



Winter- Spring 2025

The Ship's Whistle

An occasional e-mail bulletin of newsworthy information for Members of the **Massachusetts Bay Council**, Navy League of the United States and other friends of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine. The Navy League is a civilian organization dedicated to the education of our citizens, including elected officials and the support of the men and women of the sea services and their families.

Calendar

- April Please Don't Come Luncheon
- July 4 weekend Navy ship visit (TBA)
- 2026 USS Massachusetts (SSN 798) Commissioning (TBA)
- 2026? USS John F. Kennedy (CVN 79) Commissioning (TBD)
- 202? USS Thomas G. Kelley (DDG 140) Commissioning (?)

The Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Bay Council, Navy League of the United States was held on 27 Jan. via ZOOM. Officers and Board elected were: **President-** Tom Hennessey. **VPs-** John Learson, Eleanor Samuels, Ivan Samuels, Jim McLoughlan, Paul Mahoney; **Clerk-** John Tata; **Treasurer-** Bob Powers; and **Board Members** Larry Allen, Mary Jo Majors, Reid Oslin, Robert Shaughnessey, Stephen Schnitzer, Lauren Beagan, Bryan Miskell, Ron Ross, Bill Malloy and Bob Gerosa. Also, voted as a **Director Emeritus** were Harold Learson and Paul Keane.



USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116) visited Boston over the St. Patrick's Day weekend celebration. Touring the ship were thirty-four Members, families and guests on a sunny Saturday afternoon during its first port call to Boston since its commissioning in Boston in December 2018. The tour included seeing the Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats (RHIB), both hangar bays, including a MH-60R Helicopter. a portion of the fantail, the Mess Deck, CIC (Combat Information Center); the fo'c'sle and the 5" gun). The highlights for some were the ability to climb into the Romeo helicopter and tour the CIC. (photo and text by R. Buttemessco.)

[Since Commissioning, *Hudner* has sailed in the Black Sea, the Red Sea, the Mediterranean, the Caribbean and a stop in Portsmouth, England. While in the Red Sea, *Hudner* shot down multiple attack drones launched from Houthis in Yemen.]

Navy League has updated our Vision, Mission and Goals statement-to more clearly express our commitment to supporting and advocating for the United States Sea Services. The major changes are that **the Navy League now aspires to be the leading authority in supporting, educating and advocating for the U.S. Sea Services and to promote and enhance U.S. global sea POWER.** (Full version SEAPOWER magazine Feb/Mar 2025)



EPOY Award

Council Pres. Tom Hennessey presented the Enlisted Person of the Year Award to DC2 Hayden McNerney, USCG, who serves in USCGC William Sparling (WPC 1154). The Council presents these awards to outstanding sailors aboard Coast Guard ships and shore commands, USS Constitution, Navy Recruiting, USS Thomas Hudner and soon to USS Nantucket.

Harriett Learson, long-time Life Member of Navy League and a V.P. and Board Member of the Council, passed away on 25 Feb. She will be remembered for her volunteering at various events and ability to converse with anyone. Her obituary may be found on <https://www.brownandhickey.com/>

SEA CADETS



We've occasionally been asked the question of what do Sea Cadets do at their meetings. Here is a typical report (slightly edited from the original by the C.O., LT Brendan Chipperini, NSCC):

The David G. Ouellet Division had two drill sessions during February and no other events scheduled. We enrolled two brand new League Cadets and welcomed back a former cadet who left the program back in 2020 and now has decided to return. The activities that happened during those drills are explained below.

On Sunday, February 2nd, LPO and ALPO led morning physical fitness. After PT, the Cadets changed into the uniform of the day and formed up for open ranks inspection led by the XO, LTJG Mulcahey in preparation for the annual inspection. The next block of instruction was on Drug and Alcohol Addiction "Drug Manipulation" taught by the CO, LT Chipperini who is also a Police Officer. This will be a 4-part series of one-hour classes for the Cadets to earn their Drug Reduction Ribbons. After lunch, the Cadets broke up into three groups. Sea Perch teams continued their design and engineering process. Robotics worked on building a new version of the robot from the kit and coding it to make it function. The last group assisted Inst Smullin in constructing the Sea Perch Mission Course.

On Sunday, February 23rd, ALPO led morning physical fitness in the absence of LPO who had prior commitments. After PT, the Cadets changed into the uniform of the day for the first block of instructions of the day. The CO, LT Chipperini taught his second class on Drug and Alcohol Addiction "Conning Teens" and answered many questions from the Cadets who were actively participating and sharing stories. After a short break, the XO, LTJG Mulcahey had a class lecture on "Life in the Navy" where he shared his experiences and some of the things the Cadets could experience themselves if they join. After lunch, the Sea Perch teams were released to work on their builds while the remaining Cadets were taught a knot-tying class by the XO and Inst Smullin. During the final formation before dismissal, Cadet Wallace was promoted to LC2 Apprentice Cadet.

Something to think about



Chinese shipbuilding

Source: Didi Tang, The Associated Press in Navy Times

In only two decades, [China](#) has grown to be the dominant player in shipbuilding, claiming more than half of the world's commercial shipbuilding market, while the U.S. share has fallen to just 0.1%, posing serious economic and national security challenges for the U.S. and its allies, according to a report released Tuesday by the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

In 2024 alone, one Chinese shipbuilder constructed more commercial vessels by tonnage than the entire U.S. shipbuilding industry has built since the end of World War II. China already has the world's largest naval fleet, the Washington-based bipartisan think tank said in its 75-page report.

"The erosion of U.S. and allied shipbuilding capabilities poses an urgent threat to military readiness, reduces economic opportunities, and contributes to China's global power-projection ambitions," the report said.

Get more involved in Navy League.

Volunteers are welcome. Board meetings are held monthly on ZOOM. Activities are being planned.

Contact President Tom Hennessey at:

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