

## Letter From The President

Dear Members:

At our annual installation dinner on January 16, the Chair of our 2013 Nominating Committee, June Moore, presented the slate of new board members and officers nominated by her committee. The members present then voted to install those nominees, as follows:

### 2013 Officers and Directors

President

**Tim Rocklein**

First Vice President & Operations

**Gerard St. Germain\***

Vice President, Membership

**R. June Moore**

Vice President, Education

**Richard J. Petrucci**

Vice President, Legislative Affairs

**Craig Harvey**

Vice President, Treasurer & Club Liaison

**Larry Balock**

Corresponding & Recording Secretary

**Nel Rocklein**

Judge Advocate

**Marc Soss**

Chaplain

**Alois J. Burda**

Editor, *Anchor Line*

Roger S. Betts\*\*

### Directors - All of the Above, Plus:

Steve Bartek

Clifford P. Bermann

Barry L. Brown,

Martin Donner

William D. Gordon, Jr.

Alexander R. Morris

Marla Vignocchi\*

\* Past President

\*\* National Director Emeritus



*Sarasota-Manatee Council Officers and Directors for 2013*

After the installation of the new board by out-going president Marla Vignocchi, I made a brief presentation to the membership. Those remarks follow:

Thank you, Marla, on behalf of the Council and the board, for all you've done. Our Council has thrived under your great leadership:

—Our finances are in good shape.

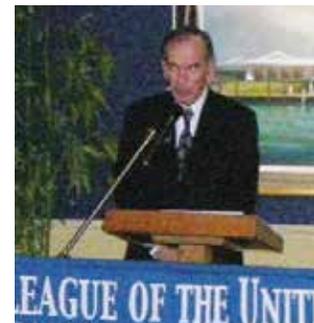
—Our membership is stable.

—And most important, we have enhanced our programs of support to our youth and our local Coast Guard personnel. I was going to say that Marla left me "big shoes to fill," but then figured that would be inappropriate: I'm not implying you have big feet, Marla. So let's just say you're "a tough act to follow." That said, I'd like to take just a few minutes to tell you all how I believe we can build on our past successes:



*Former Council President Marla Vignocchi with Council's gift - a Ship's Bell*

First, and I believe this is most important: We should continue to support our youth programs and adopted Coast Guard units. I believe that the single most important function of our council is the encouragement and support we give to our youth and to the local active-duty personnel who protect us. Unless the board tells me



*Council President Tim Rocklein addresses the Council*

otherwise, I will push to enhance and expand those programs.

Second: We need to expand our membership. New members mean new ideas, new enthusiasm and new people to help carry out our programs. But we need to continually seek-out new members in order to keep our council alive and moving in the right direction.

Third: The educational and social opportunities for our members have been informative and educational. From our monthly dinner speakers, to the CENTCOM visit, the tour of Port Manatee, and the at-sea "cruise" on the Coast Guard Cutter "Crocodile," we have become "smarter" in numerous areas, and enjoyed the socializing and camaraderie along the way. But if we are to maintain our membership and attract "new blood" along the way, we need to expand our opportunities to entertain and educate our members.

Fourth and final: We need to build on our financial successes. As I stated earlier, I believe our single most important

*continued on next page*

## Letter from the President *continued*

financial function is the support we give to our youth and our adopted Coast Guard units. But that support requires income, and it is not an exaggeration to say there would be little or no scholarship programs, no Sea Cadet program, no support for the Young Marines or the NJROTC, no support for our local Coast Guard personnel, and no *Anchor Line*, (thank you, Roger Betts, for the *Anchor Line*) were it not for the significant amount of money we raise each year.

As you may know, most of our income is derived from our annual golf tournaments which have been financially successful and fund the majority of our programs. While many of our members have contributed to the tournaments' success, one member stands out "head-and-shoulders" for his huge efforts each year to organize and conduct these huge fund-raisers, and that's Jerry St. Germain.

THANKS, Jerry!

I hope that we as a Council can continue to conduct the annual tournaments but we need to look at other sources of income as well. We are currently working to conduct a raffle that will

sell chances to win 2 tickets to the 2013 Masters Tournament. If you'd like to buy a raffle ticket, or help us sell them, please let me know after we're done this evening.

Finally, on the financial front, we are building an endowment fund, managed by the Community Foundation of Sarasota, whose income can be used to carry out our programs. Please: When you are doing your estate planning, consider bequeathing a portion to the Sarasota-Manatee Council Navy League of the United States Charity Endowment Fund.

I've said enough: I've given Marla her very well-deserved thanks on behalf of our council. I've told you we're on the right track to continue, and perhaps improve our successful programs. I've nagged you to help us get out and find new members. And I've even asked you to give money to our council, because money is the life-blood of the good deeds we do. I think all of that is enough for one night.

I look forward to working with the new board and building on our past successes.

Thank you and good evening.

Tim Rocklein



**NAVY LEAGUE  
Of The United States**  
Sarasota/Manatee Council

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AND DIRECTORS**

**President**

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**First Vice President & Operations**

Gerard St. Germain\*

**Vice President, Membership**

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## COMING EVENTS

**14 February 2013** – Dinner Meeting with Propeller Club at Bradenton Yacht Club

**20 March 2013** – Dinner Meeting – to Honor the US Coast Guard

## North Port High School NJROTC Report

Another year and another inspection for the NJROTC program here at North Port High School. The Annual Military Inspection (AMI) occurred on December 5, 2012 from 7:30 to about 10:40 in the morning. The unit excelled with the majority of its members receiving a nine out of ten or higher. Led by C/Commander Santos M. Martinez, C/Lieutenant Alexis Smith, C/Lieutenant JG Devon Poulos and C/Lieutenant JG Jason D. Horvath, the cadets shined with exuberance and determination as they paraded around the football field. Each platoon was filled with living examples of the hard work this unit has put into being as outstanding as the school itself.

The day started off with the unit assembling in the gymnasium and breaking off into four separate platoons. Almost immediately, the inspection began. As Commander Dirk Herbert came to each individual cadet, he asked questions regarding future plans and current school grades. Unlike a normal inspection, no questions on rates/ranks, national chain of command, or the general orders to the sentry were asked. Commander Herbert's laid-back disposition helped to relieve the tension in the air. As was expected in any inspection, the cadets were

graded on the state of their uniforms and the quality of their answers. The grading was on a scale of 1-10, 10 being quality performance. If a cadet were to exhibit exemplary conduct, they would receive a grade known as a "Mary Poppins." This is considered the highest one could be graded. Out of the 115 cadets in the unit, about 8 received a Mary Poppins. After each platoon was graded and inspected, the unit would fall out to the football field and the presentations would begin.

Once the entire unit was out on the field, they would fall into their platoons again.

This would then be followed by a presentation of the Colors. The Color Guard, commanded by C/Ensign Philip Stekol, presented themselves with excellent composure and clean cut precision. Following their performance, the Armed Drill Team began their basic drill routine. This routine entails marching in a professional, military manner while being able to maneuver a rifle. In contrast to the very rigid nature of the basic routine, Unarmed Drill Team had a more fluid, spontaneous and improvised exhibition routine. Made up of many stepping movements and specialized hand gestures, the routine was able to intrigue the audience.

## NAVY LEAGUE Of The United States

VISION STATEMENT

The Navy League of the United States will be the preferred resource for the education of the American people and their government that the United States Congress and the American Public on our sea services.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Navy League of the United States is a civilian organization dedicated to informing the American people and their government 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.

GOALS

- Educate national leaders and the nation.
- Support the men and women of the sea services.
- Provide assistance to sea service families.
- Support youth programs.

Finally, the inspection came to an end. C/Commander Santos M. Martinez would call out, "Pass in review," and each platoon would parade around the field. The Senior Naval Science Instructor, Commander Steve Bartek, would then announce each platoon commander and guideon as they passed by him. Thus, the Annual Military Inspection was ended for another year.

On a more relaxed note, the NJROTC also had its Annual Military Ball on December 14, 2012. Set at the Plantation Golf and Country Club, it was a night filled

with silk and lace. The female cadets had opted to wear very formal and elegant dresses of various colors and styles, while the male cadets wore their standard uniform. We were also graced by guest speaker, Maria Vignocchi. She is the President of



*Cadet Commander Santos Martinez*



*Cadet Ashley Troutman*

the Sarasota-Manatee Council of the Navy League and spoke to us about how the unit was filled with fabulous people and future leaders. When her small presentation ended, the senior students were called up one by one and said their goodbye speeches. After the National Anthem was sung by C/Lieutenant Alexis Smith, we were all presented with our dinner. The dancing began shortly and lasted well into the night.

*C/Petty Officer 2nd Class Nathalie Argueta*

## US Coast Guard Cutter CROCODILE

**G**reetings from the Coast Guard Cutter Crocodile here in sunny Saint Petersburg. It has been a busy quarter with many hurdles to overcome. The unofficial theme of the past three months has to be **preparation**. In order for the Crocodile to fulfill its multi-purpose mission of Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, and Environmental Protection we must always be prepared.



*USCG Cutter CROCODILE*

Right from the beginning, the fourth quarter of 2012 was a busy one with both SeaOps (Special Emergency Action Operations) and RFO (Ready for Operations) inspections occurring in the first week. SeaOps and RFO inspections are meant to ensure that the Crocodile can safely execute its mission as expected of her by the taxpayers of the US. All damage control and survival equipment are thoroughly examined as well as the skills of the crew to perform at their highest level. From fire, to flooding, and complete malfunctions of necessary equipment the Crocodiles crew demonstrated the highest level of team work along with strong leadership to successfully overcome every scenario presented. The week following Sea Ops was our annual RFO inspection. RFO is an inspection of all of the Cutters survival and life saving equipment. It is an important inspection for without the proper equipment the cutter Crocodile could not execute its life saving mission.

The fourth quarter of 2012 has been full of many successful patrols. In November the Crocodile was tasked with patrolling the Straits of Florida for a migrant interdiction mission. After a long week in heavy seas we successfully repatriated three Cubans. In late November, the Crocodile focused mainly on fisheries protection by boarding many commercial fishing vessels to ensure safe and legal fishing practices were being followed.

In December, the cook onboard the Crocodile, FS2 Jarred Bevill had his annual galley inspection and passed with flying colors, setting him up to qualify for the prestigious FS of the year award. Also in December, the Boarding team members had their annual CLEAR (Comprehensive Law Enforcement Action Readiness) inspection. A team of Maritime Enforcement Specialists Came aboard and ensured that the Crocodile was ready for its law enforcement missions. All law enforcement equipment and Boarding Teams were inspected and tested for mission readiness. BMC Pedzich and BM1 Fitchko both taught very interactive classes on Coast Guard law enforcement procedures.

On December 3rd The Crocodile's XPO Adam Pedzich was advanced to the rank of Boatswain's Mate Chief Petty Officer. BMC Pedzich currently has orders to report to small boat station Niagara to assume his first role as Officer in Charge. The Crocodile's SN Johnson who spent just under a year on board is about the graduate Operations Specialist A-school and has received orders to Comms station Kodiak Island. FN T. Green who just earned his temporary Cuttermans pin for one year of sea service has received orders to MK A-school and will attend the class in February of 2013. The Crocodile would also like to welcome aboard shipmate SN Carpenter from upstate NY.

With hard work it is important to keep morale up by playing just as hard. In October the Crocodile participated in the Enlisted Association's fall into fitness. Fall into Fitness is a 5k "fun run" with all the units from Sector Saint Petersburg participating. The Crocodile's very own MK2 Kevin Moore finished top five. Also BMC Pedzich, BM1 Fitchko, and MK3 Vivian all completed the grueling Tough Mudder course. Other fun Crocodile activities included, fishing in the Straits of Florida where we caught three beautiful mahi mahi, a port call in Key West, the patrol boat Christmas party, and playing flag football with the Cutter Alligator. I would also like to say congratulations to BMCS Buddy Gilbert OIC, for winning the Cutters fantasy football tournament.

A big Thank You from the entire Crocodile crew for the \$25 gift card to Target. It was very nice having lunch with Navy League members here on the cutter. The Crocodile is very lucky to have such an amazing sponsor as the members of the Navy League of Sarasota. Thank you again and I hope 2013 is a great year for everyone. Coast guard Cutter Crocodile standing by! Semper Paratus

### Masters Golf Tournament Raffle

Sarasota-Manatee Council is conducting a raffle for two tickets to the 2013 Masters Golf Tournament at Augusta National on April 11-14, 2013. The tickets can be used by two people on any one day or for one person on any two days. The raffle tickets cost \$100 and we will sell only 250 tickets. The drawing will be in March at Sara Bay Country Club. Raffle tickets can be obtained from any member of our Board of Directors or by sending an email with contact information to nlsarasota@gmail.com.

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

## NEW MEMBERS:

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 Brenda H. SCHIMMEL  
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 herbschimmel@verizon.net  
 (941) 349-8604  
 (B) (941-350-9213)

Peter SIMMONS (LIFE)  
 Jeanette SIMMONS (LIFE)  
 3583 Lavilla Avenue  
 North Port, FL 34286-7403  
 gnpsim@peoplepc.com  
 (941)423-5733

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Tom DYER (LIFE)  
 Selma DYER (LIFE)  
 8029 Hampton Court  
 University Park, 34201  
 (941) 351-3297  
 (C) (941) 961-0935  
 (No change in emails)

## DONATIONS to support our JROTC Units, USCG/CORTEZ, USCG Cutter CROCODILE, Sea Cadets and Navy League Guests.

Cliff BERMANN  
 Roger BETTS  
 Barry BROWN  
 Al BURDA  
 Jack HARMON  
 Craig HARVEY  
 Don HARVEY  
 Alex MORRIS

## ATTENTION MEMBERS:

Please remember to send your renewal dues at least two weeks before their expiration date. Include your ID# which is on your Sea Power Magazine address label.

## ATTENTION TO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS OF THE NAVY LEAGUE:

If you have any questions about the Sarasota-Manatee Council of the NAVY LEAGUE or request a membership application and/or dinner meeting reservation, please call June Moore, Vice President, Membership at (941) 388-3118 or email junegemini@earthlink.net

## ADS FOR ANCHOR LINE:

Annual fees for the 2013 Anchor Line ads are due. If you have an ad currently in the Anchor Line and want to renew it or if you wish to put a new ad in the Anchor Line please notify Roger Betts (941) 706-2594. Prices are \$150 per year for business card size ads. For renewals, you need only notify Roger and send in a check for \$150 made out to "Navy League." For new ads, you will need to provide your business card or art which can be rendered in business card size/format to Roger with a check for \$150 made out to "Navy League". Please mail renewal checks to:

Captain Larry Balok, USCG (Ret)  
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 Bradenton, FL 34212

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