



New York Council Navy League of the United States

Year-End Newsletter

Hear from Council President Frank Russo as he recaps the past year for the New York Council, meet our 2024 Council Leadership and learn about the exciting events and initiatives planned for the upcoming year.

December 2023

Dear Navy League Members & Friends:

I hope that this finds you and your family well and that you are enjoying this holiday season!

As I write this letter, your Council is beginning preparations to enter the upcoming year and step out of 2023. This past year has been an incredibly exciting and impactful one for our organization as we continued our mission in support of the sea services. Thanks to the efforts of our Council's leadership, membership, partners, donors and staff, we certainly have a lot to be proud of.



Welcome aboard to the new members who joined us in 2023!

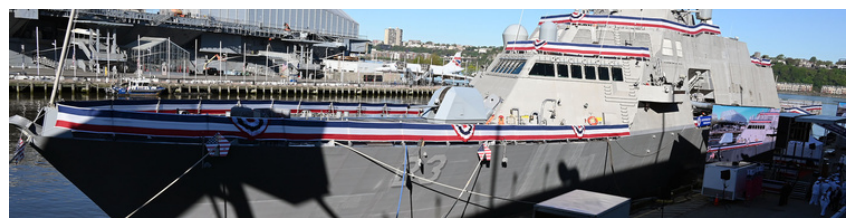
CAPT Joseph Ahlstrom, Kenneth Ahn, Chris Anderson, Kevin Arias, PO2 Larry Arnold, Eunice Asagba, Sue Baldwin, Brandie Ballard, Paula Batista, Nancy Beetstra, Fernando Beltres, Denise Benou-Stires, Joseph Betro, Charles Binder, Timothy Black, Jim Blottman, Vladimir Botkin, Stephen Carbery, Anthony Cardon, CAPT Clint Carroll, Dr. Lynda Cesiro, Chief Tao Chen, Charlotte Chou, Neil Christianson, Frank Cinturati Jr., Michael Cipiano, Jamie Coyle, Patrick Crimi, Lukas Desimone, Corye Douglas, Brian Duff, Michael Duley, Seth Fortney, Grant Fox, Brian Gillespie, Derek Gilman, Beth Grafman, Martin Hale, PO3 Timothy Hally, Mark Hicks, Tanjinul Hoque, Gerry Huh, Garry Johnson, Jennie Johnson, James Kacergis, Joanna Karagiannis, Elizabeth Kenny, Tom Kierstead, SFC Larry Klass, Mike Kohler, John Konrad, Jay T. Korth, Nicole Langford, Richard Laraway, Kelly Laughlin, Will Lee, Sheila Lennon, Daniel Lorenz, Joshua Lubarsky, Raulito Martinez, John Martire, Terence Masterson, Michael Matos, Katherine Mattikow, Samuel Mays, AJ McAllister, Benjamin McCarty, Justino Melendez, Joseph Miczak, Franco Milio, Theresa Milio, Vincent Minan, PO1 Tom Moloney, Sung Moon, Frank Morizio, Laura Morris, CAPT Brenda Morrissey, Darrick Mowrey, HON Christopher Myers, Teri Nguyen, Robert O'Neill, Ken Odagiri, Brian Palacios Paz, Andrew Perlman, Deborah Peters, Logan Phillips, Matthew Pondiccio, Richard Porcaro, CAPT Abhinandan Prasad, Jonathan Pratt, Michael Preston, Patricia Radigan, Brian Rathjen, Aaron Reznick, John Rice, John Russell, Doug Schlam, Anne Shybunko-Moore, William Smalls, Erik Soto, Ryanne Spigelman, Joann Spragu, CAPT Gregory Stanclik, Thomas Stiska, Susan Stockman, Alfred Straub, Phil Sullivan, Farhan Tanmoy, Rose Tanzi, Corporal Kimberly Taylor, Van Taylor, Brandon Teel, Smaragda Thomas, H. Maria Trujillo, Adrian Valencia, Juan Vazquez, Mate Peter Vecchio, Robert Wallace, Michael Winston, Matthew Wiszowaty, Anthony Yackovich, Carolyn Ziegler

So, before we officially say goodbye to 2023, I would like to share with you just a small glimpse at what this year has looked like for the New York Council Navy League.

At the core of our mission are the men and women, and their families, who serve our nation's Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine. Throughout the past year, we continued to support our beneficiaries in ways both big and small.



2023 brought the long-awaited commissioning of USS Cooperstown (LCS 23). In partnership with the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, we welcomed the Freedom-class littoral combat ship, named in honor of the 70 Hall of Famers who served our nation during war time, to the fleet. With a week's worth of events, culminating in a Commissioning Ceremony on Saturday, May 6, we were honored to give the crew the celebration they deserved.





Just a few weeks after saying goodbye to the crew of USS Cooperstown, we said hello to the Sailors, Marines and Coastguardsmen who joined us for another successful Fleet Week New York. Thanks to the generosity of our friends at RxR Realty, Council volunteers got to welcome visiting sea service members and their families at our first Fleet Week Pop-Up. Every day throughout the week, right in the heart of Times Square, we provided service members with a chance to win prizes, enjoy some snacks and have a space to rest between activities. From new initiatives like the Pop-Up to the return of fan-favorite events like the Richard & Doris Scheuing CO/XO Welcome Reception, this year's Fleet Week was certainly one for the books.

We continued the necessary work to educate our members and the general public on the importance of our sea services. We hosted insightful National Security Briefings where guests had the opportunity to hear from expert speakers from the Council on Foreign Relations, the commander of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, the *Journal of Commerce* and the Navy League's Center for Maritime Strategy. We also had the distinct privilege to celebrate 50 Years of Female Naval Aviation at a dinner with VADM Shoshana Chatfield, USN and CAPT Joellen Drag Oslund, USN (Ret.), who earned her "Wings of Gold" in 1974 as the U.S. Navy's first female helicopter pilot.



After a successful inaugural conference in 2022, we once again gathered government officials, military leaders and maritime industry professionals to explore the vital role of the maritime industry at our New York Maritime Security Conference. Hosted at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, this year's conference focused on the navigation



of global commerce and conflict. In addition to our large roster of expert speakers and panelists, we had the honor to be joined by Congressman Jerry Nadler and MARAD Administrator Ann Phillips to present Congressional Gold Medal replicas to two World War II Merchant Mariners, Hugh Stephens and James Dipelesi. Also, ADM Linda Fagan, Commandant of the US Coast Guard joined us again to close out the conference and Federal Maritime Commissioner Carl Benzel also joined us again, this time as a panel moderator. I also appreciate the continued support of our partners in this endeavor – the American Maritime Congress and the Transportation Institute.



Are you following the New York Council on social media?
Stay connected by following us @navyleaguenyc



The Navy JROTC Cadets, U.S. Naval Sea Cadets and Young Marines who make up our supported youth units are always a particular point of pride for our Council, and this year has been no exception. We had the opportunity to present almost 40 graduation stipends and year-end awards to highly deserving students, including two class valedictorians. Our youth units continued to be present at Council events as our color guard, award presenters and volunteers, and they were continuously active within their schools and communities.

In August, we took an extra step to connect with our students, wanting to make sure incoming freshman knew that the New York Council would be there to support them. With generous donations from our partners, members and friends, including SUNY Maritime College, we packed 625 Back-to-School kits for all nine of our supported youth units, which included school supplies to help students start the school year off on the right foot.



In November, we hosted our 121st Anniversary Dinner at The Plaza Hotel, in which we had the honor of recognizing those who have contributed to our great country. We initiated a new award, the Maritime Service Award, focusing on the contributions of the U.S.-flag Merchant Marine and the maritime industry to our national

security. Our first honorees were VADM Joanna Nunan, USMS, Superintendent of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and RADM Michael Alfultis, USMS, President of SUNY Maritime College. We had the distinct privilege of presenting this year's RADM J. Robert Lunny Patriot's Award to a true American hero, Col. Jack Jacobs, US Army (Ret.), a Medal of Honor recipient for service in Viet Nam. We also honored Tom Higgins of Fiserv, a long-time supporter of the New York Council and the Navy League. In addition, we had a highly successful paddle raise and auction, raising nearly \$45,000 in additional funds.



Thank you to our 2023 Founder's Circle Members

This giving society recognizes Council members who contribute \$1,000 or more during a single calendar year. It is named in honor of those New Yorkers who met on November 20, 1902, at the New York Yacht Club to form what we now know as the Navy League of the United States.

Michael & Kimberly Alfultis
 Jennifer Barnes-Hayes
 Jon Bernz*
 Robert Black*
 Charles R. Blaich*
 Skylar Bonné*
 Joseph Callo & Sally McElwreath*
 Stephen Carbery
 Frank Cinturati
 Joel Dunn
 Dennis Durkin
 Nadia Farooq*
 Klaus Peter Finke-Harkonen
 Harry Gates
 Richard Heller
 Gary K. Kilberg*
 Won Len
 Karen Loew*
 Richard Lowe
 AJ McAllister
 Franco Milio
 Norma Milio
 Joanna Nunan
 Joe Purcell*
 Frank Russo*
 Tom & Cindy Secunda*
 Daniel Solomon
 Mary Westmoreland

**Indicates returning members*

Of course, it would be impossible to cover everything from the past 12 months in one recap. But I hope this brief update helps reaffirm for you, our more than 730 members, that your Council is relentlessly remaining, and growing, as a strong backbone for our sea services. And it all comes down to the support that you provide. Whether you volunteered at Coast Guard Day, asked questions at a National Security Briefing, raised a paddle during our 121st Anniversary Dinner or brought a friend aboard the LILAC for our Members' Meeting, you have been a part of making 2023 a tremendous success. Thank you for being a citizen in support of the sea services.



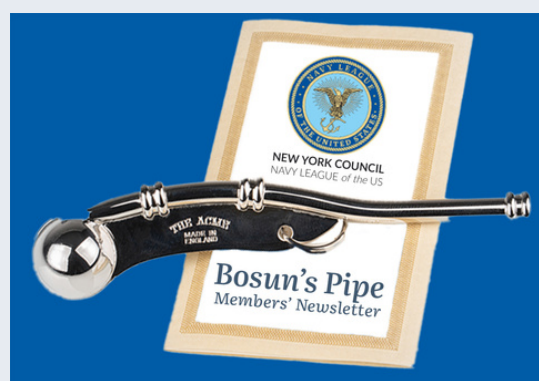
On a personal note, as this year comes to a close, so will my tour as President of the New York Council Navy League. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this outstanding Council for the past four years. I look forward to passing the torch to James Spear, your President-elect, who will lead our Council into the new year, along with our new slate of officers, directors and Advisory Committee members, as voted upon at our Annual Meeting. I would like to thank my fellow officers, directors and advisory committee members, and in particular our staff, Jessica Hitchen, our Executive Director, and Karina Verna, our Program Manager, for your support, insight and thoughts over the past years – success only comes through a team effort and our success is due to your hard work. Most of all, I want to thank you, the members, who are the true strength of the Council. I look forward to continuing my service to this Council as a member of the Board of Directors in the new year.

I am certain that with the guidance from our leadership, the talents of Jessica and Karina, and the dedication of you, our members, the New York Council will continue to go above and beyond for our mission and be a force of good for sea service members and their families.

In closing, and on behalf of your Board, Advisory Committee and staff, I want to wish everyone a very happy and safe holidays and new year.

Regards,

Captain Frank R. Russo, Jr., USN (Ret.)



Are you receiving our monthly membership newsletter?
Bosun's Pipe, our monthly e-newsletter, keeps members up-to date with our events, programs and volunteer opportunities. The newsletter also welcomes our new and renewing members, shares opportunities from our partners and much more! Use the form on page seven of this mailing to update your contact information and stay in the know!

2024 Calendar of Events

Mark your calendars for just some of the events the New York Council Navy League has planned for the upcoming year as we continue our mission in support of the sea services.

January	February
24: Fireside Chat with General Petraeus 27: Board Meeting/Training Offsite	2: 2024 Kick-Off Members' Meeting
March	April
TBD: National Security Briefing TBD: Enlisted Personnel Quarterly Awards	8-10: Sea, Air & Space TBD: Navy League Congressional Fly-In
May	June
22-27: Fleet Week New York 22: Maritime Day TBD: Members' Meeting TBD: Youth Unit Award Presentations TBD: ROTC Sword of Leadership Presentations	5-8: Navy League National Convention TBD: National Security Briefing TBD: Barry Book Award Dinner TBD: Enlisted Personnel Quarterly Awards TBD: USMMA Sword of Leadership Presentation
July	August
11 or 18: COGAP Opening Reception and Acceptance Ceremony	4: Coast Guard Day TBD: Members' Meeting
September	October
TBD: National Security Briefing TBD: Enlisted Personnel Quarterly Awards	5: Football Watch Party (Navy vs Air Force) 10: NY Maritime Security Conference 13: Navy Birthday
November	December
8-11: Veterans Week Activities 10: USMC Birthday TBD: 122nd Anniversary Dinner	14: Football Watch Party (Army vs Navy) TBD: Annual Members' Meeting/Holiday Party

All dates are subject to change and event details will be sent through email and posted online at www.nynavyleague.org/events once confirmed.



NEW YORK COUNCIL
NAVY LEAGUE *of the US*
Citizens in Support of the Sea Services

*The New York Council Navy League invites you to
help us kick-off 2024 at our next*

MEMBERS'



MEETING

Join us enjoy for refreshments, board games and fun as we introduce this year's Committee Chairs. Our VPs will share with members information about their committees and how members can get involved.



WHEN: *Friday, February 2, 2024
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM*

WHERE: *Clinton Hall 36
16 W 36th St.,
New York, NY 10018*

*Tickets are \$15 for members and
\$20 for nonmembers. Includes appetizers
and a drink ticket for a beer, wine or well drink.*



*To RSVP, scan the QR code or
visit our website at
www.nynavyleague.org/events.*

Meet our new Council President, James Spear



Fellow New York Council Navy Leaguers:
I am truly honored to be serving as the Council President for 2024. I want to sincerely thank Frank for his principled leadership, his vision and his commitment to excellence. His contributions, along with those from our members and from the Board, have built the Council's capacity and impact over the previous four years. I look forward to collaboratively continuing that momentum in 2024.

Our society is experiencing a sea change, and our economic prosperity and national defense are no exception. Through its array of programs and services, the New York Council continues to help the U.S. sea services respond to a changing world. To that end, my hope for the NYNL in 2024 will be to strengthen and diversify our funding, increase and broaden our membership, and elevate our programming while proudly honoring our traditions.

A ship only sails well when its crew is a team. Were fortunate to have a great crew at the NYNL, but we can always use your help. Please consider offering your ideas, suggestions, time or talent to the Council in 2024.

For 121 years, the Navy League has proven that it has the reach and resources to navigate the complexity of the world while still remaining true to its core mission of serving those who serve our nation. I look forward to you joining me and the Board in making 2024 the New York Council's strongest year so far. We are citizens in support of the sea services!

I wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy New Year!

Respectfully,
James Spear

2024 Officers & Directors

- President**
James Spear
- Vice President, Education & Advocacy Programs**
Nadia Farooq
- Vice President, Fleet Support**
Col. Charles R. Blaich, USMC (Ret.)
- Vice President, Membership**
Norma Milio
- Vice President, Youth Programs**
LCDR Evan Dash, USN (Ret.)
- Treasurer**
Richard Lowe
- Secretary**
Veronica Hitchen
- Judge Advocate**
Richard Heller, Esq.
- Chaplain**
Fr. Gerald Murray
- At-Large Directors**
Skylar Bonné, Joel Dunn, Joseph Fila,
Gary Kilberg, CAPT Ted T. Mason USN (Ret.),
CAPT Frank R. Russo, Jr., USN (Ret.),
Kristen Sauvigne, Daniel Solomon



Update Your Contact Information

By having an active email address in our Council records, you will receive all updates regarding your membership status, upcoming Council events, volunteer opportunities and much more.



Scan the QR Code to subscribe to our mailing list, or visit www.nynavyleague.org/take-action

If you would like to update your mailing address or phone number as well, tear off this form and send it to our office located at: 1 South St. Rm 318, New York, NY 10004 or send changes by email to info@nynavyleague.org.

Name: _____

Membership ID (if known): _____

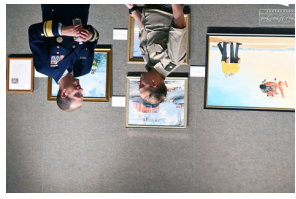
Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ / _____ / _____

Phone: _____
Circle: Home • Mobile • Work

Email: _____

Birthdate: _____ / _____ / _____



Read through our Year-End Newsletter to learn how we accomplished our mission in 2023 and how you, as a Council member, can get involved as a citizen in support of the sea services in the year to come.

The New York Council Navy League is ready to support our nation's sea services in 2024

