



Naval Submarine League 2020 Annual Report

Fiscal Year 1 April 2019-31 March 2020

2019-2020

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2019-2020 was another positive year for the Naval Submarine League. Significantly, the League purchased a building in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, to be the new headquarters after temporarily renting in another office in the same prime location. The League focused on outreach this year, encouraging members to get involved with submarine commissioning committees, sub clubs, and namesake visits. The league also launched a Mentor Program for members to connect with each other and grow in their chosen fields. The steps taken this year have the potential to make long-term, positive changes to the organization.

Submarine Technology Symposium

May 2019

"Expanding the Competitive Space from Undersea"

The Submarine Technology Symposium is a classified (SECRET/NOFORN) three-day conference hosted on the campus of Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. Over 600 people attended to join in technical presentations, exhibits, and discussions. The conference encouraged collaboration among industry, academia, and government.

The speakers at the Symposium included James Geurts, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition; ADM Frank Caldwell, Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Programs; Ron O'Rourke, Congressional Research Service; RADM Blake Converse, Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet; VADM Chas Richard, Commander, Submarine Forces; RADM David Goggins, PEO Submarines; RADM John Tammen Jr., OPNAV N97; Rep. Joseph Courtney, Chairman, U.S. House Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces; and VADM Johnny Wolfe Jr., Director, Strategic Systems Programs. The final day of the symposium featured a panel discussion with VADM Richard, VADM Wolfe, RADM Tammen, RADM Converse, RADM Scott Pappano and CAPT Pete Small, moderated by VADM Connor, the Subtech Symposium Chair.

36th Annual Symposium and Industry Update

6-7 November 2019

"Accelerating in a New Direction"

The Annual Symposium was held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, VA. Over 600 people and 39 exhibitors attended, including retired and active duty Submarine Force leaders and members of the corporate and academic communities.

Speakers included Ms. Katie Arrington, Special Assistant for Cybersecurity, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition & Sustainment; The Honorable James Geurts, ASN RD&A; and Mr. Ron O'Rourke, Congressional Research Service. The agenda and transcripts from the event can be found in the March and June 2020 issues of *The Submarine Review*.

The Distinguished Civilians honored were Ms. Sheila McNeill and Mr. Steven Schulze. The Distinguished Submariner was VADM George Emery, USN, Ret.

Corporate Member Days

4-5 March 2020

This event, available only to employees of corporate members of the Naval Submarine League, is to facilitate the exchange of business, technical, and professional information relevant to submarines and undersea warfare. This year, over 300 people attended Corporate Member Days at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, DC. Speakers included ADM Frank Caldwell, USN; VADM Daryl Caudle, USN; RADM Tom Ishee, USN; RADM David Goggins, USN; VADM Johnny R. Wolfe, Jr., USN; Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee; RDML Ed Anderson, USN; and RDML Scott Pappano, USN.

Submarine History Seminar “US Submarines in the Arctic”

17 October 2019

The 2019 Submarine History Seminar featured a panel of experts on Arctic exploration at the United States Navy Memorial. The moderator and History Seminar Chair, David A. Rosenberg, Ph.D., a military historian, described the early days of submarine exploration in the Arctic. The panel included CAPT Merrill Dorman, USN, Ret., who commanded USS Silversides (SSN 679) on a highly successful Arctic deployment, which was highlighted by surfacing at the North Pole on 11 October 1981. He became one of the Navy’s experts on Arctic Warfare. During deployments as Officer in Charge of remote floating ice camps, he supervised many exciting events that few people have the opportunity to witness. Also on the panel was Margo Edwards, Ph.D., who is the Director of the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawaii. She was one of the first women allowed underway on a submarine when she rode on USS Hawkbill (SSN 666) to conduct research, mapping the ocean floor under the ice in 1999. Data from that research is still relevant today. Another panelist, CDR Thomas Aydt, USN, Deputy Director UWDC TAG, was the commanding officer of USS Hartford (SSN 768) during ICEX 2016.

The Submarine Review

Our quarterly publication is made available to all members, in print or online. It provides an exchange of information and discussion on a variety of submarine-related topics. Hard copies are sent to Corporate members, members of Congress, and all U.S. Navy submarine installations.

Corporate Members

Corporate Membership has reached 130 this year, including 30 new companies! Many of our Corporate Members provide additional support to the NSL through event sponsorships. Their support makes it possible for us to maintain our budget while growing our outreach programs to educate the public about the importance of submarines to the national defense. Corporate Membership has been rapidly growing for the past few years.

Individual Members

Individual Membership comes with a variety of benefits, such as invitations to some events, digital or hard copy issues of *The Submarine Review*, the biweekly NSL Update newsletter, and the ability to participate in the Speakers Bureau, the Mentor Program, and one of the 10 chapters. Membership trended up this year, seeing an increase especially in Active Duty and Life Members.

Outreach Activities

Sub Clubs

The Naval Submarine League has been encouraging its members to get involved in Sub Clubs. Any commissioned submarine may have a support group of NSL members who are actively engaged in activities to support the crew and their families. Common activities include care packages for the crew, holiday cards, and new baby packages.

Speakers Bureau

During the past year, members of the NSL signed up to give an informative presentation about submarines and the crucial role that they play in our national defense to audiences as large as 150 people. Over 100 presenters are actively serving across the country and the program is growing. These presentations use slides and talking points produced by the NSL. Our members often include their own anecdotes about life aboard a submarine.

Heritage

One of our objectives is to foster and preserve the heritage of the Submarine Force. Submarine crew reunions and dates of sunken submarines are posted on the website calendar. We also offer, to every submarine reunion, a free Submarine Evolution poster which is presented by an NSL member who talks about the NSL and what we do.

NROTC

Every year, the NSL presents an Outstanding Achievement Award to a graduating NROTC student approved for entry into the Navy’s nuclear propulsion program as a submarine officer. During this year, over 40 students received the award. Unfortunately, due to the COVID19 pandemic, most of the award ceremonies were canceled and the NSL was unable to present the awards in person.

Mentor Program

The Naval Submarine League launched a Mentor Program to help members connect as both mentors and mentees. The program is based on a computer matching program that compares backgrounds and objectives of registered mentors and mentees (provided by each filling out a questionnaire). The mentee is given the top matches to review and chooses to invite one. If the mentor agrees with the mentee, they are connected by email. The program is a benefit of NSL membership. The pilot program garnered much interest and members can contact staff@navalsubleague.org for more information or to sign up.

Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2020

As the following table shows, the League finished the fiscal year in sound financial condition. In both cash and accrual basis calculations, revenue exceeded expenses. Audit revenue is less than actual cash flow because of revenue received in FY2020 that was deferred to FY2021. The auditor's report states net assets at the conclusion of the fiscal year increased over \$90,000 to \$1,288,373. 85.2% of expenses went to program activities; 14.8% went to administrative costs.

Fiscal Year 2020 (1 Apr 2019 – 31 Mar 2020)	Revenue	Expenses	Excess (Shortfall) of Revenue Over Expenses
FY2020 Budget (Cash Basis)	1,367,270 ⁽¹⁾	1,367,270	0
FY2020 Cash Flow Actuals	1,641,920 ⁽¹⁾	1,507,584	134,336
FY2020 Audit (Accrual Basis)	1,525,558 ⁽²⁾	1,432,981	92,577

⁽¹⁾ Figures do not include potential or actual donations which are deposited in the Reserve Fund.

⁽²⁾ Figure includes donations (\$74,929), net investment loss on the Reserve Fund (\$69,923) and revenue deferred to the following fiscal year which are not included in the operating budget.

In FY2020 the League purchased a building in Alexandria, Virginia to serve as national headquarters with staff offices, a library and meeting spaces for corporate members and program events. To finance the purchase, building renovations and office furnishings, we liquidated \$400,000 of assets in the Reserve Fund (fortunately just before the market pandemic downturn) and assumed a mortgage of \$1,100,000. This purchase will provide long term financial and location stability to the League because mortgage payments will be less than FY2020 rent expenses which were projected to increase steadily. A Capital Campaign initiated in FY2021 will enable the League to retire the mortgage at an accelerated rate.

The League's investment portfolio, our Reserve Fund, amounted to \$1,061,780 at the end of FY2020, down from \$1,531,573 at the end of FY2019, primarily due to the withdrawal of \$400,000 for the office purchase down payment. In March, the last month of FY2020, there was a significant market downturn that was precipitated by the coronavirus pandemic and contributed to the net investment loss on the Reserve Fund. With an operating budget of about \$1.4 million, our goal is to build the Reserve Fund to a level somewhat over \$3 million. To support this objective, all donations since April 2017 are deposited in the Reserve Fund and not used for monthly operating expenses. In FY2020 donations totaled \$74,929 as noted in the table above.

Sincerely,



VADM John Donnelly, USN, Ret.
President