



THE HELM

Western Connecticut Council Newsletter

Volume 2014 Issue 2

June 2014

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Finneran Scholarships Awarded

Parents, veterans, Council members, friends, and undergraduate Dealeay Division Cadets and their officers gathered on June 9th to wish "fair winds and following seas" to two graduating Sea Cadet high school seniors, and to participate in the annual change of the watch ceremony.

Captain John B. Finneran Memorial Scholarships, totaling \$10,000 were awarded. These scholarships were started by the late John (Bucky) Finneran when he was Council president. The scholarships are made possible by the generosity of the Trimble Family Founda-

(Continued on page 2)



Mr. Dan Ashley of the Trimble Foundation with Dealeay CO Jennifer Stannard

Upcoming dates of interest:

- **Annual SEAL Picnic:** July 23rd at Riverside Yacht Club. See story on page 2; separate mailing will go to all members.
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President's Letter

Greetings to all—and welcome to summer time. I am in a much better mood now that the long winter has passed.

Two highlights during the spring are note worthy. First, in May our Western Connecticut Council hosted another special speaker presentation featuring Rear Admiral John Weigold. This well attended event first heard stories from our Dealeay Division Sea Cadets who had spend time on board the USS Oak Hill on her trip from Norfolk to New York for Fleet Week. The enthusiasm of the cadets as they described their experiences was a pleasure to hear, and almost made me wish I was a ship driver instead of an aviator. On Navy Reserve duty, RADM Weigold is currently the Deputy Operations Officer for the Pacific Command. He spoke about the current affairs in the Pacific theater and fielded questions regarding our national policy and security. Our Council is fortunate to have RADM Weigold living in the local area.

The second highlight was the Sea Cadet graduation ceremony and relieving of the watch ceremony. It is a true pleasure to witness scholarships awarded to our Sea Cadets, and listen as the graduating cadets are honored. During the event the Dealeay Division Executive Officer, LT Joe Latwin, USNSCC, retired after 17+ years of service that began when his son was 10 years old. Thank you Joe for all of your time and effort given to the sea cadets of the Dealeay Division.

I hope you see everyone at the summer picnic hosted by the Navy League and the Navy SEAL RDAC at Riverside Yacht Club on July 23rd. This event is always an enjoyable evening—and it sells out, so get your tickets early.

Warm regards,

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

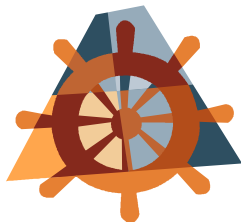
Finneran Scholarships (con't):

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tion, and we thank them. Scholarships were awarded to the two graduating seniors and to six previous graduates who are currently in college.

The graduates "piped over the side" were SN Pavel Bure and SA Anamaria Ceci. Both spent a short time in the unit, attending Recruit Training last summer. Pavel will attend SUNY Maritime Academy this fall. Anamaria is deciding between Norwich University and Franklin Pierce. Those attending shared a cake and refreshments in their honor.

The event was a success and we wish the graduates well.



NJROTC update:

The Council was pleased to again present annual Navy League Theodore Roosevelt youth leadership awards to one selected high achieving cadet at each of our two local Navy Junior ROTC programs. Council board members Retired Chief Mark Adams and Ed Fitzgerald presented the plaques and attendant medals during awards nights at Brien McMahon and Bethel High Schools respectively.

Cadets Johanna Arias of McMahon and Kenny Thach of Bethel were the recipients.



Cadet Kenny Thach receiving award at Bethel High School.

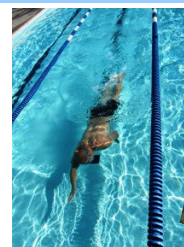
Annual SEAL Picnic July 23rd:

Join us at the Riverside Yacht Club at 5:30 pm on July 23rd for our annual Picnic 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 habitually sells out, so members wishing to attend should get their reservation form in quickly. The form and picnic details will be sent separately to members soon; a copy will be available by visiting our website homepage at:

www.NavyLeagueWestCt.org

Nearby photos are from the 2012 picnic.



Other Sea Cadet news:

Memorial Day Observances

Dealey Division and Training Ship Macintyre trooped the colors in Memorial Day Parades in Stamford and New Canaan and provided a firing detail for New Canaan. The cadets also teamed with the Springdale VFW, as they have for the last 17 years, to place flags at the graves of veterans in Stamford. Memorial Day weekend is a 'working event' for the unit as it takes our debt to those who have gone before very seriously.

New England Swim Meet

Dealey's Sea Cadets once again captured first place in the Haskell Memorial Swim Meet held at Mass. Maritime Academy on Cape Cod. Anamaria Ceci, Giancarlo Ceci, Michael Parra and Eric Cardona cut through the water like dolphins and brought home the trophy! League cadets Marcoantonio Ceci, Clayton O'Brien, Erik Garrido and Evania Soljour took second place in the League cadet Division. BZ to the swimmers!

Dealey Executive Officer Retires

LT Joseph Latwin, USNSCC, retired at the annual Relieving of the Watch in June. Joe joined the Division over 15 years ago when his son Stewart joined as a 10 year old. Stewart, now LT Latwin, Annapolis Grad and USN Aviator was Joe's first of many successes while at the unit. Holding the positions of Instructor, Training Officer, Career Counselor and Executive Officer, Joe has served the program well. Spending at least a week each summer staffing League Cadet Recruit training where he impacted the lives of hundreds of young cadets. As a Blue & Gold Officer, in addition to his Career Counseling at the unit, Joe has assisted a number of young people in their quest for enrollment at Annapolis. Joe is retiring but still will be seen teaching at the unit from time to time- Fair Winds and Following Seas!



Swim Team with trophy.



Retiring USNSCC LT Joe Latwin receiving the congratulations of Council President Gerry Tighe at the annual Sea Cadet change of command and graduation ceremony. Dealey CO, LCDR Jennifer Stannard is in background.

Instructors Needed!

Our unit has grown over the past year and we need Instructors! Do you have a military background and enjoy sharing your knowledge with young people interested in Naval customs and courtesies, history and seamanship skills? We have the program for you! The Sea Cadets (age 14 – 17) follow Navy enlisted curriculum. We have course outlines for the instructors and the cadets take USN correspondence courses independently. Navy League cadets (age 11 – 13) have a simplified curriculum of Naval history, ranks and rates, seamanship. Optimally, we would like to have three Instructors for the League Cadets next Fall.

While military experience for these positions is not a requirement, it definitely helps. If you know of someone, especially with recent time in the Navy or Coast Guard, please contact LCDR Stannard at jenniferstannard@live.com

This is your opportunity to share the pride and traditions of the United States Navy with the leaders of tomorrow. Classes are taught the first two Monday's of each month beginning in November. We are currently looking for Instructors in the Seamanship and Basic Military Requirements classes for the Sea Cadets. More information is available on the Dealey website: www.dealeydivision.org

Possible threat to Sea Cadet meeting space: This topic has been covered in recent past editions of the Helm newsletter. There is no news to report now, as the developer has not yet come forth with a new proposal which may or may not include the Magee Avenue Marine Center site.

Our Council website has a section to provide a news summary on this issue, at: www.navyleaguewestct.org/center.html

RADM Weigold Council speaker:

Rear Admiral John F. Weigold IV spoke at a Council meeting on May 28th at the Marine Center.

RADM Weigold, past Council President and current board member, is a partner at executive search firm Heidrick & Struggles in New York. He also continues his Naval service as a reservist as the Deputy Director, Operations at U.S. Pacific Command, which oversees all US military operations in the Indo-Pacific region. Previously he was deputy commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet. He brought a deep understanding of the ongoing issues in the Pacific, many of which have been in the news lately. He also took questions in an open discussion format. The Council thanks John for taking the time for this highly informative event.

For those who missed the event, RADM Weigold was recently interviewed by Fox News on the same subject. A replay of this 8 minute interview is available online at:

<http://video.foxnews.com/v/3583974079001/did-the-us-pivot-to-asia-actually-happen/#sp=show-clips>



RADM John Weigold at May 28th meeting.

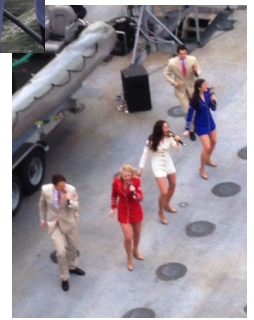
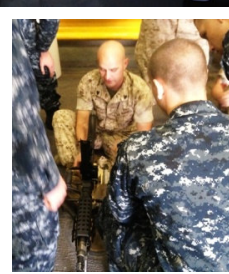
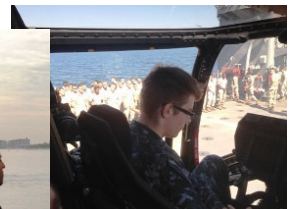
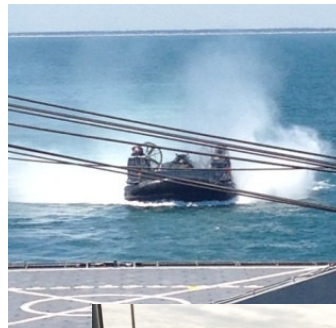
Cadets to sea for Fleet Week:

Four Dealey Division Sea Cadets along with two Council board escorts drove to Norfolk on May 18th to report onboard USS Oak Hill (LSD 51). The 609 foot Landing Ship Dock is home to some 400 sailors and roughly an equal number of embarked Marines. The ship got underway the next morning for the transit to NYC Fleet Week arriving May 21st.

While onboard, the Cadets had hands-on briefings in operations, engineering, V-22 Osprey aircraft, LCAC hover craft, and Marine weapons and equipment. They stood part of a "mid-watch" (after midnight) in the Combat Information Center (CIC) and on the bridge. Last night at sea was an unexpected USO show, presented on the ship's well deck.

The Cadets in their white uniforms had the honor of joining the ship's crew and Marines "manning the rails" coming up the Hudson, where a special salute was given while abreast the Ground Zero site.

The Cadets represented Dealey well, showing interest, enthusiasm, and discipline; a memorable trip and our Council thanks go to the men and women of the Oak Hill.



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 122
active members.**

USS Churchill news:

Our Council-adopted ship, the guided missile destroyer USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG-81), continued her between-deployment readiness and training cycle in the Norfolk area. Recent events include:

- Mr. Rupert Soames, grandson of Winston Churchill, toured the ship in early June.
- our congratulations to CTTCS Mendoza, GSCS Morales and MMCS Richard on their selection to Senior Chief Petty Officer. The pinning ceremonies were held at the USS COLE memorial.
- Nearby photos show recent main space fire drill and the ship's CO, CDR Christie O'Connell, briefing visiting midshipmen on the mess decks.



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

2014 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

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Michael Case
Louis DiGiusto
Peter Dixon
Edward Fitzgerald
William Grempe
Joseph Latwin
Don Logan
Robert Perkin
Jennifer Stannard
John Weigold



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Navy League of the United States**

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USS Oak Hill (LSD 51) in NYC for Fleet Week; sailors, marines, and some of our Dealey Division sea cadets manning the rails; see story page 4.

