



BULLHORN

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USS Tripoli (LHA-7) Underway

RADM Don Quinn, USN (Ret)

USS Tripoli (LHA-7), the third U.S. Navy ship to bear the name, got underway from Ingalls Shipbuilding the morning of July 24th. This concludes over seven years of construction that began on July 15th, 2013, when the first steel was cut for the ship's construction. Overcoming numerous delays, equipment malfunctions, and the onerous protocols of COVID-19, the crew brought the ship to life on July 15th, 2020. She now transits to her homeport in San Diego, traveling around Cape Horn at the southern tip of South America.



Unfortunately, COVID-19 caused commissioning week festivities in Pensacola to be canceled. Nonetheless, the citizens of Pensacola came through, providing the funds required to give the 1100 person crew traditional plankowner plaques and coins. Because of the unique and limited festivities of the administrative commissioning, the Skipper reported that presentation of the plaques and the coins was the highlight of the day for the crew. Artist Jennifer Kensler, of Navy Federal Credit Union, designed both the plaques and the coins and there is universal agreement that they are beautiful.



JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020

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Newsletter and additional pictures can be found on our webpage

<http://pensacolanavyleague.org/>

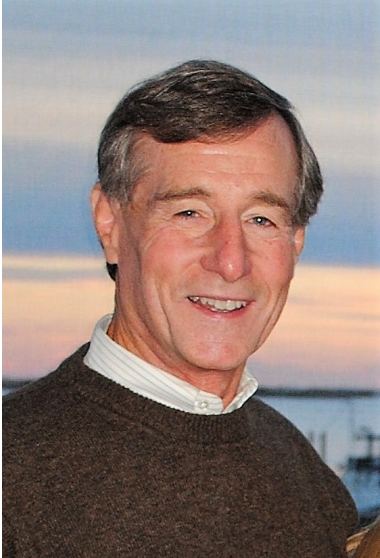
Despite the cancelation of commissioning week events, there was plenty of work involved in building a bond with the crew over the past two years and then producing and cataloging the personalized plaques and coins for the 1100 man crew. The plaque effort was led, as always, by Mrs. Jacque Gray. Commissioning Committee and Navy League members provided the manpower to construct, label, and catalog the plaques during a two day effort at Sandy and Bubba's Milton Chevrolet in Milton, FL. The plaques and coins were delivered to the ship on July 13th, concluding over two years of effort.

There will be other ship's commissioning in Pensacola, but there will never be another one like this one, the sixth that the community of Pensacola has supported.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CAPT Dan McCort, USN (Ret) President, Pensacola Navy League



Greetings to all! With the Pensacola summer fully upon us, I hope that this message finds you well, healthy and able to get out and enjoy our spectacular beaches.

This message will detail activities in which we can and are safely participating. We will also provide updated information on activities that have been rescheduled or canceled.

So let's begin with events delayed or canceled. First up, our Enlisted Recognition Breakfast. After an attempt at rescheduling the event to July, we will now reformat the event in a manner that does not require any face-to-face interaction. In place of a public gathering, we will instead publicly recognize the deserving selectees through electronic Billboard displays. Be on the lookout for the smiling faces and brief biographies of those outstanding personnel as you drive through town. Next our Military Spouse Appreciation Luncheon has been rescheduled for Thursday, November 5th at New World Landing. We look forward to honoring those dedicated and hard working spouses in an appropriate public forum where

they will get the attention and recognition that they so well deserve.

Next, our much anticipated Commissioning Ceremonies. First; the USS Tripoli, LHA-7, last slated for a July commissioning here in Pensacola was instead administratively commissioned at the shipyard in Pascagoula, MS on July 15th. Second; the USS St. Louis, LCS-19, slated for an August commissioning ceremony here in Pensacola will instead be commissioned in a closed ceremony in her homeport of Mayport, FL. Loss of these two significant ceremonies due to safety concerns has been a disappointment. However, the Navy has promised to "make up" for the loss by redirecting equivalent commissioning ceremonies to Pensacola, when public gatherings are again deemed safe.

Next, our Summer Membership Social while currently still on the schedule for August is likely to be rescheduled or reformatted to avoid the public gathering component. Stand by for further information on this event. Next, the POW/MIA Luncheon scheduled for September this year has been canceled. Mark your calendars now for September 21st, 2021, when we will gather to honor those who are still missing or have served under the most difficult of circumstances. Lastly our NAS Pensacola Remembrance Ceremony originally scheduled for this past spring to honor and remember the wounded and fallen of December 6th, 2019 is on hold until an appropriate time in the future when we can safely gather and properly remember them.

Changes are certain to continue. To view the most current and updated information concerning all of our scheduled events simply visit our Website or Facebook Page both referenced here in the Newsletter.

Now, on to what we can and are doing. Working within established guidelines we have remained active and engaged with our local Sea Service and military personnel. Their support is the very reason we exist. Their support will remain our focus.

Earlier in July we delivered the last batch of masks produced through our

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**Pensacola Council
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United States**

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self-help mask making project lead by Carol Monroe. The final batch was delivered to the Cutter DECISIVE on her return from patrol. In total, over 2000 masks were handmade and distributed for active duty use.

Also in July we welcomed home from patrol the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter DECISIVE. That return will be covered more thoroughly here in the Newsletter. But suffice to say that the DECISIVE returned to Pensacola after conducting a highly successful patrol. A copy of the DECISIVE's own Newsletter the "629 Times" can be found on our Website for details concerning their exploits while completing the many missions to which an active duty Cutter is assigned. On a bitter sweet note, the return from patrol also marked the final voyage with DECISIVE for the Cutter's Commanding Officer, CDR José Martis, USCG. CDR Martis turned over the helm of DECISIVE to CDR John McWhite, USCG on July 14th, pier-side at NAS Pensacola. CDR Martis and his lovely wife Ana are enroute to their next duty station as USCG Attache to Panama in Central America. We wish them well and safe travels.

As the USCG footprint continues to grow here in Pensacola, the next two months will see the arrival of two Cutters being reassigned to Pensacola as their new homeport. First, the Cutter DILIGENCE, arrived on Monday, July 27th at 10:00 AM pierside aboard NAS Pensacola. Second the Cutter RELIANCE due here in Pensacola the first week in September. While these Cutters have been out on patrol just prior to arrival in Pensacola, the families of the crews for those Cutters have been undergoing their own challenges. They have had to uproot from their previous homeport, move to a new area during quarantine and uncertainty to find new homes and schools on their own, while their sailors were at sea. We only get one first impression with these crews and families, so come help us as we WELCOME in style the RELIANCE to their new home. Steve Luongo will be coordinating the arrival ceremonies. Contact him with questions. These are outdoor, open air events with lots of room for distancing. All we need you to do is smile and wave.

Worthy of note here our generous Major Sponsor, Navy Federal Credit Union was instrumental in the production and acquisition of new custom-made *Welcome Home Banners* for all of the Pensacola-based cutters. Thank you NFCU!

And an additional THANK YOU to all of our membership who pitched in to help with the assembly and distribution of the 1100 USS Tripoli Commissioning Plaques. Even though the Commissioning was not in Pensacola, our dedicated Commissioning Committee and Sponsors continued to support the Tripoli all the way through to Commissioning. The generosity and dedication displayed by the Commissioning Committee lead by RADM Quinn USN (Ret) was commendable and in keeping with our very mission. BZ!

In closing, in spite of the challenges we will continue to support and recognize the valiant members of our Sea Services and other military branches. If you have ideas that are appropriate to the times, please forward them. We want to involve our membership in a safe and effective manner. Let us hear from you.

As a post script, two notes. First; a farewell to NAS Pensacola CMDCM Mario Rivers, USN. Command Master Chief Rivers, a Pensacola Navy League Board member and friend, is headed to Hawaii to take over as Pearl Harbor Area Command Master Chief. Best of luck CMC Rivers. Come back when you are done! Second; without the generosity of our major sponsors Navy Federal Credit Union and Pen Air Federal Credit Union, we would be ineffective at completing our mission. Thank you to our major and local sponsors for all you do!!

Until next time. Stay safe out there. God Bless!

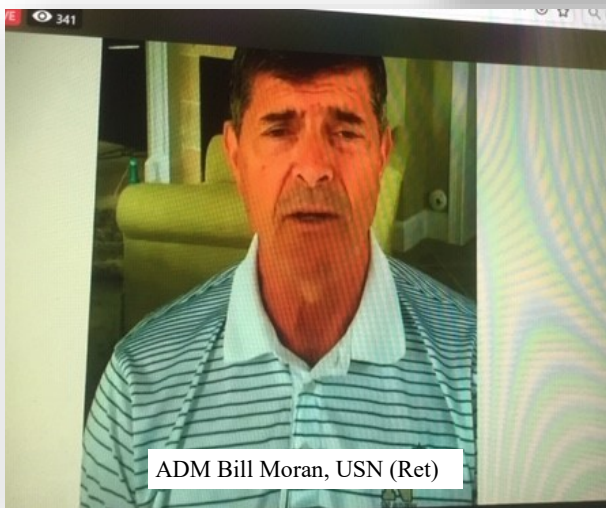
HAIL and FAREWELL

On July 9th, the Commander of the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC), RADM Kyle Cozad, USN was relieved from duty by RADM Peter Garvin, USN, during a mostly virtual change of command and retirement ceremony held at the National Naval Aviation Museum. Cozad retired after 35 years of distinguished and dedicated service to the United States Navy. His wife, Amy Cozad was recognized for her outstanding commitment and resilience with the Meritorious Public Service medal. The guest speakers, VADM John Newell, USN and ADM William Moran, USN (Ret) conducted their remarks virtually.

Welcome aboard Admiral Garvin and Fair Winds and Following Seas Admiral Cozad.

Fortunately the Cozads will settle in Pensacola and Admiral Cozad will take over as the new Chief Executive Officer of the National Naval Aviation Museum Foundation. The current Foundation CEO, Lt. Gen. Duane Thiessen, USMC (Ret) is retiring later this year.

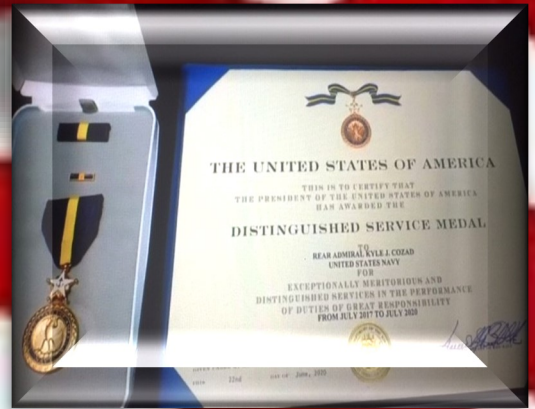
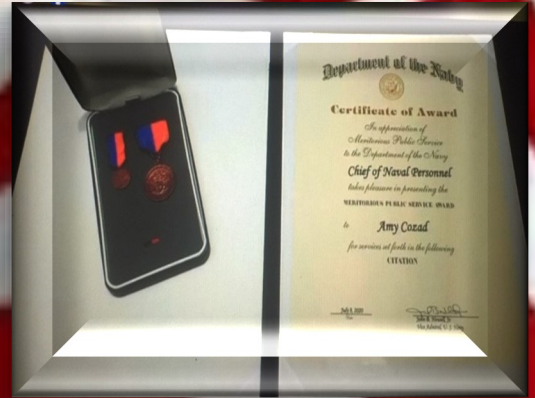
The very moving change of command and retirement ceremony was recorded via Facebook Live and may be viewed here: <https://www.facebook.com/MyNAVYHR/videos/571364603740919/>



ADM Bill Moran, USN (Ret)



VADM John Newell, Jr., USN



“

I am happy to report that USS Tripoli has all her helos aboard, and is safely on her way to San Diego. They are excited to be at sea and operating.

I thank you all for your hard work and generosity. I think we collectively did a great job of, "making lemonade out of lemons" in an extraordinary time. I will tell you that the crew was ecstatic with their plaques and coins. 1100 Sailors are leaving the Gulf Coast with fond thoughts of "those great folks in Pensacola." In the words of the woman who coordinates ship commissionings at NAVSEA, "these are the best plankowner plaques I have ever seen." High praise indeed from someone who has seen hundreds of them.

Thanks again for your support of the crew, the Navy, and the nation. We could not have pulled this off without your support.”

Sincerely,
RADM Don Quinn



“While there are many ways to support our Navy, I have always thought that serving on a Commissioning Committees of a United States Navy ship is one of the most important. Having been on a Pre-Commissioning Unit, I have seen the thousands of hours of work it takes to make a commissioning happen. It breaks my heart to know the work that was done here will not come to its full fruition. But I know the crew knows how much the Navy League, the City of Pensacola and the Commissioning Committee cared about this great crew and ship. Thank you Admiral Quinn, and to everyone else who gave their time and treasure to this worthy effort!”

Franklin D. Julian
SWEENEY • JULIAN TRIAL ATTORNEYS
South Bend, Indiana



The following link will take you to the audio and text coverage by WUWF of the plank owner plank initiative: <https://www.wuwf.org/post/pensacola-sends-plank-owner-plaques-well-wishes-tripoli-crew#stream/0>

On December 6th, 2019, the Naval Aviation Schools Command at NAS Pensacola was under attack in a shooting rampage by a lone gunman. The incident was determined to be an act of terrorism. There were numerous injuries and 3 lives lost. On June 12th, 2020, NAS Pensacola and the Naval Aviation Schools Command were dealt another powerful blow. The school's commanding officer, CAPT Vincent Segars, USN and CDR Joshua Fuller, USN, an integration officer for the command's naval introductory flight evaluation program, were killed in a private plane crash in Alabama. Below is an article written by CAPT Timothy Kinsella, USN, Commanding Officer of NAS Pensacola.

Fallen Naval officers embodied leadership and strength during greatest need

CAPT Timothy F. Kinsella, USN

Courtesy of the Pensacola News Journal, Published July 11, 2020

Every month or so, along with a few other senior officers on base, I have the opportunity to speak with prospective squadron commanding officers at a round-table event, hosted by the Naval School of Aviation Safety, about leadership and our experience in command. These sessions are something I look forward to and enjoy tremendously because, despite being one of the more senior officers in the room, I always walk away feeling energized from learning something new or understanding a point on leadership from a different perspective.

Since taking over command of Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, I haven't missed a single one. A few weeks ago, however, I had a lot going on and didn't think I was going to make it. It would have been easier for me to get caught up on my mountain of paperwork. Thankfully, I decided that going was more important than paperwork or emails that would still be there, staring me in the face, the next morning.

There were four of us scheduled to be on the panel that day, but five minutes past our start time, we were still waiting on our fourth, Captain Vinnie Segars. Finally, the door opened and in stepped Vinnie, out of breath, a little sweaty, his hair a mess, and with a massive toothy Cheshire-cat grin from ear to ear. Vinnie was a qualified instructor pilot, and had just finished a training hop with a flight student at Training Wing Six. He apologized for being late, but explained with a twinkle in his eye that he had to dodge a few thunderstorms on the way back to NAS Pensacola. All aviators ourselves, we had each encountered similar conditions, but listening to Vinnie recount his story with animated enthusiasm, his obvious love of flying and joy in teaching young flight students was so infectious that we found ourselves smiling along with him. From one bald man to another, I made a wisecrack about his tousled thinning hair, and then we moved on to the business of the day.

I thank God that I decided to go that day, because that was the last time I saw Vinnie alive. Less than a week later he perished in a flying accident, along with Commander Josh "Wits" Fuller, a senior department head at Vinnie's command. Knowing what I know now, I would never have forgiven myself for missing this last opportunity to spend time with my friend. I am so very grateful that I got to see Vinnie in his element one last time.

Before the era of COVID-19, Friday night at the NAS Pensacola Officer's Club is standing room only – packed with flight students from Naval Aviation Schools Command (NASC) sporting their newly-earned, still-fresh, smelling-like-mothball flight suits. About a month after the Dec. 6 terrorist attack, the first class to earn their flight suits since that terrible day were celebrating their new milestone, while also remembering their lost shipmates with solemn toasts.

I was at the bar in conversation with one of the students when Vinnie, who was the Commanding Officer of Naval Aviation Schools Command (NASC), grabbed me by the elbow. He embraced me and said, "I'm glad it was us, Lucky, that had to bear this burden. I'm glad it was you and me. I wouldn't have wanted to go through it with anyone else."

Six months later, those words still echo in my mind, and mean more to me than the hundreds of comments received from well-wishers in the months since. I felt that Vinnie and I had developed an unspoken bond in the aftermath. We were both enduring a crucible of leadership unlike anything we had faced before, albeit in different roles. I was the face of NAS Pensacola and the Navy, and had a responsibility to show the world that a lone terrorist was not going to cow us, that an attack on our homeland was only going to make us stronger and more resilient. A service with almost 250 years of tradition and fighting spirit wasn't going to be intimidated by one terrorist.

Vinnie's role, however, was somewhat different and perhaps more challenging than mine. The fatal casualties from that day were under his command. Whereas I was the face of the Navy to the wider public, Vinnie had the far more difficult role of providing comfort to the victim's families, while also getting his command back on track to continue their mission. Vinnie was a man of great personal faith, and I am certain that he was chosen by a higher power as the right person to lead the families and command through the tragedy. His heart and compassion were boundless.



CAPT Vincent Segars, USN

To assist Vinnie in the arduous task of bringing his command back to full operating capacity, Commander Josh "Wits" Fuller was temporarily assigned to NASC. Wits was an experienced naval aviator and officer, having just relinquished command of VT-86, a training squadron here at NAS Pensacola. Wits was universally held in the highest regard for his leadership skills, no-nonsense approach to problem solving, and engaging personality. Like Vinnie, he had a deep love of flying and teaching, and was a natural choice to lead young prospective aviators in a time of crisis.

I didn't know Wits very well, but as I sat in the pew during his funeral service, I wished I had known him better. His father is a Navy veteran of 30 years, so Wits grew up knowing and appreciating what it means to be a Naval Officer, and his father imbued him with a profound sense of honor and decency that guided him during his career. We had many of the same interests, and I could very easily imagine myself enjoying a good wine or bourbon with him on the porch, solving all the world's problems.

What the world at large will never truly understand about Wits or Vinnie, is the tremendous burden they bore following Dec. 6. They took the weight of that command and hoisted it upon their shoulders. Not once did they complain or bemoan their heavy load. Wits, new to the command, jumped in feet-first and helped to bring that organization and its people back into the light from the dark days following Dec. 6, both body and soul. This meant moving classrooms for over 1,000 students to temporary buildings all across the base, mentoring and leading personnel who still faced trauma, caring for wounded, rearranging course curricula, and a myriad of other tasks. It is a testament to his leadership that NASC did not miss a single class graduation. If Vinnie was the heart of NASC's recovery, Wits was the engine room that made it happen.



CDR Joshua Fuller, USN

Due to complications with COVID-19, many of us could not attend Vinnie's funeral service. But when the time is right, we will give Vinnie and Wits a proper send-off in the great tradition of our service that they richly deserve. In the dangerous world of Naval Aviation, we are all too familiar with the pain of saying goodbye to friends taken prematurely, but the loss we feel is but a thimble in the ocean compared to the profound grief felt by their families. Both men were fathers who leave behind a powerful legacy of honor, service, compassion, and integrity to their children. Both men were husbands to women of grace and beauty who they loved with all their heart. While both men will leave an empty space in all our lives, their legacy of selfless service to their country, community, and families in a time of need will forever remain part of NAS Pensacola's storied history.

Fair winds, Vinnie and Wits. On this, your final flight, may your skies always be CAVU (Ceiling and Visibility Unlimited).

USCG CUTTER DECISIVE RETURNS HOME

Members of the Pensacola Navy League welcomed the USCG Cutter DECISIVE, back to its home port and to happy families on a rainy Sunday, July 5th. Decisive's Commanding Officer, CDR José Martis, USCG was relieved of duty in a Change of Command ceremony held July 14th. CDR John McWhite, USCG, now commands DECISIVE.



DECISIVE Executive Officer, LCDR Paul Stepler presents a gift to outgoing Commanding Officer, CDR José Martis on behalf of the crew.



& USCGC DILIGENCE WELCOMED HOME

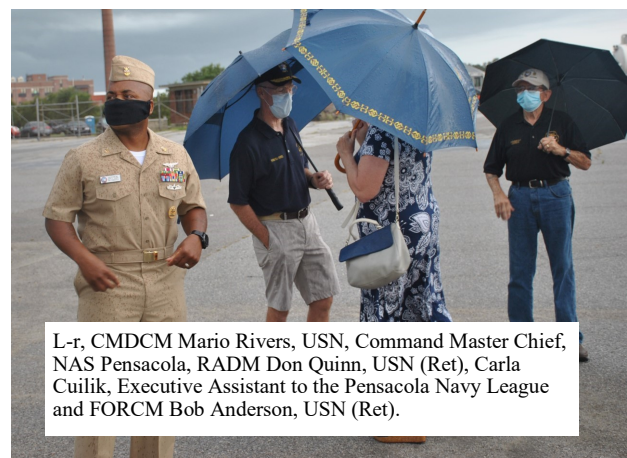
The USCG Cutter DILIGENCE and her crew arrived at their new homeport at NAS Pensacola on yet another rainy morning, July 27th. DILIGENCE, returning from a sixty-four day deployment in the Caribbean, joins USCG Cutters DECISIVE and DAUNTLESS in calling Pensacola home. The crew were welcomed by CAPT Tim Kinsella, USN, Commanding Officer of NAS Pensacola, along with other base leaders and members of the Pensacola Navy League.



L-r, Pensacola Navy League's newest board member Steve Luongo and Pensacola Navy League President Dan McCort



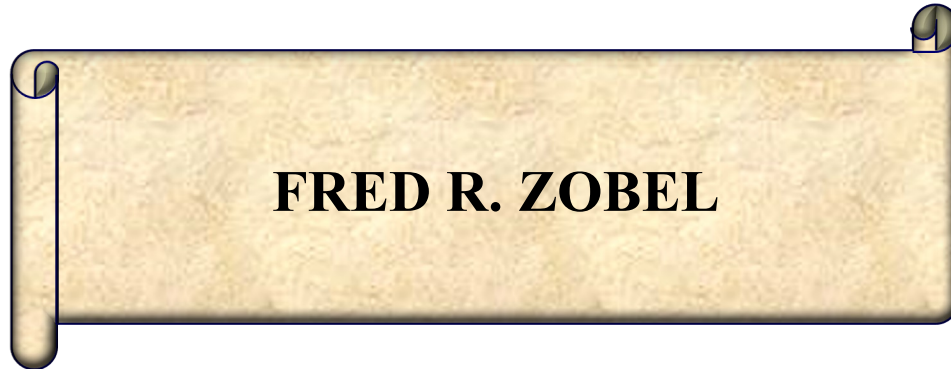
L-r, CAPT Tim Kinsella, USN (Commanding Officer of NAS Pensacola and RADM Don Quinn, USN (Ret) and CAPT Bill Cuilik, USN (Ret)



L-r, CMDCM Mario Rivers, USN, Command Master Chief, NAS Pensacola, RADM Don Quinn, USN (Ret), Carla Cuilik, Executive Assistant to the Pensacola Navy League and FORCM Bob Anderson, USN (Ret).



AHOY NEW MEMBER



RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

April 2020

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Nora Dollen
Gary E. Skaar
Betty Williams

May 2020

Glenn S. Barbee
Yoshimi Core
Mark S. Curley
Jeffrey Endecott
Frank J. Fabre
David Larsen
Denise Poulter
Justine Simoni
Charles Spear

June 2020

W.C. Baker
James Crumlish
Lori Landrum
Ruth Stewart



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- National and Pensacola Council, Director Emeritus**
- CAPT Hans Krucke, USNR (Ret)

Welcome to our new member of the Board of Directors, **Mr. Stephen Luongo** of the law firm Levin, Papantonio, Thomas, Mitchell, Rafferty & Proctor, P.A.



★ CALENDAR OF EVENTS ★

August 7
Farewell Luncheon
Mr. Stu Ramsey and CMDCM Mario Rivers
Pensacola Yacht Club

August 12
Board of Directors Meeting
Pensacola Yacht Club

August 20
Summer Social
Seville Quarter

October 8
Chicken Barbecue
Pensacola Yacht Club

November 5
Spouse Appreciation Luncheon
New World Landing

EVENT DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE



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