

# Chesapeake Chatter

## Division 23 5SR



# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 1

Spring 2022

National First Place Division Newsletter 2021



This Memorial Day, as you take some time to think of our fallen armed service members, I invite you to reflect with great pride that we are in service to our nation as well.

Our division has seen three of our Auxiliary shipmates cross the bar since January 2022; John Johnson (23-02), John Troffo and Anita Murray (23-01). They have served the Auxiliary with distinction. Please remember them and keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

The Memorial Day weekend celebrates our administration's six-month milestone. The Coast Guard describes the "Auxiliary – as the best trained, most valued maritime volunteer organization in the world – highly effective during normal operations and ready for emergencies." Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 and the variant in FY22, as a division we've stepped up to the new global challenges with resilience. In the last 30 days there has been an increase and surge in our Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) activities such as Public Affair events, Vessel Examination Days, Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) and Boater Education training to the general public. Please review the reconstitution guide version 4 frequently for guidelines and updates for the mask mandate. Effective 28 May 2022, mask mandates are now required for Auxiliarist in the Sector Maryland National Capital Region (SM-NCR) in indoor sponsored events.

We now have approximately 38% of the Division active membership due for Auxiliary Core Training (AUXCT) five-year anniversary of CORE), Risk Management/Team Coordination Training (RM/TCT), Operation's Workshop - How well are you trained and mandatory annual workshops (VE/IT) that increase the risk of our members going into Reyr and Rewrk status.

Flotilla Commanders (FC) are strongly encouraged to review and share the training stats for their flotilla members and encourage them to take advantage of the many weekly training

opportunities to avoid Reyr or Rewrk status. A status of reyr or rewrk suspends an Auxiliarist ability to serve until the non-compliance is met. FCs remember to notify DIRAUX when the compliance has been met.

As we approach the end of the second quarter, we've steadily achieved our strategic goals to "Be Ready, Relevant & Responsive" by focusing on readiness and equipping our workforce. One of the many ways we've achieved this is by taking advantage of the many training opportunities offered in our region recently such as V-Train, S-Train, and our 1<sup>st</sup> Division-wide Boot Camp Training Summit. Our next D-Train is tentatively scheduled for September 23-25, 2022. I strongly encourage you to register to attend. In the Fall of FY22, we'll have another cycle of SM-NCR Training Summits. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter as boating season surges and peaks, let's continue to implement agile strategies, innovative training, foster adaptive cultures, and integrate advanced technologies to reach our external stakeholders in our local communities.

We are now in hurricane season and our readiness is critical to support the Coast Guard mission in the coming months. To be ready, our division needs to leverage technology and administration, allowing members to focus on missions and training. As we focus on being relevant, as a division we must continue to stress our RBS outreach in the communities we serve. Let's continually be responsive and strengthen our relevance to local Coast Guard units as we establish new mission capacity in support of multiple Coast Guard initiatives in the coming months this summer and beyond.

We have initiated two new task force improvement working groups to aid our membership to focus the mission. The first is our Auxdata II System Taskforce Improvement team. The Auxdata II System triage meetings that occur every Tuesday are designed to train our auxiliary membership, improve, and increase mission

Continued on page 4—see DCDR

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## 2022 Board & Staff

DCDR: Margaret Butler  
VCDR: Mark Campbell  
IPDCDR: Willie Witters  
**23-1 - Annapolis**  
David Sire, Flotilla Commander  
David Stadler, Vice Flotilla Commander  
**23-2 - Solomons**  
Phil DeMaris, Flotilla Commander  
George Weston, Vice Flotilla Commander  
**23-3 - West Annapolis**  
India Ochs, Flotilla Commander  
Kirby Garland, Vice Flotilla Commander  
**23-4 - South River**  
Paul Feinburg, Flotilla Commander  
James Regensburg, Vice Flotilla Commander  
**23-6 - Drum Point**  
Tom Hardisty, Flotilla Commander  
Steve Birchfield, Vice Flotilla Commander  
**23-7 - Herring Bay**  
Brian Shrift, Flotilla Commander  
Chris Jensen, Vice Flotilla Commander  
**Division Staff**  
SO-AS—  
SO-CM - Jim Welayd  
SO-CS - Steven Hildebrand  
SO-DV - Mace Coleman  
SO-FN - Michael Taylor  
SO-HR - Dave Keyser  
SO-IS - Leonard Butler  
SO-MA - Christopher Jensen  
SO-MS - Wendy Norwitz  
SO-MT - Ray Feller  
SO-NS - Alberto DeCapitani  
SO-OP - Phil Wentz  
SO-PA - Bill Smith  
SO-PB - Connie Cosgrove  
SO-PE - Mark Bertacchi  
SO-PV - Ron Price  
SO-SR - Susan Casler  
SO-VE - Kirby Garland

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9 July 2022

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

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DCDR—continued from page 2

related data input. This weekly meeting ensure that our mission work is documented accurately and substantiates our readiness as well as relevance to the Coast Guard. The second improvement team is our Response & Prevention Taskforce initiative that has been established to assess our gap analysis. The goal of this team is to establish a readiness database and list of Auxiliarists to address the changing and dynamic staffing needs of the Coast Guard. Diversity, Inclusion & Equality is a chief cornerstone of our organization and promotes innovation in our organization. The 3 Star Award for Diversity Excellence is due 30 June 2022. Let's strive for 100% achievement to ensure that diversity is at the heart of our RBS initiatives.

Mark Campbell, Vice Division Commander and I would like to thank you for maintaining your readiness to answer the call and your continued support of each other. It means so much to the Coast Guard and Auxiliary. Your commitment and dedication have been an inspiration to me and for those who will join our organization in the future and beyond.

*Margaret Butler*

## Awards

Since the last issue of the Chatter the following members received awards. Congratulations to all

**AUXOP** Richard Thompson, 23-1

**Aids Verifier**—Jonathan Lambert—23-1

### Instructor

George Weston, 23-2



**Auxiliary Annual Service Performance Award for exceeding 60 VE/PV**

Bill Smith and Tom Hardisty, 23-06

## Instructor Development Course held



The Instructor Development Course (IDC) was held via Zoom on 23 April and 30 April, 2022. It was completed by four candidates; Joseph Stefani 23-07, Edward Gratz 22-02, and Guy Campbell 25-06.

The Auxiliary Instructor Development 2020 National Education Directorate was utilized. Required tasks were discussed and mentors were assigned to each candidate.

A 90% final score for the National Training Center exam, 21 PQS mentor sign-offs, completion of a fifteen to thirty-minute training event with lesson plan and the satisfactory complete of a one-hour training event rounded out the two days of the course.

Margaret Butler, DCDR and Mark Bertacchi Staff Officer for Public Education (SO-PE) facilitated the two day online event filled with lively interaction, insightful information and instructional competencies. The goal was to make the new soon-to-be instructors thoroughly versed in the instructional best practices of teaching and learning.

The next IDC will be held in October and is open to anyone wanting to expand their role in the Auxiliary through teaching boating classes.

*Mark Bertacchi*

SO-PE



## New Members

Since the last Chatter the following new members have joined us. Please congratulate them and welcome them aboard. Also, please give them any assistance you can.

James Booker, 23-1

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## Susan Casler receives Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation



Susan Casler was presented the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation for her work on the Fifth District Southern Region Form 7017 Pilot Project Team.

Her citation reads: "For exceptionally meritorious

service from January 2022 to April 2022 while serving as a member of the Fifth District Southern Region Form 7017 Pilot Project Team. Charged with utilizing and critically evaluating the prototype Form 7017, Unit Meetings, the Team exercised outstanding organizational expertise and tactical critique skills along with a significant commitment to serving as a member of the team. The prototype was developed to improve the content and consistency of approved unit minutes and to ease the preparation and submission process. As part of the project, Team members utilized the prototype form in lieu of the traditional Form 7017 and provided valuable suggested improvement feedback to the Auxiliary's National Working Group which was tasked with developing a new Form 7017 for use throughout the Auxiliary. As a result of the Team's thorough evaluation and suggested improvements, the prototype Form 7017 has been adopted for use throughout the Fifth District Southern Region's Flotillas and Divisions and by the District. The dedication, pride, and professionalism displayed by the Fifth District Southern Region Form 7017 Pilot Project Team are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary." Signed for the Commandant – John D. Block, Commander, US Coast Guard, Director of the Auxiliary

Susan said "Many thanks, Margaret, to you and David Dieterich DSO-SR, and our wonderful team of Division SRs, for accepting the challenge of piloting the a7017. Special thanks to our Division members who directly participated in the pilot: Delores Lantham 23-02, Dorothy Neiman 23-03, FC Phil Feinberg 23-04, Tam Le Cragg 23-04, Connie Cosgrove 23-06, and Robin Ainsworth 23-07 for their dedication, persistence, problem solving, and positive attitude.

*Connie Cosgrove*  
SO-PB

## Flotilla 23-03 holds boating safety event at West Marine

Flotilla 054-23-03 held a boating safety event at West Marine on 14 MAY. Three tables of boating safety literature were available for the boating public to take. We were asked many questions about recreational boating safety. We were able to sign up requests for vessel safety checks and potential members.

Participating members of 23-03 were: Dorothy Neiman, Don Parker, Joel Campbell, Mace Coleman, Roy Culley, and Kirby Garland.

*Mark Bertacchi*  
FSO-PA



Pictured above are Don Parker, Dorothy Neiman and Joel Campbell

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## Member Zone – Tom Hardisty FC 23-06

Written by Mark Campbell following interview



I have always considered it a privilege and honor to serve others. Whether it was family, work or community. I never was one who shied from lending a helping hand. I was fortunate to have a father with an affinity for fishing and boating. I enjoyed many outings of water excursions with him on a 21-foot Chris Craft and 25-foot Grady White fishing vessel as we explored and set out on multiple adventures on the high seas of the Chesapeake Bay. Although originally a resident of Prince Georges County and graduate of High Point High School in 1975, I later relocated to Southern Maryland in Calvert County with my 3 daughters and son and there set to continue finding moments to cherish on the beloved Bay. Although I worked professionally as a baker for Safeway for over 35 years, as time permitted, I continued to look for ways to rekindle the memories I shared as a boy with my family.

As fortune had it, I met John and Connie Cosgrove in 1991 and John steered me into actively participating and joining the Auxiliary. Looking back, it was a match made in heaven, I got to hone my skills on the water, learn and develop skills for safe boating I never knew existed and appreciate another art to watercraft that made my times even better. I never imagined that a boating

class would lead me to becoming a member of a great organization like the CGAUX. I have enjoyed numerous activities such as helping to refurbish the radio room at Cove Point Lighthouse and served as a communication specialist as well as fellowship with my current Flotilla 23-06 and have been a proud member of Drum Point Flotilla for 31 years. My top priority has always been vessel safety checks and boating safety.

I was lucky to share in such wonderful opportunities and encourage others to consider this as an organization of service. As the current Flotilla Commander, and Flotilla Staff Officer for Vessel Exams the experiences have been extremely rewarding. I have benefited from duties and training that I never anticipated. But the biggest change I see facing the Auxiliary in the future is keeping members engaged. The current climate of hybrid and virtual meetings was cool and different with the technological advances, however many members just enjoyed sitting next to one another and sharing the table. The ability to speak to people face to face is always an asset in communication and beneficial with recruitment. Having those boating classes with 40-50 heads was eye opening for me.

Whatever the future holds I am up to the challenge of meeting them head on because I love the water and boating and being a member of the Auxiliary is the perfect place to prepare to serve them both.

Front Cover photos

**Top**—Flotilla 23-6 and Sea Scouts receive NSBW proclamation

**Middle Left**—Bill Smith and Charlotte Whitlock at Prince Frederick Rescue Squad Open House

**Middle right**— Parker points to the vessel safety decal on his dad's boat

**Bottom left**—Patrol during grounding of the Ever Forward

**Bottom right**— Wendy Bollinger visited the booth with her otter friend

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## Auxiliary assists Coast Guard during grounding of Evergreen Forward

On 13 March 2022, the Container ship Evergreen Forward went aground while transiting from Baltimore to Norfolk in the Craighill Channel area of the Chesapeake Bay. The vessel was freed after almost 35 days of being aground. Coast Guard Cutter Sailfish from Norfolk and Bonito from Cape May were used to monitor the refloating operation along with maintaining a safety zone around the ship.

During the period of 9 thru 17 April, Auxiliary Facilities 23569 (Family Time) owned by Auxiliarist John Fewer (23-03) and 25245 (McGarvey), owned by Darian Pringle (23-01) were used by the Coast Guard during the operation for the daily transport of Coast Guard and George Mason Police Drone Team from Sandy Point State Park to the on-scene Coast Guard Cutter vessels anchored near the Motor



Vessel Ever Forward.

Auxiliary Facilities were used to support the Safety Zone set up around the grounded vessel during the cargo off-loading operation as well as escorting the Ever Forward to Annapolis anchorage when the ship was finally refloated on 17 April.

Auxiliarist participating in the operation included: Edwin Martin – 23-01- Coxswain, Ronald Price - 23-01, Darian Pringle – 23-01 – Coxswain, Kathleen Sullivan – 23-01, David Sire, 23-01, Richard Thompson – 23-01, Robert Welday – 23-01, John Fewer – 23- 03 – Coxswain, Donald Parker – 23-03, Dorothy Neiman – 23-03, LeRoy Culley – 23-03 and José Peña De La Guardia – 23-07.

*John Fewer,*

Auxiliary Sector Coordinator

## Flotilla 23-6 participates in Maritime Heritage Festival

The Maritime Heritage Festival is held annually at Calvert Marine Museum the first Saturday in May. This year was no exception. It was held on 7 May and was supposed to be a mostly outdoor event with the exception of a few vendors who were scheduled to be inside.

On Saturday morning when Bill Smith and Connie Cosgrove, Flotilla 23-6, arrived at the museum it was a very cold and wet morning. Luckily, Flotilla 23-6 booth was inside. Sea Scout Troop 548, who is sponsored by Flotilla 23-2 and 23-6, had a booth next to ours. The Troop was also responsible for helping people on and off the paddle boats and the Tennyson. With the bad weather we had a lot of visitors to the booth with children. The youngest visitor was only 12 days old. We also had a couple who was visiting from Florida who took oil pads and coloring books to take to their neighbors who had a boat and for their grandchildren. All in all, we had a very productive day giving out boating safety information and interacting with the public.

Sea Scouts who participated were Jessica and Paul Flynn, Cormac Flynn, Cormac Flynn, Shawn Moler, Ben French and Blake Peel

*Connie Cosgrove*

FSO-PA



Pictured are Allison Whitlock and her children

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**John Arnold Johnson**  
“Farewell, shipmate  
Farewell, Fair winds  
and following seas  
forever”

John Arnold Johnson crossed the bar on the evening of March 27, 2022, after a brief illness. John was an active member of Flotilla 23-02 and celebrated his 58th year of Coast Guard Auxiliary membership on March 1, 2022. Three years ago, on John Johnson's 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of dedicated service he was commemorated by a presentation of a letter of congratulations from Admiral K. M. Smith and commemorative plaque from Commander Eric S. May, the Director of the Auxiliary for Division 5 South. He joined the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary on March 1, 1964.

John was originally from Chicago and an Eagle Scout (1952). He has been a standard bearer for Flotilla 23-02 for many years. His roots in the Auxiliary run deep, beginning when he first learned of the Auxiliary and the US Power Squadrons from hearing sea stories from a retired Air Force Master Sergeant who had served as a WWII Air-Sea Rescue PT boat coxswain he met in Hampton VA in the 1950's. John was a member of both the Auxiliary and Power Squadron.

John received a Bachelor of Aeronautical Engineering degree from the University of Virginia and received Navy pre-flight and flight officer training at Pensacola FL in 1960. While serving in the Navy he was first stationed at the Naval Missile Center, Point Mugu CA, where he served as an airborne test conductor and photo navigator for three years. His next assignment was with the Navy Plant Representative staff, McDonnell Aircraft, in St Louis, 1964-1965, where he was active in the procurement of the F-4 Phantom fighter aircraft for U.S. and foreign military customers as well as the Gemini spacecraft for NASA.

It was here he first joined the Auxiliary and was active on the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. He

has been a continuous member of the Auxiliary since then regardless of duty station. Even when he attended the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, he found time to volunteer in the Auxiliary, serving as the Flotilla Commander of Flotilla 44. His first tour of sea duty found him aboard USS America, CVA-66, making its' first combat deployment to Viet Nam in the Tonkin Gulf, where he served as an Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department Division Officer.

On his final active-duty tour, he found himself in Boca Chica Naval Air Station, serving as the assistant Maintenance Officer of an F-4 Phantom squadron, VF-101. It was here, in Key West that he heard tales of Ernest Hemmingway, who was an early, 1940s, member of the Auxiliary patrolling the waters off the Keys. John was released from active duty in 1972 and then used his GI Bill, taking courses at Embry Riddle until, in 1974, was offered an engineering position at Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, where he served in both the Naval Reserve and Navy Civil Service.

John retired in 1998 but did not shed his responsibilities nor his Auxiliary uniform. He has also managed to maintain continuous membership in the Civil Air Patrol, since 1953, The U S Power Squadrons, since 1963, and as a Red Cross Disaster Volunteer and Instructor since 1959, responding to numerous search and rescue and disaster missions racking up thousands of volunteer hours. An active Amateur Radio Operator, WA3ZGD, he has served as the Flotilla Staff Officer for Communications for many years and is an accomplished Instructor. He was also a Vessel Examiner, Coxswain, and marlinspike-knot master. John Johnson has dedicated his life in the service of his Country, in many uniforms and organizations, giving his all and epitomizing the term “Volunteer” for the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and U.S. Sea Scouts.

John Johnson will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and our prayers are with his family at this time.

*Margaret Butler*  
DCDR



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## John Troffo Jr. crosses the bar

Auxiliarist John Troffo Jr., a member of Flotilla 054-23-01 and a former member of Flotilla 054-21-03 in Easton, Maryland crossed the bar on 14 May.

John joined the Auxiliary on 05 June 2003. During his 19 years of service, held elected and appointed offices at the Division and Flotilla levels including Division Commander, Flotilla Commander and multiple Division and Flotilla Staff Officer positions. His staff positions include Division Staff Officer for vessel exams, marine safety, human resources and secretary.

His qualifications included Coxswain and Instructor and he was the owner of a surface operations facility.

His awards included Presidential Unit Citation, 3 CG Unit Commendations, CG Meritorious Team Commendation, Department of Homeland Security Outstanding Unit Award, 3 Auxiliary Operations Service Awards, and 7 Sustained Auxiliary Service Awards

Before joining the Auxiliary, John served as an officer in the Air Force and, upon retirement, worked in other government agencies. "Farewell, shipmate Farewell, Fair Winds and following seas forever"

*Connie Cosgrove*



## Anita Murray crosses the bar

Anita Marie Murray crossed the bar on May 20, 2022, surrounded by family and loved ones.

At 94 years young, Auxiliarist Murray served in many capacities throughout her service with Flotilla 23-01. She retired in December 2018 after 37 years of dedicated service with the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Mission hours, statistics and awards can never fully capture the spirit or dedication shown by Anita to the Auxiliary and the Annapolis boating community. What is truly significant about her service is not only just the amount of time she invested but the variety of duties and responsibilities she assumed with great success.

Anita held many offices both elected and appointed serving as National Division Chief for 3 years, Flotilla Commander, Flotilla Staff Officer (FSO) for Human Resources, FSO for Information Services as well as Division Public Education Staff Officer.

During her service with the Auxiliary, Anita served with distinction with over 3,487 hours of mission service hours. Anita received numerous membership awards, Auxiliary PE Service Award, CG Unit and team commendations, Department of Transportation Secretary Outstanding Unit Award, Sustained Auxiliary Service Award and most notably a Presidential Unit Citation.

In 2017, we found a New Member guide which Anita had developed many years ago. We were completely impressed with how detailed and thorough it was while still being easy to understand. We have since updated it and now provide a copy to all prospective members. This document is invaluable in helping guide them through the maze of gaining membership, understanding the various volunteer opportunities, and provides website links for valuable references. Her legacy will continue with Flotilla 23-1.

"Farewell, shipmate Farewell, Fair Winds and following seas forever"

*Margaret Butler*  
Division Commander 23

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## Calvert Board of County Commissioners Proclaim National Safe Boating Week

Members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Sea Scout Ship 548 was presented with an annual proclamation proclaiming National Safe Boating Week (NSBW) in Calvert County. Every year Flotilla 23-6 requests the NSBW proclamation to help draw attention to the importance of safe boating not only during NSBW but all year.

Commissioner Gadway stressed every year countless lives are lost due to accidents that could have been prevented. Commissioner Gadway is a former member of the US Coast Guard. He asked about the new law requiring cutoff switches on power boats. Bill Smith stated that there was a law that required power boats manufacturer after 2018 to have a cutoff switch like those on jet skis. This is to prevent the boat from continuing to run after the operator has fallen overboard. For power boats with inboard engines operators are now required to attach a cutoff lanyard from the ignition with the other end attached to them. Bill also told the Commissioners and the audience that starting in 2022 fire extinguisher will no longer be considered legal if they are 12 years of age.

The proclamation received read:

**“WHEREAS**, the National Safe Boating Council’s Safe Boating Campaign is a worldwide effort focused on responsible

boating. The campaign encourages boaters to always wear a life jacket while on the water; and

**WHEREAS**, while being an excellent source of recreation, boating can be a risky sport. Many people lose their lives each year in boating-related accidents in the United States. The vast majority of these fatalities are caused by human error or poor judgment, not by the boat, equipment, or environmental factors; and

**WHEREAS**, boating advocates recommend all boaters and passengers have a life jacket and wear it at all times while boating regardless of their age or experience level. Data shows that 86% of reported drownings occurred when the person wasn’t wearing a life jacket.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County that the week of May 21-27, 2022, be known as **National Safe Boating Week** in Calvert County to promote safe and smart boating year-round. **BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that by this action, we urge all citizens to **“Wear It”** while boating.”

Members in attendance were Ray Feller, Division Member Training Officer; Connie Cosgrove, Public Affairs Officer, Secretary and Division Publications Officer; Harry Scott, Human Resource Officer; Bill Smith, Auxiliary Liaison with Sea Scout Ship 548; Cormac Flynn, Bosun Sea Scout Ship 548 and Adult Mate Jessica Flynn, Sea Scout Ship 548. While shaking hands Commissioner Gadway presented everyone with a Calvert County challenge coin.



*Connie Cosgrove*  
FSO-PA 23-6

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## Flotilla 23-2 receives National Safe Boating Week Proclamation

Solomons Flotilla members attended the St. Mary's Board of Commissioners meeting on 24 May to participate in their meeting and represent the Coast Guard Auxiliary during the reading of their proclamation supporting National Safe Boating Week.

Following County Commissioner's President, James Guy's reading of the proclamation Philip DeMarais, Flotilla Commander Solomons addressed the commissioners and the audience regarding the Solomon's Flotilla mission in support of Safe Boating.

"I am very honored to be representing one of many organizations in St. Mary's County that promotes recreational boater safety.

On behalf of all of the members of United States Coast Guard Auxiliary from Central Chesapeake Division 23, I want to thank all the Commissioners for supporting recreational boater safety through today's Safe Boating Proclamation.

While most boating trips are enjoyable and safe, tragedy still strikes with alarming frequency. Since the year 2000, there have been over 13,000 boating-related deaths and over 64,000 boating related injuries, many of which could have been prevented if safety precautions were taken.

Our Flotilla works with the boating community to offer safety training, vessel safety inspections, and we patrol local waters to assist vessels in distress.

Our members volunteer their time to train to be "Semper Paratus."

- Semper Paratus to respond to the needs of the U.S. Coast Guard
- Semper Paratus to support our local community,
- Semper Paratus to assist boaters in distress, and
- Semper Paratus to educate and train safe boating practices.

For those who may not know "Semper Paratus" is a Latin phrase, and the Coast Guard Motto which translates to "always ready".

St. Mary's County and its local waters are a national treasure to be enjoyed and protected. I know today's Safe Boating Week Proclamation will bring additional awareness to our community and remind everyone enjoying the Chesapeake and its tributaries to put safety first, submit your vessel for a free safety check, and always wear your life jacket.

Please remember to be "Semper Paratus" when you take your family and friends out on the water this boating season."

*Philip DeMarais,*  
Flotilla Commander 23-2

Pictured above from left—right:

Mike Hewitt Commissioner District 1, Eric Colvin Commissioner District 2, Rich Sikorski FSO-CS, Ed May FSO-MS, Randy Guy Commissioner President, Todd Morgan Commissioner District 4, Phil DeMarais Flotilla Commander, John O'Connor Commissioner District 3, George Weston Flotilla Vice Commander, Dee Latham FSO-FN, Ashley Delikat Flotilla Member, Ron Fields FSO-HR

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## Member Zone – Brian Shrift FC 23-07

Written by Mark Campbell following interview

Originally, I hail from Western Pennsylvania, and I have always loved the water, the blue crisp waves and crashing sounds of the surf, it's just like it sings to you. While visiting my sister and brother-in-law in Colonial Beach on the Potomac, we were having a blast of a time on their bowrider, and while tubing and skiing the vision popped into my head, why don't I have my own boat? So, the next thing I knew I purchased a vessel/boat, and the adventures began.

My wife was a coach at Pitt and later in New York City and we were both professionals having to commute. So, we decided to collaborate on a central location/place to meet and Washington DC metro area seemed like an ideal spot/central location where we could easily commute. A three-hour drive for me and a quick plane ride for her. So, we relocated our cabin cruiser on the Potomac, and we ended up meeting on weekends. Our evolution of boating began gradually but transitioned quickly to a new port and a few cruisers to eventually a 42-foot motor yacht on the Chesapeake currently stationed at Herrington Harbour, where I currently serve as the Flotilla Commander of 23-07. Ironically prior to moving from our original port in Hope Springs in Stafford County, Virginia we kept seeing these people in blue uniforms talking about the Auxiliary. The Auxiliary I asked, never realized it was such an organization? This was an eye opener and sort of awakening moment, and here we are today, both proud Auxiliarist!

The most interesting thing I never anticipated, was its amazing how many things you can do, in the Auxiliary. They are all freebies, all the training, activities, exposure and resources that are endless. It's crazy beyond your wildest dreams and the most amazing thing is most people are not aware these opportunities exist and don't realize are available. The purpose and education you never considered it's not like joining a lodge or rotary club and its meaningful and beneficial to the public. Here's the coolest benefit, it directly

supports the Coast Guard how neat! Hard to believe, I just celebrated my five-year anniversary of joining the organization because my core training was due for recertification, and I am still as energized and excited as the first day.

In a way, we accept certain challenges and change with the times. That's also true for our vision. For years we had a certain way of doing things from meetings to operations. However, we had to adapt our traits and skills and learn new concepts of navigation from charting and equipment to diversifying to an electronic system of navigating with GPS and charts that could enable us to improve our current search and rescue capability and advance our response in a new era of operations.

Currently we have to adapt and change, to creating new opportunities and eliminating roadblocks which hinder member's progress. Streamlining process administratively to benefit communication and create efficiency, currently the shared Division calendar and web page are excellent examples of single junctions that membership can feed and update central events and get a clear picture of the puzzle of who's promoting area events. Along with our publication of the nationally recognized Chesapeake Chatter these periodicals give a broad picture of Auxiliary activities quarterly. Tackling new issues such as triage of AUXDATA II will also help support our membership in gaining new insight to our database and educate and train them in its function.

Speaking of triage, that's kind of what's happening overall with the Auxiliary. Becoming ready and relevant again, so the public and boaters can actively engage and witness real time experiences and events. Navigating the airways to exchange ideas, gain insight and input from one another to get a feel of what's happening community wide. Rekindling the Devotion to duty mantra and service-oriented profile to stimulate and re-energize interest and get that ever ready Auxiliary rolling again.

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## Member Zone –

### Steve Birchfield, VFC 23-06

Written by Mark Campbell following an interview

I as well as many of our flotilla members in 23-06



have a great love for the water, growing up in the shadows of the Chesapeake Beach in Calvert County how could you not. Enjoying paddle craft and power boats in my early days deepened my affirmation to develop

hobbies that revolved around the Chesapeake. I was always taught to boat responsibly, be safe and prepared on the water. One day a friend of mine encouraged me to go out with him and try sailing. From that point, I was hooked like a fish in the water, feeling that wind and breeze what an exhilarating feeling that accompanies the sails. Man... there was nothing like it, and to this day I feel the same excitement each time I leave the dock! My affection for sailing continued to grow over the years, and today I don't waste a moment to get out and race, coach the High school team or teach adults to learn to sail .

When I was 17 and still in high school my grandfather, Thomas Hardisty introduced me to the Auxiliary, in an effort to instill both training on the water and leadership skills. Similar to my days before retirement, as a Department of Defense contractor involved with Deep Sea salvage operations for the Department of Navy, proficiency, preparedness and safety are invaluable assets in life but especially on the

water. Everything from basic skills, like how to tie knots and wearing life jackets, to more complex skills such as planning and filing out float plans or developing navigation skills to performing a successful mission. Today as a professional with Maryland Environmental Service, I operate the largest compose facility on the East Coast and understand how important safety and communications are to a successful business. As I transition from business to personal recreational activities on the Chesapeake Bay such as racing my 32ft sailboat, the preparedness training received from the Auxiliary has been invaluable. Someday, I can imagine myself sailing at the helm of the U. S. Coast Guard Barque Eagle. A great ship with a great mission, and if it doesn't happen then I am still grateful for the many years and gifts of knowledge and training the Auxiliary has bestowed upon me; those experiences, opportunities, and our members have been a welcome blessing.

In my opinion, some of the continual challenges we face as an organization are centered around creating an environment of inclusion, recruiting and carving the most productivity as you can to meet our organizational goals daily. The time management challenge with extracurricular activities and family can make for a hard sell or deepen your commitment and resolve. It all depends on what side of the aisle you're on. Collaborating and outreach marketing strategies and advertising our mission resourcefulness in today's society is like watching multifaceted channels on TV, you have the oldies but goodies, the Wi-Fi or cable networks, the Facebook, Tik Tok social media and the technical age challenges of ever streaming and computer literacy moments which everyone is trying to grasp... what a mixed bag of tricks! Yet, as we adjust to all these media challenges our vision must remain the same, to be ready and responsive and supportive of the United States Coast Guard, its mission and mantra. We must be, Semper Paratus, "Always Ready" with our best foot forward as the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

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## 23-01 participated in Singles of Sailboats Training Day

On Saturday, March 19, Doug Casler, Flotilla Staff Officer for Public Education (FSO-PE) for Flotilla 23-01 represented the Auxiliary with a 45-minute presentation at Singles on Sailboats training day held at Anne Arundel Community College.

During the presentation, Casler spoke on the CG Auxiliary history and missions intermixed with details of Flotilla 23-01's own service. He highlighted Auxiliary radio watchstanding on Sunday mornings at CG Station Annapolis and the rescue of three persons from a vessel that later exploded in Round Bay last year.

Questions about electric flares, kill switches, and Auxiliary patrols abounded. The Auxiliary booth Casler set up drew many interested attendees. Margaret Butler, Division Commander 23 manned the booth for a major portion of the day to join Casler in answering questions and stirring up interest in joining the Auxiliary. Singles on Sailboats Dana Stoffregen, event organizer, thanked Auxiliary 23-01 for participating in their training day.

*Doug Casler*

FSO-PE 23-02



## Flotilla 23-6 supports Prince Frederick Volunteer Rescue Squad open house

May 14 was another rainy day. However, Bill Smith manned a boating safety booth at the Prince Frederick Rescue Squad open house. Luckily the booth was inside. The big hit for the day with the children were the iron-on decals of Sammy the Otter and the crayons. Bill talked with members of the boating public about boating safety, including the new updates to fire extinguishers. Station St. Inigoes was also there with one of their boats.

Events of the day included pony rides, face painting, bounce house, touch the trucks, station tours, hands on CPR and dog CPR demonstrations. Mrs. Moo's Ice Cream was a special treat along with free hot dogs and hamburgers.

*Connie Cosgrove*

SO-PB



Pictured are Olivia and Jo Ann Faber-Tyrrell

## National Conference registration is now open

NACON will be held in Orlando, FL from 15-21 August. The theme this year is Target: The Future.

On-line registration for NACON 2022 is open. Register now to avoid last-minute fees and to secure your accommodations at the Rosen Center. This link will take you to the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association, Inc. (AuxA) web site for registration. The schedule and other information can be found on the website also.

<https://www.cgauxa.org/NACON-2022.html>

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## Monthly Boating Safety Seminars Presented to the Solomons Island Yacht Club

The Solomons flotilla (23-02) presented a seminar "Introduction to Basic Boating Safety" to 13 members of the Solomons Island Yacht Club (SIYC) on 10 May 2022.



George Weston, USCG Auxiliary Solomons Vice Flotilla Commander, presented the seminar. The seminar is for boaters with little to no background or training in boating safety as well as a refresher for more experienced boaters. It covers the most critical components of boating safety a new boater needs to know immediately. The seminar includes the importance of life jackets, fire extinguishers, how to get a free boat safety check, float plans, navigating on the water, navigation rules, safe fueling, anchoring and knots. At the request of SIYC Fleet Captain Dennis Chandler, Flotilla 23-2 will present additional courses covering a variety of boating topics monthly to their membership.

The SIYC was founded in 1937 and is located on a beautiful site near the Patuxent River's entrance to the Chesapeake Bay.

*George Weston*

VFC 23-2

*Dee Latham,*

photographer

## Southern Maryland Fishing and Outdoor Adventure Fair

Auxiliary Solomons Flotilla 23-02 provided boating safety and environmental information to the public at the 2022 Southern Maryland Fishing and Outdoor Adventure Fair on 19-20 March at the St. Mary's County fairgrounds.

This annual event is conducted by the Southern Maryland Recreational Fishing Organization, an all-volunteer non-profit organization, that works to preserve and protect Maryland fishery resources. There were 988 paying attendees at the event.

Our environmental pollution game was constructed by Ed May, Flotilla Staff Officer for Marine Safety, and is popular with both children and adults as they try to match up



typical trash found in our waters with how long it takes it to biodegrade.

There are ten different types of trash such as paper towels, aluminum cans, fishing line, plastic bottles, and glass jars. We scramble the order and then the visitor tries to match them with the timeframe in which they biodegrade.

Families often collaborate to decide where to place the trash items. Once completed we lock in their solution and they can then lift a wooden flap below each item to see if they were correct.

Imagine an environmental "Family Feud"! It is an effective tool to teach the importance of keeping our waters free from trash.

*George Weston*

VFC and FSO-PA 23-2

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## Twin Beaches Health and Wellness Fair

Flotilla 23-6 was contacted to participate in the Twin Beaches Health and Wellness Fair that was being held on 14 May. Since Flotilla 23-6 already a booth scheduled in Prince Frederick for that day, Connie Cosgrove, FSO-PA 23-6 and Brian Shrift, Flotilla Commander of 23-7 agreed to have members from both Flotillas staff a boating safety booth.

The morning of 14 May began as a drizzly day but by noon heavy downpours forced Chris Jensen, 23-7 and Ray Feller, 23-6 to abandoned the event. However, during the morning hours under a tent they were able to talk to approximately 50 people about boating safety.

*Connie Cosgrove*  
FSO-PA 23-06

## Travel to Ukraine

If you go to Ukraine for whatever reason, leave your Auxiliary uniform and ID card at home along with anything else that could identify you as a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. For your own safety DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, disclose your membership in the Auxiliary to anyone while abroad.

If you choose to travel to Ukraine in your civilian capacity to provide humanitarian aid or for any other reason, your membership in the Coast Guard Auxiliary does not prevent you from such travel. That said, no member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary is authorized to travel to Ukraine on behalf of the United States, the Coast Guard or the Coast Guard Auxiliary for any reason. Nor may any Auxiliary member while traveling in Ukraine suggest that they represent the United States of America, the United States Coast Guard, or the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The wisest and safest course to follow while abroad is simply not to mention your membership in the Auxiliary to anyone for any reason. There could be very serious ramifications for you, the Coast Guard, the

Auxiliary, and the United States should anyone, Ukrainian, Russian, or a member of the press, mistakenly believe or report that the United States has officially sanctioned you to enter the war zone, regardless of how innocent your intentions or activities may be. All of Ukraine is a war zone.

Your Auxiliary ID card identifies you as a member of the "Department of Homeland Security-United States Coast Guard Auxiliary," and was "...issued for official purposes by the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard." The public often does not understand the difference between members of the Auxiliary and the active duty, it is best not to bet your life or your freedom on the understanding of an armed hostile combatant.

Very respectfully,  
Alex Malewski, National Commodore  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

## AUXILIARY COVID-19 RECONSTITUTION GUIDANCE -

1. All Auxiliarists are highly encouraged to review the latest version of the Auxiliary COVID-19 Reconstitution Guide which has been posted in AUXDATA II and on the CHDIRAUX website at: Auxiliary Reconstitution Guide. (To review the guide in AUXDATA II, login to AUXDATA II; from the AUXDATA Navigation Bar select "More," then "Files," and then select "Libraries." The guide and other relevant COVID-19 information will be located in the folder listed as "CG Auxiliary COVID-19 Guidance.") If you have any questions regarding the content of the guide, please reach out to your Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM). Version 4 has just been released.

2. This update incorporates change, effective immediately, that requires full COVID-19 vaccination for Coast Guard Auxiliarists when assigned to duty that involves in-person interaction with Coast Guard personnel (including

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other Auxiliarists), other government personnel (federal, state, and local), or members of the public. It is meant to ensure the health and well-being of unvaccinated Auxiliarists, Coast Guard personnel, and members of the public that the Coast Guard is obligated to protect. Unvaccinated Auxiliarists (including partially vaccinated) remain able to volunteer for any assignments or activities that do not involve in-person interaction with members of the public, other government personnel, or Coast Guard personnel.

3. Procedures for handling Auxiliarists' requests for medical exemption and religious accommodation of this policy change are under development. When they are established and announced, CG-BSX-1 will start to collect, review, and issue determinations on such requests.

4. This guidance is intended to provide assistance to the Directors of Auxiliary (DIRAUX), Coast Guard units, and Order Issuing Authorities (OIA) on how to use Coast Guard Auxiliarists in the safest way possible during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Knowing that the spread of the Pandemic is different in every area, region, state, city, town, etc., DIRAUX and OIAs may deviate from this guide as they see fit for their cognizant areas of responsibility (AOR), except for the vaccination requirement.

5. DIRAUX offices, Coast Guard units, and OIAs are continually assessing operational risks posed by COVID-19 and developing mitigation strategies in advance of mission performance. They remain the best sources for guidance regarding Auxiliary assignments to duty within their AORs. All Auxiliarists are expected to help them by exercising caution and strictly adhering to all Coast Guard guidance.

## AUXILIARY NAVIGATION RULES EXAM UPDATE

- (a) Auxiliary Boat Crew Training Manual, COMDTINST M16794.51A (series), Ch. 5.A.6
- (b) Coast Guard Deck Watch Officer Examination Program, COMDTINST 16672.5 (series)

1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this policy letter is to update the five-year requirements and Navigation Rules (NAVRULES) examination in reference (a).

2. ACTION. All Auxiliary coxswains and PWC operators must comply with the provisions in this Policy Letter. Elected and appointed leaders and program managers at all levels of the Auxiliary organization shall ensure adherence to this Policy Letter.

3. BACKGROUND. Reference (a) requires coxswains and PWC operators to pass an open-book Auxiliary Navigation Rules examination at least every five years with a minimum score of 90 percent. Members failing to complete the open-book exam within the five-year period are considered lapsed and must retake the closed-book exam and achieve a minimum score of 90 percent to regain certification and receive orders. The current policy is not clear in its intent, nor is it in line with the Coast Guard policy in reference (b). In addition, the current policy does not allow Auxiliarists to get credit for commercial NAVRULES/Deck Watch Officer (DWO) examinations.

4. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. These changes will be incorporated into the next revision of reference (a).

5. MAJOR CHANGES. The policy changes below are effective immediately:

- a. An open-book NAVRULES examination must be administered to Auxiliarists who have previously passed an Initial Examination (NAV70) (closed-

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book) or a Renewal Examination (NAV95) (open-book) within the last five years. This five-year period of eligibility commences on the date of their last successful examination.

b. The only authorized NAV70 and NAV95 tests to be administered can be found at National Testing Center - United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (cgaux.org). The NAV70 test is required to be proctored. Proctors shall be appointed by the cognizant District Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX).

c. Auxiliarists who have taken a commercial course approved by the National Maritime Center (NMC) should submit a copy of a signed certificate from the course provider to their DIRAUX to apply for credit. A current list of approved courses may be found on the NMC website: [https://www.dco.uscg.mil/nmc/training\\_assessments/](https://www.dco.uscg.mil/nmc/training_assessments/). Click on "Approved Courses," then search for "USCG Deck Watch Officer." Only these course providers meet the Coast Guard requirement for NAVRULES/DWO exams.

d. For the NAVRULES/DWO commercial equivalency, AUXDATA II will use (NAVRULES-COMMERCIAL SOURCE (70)) to document an Auxiliarist's completion of the NAVRULES/DWO exam equivalent via a commercial provider when entering in AUXDATA II.

e. Coxswains who have exceeded a period of five years since the date of their last examination will lose their certification and be placed in REYR status until they have passed the Initial Examination (closed-book).

f. For example: An Auxiliary coxswain takes the Initial Examination (closed-book) on 30 January 2020. The open-book renewal exam anniversary date is 30 January 2025. If the Auxiliarist fails to take and pass an open-book renewal exam on or before 30 January 2025, then their certification will lapse, they will be placed in REYR status, and they will be required to take the Initial Examination (closed-book) in order to be removed from REYR status and recertify as a coxswain.

g. It is not the intent of this policy to penalize Auxiliarists for taking an open-book exam on a regular basis (i.e., annually) in order to "restart" their five-year period. If an Auxiliarist fails an interim attempt, the original successful completion date remains in effect until the five-year period is exceeded.

6. DISCLAIMER. This Policy Letter is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it a rule. It is intended to define requirements for Auxiliarists and is not intended to, nor does it impose legally binding requirements on any party outside the Coast Guard.

Editor's note – The notice of this policy change was received in an email.

### Six-year-old assistance with Vessel Exam

Flotilla 23-03 had a boating safety booth on 15 March at a public affairs event in Annapolis. One of the attendees at the event, Mr. Chis Mannix and his six-year-old son, Parker, talked to Mark Bertacchi and Don Parker about getting a Vessel Safety Check (VSC) for his 43' Hinckley. Don and Mark contacted me and asked me to contact Mr. Mannix to perform a safety check.

Mr. Mannix was immediately contacted and a VSC was set up for the following weekend at a local marina. Parker and his dad welcomed me on board the following Sunday morning. Parker was wearing his life jacket and was ready to assist me with the safety check of all the vessel's equipment. Parker proceeded to point out the location of all the safety equipment and demonstrated how it was to be used if needed.

It was truly memorable to observe a six-year-old that knew so much about the safety equipment on his boat. Parker and his dad proudly assisted me in affixing their 2022 Safe Boating Inspection Decal onto the boat. See photo on front cover.

*John Fewer*

23-03 Vessel Examiner

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### COAST GUARD UNIFORM BOARDS 47 AND 48 - IMPACTS ON AUXILIARY UNIFORM POLICIES

The Uniform Regulations manual (Commandant Instruction Manual 1020.6 (series) / Commandant Instruction Manuals (uscg.mil)) was updated in July 2020 to incorporate changes recommended by Coast Guard Uniform Boards 47 and 48. Though targeting active duty and reserve personnel, most of those changes were also applicable to Auxiliarists. The following notes explain how these changes apply to Auxiliary uniform policies.

a. Female hair grooming standards in the Uniform Regulations manual apply to Auxiliarists including the following provisions (Note: Increased hair bulk and bun size, and ability to wear ponytails are authorized provided they do not present a safety issue while assigned to duty).

(1) Authorized Female Hair Accessories: Use of the hair claw is authorized. The hair claw shall be wingless; not to exceed 3 inches in length and 1 inch in width. The hair claw shall be black, navy blue, brown or a color similar to the individual's hair color and shall not interfere with the proper wearing of head gear (and/or safety gear). Order issuing authorities or the activity lead may restrict the wear of hair accessories while engaged in operational environments where there is a risk for foreign object damage (FOD) hazards or for personnel safety.

(2) Female Hair Grooming Standards (bun size requirements): . Hair bun size has been increased to a maximum of 4 inches as measured out from the scalp. The circumference shall be no greater than the width of the member's head as measured horizontally. This allows some members to form a looser bun, reducing headaches, hair breakage, and other issues caused by hair being placed in a tight bun. The bun may touch the collar, but may not fall below the bottom edge of the shirt collar or jacket collar, with exception to the foul weather parka.

(3) Female Hair Grooming Standards (authorized hairstyles): "Locks," as defined in section 2.B. of the Uniform Regulations manual, are authorized.

Hair bulk is increased to 3.5 inches as measured perpendicular to the scalp. This change takes into account the natural texture of various ethnicities' hair, allowing it to be worn naturally. All haircuts and styles shall present a balanced, neat, professional and well-groomed appearance.

(4) Female Hair Grooming Standards (hair styles requirements): Braids, cornrows, locks, and twists are authorized. Additionally, the diameter of braids, cornrows, locks and twists is increased from ¼ inch to ½ inch with no more than a ¼ inch space between rows.

(5) Female Hair Grooming Standards (pony tail requirements): Unpinned ponytails are authorized. Ponytails shall not extend beyond the bottom of the shirt collar, and if so are required to be pinned/fastened securely to the head in order to maintain this limit. This authorization gives female Auxiliarists another option over the bun and allows intermediate hair length to be pulled back without having to make a bun. Women may wear ponytails pulled through a ball cap rear opening.

b. Female Fingernails: Fingernails shall be kept clean, shall have rounded or straight shaped nail tips, and their color choice shall present a professional appearance in a business environment. Only one color may be worn and all fingernails shall match. The wearing of florescent, or multi-colored polishes or nails is not authorized. Fingernails shall not extend more than ¼ inch beyond the fingertip. Ornate decorations (such as gems) or ornamentation of the fingernail polish (such as painted pictures or designs) are not authorized. French nails are authorized with white tip only. The white tip shall be no wider than ¼ inch and must present a clean natural look.

c. Female Optional Footwear: Flats are authorized as an optional item for wear with the female skirt or slacks.

d. Female Maternity Uniform: The authorized female maternity uniform is updated and expanded to include an Operational Dress Uniform

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(ODU) post-partum nursing T-shirt. The T-shirt may be purchased on the economy (no CG-specific variant), shall be dark blue in color, and shall not extend below the lower edge of the ODU blouse when worn.

e. ODU Blouse Sleeves: The ODU blouse is authorized to be worn with sleeves up or down based on individual preference, unless greater uniformity is required by the order issuing authority or activity lead (e.g. a coxswain is authorized to specify all crewmembers to wear the ODU blouse with sleeves up).

f. Boonie Cap: The Boonie cap is authorized for wear while conducting operations in adverse environmental conditions, unless the order issuing authority or activity lead determines a greater degree of uniformity is required. The Boonie cap is only authorized for wear with the ODU and the Auxiliary Work Uniform (AWU).

g. Knit Watch Cap: The knit watch cap is authorized for wear with the ODU and the AWU during operational activities or as authorized by the order issuing authority or activity lead due to inclement weather.

h. Eyewear Retainers While in Uniform: Eyewear retainers (strap, cord, etc.) are authorized to be worn with the ODU, AWU, Tropical Blue, and Winter Dress Blue uniforms in a work environment. Retainers shall be either plain black or dark blue, and may be worn loose or tightly fitted to the head. The hanging of eyewear loosely around the neck for short periods of time is authorized; eyewear shall not be worn on the top or back of the head or cover when not in use. Order issuing authorities or activity leads may restrict the wear of eyewear retainers, when greater uniformity is required except for tight fitting retainer straps as required for safety.

i. Tropical Blue Long Sleeve: A Tropical Blue Long (TBLS) sleeve has been approved for wear, year-round. The TBLS consists of a long sleeve light blue shirt with four-in-hand tie (double Windsor knot) and tie bar/tie tack, or the female blue tab tie. The

TBLS consists of the name tag above the right pocket, no ribbons, a single insignia above the left pocket if earned, a single device above the name tag if earned, and only one badge on the pockets if earned. The remaining aspects of this uniform are the same as Tropical Blue Short Sleeve (e.g., shoulder boards vice collar devices). This change helps in climate-controlled spaces and allows members the flexibility of wearing a long sleeve shirt with identification without the Service Dress Blue (SDB) jacket in less formal situations. This uniform is not a substitute for situations that call for more formality and the wearing of the SDB jacket.

j. Grooming and Appearance Standards: Hairstyles that are lopsided, asymmetrical, unblended, un-tapered, or undercutting are not authorized and must be corrected to a properly authorized hairstyle.

k. Tie Bar/Tie Tack: A tie bar or tie tack is required to be worn with the four-in-hand tie.

l. Removal of the Boat Shoe from the Coast Guard Uniform Distribution Center (UDC) Inventory: The UDC no longer maintains boat shoes in its inventory. However, boat shoes available for purchase on the economy remain as authorized for Auxiliary uniforms.

m. Standard Blue ODU T-Shirt with Embroidery or Printed Lettering: The requirement for embroidery or printed "USCG AUXILIARY" lettering on the standard blue ODU crew neck t-shirt is removed. Embroidered or printed t-shirts are authorized until no longer serviceable or otherwise directed by higher authority.

n. ODU Trouser with USCG Embroidered Emblem: The requirement for ODU trousers to have the CG emblem embroidered on the leg pocket flaps was removed. Embroidered ODU trousers remain authorized for wear until no longer serviceable or otherwise directed by higher authority.

2. Applicable adjustments will be incorporated in the next change to the Auxiliary Manual (Commandant Instruction Manual 16790.1 (series)).

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## Meet Margaret Butler. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Division Commander

As told to Beth Crabtree

Margaret Butler was raised in the inner city, where she wasn't exposed to recreational boating, but after she and her husband purchased their first recreational powerboat, Margaret fell in love with the boating community and meeting people from all walks of life.

Membership in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary only fueled her growing interest in boating. Now a leader in the Auxiliary, Butler shares her story in her own words:

### [It all-started with a safe boating course](#)

After purchasing our first boat, my interest in boating gained momentum when we took and successfully passed the Maryland Safe Boating Course offered by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Even though by law we weren't required to take the course (Maryland law requires a boater safety education for boat and PWC operators who were born after July 1, 1972), we wanted to be responsible on the water and learn the right way from the professionals. Plus, my husband, who had recently joined the Auxiliary, was not about to let me operate the boat without it! I inquired about the organization for myself and joined shortly thereafter in 2009.

I became a Qualified Boat Crew member and Maryland Department of Natural Resources instructor, and I routinely participate in U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) initiatives, as well as U.S. Coast Guard training evolutions, which have involved search and rescue and, unfortunately in extreme cases, recovery efforts. I've also had the pleasure to actively participate in annual sector regattas and other on-water patrols for events such as the Blue Angels, Bay Swim, Bay Paddle, and Chesapeake Schooner Races.

### [Always ready](#)

It is extremely rewarding to partner with the U.S. Coast Guard in saving lives and preventing boating mishaps. I love sharing my boating knowledge and skills as well as helping others who are in need. It gives me a sense of pride and personal satisfaction. While most of the times we are educating and promoting safety, it is very sobering when you come upon a small boat that has caught fire and you must spring to action with your training to save a life or rescue someone. It changes you forever.

My absolute favorite type of boating involves Maritime Observation Mission (MOM) patrols for the Auxiliary. In the Coast Guard, there is a saying: remain Semper Paratus, Always Ready. The goal of the MOM patrol is to provide increased maritime domain awareness through the observation of critical areas including ports and waterways, vessels, land-based infrastructure, and possible targets and vulnerabilities. As a qualified boat crew, we execute MOM patrols in the South, West, Magothy, and Severn Rivers, and as far as Sandy Point and surrounding areas of responsibility. During the patrols we engage with the public and are authorized to facilitate safe haven boat tows and educate boaters on proper wearing of life jackets.

### [Unexpected leadership opportunities](#)

I wasn't driven by ambition to be a leader, but I started immersing myself in the Auxiliary mission, and the rest is history. I began facilitating Maryland Boating Safety courses throughout the Annapolis area, and over time my passion for teaching started gradually to lead me into unexpected leadership opportunities. My colleagues have entrusted me as Flotilla Commander of the Annapolis Flotilla, and in January I became the Division Commander for six phenomenal Auxiliary Flotillas in the Central Chesapeake area covering Annapolis, Solomons, West Annapolis, South River, Drum Point, and Herring Bay.

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As a Division Commander my on- the-water goals are boating safety and education. Since Covid-19 hit boating, kayaking, and personal watercraft activities have become increasingly favorite recreational choices, and boat purchases have increased tremendously. Unfortunately, there has been a spike in boating mishaps and deaths. The Auxiliary intends to increase its focus on supporting the prevention mission of the U.S. Coast Guard and work to foster a culture of safety. As a Division Commander, I also want to continue to attract, develop, and retain a diverse and inclusive force, providing relevant and rewarding opportunities to our membership.

## Life off the water

I am a 20-plus year federal career civilian working full-time for the Department of Homeland Security, - Transportation Security Administration (TSA). When not busy with the Auxiliary or boating on our 28-foot powerboat, I enjoy cooking and spending time with my husband of more than 30 years, Leonard, my two adult children, and three grandkids. In 2011, our son Devon joined the Coast Guard active duty, making it a family affair!

Editor's Note: The above article appeared in the March issue of Prop Talk who gave permission to reprint this article



Flotilla Commander Margaret Butler, coxswain Richard Thompson, and boat crew Nancy Hames patrolling during the Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race.

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## 27th Commandant Sworn In

In a Change-of-Command ceremony that was held on June 1, 2022, Admiral Linda L. Fagan was sworn in as the 27th Commandant of the United States Coast Guard. She will be the first woman to serve as Commandant, the first woman to earn the rank of four stars in the Coast Guard, and the first woman Service Chief of any U.S. military service. Admiral Fagan served as Vice Commandant from June 18, 2021 and will relieve Admiral Karl L. Schultz, who has served with honor and distinction as the Coast Guard's Commandant since June 1, 2018.

Admiral Fagan's prior flag assignments include Deputy Commandant for Operations, Policy, and Capability; Commander, First Coast Guard District, and a joint assignment as Deputy Director of Operations for Headquarters, United States Northern Command. Operational tours include Commander, Sector New York, more than 15 years as a Marine Inspector, and sea duty in USCGC POLAR STAR, a 399ft heavy polar icebreaker. Staff assignments include Executive Assistant to the Commandant and Vice Commandant, and Division Chief of the Foreign and Offshore Compliance Office. A 1985 Coast Guard Academy graduate, Admiral Fagan's tenure in the Coast Guard earned her the Coast Guard's first Golden Ancient Trident, an honor given to the officer with the longest active marine safety service.

On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, I extend our heartiest congratulations and welcome aboard to Admiral Fagan on assuming her new role as Commandant. We are excited to implement her vision for the Auxiliary, continue to search out innovative and effective means to enhance our multi-mission capabilities, achieve excellence in our recreational boating safety mission, and augment Team Coast Guard wherever and whenever needed. We thank Admiral Schultz for his outstanding service to our nation, our Coast Guard, and our Coast Guard Auxiliary, and wish him God's speed, fair winds, and following seas as

he charts his next course on this voyage we call "life."

SEMPER PARATUS!

*Alexander Malewski,*  
National Commodore  
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Editor's note: The above was received email through the CG communication system



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