



## COAST GUARD SPECIAL MISSION TRAINING DIVE COMPLETES COLD WATER ICE TRAINING AT CAMP RIPLEY, MINNESOTA.



Diver tests out the cold Minnesota water

Brr!!!!. It was really cold in Minnesota in early February with temperatures in the teens and twenties, but divers from the Coast Guard, Navy and Army were prepared for the challenge.

The Coast Guard Special Mission Training Detachment-Dive (SMTD-Dive) Cold Water Ice Diving Course was held at Camp Ripley, Minn. from January 31- February 10. The Minnesota Navy League Council was thrilled to be able to host the class at the completion of training for a dinner at the Town Hall at Camp Ripley.

Sixteen divers participated in the course and were from all over the country including units in Calif., Hawaii, Fla., and Va.

The divers spanned three military services and included four Coast Guard divers, eight Navy divers and four Army divers.

The USCG Cold Water Ice Diving course (CWID) is conducted annually and consists of both classroom and field instruction that includes cold weather dressing and diving techniques, safety on floating ice, donning the CWID SCUBA outfit, and CWID SCUBA emergency procedures. Course content is facilitated via classroom presentations, cold-water diving tank, practical field exercises via ice covered lakes and performance-based evaluations. All perfectly suited for Minnesota's cold weather environment.

The training was previously held in Washington state and moved to Camp Ripley last year. Divers who attended the course indicated that moving the course to Camp Ripley in Minnesota has challenged them in ways they never imagined by exposing divers to authentic cold weather training conditions reaching far extremes of operational capabilities.

The Camp Ripley environment allowed instructors to introduce students to the harshest winter weather conditions they may ever be asked to operate in, while offering the amenities that allow instructors to implement the proper level of controls to mitigate the hazards and risks they may otherwise be exposed to in a less controlled training environment. The amenities and facilities located on Camp Ripley are second to none.

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## COLD WATER ICE TRAINING (Continued)

The course is intended for all military diving personnel assigned to full-time dive billets within the ranks of E-5 through O-4. Its purpose is to provide all military divers with formalized training specific to operating in the harsh cold water and ice diving environments.

The Minnesota Navy League Council is thrilled to have been able to meet and host the USCG Cold Water Ice Diving course and looks forward to continuing a relationship with them on future visits to Minnesota.

The Minnesota Navy League Chapter, a 501c3 is a non-profit registered with the State of Minnesota.



Divers from all military services enjoyed a dinner hosted by the Navy League at the classes completion at Camp Ripley



Team prepares ice for cold water diving

## *A Message from the Minnesota Council President*



Spring greetings to you!

As we continue our efforts to improve the quality and value of our meetings to you, on March 15th, we virtually hosted our second speaker, Rear Adm. (sel.) Josh Himes, the current Chief of Staff to the U.S. Navy's 10th Fleet and prospective Vice Joint Staff Director for Intelligence. Adm. Himes gave a great talk on the current organization of Information Warfare at the tactical and operational levels of war and how that organization fits into the overall capabilities of the Joint Fight. This was a great follow-up our January speaker, Capt. Papaioanu who discussed integrated warfare challenges in the Pacific

and what it takes to be a TOP GUN pilot. If you are not participating in these discussions, you are truly missing out on great content. Stay tuned as we continue to line up more speakers who will continue to shed light on what the sea services are doing to protect our national interests and project our national power.

Additionally, we continue to review our processes in order to keep you engaged and interested in our organization. We have decided to streamline the engagement impact to you by transitioning our monthly executive/business meetings to Zoom and putting in place a plan for member only social events. So, **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!**

Starting next month, we are placing an emphasis on opportunities for our members to come out and enjoy camaraderie in a non-business meeting setting. April 12th we will host a happy hour at Orale, followed by another on May 10th at Fulton Taproom. After the happy hour we hope you will join us at Target Field for the Minnesota Twins, Padre's game. July 15-16 will see us in Duluth at the Air Show, which this year will feature the Blue Angels and Minnesota's own, Lt. Amanda Lee. This fall we'll have the Navy Ball, followed up by the second annual Army-Navy game event in December.



Rear Adm. (Sel) Josh Himes

We'll be sure to add more activities as the year progresses. My counterparts with the Air Force are looking to get in on the football challenge! There may be even a Minnesota's Commanders Cup challenge as a result.

I'd also like to remind you of the upcoming Midwest Regional Annual Conference, slated to take place April 21-23 in Wichita, Kansas and the National Convention that will take place 7-11 June in Dallas.

Lastly, watch your emails for a survey from us asking you to help select our Minnesota Council of the Navy League logo. This is a continuation of our efforts to refine our brand and make your council a stand-out, one-of-a-kind organization.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

In Your Service,  
Smokin' Joe





# Minnesota Council VP Updates

## VP Community Engagement - Joyce Lacey



Vice President of Community Engagement is promoting awareness of the Naval Services with the Minnesota Business communities, chambers of Commerce, Minnesota Business Council, Rotaries and Veterans Organizations by promoting the Minnesota Navy League throughout the state.

In the past quarter, she provided Valentines Day flowers to veterans in VA hospitals in St. Cloud and Minneapolis as well as to Veteran's Homes in Fergus Falls, Minneapolis and Hastings. Additionally, she outreached to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans providing donated socks, gloves, hats and scarfs. Also, she outreached directly to homeless encampments and provided blankets, gloves, scarfs, hats and hand warmers to homeless encampments along with sandwiches and water.

Joyce also was part of the Challenge to Reduce Military Suicide in February and is planning to go on to help with the 30 Mile Family Walk Challenge in April. If you are interested in becoming involved, please go to the attached link: [stopsoldiersuicide.org](https://stopsoldiersuicide.org)

She will participate on April 22nd at the Elbow Lake Airport to celebrate the Month of the Military Child at that location from 1100am to 3:00pm. There will be a Color Guard, a WWII T6 Warbird Flyover, WWII Motorcycle on display, demonstrations by Young Eagle Flights FF 1174 Chapter, Military Displays and door prizes (including a 1-hour flight for 4 passengers). Admission is free and it is open to the public!



The Navy League was represented by Joyce at the St. Paul Winter Carnival Parade and the St. Patrick's Day Parade in St. Paul on March 17th.

After the St. Patrick's Day parade, she participated in the post parade ballpark Hooley at CHS Field, which provided an excellent opportunity to share information about the Navy League and how to join!

Joyce continues to reach out to other organizations, including the Shriners, Lions, VFW and Chamber of Commerce providing them information on the mission and importance of the United States Navy League and encouraging them to join. As a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Joyce continues her active role with the American Legion Peterson Tripp Post in Ashby, Minnesota by serving dinner for the American Legion 104th birthday party at the post on March 18th.

## VP Adopted Units - Brian Skon



I had the privilege of visiting USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (MSP) LCS 21 on February 20 at their home of Naval Station Mayport.

The ship is gearing up for additional training evolutions off the East Coast and they are waiting on a scheduled post commissioning maintenance availability.

In late May the ship will have a crew and family picnic as well as the Change of Command. In August, their Senior Supply Senior Chief Martina Forde will be retiring after 25 years in the Navy. She has been assigned to the crew for approximately 4 years, an original plank owner, and was with the ship from its mooring location in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, being in Duluth for its commissioning and finally getting her to Mayport. Congratulations Senior Chief! We are so proud of you and are grateful for the opportunity to get to know you as you brought our ship to life.



Image from deck of MSP

USS Minnesota started her maintenance period at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard about one year ago. This was the first maintenance period since the ship's commissioning in 2013.

Wow, hard to believe that the submarine is already ten years old. During this time, USS Minnesota deployed on 3 scheduled deployments and one surge deployment and the crew earned multiple awards including the Battenberg Cup in 2019 as the best ship in the US Navy. The maintenance availability will continue for the next few months under commanding officer Cmdr. Isaac Pelt. We look forward to her rejoining the active fleet and continuing her proud tradition of service to the fleet.



# Minnesota Council VP Updates

## VP Legislative Affairs - Bill James



Tomorrow looks different. So will we.”  
Admiral Linda Fagan  
Commandant, US Coast Guard  
June 1, 2022

Greetings Navy Leaguer’s! Legislative affairs are a topic many of us may not be aware of within the Navy League. One of the key focus areas for the Navy League is to advocate with policy shapers, legislators, on the importance of the Sea Services. We have an active Legislative Affairs team at our National Office headed by Luke Lorenz, Vice President Legislative Affairs. There, Luke, and his team establish policy the Navy League shares with members of Congress, the Department of the Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Merchant Services. They do this through grass roots advocates at the National along with us at the State level.

The Navy League publishes an annual Maritime Policy, and it is available for download on our website: [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5db91184edefa02641983c8d/t/63d813ec46a047593ac7fa3f/1675105262504/Maritime-Policy\\_FINAL\\_V1.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5db91184edefa02641983c8d/t/63d813ec46a047593ac7fa3f/1675105262504/Maritime-Policy_FINAL_V1.pdf). You can read about our focus and what the priorities are for all the services. The 2023-2024 Maritime Policy supports the National Defense Strategy (NDS) which has four core priorities:

- Defending the homeland, paced to the growing multi-domain threat posed by the People’s Republic of China (PRC)
- Deterring strategic attacks against the United States, Allies, and partners
- Deterring aggression, while being prepared to prevail in conflict when necessary, prioritizing the PRC challenge in the Indo-Pacific region, then the Russian challenge in central Europe
- Building a resilient Joint Force and defense ecosystem

Because of the strength of our Sea Service forces, the world is a safer place. I hope this helps to provide some background on the roles and responsibility the Navy Leagues Legislative affairs teams provide and what we focus on as we engage with our elected officials at the Local, State and National level. Should you have any thoughts or questions please don’t hesitate to contact me at [williamljames3@gmail.com](mailto:williamljames3@gmail.com)

## VP Council Programs Events - Jeanette Sterner



As the lead for Council programs with membership and the general public I am creating several events for members to get together and socialize with other Navy League members over the next couple of months. Please feel free to forward to other military related groups including employee resource groups

at work that you are involved with as we want to continue to build community. I hope to see you there. The first event is the **Twin Cities Auto Show on April 4th** from 4-9pm. This is Military Appreciation Night and all active military and veterans will receive FREE Entrance to the Twin Cities Auto Show! The Council will have a table in the “Heroes Hub”. Come visit us and also meet and connect with non-profits and local service providers dedicated to serving current and former military members and their families.

On **Wednesday April 12** from 4-6pm, the Council will host a Networking Happy Hour at **Orale Mexican Eats, 5447 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis**, a Marine Veteran owned and operated restaurant.

On **Wednesday May 10** from 4-6pm, we will host a second Networking Happy Hour at **Fulton Brewing Taproom, 414 N 6th Ave, Minneapolis** followed by the option to head over to the Twins game that evening. The Twins have Military Discount tickets available for that game with a valid active or retired military ID.

We will not have a specific area reserved for the two networking events, but I will set up distinguishing signs. RSVPs are not required, but requested if possible. Send any questions/comments to Jeanette Sterner at 612 751 0263 by text or call or email at [ster0158@umn.edu](mailto:ster0158@umn.edu)





# Minnesota Council VP Updates

## VP Membership - Bob Dolan



When attending events that the Minnesota Council participates in I am always asked the question “Why join the Navy League, what’s in it for me?” Being part of the Navy League and the Minnesota Council is less about what you get, but more about what you put into it to keep the Naval service alive in the state and giving back to the community. The Minnesota Council is focused on keeping the “Spirit of the Navy” alive in Minnesota. We are a voice to educate the public on the importance of the Navy to our nation’s defense,

and the Navy’s rich history and traditions. We work with other military organizations such as the Minnesota Military Museum, Military Assistance Council for Veterans, the VFW, and American Legion throughout the state to ensure that Navy Heritage is included. We also, through our outreach efforts, speak to chambers of commerce and business organizations.

Our Council is essential in providing local support to adopted units. These adopted units include Minnesota Shore commands, USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21), USS Minnesota, and USCGC Spar. Support of these units allows us to enhance the morale of active-duty and reserve units who support our Navy around the world.



The Minnesota Council is invested in the next-generation of sea service members through the adoption of units of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets, Navy and Marine Corps Junior ROTC and the University of Minnesota Navy ROTC. Our council is involved in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education efforts. The Navy League STEM Institute provides funding and the tools and resources young people need to get inspired by STEM.

Your membership, support, and participation are essential to supporting both our grassroots and national-level programs. So, what are you waiting for become of our team by going to [www.navyleague.org](http://www.navyleague.org) and become a member of the Minnesota Council.

## VP Youth Programs - Keith Larson



The winter months are an exciting time for the Sea Cadet units that the Minnesota Council sponsors. With the academic year solidly in progress, units are holding their weekend drill periods. Here, cadets practice and demonstrate the leadership skills they learn during their summer training. More senior cadets help conduct classes and mentor junior cadets to prepare them for upcoming summer training. All cadets are working on advancement courses which enable them to advance to the next senior rank.

Winter is also when these cadets are recognized at their unit level for their outstanding accomplishments. Minnesota Council President Joe Fraser and I attended Polaris Battalion’s annual Sea Cadet Military Ball at the Braham Event Center in January. At that event, President Fraser presented the Navy League of the United States’ Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal to Cadet Chief Petty Officer Remijia Challander, and the Theodore Roosevelt Youth Ribbon to League Cadet Petty Officer Jonathan Steiskal.



# Minnesota Council VP Updates

## VP Youth Programs - Keith Larson (Cont.)



We also attended Twin Cities Squadron’s annual Dining Out event in January. There, President Fraser presented the Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal to Cadet Petty Officer Third Class Maguire Weiland, and the Theodore Roosevelt Youth Ribbon to League Cadet Airman Apprentice Paloma Gibbon-Pena.

These unit-level awardee selections are submitted to Sea Cadet Region where all award packages are reviewed and a geographic Sea Cadet /League Cadet of the year are selected. Ultimately, a National Sea Cadet/ National League Cadet of the year will be named.

Additionally, during the winter months Sea Cadet units across the nation conduct their annual unit inspections, usually in February or March. During this full day event, the unit’s administrative, training, personnel, and financial records are examined, and a personnel inspection is performed for the entire unit, cadets and adult leaders alike. The results of this annual unit inspection are submitted to the field chain-of-command, and a top unit in each geographic region, and ultimately, in the nation, are determined and announced.

We are looking forward to the spring activities that occur with our sponsored Junior ROTC units. JROTC units normally hold their annual cadet awards ceremony in May, at which the Minnesota Council will present the Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal to a top cadet at each unit. Washington Tech in St. Paul held their ceremony on March 15th. St. Paul’s Harding High School will hold their awards ceremony at on May 16, and St. Paul’s Como Park High School will hold their ceremony at on May 18.

## Minnesota makes very unique and interesting military history.

The US Military’s flight demonstration teams, the US Air Force Thunderbirds and US Navy Blue Angels have thrilled crowds for decades with their expert flying. This year both teams have a Minnesota connection. This is a first in both their histories.

The Thunderbirds team includes Major Lauren “Threat” Schlichting who hails from Stillwater, Minn. The Blue Angels have Lt. Amanda Lee “Stalin” a native of Mounds View, Minn.



Lt. Amanda Lee



Major Lauren Schlichting

The Minnesota Navy League looks forward to meeting Blue Angel, Lt. Amanda Lee in Duluth during the air show in July. The Minnesota Navy League is a proud sponsor of the Duluth Air Show.



# USS Minneapolis - Saint Paul News

## USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul - Ringing in the New Year.

The Freedom-variant littoral combat ship, USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (LCS 21) has rung in the new year on a strong note. This quarter the MSP crew participated in Combat Systems events, Black History Month, and ended the quarter with Final Contractor Trials (FCT).

When it comes to Combat Systems, Minneapolis-Saint Paul takes great pride in our Sailors' subject matter expertise. In January, the crew conducted their first live fire event for the 57mm MK 110 Gun mount, and on-board Chaff Launching Systems. These demonstrations were used to verify the ship's overall ability to provide self-defense. Conducting these events would not occur without the proper maintenance of complex equipment, and our watch stander's ability to provide executable technical knowledge.

In recognition of Black History Month, Minneapolis-Saint Paul had a special guest speaker to address the crew at an all hands call on Feb. 15, 2023. The guest speaker was Cynthia Byrd Conner, author of "Quiet Strong", and daughter of the late Master Chief Boatswain's Mate (BMCM) Sherman Byrd. She proudly educated the crew on her father's service, as he was the Navy's first African American Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician. The audience could tell from the beginning that she bled Blue and Gold, and radiated Navy pride along with her pride of her father's accomplishments. The accomplishments were not easily obtained, as BMCM Byrd had enlisted at 17 into the Navy following World War II and prior to the Civil Rights Movement. BMCM Byrd's story was inspirational and will not be soon forgotten.



Mrs. Cynthia Byrd Conner (Guest Speaker/Author), Cmdr. Bryan Kemnitz ( O)

On Feb. 24, Cdr. Hiram Andreu, commanding officer of USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul, gathered his crew for an all-hands-call to announce the Blue Jacket of the Quarter, Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class, Nazir Roberts; Junior Sailor of the Quarter, Electronic Technician 2nd Class, Adam Rowicki; and Sailor of the Quarter Information Systems Technician 1st Class, Brandi Jancuk. Along with the named Sailors was the presentation of the Navy Achievement Medal for Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Juliana Tombe, and the advancement to Electronics Technician 3rd Class, Spencer Henry. These Sailors put forth their best effort in being subject matter experts, as they continue to set the standard. Additionally, the Command Senior Enlisted Leader, Edward Pare, was promoted to Master Chief!



Cmdr. Hiram Andreu (CO), CMDCM Edward Pare (CMC), and Mrs. Laura Pare (Spouse)

Finishing the quarter, the Minneapolis-Saint Paul used the remaining month of February and March to conduct preparation for a complete ship-wide evolution known as Final Contractor Trials. FCT is a post-delivery event, which requires a large amount of coordination between the ship's crew, government assessors and PMS-501. The event serves as a final in-depth review of three components: the ship, crew, and on-board systems. Once FCT is fully completed, Minneapolis-Saint Paul will be one step closer to deploying, supporting forward presence, maritime security, sea control, and deterrence around the world.

# Command Updates

## Navy Talent Acquisition Group Northern Plains Quarterly Update

Hello Navy League of Minnesota!

I don't think that when Punxsutawney Phil predicted six more weeks of winter it would look quite like what we have experienced this last quarter. While this has been one of the top 5 wettest winters in Minnesota, our troops are as motivated as ever to engage with the community and recruit America's best and brightest into the fleet, however, I would be lying if I didn't say we are looking forward to spring!

We are still facing the everyday challenge of meeting our recruiting mission in the current environment. The number of willing workers entering the nation's workforce, as you know, has dwindled down to a new low. Employers are taking drastic measures of their own to attract new employees and offering things like signing bonuses, free healthcare, family assistance, tuition assistance, etc. For those prior military members reading this, that might sound very familiar.



YN1 Christopher Kelly reenlisted at SEALIFE at Mall of America!

We will not be deterred though! Our search of high-quality recruits continues, with our main focus area still being the Nuclear Power fields and Special Warfare (SPECWAR). Within those specific fields we have been fairly successful, especially with SPECWAR where we have achieved our mission goal six months in a row! We will continue the push and are confident that we will come out of this fiscal year stronger than ever as a command and a Navy.

Our upcoming challenges come from the manning department. We are going through a sizable shift in manpower at the recruiting level. We had to say goodbye to our Command Master Chief, CMDCM Carter Hollingsworth, as he left us to become the Command Master Chief of Recruiting Region West in Millington, Tennessee. Also, after 21 years of service, we held a retirement ceremony for Chief Carmelo Castro. An incredible leader, mentor, and friend to everyone he served with. He will be missed throughout the command and the fleet. Lastly, a huge congratulations is in order for LCDR Tony Rohner. On February 4th he was officially promoted to Lieutenant Commander in a small ceremony with friends and family.

As always, we thank you for your support and we are looking forward to working together during the upcoming Blue Angels Air Shows in Duluth, Minnesota and Lincoln, Nebraska.

With Respect,

Cmdr. John Allen,  
Commanding Officer, NTAG Northern Plains



Congratulations to newly promoted Lt. Cmdr. Tony Rohner.

# Command Updates



## NRC Minneapolis

NRC Minneapolis was named the 2022 NRC of Year for the Northwest Navy Reserve Region Readiness and Mobilization Command (REDCOM).



NRC Minneapolis would like to highlight the work of our Funeral Honors Coordinators. These Sailors are Reservists brought on orders specifically to coordinate funeral honors requests assigned by the Navy Region Northwest. Once the team receives the request, they coordinate for local Reserve Sailors to attend and conduct funeral honors, consisting of the playing of Taps, the flag folding ceremony, and presentation to the next of kin. Additionally, the team provides training to reservist who wish to participate in providing military funeral honors. This fiscal year alone, the team has coordinated 200 funerals and provided training to nine Sailors on the proper procedures for conducting military funeral honors.



Petty Officer Second Class Michelle Morales is a native of Montebello, Calif. She joined the Navy in June 2016 from Minneapolis, MN. Upon completion of Recruit training, she attended Machinist Mate "A" school in Great Lakes, Illinois. Once she completed "A" school, she reported to NRC Minneapolis, Minnesota where she was assigned to Surgemain. She was selected to become the Funeral Honors Coordinator on October 2019. In August of 2020 she mobilized as part of the COVID response team to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard where she was assigned to Shop 41, Boiler Shop. Upon return to NRC Minneapolis in August 2021 she became the Funeral Honors Coordinator. She has overseen 915 funeral honors and participated in 109. Including a repatriation for a USS Oklahoma (BB-37) Sailor.



Petty Officer Morales

Born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Petty Officer Matheny entered the United States Navy in June 2009. He attended boot camp at RTC Great Lakes, Illinois, and graduated on August 28th, 2009. Upon completion of basic training, he attended Fire Controlman "A" school at CSCSU Great Lakes. After "A" school, he further attended Mk. 34 Gun Weapon System "C" school at CSCSU Dam Neck, Virginia. He served on the USS Ross (DDG 71) and USS Stout (DDG 55) until 2015. In 2019, he affiliated with the Navy Reserves and was later assigned to NR NSF Rota, which drills out of NRC Minneapolis. He joined the funeral honors team with the NRC and has supported 58 funerals since November 2020. In October of 2022, MA2 Matheny was voluntarily recalled to Active Duty for Special Work orders as the Assistant Funeral Honors Coordinator for NRC Minneapolis. There he has coordinated 189 funerals attended by 53 funeral honors detail members.



Petty Officer Matheny

# Command Updates

## Maritime Safety Unit - Duluth



MSU Duluth has been giving back to the community this winter by volunteering at the CHUM Shelter. The CHUM shelter reached out looking for volunteers to help with their renovation project. Our unit jumped on this opportunity to give back to the community. Volunteers from our unit, as well as Station Duluth, helped CHUM move furniture, repair holes, paint walls, and clean bedrooms as well as common areas. If anyone reading this article is looking for volunteers for projects that benefit the community, you can always reach out to our unit for assistance at 218-725-3818. Operations must come first but if there is time, we love to give back to our community.



Preparing to go aloft

Annual winter layup season is underway with the AMERICAN MARINER, LEE A. TREGURTHA, and AMERICAN SPIRIT laid up and having work done to them. Our inspectors have been working hard in these frigid temperatures overseeing these projects as well as training apprentice inspectors. With only three vessels laid up this season, we are not as busy as the previous winter season but each vessel still has an extensive worklist that is being overseen by our inspectors. Attached is an image of some of our inspector's flying cargo holds. The shipyard will have a crane with a basket where inspectors are connected to the basket via safety harnesses. The crane will then lift the basket and lower it into each cargo hold so inspectors can inspect the internal structural components of each cargo hold.

Over time, steel structural members can succumb to corrosion or insets from bulk cargo which can weaken the strength of the cargo hold. It is important to examine these items carefully to ensure that cargo holds are structurally sound and the product, as well as the crew, can arrive at their port calls safely.

Our office reminds readers to be safe on any remaining ice on all bodies of water. Check the weather before attempting ice fishing or going out on the ice. Always make sure someone knows where you are so if anything were to happen, you have someone who is looking out for you. The weather is warming up and ice is slowly melting away, but it seems the snow is here to stay.



Lt.Cmdr. Chum and Lt. Bacon repair walls at the CHUM over the winter.

# Command Updates



## U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Spar

January and February gave the SPAR a much needed window for maintenance this winter in preparation for the upcoming Spring Restore Aids to Navigation Season. The crew is still working on the final maintenance projects and outlying work items left over from SPARs extended dry dock the last two years. This down time was also a chance for crewmembers to take well earned leave with family and friends.



Winter is also the season that rotating crewmembers learn of their next assignment. The following are units some of those that SPAR crewmembers will be headed to this upcoming summer: Coast Guard Cutter Polar Star, Wash, Coast Guard Cutter Katherine Walker, New Jersey, Station Alexandria Bay, New York, Coast Guard Cutter Hollyhock, Mich., Sector New Orleans Inspections, Louisiana, Coast Guard Cutter Benjamin Bottoms, Calif.



First one out of the gate for the 2023 shipping season is the classic laker Lee A Tregurtha (1942). From Fraser shipyard to the canal she was assisted by Gtugs Missouri and Kentucky and U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Spar. Photo from Bjornberg Photography



In March SPAR hosted a team of collaborating scientists from NOAA and the USCG Great Lakes Center of Excellence to study their oil spill response capabilities in ice conditions. The scientific team opted to use unmanned aerial systems (UAS) that would be used in the event of a spill to capture data related to temperature differences in oil and water. The scientists staged and launched their equipment off of SPAR's bouy deck within Duluth Harbor.



SPAR Sailor of the Quarter, SN Joshua Maurer

SN Joshua Maurer was nominated by the crew for Sailor of the Quarter. He was selected for his exceptional work ethic and willingness to help his shipmates in anyway he can. Unusual for a new non-rated enlisted member SN Maurer came to the SPAR with a wealth of life experience. He has been a great source of wisdom in our junior cadre and continues to be an asset to the unit.

# Command Updates

## University of Minnesota Naval ROTC Update

To usher in the new year, The University of Minnesota NROTC celebrated with our winter commissioning ceremony. Ensign Jack van Dyke, accompanied by his friends and family, became the newest officer in the United States Navy. Ensign van Dyke commissioned as a Student Naval Aviator and will be heading down to Pensacola, Florida this spring to begin his training. His commitment and drive will be missed at the Battalion but we are excited to see him excel in the fleet. Bravo Zulu and good luck!



Ensign van Dyke commissioned as a Student Naval Aviator

As the semester began, two sets of Midshipmen were selected to attend leadership conferences around the United States. Midshipman Thomas Samit and Midshipman Edward Winker attended the Naval Academy Leadership Weekend in Annapolis, Maryland and listened to guest speakers like CDR Everett Alvarez, the first POW of the Vietnam War. They also had the opportunity to explore the campus to see historical artifacts from our Navy's history, such as Commodore Perry's original "Don't give up the ship" flag and the tomb of John Paul Jones.



A few weeks later, Midshipman Brenna Templin and Midshipman Maren Merrick-Melberg attended the Notre Dame Leadership Weekend in South Bend, Indiana. The ladies had the opportunity to learn from distinguished individuals like Medal of Honor recipient Master Chief Petty Officer Britt Slabinski. They also had the opportunity to reunite with some friends that they had made during summer training attending different institutions around the country.



Back on the battalion participated in their semi-annual weapons familiarity course at Stock Barrel in Chanhassen. Midshipmen learned about the proper handling of firearms and practiced on the range with their future service weapons. These opportunities allow the Midshipman to hone their skill and improve their marksmanship with the systems they will be issued in the fleet.



Midshipman Brenna Templin and Maren Merrick-Melberg attend Notre Dame Leadership Weekend and meet Medal of Honor recipient Master Chief Petty Officer Britt Slabinski.

For the second year running, Navy ROTC took home the trophy in the Joint Military Athletic Competition (JMAC). Our Midshipmen secured victory after competing in football, basketball, volleyball, and dodgeball. The trophy, presented by the Commanding Officer, was taken back to the third deck and placed in the NROTC trophy case, where it belongs. UMN NROTC will be ready to defend it again next year.

Closing out February, Midshipman Anna Engelson, our future Surface Warfare Officer, participated in ship selection. Joined by other prospective Surface Warfare Officers from around the country, she took part in a virtual selection board and selected LSD 51 USS OAK HILL. After commissioning, she will report to the Basic Division Officer Course in Norfolk, Virginia. Bravo Zulu and welcome to the Gator Navy!

# Command Updates

## University of Minnesota Naval ROTC Update (Cont.)

With spring break upon us, staff and Midshipmen loaded a bus to participate in the University of Colorado NROTC's annual drill meet. Every member of the team was focused and ready to prove that once again the tiny battalion from Minnesota could punch well above its weight and was not to be discounted. Midshipmen competed against a dozen other units in Knowledge Team, Color Guard, Squad Drill, Rifle/Pistol Marksmanship, and an Endurance Race. The Gopher Battalion tied for second place overall, with first-place in Squad Drill and Knowledge Team, and third-place in the Pistol Marksmanship competition.



Bravo Zulu to Midshipman James Erickson for earning the event's Outstanding Pistol Marksmanship award. Congratulations to all the Midshipmen that made this win possible!

As we close in on the end of the semester we are excited to commission our senior class and send them off to the fleet. Spring commissioning will be on Sunday, May 21st, so mark your calendars! Additional information will follow via social media as the date approaches but for now please check Facebook each Friday as we highlight one of the graduating seniors in our "Firsty Friday" series.

Happy Spring from the University of Minnesota NROTC Battalion!

## Washington Tech Magnet School JROTC Update

Washington Tech JROTC held their annual award ceremony on March 15, 2023.



# Command Updates

## Como Park Marine Corps JROTC Program Update

The Como Park Marine Corps JROTC unit has had a busy winter. In January, the cadets conducted their first Orienteering competitions of this school year. As members of the Minnesota Orienteering Club, the cadets seek out new adventures which mix the great outdoors with a bit of a scavenger hunt. Orienteering is a sport they enjoy and show passion to attend each and every time. They love hiking, biking, skiing, snow shoeing, trail running, geocaching, or just leisurely walking in the woods and trails. The team is led by Cadet Sergeant Cooper Westrum.

The Como Park all female Color Guard team performed honors for the Girls Basketball Team on Saturday, January 14. The team is led by Cadet Corporal Sumalee Reh.



Como Color Guard

Later in January, Como Cadets participated in their first Hunger Games, led by Cadet Corporal Kmwe Paw. Archery skills were perfected as Cadets practiced archery for the first time learning the skill of archery, use of the bow and how to shoot arrows.

Yes, Swimming Lessons for all MCJROTC cadets. New this school year and part of their physical fitness curriculum, all cadets within the program received basic swim lessons as part of their curriculum. The plan came together this school year thanks to Ms. Alison Petri, from the non-profit Abbey's Hope Foundation, contacted the Navy League of the United States, Minnesota Council after supporting an event with the Ramsey County Sheriff's office and the Learning Jet. Ms. Petri talked with the

group about water safety and gave them each their own lifejacket. As part of the conversation, they talked about swim abilities. The majority of the students could not swim. As a water safety expert and the wife of a Marine, Ms. Petri contacted the Navy League and wanted to offer assistance from Abbey's Hope to work with the Cadets. The Navy League of the United States, Minnesota Council facilitated the contact with Como Park that led to this event. Volunteering their time to help Marine Instructor Sergeant Major Kirkland is Coach and lifeguard David Alborno from the Como Pool Aquatics Facility.

52 MCJROTC cadets traveled on a 3-day field trip under cold winter conditions to many different sites and activities in late February to build leadership skills, courage and teamwork. The cadets traveled to Fort Snelling State Park, listened to DNR talks, ate Meals Ready to Eat (MRE), visited the Minnesota State Capitol, conducted Winter Skills Training, Night Ski Lessons, Bon Fires, Lake



Como Cadets receive swim lessons courtesy of Abby's Hope

Shamineau Lodging, Zip Lining, Low Ropes Obstacle Course, Ice Wall Climbing, Leather designing skills, held various Sport Competitions, Indoor Rock Wall, Knots, Close Order Drill, Knowledge testing, Tent construction, Military Bivouac appreciation skills, Outdoor Overnight Winter Camping, Broom-ball competition, and finally a Raider Challenge.

# Command Updates



## Como Park Marine Corps JROTC Program Update (Cont.)

Throughout the numerous hours of training, moral was high at all times! Thanks to our local military members, school nurse Ms. Lori Nakamura, the Northstar Veterans Corps, Camp Shamineua staff, and Mt. Ski Gull for their patriotism and mentorship that made this event happen.



Como Cougar Cadets placed first in North Campus High School Drill.



Finally, congratulations to the MCJROTC cougars who returned from the North Campus High School Drill meet in Des Moines; Iowa, humbled by their first-place overall victory this school year. They now have their eyes set on competing at the Lincoln High School Drill Meet in Sioux Falls, South Dakota at the end of March. GOOD LUCK and Great job cadets. Semper fidelis.



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## Harding Knight Navy Update

For the first time in three years, Harding High School's Navy JROTC "Knight Navy" cadets participated in the Area 3 regional drill meet. In past years there were two meets held simultaneously in the twelve-state area, one for the units in the east and one for those in the west, with 15 to 18 units competing in each of these meets. This year there was one combined meet in Hamilton Ohio with only the best seven units out of 53 competing.

The cadets were scheduled to depart Saint Paul on Thursday morning, 23 February for the drill meet on 24 and 25 February. If you recall, a historic winter storm was predicted to occur from Wednesday to Friday that same week. The bus company informed us Tuesday morning that they would not leave on Thursday, and asked if we could leave early the next day. With one day notice, permission from the superintendent's office, each of the 32 cadets' parents and ten hotel rooms were miraculously obtained, and the coach bus left Harding at 8:00 in the morning on Wednesday.



Harding Knight Cadets

The planned 700-mile trip was extended to 820 miles due to the need to head due south on I-35 to get south of the storm, and then head east to Ohio. After 16 hours, we arrived in Hamilton, Ohio at 1:00 in the morning on Thursday (time zone change). The upside to leaving a day early was that it provided us nearly two days to practice our drill routines in a parking lot near the hotel with all team members present.

# Command Updates



## Harding Knight Navy Update (cont.)



Harding Color Guard team earned third place

We knew that this was a rebuilding year for the Knight Navy, with only one senior cadet having ever participated in the regional meet when she was a freshman, but we also knew we had to start somewhere, and witnessing the level of competition we would face each year at this meet was a good place to start. All of the other area units were allowed to travel and compete in the regional drill meet last year, but the district denied us permission to travel due to lingering COVID restrictions in place.



The Color Guard team earned the third-place trophy and a total of nine individual medals were earned by the cadets, four in knockout drill and five in physical fitness (four in pushups and one in curlups). With some valuable experience under the cadets' belts, the Knight Navy is eager to return next year with even stronger teams. Bravo Zulu, cadets.



## Twin Cities Squadron - Sea Cadets

Happy spring to the Minnesota Navy League family. It has very gratifying to watch all of our successes being shared on the councils Facebook page over the past few months.

The Twin Cities Squadron opened 2023 with our annual Dining Out celebration at the Everett McLay VFW in Bloomington, Minn. The evening included a social hour, dinner and silent auction. The emcee for the event was our recently retired, Commanding Officer Dirk Holman. The keynote speaker was Cmdr. John "Knox" Allen of NTAG – Northern Plains, who shared storied naval career and provided our departing seniors with some sage advice. We were honored to have other distinguished visitors representing the Navy, USAF, CAP, SAR, and VFW. It was our distinct honor to welcome Cmdr. (Ret) Joe Fraser and Capt. (Ret) Keith Larson from the Minnesota Navy League Council to the event.

PO3 Avery Mortenson was awarded the Daughters of the American Revolution medal. AN Josef Jirik took home the American Legion Good Citizen medal. PO2 Maximus Schantzen was recognized with the Sons of the American Revolution medal. PO3 Nolan Sanovoung, a member of the color team, earned the Veterans of Foreign Wars medal. RCT McKinley Helland and INST Karen Leiter took home the rookie of the year and officer of the year awards, respectively. AA Langston Pena was awarded the Navy League NLCC Cadet of the Year for his service in 2022 as a league cadet. PO3 Maguire Weiland was awarded both the Navy League NSCC Sea Cadet of the Year and Petty Officer of the Years awards. Each of these cadets distinguished themselves throughout the year, and all were very deserving of the recognition they received.

The color guard opened the ceremonies with the presentation of the colors. Cadets performed the absent comrade, battle remembrance and traditional cake cutting before the unit awards ceremony. The TCS recognized several cadets for their outstanding achievements this past year.

January drill kicked off a friendly competition in the unit. This coming spring the unit plans to do a flag retirement ceremony. The cadets were challenged with collecting old flags from local businesses and veteran's organizations.



# Command Updates



## Twin Cities Squadron - Sea Cadets (Cont.)

The flags have to be folded and brought to drill for the retirement ceremony. The cadet with the most flags will earn a commander's award and some serious bragging rights. The early intel indicates we have two cadets with over one-thousand flags already. Get folding cadets!

February drill saw the unit return to Lifetime Fitness in Plymouth, Minn. to complete our annual swim qualifications. What a difference a year makes. The cadets were on a mission to best their qualification ratings from 2022, and they certainly exceeded all expectations. The TCS qualified nine first class, 13 second and three third class swimmers. The swim test consisted of a series of different events including a jetty jump, trouser inflation and float, prone float, back float, deep water treading, and 4 progressively longer swims. Those that qualified as first class also completed a 25m underwater swim with an oil maneuver. Thank you to Lifetime Fitness for your continued partnership and support of the USNSCC.



TCS first class swimmers qualify at Lifetime Fitness

TCS received a visit from Ensign Will Seck, a former sea cadet, who spoke with the cadets about his experience in the NROTC program and future as a naval aviator. We ended our communications unit with a naval themed radio exercise. The cadets received instructions on basic radio communications and then were expected to use those skills to play four-way battleship from remote positions. They learned teamwork, some strategic command (or lack thereof) and how to manage chaotic situations with radio traffic coming at them from three directions. For anyone monitoring that frequency it must have been an Orwellian experience!



TCS second class swimmers qualify at Lifetime Fitness

In closing, the Twin Cities Squadron wishes to thank the Minnesota Council for the continued support and dedication to the USNSCC mission. We are looking ahead to busy spring and can't wait to see what other supported units are doing. Check out our Facebook page for more NSCC Twin Cities Squadron content.



How fun is basic radio communication, when playing Battleship

# Command Updates



## Twin Ports Sea Cadets

Twin Ports Division has been hard at work conducting medical work ups for Grandma's Marathon which will be held June 17. We have also been conducting Damage Control Training and getting our sailors familiar with our Damage Control gear to include our Fire Fighting Ensembles and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.



Simulated fire drills in full gear

During February drill we conducted simulated fire drills where our sailors were dressed out in the full ensemble and tasked with combating a simulated class alpha fire. Additionally, Master At Arms Sergeant Recruit (MASR) Buck transferred to the US Army after completing his End of Active Obligated Service. We've also gained a new recruit, MASR Bielinski and hope to gain more during drill in the month of March. March Drill will consist of the Command PRT, more damage control training and ship's lookout training. Overall, a very busy start to our operational year.

## Polaris Battalion Update

Polaris Battalion and Training Ship (TS) Trident had an eventful 2022 and, as expected, 2023 is going to be a year of even more opportunities.

## Polaris Battalion Update (cont)

January began with the Polaris Battalion Annual Ball where the Sea Cadets, parents, officers, instructors, and supporters took a moment to not only reflect on an incredible year, but also celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of the cadets. CPO Remijia Challander and League PO Jonathan Steiskal were each presented with the Teddy Roosevelt Youth Medal by Minnesota Council President, Cmdr. (Ret.) Joe Fraser and Minnesota Council Vice President, Youth Programs, Capt. (Ret.) Keith Larson. PO Reese Jorgenson earned Petty Officer of the Year, SN Zachary Bergman Polaris Battalion Recruit of the Year, CPO Remijia Challander Cadet of the Year, Lt. Brent van Hees Officer of the Year, and INST Jessica Walsh was the Instructor of the Year. Meanwhile, TS Trident celebrated PO Jonathan Steiskal for Cadet of the Year, PO Taylor Larkin Petty Officer of the Year, LC1 Katie Steiskal Recruit of the Year, Lt. j.g. Dawn van Hees Officer of the Year, and INST Robert Steiskal Instructor of the Year. For his outstanding leadership abilities, PO3 Aiden Larkin was presented the Veterans of Foreign Wars Medal by Mr. Bill Binger of VFW Post 2735. Mr. Scott Fredell was honored to present CPO Joseph Larkin the Sons of the American Revolution Good Citizenship Medal while CPO Thomas Abbott received the Daughters of the American Revolution Medal from Ms. Glenda Meixell and Ms. Carol Ann Smith, who was representing Beyond the Yellow Ribbon. Additionally, Curt and Shari Haugen, along with Terry and Judy Larkin, were also thanked by Polaris-TS Trident for their unwavering and longstanding support of the organization. Lastly, Lt. Brent van Hees held his change of command ceremony and relinquished command to Lt. William Pearson. Lt. Brent van Hees and Lt. j.g. Dawn van Hees retired from their positions with the Sea Cadets after 10 incredible years of service. We are forever grateful for their dedication to the cadets and program.

# Command Updates

## Polaris Battalion Update (Cont)

The Polaris Battalion has been focused on in-person E-1 indoctrination classes, teaching the new cadet's values, standards, and academics. With guidance from the instructors and officers, the senior cadets are taking the lead facilitating the course, taking full advantage of honing their leadership and public speaking skills. The cadets also learned knot tying, rope climbing, how to secure and defend the facility, culinary arts, as well as drill and ceremony.

Meanwhile, the TS Trident has been learning drill and ceremony, safety, and culinary skills. Using a model scale of powerlines, the leaguers were educated about arc flashes and the dangers of electricity. TS Trident was also taught firearm safety, how to tear down and reassembling the firearm, perform function checks, and then they used a laser program to practice their marksmanship.



Polaris Battalion and TS Trident

Their attention to safety never wavered. Furthermore, TS Trident excelled at knot tying and land navigation.

Never taking a break, the Polaris Battalion and TS Trident accepted the invitation to perform Color Guard duties for the Midwest SeaBee Ball and then raised funds for the organization by bagging groceries for customers at Cub Foods in Cambridge. Additionally, the cadets assembled care packages for troops currently deployed to Africa.

Finally, we want to thank the parents, volunteers, and Council for making all these opportunities possible for the cadets. We are looking forward to what this year will bring—which will not be boring!



Polaris and TS Trident Color Guide



Polaris January Award Ceremony



# Other News

## Naval Academy Information Program

The Class of 2027 at the United States Naval Academy (USNA) is currently being finalized. The USNA Admissions Board is evaluating all completed applications and offering appointments to the top applicants. The Admissions Board looks not only at academic achievements, but also at the applicant’s record of leadership, athletics, community involvement and extracurricular activities. The applicant’s desire to serve in a leadership role in the United States Navy or United States Marine Corps is also an important factor in evaluating each student for an offer of appointment. Most applicants will be advised of the Admissions Board evaluation and decision regarding an offer of appointment by April 15, 2023, however, some offers may be made as late as June 2023.

As the Class of 2027 is being finalized, the application process and the Congressional nomination processes are opening for the Class of 2028. Interested students should refer to [usna.edu/Admissions](https://usna.edu/Admissions) for guidance on applying. Each Congressional office has its own application process for students seeking a service academy nomination. Students are encouraged to apply for service academy nominations to both of their U.S. Senators, their U.S. Representative and the U.S. Vice President. This maximizes the student’s opportunities to receive a service academy nomination. A nomination is required in order for a student to be offered an appointment to a service academy.

The USNA offers several summer programs to high school students. The USNA Summer STEM Program is designed to encourage rising 9th-11th grade students to pursue a course of study in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The 1-week program utilizes USNA laboratories, equipment, professors and upper-class Midshipmen to mentor students as the students create and build a project of interest as they experience real-life applications of knowledge, team building and learning. Applications for the USNA Summer STEM Program are being accepted until April 15, 2023. For more information and to apply for STEM camp at USNA, go to [usna.edu/Admissions/programs/stem](https://usna.edu/Admissions/programs/stem).

Another USNA summer program is the Naval Academy Summer Seminar (NASS). NASS is the first step in navigating a course to becoming one of our next generation of leaders. NASS introduces rising high school seniors to life at the Naval Academy. During the week-long camp, students experience top-notch academic, athletic and professional training. Current high school juniors who are interested in pursuing an appointment to the United States Naval Academy are invited to apply to NASS. For more information on NASS, go to [usna.edu/Admissions/Program/NASS](https://usna.edu/Admissions/Program/NASS). Applications close on April 15, 2023.

Do you have an interest in working with high school students in attaining their life goals? A Naval Academy Information Officer or Blue and Gold Officer (BGO) may be in your future. There is currently a strong need for new BGOs throughout Minnesota. There is a particular need for BGOs outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area. In order to become a BGO, you do not need to be a Naval Academy graduate, nor even have any Navy experience. You only need the desire to evaluate students and assist them in their quest to obtain an appointment to the United States Naval Academy. You will be trained in the BGO functions, processes and procedures by Naval Academy staff personnel. Once you have completed initial training, you will be teamed up with an experienced BGO until you gain experience in working with schools and students. For additional information, contact Minnesota’s Naval Academy Information Program Area Coordinator, Captain Mark Salmen at [mark.salmen@1973.usna.com](mailto:mark.salmen@1973.usna.com).

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# Other News

## Did You Know...

By Brandon Montanye

In the Spring of 2023, the United States Navy Blue Angel flight demonstration team will begin their air show season. One of the demonstration pilots is Minnesotan Lt. Amanda Lee. She is the first female demonstration pilot in the team's history. But did you know that another Minnesotan holds a "first female" title in the Navy?



CPO Anna Stanley  
Star Tribune Oct. 28, 1917

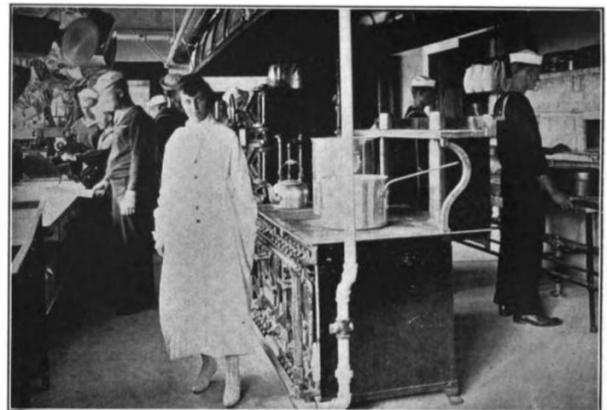
Anna O. Stanley was born in St. Paul, April 11, 1892. She graduated high school in 1910 and traveled abroad to Germany where she attended the Charlottenburg (Berlin) School of Cooking. In 1914, as tensions in Europe started to increase, eventually leading to WWI, Anna returned to Minnesota. Later in 1916, she enrolled in the Chicago Technical Normal School earning a degree in Domestic Science. Shortly thereafter she was hired to manage the William Hood Dunwoody Industrial Institute's cafeteria.

At the initial outbreak of WWI plans were made for the Institute to be a training facility for Navy personnel. The Dunwoody instructors were then sent to Navy yards to observe the methods of instruction that were being used and bring those techniques back to the Institute. The classes at Dunwoody were going to be taught by the current staff and not traditional Navy personnel. To maintain discipline in the classroom, the civilian instructors were enlisted into the Navy as Chief Petty Officers in their equivalent rating. Thus, making Anna O. Stanley the first woman to hold the rating of Chief Commissary Steward in Naval history. She missed being the first female Chief Petty officer by a couple of months. However, she also became the first woman to enlist in the state of Minnesota in July 1917 at the Navy's Minneapolis recruiting office.

Chief Stanley oversaw the Mess at Dunwoody Industrial Institute, which entailed preparing meals for 600 to 800 sailors three times a day on top of her instructional duties of teaching 40 to 60 sailors the science of food preparation. To demonstrate to the Sailors standardization and familiarity, the Dunwoody galley was reconfigured to mirror a Navy ship's galley. The culinary school's duration was 16 weeks, and was divided into 17 lessons covering various cuts of meats, methods of cooking, food storage, balanced diets, etc.

Chief Stanley was discharged from active duty on February 2, 1918. In September 1919, she was employed by the New York Tribune Institute, the forerunner of the Consumer Reports style of testing laboratory, directed at women. In addition to reporting on food science, the institute would test and report on the new electrical appliances coming on the market. She had the title of "domestic scientist", wrote dozens of articles on various foods and recipes throughout 1920.

Anna married William E. Alden back in Minneapolis on June 11, 1921. They eventually moved to Chicago. Not much is in public record about Anna O. Stanley after that. The Navy's first woman Chief Commissary Steward passed away in Volusia, Florida, on September 30, 1981. And now you know...



MISS ANNA STANLEY, CHIEF COMMISSARY STEWARD, U. S. N. R. P.  
The first and only woman to hold that rating in the Navy. She is a graduate in Domestic Science.  
Twice daily she teaches a class of sixty bluejackets in scientific cookery.



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Minnesota Council  
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**2023 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**April**

Month of the Military Child	Entire Month
Gold Star Spouses Day	April 5
Passover	April 5-13
Easter	April 9
National Former POW Recognition Day	April 9
Air Force Reserve Birthday	April 14
Minnesota Military Museum Zoom MN Sub Stories	April 17
Midwest Regional Navy League Conference Wichita	April 21-22
Earth Day	April 22



**May**

Asian Pacific Heritage Month	Entire Month
Public Service Recognition Week	First full week of May
Silver Star Service Banner Day	May 1
MN Military Museum Zoom - Saving our Submarine	May 8
VE Day	May 8
Military Spouse Appreciation Day	May 12
Mother's Day	May 14
Armed Forces Week	May 13-20
Armed Forces Day	May 20
Wall That Heals	May 26-29
Memorial Day	May 29



**June**

PTSD Awareness Month	Entire Month
D Day	June 6
National Navy League Convention – Dallas	June 7-11
Women's Veterans Day	June 12
Army Birthday	June 14
Flag Day	June 14
National Flag Week	June 11-17
Grandma's Marathon – Duluth	June 17
Father's Day	June 18
Juneteenth	June 19

