

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 3

SEPT 2018

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Patio Restaurant, Hills CC

OCT 18: GENERAL MEETING 6pm

US NAVY BIRTHDAY

NOV 15: GENERAL MEETING 6pm

USMC BIRTHDAY

DEC 20: CHRISTMAS DINNER 6pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT 20: NL DINNER/CONCERT 6pm

Tickets on sale!

OCT 26: AZ Veterans Hall of Fame

Induction Ceremony

Oct 11: USN BIRTHDAY

Nov 10: USMC BIRTHDAY



On September 4, 2002, President GW Bush proclaimed September 11, 2002, as the first National **Patriot Day**. Flags are flown at half-staff for 24 hrs. Additionally, a moment of silence is observed to correspond with the attacks, beginning at 8:46 a.m. (Eastern Daylight Time), the time the first plane, American Airlines Flight 11, struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center, September 11, 2001.

While Patriot Day is not a federal holiday, each of us should take a moment to recall where they were that fateful day and remember not only the victims, but the first responders and police who ran towards the carnage. Heroes all.

YUMA NL Council Receives National Awards

AUG 2018

During the National NLUS Convention this year, awards were issued to NL Councils in recognition of their success in several categories. We are proud to announce our Yuma Council received 2 top awards: Second Place: Small Council Newsletter / Publications and First Place: Small Council Social Media. We are grateful to our National HQ for these awards and will continue to work hard in communicating our NL mission to our community. Our Council will do whatever it takes to "GET THE WORD OUT."

Governor declares October 27 AZ Veterans Hall of Fame Day

SEPT 2018

Did you know Arizona is only one of 6 States that have a Veterans Hall of Fame? Well, in recognition of those few AZ citizens selected for induction each year, the legislature issued the proclamation (signed by Gov. Ducey) formally making Oct 27th - *AZ Vets Hall of Fame Day*. Yuma County currently has two members of the Hall with three more to be inducted this year. Take a moment and check out the AZ HOF at: avhof.org/



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!

Our council has several challenges this year. MEMBERSHIP is growing, however we still have a ways to go. Regular & E-members must renew annually. Are you now or soon overdue? See Chuck LeDrew to confirm your status.



MONEY is always a factor to support our sponsored tasks. Ticket sales, participation in events from October to January's car show are essential to raise the funds that allow us to help our Vets and kids!

Challenge #1

EACH MBR RECRUIT ONE NEW MEMBER THIS YEAR

SO, HOW ARE WE DOING? ➡ bringing them in !

SPONSOR: CHUCK LeDREW

NEW MEMBER:

Larry Curtis (Navy Veteran)

SPONSOR: DEAN HAGER

NEW MEMBER:

William Cauthorn (Navy Veteran)

Challenge #2

**MONDAY NITE FOOTBALL
SEPT > OCT FUND RAISER**

SO, HOW ARE WE DOING! ➡ GREAT !

MCAS MARINES: 100 TICKET PACKS SOLD

OoooRah, H&HS Marines: \$1,000 in DEC

NL COUNCIL MEMBERS: ALMOST SOLD OUT

BZ Navy League Membership

Challenge #3

**NL DINNER / CONCERT
OCT 20th FUND RAISER**

SO, HOW ARE WE DOING? ➡ GREAT !

**Tickets on sale now!
See *Back of this Newsletter*
for contact info.**



TIME TO ACT: The Senate on Aug. 23 wasted no time in passing its version of the fiscal year 2019 defense appropriations legislation as part of an \$856.9 billion “minibus” spending package (H.R. 6157). The Senate has not moved this fast on the appropriations bill in the better part of a decade. The legislation was passed following two days of debate, by a vote of 85-7. The legislation supports funding the measures in the FY2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), including the 2.6 percent pay raise for troops. But the approval process is not done yet, and there a concern that other non-defense related political issues in this midterm election year might slow down or even possibly derail this effort.

OUR SEA SERVICES NEED YOU:

The Navy lost too many lives to accidents in recent years. Congress has the power to do something about it and can help prevent accidents like those that happened on USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain by funding the fleet properly. It is stress and over-commitment that has led the Navy to this point. To meet the demand for ships, the Navy has been forced to extend deployments, increase operational tempo, and shorten, eliminate, or delay training and maintenance, harming readiness and disrupting the rest sailors need to serve at their best.

Missions have expanded, but Navy manning has shrunk by 20%. Deployments today are all longer than six months, though just 17 years ago, only 4% of deployments lasted that long. The Pacific fleet is even more stressed: the operational tempo has remained the same even though the total number of ships operating in the Western Pacific has shrunk. To further exacerbate the situation, according to a report by GAO, forward deployed naval forces—those based in ports overseas--have even longer deployments with less training and less predictable schedules despite regularly operating in complex environments. The percentage of the fleet homeported overseas has doubled in the last decade. Congressional testimony revealed that sailors are working 100-hour weeks. This is unsustainable.

As the FY2019 defense appropriations legislation now moves into its final phase with Congress, before going to the President, we need Yuma NL Council members to engage with their elected representatives. Let them know that you strongly support their efforts to stay on pace to complete the defense spending bill and get it signed into law by the President before the start of the new fiscal year.

Contact your representatives directly with just a few clicks!

Go to: <https://www.votervoice.net/NavyLeague/Campaigns/59993/Respond>





Want to DONATE, but not much cash? Set up a reoccurring donation to the Navy League for as little as \$10.00 / month.

IT'S EASY.

**GO TO:
www.yumanavyleague.com**

Click on Donate/Contribute and donate what U can.

GO AHEAD!

YUMA MCJROTC

SgtMaj C. Laarman, Instructor (MCJROTC, Kofa HS)

Our student body started back to school on Aug 2nd with 150 MCJROTC cadets in attendance our first day! 80 brand new LE-1 cadets started our program this year. It was great to see 59 cadets returning at LE-2 and LE-3 levels, and 11 cadets as LE-4 making this our largest class of senior LE-4's to date.

Our Commanding Officer this year is Cadet 1stLt Valeria Castillo, an LE-4 who went to Kansas this summer for the Senior Leadership Camp (offered in part by the United States Marine Corps). Rounding out our leadership for 2018 Executive Officer is Cadet GySgt Kalib Waldron and Company 1stSgt is Cadet GySgt Holleigh Elliott (both LE-4s).



Kofa JROTC cadets have already provided hundreds of community service hours in events around Yuma since beginning the school year. This month, we took 30 cadets to assist with the Special Olympics hosted at the Fortuna de Oro RV Resort with more than 100 contestants coming from all over the state.

Our Sr. Instructor, Major Todd Birney USMC (ret), and the rifle team have already begun practicing for competitions this year and the Drill Team will begin practices with Sergeant Major Laarman starting next week. We are also in the planning phases for our Annual Marine Corps Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremony and first promotion ceremony of the season to be hosted at Kofa High School on the baseball field this November.

On the horizon is a new plan for our very own covered area with artificial turf for drill competitions and ceremonies. Thank you Kofa High! Once installed, our families and friends can watch and enjoy the hard work and hours of practice put to use in regional competitions.

YUMA SEA CADETS

At the recent NSCC Committee meeting, Unit Operations Officer, Ens. Jacquie Hudson presented unit status info for both the Sea Eagle Squadron and Training Ship Sandburg. A few key facts:

- TS Sandburg cadet numbers growing: Our Navy League Cadets are right on track in attaining the cadet numbers necessary to receive recognition as a commissioned unit and compete nationally. This past FEB, in their first Flagship skills competition, they scored second in the State.
- Training Firsts: In the first advanced training (AT) held in Yuma, 16 sea cadets received their open ocean SCUBA certifications. This included at least 3 dives in Mission Bay, SD! 2018 has also seen two sea cadets accepted into a FAA Pilot training program. Both are progressing well.. (We shall check on them later this year). Plans are to hold a Petty Officer Leadership Academy (POLA) advanced training for our region by next summer!

As the program matures, we are beginning to see the fruits of our cadets labor. 5 cadet Chief Petty Officers with a bunch scheduled for next year. Plus our first post high school volunteer, Midshipman Ian Cochrane who will be helping out with a new website design. COOL!

This September’s general meeting will include a visit by a local MCAS Yuma NCIS Special Agent, who will be our featured speaker. Having our own Special Agent onboard is especially fun as we also will have some student representation from Cibola High’s Mock Trial Team - who have expressed interest in a career with Naval Investigations or as a uniformed JAG officer. What better way to be informed than break bread with the real deal! *That’s our Council for you; spreading the word.*

To assist council members in being prepared for Q&A, here is some basic info for all:

The **United States Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS)** is the primary law enforcement agency of the U.S. Department of the Navy. Its primary function is to investigate criminal activities involving the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps, though its broad mandate includes national security, counterintelligence, counter-terrorism, cyber warfare, and the protection of U.S. naval assets worldwide. NCIS is the successor organization to the former Naval Investigative Service (NIS), which was established by the Office of Naval Intelligence after the Second World War.



The vast majority of NCIS personnel are civilian, roughly half of whom are special agents trained to carry out a wide variety of assignments around the world. NCIS agents are armed federal law enforcement investigators, who frequently coordinate with other U.S. government agencies and have a presence in over 40 countries, as well as on U.S. Navy vessels. NCIS special agents are supported by analysts and other experts skilled in disciplines such as forensics, surveillance, surveillance countermeasures, computer investigations, physical security, and polygraph examinations.

SPECIAL AGENTS AFLOAT: The Special Agent Afloat Program of NCIS sends NCIS Special Agents aboard U.S. aircraft carriers and other ships (for example, hospital ships and amphibious assault ships).^[10] The purpose of the program is to provide professional investigative, counterintelligence, and force protection support to deployed Navy and Marine Corps commanders. These special agents are assigned to aircraft carriers and other deployed major combatants. Their environment can best be described as a "floating city." The assignment offers many of the same investigative challenges found by any criminal investigator working in a metropolitan city. A special agent assigned to a carrier must be skilled in general criminal investigations including: crime scene examination, expert interview techniques, and use of proactive law enforcement procedures to stop criminal activity before it occurs. The special agent afloat also provides guidance on foreign counterintelligence matters, including terrorism. It is also the mission of the special agent afloat to offer Navy and Marine Corps leadership advice and operational support on security issues which might threaten the safety of ships, personnel and resources.

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

EVERY YEAR’S NEWSLETTER CAN BE READ OR PRINTED OUT at:
<http://www.yumanavyleague.com/> **Click on main page’s “NEWS”**

From day one, our council leadership focused developing a diverse team of community leadership to have a “seat at the table” in support of our first sea cadet unit. Understanding the need for strong community support for such a great program, the Yuma NL founders identified key individuals including our Yuma NL Council as lead sponsor, Major Financial Donors, Veterans Groups, and representatives from both education and government. So, what does the Yuma NSCC Committee do?

General Status Meeting: Held twice a year, the NSCC Committee general meeting (open to the public) provides the sea cadet unit leadership an opportunity to share program status and mission accomplishments with the community. Key elements are finances, cadet performance, unit retention, and future training plans.

Financial Review: The committee receives financial summaries at each general meeting and stand by assist the unit if cash flow or one-time equipment purchase issues arise. In addition, a more thorough financial review is conducted with Navy League Council participation (and third-party CPA) prior to each Change of Command. Yuma is a close-knit community. The NSCC Committee ensures the public is aware that all donated funds are used in accordance with existing regulations and 501c3 tax law – and that donated funds are used for their intended purpose.

Community Voice: The adult volunteer selected as Commanding Officer is accountable for all program activities. He/She has complete responsibility for the operation of the Sea Cadet Unit and is accountable to the NSCC Regional Director and NSCC Headquarters. Yuma's NSCC Committee and NLUS Council are not in the chain of command, but do serve a vital role as the CO's Prime Support Link to the community that funds and supports this program.

Since 2015, Yuma NSCC/Navy League members have been active in:

1. Networking – facilitating contact with local Navy and USMC activities, recruiters, public affairs officers, school officials, civic organization and other community leaders.
2. Resources - identifying training facilities and materials, space for administrative functions, and storage of unit equipment.
3. Recruiting - qualified volunteer leadership for the unit.
4. Third Party Review of the unit's finance - and may place limitations on a specific donation. Ex: money fenced solely for specific equipment or training.
5. Selection of Unit Commanding Officer - Nomination of an individual to serve as unit commanding officer is the prerogative of the President of the Navy League Council. A nomination for appointment as unit commanding officer is submitted to the NSCC Executive Director via the NSCC Headquarters Representative for approval and issuance of a letter of appointment. Final appointment is the sole purview of the NSCC National Director.

For Yuma AZ to create (and maintain) such successful “high expectation” youth leadership programs such as the Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron and Training Ship Sandburg, community leaders (via the NSCC Committee) and Unit Officers must work together to make it happen. Our cadets top scores in the Region demonstrate it works.



*To all those volunteers on committees or in uniform: **Bravo Zulu!***



AZ APPROVES TWO NEW STATE VETERAN HOMES

...one right here in YUMA!

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) State Home Construction Grant Program has approved construction costs for 80-bed skilled-nursing veteran homes in Flagstaff and Yuma. The new Arizona State Veteran Homes will hold four 16-bed long-term care units and one memory care unit. This grant will fund 65 percent of the construction costs. "Since 2015, we've put Arizona's veterans first, securing \$19.2 million in matching state funds for additional State Veteran Homes," Governor Doug Ducey says. "Now both homes will serve veterans and their families in rural areas and bring new jobs to each city." The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS) will hire 250 employees to staff the homes, including registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, dietitians and aides, housekeeping and administrative services. The staff will provide 24/7 skilled-nursing care for geriatric and chronically-ill veterans, dependents, and surviving spouses. Care includes respiratory therapy, rehabilitative work, therapeutic recreation, exercise classes, and physical, occupational, and speech therapy. "Wherever veterans live, they deserve our services," Retired Air Force Col. Wanda Wright, ADVS Director, says. "39 percent of veterans in the Flagstaff area and 24 percent of veterans in the Yuma area are over age 65. These numbers don't even include the many other veterans who live in rural areas. Now we can serve them as close to their homes, families and friends as possible.

This helps families save on travel costs and helps veterans thrive." Each home will be approximately 80,000 square feet, on ten acres of land donated by their respective city. The southwestern-themed homes will offer services and amenities similar to those at the current Arizona State Veteran Homes in Phoenix and Tucson, like housekeeping, laundry services, a meditation room, a gift shop, a barber/beauty shop and more. Veteran Benefits Counselors will be available to assist residents in obtaining their federal and state benefits. Social services will also provide support for residents and their families. Each resident room is furnished and private. Construction could begin as early as within the next eight to ten months and will take 18 months to two years to complete.



AZ State veterans home, Tucson AZ

Mission Statement

"The mission of the Arizona State Veteran Homes is to provide professional skilled nursing and rehabilitative care for the geriatric and chronically ill veteran and dependent/surviving spouses throughout the State of Arizona. Our goal is for each veteran to attain or maintain his or her highest practicable physical, mental and psychosocial well-being."

**NLUS YUMA
COUNCIL**

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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

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**Yuma Council
Navy League of the United States**

*Invites you to attend an evening of
fine dining and live music provided by*

Kolt Supa

Award-Winning Concert Pianist

**All proceeds will go to help
Military Families**

**Tickets \$50.00 per person
No host bar
Silent Auction
Live Auction**

Yuma Golf & Country Club
3150 So. Fortuna Ave
Yuma, Az.
October 20, 2018
6:00 pm

Sponsorships

Gold- \$2000 reserves eight seats, 4 bottles of wine
Silver- \$1000 reserves four seats, 2 bottles of wine
Bronze- \$500 reserves two seats
Sponsors will be recognized the evening of the event

*Please RSVP /w Bob by October 5th, 2018
928-919-2646 or nid2203@yahoo.com*

***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>***