



# The Pilot

Navy League of the United States

Channel Islands Council

SPRING 2024

APR. MAY JUNE

Vol. 47 Issue 2

[www.navyleaguecica.org](http://www.navyleaguecica.org)

Tony Suleiman, President

## 2024 Officers and Board of Directors

Tony Suleiman, President

Michele Grimaldi, 1st Vice Pres.,  
Membership & Publicity

Purna Pai, 2nd Vice Pres., Programs

Annette Block, 3rd Vice President,  
Ways and Means

Robert Quinn, Recording Secretary

Kitty Hurliman, Corresponding  
Secretary

Diane Quinn, Treasurer

Bette Alburtis, Chaplain

Jim Cecil, Jr Judge Advocate

### Board of Directors:

Stan Block, Dorothy Carmack,  
Arlene Fraser, Tom Fraser, Judy Quinn

Jim Cecil, Jr., NLUS National Director  
Emeritus



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone. I am honored and excited to begin my year as President of the Navy League Channel Islands Council. I have been a member for the past 7 years and am looking forward to a great year - we have an incredible team that I get to be a part of and we'll work together to extend support to active-duty families at Naval Base Ventura County and Sea Services- including the Seabees, U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Merchant Marines and our youth organizations: Naval Sea Cadet Units, Navy League Cadet Units at Port Hueneme and at Pt. Mugu; and at Hueneme High School, the NJROTC Unit.

Coming up in April, we are hosting the **Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Spring Baby Shower**. You can help support this event by bringing baby items, diapers (size 1), or contributing a monetary donation. Kitty Hurliman is our liaison and does year round shopping for the Baby Showers. Make your reservations early, with Diane Quinn, Treasurer. It is important to RSVP in advance, to help the Bard Mansion with setting up tables and chairs before the event and to prepare the meals. Look forward to seeing you on the second Thursday at the Bard Mansion.



Jennifer Suleiman, Undersheriff Andrew Salinas, and Tony Suleiman at the Bard Mansion on Jan. 11, 2024.

## RSVP Contact

**Diane Quinn**

**[tazquinn@gmail.com](mailto:tazquinn@gmail.com)**

**805 729-0671**

Please leave a message and let me know if you are on the gate list or if you will need a ride from the Seabee Museum parking to the Bard Mansion. Thanks!

*Tony Suleiman*, President



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Dear Navy Leaguers,

As we move into 2024 and the renewal that spring brings, I would like to extend my gratitude to our wonderful Council and the generosity you have shown for the events during 2023. The money we have raised through your contributions has enabled us to give much-needed items and programs to our Sea Cadet and NJROTC units. As most of you know, our youth is the motivation for our fundraising efforts, and we are so pleased to be able to give them the funds for the things that they need.

This year, we look forward to returning fundraisers, such as our Yolanda's event (this year on Tuesday, July 9), the Summer Wine Auction (to be held at our General Meeting and Luncheon at the Bard Mansion along with the celebration of the Coast Guard birthday on Thursday, August 8), and our Holiday Party and Wine Auction on Sunday, December 15. Look for announcements of other events now in the works.

I look forward to seeing you all at these events and at our monthly meetings.

Best,

Annette Block

Third Vice President Ways and Means

[NetskieB@gmail.com](mailto:NetskieB@gmail.com)



Purna Pai, President 2021-2023, received a gift of appreciation from the Council for his outstanding year as president for three years.

Enjoy your crystal ice bucket! Thank you very much for your three years as President!

April 11, 2024

at the Bard Mansion

Spring Baby Shower 11:30 am



Please bring new, unwrapped baby items, clothes and especially: baby body wash, baby lotion, baby laundry soap and **diapers size 1**. All baby and toddler clothes and items always appreciated by all the young families who go to the Navy/Marine Corp Relief Society at Naval Base Ventura County at Port Hueneme.

See you at the SHOWER!

*Kitty Hurliman*, NMCRS Liaison



Diane Quinn and Bette Alburtis at the Channel Islands Council Check-in table, at the Bard Mansion. Make advance reservations to place your name on the monthly luncheon listing. Thanks! Contact Diane at [tazquinn@gmail.com](mailto:tazquinn@gmail.com) or call/text 805 729-0671.



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### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Our Navy League Channel Islands Council Roster, as of March 26, stands at 161. Over the last year we have slowly increased our membership but I'm hoping that we can work together to make that number even higher. I'm so proud of what our Council has accomplished! To learn more, go to our website, social media accounts, and read our award-winning newsletter. Share with your friends the amazing things our group does for our affiliated Sea Cadets and NJROTC, and the even more amazing things these youths accomplish with the support we provide. Share with folks how we work with, and what the Navy Marine Relief Society does, to assist families of the members our Sea Services; to help them so they can continue to serve us. And even better, invite someone to come along to one of our meetings at the historic Bard Mansion on the Navy Base. Not only a fabulous site, interesting program topics, and a delicious lunch, but the chance to win amazing gift baskets to boot!

The office of the Navy League of the United States continues to encourage us to use their

portal on line to join and renew membership, a fast and efficient way to do so. If you need help with that, please contact me and I can hopefully walk you through the steps. If you would rather use the paper form, it is still available and I can email you a copy or pick one up at one of our meetings. Remember, if you do not have base access, a Base Access Form 5512 must be filled out as well and returned to Arlene so that your name is on the list at the gate when you come to the monthly meeting.

Fair Winds and Following Seas,

Michele (Mickie) Grimaldi

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Membership



**Congratulations!**  
**Michele (Mickie)**  
**Grimaldi, Channel**  
**Islands Council,**  
**Navy Leaguer of the**  
**Year, award**  
presented by Purna  
Pai, President 2023  
at the January 11,  
2024 lunch at the  
Bard Mansion.



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## INSTALLATION AT BARD MANSION—2024 CHANNEL ISLANDS COUNCIL OFFICERS



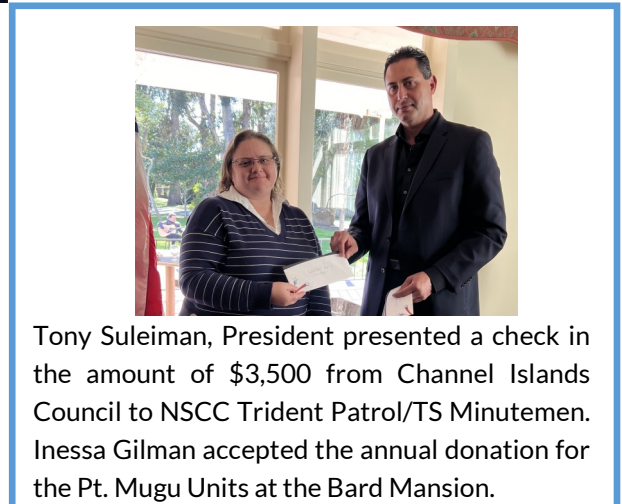
From Left to right: Andrew Salinas, Installation Officer at the NLUS Channel Islands Council January 11, 2024, luncheon at the Bard Mansion, installing 2024 Officers: Tony Suleiman, President; Michele Grimaldi, 1st VP Membership; Purna Pai, 2nd VP Programs; Annette Block, 3rd VP Ways and Means; Diane Quinn, Treasurer; Robert Quinn, Recording Secretary; and Bette Alburts, Chaplain. List of current officers and board members listed on page 1 of this newsletter.

### Pt. Mugu Units—Naval Sea Cadet of the Year and Navy League Cadet of the Year at Annual Awards Ceremony on Jan. 20, 2024



PO2 McKenna V. Stockton, Sea Cadet of the Year, Trident Patrol at Pt. Mugu received Certificate from Bob Quinn, Channel Islands Council and she also received a check and challenge coin from Tom Fraser, CIC. Congratulations for your outstanding leadership!

LC2 Amayah E. Meyer, Navy League Cadet of the Year, TS Minutemen at Pt. Mugu received Certificate from Bob Quinn and she also received a check and challenge coin from Tom Fraser. Congratulations on your outstanding achievements!



Tony Suleiman, President presented a check in the amount of \$3,500 from Channel Islands Council to NSCC Trident Patrol/TS Minutemen. Inessa Gilman accepted the annual donation for the Pt. Mugu Units at the Bard Mansion.



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**Home baked cookies for Sea Cadets** at Port Hueneme was won at the December auction and donated to the Sea Cadets. Volunteer bakers during the year: from left to right: **Annette Block, Michele Grimaldi, Carol Sanders, Kim Lucas and Diane Grossman.**



Photo left, Kim Lucas presenting home baked cookies to Samuel Rice, Commanding Officer at Port Hueneme. Photos of Cadets enjoying home baked cookies during their lunch /drill day at the Base. *Thank you very much to all the bakers!*

*Cookies? "Yes, Please!"*



## March 2, 2024, Annual Region NSCC Inspection and Awards Ceremony

On March 2, 2024, Annual Region NSCC Inspection and Awards Ceremony held in Oxnard with NSCC and NLCC Units participating. Channel Islands Council presented **Sea Cadet of the Year** award to **PO3 Catia Tran, NSCC Ben Moreell Battalion**. **PO1 Alaka’l Robles, NLCC TS Nicholas H. Anderson** was awarded **Navy Leaguer of the Year**. Each Cadet also received the **Theodore Roosevelt Youth Award** from Navy League of the United States. A check, Certificate and challenge coin was present to each Cadet of the Year. County Supervisor **Vianey Lopez** attended the event and congratulated **Samuel Rice, Commanding Officer of the Port Hueneme Units** for his outstanding leadership and receiving the **Officer of the Year Award** from the NSCC Region. **Congratulations to all award winners!**



**PO3 Catia Tran, NSCC**



**PO1 Alaka’l Robles, NLCC**



Tony Suleiman, President presented a check in the amounts of \$3,500 and \$4,000 for NSCC Color Guard Uniforms and supplies from Channel Islands Council to NSCC Ben Moreell Battalion/TS Anderson at Port Hueneme, Samuel Rice, Commanding Officer NSCC accepted the annual donation at the Bard Mansion.



From left to right: Arlene Fraser, Supervisor Vianey Lopez, Michele Grimaldi, Tom Fraser, Bob Quinn, Stan Block, Annette Block, Gailen Vick and Diane Quinn at March 2 NSCC Awards Ceremony in Oxnard.



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Tony Suleiman, President presented a Certificate of Appreciation to **Sheriff Jim Fryhoff**, on **February 8, 2024**, luncheon speaker at the Bard Mansion. Purna Pai, 2nd VP Programs also welcomed Sheriff Fryhoff and presented him with the Council's challenge coin. *Thank You Sheriff for your outstanding leadership and public safety services.*



Stan Block, presented Certificate and check to **Robert Scales**, Coastie of the **1st Quarter** at **USCG Station Channel Islands**, with Tony Suleiman, President at early morning ceremony.

## HAPPY 82nd BIRTHDAY, SEABEES

CM2 Jacob Gothard, Naval Construction Group 1 and Kevin Nolan, CMDCM, NCG1 cutting Seabees happy birthday cake at the Bard Mansion. Both ate the first slice then all guests were served the birthday cake.

Gabriel "Gaby" Perez, Business Director, NCG1 was the guest speaker and shared how he learned about the Seabees and served as a Seabee. Everyone enjoyed hearing his life experiences and his determination to accomplish his goals to serve as an outstanding Seabee and retired from active-duty. He currently is the Business Director and coordinating the many changes in the new organization system this year.



**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**May 9, 2024**  
at the Bard Mansion  
Merchant Mariners  
program,  
Seabee of the Year and  
NJROTC award.

From left to right: Tony Suleiman, Tracy Gallaher, Staff representative for Supervisor Vianey Lopez; OHD Commissioner Jess Herrera, Kevin Nolan, CMDCM NCG1; Gabriel "Gaby" Perez, Business Director NCG1; CM2 Jacob Gothard NCG1; Jason deLeon, Graphic Artist (designed the 82nd Seabee birthday poster); Bob Davis, new NLUS member; Carl Bathelt, new NLUS member; and Armando Gonzalez, Staff representative for Congresswoman Julia Brownley. Seabee birthday luncheon at the Bard Mansion on March 14, 2024.



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**CONGRATULATIONS to**  
**LUCKY DOOR PRIZE WINNERS**

**January 11, 2024** at the Bard Mansion luncheon and Navy League Channel Islands installation of officers.

Lucky January Winners from left: **Bette Alburtis, Michele Grimaldi, Christopher Arnold and Stan Block.**



**February 8, 2024** at the Bard Mansion luncheon in the open bar dining room with guest speaker, Sheriff Jim Fryhoff.

February Lucky Winners from left:

**Bob Quinn holding gift basket for Jim & Helen Weeks, Annamaria Arnold, Kitty Hurliman and Janet Foley.**

**March 14, 2024, Happy Birthday Seabees; Lucky Winners, Photo below, from left:**

**Purna Pai, Rich Rollins, Betty Breneman, and Kitty Hurliman.**



Thank you to Annette Block for preparing monthly door prizes. Remember to return empty baskets to Annette .



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**Special reminder: Contact Judy Quinn, at 805 276-8474** and let her know of any ill or bereaved member. She will get a card in the mail immediately. Please keep her informed, as each and every one of our Navy Leaguers are very important to us.



Thomas R. Bard Mansion

**Special thanks to  
Military & Youth Awards  
Admiral Sponsors:  
Oxnard Harbor District &  
City of Port Hueneme**

Navy League of the United States  
Annual Meeting  
National Convention  
June 8, 2024  
in San Diego, California  
Register online at  
[www.navyleague.org](http://www.navyleague.org)  
If you are not planning on attending in person, please complete and submit your proxy card by May 30.

## 2024 CALENDAR NLUS CHANNEL ISLANDS

**2nd Thursday of the Month at the Bard Mansion at 11:30 am.**

April 11, 2024 Spring Baby Shower

May 9, 2024 Merchant Mariners and Seabee SOY and NJROTC award

June 13, 2024 History of the Bard Mansion and group photos by ages

Aug. 8, 2024 U.S. Coast Guard birthday and SOY award; Wine fundraiser

September 12, 2024 Fall Baby Shower

October 10, 2024 U.S. Navy birthday and SOY award

November 14, 2024 U.S. Marine Corp birthday celebration and Council election of officers for 2025

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JULY NO-SHOW LUNCHEON—NO LUNCH MEETING FUNDRAISER

July 9, 2024 Yolanda's Fundraiser, flyer with information TBA

December 15, 2024 Sunday Holiday Luncheon & Wine Auction at Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club at Channel Islands Harbor, Oxnard.

**Plan to attend lunch at the Bard Mansion  
on Thursday, APRIL 11, 2024  
at 11:30 am**

**Spring Baby Shower**

Price: \$20.00 cash/check per person ; \$21.00 credit card person



**RSVP DIANE QUINN [tazquinn@gmail.com](mailto:tazquinn@gmail.com) 805 729-0671**