



"THE HELM"

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL

Volume 2015 Issue 3

September 2015

Cadet Presentations Oct 5th:

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Dealey Division (Sea Cadets) and Training Ship Macintyre (younger League Cadets) will make formal presentations on their summer training experiences at the annual Presentation Night to be held Monday October 5th at the Stamford Government Center. All Council members and friends are invited to attend to encourage these young people and to learn more about our youth program.

Six Sea Cadets completed Recruit Training, attending 'Boot Camp' in Hawaii, Michigan, Cape May, New Jersey, and at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. Four League Cadets completed Recruit Orientation at Camp Niantic Connecticut where our Dealey Division staff CO served as the program Executive Officer.



Cadet Petty Officer Third Class Kaitlyn Kutz with USCG Cutter Eagle in NY for summer training.

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Upcoming dates of interest:

- **Cadet Presentation Night:** Oct. 5th; see page 1 story.

President's Letter:

Greetings to all as this spectacular summer season winds down:

With the end of summer, the Sea Cadets will be giving presentations on their summer training programs. Much of our Navy League Council's efforts go to supporting the Dealey Division Cadets. When you hear the Cadets recap their annual summer training, you will be amazed at what they experience, and understand why we focus on this fine youth character development program.

Please join me in thanking Mark Adams, LNC, USN (ret) for coordinating and conducting a commemoration ceremony in support of the "Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive"

effort marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. Program details are at www.spiritof45.org

Our Council was requested by Navy League HQ to join twelve other Councils around the country to lay a wreath at the Lone Sailor Statue located in our area, and commemorate the Spirit of '45. Chief Adams gathered with other veterans and supporters at the Lone Sailor statue in West Haven for the ceremony. See photos and further details on page 3. Thank you Chief Adams; well done.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our annual winter dinner. More details will be announced as we finalize the event.

All the best,

CAPT Gerry Tighe, USN (retired)
President, Western Connecticut Council



Dealey Cadets who attend Darien High School at their 9/11 ceremony.

Cadet Presentation Night (con't.):

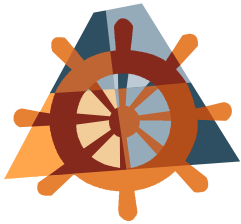
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Cadets eligible for advanced training attended programs that included: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) unmanned aerial vehicle training; STEM remotely operated underwater vehicle training; petty officer leadership academy; emergency medic training; SCUBA; Coast Guard training including transit from NYC to Newport on USCG Cutter Eagle (sailing barque); ship damage control; and serving as past-graduate cadet staff at Boot Camps.

Some highlights of our cadets performance: Noah Money named honor cadet at SCUBA training in CA; Evania Soljour named honor cadet at Coast Guard training in Cape May; Clayton O'Brien named honor graduate at damage control training; and Cleary Burke received an honor citation from STEM training in PA.

One objective of the presentation evening is to give the cadets experience in public speaking. Based on past such events, the presentations will be short, lively, and informative. There will be refreshments and Government Center parking will be free. Please consider attending to hear how OUR cadets spent their summer.

Photos nearby are from various 2015 summer training.



Other Sea Cadet news:

Staff Additions:

Dealey Division is pleased to announce a number of additions to the Staff. CAPT Alan Gerard, USNR, and Troy Jones, cadet parent and former Marine join returning staff CDR Steve Gravereaux (Seamanship), CAPT Michael Case (Instruction), Julian Booth (Supply), Tara Burns (Finance / Training), Robert O'Brien (Training), Kevin MacDonald (Admin), Maria McDonald (Supply), Jill Owens (Personnel), and our USN Recruiting Contingent from Yonkers, NY, NC1 Miguel Amadiz (Executive Officer), PO1 Raymond Matos (Instruction), PO1 Siobhan Kelley (Instruction) and PO1 Edward Ramos (Instruction). Finally we are pleased to have cameo appearances by Council President CAPT Gerry Tighe. We look forward to a stellar year!



Training support:

Navy League Council supporter Eyal Shapiro provided scholarships for three Dealey Sea Cadets, enabling them to attend 'Camp Trident', a youth SEAL training program. The cadets raved about the training, held at Pugzee Farm in Lenox MA. They reported that it was one of the best trainings they attended. Our thanks to Mr. Shapiro for his generous support!

Photos at right are from the 2014 Cadet Presentation Night at the Stamford Government Center.



Spirit of '45:

At the request of the Navy League national President, 13 Councils around the country held remembrance ceremonies at the 13 "Lone Sailor" statues in their areas. Our Western CT Council held the ceremony at the statue in West Haven on August 16th.

As the nearby church bells rang the hour, 'Anchor's Away' filled the air. It was followed by the Marine Corps and Navy Hymns. A small group gathered around the Lone Sailor Memorial in West Haven. Our Council Board member Chief Mark Adams placed a Memorial wreath at the base while Taps were played on the bugle. The ceremonial detail included two sailors and a Marine.

A brief but moving ceremony in remembrance of those who served, marking the 70th Anniversary of the end of WWII.



USS Churchill news:



Our Council-adopted ship, the Norfolk-based Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyer USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG-81) continued on overseas deployment with the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Strike Group. The deployment commenced March 9th.

The Strike Group is currently operating in the Arabian Gulf, conducting carrier combat air operations against ISIS terrorists in Syria and Iraq.

As we did on Churchill's last deployment in 2013, there is a section of our website devoted to deployment news beyond what we have space to report here, at:

<http://www.navyleaguewestct.org/deploy.html>

Since our last newsletter, Churchill welcomed aboard Command Master Chief (CMC) Sean Howe. Master Chief Howe is a native of Stoughton Massachusetts. He previously served as CMC for Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 22 based in Norfolk. We add our Council's "welcome aboard" to Master Chief Howe!

We continue to wish all those deployed in our defense, and especially the men and women of Churchill, full success in their mission and a safe return home.



Gun exercise at sea recently.



Air ops in Arabian Gulf.

NJROTC news:

Our two local Naval Junior ROTC programs, at Brien McMahon and Bethel High Schools, have started their busy academic years.

McMahon is getting a new senior naval science instructor, Sandor Schump, who was a LCDR in the

USCG. He is relieving LCOL Bob Killackey, USMC (ret) who has become District School Preparedness Coordinator for the Norwalk Public Schools. We wish them both well in their positions.

See our Council's award-winning website for special features and timely updates that occur between the quarterly editions of this newsletter at: www.navyleaguewestct.org

Help recruit new League members:

The Navy League was founded in 1902 with a clear mission: to support the members of the sea services; to educate the American people and their elected leaders about the critical importance of sea power; and to help build America's future through successful youth programs. 270 Councils around the world continue to carry out this mission. Membership is open to all interested citizens, whether they ever served in uniform or not. There is strength in numbers in accomplishing our important mission.

Please renew your membership and help recruit new members. Invite potential new members to attend Council events. Membership sign-up and renewal forms are available online at our Council website, www.navyleaguewestct.org then click "join/renew". Or ask any Council Board member for a form. Thank you.

**Our Western
Connecticut
Council has 118
active members.**

July SEAL Picnic, another sell-out:

The annual SEAL Picnic, held at Riverside Yacht Club on July 29th, was another sell-out. Attendees came to see area SEAL candidates demonstrate swimming and physical fitness tests that are part of their quest to become Navy SEALs; and to hear them describe why they want to become SEALs. This event is always special and this year the weather fully cooperated with a beautiful evening, so the meal was enjoyed outdoors. We wish the candidates success in their difficult quest.

In other local SEAL news: (a) ten candidates traveled to North Port for a four mile race that included an Air Force group competing; (b) currently there are six graduates of the local RDAC mentoring program in training at BUDS (basic underwater demolition/SEAL school) in California, which is the highest number ever in one class – all are 23 or 24 years old and each is a college graduate.



2015 Council Officers and Board:

OFFICERS

President.....Gerard Tighe
Treasurer.....open *
VP Sea Services.....Andrew Bisset
VP Membership.....Robert Kenyon III
VP Youth Programs...Stephen Gravereaux
Chaplain.....Deacon Louis Howe
Judge Advocate.....Douglas Brown
Secretary.....Peter Brown

* S. Gravereaux is acting Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Adams
Michael Case
Louis DiGiusto
Edward Fitzgerald
William Grep
Joseph Latwin
Don Logan
David Martin
Robert Perkin
Jennifer Stannard
John Weigold



Council Board member Rear Admiral John Weigold (back row, third from left), with SEAL Delivery Team One recently in Hawaii.

**Western Connecticut Council
Navy League of the United States**

c/o E. Fitzgerald
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Ridgefield, CT 06877



Our Council-adopted ship, USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81), left in photo, resupplies at sea in Arabian Gulf on August 18th. Supply ship is oiler USNS Pawtuxent (T AO 201).

