NAVY LEAGUE NEWS

FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL

April 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Shipmates and friends,

As we move into April, I want to take a moment to reflect on what was truly an outstanding March dinner meeting. We had the privilege of hearing from Staff Sergeant Eliezer Olea, USMC, whose professionalism, experience, and passion for developing the next generation of marksmen left a lasting impression on all of us. On a personal note, it was especially meaningful for me to reconnect with someone I had the honor of serving alongside back in 2010. His dedication to duty and continued service to our nation and to mentoring young leaders through marksmanship training embody the very values we stand for as a Navy League.

Looking ahead, I encourage each of you to join us on April 15th as we welcome Ken Denison of Denison Yachting. Ken will share a fascinating perspective on the history of Fort Lauderdale and the pivotal role the United States Navy has played in shaping the marine industry here in South Florida. His family's legacy is deeply intertwined with the growth of this community, and his insights will connect our region's maritime heritage with the enduring influence of the sea services we proudly support.

This is a unique opportunity to deepen our understanding of how naval presence and maritime enterprise have shaped not only our local economy, but also our identity as a coastal community. I encourage you to bring a guest, stay engaged, and continue to be active ambassadors for the Navy League's mission.

Thank you for your continued commitment, your patriotism, and your support of the men and women of the sea services.

Very respectfully,

Abiud Montes
President, Fort Lauderdale Council
Navy League of the United States

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Navy League Membership

Are you a “member in good standing” with the Navy League of the United States?

To join and maintain membership in a Navy League council, an individual must be a member in good standing with the Navy League of the United States. (navyleague.org) Members must ensure that their national membership remains current at all times. Local councils must remain in compliance with national policies to be considered in "good standing" and eligible to receive crucial funding, grants, or support from the Navy League of the United States.

From page 2-10 of the Navy League of the United States Operations Manual revised January 2, 2024: A council may establish local dues or membership fees as it may deem to be appropriate but such dues or fees must be in addition to, not in lieu of, the national dues.

You can support the Fort Lauderdale Council by remaining a “member in good standing” with the Navy League of the United States. There are multiple membership opportunities beginning at $25 per year for an e-membership.

Enroll or renew today at navyleague.org.
Please remember to designate Fort Lauderdale as your preferred council.

Fort Lauderdale Council, Navy League of the United States

ftlnavyyleague.org

954-522-8995

GUEST SPEAKER AT OUR APRIL 15TH DINNER MEETING
KEN DENISON
Denison Yachting



Ken Denison was raised in the boat business, being the youngest son of Frank and Gertrude Denison, founders of Broward Marine. Ken graduated from the University of Miami in the late '70s and then worked in real estate in Michigan prior to joining the family business in 1983.

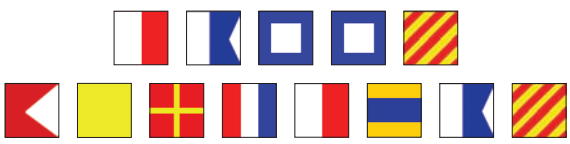
His role as vice president of new boat sales and construction ushered in a new era of marketing, not only for himself, but for the industry. Ken has also given insightful commentary, and is known as a leading voice, on the history and evolving market of American-made yachts. Considered a marine marketing innovator, he brought the concept of the "Yachting Rendezvous" into place for the first time. These events grew to an annual Broward Marine Summer Cruise in New York, Newport, and Nantucket, as well as the Ocean Reef events.

In addition to these yachting events, Ken was one of the first to uniquely and successfully "brand" a yacht builder by instituting an ongoing program of print advertising using double-page spreads with very little copy, and primarily just the headline "IT MUST BE A BROWARD" (which became an industry icon). It's a hefty resume that all began at what was once revered as "the industry's most prolific shipyard."

After he left Broward, he co-founded the single largest marine charity event, the Boys and Girls Club of Broward County Yacht Rendezvous, raising millions of dollars each year for the Broward County chapter of the club. The marketing success also brought with it great prominence for this U.S.-based company during Ken's time there, with over 80 new boat sales. In 1993, for the first time, Broward Marine had the number one order book in the world, beating the largest builders globally, the first US yard to ever attain this achievement.

He founded Broward Yacht Sales in the mid-'80s along with his partner Chris Daves, which then became Denison & Daves in the late 1990s. Ken's knowledge of yacht construction naturally led him to representing buyers in large yacht construction projects at Lurssen, Abeking & Rasmussen, Oceanco, Hakvoort, and Westport shipyards.

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL
APRIL BIRTHDAYS



Kelly Apol	4/8	Andrew Scheer	4/18
Lawrence Denmark	4/8	Martha Bohler	4/21
Rosa Ryan	4/8	Oscar Romano	4/25
Lina Montes	4/10		



NAVY LEAGUE of the UNITED STATES
FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL

Sign up to participate in the

ANCHORS AWEIGH FLY IN

Advocate for America's Sea Services on Capitol Hill

June 1 - June 2, 2026

The Navy League's annual "Anchors Aweigh Fly-In" is a premier advocacy event where members have the opportunity to meet directly with Members of Congress and their staff to champion the priorities of the sea services. Last year's Fly-In was a tremendous success, with 56 participants conducting 145 meetings on Capitol Hill, ensuring that lawmakers understand the critical policies, budgets, and legislative needs that support a strong and lethal naval force.

By participating in the 2026 Fly-In, you'll receive training on key legislative priorities, collaborate with regional teams, and engage in impactful discussions with policymakers. Your voice plays a crucial role in shaping decisions that affect the future of our maritime forces—join us to make a difference!

Learn more...

https://members.navyleague.org/event-information?id=a0lVX000005sr4TYAQ

United States Naval Sea Cadets Corps
FORT LAUDERDALE DIVISION & TRAINING SHIP RADFORD
Sponsored by the Fort Lauderdale Council of the Nay 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

LT Rosa Ryan, USNSCC
Commanding Officer

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

March was an active month for our Sea Cadets. On March 7th, we participated in the annual Waterways Cleanup at Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park in Dania Beach. Cadets and Staff picked up lots of trash from the beach and the Intracoastal Waterway. This was followed by a delicious Barbecue lunch served by our Sea Cadet Staff. It was an excellent opportunity for our Cadets to give back to our community.









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

On March 14th and 21st, we held “Liberty for All Hands” so the Cadets could enjoy Spring Break with their families. Our Cadets presented the colors at the Navy League Dinner on March 18th at the Lauderdale Yacht Club. Our guest speaker was Staff Sergeant Olea, USMC. We heard about his experience in the Marine Corps and his talent for competitive shooting. It was a fascinating presentation.

On March 28th, we had a special training course at Resolve Maritime Academy in Port Everglades. The instructors at Resolve taught the Cadets about Shipboard Firefighting, including how to put on firefighting gear, clear a smoke-filled room, handle a fire extinguisher, and extinguish different types of fires. They also learned about what a career as a firefighter is like. It was a fun and educational month for our division.











Support Sea Cadet Funding in 2026 Defense Appropriations!

1827 actions taken | 173 needed to reach next goal

The Issue

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps is a federally supported youth program that provides hands-on training to approximately 8,000 participants each year. The program develops skills in shipbuilding, cybersecurity, aviation, skilled trades, and maritime operations. Nearly half of graduating cadets enter military service.

Congress authorized $4.3 million in supplemental funding for the Sea Cadets in the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), but these funds were not appropriated due to the passage of a full-year continuing resolution. In December 2025, Congress again authorized $4.3 million for the program in the conferenced version of the FY 2026 NDAA. However, members of the House and Senate must still approve this funding in the conference report for the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, which has not yet been released.

The House-passed defense appropriations bill fully funds the Sea Cadets under the Recruiting and Advertising section of the Navy's Operations and Maintenance Budget. The Senate's draft does not include this provision. Until negotiators agree to include Sea Cadet funding in the final appropriations bill, the program's funding remains uncertain.

The Solution

If enacted with the relevant provision, the FY 2026 Defense Appropriations Bill would make available the $4.3 million authorized in the FY 2026 NDAA for the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. The appropriations process determines whether authorized funds can be spent. As of December 2025, a conference report for the appropriations bill has not yet been released. Ensuring that the conferenced bill includes Sea Cadet funding will secure the program's financing for next year, provided the House and Senate pass the negotiated bill.

Why You Should Take Action

If appropriated funding is not provided in FY 2026, the Sea Cadet program may face reduced training opportunities and higher costs for participants. The program relies on federal funding to maintain robust training and keep participation affordable for families. Its mission is to support national security workforce development and provide career pathways in defense and maritime industries. The Sea Cadets have historically received funding in appropriations legislation, and continued support is essential to sustain this critical program.

Act Now!

Sign up with Facebook

or

To register to participate in the Navy League Quorum Action Center and our Voice to Congress campaigns, please enter your information below.
Fields with an asterisk (*) are required.

First Name *
First Name

Last Name *
Last Name

Address *
Street Address, City, and State

Email *
Email

Council

By registering with the Quorum Action Center, you agree to receive the Legislative Affairs Weekly Roundup email. You may unsubscribe from the Weekly Roundup at any time by following the links provided in each email.

Sign Up



https://navyleague.quorum.us/campaign/seacadets/

MARCH DINNER MEETING
MARCH 18, 2026

On March 18th, our guest speaker was Staff Sergeant Eliezer Olea. As a Marine Corps Reservist, SSgt Olea currently serves as a Marksmanship Instructor with the Weapons Training Battalion at Marine Corps Base Quantico. He is a local resident employed full-time with the Pembroke Pines Police Department.

Staff Sergeant Olea delivered an engaging presentation about his comprehensive training and experiences in the Marine Corps Reserves and shared insights from his 2009-2010 deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. SSgt Olea spoke candidly about his personal motivation for joining the Marine Corps Reserves immediately after graduating from high school, and provided excellent advice to the sea cadets, encouraging them to pursue their goals. He welcomed several questions from the audience. Many later commented on how much they appreciated and enjoyed his presentation.

Sincere thanks to our council members who regularly attend our monthly meetings and to the sea cadets and adult staff members for their active involvement.







Navy League of the United States
Fort Lauderdale Council

Social Calendar 2026 - 2027

Wednesday, April 15, 2026, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club
Guest Speaker: Ken Denison, Denison Yachting

Wednesday, May 20, 2026, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club
Guest Speaker: Matias A. Sueldo

Sunday, May 31, 2026, Sea Cadet Awards Banquet, Pembroke Pines

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

Saturday, October 10, 2026, Pursuit of Honor, Courage, & Commitment 5K, Hollywood Beach, Honor5K.org

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

Saturday, January 23, 2027, Seven Seas Gala, Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort
Guest Speaker: TBD

Wednesday, February 17, 2027, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club
Guest Speaker: TBD

Wednesday, March 17, 2027, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club
Guest Speaker: TBD

Wednesday, April 21, 2027, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club
Guest Speaker: TBD

Wednesday, May 19, 2027, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club
Guest Speaker: TBD

Dinner Meetings and Events Web Page:

COMMUNITY AFFILIATES







EDITORIAL STAFF

Lynn Atkinson, Editor
Jim Black
Elaine Hogg
Elaine Nasta
Oscar Romano

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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, May 6, 2026 3:30 PM EDT
Join Zoom Meeting:
Meeting ID: 899 9626 3102
Passcode: GoNavy

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, April 15th, 2026
6-7 PM Cocktails • 7-9 PM Dinner Buffet
LAUDERDALE YACHT CLUB
1725 SE 12th Street
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316

Guest Speaker

KEN DENISON
Denison Yachting

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