



Navy League of the United States Minnesota Council



2nd Quarter 2022



HAPPY MAY DAY!!!! USS MINNEAPOLIS SAINT PAUL (LCS 21) COMMISSIONING TO OCCUR MAY 21, 2022



The Navy has officially approved the commissioning date for the USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21) for 10:00 am May 21, 2022 in the Port of Duluth.



The Navy League's commissioning committee has planned a series of events for the ship and crew for the week leading up to the commissioning.



Additionally, there will be a number of events leading up to the Saturday commissioning including a crew luncheon on the pier, Mayor's reception, Ship Sponsor luncheon, Formal Reception at the Duluth Entertainment Conference, a breakfast the morning of the commissioning for the platform guests followed by a post commissioning reception of the pier. Most events will be by invitation only.



The Minneapolis Saint Paul Crew after move aboard in Escanaba

The Navy will mail ticket requestors a commissioning ceremony invitation with a response card. The response card will have an option for additional ceremony tickets, names of the guests representing tickets and any other information required for security purposes. This response card must be returned to Navy in order to activate commissioning ceremony tickets. There is no cost to attend the actual commissioning event, it is free of charge to all those who are invited and who activate their invitation by returning the response card. LCS Merchandise is still available for purchase on our website <https://navyleaguemn.org/lcs-store>.

Items include:

- An official, limited edition, collectible print the future USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS21). Prints are available in both signed/numbered and unsigned options, with two sizes costing from \$75 - \$225.
- A USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21) baseball cap for \$25.
- A unique commissioning coin that features not only LCS 21, but ships previously named for Minneapolis and Saint Paul Coins cost is \$15 each.
- Finally, we are offering a LCS 21 patch that features the ships crest for \$15.

President

William James
williamjames3@gmail.com

VP Communications

Pat Dolan
pkdolan37@gmail.com

VP Membership

Bob Dolan
dolanrp@verizon.net

Minnesota Council
10803 Oak Grove Blvd
Woodbury, MN 555129





USS Minneapolis - Saint Paul News

PCU Minneapolis Saint-Paul Crew Move Aboard Preparations

By PCU Minneapolis Saint-Paul Public Affairs



Crew members move aboard the ship in Escanaba.

2022 is off to an exciting start for the crew of PCU Minneapolis-Saint Paul (LCS 21). Over the course of six weeks, three waves of crew members traveled to Escanaba, Michigan to begin laying the groundwork to move aboard the ship.

The Engineering Department made up the majority of the first wave which arrived in Michigan's Upper Peninsula during the first week of January. The first few weeks for the engineers were filled with "walking the spaces and checking the alignments [of each system] to see if there were any discrepancies," said Electronics Mate 1st Class Christopher Reisch. "The weather was a big transition, but workwise, it was refreshing because we are

able to work on the ship again. The remaining Sailors arrived just before President's Day and immediately began working to help the ship in preparation for move aboard. The largest operation the crew contended with was the on-load of all the ship's tools and materials. Coordinated Shipboard Allowance List on-load, or COSAL on-load as its commonly referred, included bringing aboard everything from pens, mattresses and flak jackets for anti-terrorism watch standing. The entire evolution took four days and involved all hands to ensure that each department received their required items and were able to store them appropriately.

"COSAL on-load is a big deal in the LCS community," said Senior Chief Logistics Specialist Martina Forde, the ship's supply officer. "Thankfully, we had a great COSAL on-load and we're happy to be able to get it done and support the crew." The following week, Lockheed Martin representatives provided refresher training on a variety of the ship's weapons, engineering and communications systems.

"Our instructors were extremely knowledgeable and gave amazing refresher training on our systems," said Fire Controlman 1st Class David Shumway. "They went above and beyond to make sure we have the expertise needed to successfully bring the ship to her homeport in Florida."



Minneapolis Saint Paul Navigation crew gets training to navigate through the locks and canals on the St. Lawrence Seaway

The coming weeks are sure to be even more eventful as the crew officially moves aboard and continues to carry out the inspections and certifications across each department that are necessary to bring the ship to life.



Minneapolis Saint Paul Crew with VIP visitors



Cdr White with Rear Admiral Nowakowski, Reserve Vice Commander, U. S. Naval Forces Central Command, and Captain Miller, Commander, Littoral Combat Ship Squadron Two (LCSRON TWO).

A Message from the Minnesota Council President



What a difference a little over three months makes on the world stage. We have all been struck by the heartbreaking images coming out of Ukraine and the onslaught of Vladimir Putin's quest to retake a sovereign nation only to be met with fierce resistance by the Ukrainian people. The images of missiles and bombs landing into neighborhoods, business districts and even onto hospitals is not only horrific but shocking and unimaginable to us. We can't imagine anything like this happening here in the USA. We can all reflect on the horror of 9/11 of course. But having an armed oppressor come across a boarder is unthinkable to all of us. We live in a challenging and dangerous world and our men and women in the Navy and across all our armed forces are responding by delivering aid, materials, and defensive weapons to push back on Putin's oppressive plan.

At the end of my column is a link where you can donate to numerous agency non-profits of your choice who are providing aid directly to the Ukrainian people and their hard fighting military. If you can help them in their time of great need they will benefit from our help, support, and financial resources.

This has been a busy time for our Navy, Coast Guard, Marine and military members. With the coming of Spring to the Midwest, I, for one, am looking forward to more warmth and less cold. It has been a long winter for all of us here in the upper Midwest, and we are hopeful for a warming spring to help revive us and bring the temperatures up so we can get out and do more.

We finally have big news too, we are hosting the commissioning of the USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS21) on May 21, 2022, in Duluth MN! There is a lead article on the details in this newsletter so suffice to say, it's been a long time coming and the Navy League is thrilled to be leading on this effort. One important point, we need everyone who is interested in attending to register now as the ticketing effort is underway with the Navy planning team. You are required to register on-line if you intend to go to Duluth. The commissioning is going to be a spectacular event and all the registration details are on our website here: <https://navyleaguemn.org/> Please enjoy the numerous updates in our newsletter on our activities, our local commands and the exciting news of our upcoming Commissioning. Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to myself and our Navy League team members.

To help the people of Ukraine and to donate aid please visit this website here: [Aid for Ukraine](#)

Thanks to each of you for your support of the Minnesota Council along with our Navy, Coast Guard, Marines and Maritime sailors, seaman and their families.

Bill James - President

Other News

Minnesota Council Hosts Diverse Group of African American Submariners

The Graduate Minneapolis was the site of an extraordinary event on March 31, 2022. The evening was introduced by the Color Guard from Naval Sea Cadet Corps Twin Cities Squadron.

Following colors, five African American submariners spoke to an engaged audience relating their personal and profound journeys as they navigated Naval careers following desegregation of the military and the opening of all jobs in the Navy to African Americans.

Vice Adm. (SS) retired, Bruce Grooms, opened the event recounting how he is part of the “Centennial Seven”. He was the last of the seven to serve as a commanding officer of United States submarines in the 20th century. He related that he feels lucky to have had the opportunity as there were a lot more capable folks who never got the chance to advance.

He feels the submarine force gave him the opportunity to advance. Vice Adm. Grooms related that since he made flag officer in 2005, there has not been another African American Submarine Flag officer. “In our experience, it’s about us being the best that we can possibly be in the Submarine Force and in every endeavor. And it’s so wonderful to have these opportunities to be able to talk to audiences like this and to talk in a benign way, but it’s nice to hear it from someone’s real perspective that you might not get otherwise” said Vice Adm Grooms. During his illustrious career, Vice Adm. Grooms served in nearly every capacity aboard a variety of submarines, including a tour as executive officer of USS Pasadena (SSN-752), where he twice deployed to the Persian Gulf.



Vice Adm. Grooms, lucky number 7 from the Centennial Seven

EMCM (SS) retired Early Vincent was one of the first African American nuclear trained Electrician’s Mates. Master Chief Vincent related how different his experience in the Navy was to Vice Adm. Grooms.



NSSC Twin Cities Squadron presents colors at African American Event

Master Chief Vincent entered the Navy in the early stages of desegregation. He came from a poor background and initially did not feel he would succeed. Even his instructors did not feel that he would succeed. Master Chief Vincent said he learned early on that you have to apply yourself and if you do you can be anything you want to be. “What that taught me in my naval career is if you treat people the way that you would like to be treated, they may not like you, but they have to respect you. And I never remember anyone in the Navy that I disliked. We all got along together. I knew that there was some prejudice there, but I was born and raised in the south. And as I told the young people, if when you graduate from high school, if you don’t know what you would like to do, join a branch of the military,” said Master Chief Vincent. He indicated that the Navy had been good to him and that submariners work together. That discipline helped him to achieve the top rank of Master Chief.



Master Chief Vincent achieved the Navy’s highest enlisted rate

Other News

Minnesota Council Hosts Diverse Group of African American Submariners (Continued)



Master Chief Ross first African American to qualify as an Acoustic Intelligence Specialist

STCM (SS) retired, Ronald Ross was the first African American to qualify as an Acoustic Intelligence (ACINT) Specialist. Starting as a Sonar Technician, he wanted to advance into the special program of Acoustic Intelligence. This highly specialized career field requires the most competent candidates. Master Chief Ross said his outgoing personality and not letting a setback during his early years allowed him to advance and to make the Navy his career. During his 20 plus years in the Navy he advised Commanding Officers and their tactical teams on matters concerning threat acoustic signatures, foreign intelligence, tactical sensor and combat system employment against adversarial foreign navies.

Our most senior speaker, HMCS (SS) retired, James Mosely, (First African American "Nuke", Author of Life under the Microscope as an African American) graduated from boot camp in June 1948, one week before Executive Order 9981 was signed. Senior Chief Mosely became the first African-American Medical Corpsman to graduate from the Naval Nuclear Power Engineering School. Senior Chief Mosely was in the first desegregated company at Great Lakes and was denied entry into the aviation cadet corps. Hospital Corpsman was his second choice. He endured and thrived in his military career through perseverance.

Our final attendee was unable to address the group, but she has had her own firsts. Lieutenant (SS) Nsombi Roberts was the first African American woman selected for submarine service from NROTC.

Lieutenant Roberts completed her Junior Officer tour on the USS Georgia Blue (SSGN 729) where she qualified Submariners and served as the Electrical Assistant, the Damage Control Assistant (DCA), Information Security Systems Manager, Information Warfare Officer, and as the Assistant Operations Officer. She is currently serving as the Assistant Operations Officer at COMSUBRON SIXTEEN in Kings Bay GA.



Our speakers with Navy League Members, including President Bill James

The following morning, the speakers visited the University of Minnesota Reserve Officer Training Corps and addressed the midshipmen. The staff and students appreciated the opportunity to talk to the group and to hear their stories and gain their perspective in order to garner more interest in the submarined community.

The experiences of this unique cadre of African Americans speakers have paved the way toward a more inclusive submarine force and inclusive Navy. The wealth of experience and the "first" these men and woman experienced paved the way for others to follow in their footsteps.



Speakers addressing University of Minnesota Midshipmen



USS Minneapolis - Saint Paul News

USS MINNEAPOLIS SAINT PAUL COMMISSIONING UPDATE

By: Brian Skon, Vice President Events and Chair LCS21 Commissioning



Minneapolis Saint Paul Crew members arrive in Escanaba

The commissioning of future USS Minneapolis Saint will prove to be a historic event in the Port of Duluth and for our state. A few key details:

- On March 18, 2022, the Navy announced the commissioning date of May 221, 2022 in the Port of Duluth.
- Covid protocols will likely reduce our capacity of guests on the pier. Navy Medical Command will provide guidance to us on how many people will be allowed on the pier.

- The Minnesota National Guard will provide a four-ship flyover of Blackhawk helicopters to assist in helping us celebrate commissioning LCS 21
- The crew of LCS 21 will be bringing merchandise to Duluth to sell to recognize this event
- The crew of LCS 21 officially moved aboard and took possession of the ship during the week of March 7, 2022. They're working with civilian contractors to fire up the systems and become familiar with systems on board the ship
- The ship is located in Escanaba, Michigan and will remain there with USS Cooperstown (LCS 23) until they transit to Duluth
- We are working with the Minnesota Legislature on a funding request of \$200,000 to support the commissioning of LCS 21. It passed through two committees and now it's located in the respective finance committees.
- We have raised over \$150,000 from the private sector and are appreciative of their support!

Thank you and we look forward to an historic event!



Crew training in Quebec City simulators for transiting locks and canals on the St. Lawrence Seaway



Brrr!!! It sure is cold here compared to Florida.



USS Minnesota News

USS Minnesota (SSN 783) moves to Hawaii!!

On February 11, 2022 Brian Skon, Vice President Events and Chair LCS21 Commissioning, had lunch with Commander Brad Bozin and Chief of the Boat Brad Herschberger while visiting USS Minnesota and Naval Submarine Base New London. He presented them with a framed USS Minnesota license plate. Both Commander Bozin and Chief Herchberger will transition off the boat in the next 12 months.



Following that visit, on February 21, 2022 USS Minnesota (SSN 783) left Naval Submarine Base New London for a historic home port change to Naval Station Pearl Harbor. During their transit they were able to exercise with elements of the Colombian Navy including a submarine and two corvettes along with US Naval ships, including the USS Billings (LCS 15) in an anti-submarine warfare exercise in the Caribbean Sea.

USS Minnesota transited through the Panama Canal in early March. 102 years ago, in 1920, USS Minnesota (BB 22) also transited the same locks to move between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

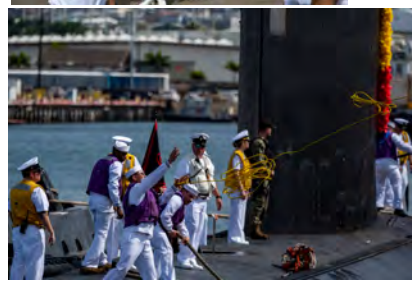
USS Minnesota arrived at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on March 16, 2022.

USS Minnesota transits from Groton one last time on the way to Hawaii

“[The crew of Minnesota is excited to arrive in beautiful Pearl Harbor and add support to the Pacific theater,” said Cmdr. Brad Bozin, Minnesota’s commanding officer. “We are thrilled to become part of the rich history of warfighters and camaraderie of the Pacific Fleet. The crew recently completed a seven-month deployment and exceeded all of my expectations;. I look forward to bringing this success to the Pacific.” [DVIDS - News - USS Minnesota Arrives at Pearl Harbor \(dvidshub.net\)](https://dvidshub.net) USS Minnesota will begin a two-year maintenance period in Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, her first since commissioning in 2013.



Various photos of the USS Minnesota Crew Arriving in Pearl Harbor.



Command Updates



University of Minnesota NROTC Battalion

The University of Minnesota NROTC started off the year right with the commissioning of two outstanding Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) candidates. Navigating through heavy snowfall, Second Lieutenants Bastion and Blecha, accompanied by their friends and family, made it to the ceremony unscathed to become the newest officers in the United States Marine Corps. Their commitment to mentorship and professionalism will continue in the fleet as they “depart the pattern” in May to start their journeys as commissioned officers. Bravo Zulu and good luck!



MECEP Commissioning, Second Lt. Bastion and Blecha

Later in January, Midshipmen were welcomed to the 3M Arena at Mariucci for the University of Minnesota Men’s Hockey Military Appreciation event. There they enjoyed a Hockey victory over Michigan and challenged other college students to a pull-up competition at their recruitment booth.

We are fortunate to have high-achieving MECEPs in our program. And to have one promote while being a student shows just how dedicated they are to the Corps. Congratulations to the Corps’ newest gunnery sergeant, Gunnery Sergeant Hughlett!

The battalion participated in their semi-annual weapons familiarity course at Stock & Barrel in Chanhasen. After passing their rifle knowledge exams, each Midshipman practiced their weapon handling procedures and improved their marksmanship.

Closing out February strong, the Battalion participated in the first in-person University of Minnesota Joint Military Athletic Competition (JMAC) since the beginning of the pandemic and Naval ROTC did not disappoint. After sweeping victories in football, basketball, soccer, and tug-of-war, Navy brought home the victory and put the trophy back where it belongs. The JMAC special guest, Dr. McMaster presented our Battalion Commanding Officer with the 1st Place trophy.



Midshipmen compete in JMAC

Other notable actions during the competition include Midshipman First Class van Dyke, who made the 800-meter race look more like a warm up, and Midshipman Fourth Class Blankenship and Midshipman Fourth Class Kraus who secured the soccer victory during a shootout against Army ROTC. The University of Minnesota NROTC also participated in the University of Colorado NROTC’s annual drill meet. Every Midshipman and Officer Candidate arrived ready and committed to carrying the momentum generated by JMAC. Midshipmen competed in Knowledge Team, Color Guard, and Squad Drill competitions against a field of 12 other NROTC units from around the country. After the dust had settled, UMN placed 3rd in all events. A big shout out to everyone who participated in a very successful 2022 JMAC and Colorado Drill Meet. Bravo Zulu team!

After Colorado and spring break, the Battalion will return to campus just in time for the annual Joint Service Review (JSR) held March 19th at 11am. The University of Minnesota Army ROTC (AROTC) and Air Force ROTC (AFROTC) Battalions will join the Midshipmen at St Thomas Academy to show off their colors and be awarded for their hard work during the 2021-2022 academic year. Family and friends of the Battalion are invited and can also watch on Facebook live stream. Happy Spring from the University of Minnesota NROTC Battalion!



Color Guard at Colorado Drill Meet

Command Updates

Minnesota Navy League presents USS Minnesota Scholarships to University of Minnesota Midshipmen



On March 19, 2002, four University of Minnesota ROTC MIDN Lillian Krueger, MIDN Aleeya Malik, MIDN John Poulin and MIDN Zachary Aanenson were each presented \$1000.00 each from the USS Minnesota Scholarship fund by Minnesota Navy League Council Secretary Brandon Montanye. These scholarships recognize Midshipmen that demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities. #USSMinnesota

University of Minnesota ROTC Carousel Electronic System



The University of Minnesota NROTC plans to install a Carousel electronic system in the unit space to pay tribute to the 1600 Navy and Marine Corps officers commissioned from the unit since

1942, including the 9 officers who gave their lives in combat operations. This system will also allow us to communicate important information, updates, and recruiting material simultaneously.

The total cost of this project is \$7000.00. To help cover some of the funding, we are contacting organizations that maintain a relationship with the NROTC or students from the unit. Your donation would directly assist the NROTC's preservation of history and recruiting efforts.

We ask for your support of this project through donations to our 501(c)(3) organization. Donations will directly enable recruiting efforts, preservation and dissemination of historical information, and improvement of the NROTC spaces.
Funds Needed: \$7000.00
Payable To: University of Minnesota NROTC
*Donors will receive a receipt for their 501(c)(3) donation and acknowledged on the message board. For questions, please contact 2ndLt Trevor Bastion at basti095@umn.edu or (906) 281-3068

Naval Talent Acquisition Group Northern Plains

Greetings to our friends in the Navy League,

Spring is on the horizon and we are already seeing a ramping up of motivation and execution from our team. Our mask mandate has recently been mostly lifted and our recruiters have been actively out in local high schools engaging with students and the community again. After two-plus years of none or limited access, I cannot tell you how great it is to see this happening!

We are still faced with the challenges of a tough but critical mission in a large area of responsibility where the number of willing workers entering the workforce has dwindled down to a new low. Employers are taking drastic measures of their own to attract new employees with signing bonuses, free healthcare, family assistance, tuition assistance, etc. For those veterans reading this, that might sound a bit familiar.



Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Jason Halpern poses with some future Sailors at the Buffalo High School career fair.

We will not be deterred though! Our search of high-quality recruits continues, with our main focus area still on the nuclear power fields and SPECWAR. We have developed outstanding techniques to recruit the best and brightest for the nuclear power field and have risen to be one of the top commands in the nation for recruiting such talent. We will continue the push and are confident that we will continue to help lead the nation in top quality recruits.

Our upcoming challenges come from the manning department. We are going through a sizable shift in manpower at the Headquarters level, where we will be gapped at our logistical support officer, public affairs officer, and a significant portion of our admin staff.

Command Updates



Naval Talent Acquisition Group Northern Plains (Continued)



Engineman 1st Class James Sones, a recruiter assigned to Navy Talent Acquisition Group Northern Plains poses with students at Minnetonka High School as they do pushups during a school visit.

In the field, we are also having a complete overhaul of our SPECWAR recruiting team. Several people will be wearing several hats in the coming months, but we've had great turnover and are looking forward to all the good things our new teams will bring us.

As always, we thank you for your support and we are looking forward to the upcoming USS Minneapolis St. Paul commissioning and your African American Submariner events!

With Respect,

CDR James Duvall,
Commanding Officer, NTAG Northern Plains

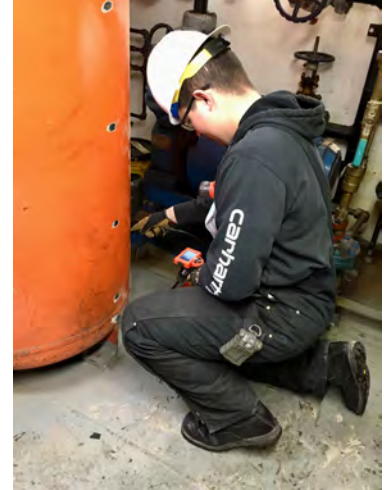
Marine Safety Unit Duluth - Coast Guard

While most of MSU Duluth is playing catch up on paperwork and planning for this spring season, the Domestic Marine Inspectors have been working diligently on winter lay-up. Winter lay-up is when vessels are pulled from operation to get inspected and renewed for the next shipping season. Since the locks are closed and no commerce can be done on the Great Lakes from January-March, company officials choose to spend this down time on maintenance for their fleet.

MSU Duluth is currently spearheading winter lay-up surveys and inspections on a few vessels such as the PAUL R TREGURTHA, JAMES R BARKER, BURNS HARBOR, and LEE A TREGURTHA. Coast Guard marine inspectors will be working alongside vessel representatives,

Marine Safety Unit Duluth - Coast Guard (Continued)

ship company officials, shipyard representatives, and the American Bureau of Shipping to ensure these vessels are getting the proper maintenance completed so they can operate for many more years to come.



SN Jake Woods inspecting an air receiver for any deficiencies. He works alongside Mike Mitchell on inspections to learn what marine inspectors do and is working towards becoming an officer in the USCG.

Vessels will come prepared with a worklist which is made prior to the lay-up schedule and is amended to add items our inspectors and the attending surveyor/shipyard reps find. Our marine inspectors work to ensure that vessels are properly outfitted with safety always on their mind.

Marine Inspectors inspect and examine lifesaving equipment, firefighting equipment/systems, machinery systems, electrical systems, ship structure, documents regarding vessel operations and crew training, health and general safety on board the vessel, and cargo systems/equipment. During winter lay-up, most of the items mentioned are inspected through various surveys and assessments. When it gets closer to spring, the systems and equipment mentioned will be operated and tested to continue to ensure the vessel is ready to be brought back into service.



CWO Mike Mitchell inspecting the fireside internal of a boiler.

Command Updates



USCGC SPAR Has Finally Arrived in Duluth!!!



Spar arrives to snowy weather in Duluth on March 30th. The U.S. Coast Guard cutter Spar (WLB-206) arrived to great fanfare on March 30, 2022 at U.S. Coast Guard Station Duluth. Spar just completed a refit period at the Coast Guard Yard in Curtis Bay, Maryland. The ship departed the yard after a nearly 2-year maintenance period on March 10, 2022, starting her long journey through the St. Lawrence seaway to her new homeport in Duluth where she will assume the duties of USCGC Alder (WLB-216).

The keel for the Spar was laid on December 15, 1999 at Marinette Marine Corporation in Wisconsin. SPAR was launched on August 12, 2000. She made the trip from Marinette, Wisconsin to Kodiak from March to June 2001 and was commissioned later that year on August 3. The cutter is named after the Coast Guard Women's Reserves, also known as SPARS from the Latin and English translations of the Coast Guard Motto: Semper Paratus; Always Ready! The crew's duties in Duluth will include maintaining aids to navigation, domestic icebreaking, search and rescue, and law enforcement.



Arriving home!!!!

Como Park Marine Corps JROTC Update

Congratulations Cadet Major Aliser Paw on being awarded Como Park's MCJROTC highest award, The Legion of Valor Bronze Cross. Her parents, Mother Way Lay Paw and Father Timothy Saw were present to pin on the medal in the School Library.



The criteria to be awarded the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross included:

- The cadet selected or nominated for this award should be completing his/her academic junior year in high school.
- The individual should be considered to be the #1 cadet in your program going into their senior year.
- Military scholarship and grades earned in MCJROTC.
- Overall military leadership.
- Academic Leadership (separate from academic grades attained in JROTC) and regular courses. Includes all demonstrated qualities of leadership in student organizations, constructive activities, and participation in sports.
- Demonstrated qualities in discipline, courtesy, and character, and consistently demonstrated potential qualities as a potential officer.
- Academic grades and class standing (GPA).
- JROTC accomplishments.
- Involvement in community service events.
- Extracurricular activity involvement and overall character.

Cultural Day, Multi-Cultural Fair, International Night – no matter what you call it, for many of us it is an annual tradition that everyone looks forward to. For most schools, it's an opportunity to celebrate the diversity that exists within our community. Our own CPSHS MCJROTC led by (Junior) Cadet Private First-Class Jackson Thao held their event on a Friday night in the Fieldhouse gym and enjoyed fine dance, great cultural food, and sport activities



Command Updates



Como Park Marine Corps JROTC Update (Continued)

Congratulations to the outstanding talent from the Como Park Senior High School Marine Corps JROTC unit! Cadets Jesiah Mason, Sophia Moore, Cooper Westrum, Joshua Lee, and team Captain, Cadet Corporal Alex Le successfully completed Round II of the Junior Leadership Academic Bowl, a national Knowledge Bowl competition that earned all of them an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. to compete in the JLAB Nationals. Way to go Cadets!!



The Como Park MCJROTC Raider Winter Cadet Leadership Camp was a success with 50 cadets trained in several winter skills. Combat sledding, Knots proficiency, Raider Squad Challenge, Ice wall climbs, Hiking, Indoor Rockwall climbs, Horsemanship, and several other outdoor and indoor activities to name just a few. Despite the adverse weather and obstacles, the bulk of the responsibilities and leadership shined from the Cadet Squad Leader Leadership. All cadets that participated with success will receive a Distinguished Military Leadership Ribbon.



Harding High School JROTC

On Friday, January 21, the "Knight Navy" - Harding High School's Naval Junior ROTC unit, took 40 cadets to the Army National Guard's Armory and Training Facility in Arden Hills. After receiving a presentation, the cadets were introduced to various equipment and weapons and were given the opportunity to "fire" weapons on the virtual small arms range. The National Guard treated the cadets to a catered lunch from Subway. Without Navy vessels in the vicinity, reserve and guard facilities such as this are one of the few military orientation trips available to the cadets.



Firing weapons at Arden Hills

On Saturday, January 29, the Knight Navy participated in the Winter Carnival Grande Day Parade. A color guard and a marching unit consisting of 20 cadets were preceded by the unit's banner, and were received with much enthusiasm by the crowd as they passed. Temperatures in the twenties were moderately pleasant compared with many other years. With the exception of last year when the district was at distant learning, and field trips forbidden, Harding's NJROTC unit has never missed marching in this event.



Command Updates



Twin Ports Sea Cadets

The beginning of the year starts with our command "Back to the basics" phase of operations. Refreshers in ranks and recognition, formations, marching, Level or Knowledge, General Military Training other basic operations take place. The complexity of this training and operations all fit together to allow cadets to advance.

Instructor Jessica McMahan has returned from Corpsman school in Texas. She will be reporting to Camp Lejeune for two weeks in the near future.



QMSN Solomon Martin has completed Cyberpatriot work on the national level. His team scored first in the nation for all service divisions, gold tier. This means his team beat the entire nation's Navy Cadet, Civil Air Patrol, and every branch of JROTC in our tier for all service divisions. Martin's team placed 130th overall, out of around 3,250 teams that joined initially. Sailors from Twin Ports Division continue to, "Hit Hard, hit fast and hit often."

Polaris Battalion/Training Ship Trident



Building Superballs

Polaris Battalion and TS Trident are busy learning new skills; STEM projects, rockets and boat building, journalism and SCUBA diving are a few of the projects happening at drill. During the February drill the young League Cadets used some typical household items and made superballs. While they didn't bounce as well as they could have, the cadets had fun experimenting with different amounts of ingredients to see how the balls changed.

Polaris Battalion/Training Ship Trident (Continued)



Building Rockets

Polaris Battalion has a team of four cadets that are working on building rockets that will reach heights of 2800-3000 feet. They will be flying in air space that has been cleared by the FAA. Each cadet will earn a certificate that will allow them to build even bigger rockets that can fly further. The team is being led by guest engineer and rocketeer Michael Aylward. The team plans to finish the build in April with launch in May at a rocketry field in North Branch.

The Battalion is in the process of building a parade float size Arleigh Burke Class Destroyer. This boat will be easily assembled and disassembled to put on a trailer bed for use as a float in parades this summer. The cadets are using power tools, bending wood to form a hull, and following blueprints. The cadets will add a gun to shoot smoke out. This requires some STEM opportunities. We are looking forward to a fun parade season this year.



Cadets build parade float of Arleigh Burke Destroyer

In mid-March, Cadets and Leaguers met at a pool in White Bear Lake to experience breathing underwater. Through a local dive shop, Air Down There, cadets were given basic instruction about SCUBA, followed by in pool direction and time to swim underwater with the gear. For many this was their first-time experiencing SCUBA and for others, they returned for a second time.

Command Updates



Polaris Battalion/Training Ship Trident (Continued)



Cadets learn basic SCUBA techniques

Some day many of these cadets will decide to whether become SCUBA Divers and view the amazing underwater world. Cadets open up so many doors for the youth, this is just one more world to view



In January the unit started a journalism program. There are four cadets tasked with keeping up the website, and other social media platforms. This includes a blog for readers to learn more about the program. Our Blog can be found at: [PR BLOG | MN Sea Cadets \(polaris-trident.com\)](#) Each of the cadets on this team has a job to document different opportunities that are happening through out drill. They interview the cadets and document the process that is happening. This includes the rocketry and boat building teams. For information on Polaris Battalion or TS Trident, visit our website at: [Sea Cadets | Polaris-Trident Battalion Sea Cadets | Central](#)

Sea Cadets - Twin Cities Squadron

The Twin Cities Squadron rang in the new year with our annual Dining Out event. This year's event was held at the American Legion – Chanhassen Post 580 and boasted a full house with over 100 attendees. Among the distinguished guests were USNSCC Regional Director CAPT William Radomski, LTC Frances Stachour (DAR), SSGT Ralph Bieniek (VFW 1782), CDR Glenn Anderson (AL 580), LTC James Crowe (CAP) and Joyce Lacey (NLUS).



Joyce Lacey presents Able League Cadet Ethan Steines was awarded the Navy League Theodore Roosevelt Youth ribbon.

The cadets were looking smart, dressed in freshly issued service dress blues, left chest adorned with ribbon racks. The officers attended khakis and the CO in dress blues. The evening opened with a social hour and silent auction, which is always a favorite amongst the cadets. Over 35 items were up for auction, and some friendly bidding wars raised a nice amount of money for the unit. Thank you to the parents and community partners who contributed to make the silent auction a success.

After the posting of the colors, ENS Duval served as the MC guiding us through the evening. Petty Officer Second Class Austin Kou and Recruit League Cadet Tucker Jensen performed the cake cutting ceremony with the Naval officer's sword.



Following the cake cutting, Airmen Houge, Schuster, Weiland, Rowell and Jensen paid homage to sacrifices made in the naming of the battles ceremony. Petty Officer Second Class Connor Howe, the units Leading Petty Officer performed

the Missing Comrade Ceremony with LTC Barney Uhlig.

The awards portion of the evening was kicked off with some spirited remarks from CAPT Radomski on the current and future state of the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps. On this night, above all others we honored cadets among ranks who have distinguished themselves through leadership, citizenship and dedication to duty.

- Airmen Recruit Shyann Friermuth was awarded the Daughters of the American Revolution medal.
- Petty Officer Second Class Connor Howe received the Sons of the American Revolution Good Citizenship medal.
- Airmen Max Schantzen was awarded the Veterans of Foreign Wars Naval Sea Cadet medal.
- Airmen Christopher Schroer was awarded the American Legion General Military Excellence medal.
- Able League Cadet Ethan Steines was awarded the Navy League Theodore Roosevelt Youth ribbon.
- Petty Officer Second Class Austin Kou was awarded the Navy League Theodore Roosevelt Youth medal.

Command Updates



Sea Cadets - Twin Cities Squadron (Continued)

Unit awards were also awarded by Commanding Officer LTJG Dirk Holman. These included:

- League Cadet of the Year: Apprentice League Cadet Park Leiter
- Rookie Cadet of the Year: Airmen Recruit Ella Davis
- Sea Cadet of the Year: Airmen Nolan Sanavoung
- Petty Officer of the Year: Petty Officer Second Class Connor Howe
- Instructor of the Year: INST Christina Pena
- Commissioned Officer of the Year: ENS Shawn Wilson

The final award of the evening recognized the cadets involved in the 2021-22 Cyber Patriot competition. The teams of Petty Officer Kou, Airmen Dorinski, and Airmen Rowell finished in first place in the state of the Minnesota and very respectably in the national all-services competition with over 2000 participants. Bravo Zulu to all of the honorees and a great evening.



The unit hosted annual swim qualifications at the Lifetime Fitness – Plymouth in January. After nearly 2 years of COVID restrictions, the cadets have some work ahead of them. They to success is not being deterred by failure. The cadets battled through adversity and most achieved minimum qualifications. A few pressed forward despite the chilly conditions and completed their first-class qualifications.

Regular monthly drill resumed again in February with an eye towards annual inspection in March. The cadets focused on basic formation, opening and closing ranks, as well as learning their General Orders, the Sailor's Creed, NATO alphabet and chain of command.

Training evolutions included semaphore and signal flags followed by a practical exercise on the drill deck. Teams were required to use signal flags to relay a message and confirm that message between two ships.

As we embark into the spring, it marks the transition of leadership within the ranks. Petty Officer's Howe and Kou will soon be going ashore and junior cadets will step in to fill roles as squad and section leaders, color guard captain, unit corpsman and master at arms. These cadets represent the opportunities the Sea Cadets offer in personal development, leadership and service. As a unit we will resume our marksmanship training program and look ahead towards summer training opportunities. A few cadets are taking advantage of spring break to attend trainings in Advanced Color Guard and STEM- Underwater Robotics.



Other News

Top Gun: Maverick

The original *Top Gun* made every kid in the 80s want to be a fighter pilot and the sequel promises a bigger encore. The long-anticipated sequel *Top Gun: Maverick* was originally scheduled to be released in 2020, but the release was delayed due to Covid-19. The release is now scheduled for **May 27, 2022**.



The Minnesota Council will host a Top Gun experience that will include up close viewing of a F/A-18 Super Hornet, a social hour with Naval aviators, presentations from graduates of Top Gun and other aviation weapons schools, and tickets to *Top Gun: Maverick* in iMax! We are still finalizing details but are planning a date shortly after Memorial Day. Watch our web site Navy League of Minnesota (navyleaguemn.org) and Facebook page for more details <https://www.facebook.com/navyleaguemn> and to purchase tickets.

At this event, Naval aviators will give us the real scoop on how the world's best fighter pilots are trained, the realities of combat, and compare the Hollywood version to the real world of flying.

Check out the official movie trailer to get your adrenaline up <https://www.topgunmovie.com/>! You won't want to miss this exclusive event.

Minnesota Council Introduces New Membership recruiting information



Why Join the Minnesota Navy League

The Minnesota Navy League Council depends on passionate individuals like you to support those currently serving and advocate for the sea services. We have developed four pillars providing reasons why you should join our Council:

First, Heritage. We provide essential support to locally based units. These include units such as Naval Community Resource Officer Training Corps (RCOTC) and Junior ROTC units, Sea Cadets and Naval and Coast Guard Sides. Support of these units allows us to enhance the morale of our day and receive some support for Navy around the world. We also work with other military organizations such as the Minnesota Military Museum, Military Assistance Council for Vietnam, the VFW, and American Legion throughout the state to ensure that Navy Heritage is included.

Adapted Units
Naval Vets Association League
Naval Operational Support Command University of Minnesota ROTC
JROTC Units (Columbus, Hastings, Washington, Tuck)
Sea Cadets (Twin Cities, Twin Ports, Pelican)
USA Minnesota (SOV, 30)
USN Minnesota Naval Post (USN 210)
USMC (Year 1818-200)

Second, Education. The Minnesota Council is focused on being the "spirit of the Navy" in Minnesota. We are a powerful voice to educate the public on the importance of the Navy's vital role in our nation, and the Navy's rich history and traditions. We do this through our outreach efforts, participating in community panels, speaking to chambers of commerce and business organizations. Additionally, it is essential to provide the sea services with an enriched workforce. The Navy League accomplishes this through our Seaman, Technician, Engineering and Math (STEM) education efforts. The Navy League STEM Institute provides funding and free meals and resources (people tend to get inspired by STEM). The Navy League accomplishes the country's STEM in a part of their mission, and your membership dues are essential to supporting their sea services and national level programs.



Third, Youth Programs. This is the essence of what binds military men and Navy League members together and provides it cohesion to organizations. Commanders allow members to see new and familiar faces and serves as a reminder that we are all in this together. It allows members who have family members in the military to share their experience and feelings with people who get what military life is like. When you spend time with Navy League members, you get experienced military veterans, civilians and the families of military members (not all being annual each other). These shared feelings lead to lifelong friendships. The Minnesota Navy League Council practices camaraderie through monthly meetings, an Annual Meeting, Navy Ball, National Navy League Conference, numerous beach parties and other get-togethers.

Fourth, Camaraderie. This is the essence of what binds military men and Navy League members together and provides it cohesion to organizations. Commanders allow members to see new and familiar faces and serves as a reminder that we are all in this together. It allows members who have family members in the military to share their experience and feelings with people who get what military life is like. When you spend time with Navy League members, you get experienced military veterans, civilians and the families of military members (not all being annual each other). These shared feelings lead to lifelong friendships. The Minnesota Navy League Council practices camaraderie through monthly meetings, an Annual Meeting, Navy Ball, National Navy League Conference, numerous beach parties and other get-togethers.

To Join:
Prospective members may fill out the membership application below and send to Vice President, Membership Minnesota Council along with a check for the appropriate amount.
Alternatively, prospective members may join on-line at: <https://www.navyleagueoftheusa.com/membership>



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Email Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
Preferred Council: Minnesota
Membership Type:
1 year Regular \$85.00
1 year E-member \$25.00
Membership application along with checks should be mailed to:
VP Membership, Minnesota Council -
Box Delta 1000 Oak Grove Blvd -
Waukegan, MN 55129

The Minnesota Navy League Council depends on passionate individuals like you to support those currently serving and advocate for the sea services. We have developed four pillars providing reasons why you should join our Council. There is a new trifold, a one-page with a QR code and another single page flyer. All information is posted to the Council's website at: <https://navyleaguemn.org/why-join>

NAIP Update

As winter comes to a welcomed end and spring begins to warm our spirits, the United States Naval Academy Class of 2026 continues to grow. There are currently 16 Minnesota students who have been offered the opportunity to attend USNA as part of the Class of 2026. In addition, every year approximately 50 – 80 prior enlisted sailors and marines join the Brigade of Midshipmen in their quest to become commissioned officers. Candidates who have not already accepted the offer of appointment must respond to the USNA Office of Admissions by May 1 or risk forfeiting the offer of appointment. The students comprising this year's group of candidates are extremely well qualified. All have outstanding academic records, are standouts in sports or other extra-curricular activities, are active in community service and have a strong desire to serve in the United States Navy or the United States Marine Corps. They will report to the Naval Academy early this summer for 4 years of intense academic and professional training. All will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree and be commissioned as either an Ensign in the Navy or a 2nd Lieutenant in the Marine Corps.

Just as selection of the Class of 2026 is being completed, the application process for the Naval Academy Class of 2027 is beginning. Candidate applications are available at www.usna.edu as of April 1, 2022.

As summer approaches, the in-person activities at the Naval Academy are starting up. The summer STEM program for rising 9th through 11th grade students and the Naval Academy Summer Seminar (NASS) for rising high school seniors will be conducted on site at the academy.

Other News

NAIP Update (Continued)



More information on both programs, as well as the Naval Academy sponsored summer sports camps, is available at www.usna.edu.

From the Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation, site preparations have begun for the new Alumni center in Annapolis, Maryland. The new center is expected to provide better service to alumni by locating all Alumni Association and Foundation staff members under one roof. The new facility is expected to be completed in 2023. This project caps the many accomplishments of President and CEO, Byron Marchant, USNA '78. Byron has announced his departure from the Alumni Association and Foundation after 13 years at the helm. A joint search committee has been formed to select a new President and CEO. Go Navy!

Outreach North Update

Vice President of Outreach North, Joyce Lacey had many outreach opportunities this quarter.

She delivered personal care items and flowers to Veteran's Homes, Veteran's Hospitals and the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans. Additionally, she sent birthday greetings to isolated Veteran's and brought Valentine's to Veteran's in February, along with mini stress footballs for the Super Bowl. This was a joy to all!



Joyce Lacey donates material to MACV.

Joyce also spent one day to provide some fun rides at Nickelodeon Universe for the children of disabled American Veterans.

On January 22, 2022, United States Naval Sea Cadets, Twin Cities Squadron, hosted their annual Dining Out event and also celebrated their 50th year anniversary. Outreach Vice President Lacey had the honor of presenting two Cadets with the Navy League Theodore Roosevelt Youth ribbon and medal. Those presented awards were Able League Cadet Ethan Steines and Petty Officer Second Class Austin Kou.

The Navy League took part in the St. Paul Winter Carnival Grande Day Parade January 29, 2022, the St. Paul Winter Carnival Torchlight Parade February 5, 2022 and the St. Paul St. Patrick's Day Parade March 17, 2022. Additionally, Outreach North helped serve American Legion, Post 357 - Ashby, Minnesota

Finally, Outreach North is producing the "African American Submarine Experience" Documentary and is responsible for the filming, editing and distribution of this film.



St. Patrick's Day Parade with St. Paul Winter Carnival Vulcan King



St. Paul Winter Carnival Clothing donation

Other News

Did You Know...

By Brandon Montanye

According to the Navy.com website, “The mission of the Navy Reserve is to provide strategic depth and deliver operational capabilities to the Navy and Marine Corps team and Joint forces, in times of peace or war. Navy Reserve Sailors seamlessly support and actively aid that mission, all while continuing to lead their own independent lives in the civilian world.” Here in Minnesota the Navy Reserves are located at the Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) in Minneapolis.



But, did you know that Minnesota once had a state Naval Militia? Originally known as the State Naval Reserve, the organization was established by the state legislature in 1899. It was open to Navy veterans that had completed a minimum of one tour with the Active-Duty Navy. In 1903 Capt. Guy A. Eaton, a native of the Duluth area, became the first Commanding Officer of a two Division unit. In 1905 the designation was changed to Minnesota Naval Militia. The Naval Militia operated much like the modern National Guard. They were funded by the state and by the Federal Government for training or real-world operations.

The Minnesota Naval Militia received its first training ship in 1906, the USS Gopher (IX-11). Additionally, a pier and boathouse were built on the harbor side of Park Point in Duluth. In 1915, the Duluth National Guard Armory was built for joint use by the Minnesota National Guard and the Minnesota Naval Militia. Other Naval Militia chapters were established in Bemidji, Crosby, and Pine City for training during WWI.

In 1917 during WWI, the members of the Minnesota Naval Militia went to Philadelphia. There Capt. Eaton assumed command of the USS Massachusetts (BB-2) and later the USS Iowa (BB-4). The Minnesota Naval Militia Sailors were assigned to other Navy crews to serve in the war. Following the end of the war, the Minnesota Naval Militia Sailors returned to Minnesota to carry out their routine training schedule.

In 1921 the USS Gopher was transferred to the Atlantic Fleet and in 1922 USS Paducah (IX-23 ex PG-18) arrived in Duluth as the Naval Militia's training ship. They would train during regular two-week cruises and conduct gunnery exercises on Lake Michigan. She was later transferred to the Atlantic Fleet in 1941.



USS Gopher by lift bridge in Duluth

1927 the Essex (IX-10) was transferred to the Naval Militia. In 1928 her engine and boilers were removed; she also had her deck housed over. She was then used as a receiving ship. In October 1930, she was stricken from the Navy vessel register. A year later, she was brought to the lake side of Park Point and burned to the waterline. The remains of her hull are still visible five feet from the shore. In 1936, the YP-61 (ex-USCGC Dallas) replaced her.

In December of 1940 the Militia members were activated and steamed Paducah and YP-61 from Duluth to New York City where Sailors were assigned to other commands. Eventually supporting the efforts during WWII, many of them served in the USS Ward (DD-139).

During WWII, all State Naval Militias were transitioned into the U.S. Naval Reserve and put into full time Federal control. And now you know.



**Navy League of the United States
Minnesota Council
2021 Officers**

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| President | William James | williamjames3@gmail.com |
| Vice President Communications | Pat Dolan | pkdolan37@gmail.com |
| Vice President Membership | Bob Dolan | dolanrp@verizon.net |
| Vice President - Outreach North | Joyce Lacey | usnavyleague.mn.outreach@gmail.com |
| Vice President - Outreach South | Jeanette Sterner | jeanjoe@aol.com |
| Vice President - Events and LCS 21 | Brian Skon | bdskon@gmail.com |
| Vice President and Vice Chair LCS | Lynn Wegner | lwegner65@gmail.com |
| Secretary | Brandon Montanye | brandon_montanye@hotmail.com |
| Treasurer | Mark Stange | marklstange@gmail.com |

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

April

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Month of the Military Child | Entire Month |
| Military Saves Month | Entire Month |
| Gold Star Spouses Day | April 5 |
| National Former POW Recognition Day | April 9 |
| Air Force Reserve Birthday | April 14 |
| Easter | April 17 |
| Earth Day | April 22 |
| Army Reserve Birthday | April 23 |



May

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|--|------------------------|
| Asian Pacific Heritage Month | Entire Month |
| Public Service Recognition Week | First full week in May |
| Silver Star Service Banner Day | May 1 |
| Loyalty Day | May 1 |
| National Nurses Week | May 6-12 |
| VE Day | May 8 |
| Military Spouse Appreciation Day | May 6 |
| Mother's Day | May 8 |
| Peace Officers Memorial Day | May 5 |
| Armed Forces Week | May 14-21 |
| USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul Commissioning Duluth, MN | May 21 |
| Armed Forces Day | May 21 |
| Maritime Day | May 22 |
| Memorial Day | May 30 |



June

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|-----------------------------|--------------|
| PTSD Awareness Month | Entire Month |
| D Day | June 6 |
| Women's Veterans Day | June 12 |
| Army Birthday | June 14 |
| Flag Day | June 14 |
| Duluth Air Show | June 16-17 |
| Grandma's Marathon – Duluth | June 17 |
| Father's Day | June 19 |
| Juneteenth | June 19 |
| PTSD Awareness Day | June 27 |

