

Kingsville Council of the Navy League – Quarterly Newsletter

Edition: 2024Q4:4

FOURTH QUARTER 2024

October to December

Proudly Serving South Texas Sea Service Families Since 1955

KINGSVILLE COUNCIL OF THE NAVY LEAGUE



www.KingsvilleNavyLeague.org



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Our Mission, Goals, & Membership

The Kingsville Council of the Navy League (KCNL) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) civilian organization with over 110 members. Our Council was founded in 1955 with the mission to support our Adopted Units (listed below). The Navy League of the United States, our national parent organization, with over 30,000 members worldwide, was founded in 1902 with the support of former President Theodore Roosevelt, with the mission to support military members, and their families, of our nation's Sea Services: U.S. Navy/Marine Corps/Coast Guard, and U.S.-flag Merchant Marines.

The goal of the Kingsville Council is threefold: to improve the quality of life of the members and their families of our adopted units, to support youth programs, and to educate the public about the need for our nation's Sea Services. **Educate. Advocate. Support.**

Our 6 adopted units and their leaders are:

- NAS Kingsville (NASK): CAPT Michael Bishop, USN
- Training Air Wing TWO (TW-2): CAPT Aaron Rybar, USN
- USS Kingsville (LCS 36): CDR Ludwig Mann III, USN
- Training Squadron 21 (VT-21): CDR M. Hooten, USN
- Training Squadron 22 (VT-22): CDR C. Hanson, USN
- Donna ISD MCJROTC: SgtMaj Jose Romero, USMC, Ret.

If you would like to join us in our mission, please visit the national Navy League website at www.navyleague.org to start the application process and/or contact one of our 13 Board of Directors or our President, Lance Hamm (361-720-2795). For 2025, our Directors are:

Jeanie Alexander	Dianne Leubert (Secretary)
Barbara Denney	*Dick Messbarger
Tom Denney	Fred Neusch
Randy Foust	Charlie Ratliff (Vice President)
Kim Hamm	*Brooke Spitzer
Lance Hamm (President)	Buddy Windham (Treasurer)
*Alan Harwell	(*Newly Elected for 2025)

Our Board of Directors and All-Hands Membership meetings/luncheons normally start at 12 noon at the Cherry Tree Tea Room Restaurant in downtown Kingsville, Texas. Tentative 2025 meeting dates are: 09Jan, 06Feb, 03Apr, 05Jun, 07Aug, 02Oct, and 04Dec (subject to change).

Thank You to Our Donors & Volunteers

A big **THANK YOU** to our donors for supporting our mission and ultimately improving the quality of life of our local Sailors, Marines, and JROTC Cadets. Our gracious (2024 & earlier) donors are listed alphabetically:

- Baffin Bay Seafood Restaurant (Member/Yearly Gift Cards)
- Boeing (Major Goshawk Ball Sponsor & Yearly Donor)
- Bray's Smokehouse Restaurant (Gift Cards)
- Cherry Tree Tea Room Restaurant (Use of Venue, Donor)
- Dodds, Scott (Member Donor)
- Domus Development LLC (Eric Jakimier, Member/Donor)
- Ed Rachal Foundation (Major Donor)
- El Tapatio Mexican Restaurant (Yearly Gift Cards)
- Fidelity Technologies (Sponsor of Goshawk Ball)
- Frank, Jonathan & Barbara (Major Artistic Donors)
- Gilcrease Foundation (Major Annual Donor)
- Hahn & Oldham, PC (Members/Major Donors)
- Hamm, Lance & Kim (Member Donors)
- Harrel's Kingsville Pharmacy (Member/Yearly Gift Cards)
- H.E.B. Donna, TX (Donor for Special Projects)
- H.E.B. Kingsville, TX (Donor for Special Projects)
- King Barbershop (Yearly Gift Cards)
- King Ranch Family (Major Donor)
- Kingsville CrossFit (Gift Cards)
- Las Vegas Bingo, Corpus Christi (Major Annual Donor)
- President's Office, TAMUK (Major Sponsor of Tailgates+)
- Rolls Royce (Corporate Affiliate & Yearly Donor)
- Texas Rose Rentals LLC (Rose Damron, Member Donor)
- The Tailhook Association (Annual Top Hook Gift Cards)
- Ultra Screen Printing & More (Members/Major Donor)
- V2X (Major Sponsor of TW-2 Goshawk Ball)
- Woman's Club of Kingsville – Athena Dept.
- Yaklin, Dennis and Lynn (Member/Donors)
- Young's Pizza and Bar (Yearly Gift Cards)

A big **THANK YOU** is also extended to our many volunteers throughout the year. Along with our Board of Directors, about one-fourth of our membership cadre are volunteers &/or donors that help with our yearly events. Without their time & effort our mission would not be successful.

THANKS again to our gracious donors and volunteers!

October 2024

The fourth quarter of 2024 started off with the Kingsville Navy League hosting their monthly meeting at the Cherry Tree Tea Room restaurant on October 3rd with 8 Board members present along with 8 other members and 8 guests. At the meeting, the monthly membership report informed the members and guests that the Kingsville Navy League's membership now stands at 103 members strong. It was reported that major membership milestones included **Fred Nuesch** as a 52-year continuous member and **Stephen "Tio" Kleberg** as a 50-year continuous member. **CONGRATULATIONS** to both members and a big **THANK YOU** for their continuous and unwavering support of the Kingsville Navy League and our local Sailors, Marines, JROTC Cadets, and their families. A formal "Recognition" ceremony is being planned.

Pictured below (left to right), members Fred Nuesch and Stephen Kleberg. Photos courtesy of TAMUK Facebook Page and Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute website.

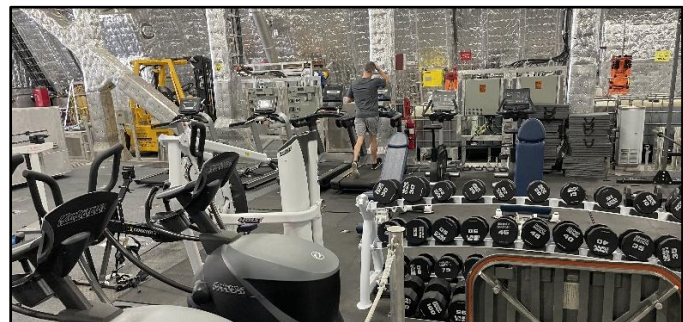


Also at the October meeting, the members of the Kingsville Navy League thanked three of our gracious donors and presented them with Certificates of Appreciation. Pictured below holding their certificates (left to right) are:

- Dylan Farley (LTJG, USN) and Sandra Farley (Sandy Shores Metalworks),
- Jackie Flores (Woman's Club of Kingsville – Athena Dept.), and
- Mando Garcia (HEB Kingsville).



On October 10th, Kingsville Navy League President, Lance Hamm, was fortunate to visit the USS Kingsville (LCS 36) at her homeport of Naval Base San Diego, CA. LT Austin Warman, USN, was Hamm's gracious host and tour guide as Hamm wanted to visit the mounted Javelina and Santa Gertrudis Bull. They also visited with many sailors onboard the mighty warship and discussed how the Kingsville Navy League might be able to support the Sailors in the coming months and years. Pictured below are Senior Chief Montoya, LT Warman, and Lance Hamm.



TAILGATE SOCIAL 19OCT2024. The Kingsville Navy League sponsored the last tailgate social hosted by NASK MWR on October 19th for the Javelina Homecoming game against Central Washington. Unfortunately, it was a rainy and cool Saturday which affected the turnout at the tailgate, however, the TW-2 T-45 Goshawk four-jet flyover did take place in the gray skies over Javelina Stadium and CAPT Rybar performed the coin flip at the start of the game. Free football game tickets were provided to our local military folks. The free tickets were sponsored by the TAMUK President's Office and the Javelina Athletic Department. Thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors. See you again next year!



The Kingsville Navy League was again honored to support the TW-2 Patching & Winging Ceremonies by providing hors d'oeuvres and providing the Commodore's List plaque for LT Andrew Ide, USN, at the 25Oct2024 Winging Ceremony, pictured below with Commodore Aaron Rybar. Congratulations to LT Ide and all the newly winged Naval Aviators.



November 2024

Our November meeting was held on November 7th and was again well attended with 9 Board members, 8 other members, and 8 guests present. The highlight of the meeting was to recognize our 4th Quarter – Sailors of the Quarter. Along with a few Kingsville Navy League members and guests, the Sailors of the Quarter are pictured below (left to right) holding their certificates. Each awardee was also presented with a gift card.

- MA3 Johnny J. Suarez III (Blue Jacket of the Quarter)
- ET2 Alec McNeill (Junior Sailor of the Quarter)
- MA1 Jason A. Turner (Sailor of the Quarter)



Also at our November meeting, Vice President of the Kingsville Navy League (and Treasurer of the USS Kingsville Commissioning Committee), Charlie Ratliff, reported that the Committee was disestablished in October after first transferring \$275,000 to the Coastal Bend Community Foundation and establishing the USS Kingsville Legacy Fund to be controlled by a three-member board consisting of Brad Womack, James Clement III, and Manny Salazar. FYI, James and Manny are new members of the Kingsville Navy League in 2024.



Above: The Kingsville Navy League was recognized as a major donor of the USS Kingsville Commissioning Committee. The Kingsville Navy League donated a total of \$27,500 to the Commissioning Committee.



Congratulations to our newest Naval Aviators, winged on 22Nov2024. Best of Luck to all Aviators, and their families, as they join the Fleet.



Above, receiving their awards for being placed on the Commodore's List (for top 10% academically) during their 22Nov2024 Winging Ceremony were (L to R) LT Jared Hachmeister (USN), CAPT Cole Morrow (USMC), and CAPT Daniel Beasley (USMC). CONGRATULATIONS! The Kingsville Navy League proudly sponsors all plaques for the TW-2 Winging Ceremonies.

Below: A special "THANK YOU" is extended to the spouses and all family members for their sacrifice over the years.



On November 23rd, Kingsville Navy League members Brooke and Erik Spitzer and their son Andrew and daughter Alex all donated their (early, early) time and effort to help serve breakfast at the 33rd Annual Ranch Hand Breakfast at the world-famous King Ranch in Kingsville, TX.

Below (Center Left): Brooke in her brown coat and Andrew with his black cowboy hat are pictured with other volunteers from NAS Kingsville. Not pictured: Erik and Alex.

THANK YOU to the Spitzer family and to all volunteers for going above and beyond. (Photo courtesy NAS Kingsville Facebook Page)



Pictured below is CAPT Michael Bishop, Commanding Officer, NAS Kingsville, volunteering his time while helping with the sausage links coming from the fire pit during the Ranch Hand Breakfast.

The Kingsville Navy League is thrilled to have CAPT Bishop join our organization as he transferred his Navy League membership to the KINGSVILLE COUNCIL in December. "THANK YOU" CAPT Bishop and to your wife, Kara, for joining the Kingsville team. Photos courtesy of NAS Kingsville Facebook Page and Rod Hafemeister, photographer.



December 2024

Our monthly meeting was held on December 5th with 9 Board members, 10 other members, and 11 guests present. The highlight of the meeting was to recognize our 2024 Sailors of the Year.

The Sailors of the Year are pictured below being presented their certificates and gift cards by Kingsville Navy League President, Lance Hamm, and pictured with their command support team (left to right).

Top Photo: **HM3 Jordin Taylor, Blue Jacket of the Year**, pictured with LCDR Palmer and LT Millerchong.

Center Photo: **ET1 Michael Gomez, Sailor of the Year**, pictured with ETC Adams, CMDCM Willingham, and CAPT Bishop

Bottom Photo: **ABH2 Seth Collins, Junior Sailor of the Year**, pictured with ADC Miciotto, Stephanie Collins, CMDCM Willingham, and CAPT Bishop.



The December meeting continued with members of the Kingsville Navy League recognizing member, Rose Damron (Texas Rose Rentals, LLC), pictured below, for donating \$1,000 to help sponsor free t-shirts to USS Kingsville Sailors as part of their commissioning gifts. THANK YOU Rose!



2024 Membership Drive. Our 2024 membership drive was a great success with a total of 28 new members, up from 84 members in 2023 to 112 members at the end of December 2024 (+33%).

Pictured below, three new members received their "Welcome Aboard" certificate during the December meeting, including (left to right) Rose Damron, Alan Harwell, and Jeff Lewis. Welcome aboard and thanks for joining us in our mission.



On December 11th, CDR Michael Coppock retired from the U.S. Navy after a very successful 20-year career (picture below). Also in December, Michael and his wife Melanie both joined the Kingsville Navy League. Welcome aboard, Michael and Melanie! Thank you for joining us.



On December 19th and 20th, Commodore Rybar again held Patching and Winging Ceremonies. It was a packed house at the Club for the Patching Ceremony where the Kingsville Navy League provided hors d'oeuvres for the Wingees and their families, pictured below.



At the Winging Ceremony on December 20th, the Kingsville Navy League sponsored the plaque for the Commodore's List award for LTJG Meehan, USN (pictured below with CAPT Rybar). Congratulations LTJG Meehan!



Other Events in 2024

COL James "Johnny" C. Ford III, Commanding Officer of MATSG-22 was the host for the 249th Marine Corps Birthday Ball at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi on 08Nov2024. Kingsville Navy League members were in attendance including (L to R): Erik and Brooke Spitzer, Kyle Kruger (Corpus Christi Navy League President), and Lance Hamm.



Rear Admiral Rich Brophy (Chief of Naval Air Training) and his Chief of Naval Air Training Social Committee graciously hosted a Christmas Party on 06Dec2024. In attendance were Kingsville Navy League members Erik and Brooke Spitzer (center, sitting) along with members of the Corpus Christi Navy League.



Looking Ahead to 2025

December was our month for the Board of Directors to tie up loose ends for 2024. Three new Directors were elected to start their terms on January 1, 2025. New Directors for 2025 include (from left to right) Alan Harwell, Brooke Spitzer, and Dick Messbarger.



Also elected, and keeping their current positions, are Kingsville Navy League Officers, Charlie Ratliff (Vice President), Dianne Leubert (Secretary), and Buddy Windham (Treasurer). Lance Hamm, as President, has one more year remaining on his term of office.

Three Directors resigned in 2024, ending their terms on 31Dec2024. The members of the Kingsville Navy League would like to extend a big "THANK YOU" to our outgoing Directors **Kevin Clarke, Steve Roach, and Eric Jakimier** (pictured below left to right, respectively).



Kevin (left) will remain in the area to continue to volunteer and help support the Kingsville Navy League. Whereas Steve and Eric will hopefully continue their support of the Kingsville Navy League from other parts of the country. "Fair Winds and Following Seas," we'll keep the lights on!