



THE HELM

Western Connecticut Council Newsletter

Volume 2013 Issue 4

October 2013

Cadet Presentation Night

Inside this issue:

Other Sea Cadet news 3

SEAL picnic 4

USS Churchill news 5

Membership 5

Board list 5

Dealey Division (Sea Cadets) and Training Ship Macintyre (younger League Cadets) gave formal presentations on their summer training experiences at the annual Cadet Presentation Night on October 14th. Family, friends, and a number of potential recruits attended.

The training was quite varied. Two of the senior cadets completed Petty Officer Leadership Academy, fulfilling a requirement for advancement to Petty Officer 2nd Class. Five cadets attended the Seamanship Academy held at Mass. Maritime Academy (MMA) with classes as diverse as charting, sound-powered telephones, marlinspike, buoys and beacons, and integrating all topics in an exercise on the

(Continued on page 2)



Cadets at Presentation Night.

President's Letter

All,

As we bid farewell to the enjoyable extended summer weather and greet the colorful fall foliage, we have much to look forward to on the Navy League calendar of events.

On Monday, November 4th at 7pm we are extremely fortunate to be hosting a Medal of Honor recipient as a guest speaker. Paul Bucha will speak to the Sea Cadets and Navy League members at the Stamford Government Center, 888 Washington Blvd, Stamford. Please review the links below for some information on this hero. I am very much looking forward to this event.

www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3239/bucha-paul-william

www.youtube.com/watch?v=PfAU-qgw0_E

On November 11th, we remember and honor our country's veterans. There will be a community walk down Greenwich Ave, starting at

the top by the Post Road, at 0930 followed by the wreath laying ceremony in front of the post office "at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month." Our Dealey Division Sea Cadets will be the Honor Guard. Please join me there.

Please save the date of December 4th and join us for our Council's annual Holiday dinner at the Riverside Yacht Club in Greenwich. Details will follow separately.

On a very sad note, Father Richard Futie passed away in August. Our Navy League Council lost our chaplain, the local Catholic Diocese lost a wonderful priest and pastor, and many lost a friend and mentor.

Sincerely,

Gerry Tighe,

Captain, USN (ret) and President, Western Connecticut Council of the Navy League.

Upcoming dates of interest:

- **Medal of Honor speaker:** Nov. 4th at 7pm. Details at right.
- **Veterans' Day:** Nov. 11th 9:30am Greenwich. Details at right.
- **Holiday dinner:** December 4th at Riverside Yacht Club. Details to follow separately.

Cadet Presentation Night (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

bridge, MMA's multi-million dollar simulator. The cadets successfully piloted a simulated ship out of New York Harbor in the exercise. This proved to be a training favorite, so many of the attendees' shipmates were convinced to enroll next summer.

With many new cadets at the unit, a good number were off to Recruit Training (aka Boot Camp). Seven League Cadets and ten Sea Cadets graduated as Seaman Apprentice at the conclusion of the training.

Two cadets spent time aboard the USCGC Line, a 65 foot C Class harbor tug based in Hoboken. They bunked aboard ship, became CPR-qualified and experienced the daily routine and chores of the USCG charged with security of the Hudson River and New York Harbor.

PO3 Jonathan Welborn attended Culinary Training in Norfolk; the unit anxiously awaits what we are sure will be a tasty meal showing off his new skills!

The event was held at the Stamford Government Center this year as the growing number of cadets and anticipated guests made the base on Magee Ave. too small. Great appreciation to Mayor Pavia and Special Assistant to the Mayor Chris Munger (USNA '63) who enabled the cadets to use the Center on Columbus Day (they were officially closed).

One important component of this event is for the cadets to practice public speaking. The presentations were interesting and all attendees enjoyed the evening.



Muster at Presentation Night.



Cold water survival training.



Holiday dinner & annual meeting:

Mark your calendars now for our Holiday Dinner, to take place on **Wednesday December 4th** at the Riverside Yacht Club.

Details will be sent to all members separately, including the identity of our special main speaker, and a reservations form.

At this, our annual member meeting, members will also be asked to vote on our roster of officers for year 2014.



Sea Cadet color guard at 2012 annual meeting.



Other Sea Cadet news:

THE NEWPORT DEALEY'S:

Dealey's color guard was invited to present the colors at the annual reunion of 'The Newport Dealey's', sailors who served aboard the Dealey class of Destroyer Escorts (DE's) based in Newport. The group meets in a different location each year and this summer brought them to New London. The cadets executed their duties with pride and received rousing applause from the crew veterans and spouses. Following dinner, the unit was presented with a framed over-sized logo of the group which now hangs in the cadet lounge. All were given a tour of the extensive and impressive memorabilia assembled and displayed at every reunion.

Both the Dealey class and our own Sea Cadet unit bear the Dealey name in honor of CDR Samuel Dealey, a legend in the submarine service and posthumous recipient of the Medal of Honor in WWII for actions in the Pacific while commanding the USS Harder (SS 257). It was both a fun and educational evening for the cadets and 'The Dealey's' were most appreciative of our presence and recognition of their service.

CADETS IN STAMFORD PLUS MAGAZINE:

An extensive and complementary cover story on the Sea Cadets was published in *Stamford Plus* magazine in September.



Threat to Sea Cadet meeting space: Here is a summary update on this important topic that was first raised in our April 2013 "Helm" edition:

Dealey Division has been at the Marine Center off Magee Avenue since the Division was formed in 1958. The city is supporting the construction of a huge commercial building on the former Yacht Haven West site and is looking for alternate land for a replacement boatyard. The developer proposed using the area that includes the Marine Center and, if that happens, our Sea Cadets would be displaced and finding a suitable replacement will be difficult at best.

Supported by Gov. Malloy, this deal came before the city's Planning Commission. Hearings began in July and ended in October with the developer's withdrawal of their proposed approach for a likely rewrite to address objections raised. Dealey Staff requested City leaders to advise what plans would be made for the cadet program should the building be razed, and a suitable plan was not forthcoming. The Staff, along with a number of cadets, cadet alums and parents, attended the first three meetings in uniform and spoke at the second and third. Letters from former cadets now serving with SEALs, USMC and Army were read and provided to the Commission. The unit stood tall to be sure that the City knew who used the building and were made aware of the contributions made to Stamford and Fairfield County over the past 55 years.

The City agreed to house the cadet program when the Navy turned the building over. Our goal is to be sure they honor that commitment and that a suitable location is found should the development go ahead and the building be razed.

We have added a new section to our website to provide detailed news on this key issue. Included are copies of documents given to the Planning Commission. You can visit this new section at: www.navyleaguewestct.org/center

As the situation develops, we may well seek assistance from our Council members to advocate with local elected officials for our primary mission of sponsoring the Sea Cadet youth program.



Color guard at dedication of US Navy Seal Brian R. Bill Memorial Highway



Cadets with DE memorabilia.



Sea Cadets at Magee Avenue Marine Center.

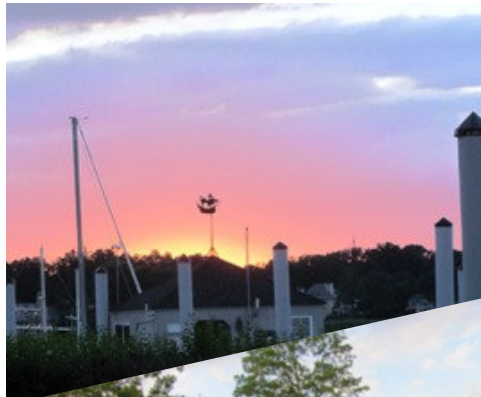
SEAL Picnic in July success again:

Another sell-out crowd joined us at the Riverside Yacht Club on July 24th for our annual Picnic to see area SEAL candidates demonstrate swimming and physical fitness tests that are parts of their quest to become Navy SEALs; and to hear them describe why they want to become SEALs.

Special guest speaker at the dinner was again CAPT Pete Wikul, retired SEAL and Bulldog 13. "Bulldog" refers to the oldest SEAL on active duty, and CAPT Wikul was the 13th SEAL to hold that title before retiring.

This event is jointly sponsored by the local SEAL Recruiting District Assistance Council (RDAC), and is coordinated by our Council board member, retired SEAL Captain Drew Bisset.

Our thanks for another inspiring event, that served to further demonstrate our Council's commitment to the Navy's vital SEAL effort.



NL membership:

Help recruit new Navy 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 throughout 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 132 active members.

USS Churchill news:



Our Council-adopted ship, the guided missile destroyer USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81), continues in its post deployment cycle after returning to Norfolk homeport following an extended nine month overseas deployment.

The ship is currently involved with local operations and training, including upkeep time spent at the BAE Systems shipyard at Portsmouth, VA.

Four individuals assigned to Churchill were promoted to Chief Petty Officer over the summer. Bravo Zulu to them!

In photo at right, Churchill Commanding Officer, CDR Chris Stone, is congratulating Kenisha Sharp on her selection as BAE shipyard worker of the week on Oct. 16th.



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

2013 Council Officers and Board:

OFFICERS

President.....Gerard Tighe
 Treasurer.....David Martin
 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

BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Adams
 Louis DiGiusto
 Peter Dixon
 Edward Fitzgerald
 William Grep
 Chris Hughes
 Joseph Latwin
 Don Logan
 Robert Perkin
 Jennifer Stannard
 John Weigold



Sea Cadet chart training.

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

c/o E. Fitzgerald
111 Nursery Road
Ridgefield, CT 06877



Our Council-adopted ship, USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81), flying ceremonial flags on Independence Day 2013; berthed next is hospital ship USNS Comfort.