2025
Mayport Navy League February Newsletter

President – Bob Whitkop (904) 900-8934 http://www.mayportnlus.org

Calendar of Events

February 5- Golf Tournament mtg at noon at 12:30 Bogeys POC John Strohofer

February 6-MNL BOD mtg at Ocean Breeze Conference Ctr 6:30pm

February 10 - Military Mondays - Dinner to Go, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church 1200 Mayport Road, 3 - 5:30 pm

February 12 - Lincoln's Birthday

February 13 - Food Farmacy at 390 Mayport Road 10am-noon

February 17- Presidents' Day Holiday

February 18 - SOY Luncheon at Ocean Breeze Conference Ctr 11:30am

February 20 - Monthly social at Hoptinger in Jax Beach, 5:30PM.

February 22 - Washington's Birthday

February 27 - Food Farmacy at 390 Mayport Rd 10am-Noon

MNL welcomes the USS St. Louis (LCS-19) on its return from her maiden deployment on 27 January with American flags and support.

2025 Mayport Navy League Officers and Board of Directors

On January 16th, the Mayport Navy League (MNL) hosted the 2025 Mayport Council Officer and Board of Directors Installation Dinner and Ceremony. The evening began at 1800 with cocktails followed by a welcome at 1900 by Captain (ret) Bob Whitkop then a dinner prayer of thanks. Dinner included the entrees of prime rib, salmon or pasta.

The keynote speaker was Captain (ret) Robert “Bob” Buehn, USN, the Past President of the Jacksonville Council of the Navy League and the current Jacksonville Commander of the Naval Order of the United States, and his remarks focused on the Navy and leadership. Following his remarks, Captain Buehn swore-in Bob Whitkop as the Mayport Council President. Bob then swore-in the Council Officers and Board of Directors.

Officers:
President- Bob Whitkop
Vice President- Barbara Ives
Secretary- Rick Costner
Treasurer- John Vargo
Judge Advocate- John Strohofer

Keynote speaker - Captain (ret) Bob Buehn, Commander Jacksonville Naval Order of the United States

Board of Directors:
Immediate Past President- Brian Kennedy
Darlene Allmaras
Tim Jenkins
Pat Kluever
Ryan Tillotson
Jim Young
Lee Wahler
Andy Granuzzo
John Craft
John O’Neill
Dick Murphy
Ed Froehlich – Emeritus

The Mayport Navy League values membership volunteerism and support

SEA CADETS CORNER

On January 18-19th, the Mayport Sea Cadets visited Pensacola with the theme of Team Building.

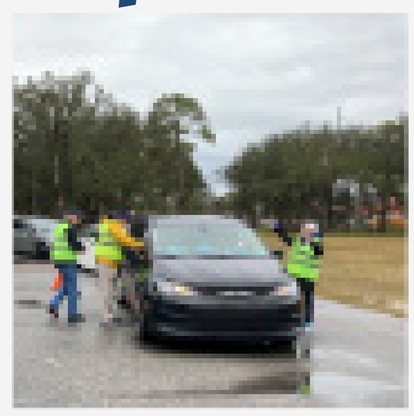
While there, the Sea Cadets participated in a guided tour of the Naval Air and Space Museum on NAS Pensacola all the while strengthening their team building skills. After the museum visit, Chief Harnek led a trivia challenge, followed by a ping pong tournament, and Pipeline. Later, the cadets had a marshmallow roast and finished the evening with board games.

It was a great training opportunity for all.

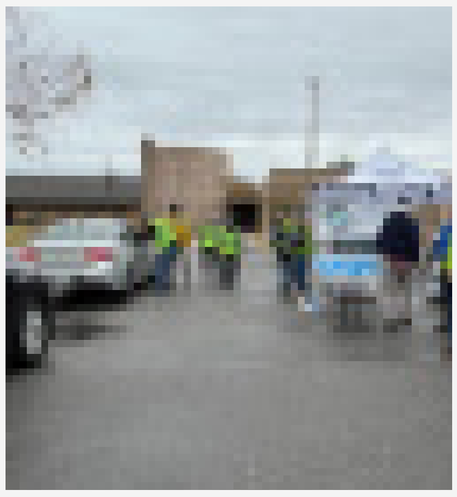
Submitted by Commander PO1 Patrick Henderson

MILITARY MONDAYS- DINNER TO GO

The first Military Mondays – Dinner to Go began on January 13th, a cold and rainy afternoon. Although the weather was not the best, the Mayport Navy League had high morale and great enthusiasm. With over 10 volunteers from both MNL and Fleet Landing members to prospective new MNL members, it was a great day.



The volunteers quickly helped set up and then learned their tasks which included welcoming the military member and their families, checking IDs, determining how many dinners for the family, keeping count of the meal number or distributing the box dinners and water.



The most gratifying part of the drive-through line was when the families received the Jersey Mikes food, the families openly shared their appreciation, thanks, and asked when is the next one. It was a great day for all involved. The food of Jersey Mikes subs, chips, and cookie ran out in less than 2 hours with 185 meals served.

On February 10th, Military Mondays – Dinner to Go will happen again. The routine will be the same. Signage will be placed around the high traffic areas around the church on Mayport Road. Too, MNL will have a pop-up tent adjacent to the Jersey Mike's tent with additional signage. If interested in volunteering on the 10th, please email Tim Jenkins at MNL Mayport Navy League.

MNL is honored to be selected for the Vystar Foundation Grant and able to initiate this entrepreneurial food distribution program. If interested in continuing this program after April, please contact MNL.

Special thanks to our volunteers: Tim Jenkins (MMDTG committee member), Pat Kluever (MMDTG committee member, Barbara Ives (MMDTG committee member), Andrew Granuzzo, Brian Kennedy, Bob Whitkop, Peggy Warner & Dix Garner, George Huchting, Bill Towcimak, Mike Luttrell, John O'Neil, Chet & Andrea Davis, Pam Hamilton, Louise Lones, Dave & Mary Pat Lynch, Cindy Tronsrue, and John Vargo.

Are you interested in becoming a MNL Board Member? If so, contact Bob Whitkop for more information.

HSM-40 HELO TOUR

On January 10th, MNL members toured the Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 40 (HSM-40) from 9:30 - 11:30 am. The tour included a meet and greet in the squadron ready room followed by a presentation on the helicopter and its abilities, and lastly, a tour of the helicopter.

The squadron was established on 4 October 1985 to serve Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing Atlantic with the mission to provide quality training to Fleet Replacement Pilots and Aircrew. HSM-40 is one of two MH-60R Fleet Replacement Squadrons, training pilots and aircrew of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, along with foreign students from around the globe.

Mayport Navy League Membership opportunities and application

NAVY LEAGUE MAYPORT COUNCIL

Navy League Activities

Social Events
- Gatherings at local restaurants
- Social Join-ups for Cocktail Hour
- Sailor of the Quarter Luncheons
- Sailor of the Year Luncheons
- Single Sailor Events

Sea Cadet Activities
- Funding for Activities
- Liaison support as required
- Scholarships and Awards

Ship Support
- Welcome Home Flags
- Ship Commissioning Support
- Personnel Recognition

General Support Events
- Hear from Local Political Leaders
- Food Farmacy staffing and Gift Certificates
- Give-n-Go Dinners
- Support On-Base Activities
- CBP Annual Luncheon (ICW Propellor Club)
- Scholarships and Awards Programs for schools

Fund Raising Activities
- **Annual Golf Tournament**
  - At Windy Harbor (when possible)
  - Support from our Partners and sponsors
  - Many Active Duty Slots
  - Prizes and Door prizes
- **Raffles**
- **Donations**
  - **Partner:**
    - Logo and name on all materials
    - Complementary Tickets to events
  - **Sponsor:**
    - Logo/name on events materials
    - Perks of the event
  - **Benefactor** (donation of any amount/in-kind)
    - Recognition on MNL Web Site

Oct 2024 SOQ Awardees

About Navy League of the United States

Our Mission

Enhance the morale of sea service personnel and their families through national and council level programs.

Be a powerful voice to educate the public and Congress of importance to our nation's defense, well-being and economic prosperity.

Support youth through programs, that expose young people to the values of our sea services.

Join us in Celebrating Our Maritime Services

NavyLeague Membership Form

- ❑ One-Year - Electronic - $25
- ❑ One Year Regular - $55

Digital Seapower Mag Only

- ❑ 2 Year Regular - $100
- ❑ 3 Year Regula - $130
- ❑ 4 Year Regular - $180
- ❑ 5 Year Regular -$225

Life Membership

- ❑ Current Age 55 & Under - $1000
- ❑ Current Age 56-75 - $750
- ❑ Current Age 76 & Older - $500

Navy League Membership includes:
- Subscription to *Seapower* magazine
- Opportunities to support those currently serving
- Invitations to local events and ship commissionings
- Ability to join national committees to make policy changes and impact legislation
- Exclusive member-only discounts with more than 20 companies
- Relevant and timely news and information

Payment Information:

Individual Membership - Navy League of the United States

Or goto:
www.navyleague.org/becom-a-member/individual-membership

Name of Navy League POC

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Phone_____

Email_____

Contact us at: Navy League Mayport Council
PO Box 331944
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233
Questions? Call (904)900-8934
Or email at: mayportnlus@outlook.org