



COMPASS POINTS



FEBRUARY 2012

QUARTERLY DINNER MEETING FEATURES:

- SPEAKER FROM WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT
- ELECTION & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Our Quarterly Dinner Meeting will be held 21 February at Garden Plaza of Greenbriar Cove, which is a senior living community in Ooltewah. Our host is one of our council members, Bill Bowen, Marketing Consultant for Garden Plaza. Bill will provide our meals free of charge. We will be served one entrée, which will include chicken with vegetables. **EVEN THOUGH DINNER IS FREE, YOU NEED TO MAKE A RESERVATION**, and we need to **receive it by 13 February**. Please use the reservation form in this edition of *Compass Points* and return it to Dick Lewallen, 2600 Wilson Ave., Signal Mountain, TN 37377.

We will gather at 6:00 PM. The opening Ceremony will begin at 6:30 followed by a sit-down dinner. Our program will begin at 7:15 PM. We should adjourn by 9:00 PM. **TRANSPORTATION IS AVAILABLE** for the **first twenty people** who reserve a seat. Garden Plaza will send a bus to Walmart at the foot of Signal Mountain. The bus will depart at 5:00 PM and return to Walmart at the conclusion of the meeting. **You must reserve a seat** ahead of time buy using the dinner reservation form.

If you choose to drive, Garden Plaza is located at 4586 Forsythia Way. To get there, take I-75 north to exit 7-A, which is the next exit after

Hamilton Place Mall. From the exit ramp, follow the signs to Collegedale through the main intersection onto Old Lee Highway. US Express will be on the hill to your right. Go about 3 miles to the first stop sign and turn right on Apison Pike. Go another mile watching for the First Tennessee Bank sign on the right. Turn right on Swinyar Street next to the Collegedale Library; follow this road to Garden Plaza.

Our speaker will be Adam Widner of the Wounded Warrior Project. His bio appears in this edition of *Compass Points*. The mission of the Wounded Warrior Project is to honor and empower wounded warriors. Its vision is to foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded service members in our nation's history. Its purpose is:

- To raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members.
- To help injured service members aid and assist each other.
- To provide unique, direct programs and services to meet the needs of injured service members

We will also elect and install new officers and directors. The slate of nominees is posted in the edition of *Compass Points*.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Sandy McMillan

Greetings and Happy New Year. Now that the National Convention is over and the Christmas holidays are behind us, I hope everyone has had a little time to relax. I know Dan Saieed and his entire Convention Committee are breathing a lot easier now that the National Convention is behind us, and I want to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who helped us host our out-of-town guests. I also want to express my appreciation to everyone who attended at least one of the Convention events.

COMPASS POINTS TO GO TOTALLY DIGITAL AFTER 2012. 2012 is the last year we will mail the newsletter via the Post Office. We spend over \$1000 per year printing and mailing out copies of *Compass Points*. This expenditure totals 25% to 33% of our budget. We cannot continue to shell out this percentage of our budget on the newsletter when we can email it virtually for free. Additionally, ever time we correspond with our entire Council via the post office, the postage runs about \$85.

Corresponding via the Post Office is slow, tedious, and expensive. Corresponding via email is fast, efficient, and FREE! If we do not have your current email address, please send it to Larson Mick at his email address in the above paragraph. If you receive your *Compass Points* via email, we have your address unless you have recently changed it.

LOCAL DUES DUE 1 JANUARY OF EACH YEAR. The Greater Chattanooga Council of the NLUS assesses its members an annual membership fee of \$15 (\$20 for a husband and wife membership) on top of the annual dues we pay to National. The local fee is waived for new members in their inaugural year but is due on 1 January of subsequent years. This membership fee is the main source of our council's operating funds since we try to break even on the meals at our quarterly meetings. We use the operating funds to support the Sea Cadets, the Navy JROTC program at Howard High School, and our adopted ship the USS Tennessee SSBN 734. Please submit your local annual dues to our Treasurer, Dick Lewallen, 2600 Wilson Ave., Signal Mountain, TN 37377. Make your checks to NLUS Chattanooga Council. You may submit your dues using the dinner reservation form in this edition of *Compass Points* whether or not you plan to attend the quarterly council dinner meeting.

QUARTERLY DINNER MEETING TO BE HELD AT GARDEN PLAZA IN OOLTEWAH. Our quarterly dinner meeting will be held 21 February at Garden Plaza of Greenbriar Cove. Several things will be unique about this meeting. We will be meeting in a new location, the meal is free, limited transportation will be provided, and we will elect and install new officers and directors. One thing that is not unique is the requirement for dinner reservations. Please send in your reservations using the form in this newsletter. For complete details, see the Quarterly Dinner Meeting article in this newsletter. I will see you on 21 February at Garden Plaza.

NEW COMPASS POINTS PUBLISHER NEEDED. I'm sure you notice this edition of *Compass Points* looks a little different. We are in a personnel transition phase, and we are looking for someone to help us lay out future editions of *Compass Points*. If you would like to help or know someone who is adept with computer graphics, please let me know. My mobile number is 605-7262. **Fire in the hole.**

NEW SEA CADET DIVISION ESTABLISHED AT SIGNAL MOUNTAIN MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL. A new Sea Cadet Division has been established at Signal Mountain Middle/High School. It has been designated Signal Mountain Division. The new CO is one of our Council members, LTjg Stacy Kehoe. Her XO is LTjg Larry Morgan. The Division will meet at Signal Mountain Middle/High School three times per month – two Thursdays and one Saturday. We wish both the CO and XO the best of luck as they continue to recruit new members and build the Division. Membership is open to all eligible youth throughout the area. For more info contact Ltjg Stacy Kehoe, phone: 296-8235 or email: slk40ax@gmail.com.

GUEST SPEAKER. Our guest speaker for our Quarterly Dinner Meeting is Adam Widner, a former Sergeant in the National Guard. Adam suffered spinal cord, shoulder, and ankle injuries in Afghanistan on July 24, 2008, while traveling in the gunner's turret of a Humvee. He neglected extensive treatment — his sole focus was to simply get himself “mission ready” and back to his team. “I didn't want to tell anyone about my issues ... it can affect the mission and morale,” says Adam. “I felt that it would eventually go away, but I couldn't sleep, I couldn't eat, and I wanted to get back to the fight.” Adam's sense of duty and his need to be a warrior his fellow troops can rely on are deeply ingrained qualities. His father, a Vietnam combat veteran, instilled that ethic in him — and it was the reason Adam enlisted in the military in 2004: to serve others. Shortly after his accident, Adam started having blackouts while on convoy. He experienced night terrors routinely throughout his deployment. It was more than a year later when doctors diagnosed Adam with chronic post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). “My recovery is still in process at the Department of Veterans Affairs,” he says. “But in the darkest part of my life — when I was lost — Wounded Warrior Project found me.”

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS. Military spending is on the block in the political butcher shop in Washington. The President said in a January 3, 2012 letter regarding defense spending, “Our Nation is at a moment of transition”. He further states that “As Commander in Chief, I am determined that we meet the challenges of this moment responsibly and that we emerge even stronger in a manner that preserves American global leadership; maintains our military superiority; and keeps faith with our troops, military families, and veterans”. Later, at the Pentagon, he indicated that it is time to cash in a peace dividend. As a result of the review directed by the President, Defense Secretary Panetta states in his letter of January 5, 2012, “I am releasing new strategic guidance for the Department of Defense to articulate priorities for a 21st century defense that sustains U. S. global leadership.” “We are shaping a Joint Force for the future that will be smaller and leaner, but we will be agile, flexible, ready, and technologically advanced.”

Only in Washington can they come up with a plan which sounds like it will make our military stronger and more capable and, at the same time, is reducing the funding, personnel, and equipment for our armed forces!

It is no secret that our Defense budget is expensive. The President recently signed a \$662 billion defense authorization bill. Earlier in the past year, however, Congress approved the Budget Control Act of 2011. This is the Act which created the bipartisan super committee tasked with finding a savings in the Defense Department of \$1.2 trillion over 10 years, which Congress was to enact in 2012. Everyone knows the super committee failed in its task and as a result, the Budget Control Act called for a new word in our conversation, sequestration, i.e. budget caps enforced by elimination. Without a plan by the super committee, sequestration will automatically cause program cuts in the defense budget estimated to be about \$54.7 billion per year.

There is consensus, I believe, that our economy demands across the board reduction in our discretionary spending. That would include the military budget along with the other major entitlement programs. The question is where and how much. The seas are no smaller; much of our trade still travels by sea; Iran is flexing its nuclear muscle; China is considering the South China Sea as her coastal waters and developing carriers, submarines, and missiles to back up her claim. It is critical that our leaders use logic and reason, not rhetoric in the coming budget year.

We can hope that they will apply a thoughtful scalpel rather than a confrontational meat cleaver to the defense budget.

NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED AND INSTALLED AT FEBRUARY MEETING. At our February meeting, we will elect and install new members. The slate of nominees is as follows:

President:	Sandy McMillan	Judge Advocate:	The Honorable Bob Summit
Immediate Past President:	Noah Long	Directors:	Patty Parks (1 yr. Term)
Vice President:	Dan Saieed		Gary Meyer (2 yr. term)
Secretary:	Larson Mick		Charles Dammann (3 yr. term)
Treasurer:	Dick Lewallen	Founder/Director Emeritus:	Jack Spittler

Nominations will be taken from the floor prior to voting for all positions except Immediate Past President and Founder/Director Emeritus. Nominations from the floor should not be made without the prior approval of the person being nominated. Prior to adjourning, our Judge Advocate, The Honorable Bob Summit, will install the new Officers.



**Navy League of the United States
 Greater Chattanooga
 John J. Spittler Council
 P.O. Box 302
 Signal Mountain, TN 37377**

Compass Points is the quarterly publication
 Of the Navy league of the United States
 Greater Chattanooga John J. Spittler Council

Dinner and Transportation Reservation Form

1. Dinner is free, but a reservation is MANDATORY.
2. Free transportation available for maximum of 20 people, but a reservation is MANDATORY
 (See details in the quarterly dinner meeting column)

Please list the names of those who will attend (PLEASE PRINT):

1. _____
2. _____

Please list the names of those who desire transportation (PLEASE PRINT):

1. _____
2. _____

Mail this form to Dick Lewallen, 2600 Wilson Ave., Signal Mountain, TN 37377. **We need to receive your reservation by 13 February. Alternatively, you may phone or email this information to Dick at 886-5097 or dlewallen@epbfi.com.**

MEMBERSHIP NEWS. Please read the presidents column on the importance of local dues for carrying out our Council's mission. We have the following new members since our August meeting, please introduce yourself and make them welcome at our next meeting:

Debbie Frederes from Chattanooga
 Ray and Hillary Falcon from Winter Park. FL
 Jim McGowan from Tulsa, OK

Hal Hill from Lookout Mountain
 Representative Chuck and Brenda Fleischmann from Ooltewah
 Dr. Philip Sumrall from Fort Oglethorpe, GA (new Chaplain)

Thank you to all the sponsors for their good job, please make your friends aware of the Navy League. Contact Gary Meyer, or Jack Spittler for applications if you need them.