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## The Seattle Scuttlebutt December 2021

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### Seattle Council news

#### **Annual Meeting**

**7pm February 10, 2022**

Mark your calendar! The **Annual Meeting** of the council membership, including council updates and elections for new officers, will take place at 7pm on February 10. The meeting will be held virtually, and will feature a guest speaker and a question-and-answer period. Details are still being worked out - more information and invitations to follow in January!



#### **Nominations for council officers**

Elections will be held as part of the Annual Meeting on February 10. The nomination committee has proposed and the board of directors has endorsed this slate for our 2022 council officers:

*President: Steve Keith*



President Elect: *Sanu Chacko*  
Vice President, Military Affairs: *Joe Kuzmick*  
Vice President, Legislative Affairs: *Rich Berkowitz*  
Vice President, Communications: *Whitney Moore*  
Vice President, Resource Development / Outreach: *Mark Haller*  
Vice President, Finance and Budget: *Jeff Davis*  
Judge Advocate: *Hunter Abell*  
Treasurer: *Sky Deming*  
Secretary (acting): *Jeff Davis*

## Council plans for 2022

Our Board of Directors has settled on several priorities as we carry out our mission in 2022, including:

- Continued strong support for Seafair Fleet Week;
- An outreach program to Seattle community organizations, showcasing the Sea Services to raise awareness of the vital role our region plays in maritime affairs and to develop community partnerships in support of our mission;
- Expanded engagement with our adopted units to better serve them and their members.



These programs will include a number of events and opportunities for engagement. Schedules and calls for volunteers will be announced as details are developed.

Two events are on the calendar already:

- The *Annual Meeting* of the council membership on February 10, 2022 (see above).
- *Seafair Fleet Week*, including a number of events hosted by Navy League Seattle, is expected to take place in late July or early August. The Seafair Weekend Festival and the Blue Angels are already scheduled for August 5-7, 2022. We should have more details on the services' plans to visit Seattle in late January.

## 2021 Seattle Council events on our YouTube channel





[Click here to see the videos of Seattle Council events](#)

## [Information and Advocacy](#)

### [The Port of Seattle in 2021](#)

The Port of Seattle is a vital element of the nation's maritime infrastructure, which has been under tremendous strain during the past two years. Navy League Seattle was honored to host council member and Port of Seattle Executive Director Steve Metruck at our maritime-focused May event this year.



According to its year-end report, the Port of Seattle "is strong and on solid footing. Looking back, we can confidently say that this year we made progress in restoring our operations and leading the region to recovery. Throughout the year we continued to face challenges related to the pandemic, but we were resilient. We adjusted, adapted, innovated, and moved forward."

You can see the report and view end-of-year videos, and keep informed on Port initiatives and progress, at the link below.

[Port of Seattle: State of the Port 2021](#)



An EA-18G Growler takes off from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island during an exercise in March 2016.  
(Ken Lambert / The Seattle Times)

### [Navy releases Whidbey Island jet noise monitoring study](#)

At Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI), the subject of noise from EA-18G jets, called Growlers, has been a hot-button issue as the Navy has sought to expand the Growler fleet. Navy League councils in the region support basing the EA-18G at NASWI as an important component of Navy readiness.

The issue wound up in court after the Navy published an environmental-impact statement, or EIS, in 2019 claiming its jet operations, even with an increase from 82 to 118 Growlers, pose no significant harm to Whidbey Island and surrounding areas. Now the Navy has released a noise monitoring report that was requested by Congress.

*Read the full article that this note is excerpted from at the link to the left.*

[Read the Dec. 21 Seattle Times story here](#)

## Navy training in Washington state parks



You may recall that earlier this year, as advocated by Navy League members, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (WSPRC) voted to allow Naval Special Operations (the SEALs) training to continue in Washington State Parks.

Since then, Not In Our Parks (NIOP) and its parent environmental activist organization Whidbey Environmental Action Network (WEAN) continue their campaign against the training. For example, NIOP claims that Navy SEALs will conduct "surveillance" of the public in the parks, but WSPRC stated explicitly in their January 2021 decision that any surveillance of the public is prohibited; and, the Navy has agreed that no surveillance will occur.

Now WEAN has sued WSPRC in state court alleging the WSPRC staff's process in arriving at a recommendation supporting approval of the Navy's application was flawed. Currently NIOP is conducting a campaign asking the public to sign petitions, write letters to government officials, and donate money to help pay their legal fees.

What can you do? You can help counter NIOP's efforts by writing a letter or sending an email to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission in support of Naval Special Operations training in Washington State Parks. Email the Commission at: [Commission@parks.wa.gov](mailto:Commission@parks.wa.gov) or write the Commission at:

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission  
P.O. Box 42650  
Olympia, WA 98504-2650

Make sure your voice is heard! Support Navy SEALs!



### 5 Reasons to Support Naval Special Operations Training in Washington State Parks

1. *The Navy identified Puget Sound waters and shoreline property, including unique Washington State Park terrain, as critical for Naval Special Operations training.*
2. *Use of Washington State Parks for Naval Special Operations training has taken place with permission from the parks for many years without harm, incident or adverse interaction with the public.*
3. *Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Staff have certified that previous Naval Special Operations training activities have resulted in no adverse impact on Washington State Parks and no complaints from public park users.*
4. *The Navy has agreed to the additional Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission-imposed limitations on Naval Special Operations training activities within designated Washington State Parks based on environmental and public interaction concerns.*
5. *The Washington State Parks and Recreation Staff will monitor and the Commission will have oversight on any adverse interactions or issues resulting from Navy training. This oversight and monitoring becomes the public's assurance that all Naval Special Operations training remains compatible with public use of the state parks.*

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## "From the Helm"

Greetings, members and friends of Navy League Seattle!

Thank you to all who have made our pandemic-limited 2021 activities such a success! Looking ahead to the coming year, we will recharge and reinvigorate our Council in the new post-pandemic world. As noted above, priorities include expanded outreach to the community in support of the Sea Services, increased support of our adopted units, and



*playing a strong part in Fleet Week, all of which will offer a variety of events as well as many volunteer opportunities.*

*In the meantime, please stay healthy and get vaccinated, and have a safe and happy holiday!*

*regards, Steve Keith  
Navy League Seattle Council President  
president@navyleagueseattle.org*

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*The Navy League was founded in 1902 with a clear three-pronged mission: to support the members of the sea services and their families; to educate the American people and their elected leaders about the critical importance of sea power for their economic prosperity and national security; and to help build America's future through successful youth programs like the Naval Sea Cadet Corps.*



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