

Northern Virginia Council of the NLUS

PORTSIDE

August 2006 - Volume 6 - Number 4
Navy League of the United States

Come join us for our September Meeting
at National Navy League Headquarters
on Wednesday, September 13, 2006.

Our speaker will be Commodore Gerry Christian, AM, RAN,
Australian Naval Attaché, Washington, DC.



Social hour starts at 6:30 PM (cash bar - wine-beer & soda); **Dinner will start at 7:15 PM** and the **Program starts at 8:00 PM** beginning with a brief council business meeting and at **8:15 PM our Guest speaker**.

Cost: \$20.00 per person (Cash or check payable to NLUS NOVA Council. No credit cards.)

We are having a raffle this time to raise funds for our adopted ships and units.
Come and support our adopted ships and units by purchasing raffle tickets and "Win!"

LOCATION: NLUS National Headquarters, 2300 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201-3308. (First Floor Conference Center.)

PARKING: Parking is free across Clarendon Blvd. in the Arlington County garage after 5 PM and free parking on the street after 6:00 PM. Parking in NLUS garage \$10.00 if arriving before 6:00 PM or \$6.00 if arriving after 6:00 PM. Enter garage from N. Adams Street on west side of building. Or use Metro (Orange Line) to Court House Station.

You can make your reservation online now using our New Web Site at www.novanavyleague.org. Or you can email Duane Wills at duanewills@cox.net or phone (703) 281-3708 by 5:00 PM September 11, 2006... The first members to make their reservation will be seated at the head table with the guest speaker.

Our Council has a Brand New Web Site. Check it out!!!

WWW.NOVANAVYLEAGUE.ORG

I want to send out a "BIG THANK YOU" to Duane Wills for all his hard work on our New Web Site.

He has done an "OUTSTANDING" job and we thank him. – Nancy Gorell

Help Keep Your Contact Information and Email Address Updated, Please!

Problem: NOVA council is attempting to utilize email to notify our members of upcoming Council events, making additional funds available to help support our adopted ships and units rather than printing and mailing costs. This also will help us serve you better. Unfortunately we have encountered a problem. Out of approximately 1,300 members we have only about 900 members with email addresses listed. An email notification of a recent meeting to these 900 email addresses resulted in rejections for more than 190 members with invalid addresses. Overall, this lack of valid email addresses for 590 members translates into more than \$300 in printing, handling and postage costs each time which could be used for adopted units and ships if we could use email notification

Solution: We are asking for your help in solving this problem. We urge you to keep your contact information, including your U.S. Postal address, telephone numbers, and Email address updated via email to service@navyleague.org with a copy to NOVANLUS@aol.com. Please include your name and NLUS membership number. This will enable the NLUS Headquarters Membership Department to update the master membership data base. This will in turn help us get information to you more efficiently and at lower cost. The savings can be used to increase funding to support our adopted ships and units. - John Camp

Here is an updated list of our 2006 Officers and Directors

Position	Name
President	Nancy Gorell
Secretary & VP, Administration	John Camp
VP, Ship Liaison	Fred Gorell
VP, Programs	James Offutt
Treasurer	Stewart Reuter
Judge Advocate	Robert Haemer
Director (Coast Guard Liaison)	Mary Tozzi
Director (Membership)	Michael Rice
Director (IT & Web Site)	Duane Wills
Director	Chuck Davis
Director	Roger Hood
Director	Carl Jones
Director	Dorothy Harmon
Director	Michael Schlitzer

USS ALEXANDRIA (SSN 757) UPDATE

A letter from the Commanding Officer of the USS ALEXANDRIA (SSN 757) to the Northern Virginia Council

"I am proud to report the ALEXANDRIA is forward deployed actively participating in the Global War on Terrorism. The crew has prepared extremely hard to meet all of the demanding missions that we will be asked to perform while deployed. Just the fact that the Northern Virginia Council cares goes a long way to crew morale. It means so much that complete strangers care about them and what they do. Again thank you and the members of the Northern Virginia Council of the Navy League for caring about those who go into harm's way."

Take Care,

MIKE BERNACCHI
Commander, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer

USS ALEXANDRIA (SSN 757) – "TWICE AS STRONG"



(left) CDR Bernacchi
(right) MMTN(SS) Nicholas Vecchione
2005 Blue Jacket of the 3rd Quarter



(left) CDR Bernacchi
(right) CS3(SU) Jonathan Ross
2005 Blue Jacket of the 2nd Quarter



(left) CDR Bernacchi
(right) EM1(SS) Christopher McCormack
2005 Sailor of the Year



(left) CDR Bernacchi
(right) ET2(SS) Juan Mendoza
2005 Sailor of the 2nd Quarter



(left) CDR Bernacchi
(right) MM1(SS) Christopher Carpenter
2005 Sailor of the 4th Quarter



(left) CDR Bernacchi
(right) MM1(SS) Jason Cook
2005 Sailor of the 1st Quarter



(left) CDR Bernacchi
(right) STS3(SS) John Barnard
2005 Junior Sailor of the 3rd Quarter



(left) CDR Bernacchi
(right) STSSN(SU) Michael Wirth
2005 Blue Jacket of the 4th Quarter

USS VIRGINIA (SSN 774) UPDATE

A letter from the Executive Officer of the USS VIRGINIA (SSN 774) to the Northern Virginia Council

"The VIRGINIA had an amazing year in 2005. It was a year full of accomplishments, not the least of which was completion of a 3 month deployment. On behalf of the crew, I want to thank you for the tremendous support that the Northern Virginia Council of the Navy League has shown VIRGINIA. We are presently in a period of shipyard time. In early January we completed all post-delivery shakedown operations and started a Post Shakedown Availability here in Electric Boat. The crew responded well to the operational in 2005 and we only wish we could have more time at sea instead of shipyards. However, we know that we will be coming out even stronger. Of note, I hope you had a chance to see VIRGINIA featured in the National Geographic show Mega Machines. Their film crew was onboard for a few days in port in April 2005. In fact, they got so much out of it that we had another National Geographic film crew embarked for several days underway in November 2005. We have not been told when that show will air, but I will be sure to send you a notice when we do. Thanks again for all you do in support of the Navy and particularly VIRGINIA."

Sincerely,
Steve Mack

Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy
Executive Officer

USS VIRGINIA (SSN 774) – "FIRST OF A CLASS AND LEADING THE WAY!"



(left) CDR Cramer
(right) ET1 Williams
2005 Sailor of the 4th Quarter



(from left to right) MM3 Preston Johnson,
ET3 Eichman, STS1 Braman, MM1 Shane
Johnson, and ET1 Williams



(left) CDR Cramer
(right) MM1 Shane Johnson
2004 Sailor of the 4th Quarter



(left) CDR Cramer
(right) ET3 Eichman
2004 Junior Sailor of the 4th Quarter



(left) CDR Cramer
(right) STS1 Braman
2004 Sailor of the 4th Quarter



(left) CDR Cramer
(right) MM3 Preston Johnson
2004 Junior Sailor of the 4th Quarter

United States Coast Guard Station Washington D.C. (NOVA Council's Adopted Unit) Ground Breaking Ceremony July 26, 2006



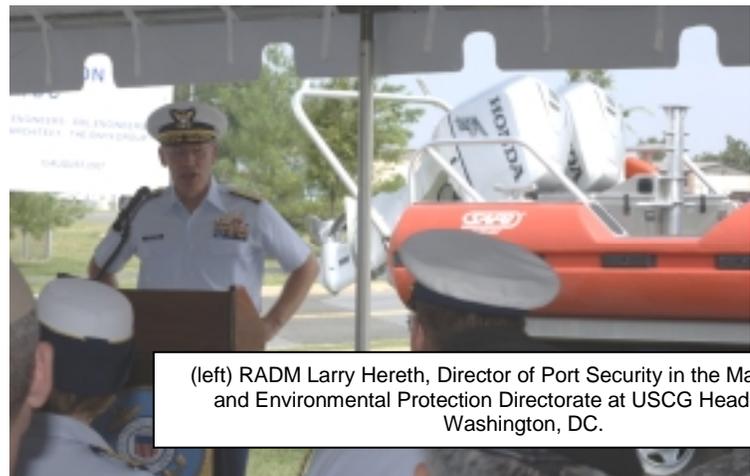
United States Coast Guard Dignitaries and Special Guests officially breaking ground for the New Station Washington D.C. Offices on Bolling Air Force Base.



(left to right) Stew Reuter, Duane and Rachel Willis, Mike Rice, Nancy Gorell, RADM Larry Hereth, USCG, Jim Offutt, Lt Linda LeCrone, USCG, Commanding Officer of Station DC and Roger Hood.



(left) Lt. Linda LeCrone, Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Station Washington DC, addressing the guests.



(left) RADM Larry Hereth, Director of Port Security in the Marine Safety and Environmental Protection Directorate at USCG Headquarters, Washington, DC.

NOVA Council Honored at the 2006 National Navy League Convention at St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands



NOVA Council was honored for achieving the highest membership retention rate for a large council in 2005. Above (right) is a photo of the plaque presented by Navy League National President John Panneton to NOVA Council President Nancy F. Gorell on July 14, 2006. In the above (left) photo John Camp (left) accepted the award from John Panneton (right) on behalf of NOVA Council. Jim Hoffman, NLUS Senior Director of Membership is at the podium.

Other News from the Convention

Navy League of the United States Northern Virginia (NOVA) Council members were among more than 352 Navy League members from around the world who attended the non-profit organization's 104th annual convention in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands July 12-16. The following members of NOVA Council were listed on the roster of attendees: John Camp, Shirley Camp, Earl Hailston, William Hodges, Jane Kriser, Ron Montgomery, Becky Offutt, James Offutt and Mary Tozzi.

U.S. Virgin Islands Governor Charles W. Turnbull officially kicked-off the four-day convention when he welcomed the group for the first time to St. Thomas at the opening ceremony.

One of the highlights of the convention was the presentation of more than 20 awards to Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine military and civilian personnel for outstanding service, particularly while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom in support of the global war on terror. Admiral John B. Nathman, USN, the four-star admiral who heads the U.S. Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia and also oversees the Navy's training and operations in the Caribbean region, was guest speaker for the awards presentation. NOVA Council members and the other Navy League members also had the opportunity to meet crew members and tour the Coast Guard Reliance Class Cutter VIGILANT (WMEC- 617), home ported at Patrick Air Force Base, FL and one of the Navy's amphibious dock landing ships, USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50) home ported in Norfolk, VA. Both ships made port visits to St. Thomas during the convention. Also in attendance was the newly sworn-in Commandant of the Coast Guard Admiral Thad Allen, USCG. Admiral Allen took part in the presentation of the awards and was the keynote speaker at the convention's closing dinner. He was formerly Coast Guard's chief of staff and principal federal officer for the recovery operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Jim Offutt was appointed Chairman, 2006-2007 Maritime Policy Committee. Stewart Reuter was elected National Capitol Area President for 2006-2007. The following NOVA council members were elected Navy League National Directors for 2006-2007: John R. Camp, Nancy F. Gorell, James H. Offutt, and Stewart E. Reuter.

The invitation of the Palm Springs, CA Council to host the 2007 National Convention in Palm Springs was accepted. A date in October-November 2007 is to be determined.

Donations have been made by Several Large Candy and Cookie Companies to our Ships Overseas

Nancy Gorell contacted several candy and cookie companies asking them to make donations to two of the ships on deployment. Hershey's, Tootsie Rolls and Nonni Cookie Company are sending large amounts of goodies to USS Enterprise and USS Alexandria. Here are the emails which were received from them;

Good morning, Nancy,

At the request of our President, Ellen Gordon, we are sending 6 large cases of Tootsie Roll candy to the Commanding Officer of USS Enterprise for his crew. Three cases contain 2,036 Tootsie Roll Midgees each and three cases contain 1,040 Tootsie Pops each. Please thank the Commanding Officer of USS Enterprise and his crew for their service to our country. We, at Tootsie Roll, appreciate all they do.

Mary

Tootsie Roll Industries, Inc

Dear Nancy,

Thank you for your inquiry to the company. I have the okay we can ship something but need a name and address to USS Alexandria. Thanks for the concern for our Troops. I know they will love the treat!!! Please let me know if I can be of any additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Tina Holden

Nonni's Food Company, Inc.

Dear Ms. Gorell:

Thank you for contacting The Hershey Company regarding donations for our military service men and women who are so faithfully serving our country. We appreciate your thoughtfulness for them, and are happy to share with you that we have been working diligently to keep those serving overseas supplied with products from our company.

I'd like to be able to send those aboard the *USS Alexandria* and the *USS Enterprise* some *Hershey's* chocolate; however, because the quality of chocolate can be affected by temperature changes during overseas shipping processes, I'd be happy to instead send some of our *Twizzlers* candy to each ship if you will please provide their addresses and contact information.

Thank you for your interest in Hershey. Our hearts go out to these sailors, and we wish them all the best. Thanks again for writing.

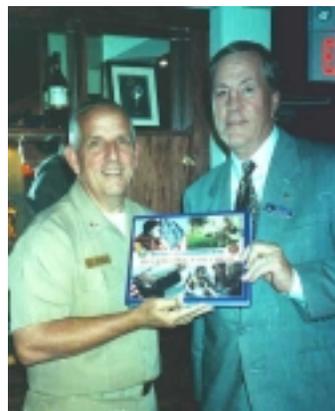
Sincerely, Jennifer Goss The Hershey Company

June 14, 2006 NOVA Council Meeting Highlights

The Navy League of the United States Northern Virginia (NOVA) Council held a general membership meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2006 at Listrani's Restaurant, 2317 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA. The following members and guests attended: RADM David Architzel, USN (Guest Speaker), John Camp, Darren Cubell, Chuck Davis, Suzie Davis, Phil Faye, David Field, Amy Gorell, Fred Gorell, Nancy Gorell, Rick Macard, Jim Offutt, Stewart Reuter, Michael Rice, John Rodgaard, John Stewart, CAPT Michael Swartz, USN (also a Guest Speaker), Duane Wills and Charles Wright.

Following a brief social time, Council President Nancy Gorell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She reported that contacts with our adopted ships and units are going well and that she has been in contact with USS Alexandria, which is deployed. Nancy announced the appointment of two new NOVA Council Directors: Duane Wills, Director (IT and Web Site) and Mary Tozzi, Director (U. S. Coast Guard Liaison).

Stewart Reuter, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's report which reflected a balance of \$22,505.46 in the council's account. Jim Offutt, Vice President (Programs) introduced Rear Admiral David Architzel, USN Program Executive Officer, Aircraft Carriers and Captain Michael A. Swartz, USN, Program Manager, Aircraft Carriers.



RADM Architzel & Jim Offutt
(Notes and photo by John Camp)

RADM Architzel presented an outstanding briefing on the status and the future of the Navy's Aircraft Carrier program. Admiral Architzel pointed out that the life span of carriers is 50 years and that the final commanding officer of USS George H. W. Bush (CVN-77), which is under construction, has not yet been born. Discussion covered the new CVN-21 class and CVN-78 scheduled to join the fleet in 2015. New technology includes electric catapults. Captain Swartz participated in an extensive question and answer session.