

2006 COUNCIL OFFICERS

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Vice President	Lou Dufresne 360.394.7540
Treasurer	Stan Mack 360.598.8834
Secretary	Paul Lucas 360.473.2328
Judge Advocate	Guy Stitt 360.373.2686

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- ★ Todd Pacific Shipyard

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- ★ The Sun
- ★ Tryck, Nyman, Hayes, Inc.
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NEW MEMBERS

Welcome Aboard

- ★ Karla Harlan
- ★ Sherry Houk
- ★ Bryan & Tracy McConaughy
- ★ Dave Thomas



President's Corner

Happy New Year everyone. Lots of "new" with your council - new Officers, new Board of Directors, and new opportunities to increase our support to the Sea Services. Thanks to everyone who came to the Installation Dinner to celebrate closing one chapter and opening a new one for our Council. There were 80 members and guests in attendance to hear Rear Admiral Bob Passmore talk about his experience in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Admiral Passmore also addressed his role and responsibilities as Commander, Task Force Navy Family.

I would like to start my first President's Corner by thanking Roger Nance and the 2005 Officers and Board of Directors for all they accomplished during the past year.

The 2006 Board looks forward to building on the successes of last year and making our own mark. Our success not only depends on the effort of the Board of Directors, but it also depends on the contribution of our members.

I highly encourage you to become involved in your Council. You do not have to be a member of the Board to contribute or commit an inordinate amount of time; you just need to help and be involved. There are many activities where we need your help.

Upon visiting our chapter's website (<http://brem-olympic.nlus.us/>), you will find a list of committees and a contact list for those who are chairing the committees, please take a look and see where you would like to contribute.

You can also count on phone calls from me soliciting your support. Small or large projects, we need help with all of them.

(continued on page 2)

2006 Board sworn in by National Vice President



2006
Annual Installation Dinner
January 21st
Mary Mac's Restaurant

The 2006 Board being sworn in at the Annual Installation Dinner Jan. 21st at Mary Mac's restaurant by National Vice President Tom Jaffa. From Left: Tom Jaffa, Larry Salter President, Roger Nance Jr Immediate Past President, Lou Dufresne Vice President, Stan Mack Treasurer, Paul Lucas Secretary, Guy Stitt Judge Advocate, Carol Meteney Past President, National Director, Richard Becker Membership Director, Earle Smith Veterans Day Chair, Director, Sandra Smith CO-Chair Veterans Day, Director, Marilyn Caldwell Director, Tina Salter Director, Carolyn Dankers Legislative Chair, Director, Alice Thomas Awards Chair, Director, Van Vlist Past President, Director.

NOW HEAR THIS!

is the official news-letter of the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council of the Navy League of the United States. It is published monthly and mailed to all members.

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Navy League of the United States 2006 Northwest Regional Conference



Schedule of Events

★ 1800	★ Friday	★ Welcome Aboard Reception and Dinner ★ Keynote: Congressman Dave Reichert
★ 0800	★ Saturday	★ Opening of Conference
★ 0800 - 1130	★ Saturday	★ Seminars
★ 1200	★ Saturday	★ Luncheon ★ Keynote: Rear Admiral Joel Whitehead, USCG
★ 1330 - 1630	★ Saturday	★ Seminars Continue
★ 1800	★ Saturday	★ Reception and Banquet ★ Keynote: John Panneton ★ President, Navy League of the United States
★ 0900	★ Sunday	★ Tour of Coast Guard Museum, High Endurance ★ Cutter and other Coast Guard Commands at ISC Seattle

For additional information and registration form visit the website
<http://www.lakewashnlus.org/>

(President's Corner - continued from page 1)

It could be something as simple as volunteering to help with the monthly luncheons or being on a committee, there is much you can do for your Council.

This year's Annual Regional Conference is being hosted by the Lake Washington Council February 24-26 in Bellevue. Ron Testa, our Regional President, and the Lake Washington Council have put together a great schedule of training and social events. On Saturday night, along with having our National President as the Guest Speaker, Carol Meteney will be receiving the Secretary of the Navy Meritorious Public Service Award. This will be a great Navy League Saturday, so if you can make it to the conference, terrific, or if you can just make it to the Saturday night dinner, that is OK also. Come meet our National President and support Carol.

I am in discussions with the Seattle Council attempting to come up with a joint event that both Councils would be interested in attending, more to follow.

I would like to close with a plea for help with recruiting new members. We have been hovering around 500 members and since 500 is the break between a medium and large council, it would be nice if we could build up a buffer. Rick Becker is taking over as Membership Chairman and I know he would very much appreciate your help. Thank you for the opportunity to be your Council President; I am looking forward to what we can accomplish as an organization. We will only be as good as everyone makes us. This is going to be a fun year and I am very much looking forward to it.

Larry

Message to the Fleet from our new Secretary of the Navy

The Honorable Donald C. Winter



Washington, D.C. (Jan. 3, 2006) --

Today, I was sworn in as your 74th Secretary of the Navy. At a time when we find ourselves at war, with Marines and Sailors in harms way in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is a challenge that I accept with a keen awareness of the solemn responsibilities of this office.

In the wake of September 11th, 2001, President Bush declared: the best defense against terrorism is a strong offensive against terrorists. The Navy-Marine Corps team is engaged in an aggressive campaign to defeat terrorist enemies not only in Iraq and Afghanistan, but globally. Protecting America against threats will remain our primary mission, a task that will require the service of warfighters who will never lose focus on the drive to victory.

The world has seen momentous changes in recent decades, and the Navy and Marine Corps must adapt to changing conditions. Throughout history, nations have been

surprised by threats that emerged without adequate warning. Democracies, in particular, are reluctant to acknowledge the existence of threats. But all of human history shows that weakness invites aggression and that strength deters war. We must remain prepared, strong, and ready to meet the challenges of the future.

In my confirmation hearings before congress this past October, I mentioned five priorities that will engage my full attention as Secretary:

- People.
- The Global War on Terror.
- Shipbuilding.
- 2005 QDR Implementation.
- BRAC Implementation.

I will have much to say about all of these items in the months ahead. Today I will only mention one: people are our most valuable asset. Since the early days of the republic, Americans have relied on a strong Navy and Marine Corps team to defend them against her enemies. Nothing can play so decisive a role as well-trained, highly motivated sailors and marines who believe in their mission.

You should feel honored that today, during this time of war, the American people turn to you to keep our country safe. You have chosen a noble profession, and you join a long and honored tradition as guardians of our liberty, and defenders of a great nation. I am honored to serve you as your Secretary.

*Released by the Honorable Donald C. Winter,
Secretary of the Navy*

USS Ohio Successfully Completes Sea Trials

Friday, Dec 23, 2005 -- World Maritime News

The USS Ohio (SSGN 726), the Navy's first modern guided missile submarine, took a significant step towards rejoining the fleet on Dec. 19, when it arrived at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility, Bremerton, Wash., with a broom atop its sail to signify a clean sweep of its initial sea trials.

The Ohio's Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Michael Cockey, expressed satisfaction with the ship's performance and noted its great potential. "It's great to be completing an arduous overhaul and conversion period and moving on to demonstrating the tremendous capability this ship brings to the fleet. The Ohio crew will be pioneers in tactics and employment of this amazing class of ships."

"SSGNs will provide us with one of the most capable and versatile strike options in the Navy," said Rear. Adm. William Hilarides, Program Executive Officer for Submarines. "We are eager to have Ohio and her sister ships rejoin the Fleet."

Ohio is the first of four fleet ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs) to be converted into SSGNs. The three other submarines undergoing the SSGN conversion process, the USS Michigan (SSGN 727), USS Florida (SSGN 728), and USS Georgia (SSGN 729), are all slated to rejoin the fleet by 2007. Prior to the

conversion process, each boat unloaded its complement of Trident Submarine Launched Ballistic Missiles. Twenty-two of the 24 missile tubes on each boat are being retrofitted to carry up to seven Tomahawk cruise missiles, for a maximum load of 154 missiles per boat.

The remaining two tubes are being converted into Special Operations Forces (SOF) lock-in/lock-out chambers. Each SSGN will be able to carry and support up to 66 SOF operators for an extended period of time. These ships will have a specialized planning area, physical fitness equipment and laser shooting ranges for use by the operators. Further, SSGNs will be able to carry two Advanced SEAL Delivery Systems, two dry deck shelters, or one of each using the lock-in/lock-out chambers as their docking sites.

"The ability to carry a large Special Operations Force, coupled with its Tomahawk strike capability and inherent stealth characteristics make SSGN a unique and powerful platform for combatant commanders to carry out a variety of missions," said Capt. David Norris, SSGN Program Manager (PMS 398). In addition to the strike

capabilities, the SSGNs will also have improved intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance equipment, enhancing their ability to carry out clandestine operations.

Due to its size and layout, SSGNs offer expanded living and training space for embarked SOF, including increased bunk capacity and improved training and physical conditioning areas that allow the SOF operators to maintain their high operating capacity. Another advantage of SSGNs' size will be its ability to carry an increased payload that will allow for the launch and recovery of unmanned undersea vehicles. As new capabilities and equipment are developed, they can be inserted relatively easily into SSGNs thanks to its open architecture computing systems and the related ability to rapidly integrate new technologies and payloads. SSGN can



Above: The guided missile submarine USS Ohio (SSGN 726) is gently pushed to the pier by a tugboat as it returns to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility in Bremerton, Wash., Dec. 19, 2005, after completing sea trials. DoD photo by Rick Chaffee, U.S. Navy. Above Right: USS Ohio prepares to stop for a personnel transfer in Puget Sound. Media were transported to Ohio to see the new capabilities that the submarine now brings to the joint warfighter. U.S. Navy photo by Chief Journalist Dave Fliesen



also offer significant opportunities to serve as a test platform to develop future weapons, sensors, and operational concepts.

"The added payload capacity of the SSGNs gives us mission flexibility and future capability options unlike anything we have ever had," said Norris. The SSGN conversion program is the first truly transformational program in the Navy. SSGN embodies a new level of adaptable warfare that is suited for today's security environment.

Editors Note: Our Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council and the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Naval Submarine League are honored to be hosting a number of social events associated with the USS Ohio's Return to Service Ceremony the week of Feb 6th.



Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council
 Navy League of the United States
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 Bremerton, WA 98337-0131

Postage for your newsletter has been provided by



Planning Calendar

- Tuesday February 14 Monthly Luncheon - Bangor Plaza
- Friday - Sunday February 24-26 Navy League of the United States Annual Northwest Region Conference Hosted by Lake Washington Council Bellevue Red Lion
 Visit Website for more info:
<http://www.lakewashnlus.org/>
- Tuesday March 14 Monthly Luncheon - Bangor Plaza

February

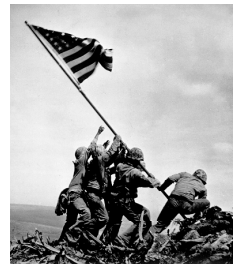
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March

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On this Date:

February 17, 1945 - Marines and a Navy corpsman raise flag on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima - photo by Joe Rosenthal



Febuary Luncheon

Date: February 14, 2006
Time: 11:30 AM
Place: Bangor Plaza, Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor
Program: CAPT Jon Kurtz Commander
 Naval Magazine Indian Island

Call Pioneer Services at 360.405.6336 by Thursday February 9th to make your reservation. You are asked to call even if you have a standing reservation.

RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY

All participants must be signed up and on the reservation list. Guests and members without a base pass must also be on the list and enter through the main gate.