



GREATER HOUSTON CHAPTER

WINTER NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2012



NNOA Houston Installs its New Executive Board



From left to right - Elaine Pearson, Parliamentarian, LT Derricka Fortson, PAO, ENS Michelle Washington, Secretary, CAPT Hal Pitts, Guest Speaker, CAPT Joseph Willie, Vice President, LCDR Will Watson, President, LCDR Christy Rutherford, Membership Director, CDR Lamar Johnson (ret.), attending Chaplain

On December 7, 2011, NNOA Houston Chapter held its quarterly face to face meeting, during which, five new members were installed on the Executive Board including a *new President, Vice President, Secretary, Public Affairs Officer and Parliamentarian.*

Captain Hal Pitts, Deputy Commander, Sector Houston-Galveston was on hand to provide the board an inspirational leadership charge. During his talk, he urged the board to **“Be flexible and understand that one size does not fit all when it comes to leadership.”** He also charged the board to remember that **“It is not about you, it is about those that you lead.”** CDR (ret.) Lamar Johnson, Central Region Vice President, presided over the official installation ceremony.

Immediately following the ceremony, the board went to work planning out the remainder of the operational year. The result was an ambitious plan that includes key events aimed at tackling four key areas: Junior Officer Development, JROTC/NROTC support, Community Service, and Scholarship Program Development. During the meeting, *the Chapter welcomed six new members!*

Interested in joining NNOA?

Go to www.nnoa.org, contact us at www.nnoahouston@comcast.net, or call us at (901) 275-5531. You can also become a friend to NNOA Houston on **Facebook**.

Look for our website coming soon to www.nnoahouston.org.

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Upcoming Events

31 Jan - General Body Mtg

7 Feb – JROTC Development Event

20 Mar - Op Galveston County Foodbank

President's Corner



Happy New Year to you all, and thank you for all of your hard work and support over the past several months! I ask that you keep your energy, enthusiasm and zeal, and we will continue to do great things!

Semper Paratus!



Honoring Our Veterans

NNOA Houston reminds them that they are not forgotten



NNOA Houston honors veterans at the Northvale Village

On Veterans Day 2011, the Houston Chapter of NNOA honored veterans at three senior living facilities in the Greater Houston area – Northvale Village, Cornerstone Gardens, and the Conservatory at Champion Forest. Teaming up with Project 2020, a community service based initiative led by one of the Chapter's esteemed members, LCDR (retired) Millard Smith, USN, and his daughter Mrs. Demethra Orion, NNOA Houston made a lasting impact on these proud past service members.



LCDR (retired) Millard Smith (far left), and his daughter Mrs. Demethra Orion, coordinated each event.



Chapter Vice President, Captain Joe Willie, salutes two veterans during an event at Cornerstone Gardens.

Many being recognized were outwardly emotional. During each event, our Chapter President, LCDR Will Watson, offered remarks and presented NNOA Certificates of Appreciation for distinguished service. Many of those being recognized were outwardly emotional shedding tears as they reflected upon what it meant to serve while acknowledging the recognition bestowed upon them. All stood proudly as they were called on, by name, to reflect on their contributions to our nation. Altogether, 44 veterans were honored.

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH WE LIVE

NNOA Houston will be *joining forces with the Galveston County Foodbank to feed the homeless on the fifth Saturday of every month in 2012!* This is an opportunity for us to give to the most impoverished in our society including many homeless veterans. If you would like to support this effort, contact LTJG Bryana Nicholas at bryana.k.nicholas@uscg.mil. She is our project officer for this initiative.



Teaming up with the Urban League to Prepare Students for College



NNOA Houston and Urban League Young Professionals event organizers. From left, Elijah Thomas, ENS Eric Hudson, April Todd, ENS Sabrina Taylor, Vinnika Johnson, LCDR Will Watson, and LCDR Christy Rutherford.

On November 13, 2011, the Houston Chapter of NNOA *teamed up with the Urban League Young Professionals to help prepare over 150 high school students for college.* The one-day event was held at Texas Southern University and was led, in part, by one of NNOA Houston's esteemed members, Mr. Xavier Samuels. Students were provided tutorials and tips on selecting the right institution, applying for admission, and financial aid, among other critical facets of the college preparatory process. Students were also provided additional guidance on leadership and life skills for success.



LCDR Christy Rutherford shares tips on degree field choices.



ENS Sabrina Taylor, an engineer afloat with B.S. in Civil Engineering, speaks with several students interested in becoming engineers.

NNOA Houston members served as mentors and helped facilitate sessions. More importantly, our members drew from their professional experiences in Engineering, Finance, etc. providing great insight for the students. It was also a great opportunity for NNOA Houston to represent the sea services and share the benefits of a career as a Commissioned Officer. Many of the students were unaware that Commissioned Officers worked within many of the professional disciplines they sought. Once the connection was made, the discussions took off! We look

forward to joining with the Urban League Young Professionals on next year!

Save the Date

NNOA Conference
July 23 - 27, 2012

The Roosevelt Hotel
NEW ORLEANS

Check back often for more details!





“MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT”

LTJG SABRINA TAYLOR, USCG

Lieutenant Junior Grade Sabrina Taylor, an active member of the Houston Chapter, was promoted in December 2011. Look at that smile! Remember your first promotion?

LTJG Taylor serves as the Damage Control Assistant onboard USCGC DAUNTLESS (WMEC 624), Galveston, Texas. Originally from Lake Worth, Florida, LTJG Taylor graduated with Honors from the United States Coast Guard Academy with a Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering.



LTJG Sabrina Taylor (center) is pinned on by CGC DAUNTLESS Commanding Officer, CDR John Pruitt (right).

Currently, she is responsible for setting up and maintaining an effective cutter damage control organization, with responsibilities including operation of an effective Damage Control Central, coordination of the Damage Control Petty Officer program which provides preventative maintenance, maintenance and repair of damage control equipment and general shipboard repair, control of liquid loadings and ship stability, division officer for the Damage Control Division, and assisting the Engineering Officer to ensure ship readiness for mission execution. LTJG Taylor is currently pursuing a Masters of Arts in Logistics and Transportation Management with a focus in Marine Engineering Management at American Military University. We are proud to have her as one of our members!

Executive Board

President	<u>LCDR Will Watson</u>	Public Affairs	<u>LT Derricka Fortson</u>
Vice President	<u>CAPT Joseph Willie</u>	Membership	<u>LCDR Christy Rutherford</u>
Treasurer	<u>LCDR Ron Blanks</u>	Parliamentarian	<u>LCDR (ret) Elaine Pearson</u>
Secretary	<u>ENS Michelle Washington</u>	Historian	<u>LTJG Urdley Smith</u>
Master at Arms	<u>ENS Eric Hudson, Jr.</u>	Scholarship Chair	<u>LT Ronney Wright</u>



Live Streaming Leadership Lessons



Vice Admiral Manson Brown, PACAREA Commander, USCG, streams in via web to share leadership lessons with NNOA Houston and USCG MSU Texas City.

It has been said time and again that we must leverage technology for maximum advantage. Well NNOA Houston has decided to do just that! Spearheaded by our energetic Professional Development Chairperson, LCDR Christy Rutherford, we have launched our Live Streaming Leadership Lecture Series in 2012. *We believe that through technology, we can reach out to any leader anywhere in the world and bring them into our midst.* It is an exciting prospect!



LT Ronney Right (above) and LCDR Valerie Boyd (below) tap into the Admiral's wealth of knowledge.



We launched on 17 January, when the Houston Chapter teamed with the USCG MSU Texas City Wardroom to bring Vice Admiral Manson Brown, long time NNOA member and past National President, in from West Coast via the web to give a leadership talk! By all accounts, it was a groundbreaking event. Even the Admiral remarked that he had not participated in such a forum before. Even so, he was superb in his delivery sharing key lessons, sea stories, and warnings for all to digest.

The Admiral challenged those in attendance to extend their full commitment to excellence – to “ride the blue line” of commitment, vice wading in the shallows of minimal compliance. He also recounted the challenge all officers face as they work and grow in dynamic environments. Amidst constant change, the Admiral advised that an unyielding drive to achieve, a keen sense of the shifting winds, and a willingness to respond those changing dynamics is key.

We gained great insight from the Admiral, but also great confidence that we can now reach leaders whose hectic schedules or geographic proximity would have precluded us from engaging them. Those limitations have been rendered null.