidelines" without a bit of recognition, but faithfully doing their "thing" to keep our organization functioning. Let me list a few of these Navy League members, not officers or board members but individuals dutifully giving of their time, and give them the recognition they deserve:



Sybil Cannon is one. She heads up the calling committee whose function is very important for our monthly meetings. Her job is to obtain a head count for the Hunter Club so they will have sufficient food and the proper tables to allow seating for those attending our monthly meetings. Just attend a meeting where the food runs out or additional seating has to be arranged. Yes this job takes the cooperation of every one of us to make it work, and she is at it every month

Another unsung hero is Ron McGhie. Now I know that everyone of you is going to ask, "Who is Ron McGhie?" Well, just fail to pay your local or national dues and you will find out. Ron has been in charge of member retention and faithfully makes personal calls to those recalcitrant members who let their dues lapse. Our Savannah Council is graded by our National Headquarters on various measurable units. Membership, new members and retention are at the top of their list, and his success is one of the reasons our council continues to win awards.

And I would be remiss if I did not give credit to our past president Ray Cuthbertson who continually maintains connections with the military, units found at Hunter or Fort Stewart, faithfully attends their functions in our behalf, makes the necessary presentations, etc. In addition, Ray continues to maintain liaison with City Hall attending their council meetings, and now and then stands up to say a few words in our behalf. I take this opportunity to thank these special people for a job well done, and I know our members now appreciate your faithful attention to duty. This list is not all-inclusive and in future months I would like to bring attention to others that deserve a special note of recognition.

Hugh Robinson, President

May Meeting

The meeting will be at the Hunter Club on May 24th and will start with a social hour at 6:00pm. The cost is \$16.00. Call Sybil Cannon for reservations at 964-5366

Our speaker will be:

Lieutenant Commander Chidester was commissioned via the Limited Duty Officer program in 1991 and subsequently approved for lateral Unrestricted Line Community in 1996. From January of 1991 to July 1996, Lieutenant Commander Chidester served consecutive CIC Officer tours aboard USS GRIDLEY (CG 21) where he attained his Surface Warfare Qualification, and USS CHANCELLORSVILLE (CG 62) completing two Middle East Force deployments to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.

Lieutenant Commander Chidester assumed duties as the Executive Officer, USS THE SULLIVANS in July 2004. USS THE SULLIVANS received the Battle Efficiency "E" just after her visit to Savannah for St Patrick's Day.



NROTC NEWS BY Jim Beck



Hugh Robinson, Jim Beck and Gary Johnson represented the Navy League at the Commissioning of four mid-shipmen at Savannah State. The new officers are Elysia Hughes, Jeremy McMullen, Jose Botilla and Steven Contrascere (AASU).

Capt. Leonard B. Jones and Commander Joel Reaves presided over the commissioning of the four graduates on Saturday, 7 May 2005. A reception was held following the signing of their commissioning documents.

Our congratulations to Capt. Jones and his staff for all the good work they do and to the new Ensigns and Second Lieutenants.

Here is a picture of the awards ceremony at S. Effingham. It was Captain Coursey's last time with the cadets. As you know he has had a lot of problems after a knee replacement and is now on his second one after five surgeries. It was a very moving night with at least 100 cadets and at least 150 guests and lots prepared by the parents.



**Cadet Commander
Royce A Parrish III
receives Navy league
award**

Membership Report by Charles Gibowicz

We welcome Joe Dobry, Ron Laretti and William Etz as new members. Welcome aboard! The Savannah Council currently has 282 members registered at the National Level with 215 local members.

The Savannah Council is healthy but don't relax. Maintaining an organization's quality and size requires continuous work. And, it requires the work of all hands. Each member is asked to contact a friend, relative, neighbor or colleague who is not a member but may be a prospect. It is surprising how a simple explanation of what our Council is all about can recruit a new member. Many people have no idea about the Navy League and many who are aware of the League think that it is a veteran's

organization that requires active duty service in order to join. A simple explanation can create interest. Great selling points include our monthly speakers, usually a member of the military; the ship receptions and the ship rides. So please talk up the Savannah Council and do your part to keep it a dynamic organization

Items of Interest

- **Commander Peter Troedsson Change of Command**

Peter Troedsson will be leaving Savannah in July after two years of serving as CO of the Coast Guard Air Station. He has been a good friend and supporter of the Navy League and will be missed by all.

His change of Command Ceremony will be July 13th at 11:00am. Hugh Robinson will be making a presentation in appreciation for his work and service here.

- **National Navy League Convention**

It will be held this year in Norfolk Virginia, June 1st thru the 5th. Several members will be attending and Hugh Robinson will be "picking up" our Meritorious Council Award. Gary Johnson will be giving a talk on Using the Internet to Build your Council at the Information Systems session.

- **Upcoming Programs**

We have some outstanding programs planned for our regular monthly meetings. In addition to this month's speaker we have:

June - Tom Burnette, LIEUTENANT GENERAL UNITED STATES ARMY (RETIRED)

Tom Burnette serves as a Senior Mentor in support of the United States Joint Forces Command's Joint Warfighting Center. In this role he provides advice and counsel to the senior commanders and staffs of the combatant commands and joint task forces worldwide during joint training exercises as well as during actual combat operations. He will be speaking to us about his recent travels to Iraq and Afghanistan

July- Rear Admiral Loose, Commander NAVFAC

RADM Loose heads up the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps and Seabees. We will have more details next issue.

- **Website**

Be sure to check the website for news and updates. You can enter the member's only section by logging in as member for username and member for password, In this section you can view and print the member directory.





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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.**

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