

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 6, ISSUE 3

SEPT 2019

Meeting Schedule, MCAS Pueblo Club

17 OCT : GENERAL MTG 6 pm
USN BIRTHDAY!

21 NOV : GENERAL MTG 6 pm
USMC BIRTHDAY!

21 DEC: GENERAL MTG 6pm
HOLIDAY DINNER

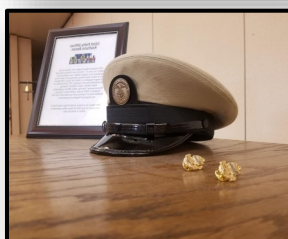
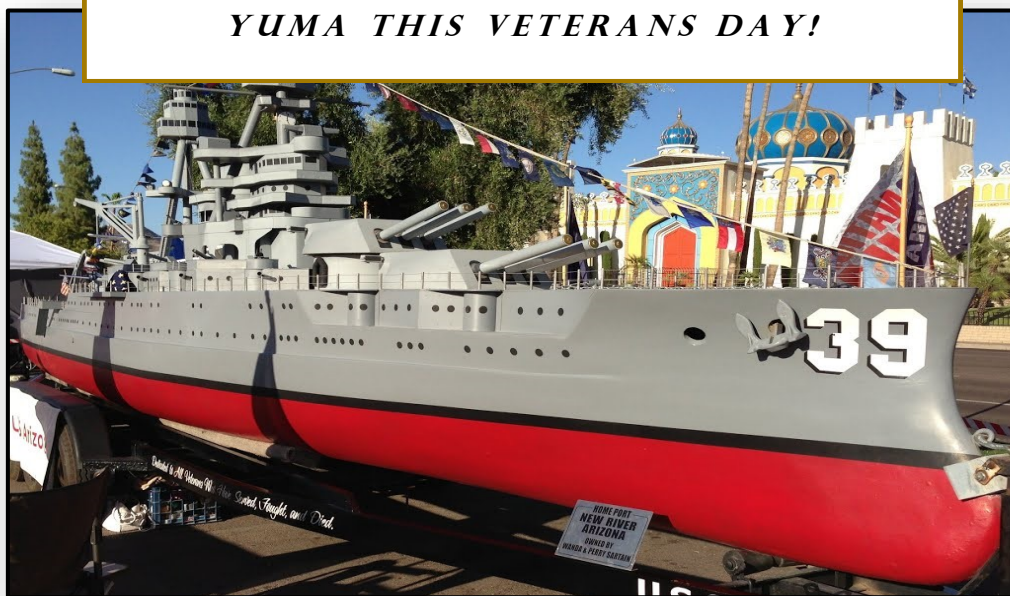
Upcoming Events:

OCT 05: FUND RAISER
NL Charity Dinner , Yuma CC,
1800-2300

NOV 07: USMC BIRTHDAY EVENT,
1000, MCAS YUMA

NOV 11: VETERANS DAY PARADE,
0800-10000 , 4TH AVE YUMA

**THE ARIZONA IS COMING BACK TO
YUMA THIS VETERANS DAY!**



This summer saw another Yuma Naval Sea Cadet attain the rank of *Cadet Chief Petty Officer*. The formal chief pining ceremony was well attended by fellow cadets, parents, active duty Navy Chiefs and Air Station personnel. Held onboard MCAS Yuma's Pueblo Club, the ceremony included... (see Pg 7)



AUG: Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron (H&HS), Marines attaining the rank of Corporal, received their blood stripe from the Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Paxton and command Sergeant Major Galvez. The blood stripe honors the blood that was shed by Marine officers and NCOs during the Battle of Chapultepec in 1847 and is worn on their trousers in remembrance of those who courageously fought in the battle. USMC Photo: Cpl. S. Candiaflores



SEPT 2019

President

Dean 'doc' Hager

Vice President

Bob Nidiffer

Treasurer

Marie Michael

Secretary

Karen Nicklaus

Master at Arms

Nancy Ramsey

Membership

Bill Bonsky

Community Liaison Team

Dean Hager (Chair)

Bob Nidiffer

Shawn McKeown

Carol Underhill

Gina Blackwell

Scholarship Committee 2019

Nancy Ramsey

Rochel Thompson

Dean Hager

Questions / Comments?

Letters to the Editor?

Contact us at:

NLUS Yuma Council

PO Box 393

Yuma, AZ 85366

MEMBERSHIP IS OUR STRENGTH

2

FUND RAISING SEASON is soon to begin once more. As you all know, October through April are the months we historically raise the funds necessary to support our youth groups, assist our active duty Marines & Sailors, Veterans and their families in need. I must say, for a small group, we sure have pretty well when all is said and done. So, here we go again! Members—please begin planning to support our fund raising efforts:

- **MON NITE FOOTBALL:** At last count, we are close to a sell out. AGAIN!
- **OCT 5 DINNER/CONCERT AUCTION:** This year our profits will be mostly from our *Silent Auction* items. We need ten (10) more gift baskets and other art/ memorabilia for this event. Nancy is collecting your contribution.
- **JANUARY 18 CAR SHOW:** Same goes for our show. Plan to attend and volunteer a few hours. Silent auction items make a great showing here.... Its up to YOU.

MEMBERS: WE CAN ELIMINATE THE “WIDOWS TAX”

TIME TO ACT: Under current law, survivors of deceased military members forfeit part or all of their Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity when they are awarded the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). For more than 65,000 military survivors, this “widow's tax” makes SBP the only insurance that you pay into **but** are legally prohibited from collecting. The widows tax results in a loss of up to \$12,000 per year to a surviving spouse household.

Currently, standalone legislation to repeal the widows tax enjoys overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress: over 370 co-sponsors in the House and 75 from the Senate. Congress consistently favors eliminating the widows tax but fails to find a way to pay for it. The conference committee provides an ideal opportunity for the House and Senate to support those who have lost their loved ones through their service to our nation.

If you believe that this lack of support needs to be eliminated, please write your Senator and Representatives today. Its vital that Navy League members stand strong!

U.S. Senate

Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ), Sen. Martha McSally (R-AZ)

U.S. House of Representatives

Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ), Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

NEED TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP? Don't let your membership expire. Checking your date is easy.. You can log in to Nationals web page to check - even RENEW right there! If you are more comfortable with paper, see Bill Bonsky at our General Mtg 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 - FALL (subject to change): Dates will be sent via email notification as they are firmed up throughout the year .

DONATION & AWARDS COMPLETED ON SCHEDULE !!!!

KEY EVENTS:

- 06 SEPT SEA CADET CHIEF PETTY OFFICER PINING CEREMONY (1800)
- 05 OCT **NAVY LEAGUE'S DINNER CHARITY CONCERT, YUMA CC (1800)**
- 11 NOV YUMA VETERANS DAY PARADE + AFTER-EVENT BRUNCH (0800)
- 21 NOV 2020 COUNCIL OFFICER ELECTION (GENERAL MTG)
- 14 DEC SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING w/CADETS, FOOTHILLS FRY'S
- 18 JAN **NAVY LEAGUE'S 'CRUISIN' YUMA' CHARITY CAR SHOW (0900-1430)**

COUNCIL LIAISON CHANGES FOR THIS FALL

Behind the scenes, Navy League Council Liaisons serve our membership well by keeping us informed on what's happening throughout our community. Whether its Governmental Affairs (Yuma 50), Local Military Affairs (Chamber's MAC & MCAS), or Youth Programs (cadets), they prove their worth each and every month.

Due to health concerns, we have two adjustments for this Fall. Chuck LeDrew (sea cadets) and Gary Tomlinson (MCJROTC + Young Marines) have had to take a break from their duties. Council member Gina Blackwell has graciously volunteered to be our point of contact (POC) for Yuma's Naval Sea Cadets & Navy League Cadets. Our Council MCJROTC and Young Marine POC position remains open, however 'doc' Hager has agreed to fill in temporarily this summer/fall until we get a volunteer on board.

Thanks Gina and 'doc' !

AUG: Yet another annual trek to California to escape the heat - and was it a blast! The Marines coined the phrase *Semper Gumby* (always flexible) years ago to acknowledge plans many times do not go smoothly. 2019 was our appointment with last minute "Opps Issues" when we received notice 1 day before travel that our Friday afternoon US Navy small craft tour was cancelled. Arrgghhh! Several emails and cell calls later, all participants were notified with adjusted travel schedules laid in. No details on why—other than due to a small craft incident in the bay, all Navy tours were cancelled... you know the drill; Safety Stand Done and/or concurrent incident investigation. Our point of contact with Assault Craft Unit-One was very professional and we were encouraged to attempt a reset for 2020 (which we will!).

Friday night's dinner at Fiddlers Green was a sell out and great. Saturdays day at the races up at Del Mar was equally wonderful — again with our largest attendance ever (60+ seats). Afterwards, it was also nice just to evening "chill out" at the hotel pool, and enjoy each others company with wine and snacks.

Topping it off with Sundays Brunch at the La Mesa Brigantine capped off this successful Yuma adventure. Kudos to all members who helped make this such a fun event!



See You All Next Year!

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Today, we say adios to a *Marine's Marine*, SgtMaj Fabian Casillas, as he passed the mantle of responsibility to the incoming H&HS command SgtMaj – SgtMaj Luis Galvez. Ceremony was professional as we have come to expect from our Yuma USMC "Guardians". Welcome aboard SgtMaj Galvez, the Yuma Council – Navy League stands ready to support. *Semper fi*

11 JULY
Command Sergeant Majors
Relief & Appointment
Ceremony

Your Navy League
was there!



Headquarters &
Headquarters Squadron
MCAS, YUMA



L>R: SgtMaj Fabian Casillas, League Pres. 'doc' Hager, SgtMaj Luis Galvez

NAVY LEAGUE WELCOMES NEW H&HS COMMAND SGT MAJ



MID>R: Our own 'DOC'
HAGER & BOB SLOENSEN
(Adm. USCGR ret) ATTEND
YUMA VETS HOME GROUND
BRACKING CEREMONY



NAVY LEAGUE LIAISON CHUCK LeDREW (MGySgt, USMC ret)
ADDRESSES THE YUMA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMTTE (MAC) AT
PACKED JUNE MTG.

Public Parking + Free Admission

SATURDAY, 25 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

CAR CLUBS ARE ALREADY
TALKING ON ATTENDING - GET
READY TO VOLUNTEER!

THANKS TO
OUR 2019-20
SPONSORS!

(*) FAA
JROTC Pilot
Program



AZ ACTIVE AIR (*)

Yuma NL: Keeping
our promise to our
active duty!



NAVY-MARINE CORPS
RELIEF SOCIETY

ADM Steve Abbot, USN (Ret.)
President and Chief Executive Officer

June 24, 2019

Yuma Council of the Navy League
P O Box 393
Yuma, AZ 85366

Dear Council Members,

Your dedication to helping active duty and retirees Sea Service members and their families in need fills me with pride. Thank you for the generous and caring gift you have given.

You make it possible for our brave Sailors, Marines, and their families to serve and protect this country that we love. You're there for them when they need you, providing financial assistance, education, disaster relief, support for families and children, and much, much more.

And so, it is my great honor to count on you as a friend of the Society and a dedicated supporter of the work we do. Through your generosity, you demonstrate the very best of American patriotism and the ideals that we live by: honor, duty, and service. Thank you for your outstanding generosity, and God bless America.

Sincerely,

ADM Steve Abbot, USN (Ret)
President and Chief Executive Officer

DID YOU KNOW....

EVERY YEAR'S NEWSLETTERS MAY BE READ or PRINTED

GOTO: www.yumanavyleague.com

click on our main page's "NEWS"



NAVAL SEA CADETS (Fm. Main Pg.)

...guest speakers and was very similar to any pinning event you'd see in the active Navy. Our latest new Cadet Chief Petty Officer for this traditional ceremony is Cadet CPO Katlin Bacon, NSCC. Our newest Cadet CPO received her chief devices during the ceremony; cheered on by her parents, friends, fellow cadets and local active duty Navy chief petty officers. Our thanks to Bill and Shirley Bonsky for representing our Navy League council at this event. Goes to show, even in the depth of summer with most folks out of town, our Navy League finds time to say "Congrats" and participate.

BZ, cadet CPO Bacon.



Sea Cadet Operations: Yuma's Sea Eagles had a successful National Scuba Diving training this June. 20 cadets from all over the nation came to Yuma and were successfully certified PADI basic open water divers. We had more applicants than seats, so we are discussing doing 2 Scuba trainings in the summer to try and accommodate the numbers. Of the 20 students, 3 were local cadets and 17 from outside our area. Although there were 8 scuba classes nationally, we welcomed cadets came from Florida, Tennessee, North Carolina, Washington State, California, Texas, Idaho, Montana, and Nevada!

Cadets from outside Arizona and Southern California flew into Yuma Airport from both Phoenix and Dallas. Our Yuma airport provided excellent service and accommodated cadets in the Military Comfort Lounge area, unlike other airports where cadets were not allowed to enter USO or military rest areas.

Because Region 11, at Camp Pendleton, again changed their training location to San Luis Obispo with only a couple of weeks notice, we again had cadets drop out of trainings. In response, our region leadership is in discussions to increase back summer cadet training opportunities throughout Arizona - many talks of Flagstaff, Fort Huachuca, Papago (Phoenix) and YUMA!

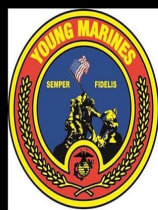


TERRITORIAL



for these events. Great Training - OoooRah!

VOLUNTEERS INVITED



Adult Volunteers Needed

Join the Young Marines Staff. We have multiple areas that need support. Administrative, training, transportation & Chaperones. Provide mentorship to the youth in your community. Our team is dedicated to providing a quality youth organization focused on being drug free and healthy.



For more information call (858)900-4908.

Email:

TerritorialM@outlook.com

Facebook/Instagram

*NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
~ LOCAL SUPPORT REMAINS STRONG ~*



17 JUL: Col. David A. Suggs, Commanding Officer of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, and several base employees met with members of our community for an Air Installations Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ) Open House at Yuma's Pivot Point Conference Center. This event helped our community better understand the AICUZ program and its role in assisting citizens and our local government officials identify and plan for co-existing with military installations such as MCAS.

This primary focus of AICUZ is to identify noise corridors and potential accident zones so community planners can best work with military leaders in advance of major encroachment or hazard issues.

Working as a team, Yuma continues to offer our Marine/Naval aviators, international military, and joint service personnel the very best aviation training possible.



**THAT'S THE
SOUND OF
FREEDOM**

KNOW YOUR YUMA MARINES ***H&HS COMMAND SGTMAJ***



Command Sergeant Major, Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron, MCAS

Sergeant Major Luis A. Galvez reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California on 13 October 1998, and graduated on 9 January 1999. Upon completion of Marine Corps Combat Training, he attended the Basic Combat Engineer School in Courthouse Bay, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. After successful completion he received orders to 1st Combat Engineer Battalion.

In April 1999, Private First Class Galvez reported to Company C, 1st CEB. In October 2001, Corporal Galvez deployed with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) in Support of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines (V2/1), as assistant squad leader. In January 2003 Sergeant Galvez deployed with the 15th MEU in support once again of Company G, V2/1 as a squad leader. While on the 15th MEU, Sergeant Galvez participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF1), as part of Task Force Tarawa.

In October 2003, Sergeant Galvez was transferred to Company A, 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB), 3rd Force Service Support Group, Okinawa, Japan. During the one year assignment, Sergeant Galvez served as a squad leader and Platoon Sergeant, and participated in numerous training exercises to include Cobra Gold in Thailand, and Korean Incremental Training Program in South Korea.

In October 2004, Sergeant Galvez was transferred to Marine Barrack 8th & I, Washington DC. During his time at 8th & I, he served as Construction Chief, Maintenance Operations Chief, and Light Director for over 50 ceremonial evening parades held on the grounds of the "Oldest Post". On 1 February 2006 he was promoted to Staff Sergeant at the "Home of the Commandants".

In June 2008, Staff Sergeant Galvez was transferred to Company A, 9th ESB, 3rd MLG, and deployed with Combat Logistics Battalion 4, in support of OIF as the Route Clearance Platoon Sergeant. Upon return from Iraq, Staff Sergeant Galvez was reassigned to 9th ESB where he served as a Platoon Commander and Company Gunnery Sergeant. He was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant on 1 December 2009 and assigned as the Headquarters and Service Company First Sergeant.

In July 2011, Gunnery Sergeant Galvez was transferred to Company C, 1st CEB and deployed to Afghanistan in support of 1st Battalion, 7th Marines as the Combat Engineer Platoon Sergeant. Upon returning from Afghanistan, Gunnery Sergeant Galvez was assigned as the Company Gunnery Sergeant for Mobility Assault Company (MAC), and in 2012, he deployed to Afghanistan with MAC, providing route clearance support for coalition forces in the Al Anbar Province. Upon returning from deployment, Gunnery Galvez was reassigned at H&S Company First Sergeant.

First Sergeant Galvez was frocked to his current rank on 6 January 2015. On 23 January 2015 he was assigned to Company C, First Battalion, 5th Marines. In November 2015, he deployed in support of the 31st MEU.

In July 2016, First Sergeant Galvez was transferred to The Basic School, Quantico Virginia, where he has served as the Company First Sergeant for Headquarters and Service Company, Company F, and Company M. He was frocked to his current rank on 7 June 2019 and on 11 July 2019 he assumed duties as Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Sergeant Major. This is his first time in Yuma.

WELCOME TO YUMA, Sergeant Major!

**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

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

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

The Silver Strings



**All proceeds will go to help
Veterans + Military Families in need,
and Yuma's JROTC programs**

Tickets \$50.00 per person

No host bar

Silent Auction

Live Auction

Yuma Golf & Country Club

3150 So. Fortuna Ave

Yuma, AZ

October 5th, 2019

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 Sept 20th, 2019

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 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.