

ON THE WEB AT:
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The Anchor

“Weighing In At The Heart Of New Jersey
Navy League of the United States
Central Jersey Council - Founded in 1902



President: Richard V. Ehler

Sr. VP: Frank Greco

VPs: William A. Aitken Jr., Stephen Hutton. Thomas Vastardis

Secretary: Christine Aaron

Treasurer: Judith Bufis

Liaison to National Policy: Daniel A. Dermer

Newsletter Editor: Steve Hutton

Judge Advocate: William A. Aitken Jr.

Master At Arms: Paul Syers

Historian: Dr. Angus Kress Gillespie

Public Affairs Officer: LTJG Monty Zaks, NSCC

Chaplain: Vincent LeBlon

Board of Directors: Christine Aaron, Dr. Angus Kress Gillespie, Frank Greco, James Haney, Henry Jensen, Janie Komssi, Andy Madajewski, Walter Olkowski, Greg Varga

Our Adopted Units:

USCGC Bainbridge Island WPB 1343 Sandy Hook, NJ	USCGC Katherine Walker WLM 552 Bayonne, NJ	USCGC Sailfish WPB 87356 Sandy Hook, NJ
USNS Supply AOE 6 NWS Earle, NJ	AEGIS Division United States Sea Cadets Corps Fort Dix, NJ	BB62 Division United States Sea Cadets Corps Battleship NJ, Camden, NJ

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE by Dick V. Elhert



Dick V. Elhert

A year has transpired and what do we have to show for it? For one thing, we did acquire the prestigious Meritorious Award from

National, along with other recognition which show that we must be doing something right in the eyes of others. I, for myself, have no claim to fame or fortune - only that I have managed to keep my sanity this past year. As I flirt with 84, I'm beginning to suspect that I'm a mite too old to be chasing about the country tending to the business of our Navy League Council. Yet, I've been called upon and elected to serve yet another term in this office, which I will faithfully carry out on your behalf.

Looking on our past year, we have encountered many disruptions yet managed to weather the storms and kept the watch. Unfortunately, we did not increase our membership as well as we would have liked. But then, Rome wasn't built in a day either. We have to tackle each problem as it comes and see it to a

satisfactory solution. I do pray a lot and it helps.

We managed to do some great things this year and have many folks happy in our wake. This is what we should be doing instead of seeking a final destination in our life. We have to realize that there is no "final station" - we only have a journey that leads us through a wonderful life where we meet other folks that seek help or comfort, - and we're in a position to give it to them when we can. I think "Relish the moment" would be a good motto.

Let us have no regrets and do whatever we can to make things better for those in the Maritime Service and those in need, that we enjoy the feeling of comradery and joy in helping others. Alone we may not be able to do much, but in greater numbers, our possibilities are unlimited. You'll never know until you have tried. Life must be lived as we travel along, so let us enjoy it and bring joy and comfort to all in our travels. That "Final Station" will arrive soon enough so why encourage it. Tips for today - Smile more and pray a lot, - you'll find that it is contagious and you'll find new friends. ♦

The Anchor

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Stephen Hutton
Newsletter Editor



www.cjnlus.com



GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ON-LINE

To help the council reduce its costs please sign-up for our on-line newsletter. Mailing costs associated with the newsletter are one of our largest operating expenses.

Contact sjhutton@cjnlus.com to find out more

Another Successful Year For The Holiday 'Angel' Program *continued* by Dan Dermer

The Angel Program shifted into high gear as the Christmas Season approached. Spearheaded by a Kobilis Family tradition, over 750 gift requests were sent out to churches, charities and companies. These requests, once filled provided Christmas



presents to the children of personnel from US Coast Guard Sector New York, (our 3 adopted cutters included) Naval Weapons Station Earle and poor children from local communities. On Sunday, December 9, 2007, volunteers picked up the gifts and delivered them to "Santa's toy packing workshop". The next day many elves helped separate and pack the gifts for all the children. Special thanks go out to Cathy and Patrick

Kobilis, Denise Dermer and Mr. and Mrs. Hearn for coordinating this wonderful program.

Additional kudos go out to the following members from our Council who went the extra mile to make this program a

success. Chris Aaron, William Aitken, Judy Bufis, Dan Dermer, Dick Ehlert, Frank Grecco, Jim Haney, Steve Hutton, Jane Komssi, Andy Madajewski and Barbara Vastardis. Special thanks go out to Wal-Mart, Tilcon, Kupper Associates and the Hearth for their donations. They along with our Council brought much joy and made many happy faces this Christmas. ♦

Santa Visits Katherine Walker

by Dan Dermer and Stephen Hutton

A Brunch with Santa for the crew and their children was held on December 15, 2007 on board the USCGC Katherine Walker. Brunch was prepared by the Council



and several Aegis Division Sea Cadets. Afterwards Santa Claus arrived and distributed gifts to the crew's children. These gifts were donated by members of the Council who picked the children's name off the Giving Tree at the last meeting.

Santa Visits Katherine Walker*continued*

This time honored tradition, started years ago by Jack and Elaine Leslie is always a great way to kick off the Christmas Season. Hats, gloves and scarves that were donated to the Council from the AT&T Pioneers were also given to all members of the crew. Council members were once again to be found in the galley helping to give the crew a break from kitchen duties.

Also present and working hard were a number of members our adopted Sea Cadet Unit, the Aegis Tech. Rep. Division, including the following cadets: SA A. Kociumbas, LC2 Serdinsky, CPO M. Serdinski, PO Serdinsky & Instructor Michael Serdinski. Thank you cadets!

Thanks to Lt. Amy Florentino (pictured with Santa) for supporting us and allowing this wonderful annual Christmas tradition to continue aboard the cutter. ❖

2008 Meeting Schedule by Dick Ehlert

For 2008 we will be revising our meeting schedule to alternate between dinner meetings and board of director meetings. Our President believes that having meetings that are specifically for the board of director will make for faster meetings with decision reached more quickly.

Having regular scheduled dinner meetings will provide the much needed opportunity for our membership to network and socialize. Another benefit of regular scheduled dinner meetings should be that they will allow us to secure guest speakers that we can plan ahead for. Locking in speakers on a long term basis helps us to recruit better speakers. Better speakers will make our dinner meetings more appealing and encourage greater attendance.

We know that the costs of dinner meetings can be a deterrent to many members, so keeping costs low is an important priority.

While the meeting schedule is now mapped out for 2008 we will still retain the option of calling a special emergency meeting if anything arises that needs to be addressed by the whole council. ❖

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

January 19 :
♦ *Installation Dinner**

February 25 :
♦ *Board Of Directors Meeting***

March 25 :
♦ *Dinner meeting**

April 28 :
♦ *Board Of Directors Meeting***

May 27 :
♦ *Dinner meeting**

June 23 :
♦ *Board Of Directors Meeting***

July – August :
♦ *Summer Schedules*

September 22 :
♦ *Board Of Directors Meeting***

October 28 :
♦ *Dinner meeting**

November 24 :
♦ *Full Membership & Elections*

December :
♦ *Holiday Schedules.*

* **Dinner meetings will take place at the Chateau in East Brunswick starting at 6pm**

** **Board of director meetings will take place in Milltown at the American Legion Hall**

The Scuttlebutt*by William Aitken Jr. Military Liaison***Aegis Division Sea Cadets:**

On Sunday, December 16, 2007, the Aegis Division Sea Cadets held their annual Awards Ceremony and holiday party. Representing our council were our President, Richard Ehlert and

Vice Presidents Frank Greco and William Aitken. Also in attendance from our Council was Ltjg Monty Zaks.

The Aegis Division presented plaques to its staff, which included amongst others council members Ltjg Monty Zaks and Inst. William

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The Scuttlebutt*continued*

Aitken, for all of their assistance throughout the year.

Our council presented the Navy League's Youth Award/Roosevelt Medal to Cadet of the Year PO1 Michael Serdinsky and League cadet of the Year, LC2 Krystal Serdinsky. Proud father and instructor with the unit Michael Serdinsky assisted in the presentation to his children.

PO1 Michael Serdinsky also continued the Aegis Divisions tradition of accomplishments when he was promoted to Chief Petty Officer, the highest

rank a Sea Cadet can earn in the program. CPO Serdinsky also received a Certificate of Appreciation and Challenge Coin from CWO Dean Berkovics of the USCGC Katherine Walker for his participation in the Coast Guard's education program which resulted in Katherine Walker receiving the 2007 PIE Award.

Bravo Zulu to all the Serdinsky family and all of Cadets and Staff of the Aegis Division for a highly successful 2007. ❖

US Coast Guard:***USCGC KATHERINE WALKER receives 2007 P.I.E. Award***

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the United States Coast Guard has selected our adopted cutter, the USCGC Katherine Walker as this year's top recipient for Commandant's 2007 Partnership in Education Award. This award is presented to units with the best cooperative effort between a coast guard unit and educational program. The Coast Guard annual PIE awards program recognizes the best units and collaborative partnership in education programs for each school year.

Over the past year the Katherine Walker has hosted numerous Sea Cadets, including four from our adopted Sea Cadet Unit, the Aegis Tech. Rep. Division. (Cadets Serdinsky, Henriques, Clark, and Toomey).

Bravo Zulu to LT Amy Florentino, Commanding Officer CGC KATHERINE WALKER, her officers, staff and crew. ❖

This year's recipients, in their order of selection, are:**UNIT:**

- (1) CGC KATHERINE WALKER
- (2) CG SECTOR CORPUS CHRISTI
- (3) CG SECTOR LOS ANGELES/LONG BEACH
- (4) CG TRACEN CAPE MAY
- (5) CG ATLANTIC AREA/D5
- (6) CG SECTOR DELAWARE BAY
- (7) CG STATION FREEPORT, TX
- (8) CG OPERATIONS SYSTEMS CENTER
- (9) CG NESU CHARLESTON
- (10) CG HEADQUARTERS SUPPORT COMMAND
- (11) CG ELC BALTIMORE
- (12) CGC BERTHOLF B.

COLLABORATIVE:

- (1) CG SECTOR MIAMI
- (2) CGC STEADFAST
- (3) CG ISC SEATTLE
- (4) CG OPERATIONS SYSTEMS CENTER
- (5) CG NESU CHARLESTON
- (6) ELC BALTIMORE
- (7) R AND DC GROTON

Naval Weapons Station Earle Update*by Dan Dermer*

MWR @ NWS Earle hosted a "twinkle, twinkle you're the Star" holiday appreciation activity. Random acts of giving consisted of special surprises and great give away's to lucky base personnel. This yearly event occurred from December 3 to December 16. Donations included turkeys for Christmas and other holiday surprises.

This year 25 turkeys were donated to NWS Earle for distribution by Council member Joe

Azzolina. Mr. Azzolina and his sons own several local food stores and contribute turkeys to the Council each year for Navy and Coast Guard personnel. The Central Jersey Council and all the families at NWS Earle salute Mr. Azzolina for his continued contributions and support. BRAVO ZULU JOE!

On Friday December 7, 2007, Captain Gary A. Maynard, Commanding Officer, NWS

Naval Weapons Station Earle Update

continued



Earle held a Holiday Party at his families residence. Several Officers of the Council were invited to attend this yearly event.

Representing the Council President were Frank Grecco, Chris Aaron, Janie Komssi, Dan Dermer and Andy Madajewski. The Council is grateful to Captain Maynard and his family for their hospitality and the opportunity to meet other base personnel in such a festive holiday setting.

On Friday December 14, 2007, The MWR at Earle

hosted a Children's Holiday Village at the Windjammer club from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Personnel and their families had the opportunity to walk thru Santa's workshops, have fun writing letters to Santa and then to meet the big guy himself.

While each child or the entire family sat with Santa, "Chief of holiday photography, Bill Aitken snapped a photo. The Council's contribution to the Holiday Village was a donation for all of the holiday candy as well as all the family photos that were distributed to the families. ♦

Its Official

by Dan Dermer

On Monday November 26, 2007, The Central Jersey Council held the first open election under the new Bylaws. Held during the final membership and Board of Directors meeting for 2007, the results are listed below. Council President Richard Ehlert thanked all outgoing officers for their hard work and welcomed new officers to his team.

The Council President and his new officers will be sworn in at the Annual Installation Dinner on January 19, 2008. See details on this event elsewhere in the newsletter. ♦

PRESIDENT:
Richard V. Ehlert SR.

VICE-PRESIDENT:
Frank Greco

VICE-PRESIDENTS:
William A. Aitken
Thomas Vastardis

SECRETARY:
Janie Komasi

TREASURER:
Judith Bufis

LIAISON FOR NATIONAL POLICY:
Daniel A. Dermer

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
Stephen J. Hutton

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER:
Christine Aaron

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Christine Aaron
Angus Gillespie
Frank Greco
James Haney
Henry Jensen
Janie Komasi
Andy Madajewski
Walter Olkowski
Alice Rodakis
Cmdr. Ed Troche, NSCC

JUDGE ADVOCATE:
William A. Aitken

MASTER-AT-ARMS:
Paul Sayers

CHAPLAINS:
Hon Vincent LeBlon

HISTORIAN:
Angus Gillespie

Support Your Local Council and the Anchor

by Dan Dermer

The Council has decided to offer ad space to any member or business who wishes to make a donation for its publication in this newsletter. Your tax deductible contribution will help offset publication costs for "The Anchor" as well as give you advertising exposure. Please contact Newsletter Editor, Steve Hutton sjhutton@cjinlus.com to discuss your ad and the costs. If you know of any business's or other individuals desiring this unique advertising opportunity please have them contact Steve. ♦

Navy League Goes To The Desert

by Dick Ehlert & Steve Hutton

This Fall's National Convention took place in Palm Desert, California, from October 20th through November 4th at the JW Marriott Resort & Spa.

Our own Council President Dick Ehlert and former President and National Director Elect Dan Dermer both attended this event.

Dan and Dick flew into LA and rented a car for the two hour drive east into the desert. Speed limits were up to 80mph so they made good time. As council members



are required to pay for their own expenses at such events, both Dick and Dan stayed at a slightly more modest hotel about a mile away.

There were a number of excellent meetings and lectures that took place, with the Coast Guard in particular, giving some really great ones. The Coast Guard's included one outdoor demo of search and rescue equipment, and bomb sniffing dogs.

Former Council President and National Director Elect, Dan Dermer, was presented with an award for Meritorious Council in 2006 from the outgoing National President.

Congratulations to Dan for this and for his becoming a National Director in 2008, where he will serve on the Marketing and Membership committees to help grow the Navy League. ❖



**Next year's event will take place in Kansas City.
Watch for more details to come.**

Annual Installation Dinner and Awards Banquet Planned

by Dan Dermer

The 44th Annual Installation of Officer's Dinner and Awards Banquet has been scheduled for January 19, 2008.

This year's dinner will begin with a cocktail hour and cash bar beginning at 5:00 pm followed by dinner at 6:00pm. Once again, this year's event will be held at the East Brunswick Chateau and music will be provided by the great "Joey Katz".

The Dinner will be attended by many US Navy and Coast Guard personnel, including Captain Gary Maynard USN and Captain Robert O'Brien USCG. Other military guests will include the Commanding Officers of our adopted cutters,

crew members and other military and Navy League guests.

Representatives from our Division's Sea Cadet Corps will present the colors to honor America. Other formal ceremonies will include the swearing in of our newly re-elected President, Richard V. Ehlert and the installation of his officers. Sailor of the Year Awards to Navy and Coast Guard personnel as well as individual Council Awards shall also be presented.

Please use the enclosed response form to select your entree and reserve your spot. If you have any additional questions, please contact Judy Bufis @ 732-651-2781. ❖

THAT IS ALL



**CENTRAL JERSEY COUNCIL, NLUS
ANNUAL INSTALLATION AND AWARDS DINNER**

**WHEN: Saturday, January 19th, 2008
5:00 p.m. cocktails
6:00 p.m. dinner**

WHERE: East Brunswick Chateau Restaurant

**COST: \$45/per person
Cash Bar**

Please join us for the Central Jersey Council's annual Installation of Officers and Awards Dinner and help us celebrate the 43rd anniversary of our Council. As part of the evening we will be presenting Council, Military and Sea Cadet recognition awards. Come and socialize with your fellow Council members and military guests.

Please complete the form below, make your check payable to 'Central Jersey Council, NLUS', and mail the form with your check to Judy Bufis, Secretary, 26 Jensen Street, East Brunswick, NJ 08816 no later than January 15th 2008.



Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ reservations to the Annual Installation and Awards dinner on January 19th 2008.

No. of people attending _____

Please indicate your choice and number of entrees.

Prime Rib of Beef _____ Chicken Francaise _____ Broiled Salmon _____

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. No. _____

(Send your check made payable to 'Central Jersey Council, NLUS' with this form to Judy Bufis, Secretary, 28 Jensen Street, East Brunswick, NJ 08816 no later than January 15th, 2008. If you have already sent in your reservations, they have been received).

44th Annual Installation Dinner Ad Journal

The Council's Annual Installation Dinner Program will contain an Ad Journal. Please place an ad to congratulate Council President, Richard Ehlert and his staff and members on this year's successes, or simply to advertise your business.

Kindly use the form below and return it to

Daniel Dermer

28 Jensen Street

East Brunswick, NJ 08816

by **January 9th, 2008** with the appropriate payment.

Back Cover	\$250
Inside Back Cover	\$200
Inside Front Cover	\$200
Full Page Ad	\$125
Half Page Ad	\$75
Quarter Page Ad	\$35
Booster	\$10

Name: _____

Your message: (or attach a business card - please do not staple to this form)
