

# Naval Submarine League 2018 Annual Report



## For the Fiscal Year Ending 31 March 2018

2017-2018 was a successful year for the Naval Submarine League. Notably, corporate membership and life membership increased. During this year, VADM John J. Donnelly, USN, Ret. was elected President of the Naval Submarine League, relieving RADM John B. Padgett III, USN, Ret. We are grateful for the many years RADM Padgett served as President.

### ***Submarine Technology Symposium Delivering a Spectrum of Effects from Under the Sea 9-11 May 2017***

The Submarine Technology Symposium is a classified (SECRET/NOFORN) three-day conference hosted on the campus of Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. An audience of over 500 attended to participate in technical presentations, exhibits, and discussions. The conference enables collaboration among industry, academia, and government to expand undersea capabilities.

The Chairman of the NSL Board of Directors, ADM Kirk Donald, USN, Ret. delivered the opening remarks and the Commander of Submarine Forces, VADM Joseph Tofalo, delivered the first keynote speech. Other notable speakers included RADM Fritz Roegge, RADM Bill Merz, VADM Terry Benedict, VADM James Foggo III, VADM Rick Breckenridge, RADM Michael Jabaley, and Ron O'Rourke.

### ***Submarine History Seminar The Hunt for Red October- Fact and Fiction 31 October 2017***

This open-to-the-public event consisted of a panel discussion of the role of submarines in the Cold War and the movie that showed it to the world. The panel was made up of CAPT David C. Minton, III, USN, Ret.; RADM David R. Oliver, Jr., USN, Ret; ADM Thomas D. Fargo, USN, Ret.; and Mr. Mace Neufeld. It was moderated by Dr. David A. Rosenberg, Ph.D., the NSL History Seminar Chairperson.



For 27 days in 1972, USS Guardfish (SSN 612) tracked a Soviet submarine from Vladivostok to the South China Sea off the coast of Vietnam. This mission was declassified in 1999. In 1990, with the cooperation of the U.S. Navy, *The Hunt for Red October* was produced, bringing Tom Clancy's dramatic story of the cat-and-mouse life of the Silent Service to the screen. This event was sponsored by BWX Technologies, General Dynamics Electric Boat, L3 Technologies, Newport News Shipbuilding, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, and USAA.

### ***35th Annual Symposium and Industry Update "U.S. Submarine Force — Getting Faster" 1-2 November 2017***

The Annual Symposium was held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, VA. Over 500 people and 35 exhibitors attended, including retired and active duty Submarine Force leaders and members of the corporate and academic communities.

The Annual Symposium keeps the submarine community and its supporters informed. RADM Padgett and VADM Donnelly shared the role of hosting this year. The event celebrated the Naval Submarine League's 35th year

supporting the Submarine Force and was sponsored by over 30 companies. Congressman Joe Courtney spoke at the President's Breakfast for Sponsors.

The full agenda and transcripts from the Symposium can be found in the March 2018 and June 2018 issues of *The Submarine Review*.

U.S. Senator Jack Reed was the banquet speaker. Distinguished Submariners ADM Powell F. Carter, USN, Ret.; VADM Daniel L. Cooper, USN, Ret.; and VADM N. R. Thunman, USN, Ret.; along with Distinguished Civilian G. Daniel Tyler were honored. A complete list of 2017 Submarine Force awardees can be found on the NSL website.



RADM Padgett (left) and VADM Donnelly (right) present an award to VADM Cooper



Mr. Dan Tyler



ADM Powell Carter



VADM Dan Cooper



VADM Ron Thunman

### **Corporate Member Days**

#### **Informing Corporate Members**

**7-8 March 2018**

This year, over 200 people attended Corporate Member Days. The event is a unique opportunity for Corporate Members to receive operational, programmatic, and budget status updates from senior Navy and government officials. ADM Caldwell, Congressman Kilmer, RADM Hahn, RADM Jabaley, RADM Tammen, and VADM Tofalo gave speeches throughout the two days.

This year was a special celebration of the longevity of our organization, thanks to our founding members and those who have joined us since. We presented nine awards for Corporate Members who have been with us for 35 years. In total, twenty-one companies were recognized for reaching milestones in their continued support of the NSL:

#### **35 YEAR AWARDS**

- AECOM
- American Systems Corporation
- BWX Technology
- General Dynamics Electric Boat
- Lockheed Martin
- Newport News Shipbuilding,
- A Division of Huntington Ingalls Industries
- Northrop Grumman Navigation & Maritime
- Systems Division
- The Boeing Company
- Treadwell Corporation

#### **30 YEAR AWARDS**

- Leonardo DRS
- Systems Planning & Analysis

#### **25 YEAR AWARDS**

- Amadis

#### **10 YEAR AWARDS**

- Murray Guard

#### **5 YEAR AWARDS**

- Cepeda Associates, Inc.
- Innovative Defense Technologies
- Marotta Controls
- ORBIS
- PRL Industries
- Subsystem Technologies
- USAA
- VACCO

## Other Naval Submarine League Activities

### *The Submarine Review*

Our quarterly publication continues to serve as an integral resource to NSL members. It provides information and insights useful to the critical discussions needed to ensure our nation's security and sustain undersea dominance. As a benefit of membership, all members receive a copy of *The Submarine Review* or can access the publication online through the website. The popularity of the online version continues to grow.

### *Corporate Members*

Corporate Members continued to provide fundamental financial support to the NSL. Their various sponsorships allowed the NSL to maintain its budget while providing expanded outreach to educate the public about the importance of submarines to the national defense. At the end of the fiscal year, there were 92 Corporate Members, including 12 new companies.

### *Chapter and Outreach Activities*

The NSL has 10 chapters supporting active duty submariners, providing camaraderie, and advocating for the importance of submarines. Each chapter has engaged in various activities in support of the mission of the NSL.

**The Aloha Chapter** held monthly breakfast gatherings throughout the year. In May, they provided a wreath and supported a Memorial Day ceremony and in November, they provided a wreath and supported a Veterans Day ceremony. Both ceremonies were conducted by the Bowfin Base of the United States Submarine Veterans (USSVI) at the Parche Memorial at Subbase Pearl Harbor. In June, they presented annual war fighter awards to four highly deserving candidates from the Pearl Harbor waterfront. In August, CAPT Chuck Merkel, USN, Ret. assumed the position of Chapter President from CAPT Jerry Hofwolt, USN, Ret. who served for many years. In March, they provided funds to sponsor the Pearl Harbor Submarine Birthday Balls.

**The Atlantic Southeast Chapter** held two meetings this year where the speakers were CAPT T.R. Buchanan, COM-SUBRON 20, USN and CDR Rick Campbell, USN, Ret. The chapter participated in the Kings Bay Submarine Ball on April 1st at Jekyll Island Conference Center. In May, they not only sponsored a sailor's dinner at the Sailor of the Year program and banquet, but also provided eight of the sailors with three-year NSL memberships. The chapter partnered with the Camden Partnership in July to host the Georgia State Military Affairs Committee at a reception for local leaders and the committee. In October, a chapter member provided an NSL PowerPoint presentation to the local Kiwanis Club. Four applications for NSL membership were prepared for presentation to World War II Submarine Veterans. The chapter president attended the Annual Symposium and History Seminar. Finally, the chapter attended graduations every six weeks for the MT 'C' School and awarded NSL memberships to the Honor Graduates.

**The Capitol Chapter** is comprised of around 900 members and serves Washington, Maryland and Northern Virginia. Midshipmen from the Naval Academy and area ROTC units at George Washington University and the University of Maryland are invited to all of their activities. This exposes the Midshipmen to the history and camaraderie of the Force, and allows them to participate in activities important to submarines as they consider their warfare career options. Quarterly luncheons with a featured speaker are the centerpiece of chapter activities. This year the chapter had the opportunity to hear from and engage with Admirals Fritz Roegge, Bill Merz, and Dave Hahn, as well as Captain Brian Davies. Other highlights included: helping to sponsor the DC-area Submarine Birthday Ball, the Navy's celebration of the Battle of Midway dinner in June, and the Submarine Force DC area Fall Social at Fort Myers; presenting the RADM Frederick B. Warder award in May to the top graduating midshipman selected for submarines from the George Washington University NROTC consortium; and supporting the USNA Dolphin Club with an annual donation as well as providing speakers for their monthly meetings.



*Members of the NSL attend a meeting with speaker CDR Rick Campbell, USN, Ret. who is the author of four submarine books.*

**The Hampton Roads Chapter** supported the COMSUBLANT Sailor of the Year Program and Candidates' Dinner. They supported a visit to the Nauticus and USS Wisconsin Memorial in Norfolk for SOY candidates. One of their members presented the award for the outstanding midshipman selected for submarines at the Old Dominion University NROTC Awards Ceremony. Several members attended the NSL Annual Symposium and History Seminar. Another chapter member updated the PowerPoint presentation used by our Speakers Bureau to further local community knowledge and understanding of submarines. Chapter membership meetings included presentations by the Director of Nuclear Safety and Licensing at Surry Nuclear Power Station, the COMSUBLANT Deputy Chief of Staff for Maintenance, and the Professor of Education Leadership at the George Washington University. The chapter also participated in a joint meeting with the Tidewater Chapter of the American Society of Naval Engineers.

Over the past fiscal year, **the Levering Smith Chapter** was involved in awarding the NOTU Mission Partners, Sailors of the Quarter and Year, and the In-Tube Conversion Honor. They supported the 2016 Space Coast Submarine Birthday Ball in conjunction with the USSVI and the Navy League. They had a luncheon for chapter members to hear from their departing NOTU Commanding Officer, CAPT John Sager. They had a reception for the wardroom of the USS Maryland (SSBN 738). They also had an unexpected opportunity to tour a submarine.

This year, **the Nautilus Chapter** sponsored three submarine deployment socials at the SUBASE NLON Officers and Chiefs clubs. They held three Nautilus Chapter luncheons with guest speakers: CAPT Whitescarver (CO Subase New London), RADM Merz (N97), and RDML Pitts (NSWDC). They supported the USSVI annual Thanksgiving Dinner for local active duty. They presented NSL awards at each of the SOBC and SOAC graduations and the Yale NROTC graduation. They sponsored NSL awards for most improved student in the Submarine Electronics Combined Field course and the Submarine Radiomen course. Also, they arranged for distribution of NSL submarine evolution posters.

In April 2017 the **Northern California Chapter** hosted the Submarine Birthday Ball in the Barbara McNitt Ballroom. They had over 300 guests including their guest speaker, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral John Richardson. The ball was one of the most widely attended events at NPS during 2017 and set a record for the Monterey Submarine Birthday Ball. LT Josh Collins, the chapter president at the time, was awarded the Naval Submarine League Scholar Award for his outstanding thesis work. They held several meetings throughout the winter to welcome the Bowman Scholars and new submariners to NPS at the start of each quarter.

**The Pacific Northwest Chapter** has a goal of averaging one activity per month. Most of the monthly activities were chapter luncheons. The luncheons are almost all on base at Naval Base Kitsap, Bangor. A high-quality buffet is served and there is always a guest speaker. The Christmas luncheon was at Kiana Lodge and the January luncheon was at Naval Undersea Museum Keyport. The chapter is fortunate to have a festive, submarine-themed establishment in downtown Bremerton called the Horse and Cow Bar and Grill. They held a happy hour event there in May and March. The happy hour in March was held in conjunction with a ship visit of USS Olympia. PACNW Chapter had a table at the Submarine Birthday Ball; special guests included State Representative and NSL member Drew MacEwen and his wife, along with WWII veteran Paul Christoferson and his wife, Aecha. The annual July "Battle Dogs" event was held in the off-crew Administration Building on NBK Bangor with hot dogs, chips and bottled water for any active duty sailor passing by. Kitsap County holds a large Veterans Day event each year and most of the local dignitaries attend. NSL hosted a booth which highlighted the NSL to the local community. Other noteworthy activities included: MOAA Armed Forces Day Luncheon, Bremerton Area Armed Forces Day Gala, Memorial Day Tolling of the Boats at Deterrent Park, chapter tour of the Boeing Museum of Flight, the USS



*Members of the Pacific Northwest Chapter attend a luncheon with RADM Tammen*



*Kitsap County's Veteran's Day*

Washington (SSN 787) Commissioning in Norfolk, NSL Annual Symposium, Silver and Gold Dolphin Scholarship Foundation Auction Event, and the Navy Region NW/CSG-9 Winter Reception.

During this year, the **Pacific Southwest Chapter** activities were dominated by interesting and informative monthly luncheons and professional forums. On average about 65 attendees were present, one third of those being on active duty. A stellar lineup of speakers included: CAPT Howard Warner, CO, Naval Base Point Loma; RDML James Bynum, Commander, Carrier Strike Group



*Captains MacVean, Ward, and Fischbeck look happy to be back in a uniform.*



*Members attend the Pacific Northwest Chapter's annual "Battle Dogs" event*

5; CAPT Joseph Buzzella, USCG, Captain of the Port of San Diego; VADM Ted Branch, USN, Ret., former Deputy CNO for Information Warfare; Mr. Bill Phillips, Chairman, Medal of Honor Foundation; CAPT Michael Boone, SPAWAR PMW 770 on the Ohio Replacement Program; CAPT Ronald Toland, CO, Fleet ASW Training Center; Ms. Erika Putman, Director of Education and Outreach, National Marine Mammal Foundation and RDML Bill Byrne, CO Carrier Strike Group 15. Each of these events included a drawing for an opportunity by active duty members to visit the San Diego Maritime Museum or the USS Midway Museum.

During the course of the year, the **South Carolina Chapter** held several meetings. In April 2017, the chapter sponsored the Charleston area Submarine Birthday Ball. The celebration was well attended by approximately 700 officers and sailors of Naval Nuclear Power Training Command (NNPTC) and Naval Prototype Training Unit Charleston along with several commanders and senior leaders of Joint Base Charleston. During the ball, the Naval

Submarine League team was specifically recognized by Captain Kevin Byrne, Commanding Officer NNPTC, for their sponsorship and assistance as members of the planning committee. In November, the chapter was proud to sponsor NNPTC's periodic "Burger Bash" recognizing the graduation of students from both Nuclear Field "A" School and Nuclear Power School. These events occur approximately every six weeks. The chapter provides grill masters and servers to provide a meal to over 1000 students. During a Veteran's Day celebration, CAPT Rusty Pickett, USN, Ret. and CAPT Dennis White, USN, Ret. had the honor of addressing attendees in a recognition ceremony for one of the last living heroes of the Submarine Force during World War II, LCDR Churchill "Jim" Campbell. Jim served as Executive Officer on the USS Parche (SS 384) under CDR Red Ramage. During their second of six war patrols, in a daring night surfaced attack, Parche prevailed, resulting in Red Ramage receiving the Medal of Honor and Jim earning the first of his two Silver Stars.



*Veteran's Day Celebration of LCDR Churchill "Jim" Campbell.*

### **Membership**

Due to a database update, a large number of expired memberships were removed from our roster. Because of this, overall membership decreased from 3,359 reported at the end of 2016-17. Despite the setback, membership has begun to trend back upward from the lowest point, 2,918 members, to end the year with 3,081. Notably, Life Memberships have gone up from 1,241 (36.9% of total membership) to 1,320 (42.8% of total membership). We also now have 20 World War II Submarine Veterans, 3 more than last year.

This year, there is a new online form for high school and college students to simplify the process of joining.

Letters of invitation to join were sent to all Major Commanders as they were selected. Our Membership Coordinator has also added new methods of contact to let people know two months ahead that their membership expiration date is coming.

**Speakers Bureau**

During the past year, over 75 members of the NSL from across the country signed up to give an informative presentation about submarines and the crucial role that they play in our national defense. These presentations used slides produced by the NSL, and were brought to life by the expertise of our members, often including their own anecdotes about life aboard a submarine.

**Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2017-18**

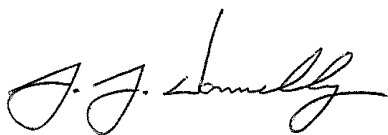
As the figures in the following table show, the League finished the fiscal year in excellent condition. Revenue exceeded the budget projection by a significant amount, while expenses were less than budgeted as a result of effective cost control by the staff. The League did not have to withdraw funds from the investment portfolio to meet operating expenses, a provision included in our annual budget. These FY2018 results set us up well for pursuing our outreach initiatives in fiscal year 2019.

Fiscal Year 2018 (1 April 2017- 31 March 2018)			
	Revenue	Expenses	Excess (Shortfall) of Revenue Over Expenses
FY 2018 Actuals	\$1,456,394	\$1,208,606	\$247,788
FY 2018 Budget	\$1,276,388	\$1,276,171	\$217
Δ (Actuals-Budget)	\$180,006	(\$67,565)	\$247,571
Figures reflect unaudited accounts.			

The League’s investment portfolio, our Reserve Fund, amounted to \$985,434 at the end of the fiscal year, up from \$820,000 at the end of the previous fiscal year. A recent review of the portfolio with our investment advisor showed all asset classes (U.S. stocks, foreign stocks, and bonds) are performing better than their respective industry benchmarks. Our goal for the portfolio is to build reserves to a level twice the annual operating budget. This ratio, which is standard for not-for-profit professional organizations like the NSL, would ensure sufficient funds to sustain our activities during a market downturn of several years. Since April 2017, it is NSL policy to deposit all donations in the Reserve Fund.

The Naval Submarine League is growing in many ways. We thank our leaders for their vision, our staff for their excellent work, and our corporate and individual members for their participation and support.

Sincerely,



VADM John Donnelly, USN, Ret.  
President

