



## President's Message

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## January 2009

### LUNCHEON

January 16, 2009

11:30 Social

12:00 Meeting

12:45 Lunch

Guest Speaker:

Anthony Popiel

Dear NFRW Members:

Happy New Year!! I must admit that I am looking forward to a somewhat quieter political year from the local perspective. We had an exciting year with many of the candidates in Florida and also in Jacksonville; available for us to visit and meet with them.

We are still hard at work planning the coming year and thank you for your input at the last meeting. John Crawford was certainly interesting and informative at our December meeting.

Our luncheon dates may vary due to the construction at the Ritz. Please check elsewhere in the newsletter for the dates for this quarter. Also -- I know that parking last month was an issue. The Golf Club has arranged for special valet parking for us. You drive right up to the bag drop (don't go up to the Ritz) and they will park our cars for us. I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday season and I hope to see you at our next meeting.

Warmest regards,

*Cherie Billings*

Please mail correspondence to:

NFRW

P.O. Box 1338

Fernandina Beach, FL 32035



### LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS ARE IMPORTANT!

Please contact Liz Seagraves by Tuesday, January 13, with a reservation. We must commit to the Golf Club of Amelia Island for food and set-up. Please make your reservation when you receive this newsletter by calling 904-225-2933, or e-mail lizzymae262@gmail.com. Lunch is \$15.00, and we look forward to seeing you there!

#### 2008-2009 Executive Board

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Treasurer: Liz Seagraves

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Assistant Treasurer: Judy Main

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## Get to know the **January** Guest Speaker:

**Captain Anthony Popiel, Deputy Sector Commander**  
**Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville, FL**



Captain Popiel reported to Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville and assumed the duties of Deputy Sector Commander in August 2007. As the Deputy, he is also the Alternate Captain of the Port, Alternate Federal Maritime Security Coordinator, and Alternate Federal On Scene Coordinator for Northeast Florida.

Prior to reporting to Jacksonville, Captain Popiel served as the Coast Guard's liaison to the United States Senate from August 2004 to July 2007. As the Senate Liaison, he was primarily responsible for educating Senators and staff on key Coast Guard policies and programs, including appropriations and authorization requests.

Upon Commissioning in May 1987, Captain Popiel served as a Deck Watch Officer aboard the Coast Guard Cutter POLAR SEA, a 399-foot polar icebreaker home ported in Seattle, WA. His primary operational experience, however, is in operations ashore – search and rescue, waterways management, and recreational boating safety. He served as Operations Officer at Group Milwaukee, WI and as Group Commander at Group Grand Haven, MI. He also served as a Search and Rescue Planner at the Great Lakes Rescue Coordination Center in Cleveland, OH. His staff assignments include a tour as a Program Reviewer and Budget Coordinator at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC.

Captain Popiel is a 1987 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Management. He later earned a Masters Degree in Public Administration from George Mason University in Fairfax, VA in 1998. His military decorations include 3 Meritorious Service Medals, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, two Coast Guard Achievement Medals and the Antarctica Service Medal. His hometown is Lorain, Ohio along the shores of Lake Erie.

### Luncheon Dates for 2009:

January; Friday 16th

February; Friday 13th

March; Friday 20th

Hope to see you there!