

Sarasota-Manatee Council

Sarasota-Manatee Council has approximately 135 members spread throughout the two counties.

Key activities include:

- Monthly dinner meetings for ten months of the year to keep ourselves informed regarding sea service issues by hearing from knowledgeable speakers. In July and August luncheons are held.
- Support of a Navy JROTC program at Venice High School and a Marine Corps JROTC Program at Northport High School.
 - Three \$1000 Scholarships yearly to JROTC Cadets, Young Marines or Sea Cadets in units sponsored by the Council.
 - Medals awarded quarterly to deserving Cadets
 - Financial Support of Cadet Activities such as leadership training and drill meets.
- Support the Maritime Eagles Sea Cadet Unit.
- Adoption of Coast Guard Station Cortez in May 2005, Coast Guard Cutter Crocodile-now Tarpon- in October 2009 and Coast Guard Cutter Resolute in January 2016.
 - Recognition provided by Sailor of the Quarter Program
 - Support of recreation fund needs
 - Support to members and dependents
- Support three Young Marines Units
 - DeSoto Young Marines in Bradenton
 - Venice Middle School Young Marines
 - Imagine School Young Marines in North Port
- Provide two scholarships to the National Flight Academy for members of our sponsored youth groups.
- Hold a yearly event to honor the recipients of NROTC Scholarships and appointments to the Sea Service Academies.
- Joint sponsorship with Tampa, Clearwater, and St. Petersburg Councils of ship visits to Port of Tampa and receptions for crews.
- Participation in the Sarasota Veterans Day and Memorial Day Parades, Maritime Day at Port Manatee each May and USCGC Blackthorn Memorial each January.
- Annual Golf Tournament to raise funds for Sea Service related charitable endeavors held at Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club each November.

Sarasota-Manatee Council NLUS Activities 2017-2018

September 27, 2017—Dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club to honor our Sea Cadet Unit the Maritime Eagles. Speaker was Michael Long of *Sail Future*, a Sarasota Non-Profit that mentors youth, using the challenge of sailing in their 65' Macgregor Sailing Vessel, "**Defy The Odds**".

October 25, 2017-- Dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club to celebrate the Navy's 242nd Birthday. Speaker was Captain Chris Petrock USN of the US Central Command.

November 15, 2017—Dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club to celebrate the Marine Corp's 242nd Birthday. Speaker was LtGen Joseph Osterman USMC, Deputy Commander US Special Operations Command.

December 7, 2017—Luncheon at Bird Key Yacht Club to elect and install our Officers for 2018.

January 28, 2018—The Council President presented a wreath at the annual memorial of the sinking of the USCGC Blackthorne.

February 15, 2018—Luncheon at Bradenton Yacht Club. We heard from two speakers from the Naval War College-Dr. David R. Stone PHD, Professor, Strategy and Policy and Dr. Richard J. Norton PHD, Professor, National Security Affairs.

February 28, 2018—Dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club. Speaker was RADM Steve Horton JAGC USN (ret). His subject was the recent USN ship collisions in the Pacific.

March 28, 2018—Dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club. Speaker was Captain Holly Najarian, Commander of Coast Guard Sector, St. Petersburg. Sailor of the Quarter awards were presented to BM3 Shawn Boyd from CG Station Cortez and MK2 Zachary Wilson from USCGC Tarpon. Captain Najarian spoke about the CG operations in the Gulf and about her responsibilities as Captain of the Port of Tampa especially related to hurricane precautions.

April 18, 2018—Luncheon at Plantation Golf and Country Club to honor JROTC cadets. The speaker was the Vice Principal of North Port High School, Ms. Julie King. The principal, Mr. Brandon Johnson was present as well. The Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal was awarded to one cadet from each of the units (Venice MCJROTC and North Port NJROTC)

April 29, 2018—Al Burda and George Hofmann attended a drill of the Imagine School Young Marines in North Port and presented them with a check for \$500 for support of the unit and awarded the Outstanding Young Marine award to Cadet Molly Evans.

May 3, 2018—George Hofmann and Jerry St. Germain attended a muster of the Venice Middle School Young Marines and presented the unit with a \$500 check for support and awarded the Outstanding Young Marine award to Cadet Morgan Pachter.

May 24, 2018—Dennis Turner, Marty Donner, Al Burda and Jerry St. Germain attended the final muster of the year at Venice Middle School. President Turner presented the Scroll of Honor to Dr. Karin Schmidt for instituting and growing the Young Marines Program into a very successful unit. In addition, a \$1000 academic scholarship was presented to Cadet Colonel Alex Vischulis of the MCJROTC unit at Venice High School. The John Osterweil Scholarship to the National Flight Academy was presented to Young Marines Cadet Lance Corporal Grant Knauer.

Sarasota-Manatee Council NLUS Activities 2016-2017

September 28, 2016—Dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club. Speaker was RAdm Larry Cambers USN (ret). His topic was “A Kazakhstan Adventure with Nuclear Implications”.

October 26, 2016—Dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club to celebrate the Navy’s Birthday. Guest speaker was Vice Admiral Sean Pybus USN, Deputy Commander U. S. Special Operations Command.

October 31, 2016—Earl Fowler Memorial Golf Tournament at Laurel Oak Country Club.

November 30, 2016—Dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club to celebrate the Birthday of the Marine Corps. Guest speaker was Lt. Gen William Beydler USMC, Commander U.S. Marine Forces Central Command (MARCENT).

December 15, 2016—Luncheon for members at Bird Key Yacht Club to elect officers for 2017.

January 26, 2017—Dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club. Guest speaker was Major Michael Dubrule, USMC (ret), Commander of the Venice Middle School Young Marines. He brought some Young Marines with him and they told of their visit to Pearl Harbor for the 75th Anniversary of the attack.

January 27, 2017—President Turner presented at wreath at the remembrance ceremony for the Coast Guard Cutter Blackthorn crewmembers that lost their lives in the 1980 accident.

February 16, 2017—Luncheon meeting at Sara Bay Country Club. Guest speaker was Dr. Marc Genest, Professor of Public Diplomacy and Terrorism Electives Program at the Naval War College. His topic was: “Counter-terrorism and Terrorism from Non-State Actors” (Insurgencies).

March 22, 2017—Dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club. Guest speaker was RAdm Scott Buschman USCG, Commander of Coast Guard District 7 with headquarters in Miami. Captain Holly Najarian, Sector Commander for Sector St. Petersburg also attended as did the Officer-in-Charge of Station Cortez, BMC Justin Wainscott and the Officer-in-Charge of Coast Guard Cutter Tarpon, BMCM Tom Cairns. Sailor of the quarter awards were presented to BM1 Snyder from Tarpon and BM2 Newton from Station Cortez.

April 19, 2017—Luncheon meeting at Plantation Country Club to honor JROTC Cadets. Guest speaker was Mr. Brandon Jones, principal of North Port High School. Scholarships were presented to two cadets from NPHS-Sean Dennison and Jeff Frias.

May 24, 2017—Dinner Meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club. Guest speaker was RAdm Rick Buchanan USN (ret)

May 29, 2017—Participated in the Sarasota Memorial Day Parade with a float provided by the Adams.

June 7, 2017— A luncheon was held at Sara Bay Country Club to honor the recipients of appointments to one of the Sea Service Academies and also the recipients of NROTC Scholarships. The guest speaker was Judge Diana Moreland of the 12 Judicial Circuit Court of Florida. Judge Moreland is a 1984 graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

July 26, 2017—Luncheon at Bird Key Yacht Club

August 30, 2017—Luncheon at Bird Key Yacht Club

Sarasota-Manatee Council NLUS Activities 2015-2016

September 16, 2015-The September Dinner Meeting was held at Bird Key Yacht Club. Guest speaker was RADM Lawrence Chambers USN (ret) who commanded the carrier Midway during the evacuation of Saigon.

October 21, 2015-The October Dinner meeting celebrated the 240th birthday of the U. S. Navy. Command Master Chief Sanzalone USN (ret) a military instructor at North Port High School was our speaker. Sailor of the Quarter awards were presented to Coast Guard Station Cortez personnel.

November, 11, 2015-The Tenth Annual VADM Earl Fowler Memorial Golf Tournament was held at Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club. The tournament was won by the team from Sector St. Pete.

November 18, 2015-The November Dinner Meeting, held at Bird Key Yacht Club, celebrated the 240th birthday of the U. S. Marine Corps.

December 2, 2015-The Annual Meeting of the Sarasota-Manatee Council was held at the Sarasota Yacht Club at noon. Election of Officers and Directors was held as was the swearing-in of the elected individuals. Officers elected are: Tim Rocklein, President; Dennis Turner, First Vice President; Jeannine Rusch, Secretary; Gerard St. Germain, Treasurer; June Moore Vice President for Membership and retention; Vice President for Recruiting and Publicity, Marty Donner; Vice President for Education, Dick Petrucci, Vice President for Legislative Affairs, Pete Ross; Judge Advocate, Marc Soss; Editor of Anchor Line, Roger Betts. Chaplain, Al Burda

January 27, 2016—The first dinner meeting of 2016 was held at the Bird Key Yacht Club. This was an exceptionally well attended event with over 140 attendees. The large attendance was attributed to our guest speaker who is a nationally known individual-Commander Dan O'Shea. USNR.

January 28, 2016—Attended and placed a wreath at the annual commemoration of the loss of the USCGC Blackthorn on January 28, 1980 with a loss of 23 lives. The event is held annually at the memorial site at the rest area on the north end of the Skyway Bridge.

January 29, 2016—Sarasota-Manatee Council adopted the USCGC Resolute (WMEC 620) at a ceremony aboard the ship. Commander Matthew Brown USCG, the Commanding Officer, accepted for the ship. The ceremony was attended by RDML Pat DeQuattro USCG and Command Master Chief Bushey both from USCG Atlantic Area headquarters in Portsmouth, VA.

February 25, 2016—Dinner meeting at Sara Bay Country Club. This was a joint meeting with the Port Manatee Propeller Club. The guest speaker was Mr. Dave Sanford, the Deputy Port Director for Port Manatee.

March 23, 2016—Dinner meeting held at Bird Key Yacht Club. The guest speaker was Mr. Scott Bill, the President of the Brian Bill Foundation. The Sailor of the Quarter from Coast Guard Station Cortez, Jose Perez, was recognized.

April 13, 2016—April is our month to honor our JROTC students. A luncheon in their honor was held at Plantation Golf and Country Club in Venice. The guest speaker was David Jones, the principal at North Port High School. \$1000 scholarships were awarded to Patrick Ewing of the Venice MCJROTC and Matthew Wuethrich of the North Port High School Navy JROTC.

May 19, 2016—Maritime Day Observance at Port Manatee. President Rocklein represented the Navy League.

May 25, 2016—The May dinner was held at the Bird Key Yacht Club. The guest speaker was Mr. Bob Silah the president of Operation Helping Hand in Tampa. The Sailor of the Quarter award was presented to MK2 Etienne Bochet a member of the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Tarpon.

May 30, 2016—Participated in the Sarasota Memorial Day Parade with a beautiful float provided by the Adams.

June 6, 2016—A luncheon was held at Sara Bay Country Club to honor the recipients of appointments to one of the Sea Service Academies and also the recipients of NROTC Scholarships. The guest speaker was Judge Diana Moreland of the 12 Judicial Circuit Court of Florida. Judge Moreland is a graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

July 27, 2016—Luncheon at Café L'Europe.

August 24, 2016—Luncheon at Marina Jack

Sarasota-Manatee Council NLUS Activities 2014-2015

September 17, 2014—September Dinner meeting held at Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club. Speaker was Dr. Robert Barylski, retired associate professor in the department of government and international affairs at USF and author of “The Soldier in Russian Politics 1988-1996”.

October 17, 2014—Joint luncheon meeting with Military Officers Association of Sarasota at Michaels on East to celebrate the 239th birthday of the U. S. Navy. Speaker was RADM Brian McCarthy USN (ret).

November 5, 2014—Sarasota Manatee Council conducted the 9th Annual Earl Fowler Memorial Golf Tournament at Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club.

November 19, 2014—The November Dinner Meeting of the Council was held at Bird Key Yacht Club to commemorate the 239th birthday of the U. S. Marine Corps. Speaker was Major General Walter Miller USMC, Chief of Staff of the U. S. Special Operations Command. Joining us on this occasion was Sgt Richard Bonelli who fought at the battle of Chosin Reservoir in the Korean Conflict and Ralph Franklin who served with the 3rd Marine Division at Guadalcanal. The youngest marine present was Cadet Alex Vachulis of the Venice MCJROTC who spoke to us about his experiences at the National Flight Academy which he attended on scholarship from us.

December 3, 2014—Holiday party and election and installation of officers was held at Gold Coast Eagle Distributing. Area President Chris Paddock installed the new officers and board. A contingent of Coasties from Coast Guard Station Cortez attended. USCGC Crocodile could not attend as they were underway.

January 21, 2015—January dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club. Guest speaker was Dr. Stephen Derfler who spoke on the current middle east crisis and tried to put into context by describing the historical evolution of the problem.

January 28, 2015—Participated in the annual USCGC Blackthorn Memorial Service by laying a wreath at the memorial.

January 12, 2015—This was our annual joint meeting with the Port Manatee Propeller Club. It was held at their venue-Bradenton Yacht Club. Guest speaker was Carlos Diaz of World Direct Shipping. He described a new service his company had inaugurated for direct shipping of perishable cargo between Mexico and Port Manatee.

March 18, 2015—Dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club focussing on Coast Guard Aviation. Speaker was Lieutenant Commander Adam Merrill. He is an instructor pilot for the MH-60T Helicopter at Coast Guard Air Station, Clearwater.

April 15, 2015—Annual Luncheon at Plantation Golf and Country Club, Venice, to honor our JROTC youth with scholarships and youth medals. Guest speaker was retired Master Chief USN Jack Sanzalone.

May 20, 2015—Our May activity this year was to host a picnic for the crew and dependants of the personnel at US Coast Guard Station Cortez. Chief Benoit used to opportunity to honor four of his crew who will be detaching soon.

May 22, 2015—Participated in Maritime Day at Port Manatee which honors the Merchant Mariners who contributed so much to our freedom.

May 25, 2015—Participated in the Sarasota Memorial Day Parade down Main Street, Sarasota. Once again we had the beautiful float donated by the Adams. We were fortunate to be joined on the float at the last minute by a WWII Army veteran who was having difficulty walking when we approached him to ride with us. It was a great honor to have him with us.

June 3, 2015—Held our annual luncheon to honor students that were accepted at Sea Service Academies or received NROTC scholarships. The event was held at Sara Bay Country Club.

July 15, 2015—Luncheon held at Café L’Europe at St. Armands Circle, Sarasota

August 19, 2015—Luncheon at Café L’Europe. Guest was CDR Matt Brown, USCG, CO of Cutter Resolute.

Sarasota-Manatee Council NLUS Activities 2013-2014

Sept 18, 2013—September dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club. Speaker: Carlos Buqueras Director of Port Manatee.

October 16, 2013—October Dinner Meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club celebrating Navy Birthday. Speaker: Captain Peter Damisch.

November 6, 2013—Eighth annual Earl Fowler Golf Tournament at Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club.

November 20, 2013—November Dinner Meeting celebrating Marine Corps Birthday. Speaker was Colonel Eric Thomas from US Central Command and special guest of honor was Sergeant Richard Bonelli USMC a member of Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment known for the “last stand” at Chosin Reservoir.

December 4, 2013—December meeting and annual election and insta of officers at Gold Coast Eagle Distributing in Lakewood Ranch

January 15, 2014—Council January Dinner Meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club.

February 19, 2014—February joint meeting with the Port Manatee Propeller Club at Sara Bay Country Club. Speaker was Captain Greg Case, Sector Commander of USCG Sector St. Petersburg.

February 28, 2014--Navy League members attended and President Tim Rocklein presented a wreath at the annual Coast Guard Memorial event at the Blackthorn Memorial at the northern end of the skyway bridge to remember the 23 coastguardsmen who lost their lives near there in 1980.

March 19, 2014—March Dinner Meeting held at Sara Bay Country Club. Speaker was Rear Admiral Steve Branham USCG (ret) former Commander of USCG District 7 in Miami.

April 16, 2014-- Luncheon meeting at Plantation Country Club to honor the recipients of the Theodore Roosevelt medal and to award scholarships to JROTC graduating seniors. Speaker was Capt. Kevin Kenney USN, Commanding Officer of the Navy ROTC unit at USF.

May 21, 2014—May Dinner Meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club. Speaker was Vice Admiral Mark I. Fox, Deputy Director of U. S. Central Command.

May 22, 2014--Maritime Day Ceremony at Port Manatee. President Tim Rocklein spoke.

May 26, 2014—Council members participated in the Sarasota Memorial Day parade with a beautiful float.

June 18, 2014—June luncheon at Sara Bay Country Club to recognize Service Academy appointees and NAVY ROTC Scholarship recipients. The Honorable Larry Bustle, Chairman of the Board of Manatee County Commissioners was the speaker.

August 13, 2014—Luncheon meeting was held at Sara Bay Country Club. Speaker was retired Army Colonel, Linda Gould representing the Patterson Foundation Patriot Plaza Initiative and the Legacy of Valor campaign.

Sarasota-Manatee Council NLUS Activities 2012-2013

Sept 19, 2012—September dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club. Speaker: Capt. Bob Silah USN (ret), Past President of the Florida Region NLUS and Chair of Operation Helping Hand.

October 17, 2012—Bus trip to U. S. Central Command at MacDill AFB for a tour and presentation by Major General Karl Horst USA, Chief of Staff. Commemoration of Navy Birthday took place at a picnic stop at the USCGC Blackthorn Memorial.

November 14, 2012—Seventh annual Earl Fowler Golf Tournament at Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club.

January 16, 2013—Dinner Meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club. Election and Installation of our officers and directors.

January 28, 2013—Navy League members attended and President Tim Rocklein presented a wreath at the annual Coast Guard Memorial event at the Blackthorn Memorial at the northern end of the skyway bridge to remember the 23 coastguardsmen who lost their lives near there in 1980.

February 21, 2013—Sixth Annual Joint Dinner meeting with the Port Manatee Propeller Club at Bradenton Yacht Club.

March 20, 2013—Dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club honoring the US Coast Guard. Speaker was Master Chief Petty Officer Jason Wong of Sector St. Petersburg..

April 17, 2013—Luncheon meeting at Plantation Country Club to honor the recipients of the Theodore Roosevelt medal and to award scholarships to JROTC graduating seniors.

May 15, 2013—Dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club. Guest speaker was Dr. David Mann, founder and president of Loggerhead Instrument. Dr. Mann is an oceanographer. The first annual Slim Russell scholarship to the National Flight Academy was presented to Aaron Reger.

May 22, 2013—Maritime Day Ceremony at Port Manatee. President Tim Rocklein spoke.

May 27, 2013---Members of Sarasota-Manatee Council participated in Sarasota's Memorial Day Parade. We again entered a beautiful float.

June 19, 2013—June dinner meeting at Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club to honor recipients of appointments to the Sea Service Academies (Naval Academy this year) and awardees of NROTC Scholarships. Five recipients attended and two could not attend. Speaker was Capt. Richard Petrucci USN (Ret.)

July 17, 2013—Members toured Coast Guard Station Cortez and visited the Florida Maritime Museum in Cortez then had lunch at the Seafood Shack.

August 21, 2013—August Luncheon at the Crow's Nest in Venice.

Sarasota-Manatee Council NLUS Activities 2011-2012

Sept 3—Council Members visited the USS Independence LCS-2 in St. Petersburg

Sept 14—Dinner Meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club—Speaker was Andrew Forcucci the Commanding Officer of our Sea Cadet Unit the Maritime Eagles Division

Oct 19—Dinner Meeting at Sarasota Yacht Club—Commemoration of Navy Birthday. Speaker was Captain Thomas Chaby a Navy Seal who is in charge of BUDS training in San Diego.

Nov. 2—Sixth Annual Sarasota Manatee Council Charity Golf Tournament-Earl Fowler Memorial-at Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club.

Nov 16—Dinner Meeting at Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club.—Commemoration of Marine Corps Birthday. Speaker was Dr. Karin Schmidt and MSgt. John Abbott leaders of the Young Marines Program at Venice Middle School.

January 18, 2012—Dinner Meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club. Installation of our officers and directors. Speaker was Skip Witunski President of Central Area NLUS.

January 28, 2012—Navy League members attended and President Marla Vignocchi presented a wreath at the annual Coast Guard Memorial event at the Blackthorn Memorial at the northern end of the skyway bridge to remember the 23 coastguardsmen who lost their lives near there in 1980.

February 9, 2012—Fifth Annual Joint Dinner meeting with the Port Manatee Propeller Club at Bradenton Yacht Club. Speaker was BM1 Rusty Ackerman, XPO of Coast Guard Station Cortez.

March 21, 2012—Dinner meeting at Sara Bay Golf and Country Club honoring the US Coast Guard. Speaker was Captain John Turner, Commander Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater.

April 16, 2012—Luncheon meeting at Plantation Country Club to honor the recipients of the Theodore Roosevelt medal and to award scholarships to JROTC graduating seniors. Guest speaker: RDML Jeffrey Harley, of Central Command.

May 1, 2012—Sarasota-Manatee Council hosted the crew of the Cutter Crocodile at a Luncheon at the Crow's Nest in Venice. After lunch, all boarded the cutter for a trip out into the gulf along the Venice shoreline.

May 22, 2012—Maritime Day Ceremony at Port Manatee. President Marla Vignocchi spoke. Tour and lunch following the ceremony.

May 28, 2012---Members of Sarasota-Manatee Council participated in Sarasota's Memorial Day Parade. We again entered a beautiful float.

June 20, 2012—June dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club to honor 5 recipients of appointments to the Sea Service Academies (Naval Academy and Coast Guard Academies this year), Speaker CDR Darryl Adams, USN, Executive Officer to Chief of Staff at US Centcom.

Sarasota-Manatee Council NLUS Activities 2010-2011

Sept 15—Dinner Meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club—Speaker RADM Mike Franken USN, Dep. Dir. Strategy Plans and Policy at US Central Command

Oct 13—Dinner Meeting at Sara Bay Golf and Country Club—Commemoration of Navy Birthday. Speaker was Captain Jeffrey Winter USN, Deputy, Strategy, Plans and Policy at US Special Operations Command.

Nov. 3—Fifth Annual Sarasota Manatee Council Charity Golf Tournament-Earl Fowler Memorial-at Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club.

Nov 11—Council members marched in the Sarasota Veteran's Day Parade.

Nov 17—Dinner Meeting at Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club.—Commemoration of Marine Corps Birthday. Speaker was Colonel Thomas Clark IIIk USMC, Division Chief, Strategy, US Central Command.

January 19, 2011—Dinner Meeting at Sarasota Yacht Club. Installation of our officers and directors. Speaker was Wes Jones, Director of Sarasota National Cemetary.. Officers were installed by Skip Witunski, President of Central Area NLUS.

January 28, 2011—Navy League members attended and President Marla Vignocchi presented a wreath at the annual Coast Guard Memorial event at the Blackthorn Memorial at the northern end of the skyway bridge to remember the 23 coastguardsmen who lost their lives near there in 1980. Speaker was RADM William Baumgartner, Commander, 7th Coast Guard District, Miami.

February 16, 2011—Fouth Annual Joint Dinner meeting with the Port Manatee Propeller Club at Sara Bay Golf and Country Club. Speaker was Greg Quintana, Tampa representative of the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association (MEBA).

March 16, 2011—Dinner meeting at Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club honoring the US Coast Guard. Speaker was Captain Sheryl Dickinson USCG, Commander of Sector St. Pete.

April 27, 2011—Luncheon meeting at Plantation Country Club to honor the recipients of the Theodore Roosevelt medal and to award scholarships to JROTC graduating seniors. Guest speaker: Master Chief Shawn Johnson, SEAL.

May 9, 2011—Sarasota-Manatee Council hosted the crew of the Cutter Crocodile at a Luncheon at the Crow's Nest in Venice. After lunch, all boarded the cutter for a trip out into the gulf along the Venice shoreline.

May 18, 2011—Dinner meeting at Laurel Oaks Golf and Country Club celebrating Naval Aviation. Speaker was to be Capt. John Turner USCG Air Station Clearwater but circumstances prevented him from attending. We heard from Dick Petrucci and Cliff Bermann and Bill Gordon who shared their knowledge of Naval Aviation.

May 20, 2011—Maritime Day Ceremony at Port Manatee. President Marla Vignocchi spoke.

May 30, 2011---Members of Sarasota-Manatee Council participated in Sarasota's Memorial Day Parade. We entered a beautiful new float.

June 20, 2011—June dinner meeting at Polo Grille at Lakewood Ranch to honor the recipients of appointments to the Sea Service Academies (Naval Academy and Coast Guard Academy this year), Speaker was 13th District US Congressman Vern Buchanan.

July 20, 2011---Luncheon held at the Field Club. Capt. Donald Aiken of NOAA was speaker.

August 17, 2011---Luncheon held at the Field Club. Dr. Rich Swier was guest speaker.

Sarasota-Manatee Council NLUS Activities 2009-2010

Sept 16—Dinner Meeting at Heritage Oaks—Speaker Captain Jay Fahs USN, former Commanding Officer of Trident SSB(N) 732 USS Alaska.

Oct 3—Sarasota-Manatee Council adopted USCGC Crocodile (WPB 87369) at the Crow's Nest Restaurant in Venice. The ship was open to the public for tours.

Oct 21—Dinner Meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club—Commemoration of Navy Birthday with members of the Naval Academy Alumni Association Suncoast Chapter. Speaker was Captain Joe Yarborough USN (Ret.) who was formerly a Navy Seal and who is presently a Vice President of L3 Communications in Tampa.

Nov. 4—Fourth Annual Sarasota Manatee Council Charity Golf Tournament-Earl Fowler Memorial-at Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club.

Nov 11—Veteran's Day Parade in Sarasota

Nov 18—Dinner Meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club.—Commemoration of Marine Corps Birthday. Speaker was BGen Mark Clark USMC, Director of Operations at U. S. Special Operations Command.

January 20, 2010—Dinner Meeting at Heritage Oaks. Installation of our officers and directors. Speaker was Mike Perry, Chief Engineer of the Maersk Alabama during its recent hijacking by pirates off of Somalia. Officers were installed by Skip Witunski, President of Central Area NLUS.

January 28, 2010—Navy League members attended and presented a wreath at the annual Coast Guard Memorial event at the Blackthorn Memorial at the northern end of the skyway bridge to remember the 23 coastguardsmen who lost their lives near there in 1980. The speaker was Admiral Thad Allen, Commandant of the Coast Guard.

February 11, 2010—Third Annual Joint Dinner meeting with the Port Manatee Propeller Club at Bradenton Yacht Club. Speaker was Ltjg Paul Blunier USCG an MH60J pilot who was the first to land in Haiti after the major earthquake.

March 17, 2010—Dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club honoring the US Coast Guard. Speakers were BM1 Joshua Janney XPO of USCGC Crocodile and BM1 Mike Kukets Operations Officer of Coast Guard Station Cortez. Sailor of the Quarter awards were presented to FN John Dilorenzo from USCGC Crocodile and BM3 John Gentry from Coast Guard Station Cortez.

April 14, 2010—Luncheon meeting at Plantation Country Club to honor the recipients of the Theodore Roosevelt medal and to award scholarships to JROTC graduating seniors. Guest speaker: Clayton Vignocchi a graduate of the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy. He is currently 2nd Engineer on the USNS Tippecanoe.

May 19, 2010—Dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club celebrating Naval Aviation. Speaker was Capt. Richard Petrucci USN (Ret.)

May 22, 2010—Maritime Day Ceremony at Port Manatee. President Al Burda spoke.

June 16, 2010—June dinner meeting at Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club to honor the recipients of appointments to the Sea Service Academies (Naval Academy, Coast Guard Academy and Merchant Marine Academy) and recipients of NROTC Scholarships. Speaker was Lt. Tim Fox USN a Navy Seal.

Sarasota-Manatee Council NLUS Activities 2008-2009

Sept 17—Dinner Meeting at Heritage Oaks—Speaker Roger Betts, Area President for Central Florida-NLUS.

Oct 1—Informal Lunch at Leroy Selmon's on University

Oct 15—Dinner Meeting at Heritage Oaks—Commemoration of Navy Birthday. Speakers were Al Burda and Dick Petrucci who talked about the Naval Academy and their role as Blue and Gold Officers.

Nov. 5—Third Annual Sarasota Manatee Council Charity Golf Tournament-Earl Fowler Memorial-at Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club.

Nov 11—Veteran's Day Parade in Sarasota

Nov 19—Dinner Meeting at Heritage Oaks.—Commemoration of Marine Corps Birthday. Speaker was Dick Bonelli, survivor of the Battle of Chosin Reservoir

December 10 –Tour of Port Manatee and Informal Lunch at Anna Maria Oyster Bar in Ellenton

January 21, 2009—Dinner Meeting at Heritage Oaks. Installation of our officers and directors. Speaker: was J. Michael McGrath, National President of the Navy League.

January 28, 2009—Navy League members attended the annual Coast Guard Memorial Celebration at the Blackthorn Memorial at the northern end of the skyway bridge to remember the 23 coastguardsmen who lost their lives near there in 1980.

February 19, 2009—Joint Dinner meeting with the Port Manatee Propeller Club at Bird Key Yacht Club. Speakers were Mark Yonge and Richard Biter who are nationally recognized consultants to the Maritime Industry.

March 9, 2009—Members of Sarasota-Manatee Council attended the commissioning of the U. S. Coast Guard Cutter Alligator WPB 87372 at Sector St. Petersburg.

March 13-15, 2009—Members of the Council attended a reception aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Tampa WMEC 902 at the Port of Tampa.

March 18, 2009—Dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club honoring the US Coast Guard. Speaker was Captain Tim Close, Commanding Officer of U.S. Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg.

April 16, 2009—Luncheon meeting to honor the recipients of the Theodore Roosevelt medal and to award scholarships to JROTC graduating seniors. Guest speaker was Norwegian Brigadier General Arne Skjaerpe, Coalition Chairman at Centcom.

May 20, 2009—Dinner meeting at Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club to honor Naval Aviation. This was a joint meeting with the Silver Ospreys and Golden Pelicans. Speaker was VADM Gerald Hoewing USN (Ret.) the President and CEO of the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation in Pensacola, FL.

May 22, 2009—Maritime Day Ceremony at Port Manatee

May 25, 2009—Member of Sarsota-Manatee Council marched in the annual Sarasota Memorial Day Parade.

June 17, 2009—Dinner meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club to honor those selected to attend the Service Academies—Naval Academy, Coast Guard Academy and Merchant Marine Academy. Speaker was Navy Seal Commander Lance Bach USN from the U. S. Special Operations Command.

July 15, 2009—Luncheon meeting at the Field Club in Sarasota to hear Gail Ryan talk about Sea Cadets.

August 19, 2009—Luncheon meeting at the Field Club. Speaker was Tony Rosado of the DeSoto Young Marines in Bradenton accompanied by young marine cadets.

Sarasota-Manatee Council NLUS Activities 2007-2008

Sept 19—Dinner Meeting at Sarasota Yacht Club—Speaker Lt. Marc Soss Esq., Navy reservist and Navy League member who was activated and stationed in Afghanistan. Marc related his experiences there.

Oct 9—Informal Lunch at Salt Water Café in Nokomis

Oct 19—Joint meeting with MOAA, Sarasota Chapter for lunch at Michaels on East. Speaker RADM J. W. Goodwin, Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic.

Oct 24—Second annual Navy League Golf Tournament. Outback lunch provided and Admiral Eric Olson was present and spoke to JROTC Cadets. Golf was deferred to Nov. 7 due to rain.

Nov 7—Second Annual Navy League Charity Golf Tournament at Heritage Oaks.

Nov 11—Veteran's Day Parade in Sarasota

Nov 14—Dinner Meeting at Sarasota Yacht Club. Bob Williams spoke about his deep dive to the German Battleship Bismark

December 12—Informal Lunch at Anna Maria Oyster Bar in Ellenton

January 16—Dinner Meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club. Speaker Pat DuMont, National Vice President of Navy League of the US and installing officer for our officers.

February 7, 2008—Joint meeting with the Port Manatee Propeller Club at Bradenton Yacht Club. Speaker Captain Paul Becker USN, Commander Joint Intelligence Center, US Centcom.

March 11—Informal Luncheon at Anna Maria Oyster Bar in Ellenton

March 13—Visit to Cortez for boat ride on their 41' boat.

March 19—Dinner Meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club. Speaker Steve Tyndal, Senior Director of Trade Development and Special Projects at Port Manatee.

April 8—Informal Luncheon at Boat House Restaurant.

April 24—Luncheon Meeting at Venice Yacht Club to honor JROTC Cadets who were awarded either a scholarship or the Theodore Roosevelt Medal. Speaker Colonel Pat Kanewske USMC, G3 (Operations Head) for Marines Forces at Central Command.

May 13—Informal Luncheon at Salt Water Café in Nokomis

May 21—Dinner Meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club. Speaker Admiral Mary Landry USCG, Director of Governmental and Public Affairs for the US Coast Guard

May 22—Maritime Day Ceremony at Port Manatee

May 26—Memorial Day Parade in Sarasota

June 13—Luncheon Meeting to honor appointees to the Sea Service Academies (Naval Academy, Coast Guard Academy and Merchant Marine Academy) at Sarasota Yacht Club. Speaker Congressman Vern Buchanan.

Sarasota-Manatee Council NLUS Activities 2006-2007

Sept 20—Dinner Meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club—Speaker CAPT. Martin P. Smith, CO Navy Rotc Unit at USF.

Oct 18—Dinner Meeting at Sarasota Yacht Club—Speaker Major General Robert Flanagan USMC (Ret.), Commandant, Admiral Farragut Academy, St. Petersburg..

Nov 15—Dinner Meeting at Knight of Columbus Hall, Speaker LCOL Taz Olson USMCR and LCOL Kent Ralston USMC. Fourth Assault Amphibian Battalion, Tampa.

Jan 17—Dinner Meeting and Installation of Officers at Sarasota Yacht Club—Honored guest, installing officer, and speaker, Joe Daigneault, President Central Florida Area NLUS.

Feb 21—Dinner Meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club—Speaker VADM Eric Olson, USN, Deputy Commander US Special Operations Command.

March--Navy League members staffed a concession stand at Ed Smith Stadium at 16 games to raise money for the council.

March 21—Dinner Meeting at Sarasota Yacht Club—Speaker CAPT. Phil Yates, USN (Ret.) Navy Test Pilot for the Boeing version of the Joint Strike Fighter.

April 18—Dinner Meeting at Sarasota Yacht Club to honor MCJROTC students from Venice High School. — Speaker RDML James Stevenson, Jr., Commander of US Naval Forces Southern Command.

May 16—Dinner Meeting at Sarasota Yacht Club to honor NJROTC students from North Port High and present our \$1000 scholarships—Also hosting a reunion of the USS Sea Devil. Speaker CAPT. Ralph Styles USN (Ret.) Captain of the Sea Devil.

May 22---Joint wreath laying at Port Manatee with Propeller Club for Maritime Day.

May 28---Memorial Day Parade in Sarasota

June 20—Dinner Meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club to honor NROTC Scholarship winners, and Sea Service Academy appointees and sailor of the year at Coast Guard Station Cortez.—Speaker RADM Roy Collins Jr., USNR (Ret) Executive Director of Florida Veterans Services Department.

Sept 19—Dinner Meeting at Sarasota Yacht Club—Speaker Lt. Marc Soss Esq., Navy reservist and Navy League member who was activated and stationed in Afghanistan. Marc related his experiences there.

Oct 19—Joint meeting with MOAA, Sarasota Chapter for lunch at Michaels on East. Speaker RADM J. W. Goodwin, Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic.

Oct 24—Second annual Navy League Golf Tournament

Nov 11—Veteran's Day Parade in Sarasota

Nov 14—Dinner Meeting at Sarasota Yacht Club. Speaker Bob Williams told us about his deep dive to the German Battleship Bismark