



Navy League of the US Yuma, AZ



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

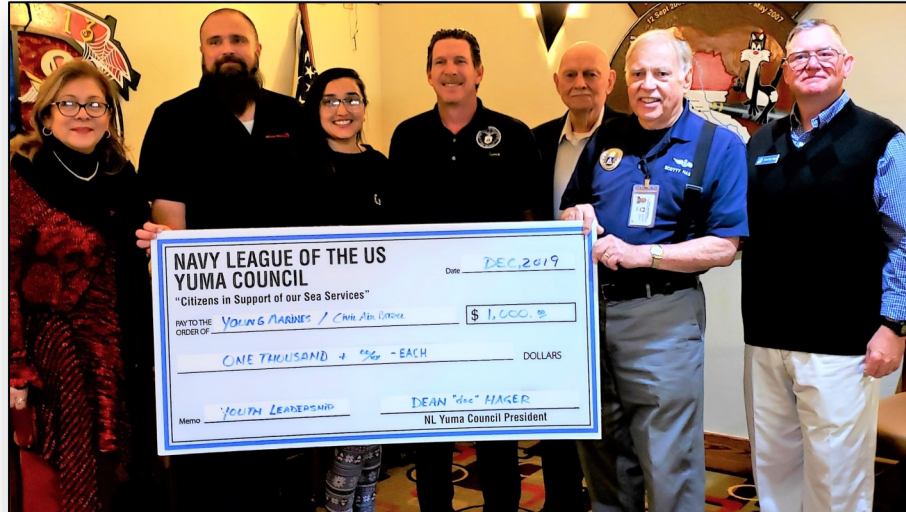
VOLUME 6, ISSUE 4

DEC 2019

The Rope Yarn Gazette

New look w/
new sections,
because you
asked!

YUMA NAVY LEAGUE COUNCIL EXCEEDS DONATION BUDGET AT YEARS END



Representatives from Yuma's Territorial Young Marines and Civil Air Patrol accept their gifts of \$1,000 each at the Council's December meeting onboard MCAS Yuma. NL Board members L (Patti Michael + 3rd Fm R (Bill Bonsky), Far R (Dean Hager)

DEC: Local youth military education and leadership programs in Yuma County got an unexpected holiday boost following a great Fall Fund Raiser.

Recently, Yuma Investment Group hosted its third annual GOLF FOR KIDS charity golf tournament to raise awareness of local youth leadership programs and enjoy a sunny day on the links. Assisting YIG this year as Event Charity Administrator was the Navy League of the United States, Yuma Council. Recipients of this year's event include Yuma's *MC JROTC*, *Civil Air Patrol*, *Naval Sea Cadets*, *Naval League Cadets*, and both local *Young Marine* programs. The *Yuma Young Marines* were first to receive their thousand dollar award - just in time to support their trip to Hawaii for the DEC 7th Remembrance Parade and Events. Our *Territorial Young Marines* unit received their award during the Council's Holiday Dinner. Civil Air Patrol 308 officers were also on hand as well - receiving their award to support their cadet aircraft and fuel expenses.

"As a community service organization, this is what we do", stated Council President Dean Hager. "Yuma citizens of the Yuma Council work all year and frequently partner with other great businesses like YIG to support our next generation of leaders. That we were able to exceed our budgeted donation plan is a testament to the community's generosity."

Bravo Zulu, Awardees!



DEC 2019

2020 Council Officers

President

Dean 'doc' Hager

Vice President

Shawn McKeown

Treasurer

Marie Michael

Secretary

Rochelle Holman

Master at Arms

Nancy Ramsey

Membership

Bill Bonsky

Community Liaison Team

Dean Hager (Chair)

Shawn McKeown

Carol Underhill

Gina Blackwell

Scholarship Committee 2020

Rochelle Holman

Rochelle Thompson

Dean Hager

Questions / Comments?

Letters to the Editor?

Please contact us at:

NLUS Yuma Council

PO Box 393

Yuma, AZ 85366

US NAVY LEAGUE MILESTONE

2

Navy League of U.S. Reaches GuideStar Platinum Status

DEC 2019 ARLINGTON, VA The Navy League of the United States — a nonprofit civilian, educational and advocacy organization that supports America's sea services: the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine — announced today it has earned the *Platinum GuideStar Nonprofit Profile Seal of Transparency*, the highest level of recognition offered by GuideStar, the world's largest source of nonprofit information.

By sharing metrics that highlight progress, the Navy League is helping donors evaluate the nonprofit with open and vetted information to make an educated philanthropic decision. "Our mission to support the sea services is apparent through our 117-year history and today's announcement formalizes to all our past, current donors and perspective future contributors that they can be assured there is trust that comes with giving to the Navy League," said former Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Mike Stevens, who now serves as the Navy League's National Executive Director. "By updating our GuideStar Nonprofit Profile to the Platinum level, we can now easily share organizational metrics with our supporters as well as with Grantmakers. We are also sending a clear message to our membership that the Navy League is responsibly executing it's budget to further all organizational goals."

Your Yuma Council, as a fully independent 501c3 Not-For-Profit Arizona corporation, continues to work tirelessly to ensure full transparency of our revenue and donations. Board members are local citizens and volunteers, taking no salary. We exist for our active duty Marines and Sailors, those veterans and families in need, and a select group of local Youth Programs who earn the privilege of being adopted by our Council.

Why You Should Join

The Navy League right here in YUMA depends on passionate individuals like you to support those currently serving and advocate for the sea services. We adopt ships and shore commands, reward and honor enlisted personnel, host dinners and celebrations for military personnel, and support family members left behind when spouses and parents are deployed. In addition, we actively sponsor youth leadership programs right here in town such as the Young Marines, Kofa High's MC JROTC, and Naval Sea Cadets.

At the national level, membership allows you to help our legislative affairs team educate elected officials and fight on behalf of our sea services - specifically, MCAS Yuma! As a member of YUMA 50, we ensure our council's concerns are personally taken to the halls of Congress each year.

JOIN! Your Yuma Council really reflects the community: we have a wonderful group of veterans in our mix however, as a community service organization, no prior military service is required to be a member.

Contact us at <https://www.yumanavyleague.com>

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

NEED TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP? Don't let your membership expire. Checking your date is easy. You can log in to National's web page to check - even RENEW right there! If you are more comfortable with paper, see Bill Bonsky at our General Meeting for the renewal form. Fill it out with a check and we'll mail it and follow up to ensure National gets it correct!

New JOINS: Email us via CONTACT US at yumanavyleague.com. Current member Renewal Question?: contact Bonsky or 'doc' Hager



Schedule of Events - WINTER/SPRING (subject to change): Dates will be sent via email notification as they are firmed up throughout the year.

2020 DONATION PLAN

Dates to be announced as they are firmed up. Members invited to attend.

2020 YOUTH DONATIONS PRE-PAID

YUMA 50 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:	JAN 2020
YUMA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:	JAN 2020
NAVY & MC RELIEF, MCAS YUMA:	MAR 2020
SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM:	APR 2020
YUMA NL SCHOLAR AWARDS:	MAY 2020
NL TRAILER DESIGNER WRAP:	JUN 2020

KEY EVENTS:

- 16 JAN GENERAL MEETING, MCAS YUMA OFFICER LOUNGE, PUEBLO CLUB (1800-2000), VIP: CBP PORT OF ENTRY DIRECTOR
- 18 JAN **NAVY LEAGUE'S 'CRUISIN' YUMA' CHARITY CAR SHOW** (0900-1430)
- 04 FEB **MEET THE BLUE ANGELS 'BIG STEAK NIGHT'**, NAF ELCENTRO, CA (1530-1730)
- 20 FEB GENERAL MEETING, MCAS YUMA OFFICER LOUNGE, PUEBLO CLUB (1800-2000), VIP: US COAST GUARD AUX - S. COLORADO RIVER
- 19 MAR GENERAL MEETING, MCAS YUMA OFFICER LOUNGE, PUEBLO CLUB (1800-2000), VIP: DESIGNER TEAM, NEW YUMA VETERAN'S HOME
- 16 APR GENERAL MEETING, MCAS YUMA OFFICER LOUNGE, PUEBLO CLUB (1800-2000), VIP: MC JROTC SR. CADETS & INSTRUCTORS
- 21 MAY **YUMA NL SCHOLAR AWARDS DINNER**, MCAS YUMA OFFICER LOUNGE, PUEBLO CLUB (1800-2000)

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

As is the case throughout our community, the charity fund raising season dovetailed with arrival of our snowbirds; effectively doubling our population. From October through April, competition is fierce.

Luckily, your Yuma Council has again held its own and maintained its strong and ethical position with local businesses and sponsors. Our "Friends of the Navy League" community is growing. By partnering with generous folks and institutions, we have been able to meet all budgeted obligations and, as stated on our main page, even exceeded expectations for our youth leadership programs.

This is the season to give thanks. On behalf of the Board of Directors and membership at large, we wish all our sponsors and participating businesses a joyous holiday season and a heartfelt **THANK YOU!**



DEC: Boxes overflowed again this year for our USMC reserve *Toys for Tots* activity. Quickly, members pivoted and rang Salvation Army bells with our Sea Cadets. Red Kettles overflowed by day's end! Then, off to our annual Christmas Dinner and Ornament Gift Exchange (always a treat!). Thanks to 'doc' Hager and Foothills Bank for making our TFT task a success, and a big BZ to Bill Bonsky and Gina Blackwell for organizing our Kettle drive.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE

Yuma Navy League + Foothills Bank "Partners in Giving" 2019





DEC 2019: INVESTING IN YUMA'S YOUTH

Local youth military education and leadership programs in Yuma County got a boost following a local golf tournament.

Recently, **Yuma Investment Group** hosted its third annual GOLF FOR KIDS charity golf tournament to raise awareness of local youth leadership programs and enjoy a sunny day on the links. Golfers from across Yuma County participated in the tournament held at the Yuma Golf and Country Club with event proceeds going to local youth leadership programs with a JROTC connection. Assisting YIG this year as Event Donation administrator was the Navy League of the United States, Yuma Council. .

The first-place team was awarded \$8,400, while second and third place teams received \$5,000 and \$2,500 in prize money, respectively. Highly successful, YIGs *Golf for Kids* raised over eight thousand dollars that afternoon.

"As always, we wanted to make sure that all money raised and donated for the tournament would remain in the local area to help benefit our community," Shawn McKeown, Wealth Advisor with Yuma Investment Group, said in a statement. "With more participation planned for the 2020 tournament, we hope to increase our financial support for these key programs."

Thanks to all event participants, Mr. John Baas of Yuma Country Club, and volunteers (Dena and Mike Swift and Patti Michael from Yuma Navy League) who helped make this event possible.

THANKS TO Ms. WANDA SARTAIN WHO ONCE AGAIN BROUGHT THE USS ARIZONA REPLICA TO YUMA'S VETERANS DAY PARADE.

OUR YUMA COUNCIL WAS PROUD TO BE HER ESCORT ONCE AGAIN!





KOFA MCJROTC 1ST SEMESTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Yuma's MC JROTC program has been recognized as a Naval Honor School. This is a pretty big deal, as it gives Kofa an opportunity to nominate students for National Service Academies (West Point, Annapolis, as well as Coast Guard, Merchant Marine and UASF Academies)! This is huge – opening up 100% paid top university opportunities to our Yuma cadets.

Bravo Zulu, Kofa MCJROTC!

In other news this semester: The Kofa MCJROTC has conducted 14 Color Guard presentations and six community service projects.

Kofa High School's Marine Corps JROTC Rifle team built on its nationally ranked finish last year with a showing at their first competition of 2019-20. The top team, featuring Cadets Nickolas Wissler, Casey Clark, Oscar Galindo, and Daphne Rivera, finished third out of 15 schools overall at the Carver Mountain Rifle Competition at Laveen Arizona. Of the 60 student shooters, cadet Keilem Vazquez finished *first* Overall. In individual events, Wissler received first place, Vazquez placed second, and Rivera third in kneeling; with Galindo placing third in prone. "We are very proud of these teams and bringing home the first Rifle trophies for our program and Yuma," - Maj. Todd Birney, Sr. MCJROTC Instructor.

Our cadets also won the 14th annual Lori Piestewa Drill Meet on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2019 at Hope Senior High School at Keams Canyon, Arizona. Nine other schools in Arizona and New Mexico competed with Kofa taking multiple teams including Drill, Color Guard, Physical Fitness, and Rifle teams who all had their share of success.

On Nov. 9 Kofa's Raider Mixed Team and four-person rifle team traveled to Rio Rico High School to participate in the Arizona Interscholastic Association's Raider Challenge and a 1x60 Standing Rifle competition. The Raider Team took first place in the One Rope stretcher event as well. The following weekend, Kofa's two rifle teams traveled to Fontana, California for the Ray Pickett Invitational to compete in a 3x20 Air Rifle competition. Kofa's first team comprised of took fourth overall out of 18 teams. For individual awards, cadet Vazquez placed first in kneeling position. In the prone position, cadet Wissler received second and cadet Galindo was fourth. Overall, the Kofa cadets' Rifle Team brought home six trophies to add to their collection this year.

DID YOU KNOW.... EVERY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER MAY BE READ or PRINTED

GO TO: www.yumanavyleague.com + click on our main page's "NEWS"



Gloria ran the show and 'doc' spoke on the Council's commitment to Yuma's Youth.

NL Members at Yuma Sea Cadet Chief Petty Officer Pining Event

Our council's own Gloria Hager was invited to be guest speaker and master of ceremonies for our latest Sea Eagle Squadron CPO pinning event. A retired Navy Hospital Corpsman Chief Petty Officer, Gloria led the assembled guests in recognizing cadets Garvey Blackwell and Tehya Hudson to the ranks for cadet CPO.

Council President Hager, on behalf of our members, offered his congratulations and provided encouraging words for the cadets and reinforced the League's continued support for robust youth leadership programs.

Time to Reinforce the basics!

As with all youth leadership programs, the time comes when cadets graduate from High School and depart the sea cadets for their next life's adventure. The Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron is no different as they saw a large contingent of their cadets move on to college or enlisted military service. So, with new recruits coming onboard, the command leadership started a "back to basics" program. The 2020 focus on basics includes formation marching, color guard skills, basic military knowledge, seamanship coursework, and medical training.

Both sea cadet and navy league cadet units have been drilling in the field at Squaw Lake and at Barry Goldwater West Ranges. At Squaw Lake, the cadets learned seamanship and how to navigate the sails. November saw .22 cal. rifle marksmanship training at the Ben Avery Range near Phoenix. This is an annual NSCC program event for the last five years. Cadets that attended all received their marksmanship qualification and two earned Sharpshooter awards.

At December's drill, it was back to the field with both units practicing basic field first aid and SULE (Small Unit Leader Evaluation) drills; utilized by the Marine Corps to evaluate Officer Candidates for leadership under stress. In between scheduled training, our cadets also participated the Yuma's Veterans Day Parade and teamed up with Navy League volunteers for Salvation Army Bell Ringing, raising close to \$1,000 one sunny Saturday. **HEADS UP:** Due to a declining number of adult volunteers, the customary Change of Command scheduled for this March has been cancelled.



U.S. NAVAL
SEA CADET CORPS

A Premier Experience
for ages 11-17+

www.yumaseacadets.com

Yuma's Navy Sea Cadets need adult volunteers!
While military experience is a plus, it's just as important to have the desire to help Yuma kids become our nation's next generation of leaders. Check them out – you might just like it!

Contact our NL Sea Cadet Liaison at:

www.yumanavyleague.com/contact-us.html



AS OF JANUARY 2020, THE YUMA COUNCIL WILL BE CONTINUING OUR MISSION OF LOBBYING FOR OUR SEA SERVICES BY PARTNERING WITH YUMA 50. SO, YOU MAY ASK, WHAT THE HECK IS YUMA 50?

YUMA 50 - IS A UNIFIED COUNTY-WIDE EFFORT TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL MILITARY ASSETS AND MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD.

Yuma 50 is an extension of a state-wide movement. It's a community outreach and education campaign that brings together a broad group of community and civic leaders, businesses, organizations, military support groups (like us) and private citizens across all political affiliations. Yuma 50 wants to send a loud and clear message to Washington that this community is fully behind its military bases and personnel and supports all future missions the Department of Defense deems best suited for Marine Corps Air Station Yuma and Yuma Proving Ground. Declared "the State's largest and most important employer" by Dennis L. Hoffman, Professor of Economics, W.P. Carey School of Business, Arizona State University, the Department of Defense is the lifeblood of Arizona and Yuma County.

While we are a small-ish NL council, we take our advocacy seriously. Recognized as a squeaky wheel by our local and state officials encouraging the value of strong national sea services, we look forward to working with Yuma 50 to help champion Navy League Policy concerns and recommendations.

BZ, YUMA 50!



MAC: Over 40 organizations impacting over 100,000 Yuma citizens in service to our military and veterans.

As a long term member of the Chamber and it's Military Affairs Committee (MAC), our Council ensures League mission and advocacy issues are promulgated throughout the region. It's a tribute to our membership that past MAC Chairs have been Yuma Navy League members from 2007 to today!

MAC's MISSION: (1) SYNERGY of community veterans services - Encourage robust and efficient support services for local active duty, veterans, and their families in need; (2) Provide an environment that encourages all organizations and agencies to work together with a common goal – that of ensuring timely access to Veterans services; and (3) promote public awareness related to veteran's heritage events and support causes.

KEY TASKS: (1) Coordinate a robust support structure and meeting schedule in support of local services for Yuma veterans, active-duty military, and families in need; (2) Maintain a current contact list of County veterans' organizations, service support agencies, and MAC business members; (3) Coordinate events with the Chamber and Yuma City staff; Yuma Military Appreciation Day (Y-MAD) each Spring, 9-11 and DEC 7th Remembrance days each Fall; and (4) Provide editorial support for the Chamber's public information and social media activities, including the MAC Facebook Page and Chamber website MAC page.

BZ, YUMA MAC!



Public Parking
+
Free Admission

SATURDAY, 18 JANUARY // 10am – 3pm

CRUISIN' YUMA
VETS CHARITY CAR SHOW

FORTUNA de ORO RV RESORT
13650 N Frontage Rd. / Yuma, AZ 85367

COME ON OUT, ENJOY A GREAT FAMILY DAY!
LIVE MUSIC, BBQ, COLD DRINKS & HOT CARS
{ ALL YEARS - ALL MODELS }
Silent Auction, T shirts, 50/50

➡ FOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION: www.cruisinarizona.com



The Navy League's "Big Steak Night" with our US Navy's 2020 Blue Angles

Tuesday, February 4th
1730 – 1930 (California Time)
All Hands Club, NAF El Centro

Seats are reserved for this event,
courtesy of the Imperial CA Navy
League Council.

1



COMING MARCH 13-14 2020



Founded by your
Yuma Navy League!

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

5th Year!

Saturday
MARCH 21st
9am – 3pm

Main Street
Yuma, AZ

**NLUS YUMA
COUNCIL**

PO Box 393
Yuma, AZ 85366

E-mail:
nlusyuma@
nlusyumacouncil.org

**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!
www.nlus-
yumacouncil.org

"LIKE US" on Face Book
www.facebook.com/
navyleagueyuma

THANKS TO OUR 2019-20 PROGRAM SPONSORS!



AZ ACTIVE AIR
FAA JROTC Pilot Program



You do not have to be Veteran to join our Council!
***THE US NAVY LEAGUE IS OPEN TO ANY CITIZEN
WHO WANTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.***

JOIN IN 5 MINUTES online at:
<https://portal.navyleague.org/membership-join>

E-member as low as \$25/yr.