



Savannah Steamer

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Savannah Council United States Navy League A Word from the President



Now Hear This,

We recently returned from the Navy League National Convention in Corpus Christi. As your Savannah Council representatives, Debbie and I experienced the feeling of knowing that what we are doing as Navy Leaguers, to help our country's elected officials and general population understand the importance of the sea services, has never been more important than it is today. I encourage each of you to read the Navy League's Maritime Policy Statement which can be found at www.navyleague.org. This will provide you with an appreciation of the needs of our sea services if we as a country are to maintain our success as the world's preeminent military and economic maritime power.

Of local interest, three remaining Savannah Council activities are scheduled for 2009. CAPT Mark Bernier, MSC, USN, Commanding Officer, Naval Hospital, Beaufort is our scheduled speaker at the final dinner meeting of the year on November 17 (note change in date) at the Hunter Club beginning at 6:00 PM. Please make every effort to be present on the 17th as we will celebrate the birthday of the Marine Corps in addition to electing the Council's 2010 Officers and Directors. For a list of next year's nominees refer to the Council website at <http://savannah.navyleague.us> or the October issue of Savannah Steamer. Dinner reservations should be made with Sybil Cannon at 964-5366 or RSalty2@ATT.net by Friday, November 13.

This year's Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony will be held Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 PM at The Mighty 8th Air Force Museum in Pooler. As more fully described elsewhere in this newsletter, this event is being co-sponsored with the Fleet Reserve Association. Please plan to attend this patriotic observation when our guest speaker will be CAPT Kent Flowers, USN, Commanding Officer, SSU ROTC.

Finally, please mark your calendars for our Savannah Council Christmas Party to be held Friday, December 11 at the Savannah Yacht Club beginning at 6:30 PM. Savannah Steve will provide the music for what promises to be a most enjoyable and entertaining Holiday Celebration. Please join us. Invitations will be in the mail shortly.

That Is All. Carry On.

Jim Keller, President

Upcoming

November 11
Veterans Day Parade

November 15
Massing of the Colors
Savannah Christian Church

November 17
(NEW DATE)
Dinner Meeting
CAPT Mark Bernier, USN
CO, Naval Hospital Beaufort

December 1
Board of Directors
Air Station Savannah, USCG

December 6
Pearl Harbor Remembrance
Day
Mighty 8th Air Force Museum

December 11
Savannah Council Christmas
Party
Savannah Yacht Club



January 26
Dinner Meeting
RADM Robert Parker, USCG

February 20
Sea Chanters Concert



2010 Officers and Directors

The election will be held at our regular dinner meeting on November 17th. Nominations will be received from the floor but the person nominated must be contacted in advance and agree to serve. The new board will be installed at our January meeting. More information on the website:

<http://savannah.navyleague.us>

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 6th for Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. It will take place at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum at 2:00 pm. There will be patriotic readings and music as well as a solemn service to commemorate this day in our history.

CAPT Kent Flowers, CO of Savannah State NROTC will present the main address.

Other participants include the Benedictine choral group and the Coast Guard color guard. We hope to have several Pearl Harbor survivors there as well as World War II veterans. Last year we had about 130 people come, and we hope to have even more this year.

The Savannah Council is co-sponsor with the Fleet Reserve Association for this well-attended event. Hope you will join us.



CAPT Kent Flowers
SSU NROTC

Treasurer's Report

Through the first ten months of 2009, Savannah Council has generated income of \$15,023 and had total expenditures of \$13,859. This has resulted in a gain of \$1,164. Year-to-date, our cash position continues to be healthy with over \$25,000 in the bank.

Your council continues to spend the great majority of its funds on programs which directly support our sea services. Thru October, 84% of expenditures have supported these programs. At our October dinner meeting we had an attendance of 59 members and guests.

--Cliff Angers

Our Next Speakers—MARK F. BERNIER

Captain, Medical Service Corps
United States Navy

Nov. 17th Dinner Meeting
6:00 P.M., Hunter Club



CAPT Mark F. Bernier
USN Medical Corps

A native of New Hampshire, CAPT Bernier enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1973 and attended Hospital Corps School and Operating Technician School at Great Lakes Training Center, Great Lakes, IL. After serving in Naval Hospital, Newport, RI he was honorably discharged in July 1977. He received a BS in Health Care Administration and Planning from the University of New Hampshire in 1981. In May 1982 he was commissioned Ensign, Medical Service Corps, U.S. Navy.

CAPT Bernier began his commissioned service as Head, Operating Management, Naval Hospital, Newport, RI. In 1985 he transferred to Naval Medical Clinic, Seattle, WA as Fiscal and Supply Officer. In 1989 he became Director, Administration at Naval Dental Center, Pensacola, FL and upon completion of his tour was selected for Out Service Training at University of New Hampshire from which he received an MHA in Health Management and Policy in 1994.

His subsequent locations and assignments are legion: Naval Hospital Jacksonville, FL, head of MIS, head of Operating Management, Assistant Director for Administration; Naval Branch Medical Clinic, Albany, GA, Officer in Charge; Naval Hospital Pensacola, FL, Director for Administration; Fleet Hospital Pensacola, Executive Officer; Washington, D.C Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Medical Service Corps Career Planner; Naval Hospital Pensacola, Director for Healthcare Operations; Naval Hospital Naples, Italy, Executive Officer, and effective 31 March 2008 he assumed command of Naval Hospital

Beaufort, SC

He is a Fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives, a Fellow in the American College of Medical Administrators and a member of the Academy of Medical Surgeons of the United States. He has received numerous service medals and awards. He is married to the

former Christine Strong of York, ME, and they have three sons.



Naval Hospital
Beaufort, SC



Reserve Your Seat Today!
Reservations must be made by Friday, November 13th
by contacting Sybil Cannon at
912-964-5366 or RSalty2@att.net.

From Our October 27th Meeting



Our speakers, Savannah River Pilot Craig Maggioni (left) and veteran Docking Pilot Bob Cooley (right)

President Jim Keller welcomed the military who were present and introduced a number of guests. Pete Liakakis, Chairman of Chatham County commissioners, voiced his support for breast cancer awareness and mammograms. Gary Johnson reported on the procedure for the election of officers and directors at the November dinner meeting.

After dinner, Judge Advocate Ed Robb introduced our speakers for the evening; two licensed river pilots who are now working on the Savannah River. Craig Maggioni, a Savannah native, is a state pilot whose interests parallel those of the state, and CAPT Robert Cooley is a federal pilot. Craig Maggioni guides vessels up and down the 26 mile long Savannah River channel. CAPT Cooley is a docking pilot and guides vessels in and out of tight berthing situations.

There are about 1100 pilots in the US. In Savannah there are 19 river pilots, and there are 14 docking pilots employed by two marine towing companies. Who needs a pilot? Vessels involved in foreign trade, foreign flag vessels of more than 200 tons, and coastwise US vessels may use pilots if they want to. Craig referred to piloting as the "art of getting lost in sight of land". GPS was characterized as a tool used infrequently. In the ship-master/pilot exchange, English is the spoken language. Piloting was described as a lifestyle, never a job.

Their presentation ended with a video (very much speeded up) taken on a cargo ship, that showed transit up the Savannah River in a matter of minutes rather than hours.



During our October dinner meeting, we also observed the birthday of the United States Navy. Pictured are Debbie Keller (left) and LT Dustin Dickamore, from the NROTC program at Savannah State University, cutting a special cake (inset).



November Membership Corner

I offer a huge "thank you" to all of you who have renewed your Navy League of the United States membership for the upcoming year. Your continued support is extremely important at this time in our nation's situation. SCNL membership is 279.

The Navy League of the United States is having an **Every Member-Get-A-Member** Membership Contest. Applications that are currently in circulation may be used simply by adding **Priority Code 4Q2009** to the application. The winner will be selected by RANDOM DRAW in January 2010. You only have to get one new member and you have the opportunity to win \$500!

(Entry form in October issue of [SEAPOW](#), pg. 55)



**Enter for a
chance to win
\$500!**

**The Navy League
Membership Contest**

Entries accepted
Oct. 1 thru Dec. 31, 2009
winner announced Jan. 20, 2010

Winner will be selected by Random Draw January 20, 2010

If you are in need of a membership application for a prospective member, or just need a little help renewing your membership, please contact me and I will see that you receive the assistance you need. Debbie Keller, 912-598-0940 or dtkeller29@aol.com.

Recognizing Our Sea Services Members

Savannah Council continues to be extremely active in recognizing the superior results being achieved by the men and women of our sea services.



On October 22, Petty Officer Taylor Anderson of the USCG Air Station Savannah was recognized as their Guardian of the Quarter. Representing Savannah Council were Bob Gephart, Jim Keller, Mike Campbell, Jinny Latham and Tom Latham.

At a MALS-31 squadron formation on November 2 at the Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station, recognition awards were presented to six of their best marines and sailors: NCO Christina Rodrigues, NCO Christopher Dunton, LCPL Jacob Becker, AZ2 Thomas Wilkens, ASAN Annette Fritch and AZ1 William Coney. Representing Savannah Council were Jim Morison, Tom Latham and JEB Harper.

-- Tom Latham

2009 Officers
And Directors

President
Jim Keller

Vice Presidents
Tom Latham
Bob Gephart
Jim Morison
John Innes

Secretary
Virginia Latham

Treasurer
Cliff Angers

Judge Advocate
Ed Robb

Directors
Philip Kirk
Sam McLaughlin
Michael Jordan
Debbie Keller
Warren Onken
Don Civitanova
Frank McCarthy
Larry Wills

First Past President
Gary Johnson

Newletter Editors
Phil Kirk
Michael Jordan

Photographer
Lynn Wright

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Look for your invitation in the Mail!

SAVANNAH COUNCIL
NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

Friday
DECEMBER 11, 2009

6:30 – 10:30

SAVANNAH YACHT CLUB

Entrée: Choice of
Carved Prime Rib au jus with Horseradish
or

Potato Crusted Tilapia with a Light Beurre Blanc

Dessert: Chocolate Tower filled with Chocolate Mousse
Plate drizzled with Raspberry Coulis, Chocolate Sauce & Fresh
Berries

\$55.00 per Person--Cash Bar

Entertainment: Savannah Steve



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.

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

Official Document: Savannah Council of the Navy League of the United States

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