



Berkshire Council Newsletter



February 2007

Berkshire Council Navy League of the United States P.O. Box 4494, Pittsfield, MA 01202

Berkshire Council Website: <http://berkshire-nlus.tripod.com/>

Berkshire Council Email: berkshirenavyleague@hotmail.com

2007 Officers

President -
Howard Lorenz
494-3210

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(Retention) -
Samuel
Sommerville
442-1595

Vice President
(Membership) -
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Phil Knowles
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Darold Greene
499-7895

Newsletter
Content --
Darold Greene
Editor --
Jan Knight

Message from the Berkshire Council President, Howard Lorenz

I am pleased by the members support for me to stay for another term. I pledge to continue to improve our council in all regards. Foremost on our minds is membership retention and bringing new members into our ranks. Our council continues to do well in this area, maintaining membership and bringing in new members resulting in steady membership within our region. We are still a small council by most standards however we support the sea services and our communities with as much enthusiasm as a 1000 member council. I still have it as a goal to bring the membership level above 100 and need your support to do this. The officers have met and agreed to the goals for 2007. As always we will try to bring speakers to our area. We are planning a series of luncheons, drawing on speakers both locally and from other commands. We expect to start these this winter and hope to see many of the members. If there are topics you would like to hear or specific speakers please contact one of the officers and we will do all that we can to arrange it. We will once again try to coordinate a tour of the USS Springfield and will be looking at other possible trips to ships in our area. We are in constant communication with other councils in the region and will share opportunities from these councils with you as they arise. If anyone is interested in supporting one of these areas please contact me. We are always looking for volunteers.

I want to thank Tom Kenausis for his many years of excellent service as your Secretary and wish him well in his upcoming retirement. We will miss him. I also want to welcome Darold Greene back as a Council Officer. As always we welcome your ideas and feedback.

Howie

HAPPENINGS

We are working on scheduling some speakers prior to April.

We will keep you advised.

We are kicking it up a notch

Thanks to Bruce Stump, we have a new Council Website, <http://Berkshire-NLUS.tripod.com>. He had put together a website for his local Sea Cadet Battalion and offered his services to put one together for our Council. It still needs a couple of additions, but it is up and working. And the price is right. The Council also has its own Email address: BerkshireNavyLeague@hotmail.com. This allows you to give out an email to folks that inquire about Navy League or Council information and Darold Greene, as the Council's Contact, will be responsible for the response.

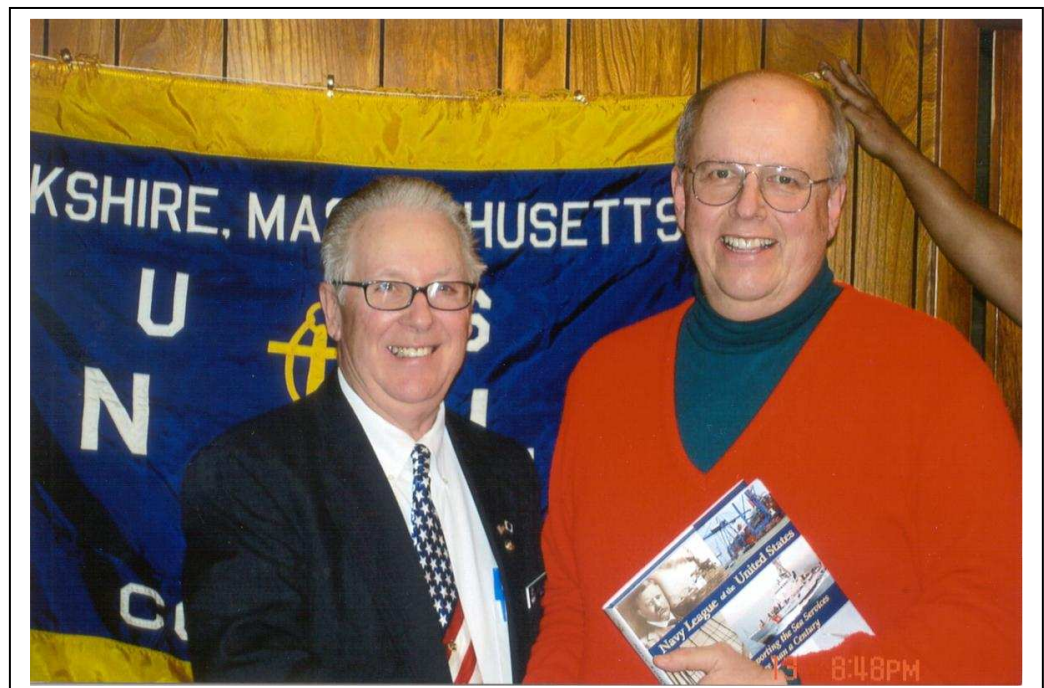
DECEMBER 2006 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Berkshire Council met on December 13, 2006 at the Pittsfield American Legion. Besides a few delicious items provided by the Knight's, et al, to start off the Holiday season, we elected new officers for 2007. The only change was Tom Kenausis wanted to plan retirement from GD and talked Darold Greene into being Secretary so he could keep his mind on retiring and moving to South Carolina. We also told Howard that he had to stay on as President until he got the council membership over 100 members. The Southern New England Area President and National Director for the Navy League of the United States, George Wardwell, joined us and presented Thomas with a copy the new Navy League of the United States History Book.



The newly elected Berkshire Council Officers for 2007 following their election on 13 December 2006, at the Pittsfield American Legion Post, left to right, Treasurer Phil Knowles, Secretary/Contact Darold Greene, Vice President for Membership Carly Arambula, President Howard Lorenz, and , Vice President for Retention Sam Sommerville

George Wardwell, Area President South New England/National Director, NLUS, left, presents Tom Kenausis the History of the Navy League, as a token of appreciation for his many years as Berkshire Council Secretary/Contact and Navy League supporter.



We Need Sea Stories

We have many retired Navy veterans, as well as veterans from the other Services, in our Council. We want to continue the series of articles of their adventures that was started last year. If you would like to contribute an article, the Council would be happy to publish it in the next newsletter. We got this idea from Captain Clark's story in one of last year's newsletter.

Come on veterans! We know there are good stories out there, and most veterans like to tell stories. There are also members that have friends or relations that are veterans that have passed on their stories. Please share them with your fellow members of the Council. Don't be afraid. Jan and I will help you write it.

Watch Where You Dump Your Trash!

Way back in the mid 60's while I was the assistant weapons officer on a fleet ballistic submarine, poking holes in the Mediterranean Sea, we always had a celebration halfway through each patrol which included skits, songs, comedians and hot dog eating contests. This one patrol, this young country boy sang a song about "Alice's Restaurant." This was the first time most of the crew, including me, had heard the song and he was asked to do an encore at the end of the evening. As you know all live versions are never the same in content or length by any live performer, including Arlo. This was my first introduction to Stockbridge and Western Massachusetts, and 15 years later we moved here and have yet to find a reason to leave.

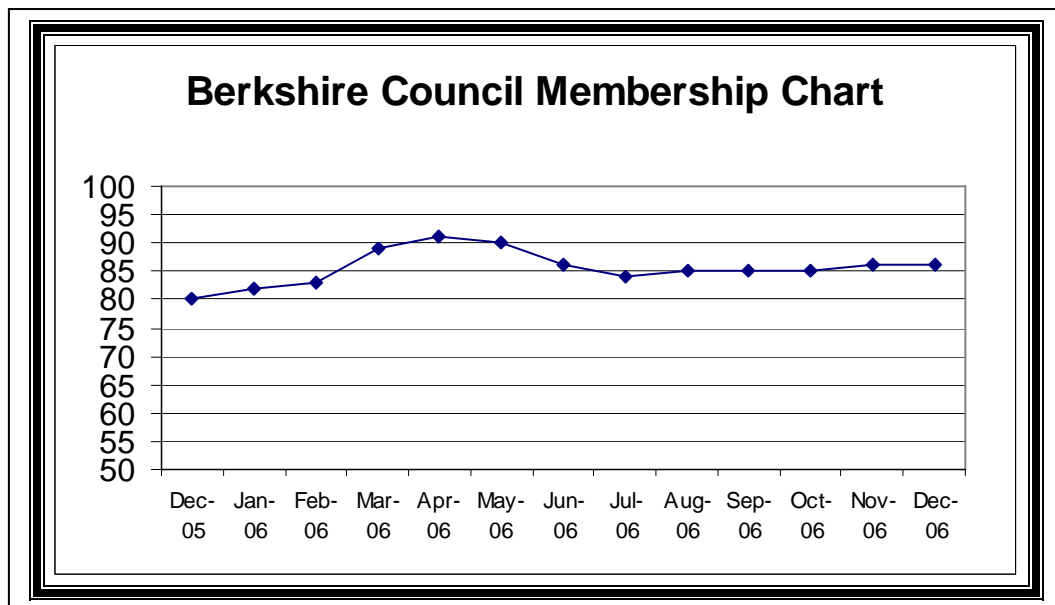
Submitted by Darold Greene.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Report for February 2007

The Berkshire Council now has 87 members: 86 regular members and one honorary member. In January, 2006 there were 79 members, and in December there were 80. As I reported during our annual meeting in December, last year we added about the same number of new members as we lost. Retention of the present Council members is very important to us. Please help us support the Sea Services by renewing your membership when it comes due. Our goal for this year is to have 100 members. If you know of anyone who is interested in supporting the Sea Services, tell them about the Navy League or have them contact one of our officers.

Below is a chart of our membership, which now shows a very positive trend. With your help we can reach and exceed our goal of 100 members.



Welcome Aboard

The Berkshire Council of the Navy League of the United States is proud to welcome the following new member:

James A. Bolin/Kansas City, MO – July, and Allan T. Brown/Pittsfield – May

“Welcome Aboard” to the new members from all of your fellow supporters of the Sea Services.

In Memoriam

We lost two of the original founders of the Berkshire Council Navy League in the past year. Gene Peterson passed away in July and Al Whiton passed away this January.
REST YOUR OARS.

SOLDIER'S/VETERAN'S HOME

In the past few months, under the direction of Tom Kenausis, Council members and friends contributed \$365.00 for the purchase of personal care items for the veterans at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke. On January 25th, Jan and Al Knight delivered the items to the Home.

The Acting Superintendent, Michael J. Pasterczyk, expressed great appreciation for the efforts of the Berkshire Council. Although the cost to the veterans who live at the Home is relatively small compared to private nursing homes; they, or their families, are expected to provide all of their clothing and toiletries. Unfortunately, many do not have anyone to take care of their needs. This time we bought: Shampoo, body lotion, skin therapy lotion, toothbrushes, emery boards, nail clippers, hairbrushes, combs, hair spray, Polident, Efferdent, non-alcoholic mouthwash, deodorant, toothpaste, wallets, sunglasses, knee socks, electric shavers, fanny packs, change purses, cologne, and tennis balls for the legs of walkers. In addition to the items that were purchased, some members contributed shampoo, and other items, collected from hotels/motels. Everything is welcome.

We plan to continue collecting money and toiletries throughout the year, so that we can make a donation at least twice. Please keep this in mind and let any of the officers (or Jan and Al) know if you have something to donate.

Special thanks should be extended to Tom Kenausis, Darold Greene, Rick Koch, and Phil Knowles for their work on the project, and to everyone who contributed money. In this meaningful way, the Berkshire Council is helping the Soldiers' Home live up to its motto of, "Care with Honor and Dignity."

For several years, The Berkshire Council has donated \$100.00 to the entertainment fund for the veterans, and we are happy to report that we were able to do it again this year in memory of Albert Whiton, Jr., a long-time member of the Berkshire Council, who died last month.

Letter from Michael Pasterczyk", to the Members of Berkshire Council:

I would like to extend my personal appreciation for your donation to the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke in memory of Albert Whiton.

The donation has been placed in the Soldiers' Home Trustees Fund, ear marked for the entertainment fund for the benefit of the Veterans in our care, and is most greatly appreciated. Also, the personal items you so kindly donated will be put to good use by the Veterans in our care and are appreciated.

Once again, thank you on behalf of our Veterans for your generosity and kindness.

Operation Troop Support 2006

Troop Support Drive A Success

Thursday, January 18

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:

On behalf of the Military Family Support Group of the Berkshire Red Cross, I would like to thank the many residents of Berkshire County who participated in our "Operation Troop Support 2006" drive. Because of the overwhelming generosity of our local residents, this year's drive set a record. We sent over two tons of needed items to our Berkshire County troops serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, and Kosovo.

Among the many people to thank are the volunteers who toted the many boxes to the post office for mailing: the members of the Navy League of Berkshire County, volunteers from General Dynamics, and the Vietnam Veterans. The boxes arrived at their destinations in time for the December holidays and were greatly appreciated by the troops, along with the cards and letters written by local students.

This year's endeavor was supported by individual residents along with various community groups including veterans groups, school and youth groups, senior centers and housing projects, religious groups, businesses, banks and local media. I profoundly thank you from our troops and suggest that we hold our troops close in thought until they all come home, while supporting the military families in our neighborhoods.

KATE HUBLEY

Pittsfield, Jan. 11, 2007

The writer is coordinator, Armed Forces Emergency Services for the Red Cross.

Of Note: Kate Hubley sent every volunteer an individual thank you letter.

Show support for military men and women who are in harm's way

Show support for military men and women who are in harm's way. Check out www.AnySailor.com (or AnyMarine or AnyCoastGuardsmen or AnySoldier or AnyAirman) to connect with a unit representative on site in Iraq who suggests items needed and then will distribute what you send. A 'CARE' package can be assembled and sent in a Post Office box totaling under \$10.



WOMENS VETERANS' NETWORK

Linking Women Veterans of Massachusetts

The Women's Veterans' Network of the Department of Veteran's services, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, was established in 1997 with the vision of being the central resource for women veterans in Massachusetts.

Mission Statement:

- Provide women veterans with information on federal, state, and local benefits.
- Expand awareness of the needs of women veterans and identify available health and human resources to meet those needs.
- Advocate on behalf of women veterans in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Members of the Women Veterans' Network Committee include women from all eras, U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs representatives, local Veterans Service Officers, and representatives of veterans' service organizations. The committee meets monthly to share information and work on specific projects.

The Women Veterans' Network has speakers Bureau consisting of women veterans interested in speaking about their experiences in the military. The network receives requests from cities and towns, schools, organizations, and private groups looking for speakers at different events.

Today there are over 26,000 women veterans in Massachusetts. Please feel free to view on web site for more information. www.mass.gov/veterans or E-mail: DVSWomen@vet.state.ma.us.

March meeting will include discussion of "Do you know a Women Veteran Campaign"?

Reaching out to other Women Veterans in our communities and towns.

"Women Veterans in support of each other"

Carlene Arambula – Veteran US Navy
Vice-President of Berkshire County Navy League
Steering Committee Women's' Veterans Network



181st Seabee Battalion



United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps

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Pittsfield, Ma 01201

Phone: (413) 822-6999
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We are continuing to forge ahead with the unit with very slow progress. We have enrolled an additional Cadet, Justin Medina of Pittsfield, which brought us to seven Cadets in the program. Shortly thereafter, we lost a Cadet who could not balance the Cadets and the wrestling team.

So far we have had two advancements among the Cadets: Seaman Recruit Jason Supple has been advanced to Seaman Apprentice, and his brother, Seaman Recruit Pimpesan Supple has been advanced to Seaman Apprentice (Temporary) pending completion of Recruit training. This is in recognition of his completing the Basic Military Requirements early. E-2 is the only grade to which a Cadet may be temporarily advanced. Cadet Jason Supple is in the process of enlisting in the Marine Corps' early enlistment program. If he decides to enlist, he will be the first of our cadets to enter the military. If he completes our program he will be enlisted at the rank of Private First Class.

In the past couple of months, we have participated with our host unit Det. 1 Co. A, of the 26th Brigade Special Troops Support Battalion. This included a road convoy and reconnaissance of the Hoosac Tunnel, as well as, some topographical map drills. We had an overnight drill at the armory on Vin Hebert Blvd., during which the Cadets worked on PT requirements for their annual Readiness Test as well as some of the Seabee Combat Handbook. Photos of the unit at different trainings are available at: <http://www.181seabees.com/id28.html>

Planned upcoming training includes a day at the damage control trainer at Naval Station Newport, RI, as well as a possible tour of the USS John F. Kennedy which is on its final cruise prior to decommissioning. She will be in Boston as one of her port calls in the next two months.

We are getting ready for our annual inspection, date to be announced. During the inspection we will be judged on administration, Cadet advancements, color ceremonies, general military bearing and successful staffing. Sadly, we will not pass the inspection, as we are below minimum staffing of 25 Cadets. Recruiting is still a problem. As stated before, we have been shut out of the schools, and the newspapers will not do a story on the program. They would be glad to sell us space if we want to pay the \$400.00 for a ¼ page. Any suggestions for recruiting will be useful.

We are in need of an alternate drill location for the unit. As long as we meet when the National Guard is at the armory, we are not charged. The Guard has been outstanding in their support of the program, however, for us to get the armory opened when they are not there costs us \$15.00 per hour. With our financial situation that is not an option. If anyone has a suggestion on an alternate site, please let me know.

I hope to have a color guard together in time for the Memorial Day Parade. We are sending our unit's National Colors to be flown aboard the USS Constitution in Boston. I thought that it would be a great source of pride for the Cadets. We will be looking for two flagstaves and some parade flag holders. If anyone knows of any available, please contact me.

All in all we have had a good year. Although our unit is small, they pull together and are very enthusiastic. Hopefully we will continue to grow. I think if we can get into the public eye, we may.

If any member has questions, please feel free to call me at 822-6999 or contact me by email, 181seabees@nycap.rr.com

**LTJG Bruce Stump
Commanding Officer**