



# The Pilot

Navy League of the United States

Channel Islands Council

WINTER 2026

JAN. FEB. MAR.

Vol. 49 Issue 1

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

Bette Alburtis, President

## January 8, 2026 , Navy League Channel Islands Council's Annual Installation at the Bard Mansion



Installing Officer Michael Federico, Police Chief, City of Port Hueneme installed Navy League Channel Islands Council officers and board of directors. Group line up, front row, left to right: Bette Alburtis, Dawn Canfield, Jennifer Blood, Annette Block, Purna Pai, Stan Block, Kitty Hurliman, Arlene Fraser, Tom Fraser, Judy Quinn; back row: Gailen Vick, Diane Quinn, Holly Walaszek, Bob Quinn, Robert Davis, and Jim Cecil. Not in photo: Beckie Cramer. Michele Grimaldi and Tony Suleiman .

### 2026 Officers and Board of Directors

Bette Alburtis, President

Dawn Canfield 1st Vice Pres.,  
Membership & Publicity

Jennifer Blood 2nd Vice Pres., Programs

Annette Block, 3rd Vice President,  
Ways and Means

Purna Pai Recording Secretary

Stan Block, Corresponding Secretary

Diane Quinn, Treasurer

Gailen Vick, Chaplain

Tony Suleiman, Judge Advocate

#### Board of Directors:

Beckie Cramer, Bob Davis, Arlene Fraser, Tom Fraser, Michele Grimaldi, Bob Quinn, Judy Quinn, and Holly Walaszek

Jim Cecil, Jr., NLUS National Director Emeritus



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you, Tony Suleiman for your past two years as President and to your Navy League Board 2024-2025. Also, a special thank you to Annette Block for our most eventful Holiday party and fundraiser. Congratulations Annette on being named the Channel Islands Council Navy Leaguer of the year 2025.

It is with my thanks to you all to have been elected your President for 2026. We, the Board of Directors and Committee Heads are looking forward to an eventful year. We are planning a great year and looking forward to our speakers, activities and fundraisers. Please be available to join in and don't forget about attending our Sea Cadet and NJROTC functions, open to all. Come and see what our youth groups are capable of and who we are supporting.

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President's Message



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## January 8, 2026 Installation lunch at Bard Mansion—Joint meeting with MOAA



Installing officer Colonel Mike Kwan, former Area VP MOAA.



From left to right, photo above: Colonel Barry Harper, President; Captain Steve Huber, VP Legislative Affairs; Lieutenant Dave Paumier, VP Programs; LT Commander Dave Pendleton, Treasurer; Captain John Exell, Secretary. All members of MOAA, Military Officers Association of America, Ventura County Chapter.

## Appreciation to Tony Suleiman, outgoing President: Presentations on January 8, 2026, at the Bard Mansion



Photo left: Tony Suleiman, outgoing president received gift of thanks and appreciation for serving two years as Council President. Gift presented by Purna Pai, previous president, an engraved crystal ice bucket.

Photo right: Celinas Zacarias and Jess Herrera, Oxnard Harbor District Commissioners, presented Tony Suleiman a Certificate from the OHD Commissioners in appreciation for his years as Council president.

Tony, "Thank you very much!"



## January 8, 2026 Door Prize Winners

Happy New Year to lucky winners from both organizations: Navy League and Military Officers of America. From left to right: Donato Brinkman, guest speaker; Dr. David Paumier, VP Programs for MOAA; Bette Alburtis, President for NLCIC and Purna Pai, Recording Secretary for NLCIC. Donato was invited by MOAA as guest speaker for January. Her company is Brickman Company and she provided general information about "Key Legislative Provisions Affecting Seniors."



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## President's Message

Please keep in mind the food share program, plus our baby showers for the parents to be and supporting young families on Base.

If any members are interested in helping with our various committees as helpers, contact me. We can always use volunteers and the more the merrier. Hope to see you at our February 12th luncheon at the Bard Mansion. Come and hear our speaker from the Seabee Foundation and bring a friend. Remember to renew your Base Security Form 5512 to keep your name on the security gate list. We want you with us at the luncheons.

*Bette Alburdis*, President

Email [ladibda@gmail.com](mailto:ladibda@gmail.com)

Text messages to Bette at 805 479-3133



Michael Federico, Police Chief of the city of Port Hueneme, installed Officers and Board Members on January 8, 2026, at the Bard Mansion. Certificate of Appreciation presented to the Chief by Bette Alburdis, President. He is also a life member of Navy League Channel Islands in support of our Sea Services and their families and the youth group programs.

## Congratulations!

Tony Suleiman, outgoing President, presented award to Navy Leaguer of the Year, Channel Islands Council 2025: Annette Block, for outstanding year of fundraising and leadership.



## Reminders:

Remember to donate nonperishable items for the food pantry; also items for the Navy/Marine Corps Thrift Shop. Bring items to the luncheon at the Bard Mansion. Thanks for your support!

## Sea Cadets at Port Hueneme

Saturday, February 21, 2026 time and place to be determined by the Sea Cadet Unit at Port Hueneme for their annual inspection and awards ceremony. If you are interested in attending please contact: Arlene Fraser at [arlene64@aol.com](mailto:arlene64@aol.com) or send a text to 805 377-0468 for information.

## 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 attending. If you are not on the Security Gate list, please go to the Base Pass Office to obtain a one-day pass. Thanks!



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## October 9, 2025, U.S. Navy Happy Birthday at the Bard Mansion



From left to right: Tony Volante, Darrel Boynton, SteveHuber, Stan Block, Command Master Chief John Shubert, VAW 115; NC1 Dalton Jones, VAW 115; MSgt. George Lawson, John Hart, Bob Quinn, Christopher Arnold, Tom Fraser and Bill Griggs. *Happy 250th birthday US Navy and "thank you to all veterans for your service."*



**Photo 1.** Tony Suleiman, President presented Channel Islands Council Certificate, Challenge coin and check to Navy Sailor of the Year, **NC1 Dalton Jones**, Navy VAW 115; Kitty Hurliman presented tote bag to hold all his awards. **Photo 2.** US Navy SOY received Certificate from Tracy Gallaher, representing County Supervisor Vianey Lopez. **Photo 3.** SOY Jones received Certificate from City of Oxnard presented by Steve Huber. **Photo 4.** Michael Federico, Police Chief, City of Port Hueneme and Mayor Pro Tem Jess Lopez, congratulated SOY Jones with a Certificate from the City of Port Hueneme. **Photo 5.** Tony Suleiman, Council President, Bob Quinn, Council Awards Chairman and Robin Campos, representative from the Oxnard Harbor District/Port of Hueneme with Certificate from the Harbor Commissioners for the SOY. Certificates also presented to the SOY from Congresswoman Julia Brownley, California Assemblywoman Jacqui Irwin, Mayors and City Council from the City of Ventura, and the City of Camarillo.

Congratulations to all Sailors of the Year. Two were not able to attend.: **JSOY MA2 Deasia Dozier**, and **BJOY AC3 Makayla Hoffman**. Certificates were presented to each at a later date.





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Navy guests, Command Master Chief John Shubert, VAW115, and NC1 Dalton Jones, VAW115, join the lucky October door prize winners at the Bard Mansion: Judith Rood, Bette Alburts, Tracy Gallager, Kathy Shurtleff and Tony Volante. Congratulations!



Tony Suleiman, President 2025, and Michele Grimaldi, VP Membership 2025, presented to new member, **Theresa Agnes Hughes**, center, with her NLCIC name badge and Council's challenge coin. New members attending two or more consecutive luncheons at the Bard Mansion or Council events receive a name badge with the Navy League logo and a Channel Islands Council challenge coin at a luncheon. Join Now!

For your information: 2026 VP contact regarding membership is Dawn Canfield. She will assist you with new and renewal information and order name badges. Remember to renew and also invite new guests to learn about Navy League and join Channel Islands Council.

**Photo to the left Lucky November 2025 Door Prize Winners**

Left to right: Debra Block, Janet Foley, Melissa Frederick and Dawn Canfield had the winning numbers for November.

Thanks to Annette Block for preparing the door prizes each month. Funds donated assist the Navy/Marine Corps Baby Showers to support young families. Thanks for your donations!



**Happy 250th Birthday, US Marines!**

Cake cutting, Guillermo Garcia, youngest Marine and John Hart, oldest US Marine at the November luncheon at the Bard Mansion.





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### Fundraising Updates

Happy New Year to our fantastic Navy League family! As we continue to grow and make a difference in our community, I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who made 2025 such a successful year.

Many of you know that we broke another fundraising record at our Holiday Luncheon and Wine Auction this past December. With your help, we raised an impressive net amount of \$13,751.15, which allows us more opportunities to contribute to the men and women of our sea-going services and their families, the youth that are our future of our community and country, and other needs that will be met by our council.

**What's on tap for 2026?** For starters, we will be moving the mid-year wine auction from August to June. We have already started to gather some wonderful wines, and more are coming. We will once again have the Yolanda's fundraiser in July. Our Lazy Dog event in October was a big hit and we'll bring it back in 2026. If you couldn't make it last year, I highly recommend it. They have a great menu...and you can bring your pup to lunch or dinner with you many times over!

We're always looking for ways to bring our Council together so keep your eyes on the newsletter for the possibility of more fun events coming your way!

Once again, Happy New Year, and I thank each of you for your many contributions during 2025. We look forward to doing better in 2026!

Best,

Annette Block

3rd Vice President, Ways and Means



Photos taken on December 14, 2025, at the Holiday Fundraising Luncheon at the Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club at Channel Islands Harbor. More Dec. photos on page 8 and page 9. Plan to join us for December 2026 luncheon.



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## 2026 Proposed Calendar

2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT  
THE BARD MANSION 11:30 AM SOCIAL

NOON BUFFET LUNCH

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUESTED.

CONTACT DIANE QUINN

JANUARY 8, 2026, Joint luncheon, Installation

FEBRUARY 12, 2026, Guest speaker, see page 10 for info.

MARCH 12, 2026, Seabees Birthday

APRIL 9, 2026, Spring Baby Shower

MAY 14, 2026, Merchant Mariners,  
International Mariners Center

JUNE 11, 2026, Wine Auction, Age Group Photos

JULY NO-SHOW Fundraiser/DARK

AUGUST 13, 2026, USCG Birthday Awards

SEPTEMBER 10, 2026, Fall Baby Shower

OCTOBER 8, 2026, US Navy Birthday Awards

NOVEMBER 12, 2026, USMC Birthday

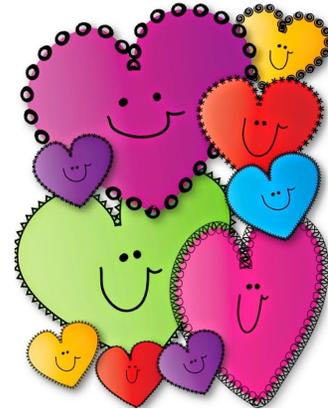
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SUNDAY, DEC. 13, 2026 HOLIDAY PARTY  
PACIFIC CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB

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GUEST SPEAKERS, SPECIAL EVENTS  
TO BE ANNOUNCED

**Calendar, subject to change**



**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**

### RSVP Contact

**Diane Quinn**

**tazquinn@gmail.com**

**805 729-0671**

Please leave a message and let me know if you are attending. If you are not on the Security Gate list, please go to the Base Pass Office to obtain a one-day pass. Thanks!



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## Holiday Luncheon and Fundraiser:

December 14, 2025, at Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club



*Happy Holidays*





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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**

## 2026 CALENDAR NLUS CHANNEL ISLANDS

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

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

Plan to attend lunch at the Bard Mansion  
on Thursday, FEB. 12, 2026 at 11:30 a.m

**TOPIC: Navy Seabee Foundation**

**Speaker: Heather Deviney,**

**Marketing & Development Coordinator**

=====  
Thursday, MAR. 12, 2026 at 11:30 am

**SEABEES BIRTHDAY**

**Visit website: [www.navyleaguecica.org](http://www.navyleaguecica.org)**

## REMINDERS

Please return empty gift baskets to Annette Block at the next luncheon. She will fill the baskets to prepare door prizes for lucky winners. Thanks!



**Join or Renew Your Membership**



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

**Call or send a text to 805 729-0671**

If your name is not on the security gate list, please go to the NBVC Security Office for a one-day pass. You will need your driver's license and your Social Security card number.

Photos in this newsletter from: Bear/Ross Carmichael, Steve Huber, Michele Grimaldi, Arlene Fraser and Jennifer Suleiman.