



Port of Pittsburgh

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Website: navyleaguepittsburgh.org

Letter from the President

As my term in office comes to an end, it seems hard to believe that it has been two years since I first addressed the membership of the Pittsburgh Council. A lot has transpired in that time and a lot has been accomplished by our Council in continuing the mission of the Navy League of the United States (NLUS) to support the men and women of the sea services and to educate the public on the vital role that the sea services play in the defense of our nation. From activities such as supporting local Navy and Marine JROTC and sea cadet programs, presenting awards to outstanding sea service members, conducting fund raisers such as the annual golf outing and other activities to support the families and crew members of the USS Pittsburgh, hosting the annual picnic for veterans at the VA Hospital, to speaking at local Rotary and other civic association meetings, the Pittsburgh Council has had another successful, meaningful and rewarding year.

One of the very important "behind the scenes" activities that has been a focus of our Board of Directors this year has been the development, refinement and first steps in the implementation of a long term vision statement and plan to sustain and grow the Council's activities. In concert with this, the Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws of the Council were recently updated and rewritten to be consistent with the vision, and were adopted by the Board and the Council membership to support the action plan.

I am pleased to congratulate Henry Rainone, who has served as the Council Vice President this year, on his election as the President Elect



The Navy League of the United States Serving the Sea Services since 1902

for 2013. In his role as Vice President, he has been the chief architect of the development of the long range plan: Your votes electing him to the presidency are a vote of confidence in the Board's actions and the plan and ensures that momentum will continue to build to implement this essential vision and plan. Henry is very enthusiastic about the opportunity to carry on from the foundation developed in 2012. Take a look and read Henry's "Letter from the President Elect" in this issue and I am sure you will recognize his excitement about leading this effort and its potential impact! The new ideas encompassed within the plan and the energy from the newly elected Board are the "building blocks" for the future.

I want to take this opportunity to especially thank the members of the Board of Directors for their service, their tireless support, and the assistance they provided to me as I learned the functioning of the NLUS, worked to carry on the traditions of the Pittsburgh Council and helped to set the stage for the future. Their dedication has been truly inspiring. If you could

see the impact that they and other members of the Council have had on members of the sea services as they work to defend our country, you would be very touched and impressed. If you have participated in some of the Council activities and have seen this first hand, you know exactly what I mean! So thank you again for the privilege of working with you and serving the Council over these two years!

Last but not least, I want to remind you of and urge you to attend the Annual Awards Dinner Meeting and Installation of the 2013 Council Officers that will be held at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association on February 23rd. See the write-up inside this newsletter for all the details. Fill out the included reservation form, send it in, come to the meeting, and meet and greet the new officers and awardees from the local branches of the sea service in a relaxed and pleasant environment.

Best wishes,
Al

Letter from the President-Elect:

Happy New Year fellow citizen in support of our sea services! Thank you for placing your confidence in me to serve our ***Navy League of the United States, Pittsburgh Council*** as President, beginning this February, 2012 at the **Annual Council Awards Dinner**.

The long and proud history of our Pittsburgh Council began with our 1942 charter from the ***Navy League of the United States*** in the midst of World War II. The Council's turnover documents show a recordable history beginning in 1977 under the leadership of Mr. John Van Huyck. From thence forward many of the past Council Presidents continue today as active members including: **Wallace Utley** (1978), **John Caspero** (1980, 1992), **David Erdodi** (1981), **Dick Halleran** (1984-5), **William Stein** (1988), **Richard Kennedy** (1991), **Doug Thompson** (1993), **Ray Boyer** (1996), **Karl Ludwig** (1998), **Bill Braund** (2000), **Stew Shannon** (2001-2), **James Bendel** (2004), **Paula Bozdech-Veater** (2005-7), **Judy Halleran** (2008-10), and **Al Hribar** (20011-12). This is but a snapshot representative of the **257 active members in our Council** who continue to serve our sea service men and

women with a strong spirit of **Patriotism** for our country and **Gratitude** to those selfless men and women who "*go down to the sea in ships*" to keep our country free, strong, generous, and prosperous.

In the last 10 years, under the leadership of **James Bendel, John Caspero, Paula Bozdech-Veater, Judy Halleran, and Al Hribar**, our level of *service, awareness, and engagement* has greatly increased for our Council's adopted ship, **USS PITTSBURGH (SSN-720)**. Our veterans and local sea service commands *engaged* by our Council include the residents of the **VA Hospital** in Aspinwall, the **Carnegie Mellon University NROTC Unit**, the **U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit**, **Navy Recruiting District** (Pittsburgh), **Marine Corps Recruiting District** (Pittsburgh), **NOSC Pittsburgh, NOSC Erie, USCG CGC Osage, Erie Coast Guard Station, Naval Sea Cadets** (Pittsburgh), the **Penn Hills High School Navy JROTC Unit**, and the **Ambridge High School & West Allegheny High School Marine JROTC units**.

Beginning my service as President, in light of the proud and honorable history established by our active members, is at once daunting and humbling. Daunting in the responsibility to ensure we continue the ***Navy League of the United States*** missions to **Educate** our local leaders & the general public on maritime issues AND to **provide Outreach** to the local men & women of our sea services and their families. Humbling in the acknowledgement of the decades of honorable service each of you active members have given to advance these two noble missions. My door (e-mail, NLUS-Pittsburgh Facebook page, and phone) is open to you—perhaps you have ideas or concerns you would like to bring to our Council. As the year 2013 unfolds, I ask each of you to consider participating in one or more Council sponsored events this next year, perhaps beginning with honoring the men and women of our local sea services at the upcoming **Annual Council Awards Dinner**. See you there!

In support of our sea services,
Henry

Calendar of Events-2013

- Feb. 23 Annual Council Awards Dinner
 April 8-10 Sea-Air-Space Exposition,
 National Harbor, MD
 West Allegheny HS Military Awards
 CMU ROTC Awards Program
 May 4 Kentucky Derby Party-benefit for
USS Pittsburgh Scholarship Fund
 Penn Hills HS Military Awards
 Ambridge Area HS Military Awards
 and Ball
 CMU ROTC Commissioning
 Ceremony
 Memorial Day Celebration and
 Parade
 June Golf Tournament-*USS Pittsburgh*
 Children's Christmas Party Benefit
 19-23 NLUS National Convention, Long
 Beach, CA
 July Three Rivers Regatta, Pittsburgh
 Aug. Steelers' Training Camp Picnic
 Sept. VA Picnic/Cookout, Aspinwall
 Military Days at Kennywood
 Oct. 11 Navy Birthday Ball, RADM Craig
 Faller to be the guest speaker, Solders
 & Sailors Hall
 Dec. Election of Officers for 2014

Relief Crew News

by John Caspero

Change of Command

CDR William E. Solomon is the new Commanding Officer of the *USS Pittsburgh* (SSN 720). He relieved CDR Michael K. Savageaux on December 10, 2012 with the reading of orders in front of the crew in accordance with Navy Regulations.

Crew Members Advance

Nineteen sailors were advanced in pay grade. Three petty officers who visited Pittsburgh in October were advanced to 1st Class: Wendell Swart, Matt Charlton and Mario Kennedy. Additionally, STS1(SS) Ross Patterson was selected as the Submarine Development Squadron 12 Sailor of the Year. The *USS Pittsburgh* is on track to receive their Third Retention Excellence Award in the last four years.

12/7/12 Email from Carol Sawyer:

I looked at the calendar and realized that December 8 is the birthday of "our" submarine--28 years! The ship and her good people (both at sea and on shore) have been such a joyous and memorable part of these years for me. And so much has been accomplished. I remember a day when George Sawyer came home to tell me he had encountered an admiral in the hallways of the Pentagon, and that individual told George that SSN 720 was the FINEST submarine in the Atlantic fleet. I was so proud and happy. I am confident that unofficial honor and the knowledge of the good work, important work, of the boat continues these many years later.

Happy Birthday to the boat and all its personnel, a special thank you to you, Michael, as outgoing captain on this last weekend of your command, and a warm welcome to Commander Solomon. I look forward to a visit to the ship sometime after the first of the year, and perhaps to the beloved City of Pittsburgh in 2013 as well.

From the sponsor of *USS Pittsburgh*, with a grateful heart for this honor, Carol Sawyer

HOLIDAY PARTY

The annual party for the children of the crew of the boat is scheduled to be held on Saturday, January 12th. The majority of the funds for this party is generated each year by the successful golf outing, chaired by Don Elborne. We plan to provide each of the 97 children under the age of 12 with a \$30 gift card to Toys R Us, in addition to providing funds for the party refreshments.

Ringgold HS Assembly

On December 21, 2012, an assembly was held to formally thank the students/faculty of Ringgold High School for their support of the crewmen of the USS *Pittsburgh* (SSN-720). The students had raised \$2,000 via various fund raising activities. Mr. William Stein, Ringgold School Board Member (also member of Navy League and Relief Crew) had promised to match \$.25 for every dollar raised.



C.O. of the Relief Crew, John Caspero, presents an autographed photo of the USS *Pittsburgh* (SSN-720) to Dwayne Homa, Principal, Ringgold High School.

Mr. Dwayne Homa, Principal, was presented with an autographed picture of the sub by John Caspero, Captain of the Relief Crew. We were accompanied by the Commanding Officer of the Naval Recruiting District, Pittsburgh, CDR Samuel Pennington and a staff member, ET1 (SW) J.T. Nagy, a graduate of Ringgold High School. The school has “adopted” the families/crewmen of the ‘boat’ and plans another fund raising event. Mr. Homa challenged Mr. Stein to pledge a matching donation.

Relief Crew Membership

Invitations to “re-enlist” in the Relief Crew for 2013 are forth coming. Your membership fee, together with the funds raised, enable the Relief Crew to sponsor the Christmas Party, the Sailor of the Year awards and partially fund scholarships for crew and

families. The primary source of funding for scholarships is income earned on the funds on deposit with the Pittsburgh Foundation.

Passing of Bob Gates, Past President

The Navy League family offers our sympathy to the family of Bob Gates. Bob died on November 22, 2012 after a long illness. Bob is survived by his wife Carol and 3 children, Jim Gates, Janet Owen and Judy Gates Bosworth. Bob was president of the Pittsburgh Council in the late 1980's and served as Pennsylvania Area President in the early 1990's. He and his wife Carol were very involved with supporting the crew of the USS *Pittsburgh* including hosting many sailors as well as gatherings for the Navy Leaguers and the sailors. Bob was a career employee of Alcoa and served as President of the Pittsburgh Club (where many a USS *Pittsburgh*/Navy League events were held). He was a Army Air Corps WWII veteran, a graduate of University of Toledo and Rutgers University.

Update on Commissary, Exchange, NOSC, 911th Airlift Wing

Construction of the commissary is on track, after the problem gas line was moved. Plans are proceeding for the construction of the exchange. Construction on the Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) at the 911th is proceeding---lots of piles of dirt and heavy equipment are very visible. By the spring of 2014 we will have a whole new look to the business 376 area around the airport. Lots of military presence!

The Air Force is continuing to study closing the 911th Airlift Wing and every effort is being made by the Military Affairs Council/Coalition to stop any efforts to close the facility. For further info and how you can help, go to www.macwpa.org. The 171st Refueling Wing is one of 5 bases that may receive the new Air Force tanker (KC-46). This is great news.



Pittsburgh Council

Patriotism & Gratitude

2013 Council Annual Dinner

- Honor Navy, Marine, Coast Guard Persons of the Year
- Install newly elected officers

Fellow “Citizens in Support of the Sea Services” and Military Friends,

The Board of Directors cordially invites you to attend the **2013 Council Annual Dinner** to honor our local Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard Persons of the Year.

DATE: Saturday, February 23, 2013

PLACE: Pittsburgh Athletic Association, 4215 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh (Oakland area)

TIME: 6:00 P.M. Cocktail Hour 6:45 P.M. Dinner
7:45 P.M. Award Presentation followed by Installation of Officers

MENU: Sun Dried Tomato Crusted Salmon, Chicken Bruschetta, or Veal Marsala

COST: \$45 per person (including spouses or guests of military personnel)
\$20 military in uniform
NO CHARGE for military honorees (compliments of NLUS-Pittsburgh)

ADDITIONAL DETAILS:

- Valet parking available at Club (\$8.00), additional parking on street or at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum
- Maximum number of attendees is 80 (PAA room limit)
- Semi-formal attire

Sincerely yours,

Katherine Kersten
Secretary, NLUS-Pittsburgh

RESERVATION (REQUIRED, DUE NLT 19 FEB 2013)

NAME: _____ PHONE/E-MAIL: _____

MILITARY IN UNIFORM: YES / NO SPOUSE or GUEST ATTENDING: YES / NO

MENU SELECTION: ___ SALMON ___ CHICKEN ___ VEAL

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____ **Make checks payable to NLUS, Pittsburgh Council**

Mail this reservation form with your check to:

Polly Bozdech-Veater
101 Squaw Run Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

bozdechvpm@aol.com
412-719-6432

Honor, Knowledge, Service, Awareness, & Engagement

Committee and Contact List

Standing Committee	Number of Members*	Chairperson	Contact Information
USS Pittsburgh Relief Crew	5	John Caspero (CO)	jfcaspero@verizon.net
Local USN/USMC/USCG Command & Family	2	Polly Bozdech-Veater	bozdechvpm@aol.com
Local ROTC, Jr ROTC, & Sea Cadet	2	Bill Braund (need a new leader)	wgbraund2@verizon.net
Golf Outing	1	Don Elborne (need a new leader)	done10@aol.com
VA Picnic	1	Judy Halleran	jchalleran1@verizon.net
Sea Service Awards	Need you!	NLUS needs you!	nluspitt.rainone@verizon.net
STEM & Sea Perch	Need you!	NLUS needs you!	nluspitt.rainone@verizon.net
Community Organizations Engagement	Need you!	NLUS needs you!	nluspitt.rainone@verizon.net
Corporate & Community Affiliate Engagement	Need you!	NLUS needs you!	nluspitt.rainone@verizon.net
College & University Engagement	Need you!	NLUS needs you!	nluspitt.rainone@verizon.net
Legislative Affairs	2	John Caspero (need a new leader)	jfcaspero@verizon.net
Speakers	Need you!	NLUS needs you!	nluspitt.rainone@verizon.net
Writers	Need you!	NLUS needs you!	nluspitt.rainone@verizon.net

Vice President of Outreach	To be filled after related chairman positions filled	n/a
Vice President of Education	To be filled after related chairman positions filled	n/a
Marketing & Communications Officer	Henry Rainone (Acting—need you to pick up)	nluspitt.rainone@verizon.net / 412 596 6143
Newsletter Editor	Katherine Kersten	kjkersten2@verizon.net / 412 367 4725
Website Manager	Don Beynon	dbeynon@sei.cmu.edu / 412 268 1711
Social Media Manager	Robert Conway	conway_rd@yahoo.com / 412 268 1205
Operations & Planning Officer	Henry Rainone (Acting—need you to pick up)	nluspitt.rainone@verizon.net / 412 596 6143
Membership & Retention Manager	Carol Braund	cabraund@verizon.net / 412 367 1946
Schedule & Logistics Manager	NLUS needs you!	nluspitt.rainone@verizon.net / 412 596 6143
Training & Certification Manager	NLUS needs you!	nluspitt.rainone@verizon.net / 412 596 6143

Director's Office	Name	Contact Information	Office Expiration
President	Al Hribar	Hribar@comcast.net / 412 225 8726	2/2013
Vice President of Outreach	Not filled	n/a	n/a
Vice President of Education	Not filled	n/a	n/a
Secretary	Katherine Kersten	kjkersten2@verizon.net / 412 367 4725	2/2015
Judge Advocate	Nick Krawec, Esq.	nkrawec@bernsteinlaw.com 412 456 8103	2/1015
Immediate Past President	Judy Halleran (2008-2010)	Jchalleran1@verizon.net / 412 327 8943	2/2013
Treasurer	Bill Braund	wgbraund2@verizon.net / 412-367-1946	2/2015
CO of Pittsburgh Relief Crew	John Caspero	jfcaspero@verizon.net / 412 257 6141	2/2015
Outreach Committee Representative	Polly Bozdech-Veater	bozdechvpm@aol.com / 412 782 2533	2/2013
Education Committee Representative	Don Beynon (Acting)	dbeynon@sei.cmu.edu / 412 268 1711	2/2014
Regular Member Representative	Robert Conway (Acting)	conway_rd@yahoo.com / 412 268 1205	2/2016
Regular Member Representative	Robert Clark	clarkrm123@aol.com / 724-863-7415	2/2015
Marketing & Communications Officer	Henry Rainone (Acting)	nluspitt.rainone@verizon.net / 412 596 6143	2/2015
Operations & Planning Officer	Carol Braund (Acting)	cabraund@verizon.net / 412 367 1946	2/2013
Chaplain(s) – non-voting	Please nominate! All faiths/denominations welcome	tbd	n/a

Past Presidents (Active Council Members)– non-voting: **Wallace Utley** (1978), **John Caspero** (1980, 1992), **David Erdodi** (1981), **Dick Halleran** (1984-5), **William Stein** (1988), **Richard Kennedy** (1991), **Doug Thompson** (1993), **Ray Boyer** (1996), **Karl Ludwig** (1998), **Bill Braund** (2000), **Stew Shannon** (2001-2), **James Bendel** (2004), **Paula Bozdech-Veater** (2005-7), **Judy Halleran** (2008-10), and **Al Hribar** (20011-12); for contact information, please contact kjkersten2@verizon.net / 412 367 4725.

National Officers:

NLUS-National Director	National Assistant Treasurer	Bill Braund
NLUS-National Director	National Vice President Finance	Richard Kennedy
NLUS-National Director	National Executive Committee	Dick Halleran
NLUS-National Director	National Membership Retention Committee Chair	Judy Halleran
NLUS-Regional Director	Liberty Region PA Area President	Judy Halleran
NLUS-Regional Director	Liberty Region Legislative Affairs	Polly Bozdech-Veater

Editor's Note: Due to limited space, the listing of military contacts was removed from this issue. We will publish it in the next issue.

**NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES,
PITTSBURGH COUNCIL
8229 EAST VAN BUREN DRIVE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15237**

Oct., Nov., Dec., 2012 Newsletter

Return Service Requested

**Council Annual Dinner Details
New Contact Information**

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