



Dear NDIA San Diego Members,

Welcome to this month's newsletter, which includes upcoming event information, NDIA SD Committee and Member spotlights, and recent event highlights. There are some great, upcoming events you will not want to miss, such as the Fall Forum, Fleet Week STEM events, and the SDMAC Breakfast with guest speaker SECNAV Carlos Del Toro. These events offer great opportunities to network and engage, while having a good time!

I would like to welcome our new and returning NDIA members! When you have the opportunity, please take a moment and welcome them.

Thank you for your continual dedication and contributions to promote awareness and education in support of the NDIA's mission.

Regards,

Eric
San Diego Chapter President

New and Returning Members

George	Galdorisi	NIWC Pacific
Pat	Sullivan	Pat Sullivan Consulting LLC
Joann	Beswick	PKL Services, Inc.
Jay	Malik	True West Facility Supply
Robert	Judd	Metron
Rachel	Costello	Canvass Labs
Dan	Rupinski	Red Hat, Inc.
Stefan	Kieffer	Centurum
Joe	Sardo	NavAide
Ken	Ebert	Cisco Systems
Kurtis	Thrasher	Spire Global
Gerrit	Van Glabbeek	InfoTech
Gus	Cervantes	Information Technology Solutions Team, Inc.
Dusty	Buell	Cherokee Federal
John	Long	Technology Unlimited Group
Shaffiq	Rahim	Hi-Tech Engineering
Josh	Chin	Net Force



Upcoming Events

Fall Forum 2021: Don't Delay, Register Today!!



LIVE EVENT! This is an event not to miss! This two-day event will provide key information from renowned Navy Organization and respected leaders. There will be opportunities to network and engage with our speakers. **Join us for this event and register today here:** [NDIA SD Defense and Industry Fall Forum 2021 Registration](#).

Please see below for our confirmed speakers and go the following site for further details: [NDIA SD Fall Forum 2021 Event Information](#)

Confirmed Agenda Speakers:

PEO Digital – Ms. Ruth Youngs-Lew
PEO Digital Deputy Director for Business Strategy and Resourcing – Mr. Travis Methvin
PEO Digital Portfolio Manager for Platform Application Services- Ms. Taryn Gillison
NAVWAR Chief Engineer – Mr. Nick Freije, Assistant Chief Engineer for Mission Architecture
PEO MLB – Executive Director Ms. Mary Thoms
PEO MLB - Mr. Bob Bradley
PEO MLB - Ms. Noelle Shott
NAVWAR CIO – Ms. Tonya Nishio
NAVWAR – Director of Small Business Mr. Dan Deconzo
NAVWAR – Director Small Business Innovation Research Program, Mr. Shadi Azoum
PMW/A 170 – CAPT Andy Gibbons
PMW 160 - CAPT Katy Boehme
PEO-C4I – Admiral Rothenhaus – Lasswell Awards Presenter
PMW 120 - CAPT Sam Hanaki
PMW 160 - CAPT Katy Boehme
NAVWAR – Director of Contracts, Ms. Nancy Gunderson
NIWC Pacific - Director of Contracts Ms Sharon Pritchard
PMW 150 - CAPT David Gast
PMW 740 - Ms. Suzanne Arney
PMW 750 - Mr. David Rodriguez
PMW 760 – Mr. Jeff Sanders
PMW 790 - Mr. Bill Traganza



NIWC Pacific - Director of Prototyping - Ms. Nicole Stone

Please note: COVID responsible precautions will be adhered to – Certification of vaccination & card verification will be required.

Fleet Week! Join Us!
STEM Activities November 4th – 6th



Two eblasts were sent out this week regarding Fleet Week and Student STEM Days. Please see below for further details.

The Fleet Week San Diego Innovation Zone Student STEM Days is for NDIA members who have Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs and would like to apply for a booth at the Innovation Zone from Thursday to Saturday November 4-6th.

If you just want to know more, please go to www.fleetweeksandiego.org
 If you want to know more regarding STEM activities, contact [Kevin Bowen, STEM Chair](mailto:Kevin.Bowen@ndia.org)

November SDMAC Breakfast
Featured Guest Speaker Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro



The next SDMAC breakfast will be held on Monday, November 8th at the Admiral Kidd Club from 07:30 -9:00 a.m. The guest speaker will be Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro. The Honorable Carlos Del Toro was sworn in as the 78th Secretary of the Navy s Secretary of the Navy August 9, 2021. He is responsible for over 900,000 Sailors, Marines, reservists, and civilian personnel and an annual budget exceeding \$210 Billion. His priorities include securing the training and equipment successful naval operations demand and addressing the most pressing challenges confronting the US Navy and Marine Corps – China’s naval ambitions, climate instability, Covid’s ongoing impact, and strengthening a naval culture of inclusiveness and respect.

Register today here: [SDMAC November 2021 Breakfast Speaker Event](https://www.sdmac.org/2021/11/08/sdmac-november-2021-breakfast-speaker-event/) . These events always provide a great opportunity to engage and network.



Event Highlights

Navy Gold Coast 2021: Another Successful Year!



On September 1-2, 2021 the San Diego Chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) held their 33rd Annual Department of the Navy Gold Coast Small Business Procurement Event. This year the forum provided a great platform for matchmaking, networking, and booth visiting in a virtual, interactive format. As in previous years, this event provided exciting and relevant topics delivered by

government and industry experts.

Please see below for a brief interview with some of the NDIA SD Chapter's Gold Coast Committee Members regarding this annual event's success. We hope to see you join us for this event again next year!

What was the main objective(s) of the NDIA SD Chapter's Gold Coast Committee for this year's virtual event?

Frank: Gold Coast provides a forum for the Navy to impart important information to the small business community about opportunities to partner with the Navy as well as related topics of interest. It provides a venue for businesses to make connections with other companies and the Navy buying commands in pursuit of business opportunities.

Why is the matchmaking portion of this event so significant and beneficial for participants?

Melody Bakhshandeh (Matchmaking Chair): Matchmaking is an opportunity for both small businesses and buyers from government and large Primes to meet with each other where in their normal course of business may not know the other has need or capability.

What were some of the most visited booths?

Lillian Maestas: Matchmaking is an opportunity for both small businesses and buyers from government and large Primes to meet with each other where in their normal course of business may not know the other has need or capability.

Interviewer: Brief description/background of anything about you that you would like to share with our members?

Melody Bakhshandeh, Matchmaking Chair: This was my second year chairing the matchmaking program, after two years of virtual experience I am looking forward to next year to be in person and merging what worked in the virtual world with in-person meetings. Looking forward to seeing everyone next year.

A huge "Thank You" to our Navy Gold Coast Team who worked so hard to coordinate another successful, highly anticipated event! Gold Coast Committee: Terry McKearney, Frank Muller, Lillian Maestas, Melody Bakhshandeh, and Destiny White.



Membership Appreciation Event at the Bali Hai: Fun for Everyone!



Eric Lester, NDIA SD Chapter President



From left to right: Jason Galetti (Membership Committee), Susan Couch (SD Chapter Membership Committee Chair), Eric Lester (NDIA SD Chapter President), David Aberisk (Membership Committee) and Victor Ramsauer (Audit Board Committee Lead).

Our first “live” in-person event of the year, held on August 18th, was a huge success and a great time for all! It was a sunny, San Diego day and the view was spectacular! Over 136 members were in attendance!

Our NDIA SD Members greatly appreciate our sponsors, including the companies (see directly below) that donated to our raffles, for their generous contributions and support for our chapter!

Raffle Donations were provided from [Coronado Tasting Room](#) , [Glock Store](#) , [The Monsaraz San Diego](#), [Tapestry Collection by Hilton](#), and [Fitness Quest 10](#) . If you have the opportunity, thank these businesses in the future with your patronage and support!

Susan Couch, our Membership Committee Lead for the NDIA SD Chapter, did an amazing job collaborating and managing all the special event logistics which allowed for a seamless, successful, and really fun event for all our participating members! Thank you, Susan!

Please see below “shout outs” for our volunteers and partnerships! We could not have done this without them! “Thank you” for your support.

Volunteer shout out! We could not have been so successful without them - Thank you for your [support!](#)

Helna Correll
Melody Bakhshandeh
Tania Fires



Dan Solan
Kathleen Webber
Victor Rivera
Ashley Koger

Partnership Shout Out!

Carmen Skipworth – Women in Defense
Gregory Geisen – NAVWAR HQ

Booz | Allen | Hamilton®



Chapter Spotlights

Make a Difference and Get Connected: Become a NDIA Member Today!



Members having fun at the Bali Hai Membership Appreciation Event. In picture left to right: Helna Correll and Melody Bakhshandeh.

This month we had the pleasure of interviewing our NDIA SD Membership Committee Lead, Susan Couch. In addition to Susan’s dedication and service to our chapter, she is a Senior Vice President and Senior Relationship Manager for the San Diego market in Commercial Banking at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. Please read the below interview with Susan and learn why being a NDIA Member is beneficial, as well as fun!

Interviewer: What is the main objective(s) of the NDIA SD Chapter’s Membership Committee and why is membership beneficial?

Susan: The NDIA Chapters are the foundation of the Association. The main objective of the San Diego Chapter’s Membership Committee is to reach out to companies, both large and small, concentrated in defense work, so they collaborate with government and industry to facilitate important discussions of local issues and matters critical to our national defense.



Interviewer: Every member I've spoken to has said the recent Membership Appreciation event in August was a memorable event! Why do you believe it is important for our members to participate in NDIA SD Chapter events? What made this event so memorable and significant?

Susan: The San Diego Chapter is committed to providing a forum for the open and ethical exchange of information between our members and the local military commands we support. The events we sponsor bring government and industry together to share views and perspectives, such as the nationally known Gold Coast Navy small business conference. Our monthly luncheons allow members to socialize and hear about local defense issues that affect their businesses.

Interviewer: In looking at the Navy's near and long-term goals, why do you think government and industry collaboration is important?

Susan: In our NDIA San Diego Chapter, our mission is to support and promote awareness and educate the private and public sectors on issues related to national security. We champion issues that contribute to the strength, resiliency, and capacity of the defense industrial base. We convene legal and ethical forums for exchange of ideas, information, viewpoints, and capabilities.

Interviewer: As a Committee Lead and fellow NDIA member why you believe being a NDIA member is beneficial?

Susan: One of our members recently wrote to us: "Joining NDIA as a defense tech startup, I could not have imagined the impact a membership would have on our business. Their roster of trade and conference events throughout the year allowed us to quickly and cost-effectively launch our robots and generate business. NDIA's invite-only corporate events gave us the opportunity to meet with senior government and industry leaders that would not have happened otherwise. I would highly recommend an NDIA membership for any technology business that is selling into the defense sector." - Jiren Parikh, President and CEO, Ghost Robotics

Interviewer: Brief description/background of anything about you that you would like to share with our members?

Susan: I am proud and honored to share that I was recently recognized in the San Diego Business Journal as an honoree of their "[San Diego Business Journal: Women of Influence 50 Over 50](#)".

If you would like to become a member, please visit the NDIA Membership Page today at <https://www.ndia-sd.org/about-ndia-san-diego/membership/>. You can also contact Susan Couch, SD Chapter Membership Committee Lead, at susan.couch@baml.com.



Congratulations Susan Couch: Recognized as one of the 50 “Women of Influence 50 Over 50” in the San Diego Business Journal



Congratulations to our very own SD Chapter Membership Committee Chair, Susan Couch, who was recognized in the San Diego Business Journal as one of the 50 “Women of Influence 50 Over 50 2021”. Please see below for what was featured in the SD Business Journal.

Susan Couch is SVP, senior relationship manager of Business Banking at Bank of America, leading a team of financial specialists delivering tailored credit, deposit and cash management solutions for a wide variety of companies with annual revenues of \$5 aerospace million to \$50 million. She has special expertise in the, defense, government-contracting, manufacturing and engineering sectors. She is the bank’s San Diego Co-Chair of its Military Support Affinity Group and the Treasurer of its LEAD for women employee network group. She serves on the National Defense Industrial Association and SDMAC Foundation boards; San Diego Aerospace & Defense Forum, East County Manufacturing Expo and Skilled Workforce committees; and formerly served on the YMCA, Psych/Armor Institute and Commercial Real Estate Women of San Diego boards. She participates with Women in Defense, Women in Manufacturing, Armed Forces Communications & Electronics Association, San Diego Cyber Center of Excellence, TMA Blue Tech(formerly) San Diego Maritime Alliance, Defense Leadership Forum, United Service Organization (USO) and Padres Pedal the Cause. A graduate of University of Washington Pacific Coast Banking School, Phoenix Community College (Associate of Arts, Banking & Finance) and LEAD San Diego, Susan has been recognized by numerous charities and nonprofits for her community work.

Congratulations Stacey Anfuso: Recognized as one of the 50 “Women of Influence 50 Over 50” in the San Diego Business Journal



Congratulations to another one of our chapter leaders Stacy Anfuso, NDIA SD Document Management Chair, who was recognized in the San Diego Business Journal as one of the 50 “Women of Influence 50 Over 50 2021”. Please see below for what was featured in the SD Business Journal.

Stacey Anfuso is the founder, president and CEO of La Jolla Logic, Inc., a cybersecurity and advanced technology engineering firm supporting the US Department of Defense (DoD). She is an industry-recognized entrepreneur and accomplished scientist and cybersecurity engineer. As a pioneer of Innovation in Cybersecurity technology in the Aerospace Defense Sector, Anfuso has made significant strides in improving the U.S. Navy's cyber posture on its enterprise networks through the application of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning techniques. Prior to her engineering and leadership roles in the cyber and national defense communities, Anfuso spent nearly a decade as a sea-going oceanographic researcher traveling extensively in support of field research programs around the world. She holds Bachelor and Master of Science degrees and has been a practicing cybersecurity engineer supporting the US Department of Defense for over 20 years and she currently maintains the advanced credential of Certified Information System Security Professional (CISSP).



Miss Out on A Recent Small Business Committee Meeting or Forum? Catch-up Here and Join Us Next Time!



Interested in increasing your business or gaining more industry knowledge? Join us for our next forum! We plan on hosting another forum event this fall so please stay tuned for more information in the months ahead.

Miss our last SBC Meeting? You can catch-up here: [NDIA SD SBC Meeting Minutes September 2021](#).