

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 2

JULY 2018

Scheduled Meetings: THE PATIO RESTAURANT

SEPT 20: GENERAL MTG 6 pm
Welcome Back!

OCT 18: GENERAL MTG 6 pm
US Navy Birthday

NOV 15: GENERAL MTG 6pm
USMC Birthday

Upcoming Events:

AUG 24-26: ANNUAL SAN DIEGO
ADVENTURE

- FRI: Tour USS Midway (CV41) (1300-1500) + fine dining downtown
- SAT: Del Mar Races, w/shaded table seating

COUNCIL ATTENDS MCAS YUMA H&HS CHANGE OF COMMAND



This June we observed a time honored ritual of a Change of Command (COC); this time it was our adopted MCAS unit, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Yuma. Welcome LtCol Paxton (Sniper)! Farwell LtCol Tannis (Buzz). Enjoy your USMC retirement and new employment as a commercial pilot.



MEMBERSHIP HONORS MEMORIAL DAY

Our Council, like many Yuma organizations, participated in several Memorial Day events alongside our sponsored youth groups (Young Marines, Naval Sea Cadets, Navy League Cadets). We began at the Ocean-to-Ocean Bridge with flowers tossed into the Colorado River in memory of

See PG 5



JUNE 2018

President

Shawn McKeowan

Vice President

Dean D. Hager

Treasurer

Marie Michael

Secretary

OPEN

Master at Arms

Nancy Ramsey

Membership / Recruiting (2018)

Bill Bonsky

Chuck LeDrew

Community Relations (2018)

Dean Hager (Chair)

Megumi Fountain

Chuck LeDrew

Gary Tomlinson

Carol Underhill

Neptune Council Chair (2018)

Bob Nidiffer

Scholarship Committee (2019)

Nancy Ramsey

Dean Hager

OPEN

Questions / Comments?

Letters to the Editor?

Contact us at:

NLUS Yuma Council

PO Box 393

Yuma, AZ 85366

nlusyuma@nlusyumacouncil.org

COUNCIL CHALLENGES!

"MEMBERSHIP IS CRUCIAL IT IS CRITICAL THAT WE WORK 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"...



AS

EACH MEMBER IS CHALLENGED TO RECRUIT

ONE (1) NEW MEMBER THIS YEAR.

SO, HOW ARE WE DOING?

SPONSOR: CHUCK LeDREW
NEW MEMBER(s):
Jason Kodz
Joseph Lansky

SPONSOR: DEAN HAGER
NEW MEMBER(s):
Jordan Fountain

SPONSOR: JORDAN FOUNTAIN
NEW MEMBER(s):
Keiko Rossi

SPONSOR: ROCHELLE THOMPSON
NEW MEMBER(s):
Rochelle Hollman



**MEMBERS ENJOY SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS at
YUMA COUNCIL DINNER MEETINGS**

2018 OSBORNE JONES AWARDS

Each year the Yuma Navy League Council provides college scholarships to eligible Yuma students. These awards, named for State Senator and Yuma Council member Osborne Jones, represent our commitment to our youth and their future success as citizens of this great nation.

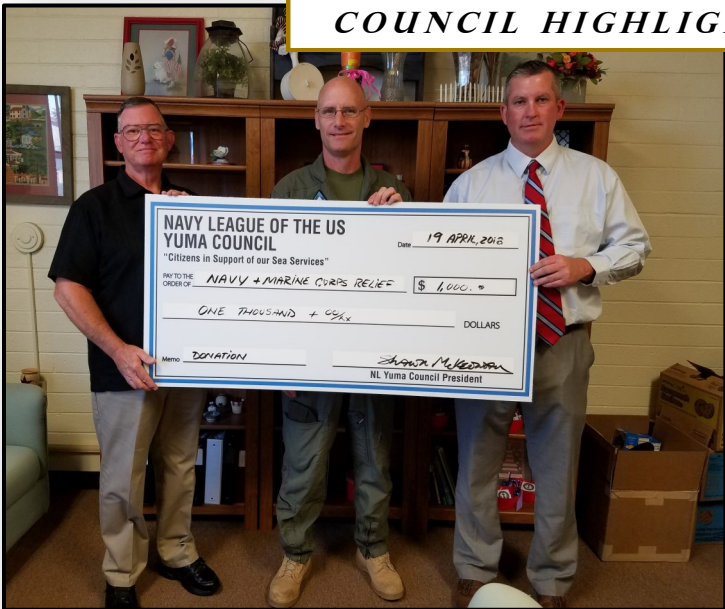
Senator Osborne was a student at the University of Arizona. Shortly after Pearl Harbor was attacked, he volunteered for active duty and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the US Army. His regiment fought in New Guinea, the Dutch East Indies and the Philippines. He was released from active duty as a captain, having earned the Combat Infantryman Badge and two bronze stars.

While in the State Senate, Osborn was responsible for four landmark pieces of legislation. In 1983, he created the Residential Users' Consumer Office (RUCO) which gave residential utility users an effective voice in rate-setting. He was author of the law in 1989 which created the Adult Intensive Probation program. This gave judges the option of sending first-time, non-violent offenders to intensive probation, rather than to prison, saving the state millions of dollars. Osborn was also the author of the "Sunset Law," which brings all state agencies, boards, and commissions under the scrutiny of a periodic performance audit. Those which fail to pass the audit are "sunsetting."

Osborn was inducted into the Arizona Wildcat Hall of Fame in 2006 in recognition of his professional achievements. He served as Sports Editor of the college yearbook and newspaper at the University of Arizona – and served as Editor of the Yuma Sun for many years. A longtime member of the Yuma Navy League Council, and champion of student scholarship awards, he passed away on November 6th, 2014.

Congratulations to all our 2018 award winners!!!

- 1/ MS. SYDNEY SAVANNAH YOUNG // \$1,500
YUMA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
GPA: 4.0
COLLEGE GOAL: U of A**
- 2/ MR. McCONNELL MARTINEZ // \$1,500
YUMA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
GPA: 3.6
COLLEGE GOAL: NAU**
- 3/ MC JROTC CADET RUBY RBIO// \$1,500
KOFA HIGH SCHOOL
GPA: 3.5
COLLEGE GOAL: NAU**
- 4/ MC JROTC CADET ELEIZABETH TAPIA // \$1,500
KOFA HIGH SCHOOL
GPA: 3.5
COLLEGE GOAL: AWC**



Our Council's Spring Donation season is always soooooo busy... and this year is no exception!

April started off with our President Shawn having some face time with Col Suggs, USMC (Commanding Officer, MCAS Yuma) as we delivered our donation of \$1,000 to help our adopted commands' Marines, Sailors, and their families in need thru MCAS' Navy & MC Relief.

Keeping the "green-side" theme a tad longer, our April general membership meeting was a great event as we met the newest sr. JROTC Instructor at Kofa HS, Major Bernie, USMC ret. Nice talk from the Major as members received an update as to what's new with the cadets. Shawn was on hand to provide Yuma's Marine JROTC cadets with another \$1,000 to assist with their competition transport funding.

MAY: 2018 Yuma NL Scholars Recognized! This year, our council received 9 applications for our four \$1,500 Osborne Jones Awards. A neat surprise this year was that our two JROTC awardees were both from Kofa HS! So, in addition to our leadership awards at the MC JROTC awards event, we also presented the 2 cadets with their scholarships to everyone's delight! NL members also met all four scholars at our May Awards Dinner; NICE!



**Thanks to all our members who
work each year in raising
these funds to
"Pay it Forward".**



After Memorial Day, our council never took a break... staying busy as we attended MCAS' H&HS Change of Command, participated in Yuma's Naval Sea Cadet annual awards ceremony, donated \$300 worth of pizza gift cards for MCAS Yuma's Single Marine Program Evening Swim, sponsored concert transportation for H&HS Marines, and began planning for our October Fund Raiser NL Dinner. And to cap it all off, we had the pleasure of a June membership meeting update from our Yuma Young Marines (see PG 6).

Great times by all !

MEMORIAL DAY

(contin fm PG 1)

our sailors, marines, coast-guardsmen, and merchant sailors who sacrificed all for their nation.

Whether lost in war or peace, Memorial Day allows our citizens to reflect and honor their lost family, friends, or neighbors - heroes all.

Led by American Legion Post 19 and accompanied by several color guards, flowers were tossed, taps

played, followed by a 21 gun salute. Always a moving sight, NL members in attendance were very proud of our sea cadet color guard standing tall and shipshape alongside our Sherriff Dept, CBP, and active duty members, among others. This was followed up by a Remembrance Ceremony at Desert Lawn Cemetery. Event VIPs included Mayor Nichols, Commanders of Yuma VFW and AM legion Posts; Board Members of Yuma's Navy League, and Caballeros de Yuma.

***MEMORIAL DAY 2018***

YOUTH PROGRAMS UPDATE

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Our council has been very diligent in keeping up with our sponsored youth programs. For 2018, our MIL & Youth Programs Committee includes 'doc' Hager (Chair and MCJROTC Liaison), Chuck LeDrew (Sea Cadet Liaison), and Gary Tomlinson (Young Marine Liaison). As a team, the committee will do their level best to ensure our members are kept abreast of sponsored youth units activities and performance.

Young Marines staff growing! June's general meeting was neat as we learned of their cadets training, unit growth, and commitment to community service. NL President Shawn presented their senior cadet with our annual donation of \$500 to assist with unit unfunded transport expenses.

Sea Cadets: Outstanding Performance Recognized.

President Shawn and VP 'doc' attended the annual awards ceremony, along with several NL members (hint: Chuck, Bill, Jacquie, Tyler). We teamed up with AM Vets of Yuma Chapter 330 to donate \$1,000 each for Sea Eagle training needs, plus Shawn awarded Roosevelt Awards to two worthy cadets (see below pic). We were especially happy to hear that June marks the unit's first local SCUBA advanced training. In addition, both sea cadets previously selected for FAA Pilot training have started formal instruction. One of the student pilots has also received a pledge of \$1,500 from two of our members to help with aviation fuel costs. Thank you, guys!

It's Official: for the 3rd consecutive year, our Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron is tops in AZ and New Mexico.

Bravo Zulu Cadets!



Theodore Roosevelt Awards for outstanding performance were presented this year to Sea Cadet CPO Blake, NL Cadet Chang, and MCJROTC Cadet Goforth, Kofa HS. **CONGRATS to all !**





MARINE CORPS JROTC — KOFA HIGH SCHOOL SgtMaj Laarman, USNC ret

Our Kofa MC JRTOC competed in a two major events this past April - the Golden Bear West Coast Drill Nationals (Torrance California, April 28) and regional school "Army Raiders PT Challenge".

43 schools attended the Golden Bear Drill Nationals. These included schools from Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps JROTC. Kofa High School's MCJROTC fielded 43 Drill Competition cadets which included an Armed Regulation Team, Armed Exhibition Team, two Unarmed Regulation Drill Team's and two Color Guards.

BZ: Cadet Captain Ruby Rubio, Platoon Commander for the Armed Exhibition Drill Team, was ranked 4th overall

for her performance.

The following were the results of the competition:

Armed Exhibition Drill- 3rd place overall
 Unarmed Regulation Drill- 5th place overall
 Outstanding Drill Commander- Ruby Rubio 4th place
 Armed Inspection Platoon- 6th place overall
 Sweepstakes Armed Novice- 4th place overall
 Push-up contest- 1st Place (males) Esteban Garza
 Push-up contest- 3rd Place (females) Valerio Castillo

The Army Raiders PT Competition Team competed at Santiago High School in Garden Grove, California against 9 other schools. The grueling course consisted of the following events:

1 Rope Bridge crossing
 Knot Tying relay
 1.5 mile Relay Run in full battle gear
 Spartan Obstacle Course in the mud
 Water Survival- swimming in battle gear and dummy rifle

BZ: Cadet Monica Guzman was rated as 3rd overall Best Raider (females).

Yuma JROTC Instructor Master Sgt Laarman (USMC ret) remarked: "Mr. Sharp, Major Birney and I are very proud of these cadets this school year. Their level of discipline, dedication, and pure determination to succeed; spending countless hours training before and after school for months to compete at the National Level displayed the very best of what it takes to be MC JROTC"

In May, Yuma's MCJROTC also held their annual awards night, presenting the course graduation certificates and awards to all cadets in the company. Of note, Ms. Monica Wise, (Sophomore) received the annual Navy League's Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal for outstanding performance this year.

The JROTC will be conducting 4 summer camps to include the Basic Leadership Course and the Physical Training Camp during the month of June. We will also conduct 2 camps in July; Drill and Color Guard Camp and Air Rifle Training Camp.

OoooRah, MC JROTC Cadets!

NEW BILL TO STRENGTHEN U.S. FLAG MERCHANT MARINE & SHIPBUILDING INTRODUCED

By JAMES PETERSON
WASHINGTON –

Rep. John Garamendi (D-Calif.) presented the Energizing American Shipbuilding Act on May 22 at a press conference on Capitol Hill. The bill is an effort to strengthen the U.S.-flag Merchant Marine and American shipbuilding, creating thousands of maritime and manufacturing jobs by 2040, as well as provide the U.S. with stronger national security.

Supporters of the Energizing American Shipbuilding Act said the bill could resolve the biggest concerns facing the Merchant Marine and the nation's shipbuilding industry today, including creating new jobs and providing U.S. mariners with experience and training. Garamendi, who introduced the act, explained the bill requires a small percentage of oceangoing exports be transported on U.S.-flagged vessels, with that percentage increasing to 15 percent by 2040. In addition, these vessels must be built and documented in the U.S. "This would result in the domestic construction of over 50 vessels," Garamendi said, "which would expand and enhance our industrial base, create thousands of high-paid and manufacturing jobs and develop the shipbuilding capabilities vital for America's national security. Our maritime industry deserves the robust support from Congress. Because of the hard-working people in this room, I believe we are on the road to making this happen."

"We know that America's ability to conduct large-scale sealift operations is significantly challenged right now due to a mariner shortage," Alan Kaplan, national president of the Navy League, said. "We must be prepared for any trial our nation may face." The bill will now go through the congressional process to become law.

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT MCAS, YUMA? WELL, AMONG OTHERS, WE HAVE VMX-1



Marine Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron One (VMX-1)

VMX-1 is a United States Marine Corps operational test squadron consisting of multiple aircraft types. The squadron is based at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona. VMX-22 stood up in August 2003 and was re-designated VMX-1 in May 2016. VMX-1 conducts operational test under the authority of the Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force (COMOPTEVFOR) and the Director, Marine Corps Operational Test and Evaluation Activity (MCOTEA) depending on the program under test.

VMX-1 is an independent test organization which conducts operational testing under the authority of CO, Operational Test and Evaluation Force or the Marine Corps Operational Test and Evaluation Activity (MCOTEA) with the charter to:

- Address future requirements
- Build an operational tactics guide
- Develop tactics, techniques, and procedures
- Sponsor tiltrotor issues and concepts of employment
- Prepare the foundation for the training syllabus of the Tiltrotor Fleet Readiness Squadron

What's unique is these Marines is they get to fly/test most all the Marine's command & control systems, associated equipment, weapons systems, and software.. Fixed wing and rotor aircraft all in one basket..

WOW!



2018 Yuma Navy League's San Diego Adventure

Friday, August 24th



Beat the heat!



Navy League Tour

- San Diego, CA (Piers side parking)
- Tour: 1300 (1pm) > 4pm (close)
- Assemble on Pier: nlt 12:45
- Personal Group Guide PLUS
Self-Guided Audio Tour
- Wheel chair access w/elevators
- Website: www.midway.org

Evening Dinner: SD Fun!

Saturday, August 25th



Friday Night Stay
Holiday Inn, Bayside
Group rates

A Day at the Races

- Del Mar, CA (\$25.00 /seat)
- 11am > 4pm (close)
- Shaded table group seating
- Valet parking at Del Mar Track
- Website: www.dmtc.com

Saturday Night Stay
Holiday Inn, Bayside
Group rates

Sunday, August 26th



Sunday Brunch

- 1100 (11:00 am)
- East County off I-8

**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!
www.nlus-
yumacouncil.org

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**DID YOU KNOW....YUMA COUNCIL NEWSLETTERS ARE
AVAILABLE ON THE WEB?**

EVERY YUMA NL NEWSLETTER CAN BE FOUND

at:

<http://www.yumanavyleague.com/>

Click on main page's "NEWS"

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 MISSIONS IS TRULY A TESTAMENT TO YUMA GRIT, COMMITMENT, AND DETERMINATION. TOGETHER, WE:



1. SUPPORT SEA SERVICE ACTIVE DUTY, VETERANS AND FAMILIES.
2. ARE VOCAL AND ACTIVE COMMUNITY ADVOCATES OF A STRONG TEAM OF SEA SERVICES - NAVY, MARINE CORPS, COAST GUARD
3. SUPPORT YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS: YOUNG MARINES, YUMA MC JROTC, NAVAL SEA CADETS & NAVY LEAGUE CADETS

**100% OF EVERY DOLLAR WE RAISE
STAYS IN YUMA!**

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

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