

Kingsville Council of the Navy League – Quarterly Newsletter

Edition: 2024Q2:2

Second Quarter – April to June 2024

Proudly Serving South Texas Sea Service Families Since 1955

KINGSVILLE COUNCIL OF THE NAVY LEAGUE



www.KCNL.org

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Good Information & Membership

The Kingsville Council of the Navy League (KCNL), as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) civilian organization with over 95 members, was founded in 1955 with a mission to support military members, and their families, of our nation's Sea Services: U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S.-flag Merchant Marines.

The Navy League of the United States, our parent organization with over 30,000 members worldwide, was founded in 1902 with the aid of former President Theodore Roosevelt.

In Kingsville, our mission is threefold: to improve the quality of life of the members and their families of our adopted units, to support youth programs, and to educate the public about the need for our nation's Sea Services. **Educate. Advocate. Support.**

Our 5+1 adopted units (& their leaders) are:

- NAS Kingsville (NASK) (CAPT Eric Bromley, USN)
- Training Air Wing TWO (TW-2) (CAPT Aaron Rybar, USN)
- Training Squadron 21 (VT-21) (CDR M. Hooten, USN)
- Training Squadron 22 (VT-22) (CDR C. Hanson, USN)
- Donna ISD MCJROTC (SgtMaj Jose Romero, USMC, Ret.)
- *Possible Future Adoption: USS Kingsville (CDR Mann)

If you are not yet a member and would like to join us, please visit the national Navy League website at www.navyleague.org to start the application process and/or contact one of our elected officers of the Kingsville Navy League for additional information.

- President: Lance Hamm, (361) 720-2795
- Vice President: Charlie Ratliff
- Treasurer: Buddy Windham
- Secretary: Dianne Leubert

All-Membership meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 12pm noon in the back room of the Cherry Tree Tea Room Restaurant in downtown Kingsville, Texas.

Thank You to Our Donors

A big **THANK YOU** to our donors for supporting our mission and ultimately improving the quality of life of our local Sailors, Marines, and JROTC Cadets. Donors are listed below in alphabetical order.

- Baffin Bay Seafood Restaurant (Gift Cards)
- Boeing, \$1,000 (Goshawk Ball & Yearly Donor)
- Bray's Smokehouse Restaurant (Gift Cards)
- Cherry Tree Tea Room (Use of Venue, Donor)
- Discount Liquor
- Ed Rachal Foundation (Yearly Donations)
- El Tapatio Mexican Restaurant (Gift Cards)
- Fidelity Technologies, \$250 (Goshawk Ball)
- Gilcrease Foundation (Yearly Donations)
- Hahn & Oldham, PC (Years of Office Supplies)
- Hamm, Lance & Kim (In-Kind Donations)
- Harrel's Kingsville Pharmacy (Gift Cards)
- H.E.B. (Donna, TX)
- H.E.B. (Kingsville, TX)
- King Barbershop (Gift Cards)
- Kingsville CrossFit (Gift Cards)
- Las Vegas Bingo, Corpus Christi (Yearly Donations)
- Rolls Royce (Corporate Affiliate & Donor)
- Tailhook Association (Top Hook Gift Cards)
- V2X, \$1,000 (Goshawk Ball)
- Wingstop (Kingsville, TX)
- Woman's Club of Kingsville – Athena Dept.
- Young's Pizza and Bar (Gift Cards)

It is the intent of the Kingsville Navy League to present each donor with a Certificate of Appreciation. Our donors will be contacted individually to set up a time at one of our meetings for their very deserving presentation and a heartfelt handshake of gratitude from our members.

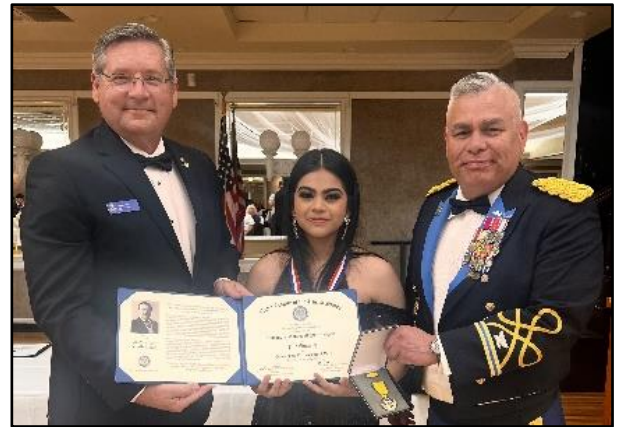
April 2024

April highlights included:

- The April meeting was well attended including 9 Board of Directors (BOD), 5 other KCNL members, & 6 guests. It was reported that KCNL total membership is 91. Pictured below (L to R): Barbara, Dianne, Kevin, Charlie, Randy, CAPT Bromley, Erik, Pam, and Sally (Cherry Tree Tea Room).



- KCNL approved donating \$1000 each to the NASK MWR Scotty McCreery Concert on May 24th and their 4th of July Celebration. Get your MWR Guest Cards NOW!
- Lance attended the Weslaco ISD JROTC Military Ball on 13April in Donna, TX. Lance, along with Senior JROTC Instructor COL Eloy Cuevas (USA, Ret.), presented the Navy League's Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal to Cadet (and U.S. Marine Corps enlistee) Mia Gonzalez (see picture in the next column, upper right).



- Charlie reported the date for the future USS Kingsville Commissioning has been set for 24August2024.
- KCNL members attended the Purple Ball (honoring military children) onboard NAS Kingsville on 12Apr2024. Pictured below (L to R): Kim, Sophia, Lance, Sally, Pam, and Charlie.



- KCNL provided hors d'oeuvres for all the guests at the TW-2 Patching Ceremony on 25April. Pictured below is (VAQ-129-bound) LTJG Gabriel, his parents, and SNA LTJG Henney. Wingees are told of their new squadron assignments at the Patching Ceremonies. Exciting!!



- The Winging Ceremony was held the following day. Congrats to all of our nation's newest Naval Aviators!



May 2024

May highlights included:

- At our May meeting, (pictured below L to R) KCNL president, Lance Hamm, presented KCNL member and long-time donor Mary Ann Oldham from Hahn & Oldham, PC., a Donor Appreciation Certificate (Linda Hahn was unable to attend). Also, new members Norma Alvarez and Terry Shannon were presented with KCNL new member certificates.



- Long-time KCNL member, Nick Harrel (pictured below, center), proudly displays free advertising for the USS Kingsville Commissioning Committee in his world-famous Harrel's Kingsville Pharmacy and soda fountain in downtown Kingsville. Nick routinely donates gift cards to distribute at KCNL events. Thank you, Nick!



- On May 15th, Lance traveled to Donna, TX, to present two Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medals to Donna ISD MCJROTC Cadets Mario J. Quintanilla (pictured below on the left) and Maria E. Lopez. Also pictured on the right is Donna ISD Senior MCJROTC Instructor SgtMaj Jose Romero (USMC, Ret.). Thank you to the Donna H-E-B for donating \$50 gift cards to these very deserving students.



- On May 24th, KCNL helped sponsor the NASK MWR concert onboard NAS Kingsville featuring Country-Western artist Scotty McCreery. A KCNL booth was manned by Lance and Jana/Bret Bull (L to R) at the concert to promote new memberships and advertise the commissioning of the future USS Kingsville (LCS 36) to be held on 24Aug2024. Many KCNL members attended the concert including Sophia (pictured on the right) with her invited friends from Texas A&M – Kingsville.



- KCNL provided hors d'oeuvres for all the guests at the TW-2 Patching Ceremony on 30May.
- On May 31st, KCNL sponsored a TOP HOOK plaque presented to LTJG Matthew Nason by CAPT Rybar at his Winging Ceremony onboard the USS Lexington Museum. Thank you to The Tailhook Association and El Tapatio Mexican Restaurant for providing LTJG Nason with gift cards. Congrats to LTJG Nason! BZ!



June 2024

June highlights included many award presentations at our monthly meeting/luncheon on June 6th. KCNL Vice President, Charlie Ratliff, presented Sailor of the Quarter Certificates and gift cards to (L to R) ET1 Michael Gomez, HM2 David Garcia, HM3 Jason Bennett, and HM3 Brayen Imani. Not pictured are AC1 Paul Seaward and AC2 Isaac Pascarella.



Also at our June meeting, pictured below (L to R), Charlie presented a Donor Appreciation Certificate to Claire Gendron and her business, King Barbershop, for donating many gift cards to KCNL. Charlie also presented Al Garcia with a new member certificate. Thank you, Claire! Welcome aboard, Al!



KCNL President, Lance Hamm, attended the Navy League of the United States national convention in San Diego, CA, on June 5-7. The highlight of the convention, along with attending the many briefings relating to the mission of the Navy League, was Lance's attendance at the Council Performance Awards Luncheon on June 6th where the Kingsville Council was unexpectedly presented with two awards, 1) Sea Service Unit Adoption Excellence Award (Small Council), and 2) Council Performance Award (Meritorious Council). Pictured below (L to R) at the Awards Luncheon are Navy League National CEO Mike Stevens, Lance Hamm, and Navy League National President Chris "Towny" Townsend. When the plaques arrive in July, a better photo will be taken with all members of the KCNL along with as many members of our adopted units as possible.



- Lance traveled to Rockport, TX, to meet our commissioned artist, Jonathan Frank (pictured below) who completed his rendering of the USS Kingsville and gave us the copyright to the oil painting, a very generous gift-in-kind. A BIG thank you to Jonathan!



- KCNL again provided hors d'oeuvres for all the guests at the TW-2 Patching Ceremony on June 27th.
- Our newest Naval Aviators were presented their Wings of Gold on June 28th at the Army Reserve Center onboard NAS Kingsville. Congrats to our newest Naval & Marine Corps Aviators. BZ!

