

# THE HELMSMAN

A Publication of the Broward County Council – Navy League of the United States

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## *President's Message*



As we approach the end of 2024, I hope that all of our members are having an enjoyable Holidays. It was a busy year for the Council with a number of events and recognition. Because of the hard work of our members, we were one of only a few Councils that received five awards for excellence at the National Convention.

We closed out the year with our November Dinner Meeting at the STAR Center in Dania Beach with special guest speaker, Captain Willie Barrere, President of the American Maritime Officers, the largest maritime union in the U.S. for licensed officers, and the simulator tour led by Council Member Graeme Holman. Captain Barrere provided some disturbing statistics on the status of the US Merchant Marine and US-flagged ships compared to China, reinforcing the need for continued Navy League support.

On December 13th, we held our Annual Coast Guard Holiday Party jointly sponsored by our Council, the Fort Lauderdale Council, and Broward Navy Days at the Quarterdeck in Fort Lauderdale. Thanks to all that attended what is always a fun event. Abi Montes and I provided the "entertainment" using a few different games to distribute gifts, and Shelley Beck donated two tickets to a Miami Dolphins game for a special raffle. A special thanks to Tom Carney for making all of the logistics arrangements with the Quarterdeck.

*Continued on next page*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Con't*

We ended the year with the joint meeting with the Fort Lauderdale Council that included donations of gifts for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program and guest speaker Eric R. Dawicki, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Northeast Maritime Institute, also speaking of the challenges being faced by the US Merchant Marine and the critical importance of new legislation, the Shipbuilding and Harbor Infrastructure for Prosperity and Security (SHIPS) for America Act, comprehensive legislation intended to revitalize the United States shipbuilding and commercial maritime industries, that was introduced in Congress on December 19th. While the "SHIPS Act" will need to be reintroduced when Congress returns in January, it will be an important piece of legislation for us to support in the coming year.

It looks like 2025 will also be a busy year for the Council as Fleet Week 2025 will be back at Port Everglades from April 22nd to the 29th. While the number of ships that will participate is still being determined, I look forward to seeing many of you at the Initial Planning meeting that will be held in the Auditorium at Port Everglades on January 28th. J.W. promises that this will be the best Fleet Week ever, with a number of new events. Also, please put our annual Easter Egg Hunt for Coast Guard families at the Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale on your calendar for Saturday, April 12th. Shelley will need a number of volunteers to make this a successful event.



*Welcome Aboard!*

The Council is pleased to welcome new members

Natalie Koller  
Jeffrey Schram  
Capt. Willie Barrere  
Edward Goldfarb  
Natalie Bunting .  
Paul Schreck  
Christian Durante  
John Biagi  
Gerald Rothwell

We look forward to greeting and meeting you in person at a Council social event soon.

Finally, my thanks to all of the elected officers and members of the Board that agreed to stay on for 2025. Our focus in the New Year will be on identifying additional members to join the Board as well as new officer candidates for 2026. My best to all of our members and friends as we look forward to a safe and prosperous New Year!

Happy New Year!

Glenn A. Wiltshire  
Capt. USCG Retired  
President, Broward County Council



*Thanks for serving!*

Glenn Wiltshire - President  
Tom Melville - First Vice President  
Bruce Gottsch - Second Vice President  
Tom Carney - Treasurer  
Shelley Beck - Secretary  
Robert Marks - Legislative Affairs  
Julie Carlson - JAG



## Tuesday January 28th

Fleet Week planning meeting in the Auditorium in Port Everglades.

## Saturday April 12th

Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale

## April 22-29, 2025

Fleet Week returns to Port Everglades

## June 4-7 2025

Navy League National Convention will take place in Jacksonville

## *BCNL visits the Star Center*

**STAR Center** is a not-for-profit (501 (c) (3)) division of the Safety & Education Plan of American Maritime Officers (AMO), the largest maritime labor organization for licensed merchant mariners in the USA. A multi-employer benefit Taft-Hartley trust comprising deck and engine officers serving in the deep sea, Great Lakes and Inland Waters. The primary mission of STAR Center is to train the men and women of AMO, insuring that they are ready in all respects to meet the requirements of the contracted companies and to assist in raise-of-grade and certain professional development training of the active participants of the trust. The school is also the top choice of inland and ocean going professional mariners throughout the world, who are trained at the school on a space available basis as allowed by the Plan rules.

On November 14th BCNL visited the STAR Center for our annual meeting. We were greeted by Graeme Holman the director (and also a BCNL member). Joining him was American Maritime Officers President Willie Barrere.

Graeme provided tours of the facility. In addition we were treated to a couple of the simulators in action. Truly an amazing place. Following the tours AMO President Barrere gave a presentation. The core of which was the terrible situation the United States is in regarding our Maritime capabilities.



*STAR Center Director Graeme Holman greeting us*



*AMO President Willie Barrere presenting*



*STAR Center Graeme Holman in one of the simulator rooms explaining its features*

# *STAR Center con't*



*Control console in the simulator room*



*Simulation of a ship entering New York Harbor*



*Simulation of a ship on fire near the Statue of Liberty with a flare overhead*



*Simulation of a sailboat near the Statue of Liberty from the bridge of a ship*



*Larry Ott with guests*



*Ren Leuder, Willie Barrere AMO President, Lawrence Denmark, Tom Carney Jr, Tom Carney BCNL Treasurer*

# *2024 Coast Guard Holiday Party*

Each year BCNL in conjunction with the Ft Lauderdale Council and Broward Navy Days conducts a Holiday Party for our local Coast Guard units.

This year the event was held at the Quarterdeck Restaurant on 17th St in Ft Lauderdale on December 13th.

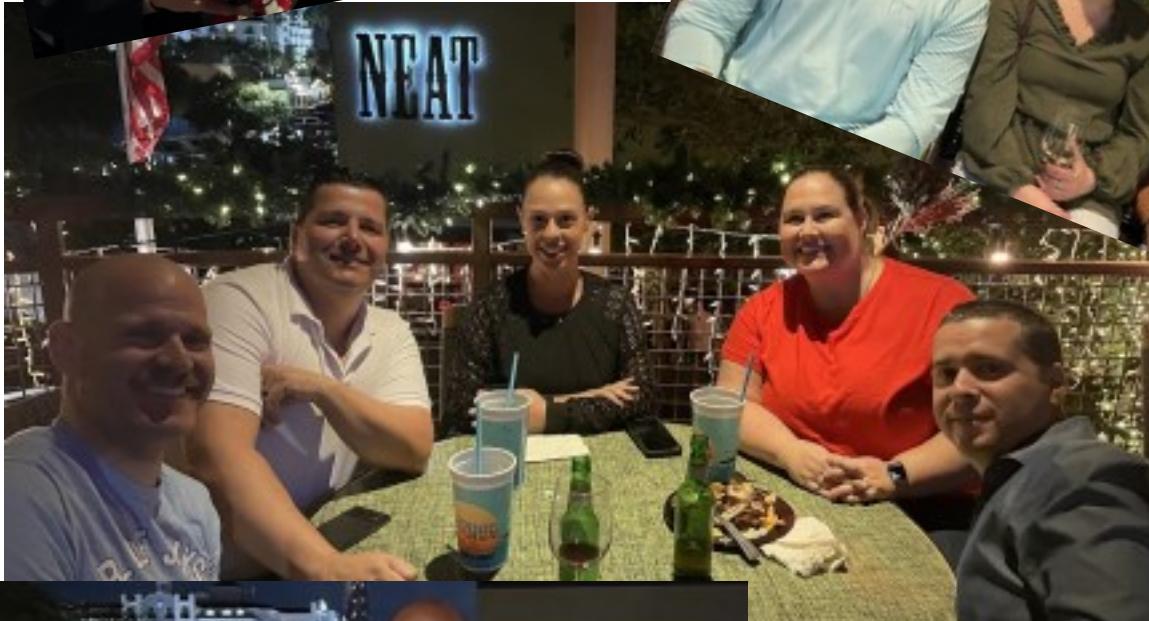
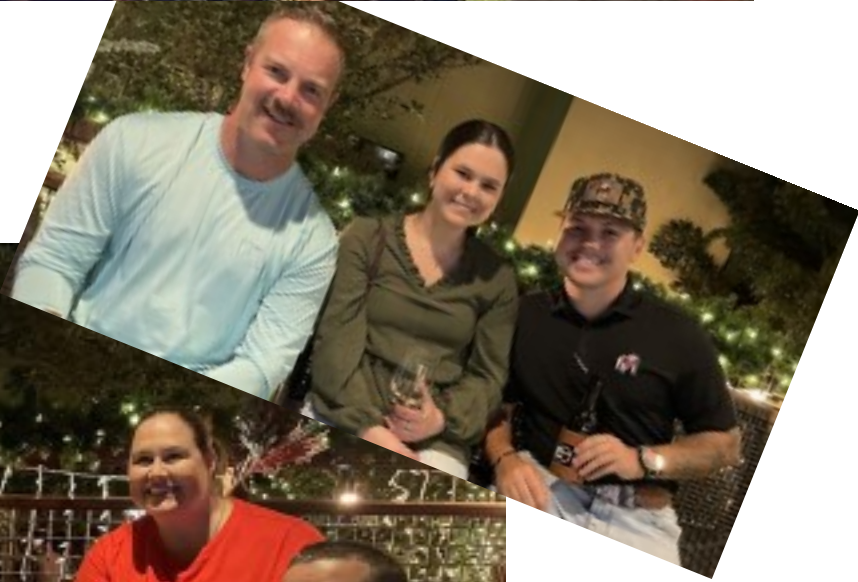
The event was emceed'd by BCNL President and Ft Lauderdale Council President Abi Montes. They orchestrated some games as a way to distribute prizes to the attendees.



*Abi and Glenn in full Holiday costume doing their thing*



# 2024 Coast Guard Holiday Party *con't*



# *News from our Adopted Units*

## **ANT Fort Lauderdale**



*Presentation of the Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) Fort Lauderdale Enlisted Person of the Year award to BMC Jessica Herrick. Also in the photo is ANT Officer-in-Charge BMC Casandra McGuigan.*

## *Member Sightings*



*Glenn and Council member Lawrence Denmark at the joint December Dinner meeting along with the guest speaker Eric Dawicki.*



*Glenn presenting a Council Challenge Coin to the YMCA of South Florida Veteran's Day Breakfast guest speaker, former US Army Special Forces Captain Mark Nutsch, who led the first team of Special Forces into Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks.*

*and in closing...*

