



Port of Pittsburgh

Official Publication of the Navy League of the
United States, Pittsburgh Council
Oct., Nov., Dec., 2017 Volume 21. No. 4
Edited by Katherine Kersten
Website: navyleaguepittsburgh.org
<https://www.facebook.com/NavyLeaguePittsburgh/>

Letter from the President

This has been a full year of Navy League activities. The Council has continued to support our principle missions, including the local sea services and the Crew of the *USS Pittsburgh*. I cannot begin to express my personal gratitude for all of the people who have donated their time, their energy, their finances and their commitment to making the many programs we sponsor and support come true. No one steps forward with the intent of drawing attention to themselves, but the volunteers who do come out do so with a high degree of energy and personal sacrifice.

A critical point for our future though is having more of our members actively engaged. I know what it's like to be busy and I can assure you I understand when our personal lives interfere with our ability to serve others. The beginning of the year was a very large challenge for me personally. But I believe in the purpose for the League and I believe people's lives are impacted by what we all contribute. Years ago I belonged to the Rotary International when we first retired from the Navy. The motto they used was "Service above Self". It is a spirit where people are asked to go the extra mile and support a cause that serves other people. I think it's a pretty good model to try and emulate.

We serve when we help to raise funds that will go to the scholarships we have supported through the years. Those funds have helped our sailors and their families to gain better access to education.

We serve when we participate in the many activities through the year that pay for the Christmas parties for our active duty families, including special gifts for their children.

We serve when we participate and volunteer for our interactions with the VA in Aspinwall.

That service and many others take a personal commitment. Too many times the same people are the ones who do the lion's share of the work. It would be great if some of the people who belong to our fine organization could re-engage with

some of our events. I recognize that many live in new locations that prevent that from happening, but for the local folks in the Western Pennsylvania area, I would like to ask you to consider what you can do to support our efforts this year. We will be publishing the lists of upcoming activities soon and your presence and participation would be the best demonstration of support of all.

Thanks again to that loyal group of people who show up and those who financially support our efforts. I wish all of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Joyous New Year.

Bob MacPherson



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

Pittsburgh Calendar of Events-2018

Jan.	Election of Officers for 2018
March	Annual Council Awards Dinner,
May	Kentucky Derby Party-benefit for <i>USS Pittsburgh</i> Scholarship Fund
May 30	Memorial Day Celebration and Parade
June	Golf Tournament- <i>USS Pittsburgh</i> Children's Christmas Party Benefit
July/Aug	Steeler Picnic TBA
Sept. TBA	VA Picnic, Aspinwall
Oct. TBA	Navy Birthday Ball
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day

Coast Guard Volunteers at Kane Woods

Members of Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Pittsburgh worked alongside Scott Conservancy volunteers at the Kane Woods Nature Area located in Scott Township on August 31 and September 22.



Photo courtesy of Jane Sorcan

The volunteers worked to improve the trail conditions by removing branches, replacing bridge boards, and placing gravel and rocks throughout the area. Additionally, they worked in knee deep mud to clean out a blocked pipe that carries water from under the trails.

On average, MSU Pittsburgh annually conducts over 250 hours of community service in the local area.

Navy Recruiting District Pittsburgh Change of Command

On September 22, 2017, Commander Jonathan S. Channell, USN was relieved by Commander Peter Hoegel Jr. USN at a ceremony held at the Teutonia Mannerchor Hall.

This late morning ceremony was a well-executed event that included the participation of most of the Navy Recruiters in the Pittsburgh District. Captain Cox, Commander Navy Recruiting District was the ranking officer in attendance and the success of the Pittsburgh NRD under Commander Channell's leadership was the focus of the day. Pittsburgh achieved record successes and the slogan that was used to represent that success was "Good Enough for Pittsburgh".



Bob MacPherson presents Pittsburgh Council gift to CDR Channell

Lunch afterwards was the awesome German food that the Teutonia is famous for. Captain **Polly Bozdech-Veater** and President **Bob MacPherson** made the presentation to "Slomo" and welcomed Peter and his family to the city for their tour of duty.

Presentations Held on Veteran's Day

Captain Jim Bendel, former President of the Pittsburgh Council of the Navy League, spoke to two separate groups: Valley School of Ligonier and ten veterans at the Mountain View Nursing Home in Greensburg.

At both gatherings Jim emphasized the need of "teamwork" and "commitment to mission" of every veteran who has ever served our country.

While speaking to the veterans, Jim discovered that one of the residents was one of the first Army soldiers who landed at Normandy. Consistent with the theme of the speeches, there is no question that this veteran certainly demonstrated those traits.

Navy Ball

On October 20 over 150 people gathered at the Futules' Harmar House, Cheswick, to celebrate the 242nd birthday of the Navy.

The midshipmen from Steel City NROTC Unit provided the Color Guard and the Navy Operational Support Center Pittsburgh, along with midshipmen, provided honors to the Commanding Officers present. CDR McClain, Commanding Officer, Marine Safety Unit, Pittsburgh, CDR Lee Ann Singleton and her husband John, and CAPT Bill Breitfelder and his wife Annette, along with Mr. **Bob MacPherson** with his wife **Debbie** were honored guests.

NLUS Pittsburgh Council President, Mr. **Bob MacPherson** was the guest speaker, with the

theme of the Navy Family---and how each of us is part of this important family.



Bob MacPherson, President, Pittsburgh Council; NL, Oldest sailor (WW2 Sub vet); Youngest Sailor (NROTC midshipman) and Chief Michelle Broskovich, USN, ret (President, McKeesport-Pittsburgh Chief Petty Officer Association).

Work has already begun for planning next year's ball, in conjunction with the Commanding Officers, local Navy Commands, the McKeesport-Pittsburgh Chiefs Association and the Navy League, Pittsburgh Council.

Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh Recognizes Local Mariners

MSU Pittsburgh articles submitted by LT Shawn Simeral

On November 3, Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh recognized the crew of the M/V Bill Stile for lifesaving actions conducted on June 29.



Photo courtesy of Campbell Transportation Inc.

The M/V Bill Stile was transiting northbound on the Ohio River and had departed the Hannibal Lock and Dam just before sunset. The Captain observed a person clinging to an overturned kayak and drifting dangerously close to the dam. The crew quickly launched their skiff, retrieved the kayaker, contacted paramedics, and provided

assistance until additional help arrived. The recipients of the Certificate of Merit included: Benny DeWeese, Jordan Zerkle, Shane Miller, Seth Osborne, Shawn Swisher, and Josh Taylor.

Search and Rescue is one of the Coast Guard's eleven statutory missions as defined by law.

Joint Armed Service Ball

Over 250 guests from all services gathered on Veteran's Day at the Navy Operational Support Center Pittsburgh for the third annual Joint Armed Services Ball.

The Ball topped off the Steel City Salute to the Troops, an event coordinated by the Pennsylvania National Guard, in conjunction with the City of Pittsburgh Veteran's Day parade. This wonderful new tradition for the Pittsburgh Military/Veteran Community was coordinated by the Fort Pitt Association of the Army of the United States (AUSA) and sponsored by BNY Mellon, FedEx and ATI.

During the event, Rocky Bleier served as the guest speaker with Carlos Carmona-Torres, president of the Fort Pitt chapter AUSA, serving as Master of Ceremonies. Dr. Rory Cooper, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, was honored along with representatives of the sponsors, ATI, FedEx and BNY Mellon.



Polly got to wear Rocky's four Super Bowl Rings

Also honored as an outstanding warrior/supporter of the warrior community was **Polly Bozdech-Veater**, CAPT, USN, ret. This was a complete surprise to Polly and it was to thank her for your many efforts to support all of the Pittsburgh Military Community, but especially the Sea Services.

Christmas Party for *USS Pittsburgh Families*

This year's theme was "Polar Express" and the snow that fell Saturday December 9th, affected the usual robust attendance. Very rich hot coca and French toast were served as the kids played games, worked on crafts and watched a movie.

Each child received a stocking with his/her name on it and a Christmas bell. Those 12 and under received a gift card from Toys R Us to select their own toy. The Family Readiness Group expressed their gratitude to the Pittsburgh Council for this yearly event. The annual golf outing provides the funds for the party.

RELIEF CREW NEWS

By John Caspero

USS Pittsburgh (SSN -720): Recent anniversaries:

Dec. 8th 33 years since launching (christening) – Dec 8, 1984

Nov 23rd 32 years since commissioning – Nov. 23, 1985

Awards:

Sailor of the Year 2017: MMN1 (SS) Bradley W. Keirns

Junior Sailor of the Year 2017: MMN2 (SS) Scott M. Husser

The COB reports that both sailors are 'amazing workers' and the boat is proud of the difficult work they perform. The Relief Crew has awarded each of them with a check in lieu of a US Savings Bond.

Support:

The children (as young as 4 years old) of the drilling reservists at the NOSC (Naval Operational Support Center) produced hand-made Christmas cards for the crew of the boat.

Change of Command:

The date will be Friday, January 12th 2018 at 10:00 a.m. CDR Neil Colston, USN. will be relieved by CDR Jason Deichler, USN. The new skipper is a graduate of Chartiers Valley High school and Carnegie Mellon University.

Visit from Boat:

Commander Neil Colston, C.O. and Master Chief Dave Lewis and Mrs. Lewis (Katie) visited Pittsburgh December 7th – 10th. Friday's activities

included: Visit with Mayor Bill Peduto, tour of Science Center, tour of Phipps Conservatory, dinner with Navy League members.



L to R John Caspero, Relief Crew; CDR Neil Colston, C.O.; Mayor Peduto; Master Chief Dave Lewis, CO; Mrs. Katie Lewis

Saturday's activities included: Ride on the Incline, Sub Vets Christmas Party and Army/Navy Football Game Tailgate Party. Saturday evening, they were guests of **Judy** and **Dick Halleran** at the Penguin hockey game.

NOSC Pittsburgh Activities

By CDR Lee Ann Singleton, USN

09NOV2017: VETERAN'S COURT ADJUDICATION GRADUATION COLOR GUARD

Joining with staff from Navy Recruiting District Pittsburgh, NOSC SELRES presented colors at the third annual Allegheny Courthouse Veteran's Adjudication Graduation. 26 Veterans, comprised of former service members from all branches, received diplomas for completing a rehabilitation program through the county. NOSC personnel have supported this event from its inception in 2014.

11-12NOV2017: VETERAN'S DAY ACTIVITIES

SELRES and STAFF performed three color guards in honor of Veteran's day. The first, a joint effort with all branches, was part of the Pittsburgh Veteran's Day Parade, an annual event going into its 25th year. The remaining two were for local VFW activities in the Pittsburgh community.

15NOV2017: NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE GROUP 10: ITC RALPH ANDERSON RETIRMENT

The NOSC was very pleased to provide support for the planning and execution of ITC Ralph Anderson of Naval Special Warfare Group 10's

retirement ceremonies held at Heinz Field, in cooperation with the Pittsburgh Steelers Organization. SELRES and STAFF presented colors, read and performed the passing of Old Glory, and served as Side Boys. Over 100 guests were in attendance, and the NFL filmed portions of the ceremony to be used as part of their SALUTE THE TROOPS event held the following night to honor veterans.

16NOV2017: NFL SALUTES THE TROOPS EVENT

As part of the National Football League's yearly efforts to recognize Veteran's across the nation, 21 SELRES and staff from NRD and NOSC PITTSBURGH took part in pregame and half-time activities, including an unfurling of a field-sized Terrible Towel and a Punt/Pass/Kick competition. In addition, three Sailors, along with Retired ITC Ralph Anderson from Naval Special Warfare Group 10, led the Steelers out of the tunnel and onto the field to kick off the third quarter. The Steelers beat the Titans 40-17!

Every Hour Counts

Each year **Wally Utley**, a past President of the Pittsburgh Council, presents medals to the CMU NROTC (Naval ROTC), and the West Allegheny HS JMCROTC (Junior Marine Corps ROTC) on behalf of several patriotic U.S. Military organizations in which he holds membership- i.e., The Reserve Officers Association, The Navy League of the United States, and the Military Order of the World Wars. His administrative efforts to obtain the medals, printing the accompanying certificates, participating in the awards ceremonies, and often entails his making a brief speech, amounts to about 6 hours a year. But every hour counts!

2017 Wreaths across America Program

By Bob MacPherson

In November, the Pittsburgh Council Board of Directors made the decision to participate in the local National Cemetery Program that participates in the placement of wreaths in national cemetery's that are located all across the country. Our local cemetery is the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, located near Bridgeville, PA

Each December on "National Wreaths across America Day", our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating

wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as over 1,200 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea, and abroad. This year the wreaths will be set on December 16th.



Our council became one of the sponsors for the program and we were able to help people donate 60 wreaths. As a sponsor, a small portion of each donation comes back to the Pittsburgh Council and this year we raised about \$300.00 that will be used to support our many local programs. We got a late start, but assuming the Board supports the program for next year, we will broaden the campaign starting much earlier in the fall.

For those of you who have never been to the Cemetery, I would encourage you to take the short drive there once the wreaths are in place. The tribute to the men and women (and their families) is something that has to be seen to be appreciated.

Look for an announcement in a future newsletter about our 2018 Participation.

By the way, while you are there, please make sure to stop by in the Memorial Circle and see the new Submarine Monument dedicated by the Requin Submarine Veterans. Well done to our friends at the Requin Base (Commander Huey Dietrich and his team) for this great tribute to submariners of every era.

Annual VA Picnic, September 23, 2017

The Annual VA Picnic at Aspinwall is one of the main events for the year that brings together the Navy League, ROA members, members of the Steel City NROTC, Our Pittsburgh Battalion Sea Cadets (and leaders) and volunteers from the Shadyside Academy, Pleasant Hills Middle School, Bethel Park Middle School, and West Allegheny Schools.

All told, over fifty volunteers showed up and provided a wonderful picnic and lots of great interaction with the residents of the VA and some of their families. The food was great as always and certainly enhanced by **Polly's Famous Baked Beans**.

More importantly, there is the chance for the young people to spend some time talking with the veterans about their life experiences. This group of young people was inspirational in the way they stepped up and did whatever it took to serve the men and women who were our guests at the picnic.

We are very grateful for the vendor from the Commissary that donated so freely. Nearly all of the food was donated and a special thanks to **Captain Polly** for her donations and service in making sure everything was there on time.

Many thanks to Laura Will and Jamie Sloan from the VA for helping us coordinate the day. **President Bob** has promised Laura that next year he will definitely not forget the lighter for the grill.

Navy League members present included Past President **Bradley Harrison, Wally Utley, Jon Minor, Mike and Anita Sleigh, Rob Conway, Katherine Kersten, Polly Bozdech-Veater and Bob MacPherson**.

Thanks again to all of the groups for their participation. The Vets really had a great day and your service is appreciated. See you next year

Marine Corps Birthday Celebration 2017

The Navy League and Members from the Steel City NROTC helped to celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday on November 10th 2017 at the VA Center in Aspinwall.

The residents were invited to attend a program given by Navy League President **Bob MacPherson** on the history of the Marines at Guadalcanal and a presentation called "Steel Boats and Iron Men". 2017 is the 75th Anniversary year of the Battle of Guadalcanal. The presentation covered submarine operations during the Cold War.

After a video celebrating The Marine Corps Birthday, cake and beverages were served.

A very special thanks to Midshipman Isabel Hagopian, who helped organize the volunteers from the Steel City NROTC Brigade that helped to assist the veterans from their living quarters

to the Recreation Room for the cake and presentations. Isabel's Dad is a retired Marine so she knows a few things about the importance of the Marine Corps Birthday Ball. When she graduates this coming year, she will be commissioned into the Navy and has been selected for flight school. We wish the best of luck to you, Midshipman Hagopian.

Laura Will (Recreational Therapist for the VA) was instrumental in doing this first of its kind party and making sure everything was in place for the Navy League and Midshipmen.

The room was packed with Veterans from all the services and it was a great day for all involved.

Scholarship Information

Navy League of the United States

Sponsored by: Navy League Foundation

POC/Applications: <http://navyleague.org/scholarship/index.html>

Requirements: Children and grandchildren of former members of the Sea Services and those currently serving, as well as members of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

Pittsburgh Foundation

Search for scholarships funded by the Pittsburgh Foundation
<https://www.pittsburghfoundation.org/scholarshipsearch>

Military Members/Spouses/Children

Search for scholarships for military members/spouses/children including scholarships offered by the Commissaries:
<http://www.militaryscholar.org/>

Good luck with your searches and applications.

FYI: The previous issues of our newsletter, *Port of Pittsburgh*, can be found on our website:

navyleaguepittsburgh.org.

Updates can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/NavyLeaguePittsburgh/>

BALLOT NLUS – Pittsburgh Council

Slate of Officers for the Year 2018

_____ President, Bob MacPherson

_____ Judge Advocate; Nick Krawec, Esq.

_____ Vice President Outreach, Rob Conway

_____ CO of Pittsburgh Relief Crew; John Caspero

_____ Vice President Education, Don Beynon

_____ Outreach Committee Representative; Polly
Bozdech-Veater

_____ Secretary, Katherine Kersten

_____ Treasurer, Anita Sleigh

**To cast your vote, mail this ballot to:
Katherine Kersten
8229 East Van Buren Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237**

Patriotism

Pittsburgh Council Board of Directors

Gratitude

Director's Office	Name	Contact Information	Office Expiration
President	Bob MacPherson	bobmac711@live.com 717.606.7047	2/2018
Vice President of Outreach	Robert Conway	conway_rd@yahoo.com 412.268.1205	2/2018
Vice President of Education	Don Beynon	drbeynon@hotmail.com 412.680.3200	2/2018
Secretary	Katherine Kersten	kjkersten2@verizon.net 412.367.4725	2/2018
Judge Advocate	Nick Krawec, Esq.	nkrawec@bernsteinlaw.com 412.456.8103	2/2018
Immediate Past President	Brad Harrison	bradley.d.harrison@gmail.com 412.518.7661	
Treasurer	Anita Sleigh	anitasleigh@gmail.com 570.387.6532	2/2018
CO of Pittsburgh Relief Crew	John Caspero	jfcaspero@verizon.net 412.257.6141	2/2018
Outreach Committee Representative	Polly Bozdech-Veater	bozdechvpm@aol.com 412.782.2533	2/2018

Past Presidents (Active Council Members)– non-voting: **John Van Huyck** (1977), **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), **Al Hribar** (20011-12), **Henry Rainone** (2013-2015), **Brad Harrison** (2015-2017).

National Officers:

NLUS Director Emeritus
NLUS- Director Emeritus
NLUS Director Emeritus
NLUS Director Emeritus
NLUS-Vice President

Bill Braund
Dick Halleran
Richard Kennedy
Judy Halleran
Polly Bozdech-Veater

Youth Programs

Naval Sea Cadets Unit Pittsburgh Battalion Commanding Officer

LCDR Guy Mignogna
(W) 412-225-5469
(C) 412-373-8924
tazman1010@hotmail.com
Executive Officer
LTJG Anthony Waters
(C) 412.761.9658
anthony.waters.@pittsburghseacadets.com

Penn Hills HS NJROTC

309 Collins Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15235-3839
1st SGT. Martin Kender
mkender@phsd.k12.pa.us
412.793.7000 x 5319

Ambridge High School Marine Corps JROTC

MSgt. Thomas G. Short (USMC Ret)
TShort@ambridge.k12.pa.us
724.266.2833 x 2221
C: 724.799.1948

West Allegheny High School Marine Corps JROTC

Commanding Officer
Maj D.G. Botizan, USMC, Ret
724-695-520.5239
dbotizan@westasd.org

Active Duty Commands

U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Unit

1041 Washington Pike, Ste. 300
Bridgeville, PA 15017
412-221-0807

Commanding Officer

CDR Leon McClain
leon.mcclain@uscg.mil

Executive Officer

LCDR Frances Smith, USCG
Frances.m.smith@uscg.mil

MST Chief

Jason M. Spence
Jason.M.Spence@uscg.mil

USCG CGC Osage

McKown Lane, Sewickley, PA
412-741-1180

OINC

BMCS Shane Yonushonis
Shane.A.Yonushonis@uscg.mil

Marine Corps Recruiting Station Pittsburgh

Federal Building, 1000 Liberty Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412 496-3616

Commanding Officer

Maj. Andrew Hornfeck USMC
(C) 412-395-4917
andrew.hornfeck@marines.usmc.mil

Executive Officer

Capt. Michael Kelly, USMC
412.395.4917
Michael.Kelly@marines.usmc.mil
412.395.4642

Senior Enlisted

Sgt Maj Clifford Fincham, USMC
clifford.fincham@marines.usmc.mil
412.395.6357

Carnegie Mellon University Naval Science ROTC

4615 Forbes Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3796
412-268-5109

Commanding Officer

CAPT. Bill Breitfelder
wbreitfe@cmu.edu

Executive Officer

Maj, Kelly Johnson, USMC
kelly1@andrew.cmu.edu

Navy Recruiting District, Pittsburgh

713 Federal Building
1000 Liberty Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-395-5809

Commanding Officer

CDR Peter Hoegel, Jr.
peter.hoegel@navy.mil

Command Chief

Master Chief Gerald Chiu
412-395-5755
gerard.c.chiu@navy.mil

Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC)

1265 Rocky Lane
Coraopolis, PA 15108
412.776.4000

Commanding Officer

CDR Lee Anne Singleton, USN
lee.a.singleton@navy.mil
412 776-4021

Senior Enlisted Advisor

PSC Chris A. Degothseir
Chris.degothseir@navy.mil
412.776.4022

Marine Units

625 E. Pittsburgh-McKeesport Blvd.,
North Versailles, PA 15137
Marines I-I, MP Co B
Capt. Claudio G. Casanova, USMC

412-672-3472 ext. 200
claudio.casanova@usmc.mil

1stSgt Mark Shawhan, USMC
mark.shawhan@usmc.mil

I & I, Surgical CO, Alpha

4th MED BN, 4th MLG
LTJG Joseph Williams, USN
Joseph.Williams1@usmc.mil

Command Chief (SEL)

HMC John Watkins, USN
john.t.watkins@usmc.mil

I-I CO K, 3/25

MAJ David Borden, USMC
412-678-0837
david.borden@usmc.mil

1st Sgt. Keith A. Sandor, USMC

Keith.Sandor@usmc.mil
412.678.0837 X311

NOSC ERIE

3938 Old French Road,
Erie, PA 16504
814-866-3073

Commanding Officer

LCDR Evita Sailes, USN
evita.sailes@navy.mil

Senior Enlisted Leader

PRC (AW) Robert L. Tolbert.
NOSC_ERIE_SEL@navy.mil

Marines

I-I

Capt. Joshua Gato, USMC
(b) 814.868.0848 X 2100
Joshua.Gato@usmc.mil
1st Sgt

Erie Coast Guard Station

1 Coast Guard Station, Erie, PA 16505
814.838.2097

OINC

BMC Stephen Pickard, USCG
Stephen.A.Pickard@uscg.mil

Defense Contract Management Agency Pittsburgh

2790 Mosside Blvd., Ste 510
Monroeville, PA 15146

CDR Robert James

Robert.James@dcma.mil
412.702.9376

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

October, November, December 2017 Newsletter

Return Service Requested

Navy and Joint Armed Service Balls
Ballot for Election of 2018 Officers
USS Pittsburgh Personnel Visit

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH, PA
PERMIT NO. 1250