

# Donald M. Mackie Award Winning Newsletter

# Voyager

## THE LAKE WASHINGTON COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Navy League  
of the United States

VOL 46

[www.lakewashnlus.org](http://www.lakewashnlus.org)

February 2009

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ FEB 26th, LWC Board Meeting at the Kirkland Kingsgate Library
- ◆ MAR 7th, Dolphin Auction, Bangor
- ◆ MAR 11th, Evening Dinner Event at Bellevue Red Lion (see p. 7)
- ◆ MAR 14th, Communications Committee Breakfast at Totem Lake
- ◆ MAY 12th, Bob Curran Memorial Breakfast w/ ESGR (see p. 6)

## ABOUT US

Additional information on LWC meetings and events can be found on our web site at [www.lakewashnlus.org](http://www.lakewashnlus.org)

Contact us; [info@lakewashnlus.org](mailto:info@lakewashnlus.org); The Lake Washington Council (LWC) is part of the Navy League of the United States, [www.navyleague.org](http://www.navyleague.org)

## OUR MEMBER BUSINESS SPONSORS

**CORPORATE:** Todd Pacific Shipyards, Safe Boats International, Microsoft, Kvichak Marine Industries Inc., and Convertteam Inc.

**COMMUNITY AFFILIATES:** Boeing, Cadick Corp., Costco Kirkland & Woodinville, Flags & Flagpoles Northwest, Forde Financial & Tax, Foss Maritime, Global Construction Services, Inc., Hepinstall Consulting Group, Human Resources of Auburn, Lockwood Associates, Inc., Red Lion Bellevue Inn, Sperry Ocean Dock Ltd., Stabbert Maritime, USAA, Vertical Path Recruiters, and 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.*

### *We should remember our Navy League goals:*

- ◆ *Educate national leaders and the nation*
- ◆ *Support the men and women of the sea services*
- ◆ *Provide assistance to sea services families*
  - ◆ *Support youth programs*

*The Navy League is a community service organization. It is important to ask what services are we providing to the public and how can we improve?*

At a planning meeting in February, we were reminded of this by Bill Waylett, a former Palm Beach Navy League Council President and consultant to councils.

The world is changing and lest we not forget the dinosaur that did not change and is extinct, we are adjusting with the times. So we welcome a new board of directors and a significant changing of the guard and will continue to improve on LWC's legacy. Our new leader Lee Anne Peterson-Walker has been on the Board for a number of years as both Secretary and Treasurer and is a financial analyst at Boeing.

As such we have enhanced effort to further the council's vision by initiating two new committees:

- ◆ **Relationships** (to improve such with members, business sponsors, the armed services, and partners) and
- ◆ **Activities** (to improve them for our members.)

All members are welcome to participate, please contact respectively Penny Dustin ( [PFDFamilyAssist@lakewashnlus.org](mailto:PFDFamilyAssist@lakewashnlus.org) ) or Sheldon Woodle ( [tours@lakewashnlus.org](mailto:tours@lakewashnlus.org) ).

Your suggestions are welcome and your continuing support helps us to fulfill our mission. Thank you to new member John Clary as our liaison to NOAA ship Rainier, to new member Butch Greenert liaison to the Jimmy Carter and UR&D, to Dan Burr as liaison to the NROTC, to David Ojeda as Dinner Czar, and to Verne Heinig as coordinator of military and adopted unit liaisons. Also, we have heard from member Vern Bouwman whose passion is Navy Oilers, see - <http://ships.bouwman.com/Navy/Member.html>.

We welcome your comments at [feedback@lakewashnlus.org](mailto:feedback@lakewashnlus.org)

*Thank you for your support!*

## VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



As members of the Navy League, we are civilians in support of America's sea services. But just what is that support that your Lake Washington Council provides?

Our support to our adopted units is largely financial, in the form of contributions to the various unit Morale, Welfare and Recreation funds, and as recognition to their outstanding Sailor of the Quarter and Sailor of the Year. We purchased a treadmill to provide a means for the Healy's crew to exercise while at sea. We have sponsored the construction of a computing center aboard the Healy to give the crew a place to study and work on advanced training (as well as a few games, I'm sure.)

This year, our contribution to Healy will be used to provide an HF radio link for the crew so they can talk to their families while in the Polar regions and out of range of regular communication links.

Our financial support has provided a fund for temporary loans to meet short term needs for sailors so they aren't forced to use high interest payday loans. Before our sponsored reserve unit was deployed to the Gulf, we sponsored a picnic for the activated reservists and their families. Our support to the University of Washington NJROTC unit allows two of their cadets to attend the Leadership Conference at Notre Dame every year. And our support bought textbooks for the Liberty High School NJROTC kids.

Our Council has also taken on the Pacific NW Coast Guard Ball, for the past two years, which has been self-supporting thanks to outside corporate donors.

I am proud to be working with the Lake Washington Council and to have this opportunity, in some small way, to let the men and women serving our country know that I am deeply grateful for their service.

*Lee Anne Peterson-Walker*

## The January 26th Dinner

Our Navy League Dinner was a well-attended event and began with the wonderfully skilled and coordinated rifle drill by two members of *Liberty High School's* NJROTC. Special thanks to corporate sponsors Boeing and Holland America for sponsoring the Coast Guard Ball. Pete Stiles of Vertical Path was awarded this year's Scroll of Honor. The Coast Guard ship *HEALY* was honored that evening, beginning with sailors of the quarter and sailor of the year Jeffrey Dabe. A check was presented to the *HEALY* crew by the Lake Washington Council for \$1500. It will be used for supplementing the morale and recreational electronic communications.

Officers and Board Members for 2009 were introduced and inducted. The new council president is Lee Anne Peterson-Walker. Many thanks to Dave Visneski for all of his hard work during his three years as President.

Our speaker for the evening was Captain Frederick Sommer Commanding Officer of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *HEALY*. His topic was "The Changing Arctic." Previously when a speaker addressed the Council from Healy, the topic was based on responsible exploitation of the Arctic. Now because retreating ice (75% of the maximum extent of ice has already been lost), conflicting political claims are emerging, involving Russia and Canada. The fabled Northwest Passage was sometimes open in 2007. In the future, a trans-polar route will be possible between Europe and Asia, saving shippers between \$800,000 and \$1 million per route. So far the route through the Bering Sea is not wide enough to be insured by Lloyd's of London. What will be needed in the future is a vessel traffic system.

25% of our untapped gas and oil, as well as minerals, are in the Arctic. Schools of pollack are shifting from their usual fisheries. Tourism is increasing. Because of these changes, U.S. maritime resources will also need to change. This includes the Coast Guard's role in law enforcement regarding fisheries and smuggling.

Sea ice no longer protects native villages from winter storms, erosion threatens oil tanks used for storage and endangered species need protection. Dutch Harbor is the most northern port for refueling and supplies. (Barrow has the only available satellite telephone.) When Alaska became a US territory in the nineteenth century, the Coast Guard was the only Federal presence in Alaskan communities. This contact needs to be restored.

In the summer of 2008 Coast Guard aircraft were sent to Nome for air patrols and to aid in animal population counts. The *Polar Sea* helped fisheries, and NOAA continued research, charting and mapping. Chemists and biologists were also aboard the *HEALY*.

So, in addition to the Coast Guard's traditional role in search and rescue other concerns are being added, including weather, domain awareness, logistics and resource capability.

Reported by Beth Cook

The 55 member **USCG Coast Guard Band** sends thanks! They found their way to Seattle's Benaroya Hall for a "free" concert on their way for the first time, in their 80-year history, to Japan. The November 24th program entitled "American Journey" was an eclectic and rich series especially patriotic American traditions included Gershwin and Bernstein. A highlight was the solo by Soprano MUI Lisa Williamson. Many of the 2000 attending got to stand up for the Service Medley. It is always magical at Benaroya, the music reaches to every corner and you witnessed a special excitement by the musicians. LWC and partners Todd Shipyards, Safe Boats, and the Foundation for Coast Guard History. provided the funds to rent the Hall. NJROTC Liberty High School members volunteered as ushers. (from the January 2009 Voyager)



## LWC Dinner 26 January 2009



**LWC President Dave Visneski with USCGC Healy honored Enlisted of the Year and Quarter**



**President Visneski presents NLUS's highest recognition The Scroll of Honor to VP and Community Affiliate Pete Stiles (see page 4)**



**USCGC Healy Commanding Officer CAPT Sommers addresses over 100 guests on the changing Arctic challenges**



**Talented NJROTC High School Students Andreau Wigle and "Willie" Kuntz Performing the Dual Rifle Spinner in preparation for nationals in May**



**Corporate Sponsor and LWC Member John Lockwood a master NLUS recruiter with NLUS Area President and Bremerton Council Member Carol Meteney (not shown Larry Salter) earn Region Recruiting Award which LWC has held for many years**



**LWC President Visneski Recognizes Business Supporters Boeing and Holland America**





*Volunteer Penny Dustin at the recent dinner event. To the right, NJROTC member “Willie” Kuntz is an applicant for the Coast Guard Academy. Penny in her role as USCG auxiliarist and volunteer three days a week at the Integrated Support Command - Seattle, recently interviewed Wigle and welcomed him at the dinner. Cadet Andreau Wigle on the left is planning to attend WSU on an Army ROTC scholarship. Both have been cadet commanders. She is a recent member at large of the LWC Board and served on the PNW Coast Guard Ball committee. As a former executive in the hospitality industry, Penny has helped on the new Relationships Committee. She and her husband Larry split their time between Bellevue, Camano Island, and boating.*

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## **Meet A Business Supporter: VerticalPath Recruiting, Inc**

VerticalPath Recruiting is a Veteran-owned small business that sources, screens and places individuals who are voluntarily leaving the military with public and private sector companies on a national basis. E. P. (Pete) Stiles is the “Vet”, a retired Navy Captain (SC) with a career that started in Vietnam. After a number of years in the US Naval Reserve, primarily with the Navy Cargo Handling Battalion FIVE (NRCHB 5) in Seattle, Washington and the Naval Expeditionary Logistics Support Force (ELSF) in Cheatham Annex (Yorktown) Virginia, Pete was recalled to active duty before, during and after Operation Desert Shield/Storm, where he served as Chief of Staff, ELSF.

While a majority of our placed candidates come from the US Navy, VerticalPath works candidates from all of the military services. We work with the technical rates, E-4 through E-7, “Mustangs” and Junior Military Officers (JMOs). We place our candidates in permanent, full time positions, primarily in small to mid-sized manufacturing companies and in supply chain management companies. All fees are paid by our client companies... there is no charge to our candidates.

VerticalPath only places candidates who have made the decision to separate from the military... either those who will be retiring (“Retirees”) or those who have decided to leave prior to retirement (“Separatees”). Pete participates in the Navy’s Transition Assistance Programs (TAPs) at the four Navy bases in the Puget Sound corridor and also with the TAP Employer Panel at Naval Station Norfolk. In addition he works with the US Army equivalent, the Army Career Alumni Program (ACAP) at Ft. Lewis, WA and Ft. Eustis and Ft. Lee in Virginia. Other sources of candidates include the USAF TAPs at McChord Air Force Base, WA and the Langley AFB, VA, along with the US CG TAP in Seattle.

VerticalPath Recruiting is a strong advocate of the US Navy League and it’s ongoing support of this nation’s Sea Services, and, in particular, the Lake Washington Council where he serves as a member of it’s Board of Directors. Having served in the US Navy for 28 years he is fully aware of the value that US Navy and US Coast Guard active duty members, along with their Reserve counterparts, provide and the “24/7” dedication and support that is a part of their daily lives.... and their appreciation that comes from the Navy League on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. Both of Pete’s companies, VerticalPath Recruiting and Human Resources of Auburn, are Community Affiliate Members of the Lake Washington Council.

Pete Stiles was the recent recipient of the Lake Washington Council’s Navy Leaguer of the Year and is currently 1st Vice President. He was responsible for the Council’s hosting of the PNW Region’s Meeting in Bellevue in 2007. Pete has been married to his wife Julie for 45 years. They have three children... Chris who is autistic and lives at home, Marianne and Michael. Pete enjoys boating in the San Juan Islands, gardening, supporting University of Washington sports teams and managing his two small businesses.

## MESRON 9—Our First Adopted Unit

Maritime Expeditionary Security's primary mission is force protection conducted through fleet support with operations around the world. Anti-Terrorism and Force Protection missions include harbor and homeland defense, coastal surveillance, and special missions. Specialized units work together with MESF Squadron staffs providing intelligence and communications. MESF units deploy worldwide to detect, deter, and defend an area, unit, or High Value Asset (HVA). Recent locations include the United States, Korea, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, and Egypt. As MESF continues to grow, we stand ready to assume emerging missions whenever or wherever they may be.

The USCG Transformation will result in our adopted unit the Integrated Support Unit—Seattle ceasing to exist in its current form. The following discussion relates to the rationale.

### Modernization Background

The Coast Guard is simultaneously and at all times an Armed Force and Federal agency with safety, security, and stewardship missions. We save lives. We protect the environment. We defend the homeland. We are unique in the Nation and the world. However, as our Nation faces the long-term struggle against radical extremism in a period of persistent conflict, the Coast Guard must be prepared to conduct operations across a broad spectrum of threats and hazards. From the oil platforms of the Northern Arabian Gulf, to the interior rivers, to an increasingly open and accessible Arctic, we must ensure the safety, security, and stewardship of our maritime domain, while simultaneously addressing unprecedented growth in maritime trade and tourism.

Therefore, we must position America's Coast Guard to answer the call, to remain always ready, and to execute the mission. The Coast Guard has never been relied upon by the Nation more than we are today. The Service is strong, however we face new challenges that require us to be organized more efficiently, and manage our business practices more effectively. We must honor our past, but not operate in it. Our future lies in a flexible, agile, and responsive force, backed by a transformed command and control structure and a mature mission support organization.

Building on prior studies and analyses, as well as lessons learned from 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, the Coast Guard Modernization is a holistic review of our Service; focused on ensuring mission execution and positioning the Coast Guard to meet the challenges of today, while preparing for the challenges of tomorrow. As we confront significant growth in commercial shipping, an expansion in coastal development, new energy exploration, and increasing activity in the Arctic, we must continue to adapt to ensure we are employing best practices to meet the needs of our Nation. We must have a command and control structure, as well as a mission support organization that promote mission execution.

Our Service's reputation and successes are predicated on the exceptional professionalism and dedication of our workforce. The Coast Guard Modernization proposal represents an overarching strategy to build on our Service's strengths, while simultaneously capitalizing on today's technologies, ingenuities, and efficiencies to equip our workforce with the infrastructure and capabilities to maintain operational excellence and sustainable mission execution far into the 21st century.

Modernizing the Coast Guard for the 21st Century

## A bell, a baby and a baptism -- Polar Sea revives a nautical tradition based on article in from the Seattle P-I By BRAD WONG

Cradled in her father's arm Saturday, baby Genevieve Carr looked up to survey the adults gathered on board the Coast Guard cutter Polar Sea to celebrate her life and religious consecration ...Nearby sat the ship's 200-pound bell, flipped over and filled with water. Petty Officer 2nd Class Paul Carr, her father who is assigned to the Seattle-based ship, proudly wore his dress blue uniform...the 3-month-old girl and her parents followed a U.S. naval tradition dating back hundreds of years in which consecrations or baptisms are conducted with a ship's bell.

On this afternoon, before about 20 people in Capt. Carl Uchytel's office, she became the first baby to have such a ceremony in the Polar Sea's history...Rev. Jeffrey Barker from Columbia Lakewood Community Church in Seward Park conducted the blessing...

As part of the tradition, which traces its roots to the British Royal Navy, Genevieve's name will be engraved in the Pennsylvania-made bell, which typically rests on the ship's upper deck, or forecandle...Baptisms with or consecrations in the presence of a ship's bell were important centuries ago because the vessels were considered to be sovereign territory, according to the U.S. Navy.

Those ceremonies, conducted for babies born at sea or in foreign ports, usually granted citizenship to those infants, according to The United Methodist Church.

In some cases, after the ship is decommissioned, the bell is given to the child whose name first appears in it.

"I'm sure the Coast Guard historian might have other ideas," Uchytel said, chuckling.

But the baby joins a list of "firsts" for the Polar Sea, which is based at Pier 36 along the Seattle waterfront.

The 399-foot cutter, which can cut through six feet of ice, was the first U.S. surface ship to go to the North Pole and the first ship to circumnavigate North America by itself, Uchytel said.

Paul Carr heard about the bell tradition about a year ago from his chief petty officer, and he and his wife embraced the idea.

The family attends Columbia Lakewood Community Church, which is part of the Church of the Brethren. Typically, the church baptizes members when they are older, often around the age of 12, Barker said.

But Uchytel explained that a baptism or consecration on board a ship is rare and happens only once or twice in a sailor's career...

Genevieve's parents met in Florida in 2006. Timing worked in their favor...Before she gave birth, Krizia was flying through the air as a trapeze artist for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus.

But instead of touring with the circus at that time, she was home and met Paul, who had just finished some classes for the Coast Guard. They moved to Seattle, where he has now been stationed for nearly three years...

**To Volunteer** e-mail [volunteer@lakewashnlus.org](mailto:volunteer@lakewashnlus.org)  
or call Ken Sparks weekdays at 425-453-3450.

Our immediate needs include:

- ◆ Volunteer Coordinator
- ◆ Liaison to Adopted Unit—Response Boat Medium Proj
- ◆ Graphics Designer for Newsletter and Website
- ◆ Telephone “Tree” - communicate with members (several)
- ◆ Newsletter mailings (prepare/ deliver for bulk mailing)
- ◆ Newsletter reporting (several)
- ◆ Assist with Dinner Meetings (several)
- ◆ Assist with Tours
- ◆ Assist with Fundraising (several)
- ◆ Assist with Database
- ◆ Assist with Membership Relations (several)
- ◆ Liaison for local business affiliates (several)
- ◆ Liaison for local commands—NAS Whidbey
- ◆ Liaison for local commands—Naval Base Everett
- ◆ Liaison for local commands—Naval Base Kitsap
- ◆ Liaison for local commands—Naval Hospital Bremerton
- ◆ Liaison for local commands—Marine Detachment Bangor



*Our Adopted Unit: The most productive coastal hydrographic survey platform in the world!*

The NOAA Ship **Rainier** is designed and outfitted primarily for conducting hydrographic surveys in support of nautical charting. Scientific equipment normally aboard is limited to equipment that supports these survey operations. The ship operates off the U.S. Pacific Coast, and in Alaskan coastal waters.

The **Rainier** is a highly capable platform for conducting coastal hydrographic survey operations. She has a crew of fifty-five, including ten commissioned officers. The ship is equipped with an intermediate depth multibeam swath survey system. She carries six aluminum survey launches equipped with multibeam swath and single beam echo sounders and a hydrographic data acquisition system. She also has three small boats providing support to shore stations and dive operations. Seven crew members are trained as certified NOAA divers. The **Rainier** carries other equipment to support hydrographic survey operations. This includes five CTDs used for sound velocity profiles, one side-scan sonar unit for item investigations, and various sediment sampling equipment.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Armed Forces Week – Community Support Our Armed Forces and Reserve  
*Bob Curran\* Memorial Breakfast*

The ESGR – Employers in Support of the Guard and Reserve ([www.esgr.com](http://www.esgr.com)) and LWC - Lake Washington Council of the Navy League are partnering to bring together leaders from the military and the civilian community

The program will recognize exemplary employers and reservists, hear very briefly from the leaders of each of the services, and have a business leader keynote.

PLACE: Red Lion Ballroom, Bellevue  
DATE: Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> (registration 630am, breakfast 700am, program 715am)  
REGISTRATION: [www.lakewashnlus.org](http://www.lakewashnlus.org)

**Keynote: RADM Herbert Bridge USNR (ret), Co- Chairman, Ben Bridge Jewelers “Working with and for Warren Buffett”**

*\*Major Bob Curran US Army (ret) was a long term Navy Leaguer and member of the Lake Washington Council. He was also military liaison for Seafair for many years. He will always be remembered for those breakfasts that he hosted introducing new CO's from all the services to the community. He would also take pride in those annual meetings in preparation for Seafair when the CO's of all the services would be present. In that spirit, we initiate the Bob Curran Memorial Breakfast.*

### PLEASE UPDATE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!

If you have e-mail and have not received news from LWC in the last month or so, we do not have your e-mail address. Many unique opportunities have short time windows and we need to use e-mail rather than the Voyager Newsletters to get this information to our membership. Please contact us at [info@lakewashnlus.org](mailto:info@lakewashnlus.org) with your updated e-mail address. This will ensure that you are receiving the latest information from Lake Washington Council.

**Lake Washington Council-NLUS: Host a NJROTC student!**

**Lake Washington Council- NLUS  
March 11<sup>th</sup> 2009 Dinner Event**

**Dinner Event Subject**

***A Day in the Life of a Marine Serving in Harm's Way***  
**CAPT Nathan Smith, USMC, 2nd Platoon Commander MCSF Bangor**

**Honoring our Dedicated Adopted Units and Enlisted of the Year**

**NJROTC Liberty High School**

Sr. Naval Science Instructor:

LCDR Kenneth D. Crandall, USN (Ret)

**Our First Adopted Unit -Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron Nine**

*Formerly Harbor Defense Unit 113 and Naval Coastal Warfare Squadron 11*

*A joint Coast Guard and Navy active and reserve unit*

CO: CAPT Guy Bony USN

**Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Red Lion Bellevue Inn**

**11211 Main Street, Bellevue WA**

**No-Host Social hour 6:00 PM, Dinner 7:00 PM**

**Entrée choices are** (a) Mustard Crusted **Pork** Loin on Sage Dressing with fire roasted cinnamon apples and brandy sauce, (b) Breast of **Chicken** stuffed with Brandied Mushrooms and wrapped in Puff Pastry), or (c) **Vegetarian**.

*Cost per person \$40.00 in advance, \$45.00 at the door. Please make reservations at [www.lakewashnlus.org](http://www.lakewashnlus.org) with entree' selection today and/or use form below to mail in funds due.*

**Treat a NJROTC student(s) to Dinner!! ( see below)**

MAIL IN REGISTRATION / SUPPORT FOR Lake Washington Council Dinner, Wednesday March 11th, 2009

Name (1) \_\_\_\_\_ NAME (2) \_\_\_\_\_

CIRCLE Dinner Choice (1) PORK, CHICKEN, or VEG Dinner Choice (2) PORK, CHICKEN, or VEG

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/ST/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks out to Lake Washington Council of the Navy League

Cost Per Person for Dinner \$40 Dinner Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Host a NJROTC student \$40 \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Deductible Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

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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 service organization that:**

- Supports our Puget Sound Sea Services: USS Abraham Lincoln, USCGC Healy, USS Jimmy Carter, NOAA Ship Rainier, Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron Nine, Undersea R & D Detachment, USCG Integrated Support Command-Seattle, & USCG Response Boat Medium Project.
- Supports youth programs: local Naval Reserve Officers Training Units and USN Sea Cadet Corps: NJROTC at Renton's 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 & 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.***