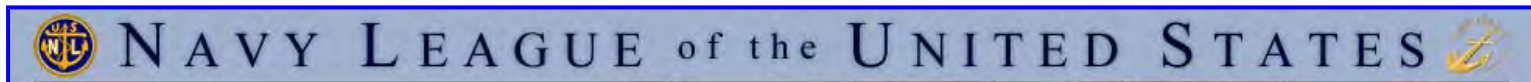


# "The Sea Chant," Contra Costa Council

4th Quarter and Final Edition



*Pam Speka*

## Presidents Message

A busy time for us with our Merger, Change of Command Ceremonies, Awards, our Legislative Efforts, BBQ's, and visits to our Units. All of this is only possible thanks to your involvement and support. As you know we are one of the largest and busiest councils in the area. Vitally important we keep up the pace.

**Our mission: "The Navy League of the United States is an education and advocacy organization that supports America's sea services - the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine. The Navy League provides a powerful voice to Congress and to the American people for a robust naval fleet and stronger U.S. maritime military and civilian sea services"** – as quoted from our National President, Alan Kaplan. How exciting that we are a part of this to support our country's servicemen and women.

On our home base, here in the Bay Area, we have a job to do, and without you it would not work. As President of this fine organization, I so love the work I do to keep the ball rolling in all directions and guide our membership to assist with our mission and keep us on course. I also feel one of the important things we do is our Sea Cadets- forming young lives for a future defending our country.

I hope to see more of you at our dinners, BBQ's, Ceremonies, etc. to get to know you, and get all of your more involved with this wonderful group of folks dedicated to our Sea Services!



## Greetings Contra Costa Council mates,

Our Coast Guard is Semper Paratus for all threats and all hazards, and executes its mission to that standard every day. 2017 has seen extraordinary circumstances that have required all-hands Coast Guard efforts that have stretched resources very thin. NLUS President Alan Kaplan provides details on current Coast Guard funding below, and provides an opportunity for you to assist in getting the word to our local Members of Congress on what is needed.

Our Contra Costa Council has a long history of supporting the U.S Coast Guard generally and has adopted a number of local Coast Guard units. Today we get to exercise that support a bit more. Please join me in lending your voice to the Navy League's informational initiative on this important issue by clicking on the link in the message below.

Very Respectfully,  
Bill Kinsey  
Vice President, Legislative Affairs  
Contra Costa Council  
Navy League of the United States



Dear Navy League Members,

When an unprecedented five hurricanes--four of which were Category 4--hit over 2,540 miles of American shoreline this year, the Coast Guard was our first responders. They rescued over 11,300 people, 1,500 pets, and assisted 3,623 grounded vessels. They put their lives at risk, damaged their scant equipment, and ignored the damage done to their own homes so they could put the safety of the American people.



**Why are we writing:** The Coast Guard's supplemental request, to refund operation costs was submitted to Congress by the White House on Tuesday. The Congressional members responded with such words "insufficient," "unacceptable," and "inadequate" to describe the request.

**Why is this is important:** This request **DOES NOT** fund what the Coast Guard needs to get them ready for the next big storm and it puts lives at risk. Senior Coast Guard officers told Congress in public hearings they are facing approximately a \$1 billion shortfall after their hurricane response. The emergency supplemental request is less than half of that, leaving a \$575.4 million shortfall—just like how their Hurricane Matthew request was short \$77 million. These budget shortfalls continue to build on each other and along with an anemic budget has severely impacted the Coast Guard's ability to respond to life saving operations. The Coast Guard is also facing \$1.6 billion dollar shortfall needed for urgent repairs for aging and damaged infrastructure.

**What we need you do to:** Share with your [Congressional representatives the critical importance of increasing the Coast Guard supplemental funding to \\$1 billion.](#)

The current supplemental request slaps a band-aid on the many Coast Guard unfunded problems such as leaving 700 Coast Guard families displaced after hurricanes damaged or destroyed aging housing. Not only is it morally reprehensible, it is short-sighted: the Coast Guard will not be ready when the next storm hits if we continue to underfund them. We need **YOU** to take action now!

Thank you for all you do to support the Navy League's mission to educate Congress and the American Public on the Coast Guard underfunding issue. One Team - Mission Focused



Alan Kaplan  
National President  
Navy League of the United States

**Sea Services Awards Dinner – Apr. 19<sup>th</sup>**. Honoring our Unit's Best of the Best. Our Congressman Mark DeSaulnier's representative, Ryan Thomas-Brown, joined us with awards for these men and women. We heard from each unit about each awardee -- their accomplishments are well recognized.

**Change of Command: 6<sup>th</sup> Anglico, Concord Marine Corps Training Center**

June, Our Council was well represented. A special thanks to Pete Gates for presenting to 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Ryan Lincoln, our appreciation plaque. Now we have a new CO at this unit, Lt. Col. James F. Beal



Pete Gates handing Ryan his Navy League appreciation award.

**Change of Command: Aids to Navigation**

June 21<sup>st</sup>, Captain Ceraolo informed us of this event. We were not able to attend. Rich Radigonda is our Liaison for this unit.

**Change of Command: USCG Station Rio Vista**

June 23, We have a new CO – Chief Samuel R. Meints is on board. Lois Terrell, Council Liaison, and many in attendance to welcome our new leader at this station. The ceremony was under the leadership of Captain Ceraolo who made us all feel welcomed. A great luncheon from the local Lions Club.

**Change of Watch for Dist. 11: Master Chief Dawn Stephens** June 29th, This leader proved to us all that the impossible can be done. This lady is a super multi-tasked woman for sure.



RADM Todd Sokalzuk and Dawn Stephens. We will miss her as she will serve on the Eastern Coast. They got a good deal! We were all pleased to welcome Master Chief Ryan Fahlenkamp

**USCG Station Vallejo Cook Out, July 21**

50+ folks ate well this day sharing a great luncheon with our Coasties. So fantastic to meet these young men and women serving our coasts and hearing their stories and their future plans. So proud of all of them for what they do for all of us.

**Merchant Marines - Port of Richmond**

Our growing Council observing our new territory: Bill Kinsey USCGAUX (ret), V P of Legislative Affairs, and our President, Pam Speka visiting Port Richmond.



**USCG Vallejo hosts Coast Guard Auxiliary training event**

Coast Guard Station Vallejo, NLUS Contra Costa adopted unit, hosted Coast Guard Auxiliary Suisun/San Pablo Division 5's annual Operations Exercise on Saturday April 22. Division 5 and Station Vallejo have a long-standing relationship working together on local waters from Suisun Bay to the Petaluma River.



**COAST GUARD AUXILIARY VESSELS  
CONDUCTING SIDE-TOW EVOLUTION IN MARE  
ISLAND STRAIT**

**Rich Radigonda Hosting our Appreciation Luncheon and Welcome Event** for our new members from West Contra Costa Council. Well attended, and what an experience listening to a veteran who served on the USS Hornet and has created most of the displays there. Huge Paintings, displays, and other valuable memorabilia on board.



***PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DINNER:***

This was our last event for the 2017 year, and a memorable one. We hosted many wonderful veterans, active duty and a room full of supporters: Contra Costa Military Officers Association of America, American Legion Mt. Diablo Post 246, Contra Costa Blue Star Moms Chapter 20, and Bay Area Blue Star Moms Chapter 101. Also supporting this event: American Legion Post 517, Bay Area Navy Nurse Corps Assoc. NLUS Alameda Council, NLUS Lakeside Council, and the NLUS of Oakland Council, Marine Corp. League Det. 942, Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley, and the Lafayette War Veterans. We had 123 people attending. Many special guests: RADM Tom Cropper, President of Cal Maritime Academy, Captain Ceraolo of Sector SF, Captain Jerrod Devine of UC Berkeley Naval ROTC, Ryan Thomas Brown from Congressman Mark DeSaulnier's Office, Tom Winant, Regional Navy League President who gave a NL Coin to our Pearl Harbor Survivor. He was very moved to be so honored.

We all welcomed WWII Veteran, Chuck Kohler and his wife, Judith. What a privilege to hear his stories. Our speaker for the evening, the distinguished VADM Jody Breckenridge USCG (Ret). The Marines guided us all to a "Standing Ovation" for our Hero, and Survivor! Jody guided us all into a moment of silence for all who perished, and survived. A memorable evening by all. Come join us next year!



***VADM JODY BRECKENRIDGE***



***Pearl Harbor Survivor, Chuck Kohler, and wife, Judith***

**New Member Renewal**

**Send to Pam Speka, PO Box 2876, Martinez, CA 94553**

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**Name(s) (Mr., Mrs., Dr. etc.) First Name Middle Initial Last Name**

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**Name of Spouse: (Mr., Mrs., etc.) First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name**

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**Address: Number, Street Name, (Apt., Ste., P.O. Box) Date of birth**

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**City State Zip code (+4)**

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**Home Phone Business Phone E-Mail**

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**Sponsor's Last Name Sponsor's Membership # New Member in Council**

**Contra Costa Council of the  
Navy League of the U.S.  
4551 Alhambra Way  
Martinez, CA 94553-4405**

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

