

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 4

DEC 2018

Scheduled Meetings: The Patio Restaurant, Yuma CC

JAN 17: GENERAL MTG 6 pm

FEB 21: GENERAL MTG 6 pm

MAR 21: GENERAL MTG 6pm

Upcoming Events:

January 19th: NL CAR SHOW

February 16th: MIL APPRECIATION
DAY, Main St Yuma

March 9th: AIR SHOW
MCAS, Yuma AZ



'Tis the Season for Giving.. And Yuma Council Members Came Through Again.

Each Fall, council members volunteer their time to ring Salvation Army bells, gather gifts in support of the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, and this year, lead a community team in a successful Fall fund raiser for our local Naval Sea Cadets. BZ NLUS

Bell Ringing: Our council members again took over the Foothills Frys store for the entire day to ring those bells! Council members, you can be very proud as we rang those bells, received well wishes from the locals, and gathered in big bucks for the truly needy.

Toys for Tots: You would never know Yuma's a small Council. We've been busy! ... With lots of toys delivered to our Marine Reserves, plus member support of Yuma's American Legion Post 19 Kids for Christmas Event, we can be proud many a deserving youngster received a few gifts from Santa.

Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Induction: Friends, family and Yuma officials also made their way north to Scottsdale AZ to recognize one of our Council member's induction into the AZ State Veterans Hall of Fame.

(SEE PG 4)

AZ Commission for Volunteerism: Members also traveled to the Arizona State Campus, Glendale AZ, December 7th, to cheer on one of our very own Sea Cadets being awarded the 2018 Governors Individual Volunteer Award.

(SEE PG 5)

Council Sea Cadet Corps Liaison Brings Home the Bacon! (SEE PG 5)



**AZ Buffalo Soldiers
coming to Y-MAD 2019!**

(SEE PG 7)



DEC 2018

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Shawn McKeown

Vice President

Dean Hager

Treasurer

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Carol Underhill

Adjutant

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Public Affairs Team (2018)

Dean Hager (PAO)

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Chuck LeDrew, MAC

'doc' Hager, MCAS

YOUTH PGMs

Chuck LeDrew, JROTC

OPEN, Young Marines

Neptune Council Chair

Bob Nidiffer

2018 Scholarship Committee

'doc' Hager

Nancy Ramsey

Rochelle Thompson

Questions / Comments?

Letters to the Editor?

Contact us at:

NLUS Yuma Council

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Yuma, AZ 85366

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Alan Kaplan

As our current National President, Alan Kaplan, stated in December's Sea Power Magazine, "...our Navy League is re-energized, focused on elevating our mission to new heights. While we do phenomenal work to support our mission, we must remember that we can always do better. Working together is vital to our success and, above all else, we must nurture our relationships with each other to ensure

our organization continues to thrive. Our focus on inclusion and embracing the diversity of our teammates, and their ideas, will power our success. Our biggest asset is our people."

Kaplan continued, "... without the strength of your volunteerism, there would be fewer smiles on the faces of sea service men and women and their families, and you wouldn't have witnessed the strong legislation that came through this year, including our win to get 355 ships codified into law for our U.S. Navy (including 38 for our expeditionary Marines). In fact, it is our Navy's core attributes that all of us continue to display every day - accountability, integrity, toughness and initiative - as an expression of our commitment that guides us to keep our team strong."

HERE IN YUMA .. We can be proud that our small council has, over the past decade, successfully fulfilled the League's three (3) mission objectives. We have increased community activism, attended educational events, and sponsored local charities and community heritage events. In support of active duty, we are a presence onboard the Marine Corps largest aviation training facility, MCAS Yuma, and most recently provided a leadership role in the design and construction of a centerpiece memorial to sailors and marines overlooking the Air Station's parade grounds ...and, we do not forget our youth programs - sponsoring our local Young Marines, JROTC, NSCC/NLCC units. Each year, we succeed when members show their heart, commitment, and *will to make a difference*.

As 2019 approaches, it is time to plan for the next decade. Soon, we will gather together, break bread, enjoy a beverage of choice, and firm up plans for our next ten years in the spirit of Teddy Roosevelt intended.

Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah - and God Bless all our Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Merchant Mariners. *Ed.*

FYI: Our new National President-Elect, William "Bill" Stevenson III will take office as national president in June 2019. Bill has long been a force within the Phoenix NL Council and will now take his business expertise to National. We wish him success!
(*now fix that doggone membership database!*)

Our new AZ Area NL President is Mr. Micah Kinsler of Phoenix. Well wishes to Micah in his new duties State-wide.

FALL CHARITY EVENT A GREAT SUCCESS.

October in southern Arizona brings back our winter visitors, swells our small city to over 200,000 residents and brings forth some great charity events. Kicking off the season once again was the *Navy League's Dinner Concert*. With sold out tables, great eats from Yuma's Country Club, our fall event was again the talk of the town. Our thanks to members Bob N. and Valerie G. for all their hard work!



Thank you SgtMaj Casillas, USMC and fellow staff SNCOs from H&HS, MCAS Yuma AZ for sharing what it means to be a United States Marine!



NCIS VISITS COUNCIL.

SEPT: Back from a hot summer, council members were treated to Yuma's version of Jethro Gibbs as we were briefed on local Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) taskings and activity (both joint and stand-alone). Thanks to our local MCAS Yuma Special Agents for their service.

US NAVY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED

OCT: This October our meeting was a deep Navy blue as members celebrated our US Navy's 243rd Birthday in style. Several videos highlighted the state of our Navy and US Merchant Marine; culminating in a summary of our council's successes and future challenges. Blue and White cake was served, of course!

US MARINES SHARE THEIR VISION

NOV: November would not be right without a shout out to our Yuma Marines. Council members celebrated the 243rd Birthday of our Corps by inviting Yuma's Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Sergeant Major and several senior staff NCOs to share their thoughts on *what it means to be a Marine.....* A great time was had by all and, of course, the cake was scarlet and gold.

CAN ACTIVE DUTY SPOUSES JOIN THE NAVY LEAGUE or CAN THE PUBLIC ATTEND ANY GENERAL MEETING?

THE QUICK ANSWER - YES!

AZ VETERANS HALL OF FAME (FM PG 1)

SEPT: The Yuma Council has added another of its own to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame with the induction of 'doc' Hager into the Class of 2018. Recommended by previous VHOF members, Bob Sloncen (RAdm USCG ret and NLUS member) and Rob Filbey (Col, USA ret), 'doc' was one of three Yuma citizen veterans recognized by our Governor for post-military community service. BZ, doc!

AVHOF 2018: Dean D. Hager: Born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1950, 'doc' Hager enlisted in the US Navy as a hospital corpsman and served twenty-six years, retiring as a Navy Captain. When Doc arrived in Yuma, he immediately volunteered as a driver transporting veterans for the Disabled American Veterans (DAV); receiving recognition by the Director of Veterans Affairs Tucson for over 1,000 hours of volunteer service. In 2008 Doc joined the Board of Directors, Navy League of the U.S. Yuma Council; growing its membership, and renewing relations with Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. In 2015 he founded Yuma's award winning Naval Sea Cadet Corps program, successfully managed the renovation of the USS Arizona battleship replica, and led efforts to establish Yuma's Military Appreciation Day. A Former Navy League National Director, Doc currently is an active leader on several community Boards and veteran service organizations, and currently Chairs the Yuma Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee (MAC).



AVHOF inductees, Class of 2018: L>R Mr. Don Eskam (USMC ret) and Navy League Council member Dean Hager (USNR ret). Also show are John Courtis (Director, Yuma Chamber of Commerce and Rob Filbey (Yuma inductee, Class of 2016).

TOURIST NOTE:

On the first floor of the Capitol is the interactive Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame kiosk so plan to visit the display and view inductees biographies and other information there. You may also want to view the special items from the USS Arizona (BB39).

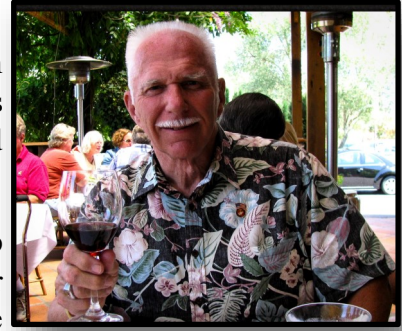


NAVAL SEA CADET COUNCIL LIASION (FM PG1)

NOV: As most of our members know, Chuck has been very active in support of our MCJROTC and Naval Sea Cadets. As such, Yuma's Fall season is usually a time to take a break from fund raising and event participation. Well, guess again!

Back in October, we received a request from our Sea Cadet leadership for help. It appeared that NSCC National had mandated new PT gear (T-shirts and shorts) for all cadets and that they be purchased from the official supplier... adding up to over \$1,000. In addition, the cadets were in need of support if they were to grow their color guard from 5 person to 7 (adding USMC and AZ flags). And, speaking of color guard equipment, it would be great to have additional gear for the younger Navy League Cadets too!

Anyone else would have said, "too much, too late".. But, we Navy League folks are always up for a challenge. With the backing of the Yuma Chamber's MAC, Chuck led the fund raising drive, worked with local veterans organizations, and success! Yup, thanks to our "Master Guns," all PT gear was purchased (see NL Facebook page for photo) and Sea Cadet color guard gear funded; and thanks to the generosity of NL members Ray and Marlene Evans, we even were able to help Training Ship B.W. Sandburg Navy League Cadets stand up their own color guard. **WELL DONE, CHUCK!**

**GOVERNORS VOLUNTEERISM AWARD (FM PG 1)**

DEC: On a cool Saturday in Glendale Arizona, council members were pleased to watch one of our Yuma Naval Sea Cadets, PO3 Garvey Blackwell, receive the Governor's Award for Community Service and Volunteerism. A short video was shown highlighting her 2,700 hours of service to Yuma homeless & children.

The AZ Commission on Service and Volunteerism is authorized under Executive Order 2015-04 to encourage volunteerism in the State. The Commission consists of members appointed by the Governor with the mandate to 1/ encourages Arizonan engagement in service and volunteer efforts and 2/ provides oversight and administers Arizona's AmeriCorps State programming (in partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service). Federal funding is annually appropriated by Congress.

The 17th AZ Governor's Volunteer Service Award Event is held annually to recognize volunteer efforts throughout our state. One individual is selected each year that best exemplifies how just one person can impact, in a positive way, Arizonans quality of life. The ceremony, held at University of Arizona's Glendale campus, was well attend by over 600 participants representing communities throughout Arizona. In addition to Garvey's family and friends, seated up front were Yuma Council representatives Jacquie Hudson, Gloria and 'doc' Hager.

Bravo Zulu, Garvey!





NL's Cruisin' Yuma Car Show

Saturday, January 19th 2019

Fortuna de Oro Resort, Foothills



TALK AROUND TOWN HAS ALREADY STARTED:

Yes, it's time again for our Spring Fund Raiser. A few key planning points from our Car Show Committee:

Set up is 0800, Saturday Jan 19th.

Open to public at 1000

Show Ends no later than 1500 (3pm)

Volunteers Needed for day-of-show sales, the prize drawing, 50/50, T-shirt and gift basket sales. Please see Dean for details.

Gift Baskets Needed. Please see Bob N. for details.

TIME FOR PLANNING, MEMBERS!

2019 GENERAL MEETING DATES

17 JANUARY

16 MAY

21 NOVEMBER

21 FEBRUARY

20 JUNE

19 DECEMBER

21 MARCH

19 SEPTEMBER

18 APRIL

17 OCTOBER



Yuma Military Appreciation Day

Saturday, February 16th 2019

Main Street, Yuma AZ



In 2015, two members of our Yuma NL Council had an idea for a city Heritage Event to show our appreciation of all local active duty, veterans and their families. From that idea, Yuma's Military Appreciation Day (Y-MAD) was born.

Every year since then, Yuma's main street is awash in displays from the Army's Yuma Proving Ground (YPG), our Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), veterans service agencies, local Veterans Groups, Youth Groups, and businesses.

Food, live music, street performances galore!



ATTN: Navy League

NAVY LEAGUE Info Booth Volunteers Needed!
Plan on helping, several shifts between 0900 to 1500.
Sign up at the General Meeting!



NEW FOR Y-MAD 2019: AZ BUFFALO SOLDIERS HERITAGE DISPLAY

As part of the event's mission to display our state's heritage, 2019 will add a great display from the Mesa Buffalo Soldiers. Their mission is to educate the citizens of the Great State of Arizona on the accomplishments and personal sacrifices of the historical Buffalo Soldiers, 9th and 10th Cavalry and 24th and 25th Infantry legends, and ensure the heritage of that period and Black Americans of that time are not lost.

YOUR YUMA NL COUNCIL AT A GLANCE**NLUS YUMA
COUNCIL**

**PO Box 393
Yuma, AZ 85366**

In 1963, the Yuma Council adopted its first command, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma. Since that time, several base reorganizations have occurred. Currently, in-garrison adoptees include both MCAS Headquarters Staff and the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron (H&HS). H&HS is responsible to the Base CO for the day-to-day operations aboard the air station to keep it running as a small "community within the community". Approximately 600 Marines and Sailors are assigned to H&HS. With assistance from roughly 1,200 civilians who work aboard MCAS Yuma, they work to keep the station operational through the efforts of a variety of units and sections. Adopted sections include air traffic control, airfield operations, administration, logistics, range management, explosive ordnance disposal, communications, combat camera, aircraft rescue and firefighting, military police, postal, legal, public affairs, search and rescue, financial operations, and the dining facility.

Other adopted units include the USNS YUMA (EPF-8), MCAS Yuma's Navy Branch Health Clinic, MCAS Branch Dental Clinic, US Navy Sea Cadet Corps' Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron, Navy League Training Ship BW Sandburg, Kofa Kings MCJROTC, and our Yuma Young Marines.

**THANKS TO OUR
SPONSORS !!**

E-mail:

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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

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**THE YUMA COUNCIL, NLUS
WISHES YOU ALL A SAFE & HAPPY NEW YEAR**