



# Savannah Steamer

Navy League of the United States

Newsletter: August 2005

Volume 26 Issue 8

*Last month's meeting attendance, 48 members and guests  
Membership as of August 1<sup>st</sup>, 282*

## *The Rhumb Line . . . . .*



Your Navy League officers are working on a presentation to our City's Mayor, Otis Johnson, to make a bid to the Coast Guard Headquarters for the nomenclature of *Coast Guard City, USA*. Many organizations are involved with the Coast Guard's well-being in Savannah. Among them are the USO, the Coast Guard Auxiliary and your Navy League Council. The City's Military Affairs Council with member Mitchell Bush, our President from years past, are combining talents with our council to make this presentation to the Coast Guard, the Mayor and eventually our US Congress to make this happen.

Why are we doing this? Just think, these 6 units add \$11,159,000 of our taxpayers' dollars back to those living in the City. We appreciate this and honor those who make Savannah their home while they serve our country, protect our ports from terrorists and drug smuggling, and launch search and rescue efforts for recreational boaters, working fishermen and shrimpers.

We will keep all of our members up to date on our progress.

Hugh L. Robinson, President

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## August Meeting

**We will meet at the Hunter Club on August 23rd starting with a social hour at 6:00pm. The cost is \$16.00. Call Sybil Cannon for reservations at 964-5366.**

Our Speaker will be Rear Admiral Michael K. Loose USN, Commander Naval Facilities Engineering Command. RADM Loose is Chief of Civil Engineers and leads NAVFAC's more than 13,000 military, civilians and contractors who serve as engineers, architects, contract specialists and professionals.



NAVFAC delivers best value facilities engineering and acquisition for the Navy and Marine Corps, Unified Commanders, and Department of Defense agencies through six business lines: Capital Improvements, Environmental Real Estate, Public Works, Base Development and Contingency Engineering. NAVFAC's annual volume of business is in excess of \$7.6 billion.

Admiral Loose will be coming here from Washington DC with his aid, Lt Price. Let's have a big turnout for this meeting and show our appreciation for Admiral Loose taking time to visit us in Savannah.

## Change of Command



This picture was taken following the recent Coast Guard Air Station Change of Command ceremony. Shown are outgoing CO, Cmdr Peter Troedsson, and incoming CO, Todd Sokalzuk. They are flanked by Navy Leaguers Charles Gibowicz, Robert Cannon, Hugh Robinson and Gary Johnson. CDR Troedsson made several complimentary remarks about the Savannah NL during his Change of Command speech. Todd and Peter are old friends so we look forward to continuing our good relationship with new Air Station CO Sokalzuk.

## Bylaw Revisions

The Board of Directors has completed a three-year study of the bylaws and proposes certain changes for your review, consideration and election at the September meeting. The proposed changes were made to clarify some ambiguities, create officers in line with the National Council and provide flexibility for growth for future boards. In addition, the proposed bylaws enact term limits for all officers, not just the President; other changes are indicated in bold. A subcommittee of the Board created the proposed changes after much discussion. If you have any questions prior to the September meeting, contact Bylaws committee chair Betty McCarthy. All members will receive a copy of the proposed Bylaws in the mail. The Bylaws may also be viewed on our website.

Gwendolyn Fortson Waring, Esq.  
Judge Advocate

## Membership Report by Charles Gibowicz

Let's give a warm "Welcome Aboard" for new members joining the Savannah Council in July. New members are: Joseph DeNapoli, Robert Jolley, Connie Ray and William Ray.

Our Membership numbers have reached 282. That's very good – but we can do even better. A goal of 300 members by year-end certainly is achievable and would really be a great boost to our organization. All it takes is a little effort on the part of all members. We need your help.

One way to get people interested in the Navy League is to bring them to a function, either a ship's reception or a meeting. There is no ship reception scheduled this month but we do have an active duty Admiral as our next guest speaker, Admiral Michael Loose. Admiral Loose heads up the Navy Civil Engineer Corps and Seabees. Why not bring a friend or acquaintance to our meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. It's a good way to demonstrate what the Navy League is about. We're a patriotic organization supporting our sea services but we are also an organization with interesting and fun activities. Please encourage others to join. In order to keep on growing, and to become an even better organization, it takes the effort of each and every member to do his/her share. Please do your share. Bring a guest and if you need NLUS application forms, give me a call.

## Items of Interest

- **Coast Guard Picnics**

If you did not attend the two Coast Guard picnics, you missed a great opportunity to get to know those individuals who are responsible for our "home" security here in the City of Savannah. On August 4<sup>th</sup>, the actual 290<sup>th</sup> birthday of our Coast Guard, a picnic was held by the combined efforts of the 36 active Coast Guards men and 25 reservists who serve out at Station Tybee and the 6 active men who service our Aids to Navigation. I took advantage of the time to get to know CBM Shawn Vrendenburg and BMI Barry Pierce in charge of running those two operations.

Then on Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, we were invited to partake in the picnic sponsored by the 120 active Coast Guard personnel and 5 reservists at Air Station Savannah with the 45 active and 60 reservists on duty at the Marine Safety Unit stationed in Savannah. The picnic was held at Lott's Island and was a grand affair. Again I had the opportunity to visit with LCDR Larry Greene and LCDR Chuck Barbee of the MSU and re-acquaint myself with CDR Todd Sokalzuk of Air Station Savannah and their families.

At that time I was able to remind them of our own plans to hold a picnic for all 6 Coast Guard Units in and around Savannah on October 15<sup>th</sup> at Lotts Island, and to honor an outstanding member in each of their units. Please put this date on your calendar now for the days are spinning crazily by. Hugh Robinson

- **New Feature on Website**

Ron Lauretti, one of our new members, is a contributor to a newspaper at the Landings called "The Skinny". He has been writing a series of articles on veterans who live at the Landings, and recently featured an article on Charles Gibowicz. Since the pieces are quite long, we are going to post them on our website in a special section.

We have a lot of interesting people in the Navy League with a lot of stories to tell and we would like to know about them. Let me know of any WWII veterans you know, so we can capture some of their experiences for council features section.

- **Presentation to Mayor**

Ray Cuthbertson recently made a presentation to Mayor Johnson at a Savannah City Council meeting of a plaque from the USS Carr.

The city supports our council with an annual grant, which is a significant part of our budget. Ray points out the economic impact of ship visits to City Council members and city officials at every opportunity.

Ray is a 'tireless' promoter of the Navy League and Savannah and is personally responsible for much of the support we get from the city. We're fortunate to have members like Ray representing us in the community.



- **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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