

# 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 4, ISSUE 4

DEC 2017

### Scheduled Meetings: The Patio Restaurant, Yuma CC

JAN 18: GENERAL MTG 6 pm

FEB 15: GENERAL MTG 6 pm

MAR 15: GENERAL MTG 6pm

### Upcoming Events:

January 20th: Annual NL Car Show

March 10th: Yuma MIL Appreciation Day, Main St Yuma

March 17th: AIR SHOW  
MCAS Yuma AZ



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

Each year, council members volunteer their time to ring Salvation Army bells as well as gather gifts in support of the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. 2017 saw an extra effort by members to also support Christmas Dinner food baskets for deserving Yuma active duty and sea service veterans families (Turkeys, veggies, and all the trimmings - yum!).

Bell Ringing: Our council again teamed with Yuma's Sea Eagle Squadron to take over the Foothills Frys store for the entire day to ring those bells! Council members, you can be very proud as we matched our previous one day's donation record for a total of over \$1,600 for children in need.

Toys of Tots: You would never know Yuma's a small Council... with lots of toys delivered to our Marines, plus member support of Yuma's American Legion Post 19 Kids for Christmas Event, we can be proud many a deserving youngster received at least a few gifts from Santa (*and the Navy League*).

Food Baskets: Our extra effort put our local food bank over the top and ensured they achieved their 2017 basket goal. Over 35 Turkeys w/all the trimmings thanks to your efforts!

*Merry Christmas & Bravo Zulu to all!*

**Navy League co-sponsors local  
U.S. Navy Ball on board MCAS** page 4

**Navy League provides guest  
speaker at DEC 7th Event** page 5





DEC 2017

*President*

Chuck LeDrew

*Vice President*

Liz Allmond

*Treasurer*

Marie Michael

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*Master at Arms*

Nancy Ramsey

*Public Affairs Team*

Dean Hager (PAO)

MIL AFFAIRS

Chuck LeDrew, MAC

'doc' Hager, MCAS

YOUTH PGMs

Gary Tomlinson, JROTC

'doc' Hager, Young Marines

*Neptune Council Chair*

Bob Nidiffer

*Scholarship Committee*

Liz Allmond

'doc' Hager

Nancy Ramsey

**Questions / Comments?**

**Letters to the Editor?**

**Contact us at:**

Dean Hager, PAO

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## NDAA LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN

*Time to close the deal, NL members.....*

With holiday season fast approaching, it is easy to lose focus on promoting our National Sea Services and strongly support them in the annual budget fights on capital hill. The National Defense Authorization Act is not the end game! Before you wrap your gifts, we suggest you take the time and contact your representatives and support full funding of the NDAA! *Ed.*

**The Navy League works closely with our Congressional partners to promote the interests of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marines. Each year, the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, and Transportation Administration must be funded, and each year these critical agencies face an increasingly uphill battle to secure the necessary funding for their missions. The Navy League, as the voice of citizens in support of the Sea Services, supports legislation that will continue to fund and equip our men and women at sea, and urges your support at this critical time.**

GOOGLE the Navy League of the US website Legislative Affairs Page to “**we need sea service funding**” and w/your zip code - send an electronic letter to your elected representative. OR... cut and past the letter below and mail your signed letter today.

Dear Honorable Senator/Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

The National Defense Authorization Act for FY2018 is a strong piece of legislation that sets the course to strengthen our military. At a time when all the services are facing a readiness crisis, this is a step in the right direction. I applaud the bipartisan passing of this bill, and urge the same widespread, bipartisan support to fund the services at this level.

This bill adds much-needed funding for readiness and spares, and also funds the Navy at the level necessary to make the 355-ship fleet a reality. The Congressional Budget Office has stated it will cost \$26.6 billion a year to achieve the fleet that the Navy needs, and the \$26.2 billion level approved by overwhelming, bipartisan majorities in both chambers of Congress brings us a step closer. The Navy and Marine Corps are overextended and underfunded. We ask much of them, and must be able to ensure they are properly resourced to successfully carry out the missions with which they are tasked.

Of course, to make this funding a reality, we must get rid of the Budget Control Act. I urge you to eliminate the funding caps forced on us by the Budget Control Act and appropriate funds that at least match the FY2018 National Defense Authorization Act.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Contact Info:



### 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 our own Bob N., efficiently served by our Sea Cadets, and a wonderful guitar presentation, our fall event was again the talk of the town. Our thanks to Tom Rush of YIG for allowing use of his lovely home and all the planning work by our VP Valerie.

### MAYOR NICHOLS VISITS COUNCIL.

As a small council, it is essential that we maintain a strong voice in the community. What better way then to invite Yuma's Mayor to visit w/council members at our monthly general dinner meeting. Mayor Nichols didn't disappoint. October's meeting gave us an opportunity to reinforce community Sea Service support and also hear his exploits in recently visiting our recent council adoptee, USNS YUMA.



### SHERIFF WILMONT KEEPS COUNCIL UP TO DATE.

Novembers general meeting featured our own County Sheriff addressing members on holiday scams and phone-based marketing rip offs currently targeting our community.



President Bob N. also informed members of By-Law updates already reviewed by the Board and scheduled for member vote in December. Members also voted for Council Officers seats for calendar year 2018. All in all, a very good and productive meeting.

### DECEMBER COUNCIL AWARDS DINNER.

Starting a new tradition, President Bob presided over our Holiday meeting, festive dinner and ornament gift exchange. Featured were the By-Laws vote and council awards to many deserving members who have contributed to our councils success in "giving back" to our active duty and veteran community. Patti, Nancy, the Chavez Team, Mike, and 'doc' all received a big THANK YOU for their efforts.





**U.S. NAVY BALL  
AT MCAS, YUMA -  
YUMA COUNCIL HOSTS**



OCT: On behalf of the Yuma Navy Ball Committee, we would like to express our thanks to the Yuma Navy League Council for their continued support and financial assistance in ensuring our active duty sailors, veterans and families again had a great US Navy Birthday Ball. Navy League participation in the planning was very important as was, of course, delivery of a wonderful ceremonial cake. 2017 also was the third time our Ball's guest speaker was a Yuma NL Council member! Again, thank you all for directly supporting our Ball and Yuma's sailors all year long.

*CDR Matt Chang, USN*

**VETERANS DAY  
NAVY LEAGUE LEADS -  
BLUE WATER DIVISION**



NOV: American Legion Post 19, Yuma AZ again coordinated the Yuma City 2017 Veterans Day Parade. Over the past eight years, we have seen the growth of our event expand to over 120 individual participants and we wish to publicly commend the Yuma Navy League for it's contribution to this effort. Starting with a single vehicle with flags held high, the council has taken the lead in developing what we now call the BLUE WATER DIVISION for 2017.



Participating on the Parade Committee, the NL ensures our community enjoys uniformed active duty sailors, Naval Sea Cadets, Navy League Cadets in formation; plus League members and vessel replicas from the Submarine Association's SS Barbell to our state icon, the USS Arizona.

On behalf our Post Commander, we wish to express our gratitude and good wishes for a great New Year. See you next Parade!

*Bob Carey, Vice Commander Post 19*

**USMC BALL  
AT MCAS, YUMA  
GUESTS OF CO, H&HS**

NOV: The 2017 Marine Corps Ball was held at the Q Casino and included over 800 Marines, families, and community guests. This year, the featured guests were members of the Yuma Navy League Council. Seated with the Commander, Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Yuma, League members were treated to an outstanding celebration and heritage display of the Corps. We also got to see the new 3 tier Birthday Cake provided, of course, by we League members. Great times... Thanks for the invite Marines and Semper fi!



**PEARL HARBOR  
DAY REMEMBERED**

*Excerpts from Yuma's DEC 7th Remembrance Event Keynote address by CAPT Dean 'doc' Hager, USNR ret (Mbr: Yuma NLUS Council + Am Legion Post 19)*

"DEC 7<sup>th</sup>, a day of infamy, a day of warning - a day whose lessons must forever remain burned into the American consciousness. December 7th is always a day of special meaning for me personally -- 74 years ago, my uncle was an enlisted Sailor with a Seabee Battalion, and both my mother and father were officers in the armed services -- volunteering for military service; Mom a Navy PBY Flight Nurse and Dad an Army infantry officer. The catalyst for their service was earlier that year, as Pearl Harbor Hawaii was attacked on a quiet morning not unlike what we have here today. I cannot fathom the horror, dismay, anger felt by American families that day, however my generation has had a taste of such evil -- as each of us can recall exactly where we were when the New York city twin towers fell.

The attack on Pearl Harbor and main island Army facilities was plotted in secret, waged without mercy, and took the lives of 2,403 Americans. The shock and chaos that ensued forever changed that Sunday morning. What we do know was that there were acts of great heroism among those who survived and those who did not.

Nine who fell that day had Navy ships named after them. In two hours' time, for bravery above and beyond the call of duty, 15 men earned the Medal of Honor - 10 of whom did not live to wear it.

Young sailors refused to abandon ship even as waters washed over the decks. They chose instead to stay and try to save their friends. A mess steward carried his commander to safety and then manned a machine gun for the first time in his life. Two pilots ran through heavy fire to get into their P-40 fighters. They proceeded to chase and shoot down four enemy aircraft. Those were among the scenes of December the 7th.

The following day, December 8th, as details became known, our nation's grief turned to a grim resolve. Lines of volunteers went around city blocks. Women rolled up their sleeves and shouldered the burden on farms and factories. During the four years of this first truly global war, no one doubted the rightness of our cause - no one wavered in the quest for victory. As a result of the efforts and sacrifice of our veterans overseas and their families at home, our world was saved from tyranny.

From the ashes of war, a rules-based system of international laws was built that has kept the peace in the Pacific region for decades. As we commemorate this day, let us re-dedicate ourselves to delivering to future generations the same gift of security and peace that was purchased for us by those who sacrificed so much in defense of our freedom seven decades ago.

So, as we all reflect on what December 7<sup>th</sup> means to each of us, may we all have the courage to do the right thing when duty calls and defend our citizens from all enemies; foreign or domestic. God bless our Pearl Harbor survivors, all World War II veterans, and all who have followed in their wake; US Marines, Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen; American veterans, all."





### Navy League Foundation

The Navy League Foundation is now accepting applications for the 2017-2018 academic year. The Navy League Foundation awards scholarships to high school seniors who will attend college in the fall. Navy League Foundation Scholarships are available only to children and grandchildren of former members of the Sea

Services and those currently serving as well as members of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Awards are for \$2,500 each year for four years. The application deadline is March 1, 2018. More information can be found by contacting:

<https://navyleague.org/scholarship/application.html>

### Have 'lil ones? Grandkids? Well, Santa can be tracked on your PC!!!

Tis the season for NORAD to track Santa. This is a wonderful opportunity for children who believe in Santa to experience tracking Santa on the internet and/or to call into a Santa's helper to see when Santa will arrive at their home.

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.noradsanta.org>---has a wealth of information including games, movies, music, stories that can utilized now. Don't wait till Christmas eve to view the site!!!

**Phone number:** [877-446-6723](tel:877-446-6723) (operating from 24 Dec 5 AM EST to 5 AM EST, 25 Dec)

**via e-mail:** [noradtracksanta@outlook.com](mailto:noradtracksanta@outlook.com) (operating from 24 Dec 5 AM EST to 5 AM EST, 25 Dec)

This is a really fun activity and if by chance you ever have an opportunity to be a Santa's helper at NORAD, you will have a great time. After all Santa doesn't come unless the child is asleep. Magic words for all!!!

**Put the word out!!! Our 'Cruisin' Yuma Car Show' charity event is FAST APPROACHING!**



**Where?**

FORTUNA DE ORO  
RV RESORT

**What?**

LIVE MUSIC, BBQ  
DRAWING & 50/50  
CASH GRAND PRIZE

**When?**

0900 - 1500 (3pm)  
SATURDAY  
20 JAN 2018



Planes, displays, shaded dinning... The Navy League Yuma Council will be hosting the USS Arizona replica w/ an Information Booth. Volunteers needed to man the booth alongside our Naval Sea Cadets who will be honor guard for the ARIZONA. Plan to make it a great day!

*Yuma*

## Military Appreciation Day



*Saturday, March 10th - 2018*

*Main Street, Yuma AZ*

In 2015, two members of the Yuma NL Council (Chuck L. and Dean H.) had an idea for a County-wide day to show our appreciation to 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), JROTC, Naval Sea and Civil Air Patrol cadets, local veteran service orgs., plus many live musical acts and vendors.

2018 is shaping up to be a great event again. Volunteers Needed! Plan on helping w/our Information Booth - see President Chuck and sign up!

**NLUS YUMA  
COUNCIL**

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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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yumacouncil.org

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ADDRESS HERE

**OUR GRATFUL THANKS TO ALL OUR MAJOR 2017 SPONSORS - SEMPER FI !!**



# Happy Holidays



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

*Semper fi!*