

VOYAGER

THE LAKE WASHINGTON COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Navy League
of the United States



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ January 19, 2005 LWC-NLUS 4th Anniversary Dinner Meeting
- ◆ March 9th Honor the Healy Dinner Meeting
- ◆ May 18th General Dinner Meeting

Additional information on LWC meetings and events can be found on our web site at www.lakewashnlus.org. You can contact us at info@lakewashnlus.org.

ABOUT US

The Lake Washington Council (LWC) is part of the Navy League of the United States, whose web site is located at www.navyleague.org.

Lake Washington Council Adopted Units

- ◆ US Coast Guard Cutter Healy
- ◆ Naval Coastal Warfare Sqdn-33 (former HDCU-113)
- ◆ USCG Integrated Support Command, Seattle
- ◆ USS Abraham Lincoln
- ◆ Liberty High School NJROTC
- ◆ University of Washington NROTC
- ◆ USN Sea Cadet Corps, Everett

Lake Washington Council's 4th Anniversary Celebration January 19, 2005

Our next Dinner Meeting will celebrate our 4th anniversary and will be held in the Evergreen Point room at the Red Lion Bellevue Inn, located at 11211 Main Street in Bellevue. We are pleased to have as our speaker for this very special event, Navy League National President Sheila McNeill. The no-host social hour starts at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 p.m. There is plenty of free parking. As always, we encourage you to bring interested guests.

We particularly invite our Charter and Plankowner members to join in this very special evening, and the opportunity to review all that has been accomplished in four short years. In addition, installation of the 2005 Council Officers and Board will take place. The Coast Guard Integrated Support Command-Seattle will provide the Color Guard.

The entrée choices for this evening are Fillet Mignon, Fillet of Halibut, or Vegetarian. The cost per person is \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door. Make your reservation today by mailing your check made payable to Lake Washington Council-NLUS, to LWC-NLUS, PO Box 183, Medina, WA 98039-0183, or via email to info@lakewashnlus.org. **Please be certain to specify your entrée selections with your reservation. Receiving your reservation no later than January 14th will greatly help our planning of this special dinner meeting.**

Roger Ponto, Editor

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



Dear Council members and friends:

This will be my last “View from the Bridge.” For the past two years I have had the honor and privilege of serving as your Council President. At

the January Anniversary Celebration your new President, Ron Matthew, will be installed along with the other 2005 Officers and Board.

In looking back, I can truly say that this has been a great two years for me, and our Council. For our activities in 2003, Lake Washington received Navy League Awards in every Council award category (Overall Council Performance, Public Relations, and Newsletters). As “Citizens in Support of the Sea Services” we have greatly expanded our sphere of support in 2004 by adopting the University of Washington Naval Reserve

Officer Training Corps, the Coast Guard Integrated Support Command-Seattle, and the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln. This has dramatically increased the number of sea service men and women we now support.

You’re probably aware that I strongly subscribe to the concept that with any organization, you are either growing, or you are dying. Status quo does not work very long in any organization, and certainly not in a Navy League Council whose mission is to Support and Educate. Membership is a strong indication of how well we are fulfilling our Mission, and membership provides the financial ability for us to continue and expand that mission. Our membership growth has surpassed every other Council in the five state Northwest Region these past two years. We currently have over 300 members. That’s approaching double what it was just two years ago.

You no doubt are also aware that during the past two years we have focused on adding businesses who join in our important support mission. In this period we have grown from one Corporate member, Todd Pacific Shipyards, to 23 business members working with us. This year we rank #2 in all of Navy League in the recruiting of business Community Affiliate’s.

Lake Washington Council is alive and well, and in its short four years has achieved well deserved recognition throughout Navy League. I am proud to have had an opportunity to play a part in its development.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our 4th Anniversary Celebration, January 19th.

Roger W. Ponto
President, Lake Washington Council-NLUS
2003-2004

2005 BOARD MEMBERS

- President**..... Capt. Ron Matthew
- 1st Vice-President**Capt. David Visneski
- Vice-President**.....Jules Bresnick
- Vice-President**.....Roger Ponto
- Treasurer**Lee Anne Petersen-Walker
- Secretary**.....Malcolm Edwards
- Chaplain**..... Rev. Paul Williams
- Board Members**.....Gerald Kroon
-Dale Branscomb
- RADM John Lockwood
-Sheila Meiling
-MCPO David Ojeda
-Pete Stiles
-Donna Visneski
- Board Members Emeritus** Marilyn Crist
- Louise Chase

U.S. Navy retires its most decorated submarine USS Parche (SSN 683)

After 31 years of service, the USS Parche, last of the Sturgeon Class submarines, was decommissioned on Oct. 19th at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. During her illustrious year career, the Parche earned 9 Presidential Unit Citations, 10 Navy Unit Commendations, and 13 Expeditionary Medals. These 32 unit awards place the Parche into the elite status of the Navy's most decorated submarine, and is a record which will no doubt stand for many years to come.

A letter from President Bush to the Parche's Commanding Officer on the occasion of the decommissioning states "the Parche has earned its place in our nation's maritime history. From the Cold War to the ongoing Global War on Terrorism, the Parche's achievements and resourcefulness has helped ensure our country's security." Christopher Drew and Sherry Sontag describe one of Parche's more noteworthy exploits in a chapter in the book "Blind Man's Bluff."

However, Parche's exceptional feats of derring-do are not necessarily a thing of the past. The USS Jimmy Carter, the 3rd of the Sea Wolf Class submarines, has advanced capabilities in clandestine surveillance and special forces support. She is scheduled to arrive at the Naval Submarine Base at Bangor in the fall of 2005.

by CAPT. Angus McDonald USN ret

New Community Affiliates

Our support from business affiliates continues to grow with the recent addition of **Complete Automotive**. We currently have 23 business who have joined with us in support of our mission. We welcome businesses who would like to join with us in the support of the sea services. Please contact us at info@lakewashnlus.org.

LWC BUSINESS AFFILIATES

Corporate Sponsors

- ◆ Todd Pacific Shipyards
- ◆ Microvision, Inc.
- ◆ Safe Boats International

Community Affiliates

- ◆ ALSTOM Power Conversion
- ◆ Argosy Cruises
- ◆ Cadick Corp
- ◆ Complete Automotive
- ◆ Costco Kirkland/Issaquah
- ◆ First Command Financial Planning
- ◆ Flags & Flagpoles Northwest
- ◆ Forde Financial & Tax
- ◆ Galvin Flying Services, Inc.
- ◆ Global Construction Services, Inc.
- ◆ Il Fornaio Ristorante
- ◆ Lisa Whittaker, Coldwell Banker Bain
- ◆ Red Lion Bellevue Inn
- ◆ Security Services Northwest
- ◆ Sperry Ocean Dock Ltd
- ◆ Stoller & Company
- ◆ Texas Smokehouse Bar B-Q
- ◆ USAA
- ◆ Vertical Path Recruiting
- ◆ Vigilos, Inc

Through their financial contribution, these business affiliates demonstrate their commitment to LWC-NLUS, to the mission of the Navy League, and their desire to support young people through our programs and scholarships.

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!

If you have e-mail and have not received news from LWC in the last month, we do not have your e-mail address. Please contact us at info@lakewashnlus.org with your updated address. This will ensure that you are receiving the latest information from the Lake Washington Council.

LAKE WASHINGTON COUNCIL
NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
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NAVY LEAGUE
of the United States



Lake Washington Council

CITIZENS IN SUPPORT OF THE SEA SERVICES

Lake Washington Council is your community organization that:

- Supports our Puget Sound sea services: USCGC Healy, USS Abraham Lincoln, Naval Coastal Warfare Squadron-33, and USCG Integrated Support Command-Seattle.
- Supports local Naval Reserve Officer Training Units and USN Sea Cadet Corps: NJROTC at Liberty High School, NROTC at University of Washington, and USN Sea Cadet Corps, Everett.
- Increases awareness of the diversity of maritime units in Puget Sound.
- Conveys the pivotal role our Puget Sound sea services play in our national and regional security.
- Furthers understanding that maritime commerce is the cornerstone of our region's economy.

Navy League of the United States Mission Statement

A civilian organization dedicated to informing the American people and their government 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.