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NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
BREMERTON-OLYMPIC PENINSULA COUNCIL



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April 2011

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- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| ★ Mary Aghabeigi | ★ Russell Hauge |
| ★ Brice Barrett | ★ Charles Horton |
| ★ Steven Fabry | ★ Mike Stevens |
| ★ Ed Friedrich | ★ Carol Turner |
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Tales of the USS Nimitz (CVN 68) Topic of the April 12 Luncheon



Commanding Officer, Captain Paul O. Monger will share stories of the great carrier, the USS Nimitz and the amazing men and women who keep her operational.

Captain Monger is well qualified to command this aircraft carrier. He has amassed over 3,100 flight hours in the F-14 Tomcat on the USS Reagan and the USS Stennis. Captain Monger can put this into context if he shares the stories of how many take-offs and landings this means on a rocking and rolling flat top. Of course, Captain Monger brings to this leadership position far more than his great flying record.

The flight deck of the USS Nimitz is 4.5 acres. This small self-contained island is home to almost 5,000 sailors and lots of big equipment. Most of the sailors are in their early 20's and for many of them, it is their first time at sea. They need to know how to work together effectively, manage their differences and accomplish their mission. Their leadership team has to be amazing.

Most of the sailors seem to thrive in this environment. They know that they are making a significant difference protecting their country, providing help in disaster stricken areas and protecting our sea lanes so that commerce can reach our businesses. Retention rate is high for these mighty carriers. Communication with loved ones at home has improved dramatically thanks to so many technological advances. Family support is a major priority that makes a huge difference for the sailors, especially on long deployments.

Ombudsmen and so many others are making a huge difference.

We salute the men and women who serve on these carriers and we are privileged to have Captain Monger share his insights and experiences.

Lunch will be at the Bangor Conference Center in the Trident Ball Room, as usual.

Social time begins at 11:00 am and the program begins at 11:45 am.

Please contact CTC, Diane Garrett, (360) 782-5500 for your luncheon reservation.



President's Message

April is almost here and the sun is out. Not only is it time to start thinking about planting our summer garden, but also to look ahead at all of the great opportunities we have in our immediate area to express our thanks and support to our military and their families. Armed Forces Day has turned into almost 6 weeks of great activities.

Many of the events are free and everyone is welcome. This is a chance to meet and greet our active duty and retired folks. Over 40,000 are expected to line the streets in Bremerton to watch the parade and cheer the bands and special entries on May 21.

A special Gala is planned for that evening when our council invites four members of each of the 75 local commands to join us as guests for a fun evening of food, good company, and the opportunity to hear our Grand Marshall. This is a great time for business and community leaders

to show their appreciation for our local military leaders.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the people in Japan as they face the difficult challenge after the disastrous earthquakes. Thank heavens all of our military are safe. Mary Ann Mascianica and others have done a wonderful job of tracking down everyone who is attached to our area and locating them whether they were in transit or at their jobs in Japan. Families and friends appreciate all of the efforts being done to keep everyone safe. Once again, our military is so well organized and prepared for emergencies that I am hearing wonderful stories of the relief efforts that they are doing.

In the next three months we bid farewell to some great leaders who have had such a positive impact on our area and we know that they will have that same positive impact in their new assignments. We have really been so fortunate to have such outstanding people assigned here. We are looking forward to meeting and working with the new people and their families.

Give thanks to those who protect us.
Carolyn Dankers

Upcoming Luncheon Speakers

April 12
Captain Monger of the USS Nimitz

May 10
Celebration of Naval Aviation

June 14
Unmanned Undersea Vehicles

July 12
**Battle in Leyte Gulf,
Will Lent, Historian**

August 9
United States Coast Guard

We are also working on some evening programs so watch for further information.

"Courage Brings Freedom" – Annual Armed Forces Festival

The 63rd Annual Armed Forces Festival has announced "Courage Brings Freedom" as the title for the upcoming festival.

See the article (page 6) on the Armed Forces Ambassador Speak-Off on Monday, April 4 at the Naval Undersea Museum in Keyport.

Plan now on participating in some of the many activities that have been planned to celebrate all of our Armed Forces and show that you care. These activities are certain to bring a smile to your face as flags are waving and young people in high school marching bands play lots of patriotic music. There are over 150 marching units. You will see everything from historic jeeps to classic cars. Our council is proud to be participating in a SAFEBOAT made right here in Kitsap County. Several of the local motorcycle groups will be out in full force.

Wave to our members as they ride by. Arrive early to get a good spot. The parade starts at 10 am but people start arriving by 7:30 am.

Enjoy the Lions or Masonic Lodge pancake breakfasts before the parade.

On the evening of May 21, our council will host the Navy League Gala at the Admiral Theatre on Pacific Ave. Details are (page 4) in this newsletter.

The Wells Fargo Bank Military Culinary Arts Competition and Iron Chef Cook Off will be held on Saturday, May 14 at Olympic College between 10 am and 2 pm. This is an amazing treat as US military teams from all over the world come to show off their skills and we get to taste and enjoy their fine work!

Also on Saturday, May 14 will be the 2nd Annual Motorcycle Ride and Poker Run with check points throughout the peninsula

at secret locations.

The 20th Annual Pepsi Armed Forces Festival Golf Tournament at the Gold Mountain Golf Complex-Cascade Course will be on Friday, May 20.

The Naval Hospital Bremerton "Got Talent" Show highlights the amazing talents of our active duty and their families. This is a great fundraiser to bring books to young children who come to the hospital for medical visits. Everyone goes away satisfied that they have seen some wonderful talent and have helped a worthwhile cause.

For more information on these and the many other activities, check out the Bremerton Area Chamber of Commerce website at <http://www.BremertonChamber.org>. The Chamber Military Affairs Committee meets year long and is headed by volunteer, Cris Larsen.

A special thanks for all that you do.

USS Stennis – Change of Command



Captain Kuzmick bids farewell to the crew on the USS Stennis as he turned over the command to Captain Ronald Reis. In a beautiful Change of Command, we watched as the formal passing of authority occurred under the watchful eyes of Rear Admiral Joseph Accoin, Commander of the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group and Rear Admiral Thomas Cropper, Commander of Strike Forces Training Pacific.

The hangar bay of the Stennis was filled with people who had flown with Captain Kuzmick, his family and those who had known him for a long time. Other local Naval and Marine officers and dignitaries also were there recognized and acknowledge the Change of Command.

Navy League was well represented by our area Coastal President, Beth Munns and several of the council members from Oak Harbor Council on Whidbey Island, Seattle Council and the Bremerton-Olympic Council.

The USS Stennis is an amazing ship which has a rich, long history. Captain Kuzmick received high praise for his two and one half years as the Commanding Officer of this huge aircraft carrier. In turn, he gave praise and recognition to the crew of sailors and officers who make everything possible.

Captain Kuzmick will report to Navy Region Northwest as he waits for his next assignment. In the meantime, Captain Reis is making certain that the ship and crew are deployment ready.

Rear Admiral Accoin deviated for a few moments from the prepared script and among other things, talked about the USS Stennis being involved in this year's first Celebration of the Naval Aviation Centennial held in San Diego. To commemorate this exciting occasion, planes flew off of the USS Stennis in a very special program.

We will be talking more about the centennial at our regular luncheon meeting in May.



Guy Stitt Receives "Bad Fish" Plaque



Mr. Guy Stitt, Past Council President and Council Ambassador receives a plaque from the crew of the USS Bremerton in recognition of his willingness to be the Council's sponsor of the USS Bremerton, AKA The Bad Fish. Guy was very supportive with the submarine when she visited Bremerton in 2009. At that time, he received a well loved (used) coffee mug from the COB. This time, they wanted him to have something that he could put on the walls of his company. We thank Guy and everyone else for their support of the USS Bremerton, a fast attack submarine, homeported in Hawaii. And we look forward to having the crew return to Bremerton.

We are looking for sponsors for our other adopted units. If interested, please contact Carolyn Dankers at c.dankers@wavecable.com.

2011 Navy League Armed Forces Day Gala

The Navy League Gala, sponsored by the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council, is the perfect opportunity to honor our military and our community. This annual event encourages the positive interaction of business and community leaders with the local and national military leaders in a beautiful, historic setting.

The Military Grand Marshall of the Armed Forces Festival parade will be our keynote speaker of the evening. At the time of printing, we are not certain who that will be, but we know that he or she will be wonderful. We have heard rumors of several people who would like to come and they are checking their busy schedules.

As usual, we will be presenting the Trophy Bowl to the crew of the winning submarine who has proven to be outstanding as a result of a very extensive tough competition. It is now awarded to both the Gold and Blue teams. The bowl will be highly polished and ready to spend a year with the new winners.

The Gala is also a time to recognize some people who have made a significant difference to and for the military. The Sea Cadet of the Year receives special recognition and some of the Sailors of the Year are introduced.

Once again, we will enjoy the historic setting of the Admiral Theatre in downtown Bremerton. The doors open at 6pm for a no host social period, then the program

begins at 6:30 pm.

RSVP through the **Admiral Theatre** with your name, phone number, address and meal choice at **360-373-6743**.

Dress:
Civilian- Black Tie/Cocktail
Military-Seasonal Dinner Dress
per NRNW Directive

Menu:
Surf and Turf
– or –
Vegetarian



Armed Forces Festival Activities. Military Chefs Competition on May 14, 10 am to 2 pm at Olympic College



Navy Region Northwest Sailor of the Year, YN2 (SW/AW) Grisel Rodriguez, receives the NL plaque from Carolyn Dankers (photo by Karen Ebersole)

Upcoming Tour

Come tour the Manchester Fuel Depot and the NOAA Fishery.

The Manchester Fuel Depot is on 234 acres of prime coastal land in Manchester. Developed in 1940 to provide diesel and aircraft fuel to the navy, it has also served other surprising uses. It is the only fuel depot in the Northwest and the largest underground depot on the West Coast. Be certain to bring comfortable walking shoes and a jacket.

The NOAA fishery, also known as the Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Manchester Research Center is located on the same site, but with a different entrance. This fishery is the world leader in salmon culture technology, lingcod and Pacific halibut. The goal is for the development of environmentally sound aquaculture technology and conservation. This state-of-the-art facility houses the largest floating marine research complex on the West Coast. This is indeed an exciting place to learn about the newest technology and to think that it is right in our own backyard.

Tour Details:

Date: April 14, 2011

Meeting time: 8:30 am

Place: Manchester Fuel Depot on Beach Drive, Manchester (near Port Orchard)

Schedule:

1.5 hours – **Fuel Depot**

1.5 hours – **NOAA fishery**

1 hour – **Manchester Inn for lunch**

Contact **Byron Faber** ASAP for reservations and more information.

Byron Faber

360 638-1235

byfaber@centurytel.net

Naval Hospital Bremerton Tour



NHB Tour group getting briefed on the newest state-of-the-art mammography machine in the Puget Sound area



NHB tour left to right, Kris Brouker; Commanding Officer of NHB, Captain Brouker; Byron Faber and Norm Marten

For the first tour of 2011 “season,” Byron Faber arranged for a visit to Naval Hospital Bremerton (NHB) on February 25th. Although only four of us attended, Carolyn Dankers, Tina Salter, Byron Faber and Norm Marten, the small size of the group in no way diminished a great experience. What made it particularly special and personal was the Commanding Officer, Captain Mark Brouker, conducted the tour himself, joined by NHB PAO Doug Stutz and the Captain’s gracious wife and Navy League member, Kristin.

Naval Hospital Bremerton is located on the scenic shores of Dyes Inlet and is regarded as the best teaching hospital in the Navy. It is fully accredited and all doctors are board certified. There are well over 1000 military and civilian personnel who keep this incredible place going. Everywhere we went it was clearly evident that they are enthusiastic about and dedicated to their work. There are three NHB branch clinics; one at NBK Bangor, one at NS Everett and one at PSNA & IMF Bremerton. Inpatient and outpatient services are provided to all active duty military (mostly Navy) as well as those eligible for TRICARE. NHB is just about maxed out in capacity to provide additional outpatient care; although there are preliminary discussions about an expansion that would help to serve VA qualified patients there.

During our tour, we visited the

pharmacy, emergency medicine, mammography, maternity, family care and physical therapy departments. Every one of these areas was impressive both physically and operationally. Of particular note, is how arrangements have been made to keep the same care-team altogether for a particular patient as they return for additional visits. A written report of each visit is also now given to each patient, a helpful bridge to future care. We were also impressed by the prescription machine in the pharmacy that retrieves medications from appropriate trays, fills the bottles and labels them all automatically. Its operation was demonstrated for us by the processing of a “prescription” for

M & Ms!

The label was noted, “may be habit forming.”

Although justifiably proud of the entire staff at NHB, Captain Brouker is particularly proud of his deployed personnel. Virtually all have volunteered for deployment, often to very dangerous assignments in combat zones. He has actually had to intervene at times to say “no” in the best interest of the volunteer.

Naval Hospital Bremerton is an amazing place and the Navy League is fortunate to be able to support their great work and privileged to be able to support the people who do that work.

Submitted by Norman Marten



NHB Tour group is thoroughly enjoying hearing the stories of these fine young men as we tour the hospital (photos by Doug Stutz, NHB PAO)

Welcome New Affiliate PNDC



The Pacific Northwest Defense Coalition (PNDC) is growing in the Puget Sound region. The PNDC, a coalition of companies in the defense and security industries, fosters steady economic growth for the region and sustainable long-term profits for its members. It is a member-based industry association dedicated to improving the defense industry climate across the Pacific Northwest. The PNDC provides educational programs, business-to-business networking and outreach to government decision makers.

The PNDC, already well-established in Oregon and southwestern Washington, is increasing its services in the Puget Sound area, where the opportunity for growth in the region's defense and security industries is tremendous. Globally competitive industry clusters are thriving in the Northwest, including manufacturing, software, renewable energy, and biotechnology. But while many firms would greatly benefit from working with government agencies, they lack the resources and experience to enter these lucrative partnerships. PNDC bridges these gaps with educational programs, business-to-business networking and outreach and

advocacy with government decision makers.

To underscore its commitment to the area, the Coalition has created a new position focused on Puget Sound. To find out more about the PNDC, contact the Puget Sound Regional Coordinator, Gary Hanson (phone: 206-369-8544/email: gary.hanson@pndc.us) or visit the website at <http://www.pnnc.us/>.



New Affiliate, Charles Horton of Kitsap Sun says hello at the Navy League Lunch (photo by Karen Ebersole)

Scholarship Competition Reaches Final Event

The Armed Forces Ambassador Program Speak-Off is on Wednesday evening, 7 pm, May 4 at the Keyport Naval Undersea Museum Auditorium. This exciting event is one of the first major Armed Forces Day Festival activities. Local high school seniors have gone through an extensive competition involving judged interviews, written essays, impromptu speeches and now each one will give a short talk about a veteran whom they have interviewed. They will also be asked some impromptu questions. The judges make their final decisions and announce their findings that night.

While our council is proud to sponsor Mari Cleve, a senior at Klahowya Secondary School, we know that all of the candidates are wonderful. Thank you, Karen Ebersole, for being our official contact person with this program.

Captain Mark Brouker, Commanding Officer of Naval Hospital Bremerton and our Great Cris will bring humor and dignity to the evening as they encourage these fine young people in a competition that involves awards of \$6,500 toward their college education.

Once again, thanks goes to Sandra Smith and her committee who have organized this great event in connection with the Bremerton Chamber of Commerce.

Come Ride With Me



For more than two years, Board member, Byron Faber has generously offered Sailors of the Quarter and of the Year to take a ride in one of his great sport cars. So far, not one person has taken advantage of his offer.

At our March luncheon, we challenged Command Master Chief, Dave Bisson

to do a trial run in either the Ferrari or the Corvette to see what he thought. If he thought that it was a fun experience, maybe he could encourage others to take a ride. Someone suggested that maybe the Corvette Club could get together and take several awardees for a ride and even treat them to lunch. ... Any other ideas?

Planning Ahead

For best service, register early for the luncheon and the tours.


April 1	April Fools Day
April 4	Mark Olson Reception, Fountain Room, Bremerton 5-7 pm
April 7	Deadline for calling CTC for lunch reservations 360 782-5500
April 12	Monthly luncheon, Bangor, 11 am, CAPT Monger, USS Nimitz
April 14	Tour of Manchester Fuel Depot and NOAA Fishery- Byron Faber (360) 638-1235
April 17	Navy Band Northwest's Showband "Deception Pass" Keyport, 2 pm
April 24	Easter
May 4	Armed Forces Ambassador Speak-Off, Keyport Museum, 7 pm
May 5	Deadline for making lunch reservations, CTC 360 782-5500
May 12	Monthly luncheon, Bangor, 11 am, Celebration of Naval Aviation
May 21	Armed Forces Day Parade and Navy League Gala

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Navy League of the United States Mission Statement and Goals

A civilian organization dedicated to informing the American people and their government that the United States of America is a maritime nation and that it's national defense and economic well being are dependent upon strong sea services – United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard and the United States Merchant Marine.

Navy League Goals

1. Educate national leaders and the nation.
2. Support the men and women of the sea services.
3. Provide assistance to the sea service families.
4. Support the youth program.