

Navy League of the United States, Sarasota-Manatee Council Board of Directors Meeting September 21, 2020

Board of Directors met virtually Monday, September 21, 2020 on ZOOM.

In attendance were: Tim Rocklein, Jerry St. Germain, Steve Horton, Roger Betts, George Hofmann, Steve Bartek, Dennis Turner, Al Burda, Bo Hamrick, Don Roser, John Hanna, John Osterweil, Jeannine Rusch, and Nel Rocklein.

Council President Tim Rocklein called the meeting to order at 3:15pm.
Minutes of the Board Meeting held February 24, 2020 were approved.
Email Votes taken since last meeting were reaffirmed: none

Treasurer: Jerry St. Germain

He sent out Financial Report and yearly Endowment Fund Statement to Board by email. (copy attached to original.) All scholarship checks have been distributed and cashed. Commitments to supported units have been distributed except for \$600 which is still in the USCGC Resolute account. Except for a few SOG awards, there will be minimal expenses for the rest of the year. Check book Balance: \$8,050.60 as of end of August. Endowment Balance: \$118,075.47 as of end of June.

Coast Guard: Jerry St. Germain

USCG Sector St. Pete has accepted our \$1000 donation for the USCG Station Cortez MWR fund. Cortez has identified SOQs for first and second quarters. We will send gift cards to them to be presented to MK3 Dylan Young and BM3 Ryan Ball on our behalf. Tim will buy the gift cards and get them to Cortez. There has been no news regarding the USCGC Brant. USCGC Resolute is still deployed and should be returning soon. We have not been able to meet the new CO and XO yet, but hope to soon.

Communications: Jerry St. Germain & Roger Betts

The NLUS Convention has been rescheduled to take place sometime after the first of the year...maybe somewhere in the Mid-West. One of the items up for consideration at the next convention will be the acceptance of active duty service members into NLUS.

Membership: Jerry St. Germain (for Jeannine Rusch who has not yet come to the meeting)

We currently have 96 members in the NLUS database. The total is really 97 since we have a new member Marsha Grogan. Jeannine has been trying to contact the 10 members we lost when they did not renew between April thru August. She will send an email update to the Board on her efforts.

Sea Cadets: Dennis Turner

The Maritime Eagles are holding steady at 19 members. Because of covid social distancing they have been doing only virtual drills and training. During the quarantine they promoted their first

cadet to Chief Petty Officer. (name?? should we recognize??) It has been difficult to find a good place for the unit to meet during this difficult time, but they are continuing efforts to get enough cadets to be commissioned.

Youth Groups: Al Burda & Steve Bartek

Al discussed possibility of helping Venice HS MCJROTC with their fund raising to build an obstacle course at the school. Letter from their Senior Marine Instructor describing their efforts so far was sent to Board and copy is attached to original minutes.

Steve reports that North Port HS NJROTC also facing social distancing problems. About 70% of students are back at school. They are drilling but there is no marching and their color guard activities have been greatly reduced. Both North Port and Venice are still compiling community service hours.

Old Business:

Tim wants to confirm that we decided to pay the \$25 for Sea Power subscriptions for each of our supported units...and that it has not been done. Consensus was that we had agreed to do that for our adopted units and also for USCG Sector St. Pete, as well as our supported youth groups. (Sea Cadets don't need subscription at this time since Dennis shares his copy of Sea Power with them.) That would be a total of 4 USCG, 2 Young Marines, and 2 JROTC subscriptions. Jeannine still has a large number of past copies that were collected at our last dinner meeting and were to be given to the units.

New Business:

Tim proposed that the council pay for a NL membership for Ralph Franklin, a Sarasota resident who is a survivor of Guadalcanal. He recently celebrated his 100th birthday. Motion made by Roger; seconded by Jeannine. PASSED

Steve Horton will be giving his updated Ship Collision Presentation (USS Fitzgerald & USS McCain) on 4 Nov at a luncheon at BKYC and NL members are welcome to attend. Fiona McFarland who served on that same type of ship will also be joining his for first hand commentary on the incidents.

Golf: John Hanna wants to have another Golf Tournament probably at Heritage Oaks in early April after Easter (April 4). A Golf Committee will be selected and meet to start preliminary planning.

Fund Raising Committee: Jerry, Al and John O. will get together to discuss some approaches to fund raising that might work for the council. Jerry has a list of 5 possible areas he thinks we might be able to raise funds for in 2021 including Scholarships, Sea Cadets, USCG, Young Marines, and JROTC units. They will work on a presentation for the next Board meeting.

Nominating Committee: Tim will be sending out an email soon asking for volunteers for the Nominating Committee for next year. The committee must be selected and announced 60 days

before the Annual Membership Meeting which will probably be in early Dec. The new slate of officers needs to be announced 30 days before the meeting. Even with social distancing considerations, he hopes to be able to have a luncheon in early Dec at BKYC and will be checking on possible dates, etc.

October Meeting/Navy Birthday: This dinner meeting has been scheduled for some time on Oct 28 with K.T. McFarland as speaker. After discussion, the consensus was that we should work with BKYC and try to have this meeting even if it has to be scaled back some due to social distancing. Tim will follow up with BKYC and Ms. McFarland. Al asked that the USNA Alumni Association also be included in the plans.

Next Board meeting will be a virtual ZOOM meeting Monday, October 26, 2020 at 3:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
Nel Rocklein, Secretary