



Now Hear This!



★ Navy League of the United States ★

★ Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council ★

Volume 63, Issue 2

February 2010

2010 COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Gary Gunderson 206.365.2673
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Secretary	Susan Larsen 360.265.1441
Treasurer	Tim Katona 360.674.2628
Judge Advocate	George Rose 360.874.2191
Immediate Past President	David Thomas 360.373.2673

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- ★ Charles Grosvenor
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- ★ Greg Jose
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- ★ Mark Lowe
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- ★ Norma Parker
- ★ Larry Salter
- ★ Tina Salter
- ★ Johann Schoberl
- ★ Earle Smith
- ★ Sandra Smith
- ★ Alice Thomas

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 - ★ Kimberly Caldwell
 - ★ Eric Folkestad
 - ★ Norman Marten
 - ★ Jennifer Enloe
 - ★ Kevin Hancock
 - ★ Walter Hannawacker
 - ★ Stasie Pike
- Gig Harbor Transfer Members
- ★ Jacqueline Burdette
 - ★ Dave and Karen Goyette
 - ★ Doug Harlow
 - ★ Don Krump
 - ★ Ron Sleeper

Incoming President's Message

The Navy League's National President, Dan Branch and his wife Kathleen were in Bremerton during my first week as president which was significant. Special thanks to Carol Meteney for planning and hosting a busy itinerary for the Branches' week long visit including; speaking at our luncheon, command briefings at each Base and Command from NAS Whidbey Island, USCG Sector Seattle and NBK Bremerton-Bangor.

President Branch and I had a chance to discuss the recent Navy Times article headlined: **"Obama on path to 240 ship fleet."** This is startlingly below our current 287 ships and moves further away from the CNO's call for 313 ships. President Branch's statements had been picked up from his *SeaPower Almanac (Jan 2010)* article. Please share this *SeaPower* **"must read"** with your friends and family.

Thanks to Dave Thomas and last year's officers, board, committee chairs,

along with past Council Presidents, we are well on our way to another exciting year with all of our signature events;

Armed Forces Weekend, Veterans Day, Guest Speaker monthly luncheons, an enthusiastically chaired Tours, Membership and Communication committees. We are also actively looking for new Public Speaking opportunities to acquaint more people with our Navy League



mission.

The proud legacy of our bringing the Lone Sailor Statue to Bremerton lives on with a new Lone Sailor Scholarship program just established by our Bremerton-Olympic Council as a major commitment to our youth.

I invite each of you to attend our council's events and program's this year to show the men and women of our Sea Services that we really do appreciate and support them.

*Submitted by Gary S Gunderson
2010 President*

Outgoing President's Message

Normally, December tends to be a bit "slow" for Navy League things. However, this year, a "significant event" occurred at the Gig Harbor Council that is keeping us a bit busier than normal. Unfortunately, the Gig Harbor Council is forced to disband at the end of December and many of their members are in the process of or have already transferred to our council.

Please join me in greeting the Gig Harbor Navy Leaguers that chose to transfer their membership to the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council. I recently had the privilege of attending their final dinner gathering, at which a very high percentage of their members attended. It is unfortunate that the council must disband, but it also provides an opportunity

to strengthen both groups as we welcome their expertise, experience, and enthusiasm for supporting the Sea

Services into our council. The Gig Harbor Council has a great relationship with the Coast Guard Search and Rescue Unit in Seattle and with the USS Henry M. Jackson that they would like to preserve. They will be working with our board to determine how best to proceed.

It has been my pleasure and honor serving as your 2009 President. I look forward to continuing to work with Gary Gunderson and the new board in the coming year. Your council remains strong, vibrant, and is doing good work for the Sea Services, due to great work by numerous volunteers. Keep up the great work!

*Submitted by Dave Thomas
2009 President*



National Navy League President Visit



We were honored to have Dan Branch, National President of the Navy League of the United States, and his wife, Kathleen Branch, visit our area in January. Dan is a retired naval officer with over 30 years of service. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy (Class of 1959).

Dan gave a "Pep Talk" to our Navy League members and guests at a luncheon on Tuesday, January 12th. He passed out a page which he called the "Two-Minute Navy League Mission Speech". He said we could use it when we are in an elevator with someone and they ask us what the Navy League is all about. You can see a copy of this two-minute speech on our website.

We had another opportunity to meet with Dan and Kathleen at a special reception, which was held at RDML James Symonds' home on January 15th. Dan expressed how impressed he was with what our council was doing. He felt that we were very successful in getting the local politicians in contact with Navy personnel.

A special "thank you" to Carol Meteney for serving as the hostess for Dan and Kathleen. Carol not only drove them around to the various functions, but they stayed at her home during their visit to our area.

Submitted by Sandra Smith

National Navy League President Honors Carol Meteney



President Dan Branch Jr, at the January monthly luncheon recognized Carol Meteney for her years of dedication and leadership at the local and area level and then told of her major contributions at the national level.

Haiti Relief Update Responding with Immediate Relief

Local staff from the Naval Hospital Bremerton leaves for Haiti. We will learn more details when Captain Mark Brouker shares with us on 9 February at our luncheon. He will also share his experiences aboard the USNS Comfort, an 894-foot ship, having one of the largest trauma facilities in the U.S., four X-rays, one CAT scan unit, an MRI unit, dental suite, pharmacy, optometry and lens lab, maintains up to 5,000 units of blood and can serve as many as 1,000 patients.

Admiral Gary Roughhead, Chief of Naval Operations expressed the following. "I cannot say enough about the way that our Navy responded in every area, in every community, on every base. How everyone leaned forward and moved more quickly than I have seen in the past, and I think that demonstrates the professionalism, the competence, the drive and just the compassion of our men and women in the Navy."

Supporting civil authorities with capabilities that can help stabilize and improve the situation in the wake of natural and man-made disasters is a core navy mission. As one local staff member said, "Anyone in Navy Medicine wants to go on a humanitarian assistance mission. It's what we train to do. We are all moved to help those in need."

We will continue to watch as the men and women of the joint forces provide the much needed skills and equipment for those in need.

Change of Mailing Address

All mail for our council should be sent to :

**Bremerton-Olympic
Peninsula Council**
Post Office Box 5719
Bremerton, WA 98312

Annual Installation Dinner and Recognition Celebration

The Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League Council had their 2010 Annual Installation Dinner and Recognition Celebration on Saturday evening, January 9th at the Harborside Convention Center, downtown Bremerton. Norma Parker was the Chairman of this year's very successful event. RDML James Symonds, Commander Navy Region Northwest, served as the Guest speaker.

Our political VIP guests included U.S. Congressman Norm Dicks, City of Bremerton Mayor Patty Lent, and Washington State Representative Jan Angel.

Our Military VIP guests included our Guest Speaker, RDML James Symonds (Commander Naval Region Northwest), RDML Frank Caldwell (Commander Submarine Group Nine), RDML Joseph Aucoin (Commander Carrier Strike Group Three), CAPT Mark Olsen (CO Naval Base Kitsap) Captain A. Gunnar Galsgaard (Commander SWFPAC), CDR Elizabeth Dalton (XO, SWFPAC) and LCDR Carolyn Engler, serving on the USS Stennis.

Navy League VIPs that attended were: Carol Meteney (Recipient of the National Navy League's Distinguished Service Award); Beth Munns (North Coastal Area President); Ron Testa

(National Director Emeritus); Dave Todd (Navy League Regional President). Wendy Miles, President of the Puget Sound Naval Bases Association (PSNBA) also attended. Don Green, WWII Pearl Harbor Survivor attended.

Navy League Officers installed were: Gary Gunderson, President; Carolyn Dankers, Vice President; Susan Larsen, Secretary; Tim Katona, Treasurer and George Rose, Judge Advocate. Board Members installed were: Karen Ebersole, Byron Faber, Chuck Grosvenor, Mike Hancock, Greg Jose, Will Lent, Mark Lowe, Louis Mejia, Carol Meteney, Norma Parker, Larry & Tina Salter, Earle & Sandra Smith, Dave & Alice Thomas and Roger Wood.

Outgoing Council President Dave Thomas gave special recognition to the following people: Carolyn Dankers, Tim Katona, Will Lent, Mark Lowe, Norma Parker, Larry & Tina Salter and Earle & Sandra Smith.

Incoming Council President Gary Gunderson expressed his excitement for continuing our excellent programs for another year. He announced that he is initiating a new program entitled "The Lone Sailor Scholarship". Gary also appointed Mr. Guy Stitt as the Council Ambassador at large for the 2010 year.

Submitted by Sandra Smith

Thank You Norma Parker

Norma Parker has been our newsletter editor for three years and has decided to put her energies and skills in the Membership Committee with Chair, Mike Hancock. She has done an amazing job as editor and it is taking at least four people to do the work that she has done.

The Communications/Education Committee now has an Editorial Board consisting of Sandra Smith, Susan Larsen, Leah Wattree and Greg Jose. All are experienced in communication. All news items will come to the chair of the Communi-

cations committee, Carolyn Dankers and then be distributed to the webmaster, Johann Schoberl, the public affairs chair, Sandra Smith and/or the editorial board.

We are still very fortunate to have Kirk Piering of Raytheon doing the graphics and printing. Without his skills and talents, we would not have the beautiful newsletter that we have come to expect. Thanks Kirk and Raytheon.

Please contact council officers or any of the editorial board with ideas or articles.

Frigid Army/Navy Flag Football Game



Sailors and Marines from Whidbey, Everett and Naval Base Kitsap along with soldiers from Fort Lewis, braved the bitter cold to play for bragging rights in the 10th annual Army vs. Navy flag football game at Silverdale Stadium.

Our Council was one of the sponsors for the free event which also was a Toys for Tots donation station.

There were an impressive number of fans in the stands considering the sub-freezing temperatures along with one goat - the Navy team's honorary mascot "Bill" whose blanket read,

"Beat Army".

Each side displayed surprising athleticism as the friendly rivalry was played out on the field. In the last two minutes of the game, both teams could've won and the crowd stayed to root for their respective team right down to the end.

The only touchdown scored was made by the Navy team's quarterback, Chief Yeoman William Lowe, from Reserve Readiness Component Command. The team's kicker, Chief Electronics Technician Arthur Espitia

from Naval Submarine Support Center, kicked two field goals, to help Navy defeat Army 10-3.

Rear Adm. James A. Symonds, Commander, Navy Region Northwest, presented the trophy to the winning Navy team.

Afterwards, the Navy team and various fans gathered at the Cloverleaf in Bremerton to watch a replay of the game and to celebrate the win with beer and pizza for all. Guy Stitt from AMI International hosted the post-game event on behalf of the council.

Great Tour of Naval Hospital Bremerton

On January 11th, ten Navy Leaguers were given a tour of Naval Hospital Bremerton by none other than the Hospital CO, Capt. Mark Brouker. The setting for this facility is impressive with an unobstructed view of Dyes Inlet. We started in the Pharmacy and then visited the Emergency Department, the Birthing Center, a family practice clinic and an in-patient unit. At each location we were given the opportunity to talk to staff members about their jobs and the workings of their departments. We also had lunch in the Hospital cafeteria and generally enjoyed a very per-

sonalized tour.

It is interesting to note that this facility is a major training and staging hospital for medical staff that are headed for assignments in Afghanistan and other hot spots around the world. Last year 18 percent of the active duty staff was so deployed. We were also reminded that the Navy supplies all medical services for the Marine Corp including corpsmen in the field. We met several of these combat veterans during our time in the Emergency Department; we were proud to be in their company.

Submitted by Doug Garner

Navy League Luncheon

The monthly luncheon for the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League will be held on Tuesday, February 9th, at 11:30 a.m. in the Bangor Plaza Naval Base Kitsap - Bangor. Captain Mark Brouker, Medical Service Corps and Commanding Officer of the Naval Hospital Bremerton, will serve as the Guest Speaker.

The public is invited to attend, but must make reservations and enter only through the Main Gate off Luoto Road. Call Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC) (360-782-5500) no later than noon on Tuesday, February 4th. The cost of the luncheon is \$15/person.

W. Earle and Sandra Smith's Biographies

Not many couples have a total of 62 years of Navy Service between them. Earle is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and Sandra is a graduate of the University of Washington and then the Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Newport, Rhode Island. Earle retired from the navy as a navy captain with 35 years total. Sandra retired as a navy captain with a total of 27 years.

Earle and Sandra met in Yokosuka, Japan when they were both working on a "war game" exercise. They married April 12, 1980. So this coming April, they will celebrate 30 years of marriage.

Earle qualified in submarines on the USS TIRU. He served on the USS TANG, was Executive Officer on the USS BARBEL and Commanding Officer of the USS REMORA. He was also the Commanding Officer of both Submarine Base Pearl Harbor

and Submarine Base Bangor.

Sandra had two active duty billets. She served as a Communications Watch Officer at Fleet Operations Control Center, Pacific in Kunia, Hawaii and then she served as the COMSUBPAC Public Affairs Officer, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. She served the remainder of her 27 years of service in the Navy Reserves participating in war games once a year.



Added note:

Earle and Sandra do so much for the community and especially for our council. They chair the Veteran's Day Program at the Kitsap Sun Pavilion each year and are very much involved in the Armed Forces Day events including the Gala to honor our military. They are always ready to help and we can not say thank you enough to them as they continue to serve our country.



Sea Cadets

Sea Cadet Officer, WO Robert C. Medal accepts very welcome \$500 check from Gig Harbor Council's Mr. Ken Weller for our growing US Naval Sea Cadets Corps, Kitsap Battalion, after an excellent Sea Cadet Color Guard at the Installation Dinner.

Submitted by Gary S Gunderson

Special Sunday Brunch, February 7

Naval Base Kitsap, Bangor's Inside Out Café will be hosting the "1st Sunday Brunch" on February 7th from 0900-1300. The brunch features an assortment of dishes, including pasta, chicken and made-to-order omelets. Brunch is \$14.75 for adults (10% senior discount), \$7.50 for kids 5-9 and is free for children 4 and under. For more information or to make reservations, call 360 535-5928 or visit navylifepnw.com.

Submitted by Greg Jose

Submarine League Luncheon

The Submarine League is holding its first quarterly luncheon at the Bangor Plaza Ballroom on Wednesday February 17th, Social Hour at 11:30 am and lunch at 12:00 noon. The MWR Buffet is a bargain at \$15.

If you'd like to learn more about our Submarine Community please plan on attending.

Capt Dave Solms, Commanding Officer of the Trident Training Facility will be the guest speaker and is offering lunch guests a special tour of the TTF after lunch.

If you need base access to attend please let Carolyn Dankers at c.dankers@wavecable.com or 360 769-7415 know right away so we can get you on the gate list and so you won't miss this terrific opportunity.

Submitted by Gary S Gunderson

Operation Holiday Spirit Gives with Special Event

This year Tina Salter, Chair of the Operation Holiday Spirit for our Council, provided leadership for our participation in a very special holiday event. The committee worked closely with Fleet and Family Services to help make the holidays a bit brighter for our Individual Augmentees and their families. Check out the photos in this newsletter to see the big smiles.

Special thanks to Leah Wattree for wrapping all of the presents that Santa and his elves gave to the 65

children attending the event. We would like to thank our many partners in this event who helped make this evening so successful.

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TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Council members and friends

The biggest thanks goes to the men and women who protect our country and their families.

IA FAMILY HOLIDAY PARTY 2009 Naval Base Kitsap FFSP



Our council partnered with Fleet and family services to help bring cheer to the families of our Individual Augmentees. The kids participated in craft time, listened to a reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas", and even had a surprise visit from Santa and his elves. As you can see in the photo, Operation Holiday Spirit was a great success!

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 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 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.

Trio seeks Navy Input in San Diego

Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Navy League Ambassador, Mr. Guy Stitt, visited San Diego, California with Ms. Wendy Miles, President of Puget Sound Naval Bases Association (PSNBA), and Mr. James Nall, Past President of PSNBA.

The trio met with RADM Bill French, Commander, Navy Region Southwest, RDML Russ Penniman, Deputy Commander of Third Fleet, and Mr. James Beebe, Executive Director for the Commander, Naval Air Forces. The group was looking

for inputs and issues affecting the Navy's ability to carry out their mission along with ideas where Navy League may do more to help. One item that became apparent is the need to get the word out about changes in the benefits to Veterans and their family members in the new GI Bill.

Other important issues were identified and brought back by the group for sharing with our local community leaders.

Submitted by Guy Stitt

Planning Ahead

Thursday, Feb 4	Luncheon registration Deadline: call CTC 360.782.5502
Tuesday, Feb 9	Monthly luncheon meeting: Captain Mark Brouker, NHB
Thursday, Feb 11	Oak Harbor Installation
TBA, Feb ??	Reception for Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus
Thursday, March 4	Luncheon Registration Deadline: call CTC 360.782.5502
Tuesday, March 9	Monthly luncheon meeting: RADM Joseph Aucoin
Monday, March 15	Rick Steves, North Kitsap Auditorium \$25 civilians, free to all active duty military in uniform
Monday, March 22	History Day, judges needed
Thursday, April 1	Luncheon Registration Deadline: call CTC 360.782.5502
Tuesday, April 13	Monthly luncheon meeting: RADM James Symonds
Saturday, May 15	Armed Forces Day Parade and Gala

Installation Dinner Spotlight



Now Hear This! is the official newsletter of the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council of the Navy League of the United States. It is published monthly and provided to all members.

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We welcome your comments and story ideas. Items for publication, changes of address, and inquiries should be sent to:

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