

The Ship's Whistle



December 2017



An occasional e-mail bulletin of newsworthy information for Members of the **Massachusetts Bay Council**, Navy League of the United States and other friends of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine. The Navy League is unique among military-oriented associations in that it is a civilian organization dedicated to the education of our citizens, including elected officials; and the support of the men and women of the sea services and their families.

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PLANNED EVENTS:

February. Please Don't Come Luncheon. This non-event helps to support our youth programs.

April 9-11, 2018. Sea-Air-Space, National Harbor, D.C.

May (TBD). Armed Forces Day Luncheon.

June 2018. Navy League Convention, Portland, OR, coincides with Annual Fleet Week and Rose Festival.

RECENT EVENTS:



Our 41st Annual event was held on December 3rd in the Commandant's House, Boston Navy Yard, and we were able to donate \$2500 and some \$500 worth of toys and games. The festivities were combined with presenting several Navy League Youth Medals to Sea Cadet selectees and the LCDR Richard Pollis, NSCC, Sea Cadet Leader of the Year award to LCDR Alfred McMullen, C.O., Constitution Division. CPL Vin Dolan, USMC(Ret) received the Toys for Tots check from President Tom Hennessey.



Annual Meeting and Election of Officers.

The postponed action was held on 27 November. The following officers and Board were elected: **President:** Thomas Hennessey; **First Vice President:** Stephen Schnitzer; **Treasurer:** Robert Powers; **Clerk:** Alfred Prudhomme, Jr.; **Vice Presidents:** Genevieve Guimond, Harold Learson, Harriett Learson, John Learson, Paul

Mahoney, Krystyna Maksymowicz, Brian Miskell, Tommasina Olson, Reid Oslin, Eleanor Samuels and Ivan Samuels. As **Members of the Board:** All the officers and Dr. Jeffrey Ahlin, Larry Allen, Stephen Boodakian, Robert Gillen, Mary Jo Majors, William Malloy, John Tata, James McLaughlin, George Ripsom, and Thomas Rudden.

October 17th. Navy Birthday Dinner. Marriott Burlington. CAPT Joseph Tuite, USN, Commanding Officer, Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair, Bath, ME. He explained the role of SUPSHIPS in the several locations of construction and repair and showed most interesting

videos of ship launchings and the construction of USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116) from cutting the steel and progress through to her current state. Commissioning in Boston is scheduled for September 2018.

Someone as special as **Captain Thomas J. Hudner, Jr.**, will always be remembered. A Medal of Honor recipient (and member of our Council) passed away on 13 November at the age of 93. We recommend reading the book **DEVOTION** by

Adam Makos which chronicles CAPT Hudner's life, heroic action and his relationship with the Brown family over the years. Named in his honor, USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116) will be commissioned in Boston in September, 2018.

Don't abandon the Coast Guard when they need us most.

The men and women of the Coast Guard put their lives at risk to rescue over 11,300 people, 1,500 pets, and assist more than 3,623 grounded vessels when four hurricanes hit the U.S. with the span of five weeks. Now they need us to help them rebuild.



The Coast Guard needs approximately \$1 billion in funding to rebuild after its response to an unprecedented hurricane season this year, but the supplemental request from the Administration only asked for \$424 million—leaving the Coast Guard unprepared for the next storm season. **Take action** and ask Congress to properly fund the Coast Guard. Copy and paste:

<http://cqrcengage.com/navyleague/app/onestep-write-a-letter?1&engagementId=418275>

Sea Cadet News

As you may be aware, the Massachusetts Bay Council is a Sponsor (or Co-Sponsor) of the following Sea and League Cadet units in Eastern Massachusetts: **Constitution Division**, Methuen, **Gosnold Division/TS Patriot State**, Buzzards Bay, **Joseph P. Kennedy Division**, Fall River, **Squadron Seven Zulu/TS Wasp**, Quincy, **Worcester (CL 144) Division**, Worcester, **David G. Oullette Division**, Gloucester, and **Massachusetts Bay Division**, Boston. Financial contributions from the annual *Please Don't Come Luncheon* are made to these units; and we also provide the medals for the Sea Cadet Swim Meet.

Constitution Division assisted with the Thanksgiving Dinner for Veterans in Haverhill. **Seven Zulu** and **Mass Bay Divisions** helped at the DAV 5K Run for Veterans. **Mass Bay Division** also did three Color Guard ceremonies at various events. Over Columbus Day weekend, the

Gosnold Division assisted Cranberry Harvest Celebration in Wareham. Approximately 25,000 people attended and cadets were in the thick of it – directing traffic, selling tickets, passing out maps, helping people on and off wagons and buses and answering a wide variety of questions from the General Public (ie. “Where are the Restrooms/ATM's/ Busses/Food Vendors?” and “Are those guys from the Ocean Spray commercial here?”) The event director stated “We received numerous compliments on the Cadets courtesy, professionalism and patience wherever they were stationed – whether selling tickets at the front gate or working as Human Traffic Cones at the Helicopter Landing Area!”. **Constitution Division:** In September, at the Amesbury Country Festival, the unit manned a booth and discussed with the public the harmful effects of drug abuse. The unit Color Guard presented colors just preceding the Charlie Daniels

Sea Cadet News (cont'd)

Band performance and called a moment of silence/ remembrance and prayer for fallen veterans and the well-being of those currently serving. Also Assisted in the Pumpkin Festival in Middleton. **Massachusetts Bay**



Division: The unit Color Guard participated in two retirement ceremonies and a homecoming event. A former Sea Cadet, now a licensed EMT, has returned as the Unit Medical Officer. Brewster Ambulance is donating first aid gear for unit use, if needed.



At Toys for Tots, Navy League Youth Medals were presented to Sea Cadet selectees and the LCDR Richard Pollis, NSCC, Sea Cadet Leader of the Year award was given to LCDR Alfred McMullen, C.O., Constitution Division. [Photo is of the several Sea and League Cadet units which attended the Toys for Tots event. Standing on the steps of the Commandant's House, they hold the toys and games to be donated.] Later, the cadets and other guests viewed the USS Constitution Tree Lighting ceremonies.

We wish all readers the very best healthy and happy holiday season.



And whatever other

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