



# ***Savannah Steamer***

***Founded May 15, 1957***

***Volume 46, Issue 1***

***1st Quarter, 2019***

## **President's Message**



Savannah Navy Leaguers,  
2019 is looking like another great year of actively supporting our Sea Services. If you are looking for an area to support, we have many from which to choose. Showing up at Quarterly Award Presentations is a good way to start. Whether it be the USS Alaska in Kings Bay, USS Little Rock / USS Sioux City at Mayport, FL, the Marine Corps at Parris Island or the Savannah area Coast Guard units - they all deserve our support as they defend our great country. And, don't forget that supporting their Family Readiness Groups is a main part the Navy League's mission. Kid's Easter Egg Hunts, Halloween Trunk or Treat and Christmas activities along with the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner and Single Sailor Gift Bags all help support the morale of Service Members and their Families. If you are interested in touring a ship or facility, attending a unit Change of Command could result in just that. Let me know what you are interested in doing and I will connect you with the Board Member in charge of that area

CDR O.C. Fowler, USN (Ret.)

## **Coast Guard Tall Ship Eagle's Visit to Savannah**



The Coast Guard Tall Ship Eagle visited Savannah over the St. Patrick's Day Weekend. 25 Navy Leaguers rode the ship on the 2 hour transit up the Savannah River. It was a great experience for all.

## **Many Thanks to Our Community Affiliate Members**

### **and Corporate Sponsors!**



Crescent Towing



Pooler, GA

## **Submarine Squadron 20 Change of Command -18 January 2019**



CAPT Wirth

Savannah Navy League's support of the fine sailors and their ships and families in Kings Bay started with the adoption of the USS Alaska (SSBN 732) in May of 2011. The connections were seen most recently at the Submarine Squadron 20 Change of Command. Captain Craig Gummer relieved Captain Robert Wirth as Submarine Squadron 20 Commodore. Both Gummer and Wirth served as Commanding Officers of the USS Alaska. Wirth is now on his way to an assignment in Washington. He was presented with a Legion of Merit by Admiral Jablon. We look forward to supporting Captain Gummer and his fine crew.



CAPT Gummer

## **USS Sioux City (LCS 11) BLUE Change of Command—5 April 2019**



CDR Malone



CDR Lewis



CDR James "Randy" Malone, USN, relinquished command of USS Sioux City BLUE to CDR Chavius G. Lewis, USN, at Naval Station Mayport, on Friday 5 April 2019. Navy Leaguers President O.C. Fowler, Pat Yovich, Gary Johnson, John Neff, Lewis and June Strickland, and Bob Gephart attended.

## **USS Little Rock & USS Sioux City Sailors of the Quarter**



SNL representatives travelled twice to Mayport, on February 1 and April 5, to present Sailor of the Quarter / Year awards. President O.C. Fowler, Pat Yovich, Chuck Towles, Gary Johnson, and Bob Gephart made the trips.





## Jasper Green / St Patrick's Day Parade Celebrations



The annual Jasper Green ceremony was conducted in Madison Square on Friday, April 15. This ceremony honors all U.S. Military Services, past, present, and future. The Navy was represented by CAPT Cory Applebee, Commodore of LCS Surface Division 21 at Naval Station Mayport, with his wife Stacey, and CDR James Bird, Executive Officer of Savannah State NROTC.

### THE PARADE !



The annual St Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 16, 2019, was another Great Navy Day. Savannah Navy League arranged for Navy Officers and Crews from Navy Sub Base Kings Bay and Naval Station Mayport, the Navy Band Southeast, and NJROTC Cadets all to participate. More than 100 Sailors marched in this parade. There were also about 15 wives / children of USS Alaska crew following their Sailors in the parade. The list of our units was:

Navy League Banner – Johnson High School NJROTC Cadets  
Color Guard – Jenkins High School NJROTC Cadets  
Navy Band Southeast – NAS Jacksonville  
Navy Leaguer of the Year 2018 – Chuck Towles  
CAPT Kevin Byrnes – CO - Naval Support Activity – Charleston  
CAPT Chris Nash – Commodore – Submarine Squadron 16 – Kings Bay  
CDR David Brooks – CO – USS Alaska (SSBN 732) BLUE – Kings Bay  
USS Alaska BLUE Crew  
CAPT Cory Applebee – Commodore – LCS Surface Division 21 – Mayport  
CDR Kevin O'Brien – CO – USS Sioux City (LCS 11) GOLD  
USS Sioux City GOLD & USS Little Rock BLUE Crews

The weather was great, and a grand time was had by all.

For more photos, visit our Facebook page - enter Savannah Navy League in the search box.

## Coast Guard Updates

### Government Shutdown Impact

The Federal Government Shutdown affected the entire Coast Guard including our Savannah Units. Chatham County was designated a CG Community last fall and it showed with outstanding response from across the entire area. Gift Cards and other support poured in with the result that CG personnel morale rose and they were able to perform their duties with peace of mind. The photo shows CGAS CO CDR Brian Erickson receiving Gift Cards from the SNL.



### Coasties Rush to Assist Disabled Navy Vet Relocate

The SNL received a request from a Washington DC Veterans Organization that a 100% Disabled Navy Veteran in Savannah required help moving to a new residence on short notice. Assistance was requested from the Coast Guard and other organizations. The CG responded and in a total of 5 hours was able to fully load and unload a 26 Ft rental truck into their new residence at HAAF. It was truly an amazing sight to watch the teamwork of the CGAS, MSU and Aids to Navigation Team respond to a Veteran in need and show that we are truly a CG Community.



## USCG Enlisted Persons of the Quarter / Year



MST1 Schaus - MSU



USCGC Pompano Sailor of the Year



AET2 Paul Miller — Air Station

USCGC Pompano's Sailor of the Year was honored at the January SNL Dinner meeting.

On Feb 7 USCG MSU Savannah Enlisted Person of the Quarter MST1 Schaus received gifts from the SNL

The USCG Air Station Savannah Enlisted Person of the Quarter AET2 Paul Miller was presented a Book and Gift Album by the SNL on April 3.



## Savannah Navy League's Family Support

### USCG Air Station Savannah Kid's Easter Party



Savannah Navy League volunteers assisted USCG Air Station Savannah with their Easter Party for the Coasties children. There was an Easter Egg Hunt, face painting, Easter Egg decorating, and lots of fun and CANDY! Shirley McCarthy, Patti Zureick, Karen Angers, Jean McRae, and Mary Ellen Fox offered their talents to the affair on Saturday, April 6.

### Visits with USS Alaska GOLD and BLUE Family Readiness Groups



Alaska's GOLD FRG



Baby Bags for USS Alaska



Alaska's BLUE FRG

SNL volunteers drove to Darien, GA to rendezvous with USS Alaska Family Readiness Group (FRG) volunteers for lunch and to transfer gifts for the crews and families of USS Alaska. Single Sailor Bags and Baby Bags were donated to both FRGs. Shirley McCarthy, Jan Bell, Patti Zureick, Deb Stautberg, Jean McRae and Mary Ellen Fox made the trip. The visit with BLUE was March 1, and the GOLD visit was March 14.

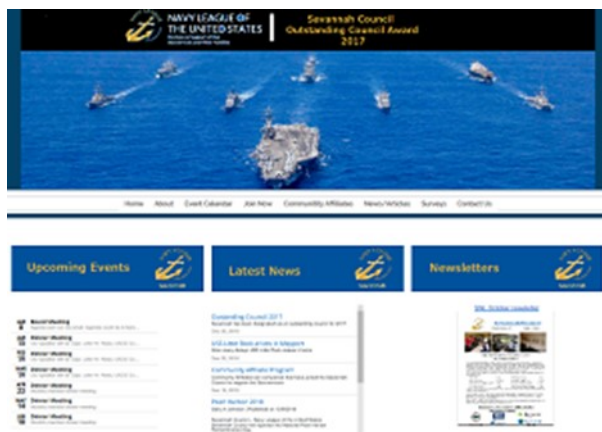


### **BLUE FRG in the Parade !**

USS Alaska BLUE families marched in the St Patrick's Day Parade following their favorite Sailors.



## New Website User Information



The new website was rolled out on March 1<sup>st</sup>. During the first 30 days there were over 3000 visits in March which is very good. However not many members logged on to see the extra features available to members only. The purpose of this article is to show you how to log in and reach the members only section.

Everyone that is a member was sent a user name and password via email when the system was launched. If you don't have that information anymore all you have to do is click the **log-in** link on the upper right hand corner of the website.

Then click on I forgot my user name and/or password. You will be sent a new user name and password thru your email account. Voila - you can now log in and you will see several new choices on your navigation bar and your name will be in the upper righthand corner with a down arrow

There you can click on the down arrow and see your profile. The first thing you should check is the email address. Make sure it's correct and if not put in the correct email that you are using now. There are other data fields available that are optional and it's up to you if you want to provide the information or not.

There are also tutorial videos available and a user manual. Look around and don't be afraid to click and see what's in the various sections.

Now back to the members menu. There are two items that the public can't see but that you can see now.

Member Directory - Here you can put in a member name and it will show you the member information available.

Committees – this is a list of the standing committees

Be sure to explore all the various features and topics. I'm sure you will find the website useful for many things. More to come on using the website in future newsletters.

Gary Johnson - Webmaster

## Dinner Meeting Review



The January Dinner Meeting was a busy affair, with swearing in the new Board of Directors, presentation of several Certificates of Appreciation to donors who supported SNL activities in 2018, and a presentation by Kevin Ryan of Service Brewing. In February, LTC Kenneth Dwyer, Garrison Commander at HAAF, gave a very inspiring presentation of his recovery from extremely life - threatening injuries he incurred in Afghanistan. The March meeting featured a very informative presentation by Mr. Scott Loehr, CEO of The National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force. President O.C. Fowler also initiated a new NJROTC recognition program during this period to recognize the NJROTC Cadet of the Month at both Jenkins and Johnson high schools.



## **Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, Quarterly Awards**



Pat and Alan Yovich, Cliff Angers, and O.C. Fowler traveled to Parris Island, SC on February 26 to present awards to selected Drill Instructors of the Quarter.

## **Savannah Navy League's 2019 Board of Directors**

The 2019 Board of Directors was sworn in at the January Dinner meeting. The BOD has big shoes to fill after the outstanding performance of the Savannah Navy League in 2018. The Board is expected to provide enhanced quality support to our Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard adopted units.



## **NJROTC / NROTC Award Dates**



Award Dates for our Adopted NJROTCs and NROTC:

S. Effingham HS NJROTC, April 17 at 6PM in the Cafeteria

SSU Spring Review, April 18 at 11 AM in the Football Stadium

Johnson HS NJROTC, May 1 at 1 PM in the School Auditorium

Jenkins HS NJROTC, May 8 at 5:30 PM in the School Auditorium

## **2019 Officers & Directors**

President	O. C. Fowler
1st Vice President	Mary Ellen Sprague
2nd Vice President	Joe Tillman
Vice President	Pat Yovich
Vice President	Bob Gephart
Vice President - Legislative Affairs	Ed Lavish
Judge Advocate	Ed Robb
Treasurer	Cliff Angers
Secretary	Larry Sprague
Past President	Tom Latham

**DIRECTORS:** Shirley McCarthy(19); Tom Nichols (19); Jeff Zureick (19); Jan Bell (20); Jean McRae (20); Vacant(20), Mike Broadway (21); Alan Yovich (21), Gary Johnson (21)

### ***Savannah Steamer Newsletter***

**Editor** Bob Gephart  
**Photographer** Tom Wright  
**Photo Editor** Mick McCay

## **Treasurer's Report**

Through March 31: Income was \$8570, Expenses were \$3816 for a net Gain of \$4754. Of note, Local Dues YTD have generated income of only \$2450 versus our budget of \$3125. More encouraging is that personal contributions of \$2900 from our recent drive have actually exceeded dues. We thank all who have contributed in this drive. This is a real reflection of membership appreciation for the council and how it is fulfilling its mission.

Cliff Angers  
Treasurer

The Navy League of the United States is a civilian organization dedicated to informing the American people that the United States of America is a maritime nation and that its national defense and economic well-being are dependent upon strong sea services-United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, and United States Merchant Marine.

The Savannah Council of the Navy League is a 501(C)3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

### ***Official Business***

#### **Savannah Navy League**

P O Box 16918  
Savannah , GA 31416

### ***Non-Profit Organization***

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