

NAVY LEAGUE NEWS

FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL

December 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends,

As we turn the page into December, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible momentum we've built together this fall. From our successful 5K in October to honoring Veterans Day and celebrating the Marine Corps Birthday in November, we've continued to show up with heart, with pride, and with unwavering support for the men and women of our sea services.

At our November dinner meeting, we had the honor of hosting **Captain Willie L. Carmichael, Chief of Staff for U.S. Coast Guard District Seven**. What a privilege it was to hear directly from such a distinguished leader. Captain Carmichael shared not only his deep operational insights but also his personal journey through more than two decades of Coast Guard service from commanding multiple cutters to shaping future strategy across the region. His message was a powerful reminder of the dedication, courage, and leadership that define our Coast Guard.

To Captain Carmichael thank you. Your words were inspiring, your service deeply appreciated, and your presence with us was truly an honor.

Looking ahead, we have an exceptional speaker joining us for our **December Dinner Meeting on Tuesday, December 16** Captain John-David A. Lentine, Chief of Resource Management for Coast Guard District Southeast. Captain Lentine brings an impressive background in civil engineering and infrastructure leadership, along with a strong record of service managing operations across the Southeast and Caribbean. His insights are sure to leave us both informed and inspired you won't want to miss this evening.

As part of our December dinner, we are proud to support the **U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots** campaign. I encourage everyone to bring an unwrapped toy to help make a difference in the life of a child this holiday season. Your generosity reflects the spirit of service that defines our Navy League family.

Also, don't forget to **purchase your tickets** for our

biggest event of the year the **Seven Seas Gala**, coming up on Saturday, **January 24, 2026**, at the **Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort**. This year's theme, "**Anchored in Amalfi**," promises an unforgettable evening as we come together to celebrate and support the mission we all believe in. Let's make it a night to remember.

As we close out the year, I want to thank each of you for your commitment to our mission and to the sea services we proudly support. Your involvement, patriotism, and dedication are what make our council so strong.

From my family to yours, I wish you a **Merry Christmas**, a **Happy Hanukkah**, and a **Happy New Year**. May this season bring peace, joy, and renewed strength as we look toward 2026.

With appreciation and pride,

Abiud "Abi" Montes

President

Fort Lauderdale Council

Navy League of the United States

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ELECTION OF THE FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL 2026 OFFICERS

In accordance with the Fort Lauderdale Council by-laws, the Council shall elect and install the 2026 Officers at the Tuesday, December 16, 2025 dinner meeting. Any group consisting of fifteen (15) or more voting members may nominate a candidate for any of the elective offices. Please contact either of the nominating committee co-chairs, Lynn Atkinson at 954.325.9102 or lynn@druckermail.com or Elaine Hogg at 954.857.3574 or emhogg9999@gmail.com if you're interested in serving as an officer next year. The following is the proposed slate of candidates nominated to serve in 2026.

President: Abiud Montes

First Vice President: Barbara Kelleher

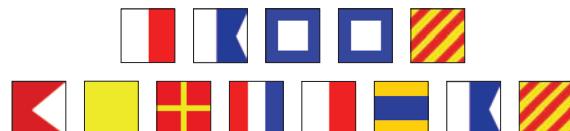
Second Vice President: Aaron Bresnahan

Third Vice President: Peter Apol

Treasurer: Diana Molina

Secretary: Elaine Nasta

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



James McStravick	12/3	Ernie Gorwood	12/25
Maria Hernandez	12/10	Jesse Vance	12/28
Jon Kotler	12/16	Jorge Ocon	12/29
Emily Dorsette	12/20		



GUEST SPEAKER AT OUR DECEMBER 16TH DINNER MEETING

CAPT JOHN-DAVID A. LENTINE

CHIEF, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COAST GUARD SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

Captain John-David “JD” Lentine assumed the duties of Chief of Resource Management for the Coast Guard (CG) Southeast District (CGD-SE) in July of 2024. As the CGD-SE Chief of Resource Management (dm), he is responsible for managing the financial, administrative, C5I, security & shore infrastructure planning support for CG Operations in the Southeast United States and Caribbean Basin, including Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Captain Lentine reported to the CG Academy in 1996 from his hometown of Fairbanks, Alaska, and graduated in 2000 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. His subsequent assignments included Deck Watch Officer – Coast Guard Cutter (CGC) Cowslip (WLB-277), Executive Officer – CGC Sturgeon Bay (WTGB-109), CG Ocean Engineering Advanced Education Program – Oregon State University, Ocean Engineer – CG Civil Engineering Unit (CEU) Miami, Design Team Chief – CG CEU Miami, Program Manager – CG Facilities Design and Construction Center (FDCC), Facility Engineer – CG Air Station Clearwater, Executive Officer – CG CEU Miami, Commanding Officer – CG CEU Miami and Executive Assistant to the CG Assistant Commandant for Engineering and Logistics (CG-4) – CG Headquarters.

Captain Lentine earned a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from Oregon State University in 2006 and a Master of Business Administration from Tulane University in 2012.

Captain Lentine is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Florida. He is also a Project Management Professional, a Certified Energy Manager and a Level II, Department of Homeland Security Acquisition Program Manager and Contracting Officer’s Representative.

Captain Lentine’s personal awards include three Meritorious Service Medals, the CG Commendation Medal, two CG Achievement Medals and various other service and unit awards. Additionally, he received the 2013 Society of American Military Engineers CG Oren Medal for exemplary project execution, promotion of sustainable and resilient engineering solutions and advancement of the Civil Engineering profession.

Captain Lentine is married to Deykis “Kiki” Navarro-Lentine of Matanzas, Cuba.





Anchored in Amalfi: "The Seven Seas Gala"

Saturday, January 24, 2026

The Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort

6:00 p.m. Cocktail Reception

7:30 p.m. Dinner and Dancing

Black Tie or Dress Uniform for Military



R.S.V.P.

Name _____

Address _____ Suite/Apt. _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Number attending _____ \$175 per person _____ Table of Ten \$1700 _____ \$_____

I would like to contribute to underwriting the Gala \$_____

Total \$_____

____ Enclosed is my check payable to Navy League of the U. S. - Fort Lauderdale Council

____ Charge my credit card: _____ MasterCard _____ VISA _____ AmEx

Account # _____ Expiration Date _____ Zip _____ CCV _____

Reservations

Number attending _____ Meal option: Chicken _____ or Fish _____

Complimentary Valet or Self Parking (entrance on Granada Street)

Space is limited. Please R.S.V.P. by January 16, 2026

Contact Lynn Atkinson for information: 954-325-9102 or lynn@druckermail.com

Online payment at: <https://FtNavyLeague.org/Gala2026>





United States Naval Sea Cadets Corps

FORT LAUDERDALE DIVISION & TRAINING SHIP RADFORD

Sponsored by the Fort Lauderdale Council of the Navy League of the United States
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 21101, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33335-1101
Headquarters: 300 S.W. 25th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

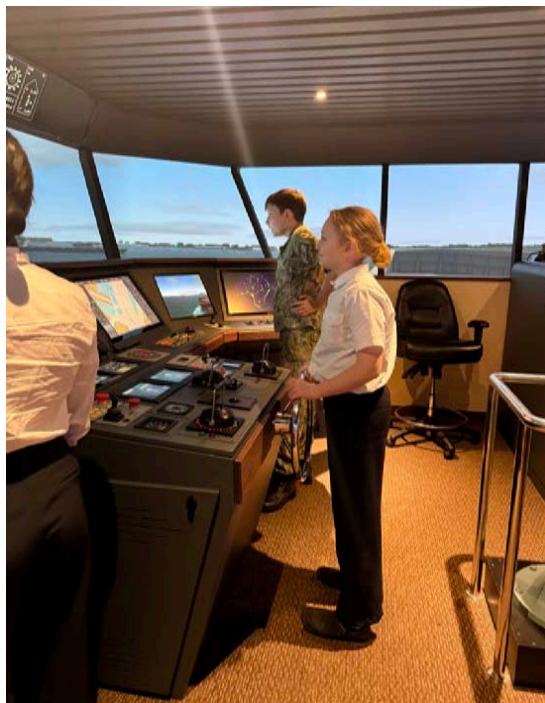


LTJG Rosa Ryan, USNSCC
Commanding Officer

A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

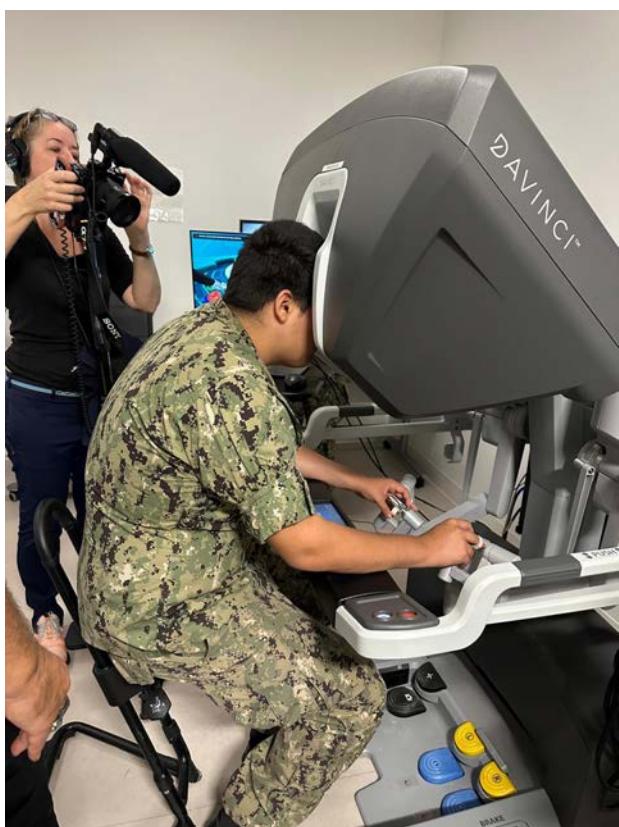
U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Fort Lauderdale Division

The Fort Lauderdale Division Sea Cadets have had an active November and December. We trained at the Maritime Professional Training Center on November 1st. Cadets climbed into a lifeboat, learned how to drive a ship simulator, and



A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE
U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Fort Lauderdale Division
continued

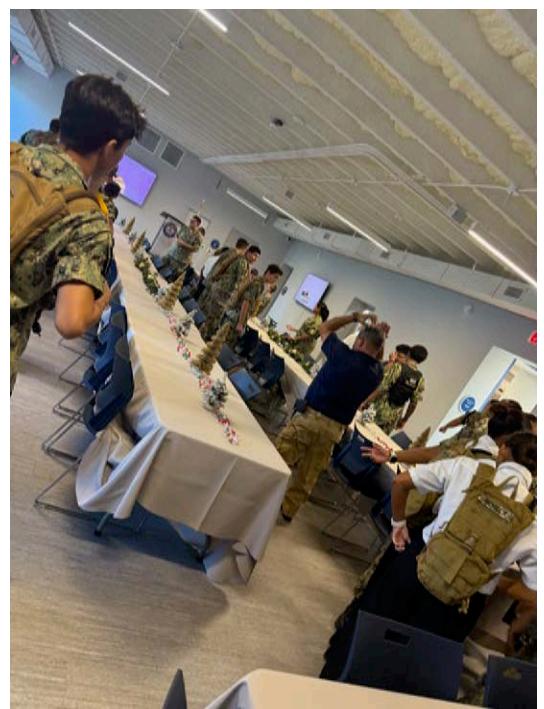
learned how to wear ocean survival suits. There was a second medical training session on November 1st at the Cleveland Clinic, where cadets learned about endoscopy, intubation, cardiac anatomy, and operating robots. On November 11th, Cadets participated in the Veterans' Day Ceremony for the City of Fort Lauderdale.



A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE
U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Fort Lauderdale Division
continued

On December 6th, we celebrated with our annual Holiday Party at Sea Cadet Headquarters, catered by Mission Barbecue. We celebrated the promotion of our exceptional Commanding Officer (CO) Ryan Rosa from Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) to Lieutenant (LT) & we welcomed the 2025 Holiday Season. It was a special day.

This week, Cadets and Staff will decorate the Archer, our 40-foot Bayliner boat, with a patriotic theme, including red, white, and blue lights and an American flag, in preparation for the Winterfest Boat Parade on December 13th. Cadets will have liberty for the Christmas and New Year's holidays!



SEA CADETS

GENERAL DINNER MEETING WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025

We had a great turnout for our November dinner meeting on November 19th, at the Lauderdale Yacht Club. Our sincere thanks to our guest speaker, Captain Willie Carmichael, Chief of Staff, Coast Guard District Southeast. Captain Carmichael is an alumnus of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, graduating in 1996 with a Bachelor of Science in Math-Computer Science later earning a Master's in Business Administration from American Military University.

The Captain's presentation was well received and quickly captured the attention of the audience. He humbly spoke of his distinguished career as an officer in the United States Coast Guard and graciously fielded many questions from fellow guests.

At the end of the evening, we celebrated the 250th birthday of the United States Marine Corps with a traditional cake cutting ceremony.



Captain Carmichael with Abi Montes



Captain Carmichael



*USMC Cake
Cutting Ceremony*



Questions for the Captain



More Questions for the Captain



Navy League of the United States Fort Lauderdale Council

Social Calendar 2025 - 2026

Tuesday, December 16, 2025, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club

**Guest Speaker: CAPT John-David Lentine, Chief of Resource Management,
USCG District Southeast**

Saturday, January 24, 2026, Seven Seas Gala, Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach

Guest Speaker: TBD

Wednesday, February 18, 2026, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: Vice Admiral William Burke, USN (Ret)

Wednesday, March 18, 2026, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: Ssgt Eliezer Olea, USMC, Marksmanship Training

Wednesday, April 15, 2026, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: Ken Denison, Former VP Broward Marine

Wednesday, May 20, 2026, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: TBD

Tuesday, September 22, 2026, Sea Cadet Night, Lauderdale Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: TBD

Wednesday, October 21, 2026, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: TBD

Wednesday, November 18, 2026, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: TBD

Tuesday, December 15, 2026, Holiday Celebration Dinner/Toys for Tots Drive

Guest Speaker: TBD

Dinner Meetings and Events Web Page:



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Hard Work Gets Results

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We proudly support the
Navy League, Fort Lauderdale Council
and the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps,
Fort Lauderdale Division.



JOEY STOTSKY
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Joey.Stotsky@cruiseplanners.com
oceanwalktravel.com



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ENGINE!**

We are extending our thanks to the Military community with a new discount program. All Active Duty Military Members and Veterans receive discounts on all purchases made online at www.FERREA.com with approved military verification.



Ferrea is a proud community affiliate with the Navy League.

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**FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL
2025 OFFICERS**

President – Abiud Montes
1st Vice President – Gary Pirtle
2nd Vice President – Barbara Kelleher
3rd Vice President – Aaron Bresnahan
Treasurer – Diana Molina
Secretary – Elaine Nasta

**FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Peter Apol
Lynn Atkinson
Jim Black
Pat Du Mont
Elaine Hogg
Alan Stotsky

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, January 7, 2026 3:30 PM EDT
Join Zoom Meeting:
Meeting ID: 899 9626 3102
Passcode: GoNavy

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

6-7 PM Cocktails • 7-9 PM Dinner Buffet

LAUDERDALE YACHT CLUB

1725 SE 12th Street

Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316

Guest Speaker

CAPT JOHN-DAVID A. LENTINE

Chief, Resource Management Coast Guard Southeast District

Guests \$55 per person

RSVP Required! Limited Seating!

No later than noon, Friday prior to the meeting.

Call 954-522-8995 or Online at www.ftlnavyleague.org/events

visit us on the web at www.ftlnavyleague.org

