NAVY LEAGUE NEWS

FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL

September 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Council Members,

I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe summer. As we begin another busy season with the Fort Lauderdale Council of the Navy League of the United States, I am excited to welcome everyone back and look forward to the many opportunities ahead to support our Sea Services, our Sea Cadets, and our community.

I am pleased to share that our Council received several outstanding awards at the **Navy League National Convention this past June:**

- **Council Performance Award – Meritorious**
- **Donald P. Mackie Award – Newsletter, Platinum**
- **Sea Service Unit Adoption Excellence Award – Medium Councils**

These awards are a tremendous reflection of the hard work and dedication of our Board of Directors, members, volunteers, and supporters. I am very proud of what our Council continues to accomplish, and I sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to our success.

I also hope to see everyone at our upcoming **Sea Cadet Night on Tuesday, September 22nd**. This is always one of my favorite events of the year, as we have the opportunity to hear directly from our Sea Cadets about their summer training experiences and the lessons they gained in leadership, teamwork, discipline, and service.

Reservations are required, and I strongly encourage everyone to reserve early. Please consider bringing a guest and introducing someone new to the Navy League and the important work we do.

Our mission continues throughout the year as we support the men and women of our **United States Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine**, while also investing in the next generation through the Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

As we begin this new season, I encourage each of you to stay involved, attend our events, support our programs, and help us continue growing the Fort Lauderdale Council. Our strength comes from our members and from our shared commitment to those who serve our nation.

Thank you for your continued friendship, dedication, and support. I look forward to seeing everyone at **Sea Cadet Night on September 22nd** and throughout the fall.

Warm regards,

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

"Non Sibi Sed Patriae"
(Not for self, but for Country)

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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. Navy League National offers several membership options including a free one-year basic membership.

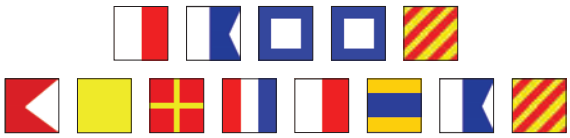
Enroll or renew today at navyleague.org.
Please remember to designate Fort Lauderdale as your preferred council.

Fort Lauderdale Council, Navy League of the United States

ftlnavyyleague.org

954-522-8995

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL
JUNE, JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



June

Brian Mayhew	6/13
Javier Ferrea	6/14
Ben Sorensen	6/24
Elaine Nasta	6/29

July

Barbara Kelleher	7/2
John Verburg	7/7
Naia Montes	7/11
Cherie-Lynn Chosid	7/15
David Drucker	7/18
Joseph Martinet	7/19
Elaine Hogg	7/20
Alan Starr	7/21
Joey Stotsky	7/21

August

Norman Keller	8/6
Leslie Fields	8/7
Aaron Bresnahan	8/9
Joelle Egger	8/11
Loni James	8/12
Frank Bell	8/15
Marilyn Johansen	8/16
Louise Oetting	8/27
Shawn Koch	8/28

September

KayeLynne Northcutt	9/1
Vicki Pirtle	9/2
Fran Shaw	9/7
Dirk Basting	9/9
Robert Hague	9/9
Anita Kotler	9/9
Heather Moraitis	9/14
George Lundy	9/16
Kirk Englehardt	9/22
Frank Sosa	9/22

GUEST SPEAKER AT OUR OCTOBER 21ST DINNER MEETING
LEONARD POUNDS, PH.D, SENIOR VP OF DATA STRATEGY AND OPERATION EXCELLENCE, NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY



Leonard Pounds, Ph.D., former vice president for clinical operations, has been named senior vice president of data strategy and operational excellence at Nova Southeastern University (NSU).

Pounds, who's been with NSU since 2007, will report to Rick James, executive vice president for strategy and operational excellence.

"It was a priority for NSU to identify an exceptional leader to strengthen our operational effectiveness and guide our information technology team into the next phase of excellence," James said, "Leonard brings a proven record across technology, healthcare, data strategy, and artificial intelligence, and I am confident he will help advance the university's technology strategy."

Pounds will oversee the Office of Information and Innovation Technology. His work will focus on enabling data-informed decision-making, strengthening operational performance, supporting responsible artificial intelligence adoption, and improving outcomes across education, research, healthcare, and administrative functions.

"It's a great privilege for me to continue serving NSU in this role alongside our talented team to strengthen operational effectiveness and drive innovation," Pounds said. "I look forward to advancing our strategic priorities across operational excellence, innovation, and technology to support NSU's mission."

A U.S. Navy veteran, Pounds was an information systems technician and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He received numerous awards of distinction, including two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medals, a Navy Unit Commendation medal, a Navy Good Conduct medal, a National Defense Service medal, a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary medal, a Global War on Terrorism Service medal, two Sea service ribbons, and the designation of Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist.

Pounds holds a Ph.D. in Information Systems from NSU's College of Computing, AI, and Cybersecurity, along with graduate and undergraduate degrees in information systems and information technology.

Please join us for

SEA CADET NIGHT

Sponsored by the Navy League of the United States Broward County and Fort Lauderdale Councils

Fort Lauderdale Division Sea Cadets share some of their exciting summer training experiences.





TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 22, 2026
6:00 PM

$55 per person

LAUDERDALE YACHT CLUB
FORT LAUDERDALE

SEA CADETS

Reservations Required

Please RSVP by Friday, September 18, 2026

FtLNavyLeague.org/Events

RSVP

USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109) Departs from Naval Station Mayport for Scheduled Deployment

31 August 2026



260828-N-VW723-2477 NAVAL STATION MAYPORT, Fla. (Aug. 28, 2026) - Sailors aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109) salute the national ensign during morning colors before departing Naval Station Mayport to begin operations in support of its scheduled deployment, Aug. 28, 2026. Jason Dunham is a multi-mission surface combatant capable of conducting anti-air, anti-submarine, and anti-surface warfare operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Keenan Daniels)

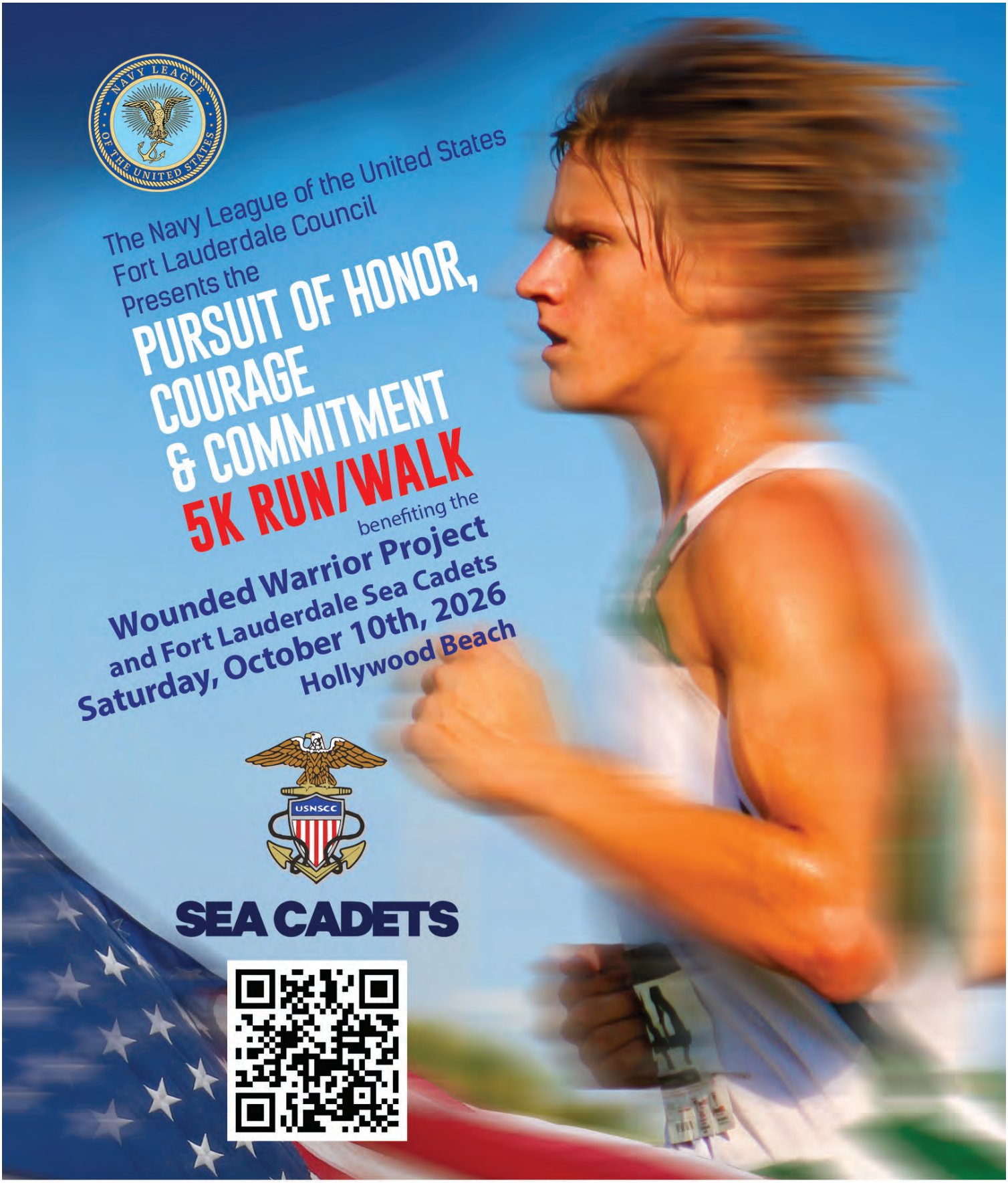
The ship's departure comes after months of training, maintenance, and certification events.

"The crew has worked tirelessly over the past several months to ensure our warship is fully prepared for the task before them," said Cmdr. Andrew Marsh, commanding officer, USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109). "Sustaining confidence in our own resilience while remaining humble enough to always be improving remains our best path to combat readiness."

Jason Dunham is a multi-mission surface combatant capable of conducting anti-air, anti-submarine, and anti-surface warfare operations. Commissioned in 2010, the ship is named after Medal of Honor recipient U.S. Marine Cpl. Jason Lee Dunham.

Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic is responsible for manning, training, and equipping assigned surface forces and shore activities, ensuring a capable and combat-ready force to support U.S. national interests. The SURFLANT force consists of more than 70 warships and 34 shore commands.

For more information about SURFLANT, visit Facebook.com/SURFLANT.


The Navy League of the United States
Fort Lauderdale Council
Presents the
PURSUIT OF HONOR,
COURAGE
& COMMITMENT
5K RUN/WALK
benefiting the
Wounded Warrior Project
and Fort Lauderdale Sea Cadets
Saturday, October 10th, 2026
Hollywood Beach
USNSCC
SEA CADETS
Register at:
honor5K.org
Managed by:
Precision Running Events
PRECISION RUNNING EVENTS
Proud Supporter of
WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT®

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

The Fort Lauderdale Division of the Sea Cadets is back in session! Our first drill was a welcome-back barbecue on August 15th at Snyder Park. We had a great turnout, with over 60 Cadets in attendance. Cadets and staff got reacquainted after the summer break and enjoyed a delicious barbecue lunch.













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

We had our first drill at Sea Cadet Headquarters on August 22nd, where Cadets participated in an active physical training session and engaged in team-building exercises. Our Cadets presented the field flags at the Navy-FAU Football game on September 12th.





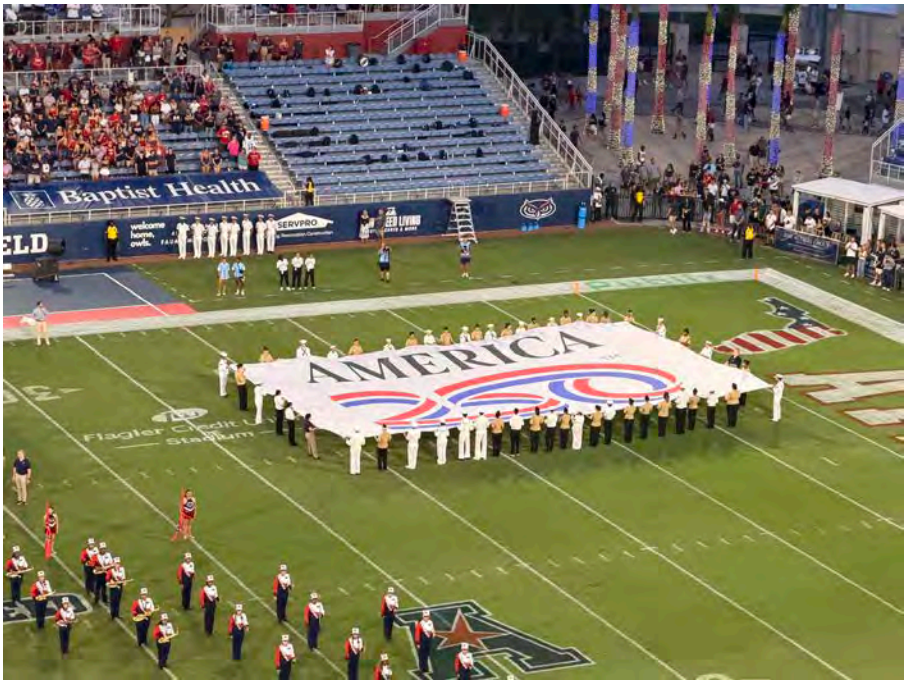






A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE
U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Fort Lauderdale Division
continued

Over this past summer, many of our Cadets traveled to exciting training opportunities throughout the United States. Several Cadets will present their summer training adventures at our Sea Cadet Night on Tuesday, September 22nd, at the Lauderdale Yacht Club. You do not want to miss this fantastic event!







FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS ATTEND MILITARY CEREMONIES

Fort Lauderdale Council Board Members were honored to attend several military ceremonies this summer, recognizing leadership transitions and celebrating continued service across the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Coast Guard. These formal ceremonies reflect the military tradition of transferring responsibility and authority while affirming continuity of leadership within each command.





On May 29, Commander Aaron Jefferson, USN, turned over command of the USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109) to Commander Andrew Marsh, USN, during a Change of Command Ceremony at Naval Station Mayport. Sincere thanks to Aaron Bresnahan for representing our Council at the ceremony. Commissioned in Port Everglades on November 13, 2010, the USS Jason Dunham was later formally adopted by our Council. Aaron has played a pivotal role in maintaining communication with the ship's command over the past several years.



Major Gregory Mateo, USMC, commanding officer of U.S. Marine Corps Recruiting Station Fort Lauderdale, relinquished command to Major Guillermo Bocanegra, USMC, during a ceremony at the Sheraton Suites hotel in Plantation. The event provided an opportunity to recognize Major Mateo's dedicated service and thank him for his continued support of the Navy League. Best wishes to the Major and his family who are excited to be returning to his home State of California. We welcome Major Bocanegra and congratulate him in his new leadership role.

Board Members also attended the change of command for the U.S. Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team Fort Lauderdale, where Chief Boatswain's Mate Dru Sistrunk relieved Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate Cassie McGuigan. The ceremony took place at the Celebrity Cruise Terminal in Port Everglades, highlighting the important work of the team in supporting safe navigation in our waterways. We extend our best wishes to Chief McGuigan in her next assignment.





FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS ATTEND MILITARY CEREMONIES
continued

On July 2, the Council was represented at the U.S. Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale Change of Command, where LT Justin Dadlani, USCG, relinquished command of the Station to LT John Jarrett, USCG. The ceremony was held at Terminal 25 in Port Everglades and marked another important leadership transition within the local Coast Guard community. We thank LT Dadlani for his support of our sea cadets and wish him every success in his next assignment. We look forward to continuing our long-standing relationship with Station Fort Lauderdale.

The Council also extends heartfelt congratulations to U.S. Coast Guard District Southeast former Chief of Staff Willie Carmichael, who was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral on July 22. His promotion is a proud milestone and a testament to his distinguished service and leadership.







Navy League of the United States
Fort Lauderdale Council

Social Calendar 2026 - 2027

Saturday, September 12, 2026, Navy Football at FAU, 7:30 PM

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: Dr. Leonard Pounds, Ph.D., NSU Florida

Wednesday, November 18, 2026, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club
Guest Speaker: Major Maryanna Sheck, USMC

Tuesday, December 15, 2026, Holiday Celebration Dinner/Toys for Tots Drive
Guest Speaker: Lashae Bacon, Former Warrant Officer, Army Helicopter Pilot

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: Hugh Healey, CEO South Florida Container Terminal

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: Rear Admiral Adam Chamie, USCG

Dinner Meetings and Events Web Page:

COMMUNITY AFFILIATES







EDITORIAL STAFF

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

FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL 2026 OFFICERS

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

FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lynn Atkinson
Jim Black
Pat Du Mont
Elaine Hogg
Alan Stotsky

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Sea Cadet Night

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

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