

Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23 5SR



Top Left: Marie Squillace, VCDR. Takes her oath of office

Top Right: Jim Farrell, Boat Crew Training Program

Bottom Left: CDR. J. David Block, DIRAUX

Bottom right: Joe Espino, Division Auxiliant of the Year 2020

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Welcome 2021

Hello everyone in Division 054-23. Thank you all for volunteering your time and leadership to the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Your hard work and dedication to duty has served the United States Coast Guard

well.

Our Strategic goals for 2021 are to increase the number of Aids to Navigation Verifications and to enhance our members' training. 2020 provided us with the opportunity to use our creativity, adaptability and resilience in our approach towards mission success.

Our members conducted thousands of hours of member training virtually. Our goals for 2021 should be built off the successes of 2020.

Division 23 staff officers were asked to maintain their appointments for 2021. All of Division staff officers stepped up and maintained their posts for 2021 enabling continuity.

I just say that it is an honor to serve with each and every one of you and consider my service with you all an honor of a lifetime.

Willie Witters

Division Commander

Division 23 has two staff officer vacancies

Division 054-23 is currently seeking qualified candidates to fill the position of Division staff officer for Public education and Diversity. If you are interested in one of these positions contact DCDR Willie Witters at wttw5@aol.com or Marie Squillace at squillace14@gmail.com.

Connie Cosgrove

SO-PB

Joe Espino Named Division 23 Auxiliarist of the Year



I am pleased to announce the selection of Auxiliarist Joseph J. Espino (23-03) as the *Division 23 Auxiliarist of the Year*. Mr. Espino has consistently demonstrated extraordinary enthusiasm and devotion to duty. In 2020, he was elected Flotilla Commander (054-23-01), and has served as Division Chief of Cybersecurity on National Staff and Assistant District Staff Officer – Emergency Management for Gap Analysis and Contingency Planning (District 5SR). In this capacity, he has cultivated relationships, coordinated, and offered support within and across the chain of leadership, and offered procedural enhancements that helped the Auxiliary to successfully conduct business during this non-traditional year.

Among his impressive list of contributions this past year were helping to improve the Auxiliary's relevance to the U.S. Coast Guard, providing much needed technology support during a global pandemic which prevented in-person meetings and interactions, providing direct support to Division 23 leadership, and strengthening Auxiliary safety and security measures.

Helping to Improve the Auxiliary's Relevance to the Coast Guard

Joe created D5SR Emergency Management Team web presence and branding. The secure web site identifies and highlights Auxiliary Emergency Management and Incident Management opportunities and capabilities. Joe has played a significant role in the Gap Analysis identification and tracking effort. The aim of this initiative is to improve the Auxiliary's relevance to the Coast Guard by identifying gaps in personnel needs from the National, District, Sector, and local Auxiliary

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2020 Board & Staff

DCDR: Willie Witters
VCDR: Marie Squillace
IPDCDR: John Fewer

23-1 - Annapolis

Margaret Butler, Flotilla Commander
David Sire, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-2 - Solomons

Lawrence Butts, Flotilla Commander
Earl Kaufman, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-3 – West Annapolis

Joseph Espino, Flotilla Commander
LeRoy Culley, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-4 – South River

Bruce Petro, Acting Flotilla Commander

23-6 – Drum Point

Steve Birchfield, Flotilla Commander
Tom Hardisty, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-7 – Herring Bay

Christopher Jensen, Flotilla Commander
Paul Manicone, Vice Flotilla Commander

Division Staff

SO-AS—Michael Taylor
SO-CM - Jim Welday
SO-CS - Wendy Norwitz
SO-DV - vacant
SO-FN - Michael Taylor
SO-FS - Ron Hillarad
SO-HR - Dave Keyser
SO-IS - Ronald Hillard
SO-MA -Christopher Jensen
SO-MS - Ronald Price
SO-MT - Ray Feller
SO-NS - Jeffrey Conopask
SO-OP - Phil Wentz
SO-PA - Le Roy Culley
SO-PB - Connie Cosgrove
SO-PE - vacant
SO-PV - Christopher Jensen
SO-SR - Mark Campbell
SO-VE - Kirby Garland

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1 April 2021

Articles and pictures are encouraged and appreciated. Please email to the editor: Connie Cosgrove at cjcosgrove@earthlink.net

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units; and offering a road map of areas where Auxiliary personnel can fill an identified unfilled or needed billet.

Providing Much Needed Technology Supports

Joe's innovative procedural enhancements were instrumental to accelerating on-line presentations and the electronic election process for D5SR. Further, Joe provided "behind the scenes" technology support during the Division 23 COW and established procedures for a YouTube live-streaming access web-link to increase participation in the event among Division members. He was also vital to the success of the USCG Auxiliary's first-ever virtual District board meeting with the fall elections.

Providing Direct Support to Division 23

Beyond the support noted above, the MD LOSAP coordinator, Warren Hall stepped aside leaving a gap. With assistance and a request from Jim Weldon, Joe worked to gather all the required data from AUXDATA II to extract the information needed to support all individual LOSAP forms. Subsequently, Joe is mailing the requisite forms to all qualified Auxiliarists state-wide. Thank you.

Joe remains a consistent Watchstander at Station Annapolis. This past December, he supported the station by providing required CPR and First Aid training to the Active Duty crews to help them maintain their qualifications.

Strengthening Safety & Security Measures

This past year, Joe instructed a fingerprint technician course in D5SR to assist in the verification of citizenship during the pandemic resulting in 20+ new qualified fingerprint technicians/citizenship verifiers around D5SR to help onboard new members.

On the National level, he has been developing the plans, procedures, and capabilities to improve Auxiliary cybersecurity. He has been leading a team that responds to various cybersecurity incidents and mitigating them to prevent re-occurrences. He is now responsible for the effort to support Coast Guard Cyber Command and USCG

Office of Cyberspace Forces with providing qualified Auxiliarist augmentees in all 37 Sectors to improve the cybersecurity posture of the marine transportation system.

In sum, Joe was essential to the USCG Auxiliary operations during a global health crisis. His exceptional goodwill and commitment to excellence are very much appreciated. Please join me in recognizing Joe's exemplary performance and service in 2020.

Marie R. Squillace

Vice Commander

My.cgauX Sunset Plan

As announced in the L2 Leadership Link of 10 September, my.cgauX has been discontinued as 16 December 2020.

Many of the my.cgauX links and directory items are available on the Auxiliary National website home page at cgauX.org. A link to ALAUX messages now appears as a left column menu item on the home page. A link to L2 messages will soon be added just below the ALAUX link. Additionally, links to Auxiliary information resources are available under the Aux Members dropdown on the home page.

Please direct any questions about this matter up through your Communication Services Chain of Leadership.

Editor's note: The above was received email through the Auxiliary message system.

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Division 23 holds virtual Change of Watch (COW)

With 2020 being a year of virtual meetings and training because of COVID-19, the COW was no different. There was a great deal of planning that went into making the COW as typical as possible but yet where the most members could take part and view the ceremony. The division used two platforms to bring the COW to the members. The elected leaders, guest of the division, and the division staff participated in the COW through Zoom. The COW was recorded and shown live on YouTube.

Willie Witters, Division Commander (DCDR) began by welcoming members and guest on Zoom and YouTube. He said, "To all the members of Division 23 thank you for your leadership, support, and selfless service during a global pandemic. You have overcome historic challenges in 2020 preserving and achieving resounding mission success. I am proud of this team and consider it to be the honor of a lifetime to serve beside you."

Margaret Butler, Flotilla Commander (FC) 23-1 gave the invocation and honored those members who crossed the bar in 2020. She began with displaying an image of the missing man table and read what each element means. She concluded by calling each member's name followed by a toll of the bell. Five of our members crossed the bar in 2020. They were Donald Llewellyn, Robert Greer, John Cosgrove, Michael Whitman and Clarence Caesar.

Marie Squillace, Vice Division Commander (VCDR) introduced our guest; CDR Evelyn Samms, USCG, Chief of Prevention, Sector MD-NCR; CDR J. David Block, USCG, Director USCG Auxiliary, D5SR; LT Andrew Lauf, Marine Inspector & AUXLO, Sector MD-NCR; Allen Fred, DCO, USCG Auxiliary D5SR; Woodrow Johnson, Auxiliary District Captain, Sector MD-NCR; John Fewer, Auxiliary Sector Coordinator, Sector MD-NCR; and Joanne Revis, USCG Auxiliary Administrative Affairs Specialist, D5SR.



John Fewer administered the oath of office to Willie DCDR and Marie, VCDR. Following their oath, Marie administered the oath of office to all FC, Vice Flotilla Commanders and Division Staff Officers.

Lt Lauf presented two COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS TEAM COMMENDATION awards



given by Sector MD-NCR. The first was the given to the Sector MD-NCR 2020 Sea Scout Safety at Sea Team. The second award was given to the Sector MD-NCR Auxiliary Private Aids to Navigation Verification Team. Marie,

VCDR presented nine Division awards in four categories. The award was shown on screen and then delivered to the recipients at a later date.

Our Keynote Speaker, CDR Evelyn Samms said "2020 was undoubtedly a very challenging year but Division 23 persevered.

Bravo Zulu to Willie Witters and Marie Squillace for a job well done guiding your members through this difficult time. Congratulations to you both for being re-elected for 2021.

Also, congratulations to several of the Division's new members for having accepted elected and staff leadership positions for 2021 at both the Division and Flotilla levels.

Operationally, Division 23 supports Stations Annapolis and St. Inigoes in four Auxiliary Area Of Responsibility (AORs) which include the Magothy River, Severn River, Lower Potomac River and Solomon's Island

Despite the challenges of a pandemic environment Division 23 volunteered nearly 17,000 hours of

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their time this year. These hours included both virtual and operational support of CG missions. Instead of focusing on what couldn't be done, Division 23 demonstrated its flexibility to focus on what could be done during 2020.

Division 23 **2020** highlights included: **16874** Hours of USCG virtual training, administration and operational support missions. Div. 23 participated in the inspection, verification and reporting of over 525 PATONS.

As part of the Auxiliary Focused Lens effort, over 1000 boat ramps were surveyed and reported to Sect. MD-NCR-port Security Division. This directly impacted critical infrastructure risk assessment and greatly increased the local area knowledge of the Sector Maryland-NCR AOR.

Looking ahead in 2021, we will continue to be diligent in how we safely execute Auxiliary mission sets in this pandemic environment. We at Sector monitor COVID 19 metrics daily and their possible impact on Active Duty and Auxiliary operations alike. Make no doubt your safety is forefront and paramount. With the roll out of the vaccination program we look forward to fully employing our Auxiliary teammates once again. Once safe to do so, we need your continued support for the following:

Marine Safety: Your support is needed to meet the Coast Guard's Commercial Fishing Vessel Inspection goals. Additional qualified Auxiliarists serving as Commercial Fishing Vessel Examiners will be of great benefit. Conducting dock walks and dockside vessel exams will be of particular impact as our nation and recreational fleet move towards normalcy as the pandemic subsides.

Vessel Safety and Boating safety outreach: Education programs are critical to keeping our waterways safe. The Auxiliary has assisted tremendously in educating the public on the proper use and wear of PFDs. Please continue to reach out to different sub groups of the boating community regarding safe boating practices and other important safety initiatives.

Public boating courses: These courses you deliver to the local public are critically important. By emphasizing that boaters need to know and follow the rules of the road, wear life jackets and practice sobriety when operating a boat, you can save lives. Your wealth of experience and expertise you share with the public is immeasurable. Let's continue to focus on reaching as many people as possible even if it means virtually.

Finally, I would like to remind each of you that the Coast Guard cannot successfully undertake our boating safety missions without you. The Auxiliary proudly serves as a force multiplier alongside our Active Duty, Reserve, and Civilian workforce. Each of you lends your unique talents to assist Sector Maryland-NCR with performing a broad range of Coast Guard missions. Looking ahead into 2021, we look forward to the Auxiliary's continued support of Coast Guard mission sets and the public.

Thank you for your patience, resiliency, agility and creativity in how you have continued to serve the Coast Guard and public in such a challenging environment. Thank you for everything you do and will continue to do!"

CDR David Block, DIRAUX, thanked Willie, Marie and all Division 23 members for all we were able to accomplish during the pandemic. CDR Block said "he is hopeful to open up Ops once again this year and get us back on the water." He asked for our continued patience.

Allen Fredd, District Commodore, thanked the 2020 elected and appointed officers. He welcomed the 2021 officers thanking them for stepping up into a leadership role. He thanked division members who have taken on district positions such as John Fewer, who has taken on the ASC role. He said "the ASC position is our link to the active-duty side. He said he was encouraged that we will be able to return to our traditional missions this year. He encouraged us to "shake of the rust" on our skills so that we will be sharp when we do get back on the water. He thanked Joe Espino for his expertise in setting up the September 2020 V-Train.

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He spoke about the upcoming V-Train and encouraged members to sign up for the classes. He said they are beginning planning an in-person D-Training in September. He ended by thanking us for what we did and that we should be proud of our accomplishments.

The last speaker of the day was John Fewer, ASC. John said, "It has been an honor to serve as the 2020 ASC. It has been a real pleasure, and in some cases an eye opener, to work with the active duty and Division leadership to address issues that affect Auxiliarist as we perform our duties.

I would like to make a special Bravo Zulu call out to all of the Sector Command, especially Sector Commander, Capt. Loring, Deputy Commander Fine and our AUXLO Lt. Lauf for their continued support of the Auxiliary during an unprecedented year. Throughout 2020, they maintained an open communication as we conducted bi-weekly phone meetings to discuss actions needing to be taken to assure Auxiliarist were kept safe while at the same time finding opportunities to re-engage us in what we all volunteered to do - serve the Coast Guard!

I recall many discussions during the year on how COVID 19 restrictions were impacting the Auxiliary membership. Without a doubt the Sector Command felt our disappointment relating to our not being able to undertake the many activities we proudly want to do in support of the Auxiliary Mission. At the end of the day, the recognition of the importance of Risk Management prevailed. Hopefully, we shall have an opportunity to serve the CG more actively in 2021 "

I am pleased to advise that preparation is already underway for the coming year. Meetings have been scheduled with the ANT Team to review how the Auxiliary can further support the CG in the important task of verifying and reporting on the condition of PATONS. I shall be meeting shortly with Lt. Lauf, Phil Wentz, our DSO-OP and the Station Auxiliary Unit Coordinators to identify boat crew training that will be needed so we can develop a Sector wide "Safety stand up" this

spring to prepare coxswains and boat crew members to get back underway in 2021 when requested by the CG stations."

The afternoon concluded with Willie announcing Joe Espino as the Division Auxiliarist of the Year and presenting Joanne Revis an award from the Division for her support.

Connie Cosgrove

SO-PB

23-7 names two Auxiliarists of the Year for 2020.

First Auxiliarist of the year is Paul Manicone, now our new FC.

In addition to hitting the ground running last January with an instructional series with the Naval Sea Cadets in Annapolis, Paul warned us all of the incoming dangers in the earliest days of the pandemic, (long before it got here).

He talked two members out of traveling to Italy before COVID-19 had widely spread there, and has kept us all informed of all the latest developments and wisest strategies for survival throughout this episode. He has had a very positive effect on all of us, and all those he talks to outside the Auxiliary.

Donna McMillan saw the need for us to start doing meetings on ZOOM, and jumped on it like a seasoned pro. She offered us the use of her company ZOOM facilities for our meetings, which she has ably hosted, and she also did the same for Phil Wentz's Operations presentations at other venues.

She's had a huge positive influence on a great many people and events, and I doubt we would have been able to get much done without her help.

Chris Jensen

2020 Flotilla Commander 23-7

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Flotilla elected officers for 2021

Flotilla elections were held during November and December. The following members will serve as our leaders for 2021. Congratulations to our leaders.

23-1

Flotilla Commander (FC) - Margaret Butler

Vice Flotilla Commander (VFC) - David Sire

23-2

FC – Lawrence Butts

VFC – Richard Sikorski

23-3

FC – LeRoy Culley

VFC – Kirby Garland

23-4

FC – Bruce Petro

VFC – James Regensburg

23-6

FC – Steve Birchfield

VFC – Tom Hardisty

23-7

FC – Paul Manicone

VFC – Chris Jensen

Awards

Since the last issue of the Chatter the following awards have been presented to our members. Congratulations!

Auxiliary Achievement Medal

Joe Espino, for superior performance of duty in establishing electronic election procedures.

AUXOP:

Roy Culley and Leslie Nicholas, 23-3



Membership Service Award

5 years:

Tim Clarke, 23-3

25 years:

Michael Taylor, 23-3

Division 2020 Awards

At the Change of Watch on 16 January, Marie Squillace, Vice Division Commander announced Division 23 awards given for 2020.

The first award was for Sector Boat Crew Training Program. At the request of Operations Officer Jim Farrell in 2019, Adam Yearwood and Dave Sire were asked to teach the Boat Crew Training in 2020. Jim wanted to take advantage of their decades of boating experience and bring new ideas into the training. The plan was for Jim to take responsibility for overall planning and organizing and Adam and Dave would develop the lesson plans, including the Power Point Presentations (PPT). When the CG cancelled all in-person meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the team decided to revise what they had developed for on-line training presentations. With a decision made for a new virtual training program, the team decided to open it to all interested Auxiliary members in Sector MD-NCR.

Dave and Adam did a great job in preparation and delivery of the program. There were about 25 members attending weekly training sessions on-line, with some members taking the course as a refresher. The training covered all shore side tasks and included homework, such as navigation-related assigned tasks.

After each training session attendees received an email with attached PPT for that class and handouts that supported the material. Members worked with their mentors for sign offs via the ZOOM on-line platform or by phone conversations for all shore side tasks. When all tasks were completed, the team stood by until the CG authorized training patrols. Once authorized, the team conducted four training patrols and certification with a QE. This example highlights how three Division 23 members worked around the limitations of the COVID-19 pandemic to support the CG mission by expanding the Boat Crew Training Program across Sector MD-NCR,

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and by successfully certifying new Boat Crew Members.

We are pleased to recognize **Adam Yearwood, David Sire, and Jim Farrell** for their effort in successfully executing the **Boat Crew Training Program in 2020**.

The second category was Inspecting/verifying Private Aids to Navigation (PATONS). John Fewer, ASC, responded to Sector's request to focus on inspecting/verifying PATONS in all Sector AOR's. This project requirement was highlighted in the GAP Analysis conducted in 2019.

In response, members of all 5 Divisions completed over 500 PATON inspections in Baltimore, Annapolis, the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and Solomon's Island. We thank all of the coxswains and boat crew members who have supported this effort.

We also want to recognize two individuals, in particular, whose contributions to this effort in Division 23 went above and beyond expectations.

John Fewer for his dedication in verifying a total of 203 PATONS and **Dorothy Neiman** for her dedication in verifying a total of **175 PATONS**. Dorothy often inspected PATONS with John, either as crew or coxswain.

The third category was Instructor of the Year.

This past year members of Division 23 organized a PATON qualification training, led by Ed Martin. With COVID-19 restrictions, the classroom portion of the AV-PQS training program was adapted to carry out sessions on-line. The 4-night, 2-hour on-line course sessions ended with a take home test.

PQS task sign offs with the required physical inspection of aids were completed once COVID-19 restrictions were lifted to permit this activity.

ADSO's Larry Truesdell and Martin Eustace provided much needed help in getting members certified. Of the 40 students that started the program, so far, 12 have completed and received their PATON course certifications. These newly minted PATON verifiers then collectively helped to verify 228 PATONS. These 228 PATON inspections might not have been inspected this year without Ed Martin's PATON qualification training program. This example highlights how a Division 23 member has worked around and through the limitations of the COVID-19 pandemic to support the CG mission, and Sector MD-NCR. We are pleased to recognize **Ed Martin** as the **Division 23 Instructor of the Year**.

The final award category was **Boat Ramp Verification Program**. In 2020, the CG requested that the Auxiliary provide support by identifying the location of boat ramps in our AOR. Why was this information needed?

In the event of a missing boater, knowing where they may have launched from is added information to assist in a search. Knowing the location and/or condition of boat ramps enable the CG to determine if they can be used in case of an incident, where they may need to launch or recover boats and equipment for an event. Knowing the location of ramps also enables the CG to identify locations where illegal activities may be originating from.

A team of three individuals – Christopher Jensen, LeRoy Culley, and John Fewer began work, by assigning each other tasks. Chris and Roy identified and reported the status of boat ramps in their assigned regions; and John Fewer documented information about those sightings in reports submitted to Sector MD-NCR Port Security. Over 1,000 boat ramps have been identified and survey reports completed and submitted to Sector MD-NCR Port Security.

Marie Squillace

Vice Division Commander

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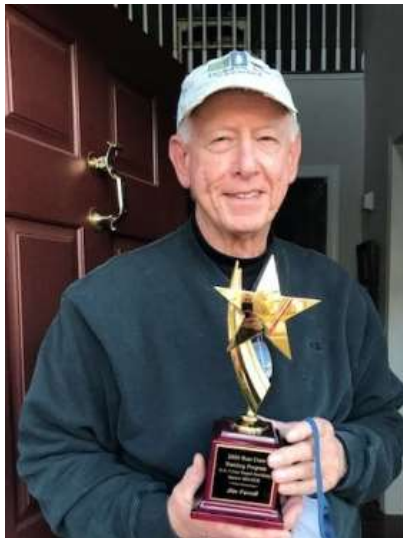
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Boat Crew Training Program Award



Jim Farrell,
top
David Sire—
left
Adam
Yearwood—
right

Boat Ramp Verification Program



John Fewer—top
holds both his
award for 203
PATON
verifications and
the boat ramp
award
Chris Jensen—
left
LeRoy Culley,
right



Instructor of the Year—Ed Martin



Awards being presented virtual by VCDR Marie Squillace



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Sector Maryland-National Capital Region (NCR) 2020 Sea Scout Safety at Sea Team Award

The Commandant of the United States Coast Guard takes pleasure in presenting the COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS TEAM COMMENDATION to: John Fewer.

For exceptionally meritorious service on November 7, 2020, the members of the Sector Maryland-NCR Sea Scout Safety at Sea Team distinguished themselves with outstanding service to the community with the preparation and execution of the Northeast Region Area 6 Sea Scout Safety at Sea Event. In the face of a world-wide pandemic, where a physical event was not possible, this highly dedicated group of Active Duty, CG Auxiliary, and volunteers persevered. Demonstrating superb agility in planning and harnessing available resources, a first ever virtual day-long program of informational sessions and exercises were developed in a highly time compressed environment. The resulting program positively impacted more than 140 Sea Scouts over the course of 14 segments. These segments familiarized the participants with Coast Guard missions, assets, and capabilities, as well as demonstrated various lifesaving appliances, lifesaving techniques, and challenged the participants with exercises on seamanship skills. Additionally, Coast Guard recruiting and Coast Guard Academy personnel further educated the Sea Scouts and promoted multiple accession paths into the United States Coast Guard. In the end, 100% of post event survey respondents looked forward to the next annual event, a testament to the enthusiasm of the Sector Maryland-NCR Sea Scout Safety at Sea Team. This annual educational community event continues to strengthen the relationship between Sector Maryland-NCR, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and local Baltimore area civic organizations. The dedication, pride, and professionalism displayed by the members of the Sector Maryland-NCR Sea Scout Safety at Sea Team reflect credit upon themselves, their

respective commands, and the United States Coast Guard.

For the Commandant,

J. B. Loring

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard

Commander Sector Maryland NCR

23-6 Participates in Toys for Tots Drive



Despite COVID and not being able to interact with the public, 23-6 decided that this was a year that more families would need help providing for the children at Christmas. This is a project that is very dear to me and I felt I had to find a way that we could safely do this and follow all Coast Guard guidance."

After making contact with Robin Cavallaro and Heather Cusin from the Calvert Toys for Tots we decided that we could do the project without personal contact. Two of the Toys for Tots boxes would be dropped off at my house. Once the drive was complete, I would put the box filled with toys on my porch and they would be picked up.

Once I knew it was possible to do this without contact, I took my idea to the Flotilla meeting. This year I suggested that instead of members buying toys and getting them to me, if they would send a check instead, I would go on line and order the toys or they could order them on line and have them delivered to my address. The Flotilla agreed with this plan and over \$300 worth of toys were purchased to help families in need.

A big thank you to all the members who made this drive such a success.

Connie Cosgrove

FSO-PA 23-6

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Missing Man Table



Margaret Butler in her tribute to those who crossed the bar in 2020 at the COW showed the missing man table through a PowerPoint presentation. Margaret explained the meaning of the items on this special table. This is a time honored tradition with the military.

The table is round -- to show our everlasting concern for our missing men.

The tablecloth is white -- symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to duty.

The single red rose, displayed in a vase, reminds us of the life of each of the missing, and their loved ones.

The candle is lit -- Symbolizing the upward reach of their unconquerable spirit. Remember

A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears endured by those missing and their families.

The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God.

The glass is inverted -- to symbolize their inability to share this day's toast.

The chairs are empty -- they are missing.

Sector Maryland-National Capital Region (SM-NCR) Auxiliary Private Aids to Navigation Verification Team Award

The Commandant of the United States Coast Guard takes pleasure in presenting the COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS TEAM COMMENDATION to: John Fewer, Jeff Conopask, Ed Martin, Robin Ouellette, Darian Pringle, David Sire, Dorothy Neiman, Don Parker, Bryan Teague, William Smith, Willie Witters, LeRoy Culley, Harry Scott, and James Farrell

For exceptionally meritorious service from April 20, 2020 to November 4, 2020, the Sector MD-NCR Auxiliary Private Aids to Navigation (PATON) Verification Team distinguished themselves with exceptional service while verifying 525 PATON on 23 patrols over 151 calendar days. Despite the Coronavirus pandemic and associated COVID-19 respiratory infections spreading uncontrolled in the local region, Auxiliary members displayed unwavering dedication while astutely managing time and resources to conduct a virtual web-based PATON Verification Course. As a result of their efforts, 37 students successfully completed the month-long course online from their homes, safely bolstering the team's capability to complete mandated PATON verifications. Additionally, once authorized to conduct on the water patrols, the 12 certified Aid Verifiers named on this award, along with 11 Coxswains and crew, tenaciously began their initiative to make 2020 a successful operational year. During this period, the Auxiliary crews identified and reported 97 discrepancies to privately owned aids, allowing the Sector's Aids to Navigation Teams to notify PATON owners of the discrepancies and advertise the discrepancies in the Local Notice to Mariners. This effort compelled PATON owners to adhere to Fifth District PATON permits by promptly correcting discrepancies to ensure safe navigation for waterway users, particularly during the increase in recreational boating due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The dedication, pride, and professionalism displayed by the members of the

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Sector Maryland-National Capital Region (NCR) Auxiliary Private Aids to Navigation Verification Team reflect credit on each team member, their team, and the United States Coast Guard.

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the Commandant,

J. B. Loring

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard

Commander Sector Maryland NCR

First Cold Water Virtual Training Class

Flotilla 054-23-01, specifically Ron Price (Coxswain and Sector Designated Cold Water Instructor), Margaret Butler, Flotilla Commander (FC) in coordination with Phil Wentz, 054-23 SO-OP organized its first virtual on-line cold water training for boat crew qualified members. This was done to be able to safely conduct boat operations to comply with Sector Maryland-NCR requirements for cold water operations, in water temperatures lower than 60°F. Training, required annually, covers hypothermia – when is it likely, what are the hazards/consequences, what's needed to stay safe.

To stay safe in the time of COVID, the class was presented online, on 29 October 2020. Unhampered by venue constraints the training opportunity was widely advertised to boat crew members across the Sector.

The virtual training was an immensely successful event which resulted in 54 members from 12 Flotillas in five Division and two Districts completing the training. This allowed them to safely participate in on the water operations requiring anti-exposure coveralls (mustangs).

In addition, 12 members subsequently completed the dry suit leak test (required for dry suits to be worn in water temperatures below 50° F) in the

open-air isolation of the Discovery Village water front in Shady Side Maryland.

The initiative, resourcefulness, and flexibility of all concerned showed what can be accomplished even under pandemic constraints. They contributed significantly to the ability of boat crews to complete their missions. Indeed, five days later four members who had received the training, conducted an Aid to Navigation Verification Patrol after the Chesapeake Bay water temperature plunged virtually overnight to below 60° F.

Margaret Butler

FC 23-1

Virtual AUXCOM course scheduled

Flotilla 22-02 will be teaching an online Auxiliary communications specialty course (AUXCOM) on Wednesdays, beginning February 3 and ending February 24 from 1900-2100. Pre-register by contacting Holly Johnson at holly.johnson610@gmail.com. Course logins will only be sent to those who pre-register.

Students must download a copy of the *AUXCOM Student Study Guide* at http://cgaux.org/training/AUXOP/AUXCOM/AUXCOM_Student.pdf and print out the **study questions** at the end of each chapter. Students are expected to have studied the first chapter of *Student Study Guide* prior to the course and have completed the study questions for the chapter prior to February 3rd.

AUXCOM, focuses on radio communications for the Auxiliary and Coast Guard, providing broad knowledge of the fundamental principles underlying communications systems in use by both the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary. AUXCOM is one of three required core courses for AUXOP.

Editor's note: the above was received email through the chain of communication.

Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

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Judged 5SR Runner-Up Division Publication for 2018

Optimizing Diversity, Inclusion & Engagement In a Post Pandemic Era

The year 2020, in many ways has hit many of us in unprecedented ways to say the least. The Auxiliary has faced each challenge with resilience at every turn. As an Auxiliary we've had to adjust many of our face-to-face operational duties remotely and virtually. Whether it was attending flotilla meetings or facilitating a robust on-line training or participate in limited Auxiliary to Auxiliary scoped work. Optimizing Diversity in a post pandemic era will still require us to optimize diversity as we engage with our internal and external stakeholder in greater ways.

According to FSO-HR reports membership application to join the Auxiliary experienced an up-tick. That tells me that the general public is still interested in our mission of Boating Safety. As a Flotilla Commander, I enjoyed seeing increased virtual participation in flotilla meetings by 15% over in-person attendance. Nevertheless, we must be deliberate and intentional in our commitment to diversity and inclusion. Because if we are not intentionally inclusive, we risk being unintentionally exclusive. When different perspectives from people of different backgrounds come together, something incredible happens. Let us remember, when we embrace diversity and inclusion, we're designing a more vibrant, dynamic world and we are better equipped to execute the mission of the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary.

With the current climate of unrest and cultural tensions at its highest, we must build bridges across cultural barriers. We get the good fortune to show the world around us how people with diverse backgrounds can execute mission critical operations. We are stronger together. Ways we can optimize inclusion and engagement in a post pandemic era involve our organization's leadership demonstrating and modeling diversity principles as they lead the workforce. Additionally, our Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) teams must champion diversity of all stakeholders. Diversity must be a part of strategic planning and is one the

organization's guiding principles. Diversity must be diligently applied to recruitment, retention and selection of leadership. Diversity competencies should be reflected in reviews, rewards, discipline and special assignments. Diversity initiatives should be allotted adequate resources and lastly everyone at every level in the organization must receive training in diversity principles and understand his or her role as a diversity champion.

The 2021 NACO Three Star Award for Excellence in Diversity covers the period of activity January 1, 2020 and ends January 30, 2021. The application submittal deadline is June 30, 2021 for the aforementioned period of performance. The next Diversity Town Hall meeting will be held on Tuesday the 26th of January at 2000 EST, email uscgaux91d7@gmail.com for updates and to be placed on future notifications.

Margaret Butler

FC 23-01

David Stadler

FSO-DV 23-01

Flotilla 23-04 Designs Challenge Coin

Flotilla 23-04 designed and acquired a challenge coin for the unit. The coin has two sides, one is the Coast Guard Auxiliary seal and the other our patch. This is not unusual in the Coast Guard family. Many stations, boats, and units have their own unique designs. USCG Station Annapolis has their patch painted on the wall of their meeting room.

At Michael Whitman's funeral service, I had the honor of presenting his siblings with 3 of the coins to his brother who was present. Mike had two brothers and a sister surviving.

Our flotilla patch, although not allowed to be worn on uniforms, is appropriate for display on my duty bag which I take with me on the water.

Bruce Petro

Flotilla Commander 23-4

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Division honors Ms. Revis



Ms. Revis spent 22 years in the Army as a professional Human Resources Technician. After serving 8 years as an enlisted member and obtaining the rank of Staff Sergeant, with assignments to Grafenwoehr, Germany; Fort Gordon

GA; Seoul Korea; and

Fort Drum NY, she was commissioned by warrant in 1996 at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Her assignments included Officer in Charge, Enlisted Strength Manager and Chief, Operations Branch for the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California and later assigned as the Military Personnel Technician for the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, California; Personnel Officer for the Warrant Officer Career Center, Fort Rucker, Alabama; Mons, Belgium, as the Chief Personnel Actions and Operations Division, G1, for the United States Army North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe; Personnel Services Officer to Headquarters, Supreme Allied Command Transformation Norfolk, Virginia, and culminating her career as the Human Resources Technician Team B for the R5 Division, 14th Human Resources Sustainment Center, Fort Bragg NC.

Obtaining the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Four, Ms. Revis retired and moved back to her home in Portsmouth VA with her son and mother. Upon retirement from the military, she was employed as a contractor as a Senior Administrator for the Joint Operations Support Environment at the Joint Forces Command in Suffolk, VA. After a few years, she then was employed as a Training Analyst at the Training Brain Operations Center (TBOC) in Oyster Point, Newport News for the Army's Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). After several years working in various positions within the Army's

TRADOC G2, she was employed in 2017 by the Coast Guard as the District 5 Southern Region's Auxiliary Administrative Affairs Specialist.

She actively volunteers with her local chapter of the Disable American Veterans and has served as the Judge Advocate on the Executive Board for the past four years and has previously held appointment as the Legislative Officer. She enjoys travel, nature, reading, crafts, walking her two miniature Schnauzers and spending time with family.



Willie, DCDR presented Ms. Revis with an award for all her administrative support to Division 23.

Ms. Revis thanked Willie and said "She could not have given us

the support without the support from everyone in the DIRAUX office.

Connie Cosgrove
SO-PB



*Happy Valentines
Day*