

# THE HELMSMAN



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

Glenn Wiltshire, President  
Wayne McLaren, Editor

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

[browardnavyleague@gmail.com](mailto:browardnavyleague@gmail.com)

## Extra!

## *Broward County NL Does it AGAIN!!*

**Jacksonville, FL.** - The Navy League of the United States is an organization comprised of more than 178 councils worldwide. These councils have membership of over 28,000. Each year they conduct a national convention, typically on alternating coasts. This year the site was Jacksonville, Fl.

Once again BCNL was recognized with all 3 of the Mackie awards. As you may recall the Mackie awards recognize Councils for their communication efforts.

**Platinum**

*This year we have the special honor of being awarded the Platinum level award for our newsletter the Helmsman. Platinum is the highest level recognition offered.*

*We also did very well with the other two Mackie categories, Web Site and Social Media. In both cases we were awarded Gold level awards, which is the second highest category.*

**Gold**

# President's Message

It has been a very busy time since our last newsletter. Board Secretary Shelley Beck represented



us at the Navy League National Convention in early June in Jacksonville. In addition to being reelected as the South Florida Area President, she attended the annual awards luncheon and was able to accept the three awards our Council received this year for our Newsletter- Platinum - the

highest award; Website - Gold - 2nd highest award; and Social Media - Gold - 2nd highest award. This wouldn't have occurred without the hard work of our Newsletter Editor Wayne McLaren who also keeps our web site current, and Shelley's efforts to post articles of interest to our social media accounts.

We also bid farewell to one of our adopted units, the USCGC MANOWAR, that has been moved to Fort Pierce, FL to take the place of the USCGC FLYING FISH as part of the force realignment announced by the USCG last year. We wish the crew the best as they move to other units.

We had a good turnout for our dinner meeting on June 12th at Tropical Acres to listen to RADM Brendan McPherson, USCG, the Director of Operations (J-3) for U.S. Southern Command. RADM McPherson showed a brand-new video highlighting the many missions of SOUTHCOM and the critical role it plays in regional security in Latin America and spoke to us about the wide-ranging responsibilities of SOUTHCOM in their Area of Responsibility. RADM McPherson and his wife have been friends of the Council for many years, so it was great that they could join us.

On June 20th, I represented the Council at the Change of Command at USCG Base Miami Beach, where we bid farewell to CAPT Roger Omenhiser, who retired after 24 years of service, and welcomed CAPT Clay McKinney. While Base Miami Beach is not one of our adopted units, they are a critical unit as they provide logistics support for most of the units in District Seven, and our long time Council friend BMCM Becky Wyness remains their Command Master Chief.

On June 27th, Shelley, Lawrence Denmark, and I represented the Council at the USCG Air Station Miami Change of Command where we bid Captain Eric Smith farewell as he turned over command to incoming Captain Aaron Ortenzio, and witnessed CAPT Smith's retirement from the Coast Guard after 36 years of service. I presented a Council plaque to CAPT Smith recognizing his service and thanking him for his support of the Navy League and our Council. We all wish he and his fiancé Rachel well. We will also be representing the Council at the upcoming TACLET South and Seventh District Changes of Command in July. We wish all of those retiring or transferring this summer safe travels.

As most know, the Council takes a break for the summer, and our next event will be our annual joint meeting with the Fort Lauderdale Council at the Lauderdale Yacht Club on September 17th to hear the summer training reports from multiple Sea Cadets from the USS Fort Lauderdale Division. The flyer attached to this newsletter has more details on how to RSVP. This is always a great event, so I'm looking for a good turnout of our members. In October, we will once again be heading back to Old Heidelberg for our annual Oktoberfest gathering. In November, we may go back to the STAR Center again since that is always a popular event. Will have more details on that as the dates gets closer.

This is your Council, so please do let me know if you have any thoughts on areas we should focus on for the rest of the year. As I indicated in our last newsletter, we are still looking for members that are willing to step forward to join the Board as well as new officer candidates for 2026. Please do let me know if interested.

Very Respectfully,

Glenn A. Wiltshire  
President

718-619-7402

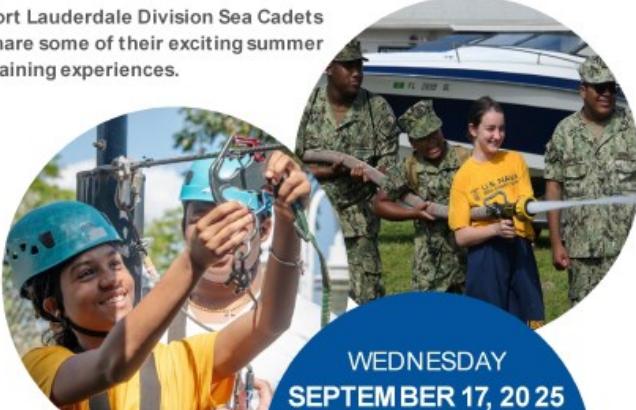
# odds & ends...

Please join us for

## SEA CADET NIGHT

Sponsored by the Navy League of the United States  
Broward County and Fort Lauderdale Councils

Fort Lauderdale Division Sea Cadets  
share some of their exciting summer  
training experiences.



WEDNESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025  
6:00 PM  
\$55 per person  
LAUDERDALE YACHT CLUB  
FORT LAUDERDALE



### Reservations Required

Please RSVP by Friday, September 12, 2025

[FtLNavyLeague.org/Events](http://FtLNavyLeague.org/Events)

## New Members

Welcome Aboard!

The Council is pleased to welcome new  
members

Jack Doyle  
Gregory Grasso  
CAPT Eric Smith  
CAPT Roger Omenhiser

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

## 2025 Officers

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

## QUIZ

How many BCNL members does it take to  
hang the Council Banner.



Answer provided on a coming page

## Coming Events

### September 17 2025

Joint dinner meeting with Fort Lauderdale  
Council for our annual Sea Cadet night at  
Lauderdale Yacht Club

# June Dinner Social

On June 12th we held our June Dinner Social at Tropical Acres Restaurant on Griffin Rd. Our speaker was RADM Brendan McPherson, Director of Operations, US Southern Command.



RADM McPherson presenting

In addition to an outstanding presentation by RADM McPherson we also presented a small gift to retiring Air Station CO CAPT Eric Smith.



CAPT Smith with Glenn accepting his gift which was a special Ft Lauderdale edition of the popular Monopoly game. Interestingly, one of the squares is the USS Ft Lauderdale, LPD-28

## Dinner Social Sightings



Lawrence Denmark, Adam Denmark, CAPT Smith



Council Directors Charlie Schmidt, Rich Fournier



Rachel Thomas, CDR Jim Cepa, Katherine Cepa, CDR Travis Gagnon



Glenn, Judy Doyle, Jack Doyle, USCG Auxiliary

## Dinner Social Sightings – con't



CMC David Ramirez, TACLET South, Shelley Beck, Capt. Raymond Jackson, CO TACLET South



Ren Leuder, Rich Fournier, Diane Schmidt, Bill Hooker



Bob Hogg, Fort Lauderdale Navy League Council, Elaine Hogg, Fort Lauderdale NL Council, RADM Brandan McPherson SOUTHCOM Director of Operations (J-3), Barbara McPherson, Elaine Nasta, Fort Lauderdale NL Council



Glenn and Natalie Bunting, Council member and USCG Auxiliary



CDR Jim Cepa, Capt. Eric Smith, CO, USCG Air Station Miami, CDR Travis Gagnon



Bruno Berti, USCG Auxiliary, member Bill Hooker



RADM Brandan McPherson, Barbara McPherson, Natalie Bunting

# National Convention

## Mackie Award



*Council Secretary Shelley Beck flanked by Chris Townsend, outgoing NLUS president and NLUS CEO Mike Stevens receiving the Mackie award on behalf of the Council.*

## Secretary Shelley at the Convention



*With an old acquaintance formerly from USCG Sector, Miami, Capt. Janet Espino-Young now USCG Sector Jacksonville*



*Shelley with out-going National President Chris 'Towny' Townsend*

# National Convention

## New NLUS President

Aside for the numerous meetings, events, activities which took place at the convention there were also a number of officials whom were elected. One of these was a new president, Larry G. Salter, Captain, USN (Retired), to a two-year term as the 53rd National President



*Outgoing President Chris Townsend (right), passing the gavel to our new President Larry Salter*

Salter will begin his tenure as the 53rd National President of the Navy League immediately. A dedicated member of the organization for more than two decades, Salter brings deep experience in both military and civilian leadership, having held numerous national and local positions within the Navy League and across the private sector. Salter currently serves on the Navy League's Board of Directors and most recently held the roles of National President Elect (2024–2025), National Senior Vice President (2022–2024), National Vice President (2021–2022), and Region President (2019–2021). From 2003 to 2024, he also served continuously as a board member and officer for his local Navy League council, the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council.

A retired U.S. Navy Captain, Salter's final active-duty assignment was as Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. Following his military career, he transitioned to the defense industry, where he has spent more than 23 years in key leadership roles spanning business development, federal contracting, and project management. His post-service career includes serving as Director of Marketing for a high-tech firm, Executive Director of West Coast operations for a \$300 million defense company, and founder of LGS Solutions, a consulting firm focused on federal government opportunities. His consulting work has supported clients in space, nuclear energy, and advanced manufacturing, among other sectors.

Salter's commitment to public service extends beyond his professional work. He has served on multiple corporate and nonprofit boards, including appointments by the Lieutenant Governor to the Washington State Leadership Board and the Association of Washington Generals, as well as serving on the Puget Sound Naval Bases Association.

He holds an MBA, a Master of Science in Supply Chain Management, and an Executive Leadership Certificate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He is also a certified Project Management Professional (PMP).



*Past President Chris Townsend, NLUS CEO Mike Stevens, and new President Larry Salter*

***Thank you!***

*From the editor*

As you have just read BCNL was honored by US Navy League National for our Newsletter "The Helmsman".

We would like to thank all those whom have contributed to this effort, as the saying goes "we could not have done it without you"

While everyone's contributions are significant I would like to call out a couple of folks whom without we would not have achieved what we have.

**Charlie and Diane Schmidt**  
**Shelley Beck**  
**Rich Fournier**  
**Glenn Wiltshire**  
**Tom Melville**

# Adopted Unit News

## USCG Air Station Miami

Recently BCNL President Glenn Wiltshire, Secretary Shelley Beck and Lawrence Denmark traveled to Air Station Miami for the retirement ceremony for council supporter and friend CAPT Eric Smith.

In addition the retirement ceremony Air Station Miami also held a change of command ceremony. Where CAPT Aaron Ortenzio relieved CAPT Smith. Presiding was Rear Adm. Douglas Schofield, commander of the Seventh Coast Guard District.



*Member Lawrence Denmark, Rear Adm. Douglas Schofield, commander of the Seventh Coast Guard District, President Glenn Wiltshire, council Secretary Shelley Beck*



*RADM Schofield congratulating CAPT Smith and CAPT Ortenzio after the Change of Command*

## CAPT Eric Smith



*Council Chaplain Rick Braswell looks on as RADM Schofield presents a retirement certificate to CAPT Smith*

# Adopted Unit News

## USS Paul Ignatius DDG-117

A fact of life for a deployed US warship is that they need to be replenished. More often this is done while underway. This is an evolution that often times can be dangerous, difficult and dirty. But then why not make the most of it and have a little fun as can be seen here.



*Sailors and mascot on board the Ignatius during an underway replenishment with the USNS William McLean T-AKE-12 in the background*



*Underway replenishment*

## USCGC Manowar (WPB87330)



Adopted unit USCGC Manowar has been transferred to Ft Pierce as part of a force realignment.

She takes the place of the USCGC Flying Fish.

We wish Manowar and her crew all the best in their new assignment.

## QUIZ

*How many BCNL members does it take to hang the Council Banner.*



6

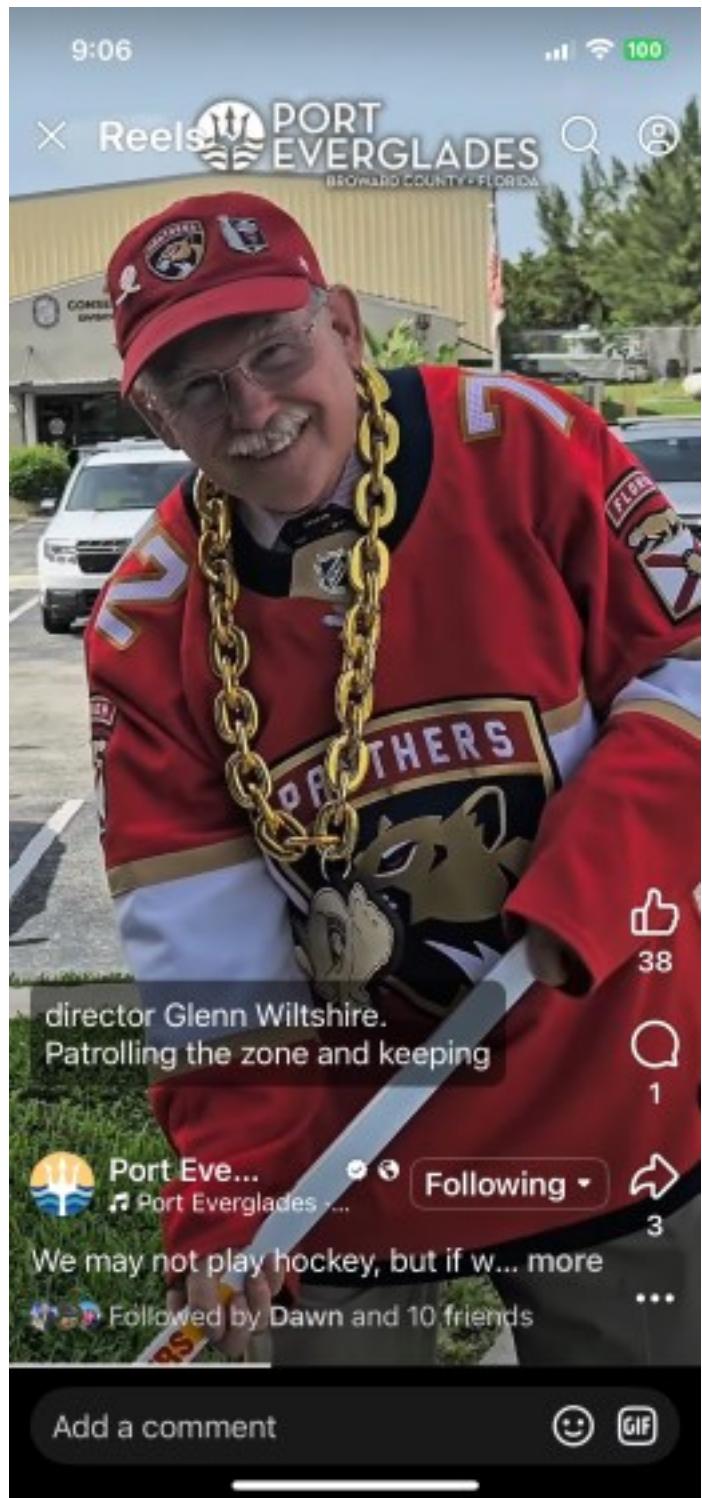
*Curious? Keep on reading*

## Member's corner

Once again member Lawrence Denmark shares his creative skills with this collage from the recent USCG Air Station Change of Command and retirement ceremony for CAPT Eric Smith



OMG!



A screen shot from a Social Media site. Dunno there is much more to add...

and in closing...



## QUIZ

*How many BCNL members does it take to hang the Council Banner.*

1. *The banner hanger*
2. *The banner hanger assistant*
3. *The job foreman*
4. *The project Manager*
5. *The photographer to record the event*
6. *The publicist to share the news of the accomplishment*