



# "THE HELM"

## Newsletter of the Connecticut Council

Volume 2022 Issue 2

June 2022

Editor's note: this abbreviated *Helm* edition is being published to quickly deliver the news on our upcoming annual dinner—see story at right.

### Annual Dinner July 26th:

Our Navy League Connecticut Council annual meeting and dinner will take place on Tuesday July 26th at the Stamford Yacht Club (off I-95 exit 8). We are very pleased that our **principal speaker will be Vice Admiral Sean Buck, USN, currently the Superintendent of the US Naval Academy.**

A dinner flyer, including menu, cost, and how to make reservations, is included as the last page of this newsletter.

VADM Buck, a native of Indianapolis, is a 1983 graduate of the Naval Academy. His early assignments included piloting P-3 Orion patrol aircraft and serving as catapult and arresting gear division officer in USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71). He commanded VP Squadron 26 and Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 11.

He also served in strategy and policy positions in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) and on the Joint Staff. His most recent operational assignment before becoming Superintendent of the Academy in July 2019 was as commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/ U.S. 4th Fleet.

Among numerous other completed post-graduate studies, he holds a masters degree in International Security Policy from George Washington University.

**Given the breadth and depth of his experience, we anticipate Admiral Buck will make a highly informative and topical presentation with a question and answer period. We encourage members to invite family and friends who have interest in the Academy in particular or in the Naval Service in general.**



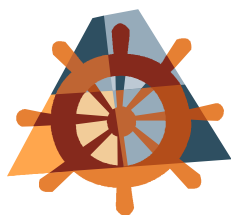
VADM Sean Buck, USN, Superintendent US Naval Academy.



VADM Buck at USNA.



With his prized classic Mustang.



## Short bursts:

In keeping with a major part of the Navy League mission, to help build America's future through successful youth programs, our Council directly supports the **four Sea Cadet units** in the state: Barque Eagle Division (Plainville); Dealey Division (Stamford); Edson Division (New Haven); and Nautilus Division (Groton). Each unit is overseen by volunteer adult staff following national guidelines.

There are also **Naval Junior ROTC units** in four CT public high schools (Bethel, Brien McMahon in Norwalk, Bridgeport Military Academy, and New London) that we are pleased to support.

In addition, of particular note is the Stamford-based **Seal Candidate mentoring program**, run by Council Board member retired Captain Drew Blisset. This program has a remarkable record for successful completion by its candidates of the arduous Seal qualification process.

Finally, our Council has "adopted" two active duty Navy ships, under a nationwide Navy League program: **USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG-81)** and **USS Connecticut (SSN-22)**.

Below are photos from a few recent events related to some of these activities.



Bethel graduating senior Noah Burns-Demelo (left) with \$300,000 check representing his 4 year Navy ROTC scholarship to RPI. His sister, Ella, a junior, won the NL leadership award, presented by our Council.



Bethel's 196 NJROTC cadets at award ceremony and change of command on June 7th.



Capt. A. Gerard, USN (ret), CO of Dealey Division, flanked by 2 graduating seniors at ceremony June 6th. Finneran and Macintyre scholarships were also awarded.



Dealey Division graduate P02 Matthew Greco (center) being "piped over the side". He also held a leadership slot at Brien McMahon NJROTC unit.



The crew of our adopted destroyer spelling out her hull number in a drydock in FL where she is getting a well-earned overhaul.



## Council website:

See our Council's award-winning website for special features and updates that occur between the editions of this newsletter at:  
[www.navyleaguewestct.org](http://www.navyleaguewestct.org)



Website  
partial  
screen  
shot.



## 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 on the critical importance of sea power; and to help build America's future through successful youth programs. Over 200 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.

Please renew your membership and help recruit new members. Renewal is online at our Council website, [www.navyleaguewestct.org](http://www.navyleaguewestct.org) then click "join/renew" at the top. Thank you.

**Our Connecticut  
Council has 223  
members.**

**There is an optional \$25 reduced annual NL dues rate, that substitutes online SeaPower magazine in place of the mailed paper copy. All other benefits are the same.**

## 2022 Council Board

### OFFICERS

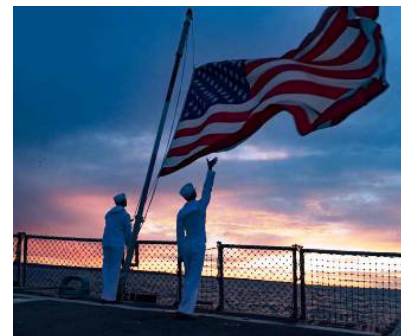
President..... Joseph Latwin  
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 VP Sea Services.....Andrew Bisset  
 VP Membership.....R. (Pete) Kenyon III  
 VP Youth Programs...Stephen Gravereaux  
 Secretary.....Tara Louise Edwards  
 Communications.....Edward Fitzgerald  
Emeritus member: David Ellis

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 Gerard Tighe      John Weigold  
 Tess Oxenstierna

### SEA CADET CO BOARD MEMBERS

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 Colin Bernard, CO Edson Division New Haven  
 Keith Cross, CO Nautilus Div. Groton  
 Stephen Smith, CO Barque Eagle Div. Plainville





**NAVY LEAGUE**  
of the United States  
"Citizens in Support of the Sea Services"

The Connecticut Council invites you to join us for our

## **Annual Meeting and Dinner**

**Tuesday July 26th; 6 pm open cash bar, 7 pm dinner**

Stamford Yacht Club, 97 Ocean Drive West, Stamford

**Principal Speaker: Vice Admiral Sean Buck, USN,  
Superintendent US Naval Academy**



VADM Buck, a native of Indianapolis, is a 1983 graduate of the Naval Academy. His early assignments included piloting P-3 Orion patrol aircraft and serving as catapult and arresting gear division officer in USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71). He commanded VP-26 and Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 11.

He served in strategy and policy positions at OPNAV office of the Chief of Navap Operations) and the Joint Staff; and as commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet. He has been Superintendent of the US Naval Academy since July 2019. Among other completed post-graduate studies, he holds a masters degree in International Security Policy from George Washington University.

**We expect Admiral Buck to make a highly informative and topical presentation with a question and answer period.**

**Menu: Member / Non-Member Dinner will be Salad, Lemon Caper Chicken Entree, and Dessert.**

**Sea Cadet / SEAL Candidate Dinner will be Chicken Parmigiana over pasta.**

**Cost: \$65 for Navy League members; \$80 for non-members\*; \$35 for Sea Cadets and SEAL Candidates. Only one person of a couple needs to be a member to get member rate.**

**\*non-members may easily join for as little as \$25 per year at: [www.navyleaguewestct.org](http://www.navyleaguewestct.org)**

**To make your reservation and pay online go to: [www.navyleaguewestct.org/dinner.html](http://www.navyleaguewestct.org/dinner.html)**

**You may pay with a credit card or PayPal on this secure site.**

**Deadline for making reservations and payments is July 15, 2022.**

**We ask that, in addition to your own dinner(s), you consider hosting one or more Cadets and/or SEAL Candidates at \$35 each. This can also be done online. *Please consider hosting even if you cannot attend yourself.***

**If you have any questions, please send an email to: [contact@navyleaguewestct.org](mailto:contact@navyleaguewestct.org)**