

Navy League of the US Yuma, AZ



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY'S MARINES, SAILORS, COASTGUARDSMEN,
US MERCHANT MARINERS & THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1963



THE ROPE YARN GAZETTE

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

APRIL 2018

Scheduled Meetings:
The Patio Restaurant, Yuma CC

APR 19: GENERAL MTG 6 pm
MC JROTC

MAY 17: GENERAL MTG 6 pm
NL Scholar Awards

JUN 21: GENERAL MTG 6pm

Upcoming Events:

AUG 24-26: ANNUAL SAN DIEGO
ADVENTURE

- FRI: Tour Navy (1300-1500)
+ fine dining downtown
- SAT: Del Mar Races,
w/shaded table seating
- SUN: Brigantine Brunch



USS ARIZONA SHOWS HER PRIDE AT MCAS YUMA AIR SHOW



See PG 5



MARCH: Yuma Military Appreciation Day (YMAD) Returns to Main Street Yuma. Returning to it's roots, YMAD 2018 transitioned back to main street in great fashion. Crowds braved the rare rain drops and came out to celebrate our active duty and veteran community. Opening ceremonies featured Commanding Officers from YPG and MCAS, our city's mayor, NL Council representatives and those from our host organization - the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce' Military Affairs Committee (MAC). For more YMAD pictures, go to: www.facebook.com/groups/yumamac.



JAN: NL 'Cruising Yuma' Car Show a Great Success! This years Spring fund raising season started off with yet another fun car show. Wonderful turn out with over 110 cars, lots of public attention, great music, and positive comments all around. Can't wait for 2019!



APRIL 2018

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Questions / Comments?

Letters to the Editor?

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CHALLENGES!



IT IS A FACT THAT OUR SMALL COUNCIL HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. THAT WE PULLED TOGETHER AND MET ALL THREE NAVY LEAGUE OF THE U.S.' MISSIONS IS TRULY A TESTAMENT TO YUMA GRIT, COMMITMENT, AND DETERMINATION. TOGETHER, WE:

1. **SUPPORT SEA SERVICE ACTIVE DUTY, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.**
2. **ARE VOCAL AND ACTIVE COMMUNITY ADVOCATES OF THE VALUE TO OUR NATION FOR A STRONG TEAM OF SEA SERVICES.**
3. **SUPPORT YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS: YOUNG MARINES, MCJROTC, NAVAL SEA CADETS, NAVY LEAGUE CADETS**

BUT WE CANNOT SIT IDLE!

MEMBERSHIP IS CRUCIAL IT IS CRITICAL THAT WE WORK AS A TEAM, TO ADD TO OUR COUNCIL NEW BLOOD, NEW IDEAS, AND NEW VOLUNTEERS. TO THAT END, OUR PRESIDENT HAS ASKED CHUCK LeDREW TO COORDINATE OUR COUNCIL'S RECRUITING EFFORTS. HENCE OUR FIRST CHALLENGE...

***EACH MEMBER IS CHALLENGED TO RECRUIT
ONE (1) NEW MEMBER THIS YEAR.***

SPONSORS ARE CRUCIAL OUR ACTIVITIES TAKE CASH. YES, WE HAVE A TIDY SUM IN THE BANK, BUT IT CAN EASILY DISAPPEAR IF WE DO NOT WORK TOGETHER AND RAISE FUNDS EACH AND EVERY YEAR. A KEY ELEMENT FOR 2018 (NEEDING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION) IS THE RE-ENERGIZING OF COUNCIL SPONSORS. COUNCIL PRESIDENT SHAWN McKeowan HAS VOLUNTEERED TO LEAD THIS EFFORT. SO, OUR NEXT CHALLENGE...

***MATCH or EXCEED 2016's SPONSOR LIST
AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS.***

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IS CRUCIAL ACTUALLY, WE HAVE A PRETTY GOOD TURN OUT WHEN DUTY CALLS - AT COUNCIL INFO TABLES OR FUND RAISING EVENTS. HOWEVER, PROMOTION OF OUR SEA SERVICES NEEDS SOME ATTENTION. LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGNS IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL BASE & NAVY LEAGUE NATIONAL OBJECTIVES WILL BE FORTHCOMING. MEMBERS WILL HAVE MORE OPPORTUNITIES AND TOOLS TO PROMOTE OUR COUNCIL & OUR SEA SERVICES IN YUMA! SO, WE ARE ALL CHALLENGED TO.... **BE VOCAL ADVOCATES!**



FEB: What a great speaker for the general meeting this past February. The current Director, Installation & Logistics (I&L), MCAS Yuma - CDR Solina, CEC, USN provided attending members a wonderful update as to past and current facilities construction on base, plus some interesting career highlights from her engineering and SeaBee deployments. Thank you for your service, CDR Solina!



ADMIRAL BOB SLONCEN, USCG ret and Mrs. Sloncen (centered above) Visit Yuma Council.

Yuma Navy League Council members, Mrs. & Adm. Sloncen took time away from their busy schedule to join Yuma council members this March and provide us an excellent briefing on the American Veterans Heritage Project. The mission of Veterans Heritage Project™ (VHP) is to Connect Students with Veterans™ in order to honor veterans, preserve America's heritage, and develop future leaders. The unique educational experience and the veterans' stories become a vehicle for student learning that motivates students to stay in school while preparing them for college and careers, and helping veterans heal.

...and now, the *VHP* has come to Yuma!

Kofa High School has become our community's VHP headquarters. Kofa's Tammy Foley (English Dept) is our city's coordinator. Members are encouraged to identify local veterans who would be willing to participate. You can alert our council's Shawn or Dean with their contact info -- or contact Mrs. Foley directly via email: at tfoley@yumaunion.org



Yuma Military Appreciation Day (YMAD) was the creation of two Navy League members several years ago. Now an annual fixture downtown with support from the County Chamber of Commerce, we can expect this heritage event to grow each year. Our council's information booth, as well as that of our Sea Cadets, were well received, with a good many "sea stories" provided by former marines and sailors attending the event. If you made it downtown, you were greeted by Marine Corps martial arts and EOD robot demonstrations, various musical acts and a very large US Army display from YPG.

Veterans and active duty alike were treated to a free pancake breakfast as well as a BBQ lunch thanks to our Yuma Mission and Yuma 50 sponsors. It was a treat to see our Navy League cadets volunteering at the Breakfast. BZ, cadets!

Photos:

www.facebook.com/groups/yumamac.



SPRING FUND RAISING CONTINUES

With our student scholarship awards scheduled for May, council members took the initiative and held a SHOT GUN Raffle. Thanks to Spragues Sports, a Benelli Shot Gun (or \$1,000) gift card for merchandise was set up for ticket sales. Many Council members came to the table and purchased enough tickets to pretty much pay for the prize—allowing us to make a tidy profit in support of our scholarship awards.

Ticket sales will continue throughout April with the public winning ticket pull 1 MAY. The winning ticket will be displayed on our website 30 days - w/contact info for the lucky winner to get their Spragues gift card.

Thanks to those hardy souls who helped man the sales table: Valerie, Liz, Chuck, Bill, Doc, and Kelly.

Bravo Zulu to all!





***2018 YUMA AIR SHOW, US MARINE
CORPS AIR STATION - YUMA***

MARCH:

Just as we were packing up from YMAD, the Marines put on a spectacular air show! Our NL council was up to the challenge of course; hosting the USS Arizona replica and US Naval Sea Cadets under a shaded canopy while various aircraft roared overhead and on-site entertainers wowed the crowd. The capstone of this event was a precision flight demonstration by the nations sole private air demo squadron, the Patriot Air Team. Flying astounding maneuvers, it wasn't a surprise to discover several of the team were former Blue Angles or USAF Thunderbird pilots! It was wonderful to receive the very positive public comments from both young and old regarding ARIZONA being displayed at the show. It's just another way we ensure our sea services history is available and valued - presented for everyone to enjoy.





YUMA NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS (NSCC)

This spring was a busy time for both our Naval Sea Cadets and Yuma Marine Cadets. Our Yuma Sea Eagles attended their first regional Flagship skills competition Up at Phoenix—and, wow, did they excel! Our Sea Cadets placed first in the region and our Navy League cadets placed a close second in their age group as well!

Back home, the public was treated to a National Flag Retirement Ceremony at Yuma's Armed Forces Park. Both Navy League cadets and Naval Sea cadets assisted in properly retiring flags at the official burn pit while rendering honors. Good job, cadets.

This spring finished off with our unit's first ever sea cadet Chief Petty Officer (CPO) advancements. The Sea Eagles now have four (yes four) CPOs! ... and we should see two more chiefs by September. Advancement in the naval sea cadet corps is earned. We all can be proud of these exceptional young men. Each new CPO was gifted with a personalized American's Creed Plaque from our Council. As Lead Sponsor, we can be justifiably proud of all our cadets. Oooo Rah!

Above Left: New NSCC
Chiefs: CPOs Blake, Phillip,
Hudson, and Breadwell.

Left: Founder and Council
VP, 'doc'Hager presents new
CPOs their Council Plaques.

BRAVO ZULU!



YUMA MARINE CORPS JROTC

Our Council, as a sponsor, is pleased to observe the progress of Kofa's Marine Corps JROTC program and it's cadets. From rifle team, military drill and physical fitness competitions, they excel year in and year out. While we recently bid farewell to instructor Major Brian Bell, we are fortunate to have an able replacement on site and making a difference. We will shortly be making his acquaintance, so stand by shipmates! For those of you not familiar with the MC JROTC, here is a quick synopsis:

Mission of Marine Corps JROTC

1. Develop informed and responsible citizens.
2. Develop leadership skills.
3. Strengthen character
4. Promote an understanding of the basic elements and requirements for national security.
5. Help form habits of self-discipline.
6. Develop respect for, and an understanding of, the need for constituted authority in a democratic society.



Yuma Navy League's "Cruisin' Yuma" Car Show opening ceremonies..

....as lead sponsor of the Sea Eagle Squadron,
we couldn't be more proud. Bravo Zulu, cadets!

On behalf of Council
President, Chuck
LeDrew:

Thanks to all Navy
League members who,
once again, made this
a safe, family friendly
show; popular with
our community and
show car folks alike!



JAN: The Council's **annual car show** was anticipated by several of the local clubs and was well attended. Our host, Fortuna de Oro RV resort provided a wonderful sunny day, great music acts, and enough safe public parking to accommodate the crowd. Participate auto owners were very complimentary of our info booth, awards raffle and the opening ceremonies. And again, the invitation has already been extended for us to return next year for yet another great Navy Day w/friends, raffles, and of course all those neat cars!

For 2019, we are please to announce, the "Crusin' Yuma" car show will be co-sponsored by our Navy League Council and the Foothills Cruisers Car Club. It is hoped that by partnering with the Foothills CC, we can expand our raffle ticket sales reach through the clubs volunteer sales base; plus maybe get a few new ideas to keep our show fresh and public friendly.

So stay tuned, Navy Leaguers, - the show will go on better than ever before. *Oooo Rah!*



FYI - SOUTHWEST PILOT OF FLIGHT 1380 IS NAVY VETERAN



About 20 minutes after takeoff on Tuesday, April 17th 2018, Capt. Tammie Jo Shults was steering a Southwest Airlines plane toward cruising altitude, generally considered the safest part of a flight. But then the left engine exploded!

The blast hurled debris into the side of the plane. A passenger window shattered. The cabin then depressurized. Passengers panicked and flight attendants sprang into action.

In the cockpit, Captain Shults remained calm as she steadied the aircraft, Flight 1380. "Southwest 1380 has an engine fire," Captain Shults radioed to air traffic controllers, not a hint of alarm in her voice. "Descending." In an instant, Captain Shults found herself in a situation most pilots face only during training: having to land a plane after an engine goes out.

For the next 40 minutes, she displayed what one passenger later called "nerves of steel," maneuvering the plane, which had been on its way from La Guardia Airport in New York to Dallas Love Field, toward Philadelphia for an emergency landing.

At 11:20 a.m., Captain Shults steered the plane, a two-engine Boeing 737, to a smooth landing. The engine appeared to have been torn apart. "This is a true American hero," Diana McBride Self, a passenger, wrote in a Facebook post. "A huge thank you for her knowledge, guidance and bravery in a traumatic situation. God bless her and all the crew."

She was a former US Navy Aviator!

Tammy Shults graduated from MidAmerica in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in biology and agribusiness and then set off to join the military, the university said on Wednesday. The Air Force would not accept her, she told the publication, but the Navy would. She enrolled in Navy flight school in Pensacola, Fla., in 1985 — the start of a decade of groundbreaking service to tactical aircraft," the Navy said in a statement on Wednesday.

She left active service on March 31, 1993 — two days before the Navy asked the Clinton administration to open combat assignments to women. She then spent about a year in reserves before leaving the military in 1994, reaching the rank of lieutenant commander.

Captain Shults later became a pilot with Southwest Airlines, as did her husband.



Captain Shults in 1992 with an F/A-18 Hornet, the twin-engine supersonic fighter jet and bomber she flew. She was one of the first women to fly Navy tactical aircraft. Credit Thomas P. Milne/
U.S. Navy, via Associated Press



April 2018: The Yuma Armed Forces Memorial Park has been selected by the 100 Cities/100 Memorials program to receive official national designation as a World War I Centennial Memorial. The City of Yuma and the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee will receive a \$2,000 matching grant for the restoration, maintenance and conservation of the Yuma Armed Forces Memorial Park, 291 S. Gila St. The Park honors military veterans living and deceased, including all military branches of service.

The one-acre park is located on the site of a former railroad and includes more than 2,600 granite plaques honoring living and deceased military veterans from all military branches. About 260 of these granite plaques honor World War I veterans.

The Yuma Armed Forces Memorial Park Protection and Restoration Project plans to utilize the grant funding for needed security enhancements to help protect the Armed Forces Park from vandalism and misuse. Additionally, the funding will help restore and maintain the memorial park sign. Our Armed Forces Park will receive a bronze medallion officially designating it as a WWI Centennial Remembrance Memorial during a national press conference on Nov. 11, 2018, the date of the national commemoration of the WWI armistice. A local event is being planned to honor this designation and award ~ stay tuned!

This space for future sponsor info

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**American liberty is built on a
strong national sea service.**

"Speak softly and carry a big stick;
you will go far"
US Pres. T. Roosevelt

We're on the web!
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ADDRESS HERE

NLUS NATIONAL: The Sea Services Need You

The Navy League is the voice of the sea services on Capitol Hill. Our sea services depend on Navy League members to tell their story to our Congressional leaders. We believe that providing for the common defense is - and must always be - the first and most important responsibility of the federal government. As a maritime nation, the United States must have the strongest, most capable sea services and a dedicated maritime strategy to ensure conflicts are kept far from our shores and that the sea lanes are open and free for commerce.

Congress needs to understand the negative effects of budget caps and sequestration to the sea services. It is up to you to help the sea services explain what they can and can't do with the limited money that is available in a world with increasing global instability.

If the Department of the Navy, the Coast Guard and the Maritime Administration are required to continue to respond to crisis after crisis without the funding needed to build new ships, repair old equipment and provide routine maintenance, the nation risks permanent damage to national defense and puts in jeopardy the domestic and international economies that rely on the safety and security that U.S. sea power provides. Ships, crews and equipment cannot continue the current pace of operations. The retention of trained personnel will decline, ultimately leading to reduced readiness for combat and other missions. By many measures, current funding levels do not meet the sea services' needs.

We need you to tell this story. Your Navy League is on Capitol Hill, constantly supporting forums, speakers, and other events to help tell the sea services story. But that pales in comparison to the power you have as a constituent. **Make your voices heard.** Tell your Member of Congress and your Senators you support the sea services by taking action on one of our campaigns.