

Northern Virginia Council of the NLUS

PORTSIDE

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Navy League of the United States

It's a New Year! Come Join Us, Jan 10th, To Meet and Install Your 2007 Council Officers

- When:** Wednesday, January 10th
Purpose: Annual general membership meeting - election and installation of council officers (See page 2)
Where: Navy League Headquarters, 2300 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA
Time: 6:30 pm - "no host" social time, cash bar
7:15 pm - Dinner - Italian buffet catered by Listrani's Restaurant
8:00 pm - Program, followed by brief Council business session
Program: Representative of the U.S. Navy Program Executive Office (PEO), SHIPS
Cost: \$20 per person -- pay at the door
Cash or check (check preferred, payable to NLUS NOVA Council)

Reservations: By noon, Jan 9th, visit www.novanavyleague.org,
or send email to duanewills@cox.net, or call 703-281-3708

Parking: Free parking on the street after 5:00 pm, or after 5:00 pm in county garage across Clarendon Blvd. Parking in NLUS garage \$10.00 for arrivals prior to 6:00 PM; \$6.00 for arrivals after 6:00 PM. Enter the garage from N. Adams Street, on the west side of the building. Or, use Metro (Orange line) to Court House Station.



At Our January Meeting, We'll Raffle a USS Virginia Throw Blanket and Three Ornaments to Support Programs of the Submarine's Wives Club



NLUS NOVA Council 2007 Officers and Directors Nominations

President	John Camp
Treasurer	Nancy Gorell
Secretary	Michael Rice
Judge Advocate	Robert B. Haemer
VP, Programs	Jim Offutt
VP, Ship Liaison	Nancy Gorell
VP, Administration	Michael Rice
Director	Dorothy Harmon
Director	Charles Davis
Director	Roger Hood
Director	Stewart Reuter
Director (IT/Web Site)	A. Duane Wills
Director	Carl Jones
Director (Membership)	Michael Schlitzer
Director (Events)	
Director (U.S. Coast Guard Liaison)	Mary Tozzi
Director (Public Relations)	Fred Gorell

A Final Message from Your 2005/2006 President

Thank you all for your support during my two-year term of office. I especially want to thank you for your great support for our efforts to adopt and support Sea-Service ships and shore stations. Why? Because for me, there is no greater Navy League mission than to recognize the men and women who work to keep us free.

We support our adopted units in many ways. Here's one example. The submarine Alexandria had an XBOX360 game device on their "wish list." Our Council purchased and shipped the device, along with extra controllers and a variety of games. Because the sub was deployed, it took six months for the gift to reach the sub. All that time, the crew knew it was coming, and anticipation rose and fell with each mail delivery that came up short. When the delivery was finally made, it came with a donated supply of Italian Biscotti and Hershey's licorice. Here in part, is what the sub's commanding officer wrote:

Dear Nancy and the Navy League of Northern Virginia,

Please send along my deepest and most sincere thank you to you and all of the Navy Leaguers for making the Xbox360, controllers and games all possible. We are some sea going dogs with 70% operating tempo (OPTEMPO) this year, a 7-month deployment with an almost 90% OPTEMPO and a grand total of 17 days in homeport over a 9 plus month period. My crew does all of this while living in a little tube far from home and they never complain; they are just honored to serve. You and the Navy League continue to make a huge difference in their lives. The fact that a group of strangers would donate such a nice gift or continue to reward them with monetary awards gives them a sense of pride and accomplishment.

The Navy League by adopting us has become the symbol of the nation to the crew. A group of dedicated Americans who care about them and what they do. The XBOX could not have come at a better time—the crew saw that even in the middle of nowhere, we are still connected to our Navy League. I tell you when the boxes were brought to my stateroom, it was like Christmas—the guys suspected what it was when they saw your name and I had just about every one of my electronics technicians ask me if I needed any help setting things up. It was in the crew's mess and being played within 15 minutes of opening the box.

I cannot thank you enough for everything you and the league do to take care of my ship. Bravo Zulu (Navy talk for Good Job) to you and the Navy League.

I will be sending you my quarterly update in our next port call and will include all the data about my sailors of the quarter. Thanks for caring.

**M.D. BERNACCI
Commander, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer**

When I came onboard, the Council had adopted the patrol coastal boat USS Firebolt and the coastal mine hunter USS Cardinal, as well as the amphibious ship USS Gunston Hall, the amphibious Assault Craft Unit Two, and the attack submarine USS Alexandria. From the start, I was pleased with the Council's program to recognize with certificates and financial rewards, the outstanding sailors or the quarter and of the year at those units. I'm very pleased and proud that we've added new adopted units, including the attack submarine USS Virginia, Coast Guard Station Washington D.C., and the patrol coastal boat USS Shamal, which was recently transferred from the Navy to the U.S. Coast Guard. Future issues of "Portsidest" and our Web site at www.novanavyleague.org will continue to chronicle how we (and you) will thank and support the men and women assigned to our adopted units.

Thank you Council Directors with whom I've had the honor to serve. You are the best! Thank you members of the Northern Virginia Council for your support. And thank you, men and women of the Sea Services, for your sacrifices, for your thorough professionalism, and for standing watch over, and when needed fighting for, our national interests.

Nancy Gorell