

Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23 5SR



Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 15 Issue 3

Fall 2023

National First Place Division Newsletter—2021 & 2022



As we enter the early days of Fall and the final quarter of 2023, it's very tempting to mentally check out or jump to the end of the year. But I challenge you to utilize the next 90 days to close the year-end stronger than ever. I am absolutely amazed at how fast the last 22 months flew by and

even more astonished at how much our division has accomplished during these two terms of office.

Serving as your Division Commander (DCDR) has been a tremendous privilege and honor. As I reflect on the last two terms, I am filled with a sense of accomplishment, gratitude and deep appreciation. Together, we have achieved numerous milestones and made significant progress towards our shared strategic goals as a division.

What I'm most proud of, is our team collaboration and how we fostered a positive and inclusive Auxiliary work environment, encouraging an open dialog with transparency, sharing ideas and unprecedented collective decision-making. Operationally we made improvements in our operational processes, systems and even workflows. We streamlined operations, eliminated redundancies, and implemented best practices, resulting in enhanced productivity and efficiency across Central Chesapeake. As a District 5 Southern Region (D5SR) unit, we initiated and stepped up our member engagement activities that improved morale, well-being and productivity despite the impact of the pandemic. The impact of community outreach has significantly set the bar for high standards of excellence. With the decision of the next DCDR at our doorstep, I am enthusiastically looking with confidence in the next administration's ability to build upon our successes, tackle future obstacles and continue driving the Auxiliary towards greater achievements.

As I reflect on the accomplishments of this term, I want to extend my deepest gratitude for your unwavering commitment and exemplary contributions. It has been an honor and a privilege to work alongside such a talented and dedicated group of Auxiliarists. I look forward to witnessing the division's continued success under the leadership of the next term.

Again, thank you once again for your exceptional efforts and making my term as DCDR a resounding success. Bravo Zulu to all the Flotilla Commanders, Flotilla Staff Officers and the Division 23 Staff Officers for your hard work so far this year. We are on the home stretch, keep up the good work!

Margaret Butler

DCDR

Division Election Held

At the Division meeting on October 5, Mark Campbell was elected as Division Commander and Le-Roy Culley was elected as Vice Division Commander by unanimous vote.

It is a remarkable achievement to secure the trust, support and confidence of your colleagues. Your hard work, dedication and unwavering commitment has contributed to your success. May your confidence, vision, integrity serve as a guiding force throughout your term in office. Please rest assure, that you both have my unwavering support along with others who believe in your ability to lead and affect meaningful change for the Auxiliary.

Congratulations to you both on a well-deserved victory. Wishing you all the best as you embark on this remarkable journey to lead Division 23 in 2024.

Margaret Butler

DCDR

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2022 Board & Staff

DCDR: Margaret Butler

VCDR: Mark Campbell

IPDCDR: Willie Witters

23-1 - Annapolis

David Stadler, Flotilla Commander

Jonathon Lambert, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-2 - Solomons

George Weston, Flotilla Commander

Richard Sikorski, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-3 – West Annapolis

Dorothy Neiman , Flotilla Commander

Mace Coleman, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-4 – South River

Paul Feinburg, Flotilla Commander

James Regensburg, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-6 – Drum Point

Connie Cosgrove, Flotilla Commander

Larry , Mattivi, Flotilla Commander

23-7 – Herring Bay

Gini Shrift, Flotilla Commander

Brian Shrift, Vice Flotilla Commander

Division Staff

SO-AS—

SO-CM - Jim Welday

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 - vacant

SO-NS - Leonard Butler

SO-OP - Jim Farrell

SO-PA - Rick Corrales

SO-PB - Connie Cosgrove

SO-PE - Mark Bertacchi

SO-PV - Ron Price

SO-SR - Susan Casler

SO-VE - Christopher Jensen

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GET YOUR ARTICLES IN ...



NEXT DEADLINE DATE IS ...

12 January 2024

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

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Awards

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

Sustained Auxiliary Service Award

Margaret Butler, 6,000 hours; Kathleen Sullivan, 3,000 hours, Leonard Butler, 2250 hours, Charlie Eames, 2250 hours; Jim Beyea, 4500 hours, 23-1 Roy Culley, 3750 hours, 5th, Dorothy Neiman and Don Parker, 6,000 hours, 8th award, 23-3 David Keyser, 5,250 hours, 6th award, 23-6 Joseph DiStefano, 1500 hours, 2nd award, 23-7 Brian Shrift, 1500 hours, 2nd award. 23-7

Auxiliary Annual Service Performance Award for service in excess of 60 Program Visits during the year 2022

Christopher Jensen, 23-7

Membership Award

5 years

Richarad Willis, Robert Coby, Steve Hildebrand, Carter Rardon, Doug & Sus Casler, 23-1 James Fay and Dale Walker, 23-3 Gini Shrift and Paul Manicone, 23-7

15 years

Margaret Butler and Kathleen Sullivan, 23-1 Reid Sprague, 23-6

Instructor

Hector Corrales, 23-3

Vessel Examiner

Paul Feinberg, 23-4

Cover Photos

Top left— Admiral Linda Fagan, Commandant of the Coast Guard congratulates Jim Welday

Top Right—Jim Welday shows Kylie and Jake Tucker his facility at Super Heroes Day

Middle Left—Quilts of Valor— left to right— Linda G., Bonnie H., Bill Smith, Roy Culley, Jackie V and June M.

Middle Right—Hector “Rick” Corrales shares information with Mr. Jamal Lee

Bottom Left— Jackie Mancini and Keelyn Chroniger show off their bubble blowing skills at National Night Out at Long Beach Community Center

Bottom Right—John Fewer addresses the Sea Scouts at Safety at Sea Day

Station Annapolis Open House

The Station Annapolis Open House initial plans are underway. Division 23 is partnering with Station Annapolis to host an “Open House” on Saturday, October 21, from noon until 5:00pm. Flotillas 23-01, 23-02, 23-03, 23-04, 23-06 and 23-07 will support Open House hosted at Station Annapolis.

The purpose and goal of the open house is to have informational booths and displays, several agencies, CG Small boats (TANB and RBS) trailered, a CG Helicopter and a Maryland State Police Helicopter. The open house is open to the general public of all ages and will be a half day of Station Annapolis tours, Coast Guard and Sea Scouts recruiting informational booth as well as Auxiliary safety booths with free safe boating literature and opportunities to sign up for upcoming Maryland State Safe Boating courses.

Margaret Butler

DCDR

2024 Change of Watch

Mark your calendar

Our 2024 change of watch (COW) date is secured for **Sunday, January 21, 2024**, 1300-1630. The COW is again scheduled to be held at the Renditions Golf Course, 1380 West Central Avenue, Davidsonville, MD 21035.

You can reasonably expect that the menu options will be similar. After the COW Committee meets, we'll communicate further details through the Chain of Leadership Management .

If you'd like to serve on this important team effort, please contact Margaret directly.

Margaret Butler

DCDR

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Exceptional Achievement Award Presented to Robert James 'Jim' Welday, Jr.

The Commandant of the Coast Guard Admiral Linda Fagan visited Station Annapolis to thank Active Duty, Reserve & Auxiliary service members for their impactful work providing maritime safety, security, environmental protection and emergency response to the upper Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Robert James "Jim" Welday was presented with a distinguished recognition for Exceptional Achievement by Admiral Fagan, Station Annapolis during its Town Hall on August 14, 2023.

Jim has been an active member of the Auxiliary since October 1992. Jim was duly recognized by Admiral Fagan for his extraordinary contributions to the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary for over thirty-one years. Auxiliarist Welday has contributed over 12,000 hours to the Auxiliary missions. He has led Division 23, as well as Sector Maryland National Capital Region (SMD-NCR) through its transition to AUXDATA I & II, providing training sessions and personal assistance to all of its members. Jim is a coveted and beloved Auxiliarist at Station Annapolis where he regularly serves as a central watch stander where he also mentors and encourages new incoming station personnel.

On the water, Jim has become a legend in the Maryland Sector area tributaries for assisting disabled vessels on almost every assigned surface operations patrol. Many of Auxiliarist Welday's recorded service hours pre-dates the retired Auxdata I and AUXMIS systems. Jim's present competencies include boat crew, coxswain, personal watercraft operator, watch stander, telecommunications operator and instructor.

Over his Auxiliary career, Jim has held many offices simultaneously – many for multiple years. Jim has served as Flotilla Commander, Vice Flotilla Commander, Flotilla Staff Officer (FSO), Division Staff Officer (SO) for Communications; FSO and SO

for Operations and Information System.

Jim has received many well-deserved awards over his thirty-one-year career as an Auxiliarist. They included: repeated Sustained Auxiliary Service Awards, repeated Auxiliary Operations Service Awards; multiple CG Meritorious Team Commendations; multiple Auxiliary membership service awards; multiple CG Unit Commendations; the Presidential Unit Citation; Transportation 9-11 Ribbon; DOT Secretary's Outstanding Unit Award; DHS Outstanding Unit Award and numerous Flotilla awards for outstanding service.

Jim has contributed several operational facilities for Auxiliary use over the years, including a 19-foot center console, rigid-hull inflatable called that resembles a 21-foot Coast Guard patrol boat without the insignia and bright-orange color.

Bravo Zulu Jim

Margaret Butler

DCDR



Challenge coin presented to Jim Welday by Admiral Fagan, 27th Commandant of the Coast Guard.

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Art Murray Crosses the Bar

Arthur Randolph Murray crossed the bar on Thursday, July 27, 2023. Art, as he was affectionately called, was an exceptional Auxiliarist and will be dearly missed by the Coast Guard and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Auxiliarist Murray joined the Auxiliary on February 27, 1970, and retired in December 2020 after 50 years of service. During his time in the Auxiliary, Art contributed over 4,589 hours of volunteer service to the U.S. Coast Guard. Art's Auxiliary career spanned widely across multiple Coast Guard mission areas, including surface operations; marine safety and environmental protection; public education; Coast Guard administrative support activities; Auxiliary administrative support activities; member training and mentoring; recreational boating safety; public affairs; and vessel safety checks. At 94 years old he still maintained several Coast Guard Auxiliary qualifications as Coxswain, Commercial Fishing Vessel Examiner, and Vessel Examiner. He has also held offices at the Flotilla, Division, District, and National levels.

His honors and awards received are numerous as well and include Auxiliary Membership Service Awards (10); Auxiliary Operations Service Awards (10); Award of Operational Merit; Coast Guard Auxiliary Group Action Award; Coast Guard Bicentennial Unit Commendation; Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation (4); Coast Guard Unit Commendation (4); DOT Secretary's Outstanding Unit Award; Presidential Unit Citation; Sustained Auxiliary Service Award (10); and a Transportation 9-11 Ribbon. Before joining the auxiliary, he completed the midshipmen program at the N.Y. State Maritime Academy in 1945 with a license as Third Mate and an Ensign's commission in the U.S. Naval Reserve. In 1955 he left the Maritime Service and took a position with the Republic Aviation as a design Engineer. In 1965 he joined the Westinghouse Oceanic Division as a project engineer on Deepstar and Trieste II submersible programs, retiring in 1992.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 74 years Anita Murray who was also a Coast Guard Auxiliary member.

James Jefferson Crosses the Bar

James "Jim" Thomas Jefferson, 75, of Huntingtown Maryland, passed away peacefully on Thursday, August 17, 2023. James was born on March 25, 1948 to the late Clarence Wesley and Florence Bessie (Austin) Jefferson of Marion, Massachusetts. He, his parents and his five siblings lived in this small coastal town near the mouth of Buzzards Bay.

After Jim graduated from Old Rochester Regional High School, he went on to proudly serve in the Coast Guard. James was assigned to USCG Group Woods Hole in Massachusetts. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Coast Guard Good Conduct Award. He was honorably discharged after six years of dedicated service as a Petty Officer Third Class (PO3/E-4).

He held many jobs throughout his life, and he was the existential jack-of-all-trades. He served as a crewman on the Lulu, a ship operated by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution that transported the Alvin (DSV-2), one of the world's first human-manned, deep-ocean submersibles. He moved west and worked as a cattle rancher, and was documented in the Library of Congress Cowboy book, a unique and realistic portrait of the American cowboy. He worked for several years at Jonathan Agricultural Enterprises (formerly Jonathan Sprouts) and at the Stone Estate before settling on a career with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transportation/Massachusetts Highway. He retired in 2008 and moved to Calvert County, Maryland to live with his daughter and her family.

James became a member of Flotilla 23-06 on 11 July 2012. James achieved the qualification of boat crew member, vessel examiner and program visitor. He held the office of Flotilla Staff Officer for vessel examinations and program visitors. James was always there to help with public affairs events, setting up for socials, the Flotilla food drive to service the Chesapeake Cares Food Pantry every Thanksgiving and the Toys for Tots drive the Flotilla sponsored at Christmas.

Continued on page 6—see Jefferson

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Jefferson—continued from page 5

James earned two Coast Guard Unit Commendation Awards, five Sustained Auxiliary Service Awards for over 4055 hours of service, Auxiliary Service Award for Operations and the Department of Homeland Security Outstanding Unit Award. James was a kind and gentle man and will be sorely missed by the Flotilla.

He is survived by his daughter, Barbara “Julie” Paluda, son-in-law, Keith, and his grandchildren, Kaitlyn Alexandra and Brody Paul Paluda, of Huntingtown, MD, as well as his brother, Charles Jefferson, of Richlands, North Carolina.



Margaret Butler, Division Commander, spoke on behalf of the Auxiliary at James’ service. She presented Julie with a small shadow box with the American flag.

Fair winds and following seas

Connie Cosgrove

Flotilla Commander 23-6

AUXOP qualification temporary change

The APC and BQCII courses will be accepted for the AUXOP leadership module through 31 December 2023.

After 31 December, these courses will no longer be accepted. Members considering completing APC or BQCII as part of their AUXOP qualification are encouraged instead to complete the Auxiliary Flotilla Leadership Course (AFLC) online or in a classroom setting.

Very respectfully,
Robert Kumpf, DIR-T

Editor’s note: The above was received email through the messaging system

Auxiliary Uniform and Appearance Policy Letter

The Chief Director of Auxiliary (CHDIRAUX) has issued BSX Policy Letter 23-02. It promulgates Auxiliary uniform and appearance policy changes stemming from the pilot program conducted in the Auxiliary’s First District - Southern Region (D1-SR) and Eighth District – Coastal Region (D8-CR) from 01 October 2021 to 31 December 2022.

2. Policy Letter 23-02 can be found on the CHDIRAUX website: <https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=BX-GROUP>, and a summary of its major changes can be found in its promulgation memo. Changes address a broad range of uniform provisions in the Auxiliary Manual (Commandant Instruction Manual 16790.1 (series)) including grooming, various uniform components, and institutionalization of the Alternative Work Uniform (AWU) as an auxiliary work uniform. These changes are effective immediately except for the new annual uniform inspection requirement which shall be effective starting with CY 2024

Editor’s Note: The above was received email and contains significant information for all Auxiliarist regarding Auxiliary uniforms and appearance.



L-R Megan Alaris, and John Robusto are sworn in by George Weston, Flotilla Commander 23-2 at their meeting and family BBQ. The event was held Bob and Maloree Banks home in Solomons on 9 October

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Division participates in Super Heroes Day

Dunkirk District Park hosted Super Heroes Sunday with a canvas of activities and vendors. This event was held on September 17 sponsored by Calvert County Parks and Recreation Department, as a public awareness event to allow members of the community to have an up-close personal touch with local emergency agencies.

The adventure wrapped through different legs of the park offering refreshments, outside jungle gyms, touch a truck and more. Division 23 was represented by Jim and Carter Welday's Rubber Duckie facility, 23-01, an informational booth provided by Paul Feinberg, Flotilla Commander representing 23-04 and Connie Cosgrove and Mark Campbell from 23-06, reminding all to Boat Responsibly.

Jim had the bells and whistles glaring and a long line of enthused curious young boaters stood in

line to embark onto the facility. It was a main attraction for many and generated lots of questions and interest in our public affairs table. Many spectators came by to pay respects and thank the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary for their service. A few active duties members with their families stopped by in appreciation and thanked us for our support.

Other notable exhibits included the MedStar medivac helicopter, Dunkirk Volunteer Fire Department, Calvert County Fire-Rescue-EMS personnel and Rescue Dive Team, The Calvert County Sheriff's Mobile Command Center with separate full drone unit and Special Operations Team, Calvert Health mobile center, Book Mobile and more county equipment on display. Calvert Humane Society was present hoping for adoption for many needy pets. Sweet Street Donuts was on hand with freshly made donuts .

All in all, it was a fun day with many activities and sights and sounds to wow the many spectators.

Mark Campbell
VCDR



April and Olivia Coleman visit Millie from the Huskey . Jamie Rowder and Blair Buckler from the Human Society



Roman Gutwald-Power Ranger



Paul Feinberg, FC 23-4 and Carter Rardon

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A busy Day in Solomons

October 7th was a busy day for Flotillas in the Solomons Island area. There were two events being held just miles apart.

23-2 was on hand at the Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department (SVRSFD) annual Open House. They interact with visitors answering safe boating questions and passing out helpful literature to adults and coloring books to kids. Gerry Davit, Flotilla Staff Officer for Program Visits and George Weston, Flotilla Commander represented the Auxiliary at the event.

It kicked off with an honor guard and a rendition of the national anthem. There were many demonstrations of fire safety techniques, preventative measures and the dangers of fire in the home. Southern Maryland Electric Company gave a demonstration of power line repair and the dangers of downed power lines. The Maryland State Police flew in their helicopter and provided tours to the public. Of course, the Solomons Flotilla 23-02 was there interacting with the public about boating safety.

George Weston

Flotilla Commander 23-2



left to right Gerry Davit FSO-PV, George Weston FC).

Patuxent River Appreciation Days annual festival held

The morning of October 7 was an ugly rainy day. However, Patuxent River Appreciation Days (PRAD) went forward as scheduled. Visitor's and vendors were delighted early afternoon when the clouds parted and the sun shone brightly. PRAD is a day the Calvert Marine Museum holds annually



Nicole Claggett & Walter Hyzon

to stress the importance of the Patuxent River. Bill Smith, Flotilla 23-6 and Roy Culley, Flotilla 23-3 were on hand representing the Auxiliary. They gave out boating safety literature, talked with visitors about the importance of wearing their life jackets, joining the Auxiliary and many more topics. The kids were given coloring books, crayons, Sammy the Otter iron-on, flying discs, pens and pencil plus whistles for kids and adults. Boaters received the orange lost and found decals, the silver decals for oars and oil pads as well as literature.

During the event, Bill and Roy heard their names called over the loud speaker to report to the table set up by the Quilts of Valor- Faith and Freedom organization. When they went over to the table, they were surprised to receive a quilt and a bag to hold it for their service (cover photo). Robert Harlan, 25-7, had worked the booth last year when the Quilts of Valor took their names for a quilt for their service. When they discovered Robert was not there, they placed a call to him to come down so they could present him his quilt. Robert drove down with his wife and received his quilt.



Connie Cosgrove

FSO-PB

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Auxiliary Chaplain Support National Flotilla

On August 17, 2023, a new Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla, 070-06-14, was chartered at NACON. Unlike most of our flotillas which are geographically based, this Flotilla, the **Auxiliary Chaplain Support (ACS) National Flotilla**, is focused on the specific mission of chaplaincy. All members who join this Flotilla are either ACS Chaplains or Auxiliarists who join because they want to fill support roles within this Flotilla that directly support the ministry of the ACS program and Coast Guard Chaplaincy.

While some Coast Guard Auxiliary members who serve in the ACS program perform other Auxiliary missions, most ACS Chaplains only conduct Chaplain missions. As they do so, they cross flotilla, sector, district, and even Coast Guard area boundaries in the performance of these missions. The hope is that having a chaplaincy focused flotilla will allow for more specific training, better support for the ACS Chaplains, and smoother administrative processes. ACS Chaplains/Auxiliarists who affiliate with the ACS National Flotilla and wish to perform other Auxiliary missions, such as watch standing, public education, marine dealer visits, vessel exams, etc., will still be able to do so as guest members of their local, geographic flotillas.

All Coast Guard Auxiliary members are free to choose with which flotilla they wish to affiliate, whether this choice is made upon first entering the Auxiliary or later, via a transfer between flotillas. As such, the decision to join the ACS National Flotilla, either as a new Auxiliarist or via transfer, is totally voluntary; service in the ACS program is not dependent on affiliating with this new Flotilla. So far, 60 of the 104 ACS Chaplains have decided to join the new ACS National Flotilla.

The process used to transfer into the ACS National Flotilla is the standard procedure used by Auxiliarists transferring between any two Auxiliary flotillas. To initiate the transfer, the Auxiliarist must complete section a of ANSC-7056 (03-23) and

submit it to their current Flotilla Commander. In turn, the form is routed to the receiving Flotilla Commander, the current District Director of Auxiliary, and the receiving District Director of Auxiliary. Specific directions for completion and routing of Form ANSC-7056 (03-23) are provided on page 2 of the form.

If there are Auxiliary members who desire further explanation concerning the ACS National Flotilla or this transfer process, please contact the prospective Flotilla Commander elect of 070-06-14, Chaplain Abel Lara.

Agostino "Gus" Formato,
National Commodore

Division participates in Touch a Truck

The Auxiliary was a proud participant of the Truck Touch event at the Bowie Baysox Baseball and Fireworks night on August 5.



Members Jim Welday, Carter Rardon, Mark Bertacchi, Roy Culley and Mark Campbell

interacted with the public offering many pamphlets highlighting boating safety, coloring books and information to support interested sea lovers and recruit land lovers searching for opportunities to share and expand their horizons/experiences. John Fewer was instrumental in securing the invitation on behalf of the Auxiliary. Mark Bertacchi helped arrange the event and was or the contact person, special thanks to both.

The importance of being out and visible is never lost on the community and many expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the Auxiliary.

Mark Campbell
VCDR

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District Captain Leaders Elected

During a special virtual District Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 5, virtual elections were held for the position of District Captain (DCAPT). All DCAPT will assume office January 1, 2024.

Thank you, Nick Lomangino, for your steadfast leadership and support of Division 23, Central Chesapeake for the last twenty-four months. Bravo Zulu.

The results of those District Captain elections are:

District Captain Sector Maryland-NCR: Henry Hays (Flotilla 054-24-09)

District Captain Sector Virginia: David H. Gamble (Flotilla 054-06-07)

District Captain Sector North Carolina: Joseph L. Nemeth (Flotilla 054-10-01)

Congratulations to all

Margaret Butler

DCDR

Meet Hector “Rick” Corrales, SO-PA



Public Affairs is an important social forum/medium for presenting certain brand or standards to our rank and file. When I embarked on this journey, I decided that the Coast Guard Auxiliary offered many upsides to continuing my commitment to serve, educate and train. We are in the business of Public Preparedness to support those who Protect and who model the way of our core principles and adhere to our motto of Devotion to Duty, Honor and respect.

Prior to joining the Auxiliary, I had a vision of boat ownership and providing a means to expose children from various backgrounds to seamanship and the love of water through boating. Challenging

them to see/experience a world beyond their daily routine. In the beginning I struggled with the how's and means to bring this hope to reality and be a champion of outreach because I didn't dare let my conviction/dream fade away. Then one day while viewing social media I found the solution in the Auxiliary, and here I am today building on that premonition/vision.

Throughout my professional career, I always thrived on training and the idea of presenting ideas and building standards on prerequisites and outreach. So, one of the things that I immediately gravitated towards was education and public relations. I was amazed at the endless opportunities and possibilities the Coast Guard Auxiliary had to offer, especially for free and online.

Once I joined, the main goal was to calm down don't get over anxious and find my niche. So originally, I was in the city of brotherly love, but I decided I needed more adventure on the waterways and relocated here to Maryland. Now I'm feeling my calling is coming to fruition and I can begin building a foundation to support and champion both future and previous ambitions. The Auxiliary website has so many training and educational modules on boating safety and navigating resources to last a lifetime.

As a boy scout I was surprised to see the administration of a mirrored youth program in the Auxiliary, offering sea scouts to kids nationally. That was another tool that really stood out to me. There are just so many attributes that are being offered under the Auxiliary banner, one wonders how come I didn't know about this sooner. We got to spread the word. I've just touched the tip of the iceberg on my maiden voyage in the Auxiliary, full speed ahead.

Mark Campbell

VCDR completed the interview for this article

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Best Practices to Nurturing Diversity and Inclusion to the Next Generation of Auxiliarists

In today's rapidly evolving world, diversity and inclusion have become crucial elements for fostering innovation, resilience, and success in any organization. The Auxiliary, a volunteer organization dedicated to supporting the Coast Guard's missions, recognizes the significance of diversity and inclusion in its ranks. To ensure a vibrant and thriving future it is imperative that we engage and inspire the next generation Auxiliarists through effective outreach efforts. It's imperative that all our members comprehend the importance of outreach in promoting diversity, inclusion, and ultimately, the continued success of the Auxiliary.

Embracing Diversity:

Diversity encompasses a broad range of characteristics, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, age, background, and experience. Embracing diversity within the Auxiliary brings a wealth of perspectives, skills, and talents that strengthen the organization's ability to fulfill its mission. Outreach initiatives must strive to engage individuals from diverse backgrounds and communities, ensuring that the Auxiliarist community represents the rich tapestry of America.

Fostering Inclusion:

Inclusion involves creating an environment where all individuals feel valued, respected, and empowered to contribute their unique perspectives. Effective outreach efforts should focus on fostering an inclusive culture within the Auxiliary, where everyone feels welcome and encouraged to participate irrespective of their background. By promoting inclusivity, the Auxiliary can attract and retain talented individuals, fostering a sense of belonging and driving greater collaboration and innovation.

Inspiring the Next Generation:

Outreach to the next generation of Auxiliarists is

paramount for ensuring a continuous pipeline of dedicated and passionate individuals. By engaging with young people, including students, youth organizations, and educational institutions, the Auxiliary can inspire interest and passion for maritime safety, environmental stewardship, and other Coast Guard missions. Encouraging diverse youth to consider a role in the Auxiliary not only benefits the organization but also opens doors to new perspectives and fresh ideas.

Mentoring and Guidance:

Outreach efforts should extend beyond initial engagement and involve ongoing mentorship and guidance. Establishing mentorship programs within the Auxiliary can provide invaluable support and opportunities for personal growth for aspiring Auxiliarists. Mentors can offer guidance, share experiences, and help navigate the path towards becoming a successful Auxiliarist, ensuring that diverse individuals feel supported and empowered throughout their journey.

Collaboration and Partnerships:

Effective outreach requires collaboration and partnerships with community organizations, educational institutions, and other stakeholders. By building bridges with organizations that specialize in promoting diversity and inclusion, Auxiliary can tap into existing networks and leverage collective resources. Collaborative efforts can include boat shows, maritime forums, career fairs, educational workshops, Sea Scouts, and youth organizations all of which enhance the reach and impact of our outreach initiatives.

Targeting our outreach efforts aimed at engaging the next generation of Auxiliarists is vital for promoting diversity, inclusion, and the long-term success of our organization. By embracing diversity, fostering inclusivity, inspiring young individuals, providing mentorship, and forging partnerships, the Auxiliary can cultivate a diverse and talented community of Auxiliarists. Through these efforts, the Auxiliary can continue to fulfill its mission effectively and adapt to the changing needs of our communities.

Margaret Butler
DCDR

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District 5 Southern Region Fall D-Train

The District Training conference (D-Train) was held in Glen Allen, Virginia, a suburb of Richmond on September 23-25. Both myself and Mark Campbell, Vice Division Commander (VCDR) were in attendance. Despite, hurricane Ophelia pressure system off the Southeastern boarder, there was great fellowship, food and fun over the course of the weekend. The D-Train 3-day schedule featured national staff officer training, Good Mate training, Flotilla leadership training, RM/TCT refresher training, District board meetings and Sector roundtables (Sector Maryland National Capitol Region, (SM-NCR), Section North Carolina, (SNC) & Sector Virginia, (SVA)).

On Friday, September 22nd the District Past Division Commanders Association (PDCA) held a special virtual election for the 2024 Vice President of each Sector as well as Secretary/treasurer. The winners were announced and recognized at the PDCA luncheon on Saturday, September 23rd. The new officers are:

Vice President SNC- Jim McKeever
Vice President SVA – Don Mason
Vice President SM-NCR– Margaret Butler
Secretary/Treasurer – Sandra Stewart

The highlight of the D5SR D-Train was the banquet on Saturday evening. Those in attendance were honored with remarks from Vice National Commodore, Mary Kirkwood and Commander David M. Otani, Director of Auxiliary, D5SR. We enjoyed remarks from District Commodore John Krogmann, and Jim Thomas, Chief of Staff. The event included a special recognition of the D5SR shipmates that crossed the bar as well as a missing man memorial table set aside to honor them. The event concluded with special recognitions and awards.

The next D-Train is tentatively scheduled for February 27-18, 2024, in Glen Allen, Virginia.

Margaret Butler

DCDR

Flotilla 23-7 participates in Yard Sale

On June 3, Flotilla 23-07, including Auxiliaries across the Divisions, attended Herrington Harbour North's annual Yard Sale event. In addition to our presence, talking to and distributing boating safety materials, we also conducted vessel safety checks (VSC).

Throughout the day, fellow Auxiliaries in partnership with the Maryland Department of National Resources Police (MNRP), conducted 22



Kimberle Zimmerman, Flotilla 24-04

VSC. Boaters were provided with expert guidance and information to ensure their boats complied with essential safety regulations.

Additionally, those unable to participate in the VSC on that day were given the opportunity to sign up for future appointments, emphasizing the commitment to accommodating everyone's safety needs.

The collaboration with the MNRP brought added expertise and knowledge to the safety checks, further emphasizing the importance of responsible boating practices.

Beyond the VSC, a prominent booth was set up to engage the public, providing an opportunity to interact with the community and address any questions or concerns they had about boating safety. This direct communication allowed for valuable exchanges and spreading awareness about the significance of safe boating practices to a broader audience.

By combining the fun of a yard sale with the importance of VSC and community engagement,

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Yard Sale—continued from page 13

Herrington Harbour North effectively created an event that not only provided valuable safety resources but also strengthened the bond between boaters and their neighbors.

As the positive impact of this event reverberates through the community, it is expected to inspire more boaters to prioritize safety and responsible practices while enjoying the beauty of the waterways. The collaboration with the MNRP and the active involvement of the community will continue to play a pivotal role in ensuring safe boating for everyone in the region.

Gini Shrift

Flotilla Commander 23-7

Herrington Harbour South Safety Day

Herrington Harbour South partnered with Flotilla 23-07 to host their annual Marina Safety Day on May 20, a vibrant event aimed at promoting safe boating practices and fostering a strong sense of community among boaters. The day was filled with educational activities and engaging fellowship, leaving attendees with valuable knowledge and unforgettable experiences.

Throughout the day, Auxiliarists from across the Divisions worked together to conduct 26 vessel safety checks (VSC), ensuring that boats were equipped with essential safety equipment and met necessary regulations. Additionally, seven paddle craft inspections took place, emphasizing the importance of safety measures for all types of watercraft.

One of the highlights of the day was the "Suddenly in Command" course, which drew an impressive attendance of 22 people. This course provided a comprehensive education on handling emergencies at sea and equipping boaters with the necessary skills to act confidently when unforeseen circumstances arise.

However, it was the real-life stories shared by experienced boaters that resonated the most with attendees. These narratives offered practical insights and valuable lessons, leaving participants inspired and more aware of potential challenges and solutions on the water.



Brian Shrift

After a day of learning and VSC, the event concluded with a delightful fellowship where Auxiliarists enjoyed mouthwatering burgers while engaging in lively conversations.

The camaraderie among boaters was evident as they exchanged stories, shared tips, and strengthened their bonds within the maritime community.

The success of Herrington Harbour South's Marina Safety Day highlights the value of proactive safety initiatives and community engagement in promoting responsible boating. By providing education and opportunities for meaningful interactions, the event has undoubtedly contributed to making the waters a safer and more enjoyable environment for all boaters.

As the boating season continues, the impact of this event is expected to resonate throughout the Herrington Harbour South community, ensuring that boaters of all levels of experience can navigate the waters with confidence and a strong commitment to safety.

Gini Shrift

Flotilla Commander 23-7

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Flotilla 23-4 Celebrates Long History and New Members

Flotilla 23-04 is very proud to serve the South River. The flotilla's designated Area of Responsibility also includes the adjacent West and Rhode Rivers and the waters across to the eastern shore. On July 23rd, we held a fellowship event in Eastport, MD just on the outskirts of downtown Annapolis at the Chesapeake Boating Club.

The history of 23-04 dates back 56 years to February of 1967. Our own Auxiliarist Paul Mills was transferred into this Flotilla when it was referred to as Flotilla 11-04 covering the "Middle Western Shore Division." He became Commander in 1968. As he puts it, "we were all out looking for tow jobs that we could tow to the nearest marina. All the Auxiliary boats had tow lines already made up." At that time, Station Annapolis was a "floating station" at the end of 2nd Street (Back Creek side) in Eastport, Annapolis (Vosbury's Marina), and the station that Paul Mills served.

Through the 70's and 80's, Flotilla 23-04 expanded our core capabilities to include regular air patrols over and around the Chesapeake Bay and owned our own aircraft facilities. In the early 90's, a group of these air personnel split off and formed a new Flotilla which is today entirely air and is based out of Gaithersburg Airport.

We have seen cycles of growth and attrition of Flotilla 23-04 membership over the years. We barely made it through the COVID pandemic. Membership, at that time, was at its very lowest, and we also lost our Flotilla Commander Michael Whitman who crossed the bar in 2020.

None of the 23-04 members had active operational qualifications and any existing operational facilities were out of commission. In just the last 1.5 years, the flotilla pulled itself up by its bootstraps and brought on five new members. Still in what we consider a "start-up company" mode, the flotilla continues to build in strength with previously inactive members coming forward

and newer members actively advancing in their training. We now have multiple members with crew and vessel examiner qualification.

As Flotilla Commander, I felt it was time to celebrate the efforts of the members and Division 23 who provided unyielding support. Members brought their families and celebrated through an evening of fellowship and a delicious barbecue. As the sun started to set, members were taken for a boat ride and brought to the Annapolis Harbor for a view of downtown Annapolis and the Naval Academy. Waters were calm and the temperatures were in the low 70s. A perfect evening for a gathering of USCG Auxiliarists and their families!

Bravo Zulu, Flotilla 054-23-04!

Paul Feinberg

Flotilla Commander 23-4



Tam Cragg and his wife Phan, Kathleen Feinberg and Bruce Petro

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Introducing the New Personal Watercraft (PWC) Seminar Course

We are pleased to announce the launch of an exciting and comprehensive Personal Watercraft (PWC) seminar course designed to enhance safety, skills, and knowledge for PWC enthusiasts. Developed by the Public Education Directorate in consultation with PWC experts, this seminar course is designed for instructors who want to expand their flotilla's course offerings.

This course is designed to teach participants the basics of safe PWC operation, including:

- ◆ How to operate a PWC in a variety of conditions
- ◆ How to avoid accidents and injuries
- ◆ How to be a courteous and responsible PWC operator
- ◆ What's new about this seminar course?
- ◆ Emphasis on safety, ensuring a safe and enjoyable PWC experience.
- ◆ Expertly crafted comprehensive curriculum with updated and enhanced graphics and videos.
- ◆ Environmental awareness that emphasizes the importance of environmental conservation and educates participants about the potential impact of PWCs on marine ecosystems.
- ◆ Updated legal and regulatory information to keep students informed and compliant.

Certification: Upon successfully completing the course, the student will take a short exam to determine proficiency in the material and receive a completion certificate

Editors Note: The above was received email through the message system

NACO 3 Star Award for Diversity Excellence presented at the D5SR D-Train

On Saturday, September 23, Margaret Butler, Division Commander (DCDR) 23 and Kyle Robinson DCDR 22 accepted the 2023 NACO 3 Star Award for Diversity Excellence on behalf of their divisions at the District 5 Southern Region (D5SR) D-Train. This NACO 3 Star Award for Diversity Excellence was a significant achievement. Out of 15 Divisions in D5SR (SMD-NCR, SNC & VA) Division 21 & 23 from SMD-NCR were the only divisions within D5SR that not only received the coveted diversity award Divisionally but all of its Flotilla units individually received the award as well.

Jim Thomas, Chief of Staff stated, "This is a remarkable achievement for the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary and that we have set the bar high for this achievement for D5SR-wide for next year".

Special thanks to Mark Campbell, Vice Division Commander (VCDR) for leading this effort and to Flotillas Commanders David Stadler (23-01), George Weston (23-02), Dorothy Neiman (23-03), Paul Feinberg (23-04), Connie Cosgrove (23-06); and Virginia Shrift (23-07).

Thank you for putting Diversity at the forefront of your Flotilla mission to attract and remove barriers to inclusion. Bravo Zulu!

Margaret Butler

DCDR



L-r: Kyle Robinson, DCDR 22; DCO John Krogman, Margaret Butler, DCDR 23 and Jim Thomas, Chief of Staff

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Flotilla 23-6 supports National Night Out

National Night Out is an annual community event meant to bring neighbors outside to get to know one another. The event offers free food, games, and other activities for the children and vendors to share information and demonstrations to children and adults alike. There was a dunking tank, face painting, tie dying of T-shirts, bubbles, hula hoop contests and a piñata.

This year, Flotilla 23-06 again supported two neighborhoods as they have in past years. One of the communities was Long Beach. Calvert Health was in attendance giving free blood pressure and cholesterol screenings. The Saint Leonard Fire Department was there as were representatives from the County Sheriff's office. Pizza and hot dogs were on the menu for the evening along with popcorn and snow cones. A DJ provided music for the evening and called out door prize numbers.

Bill Smith, Dave Keyser and Connie Cosgrove staffed the public affairs booth where they handed out safe boating literature, the orange decals for having your boat or paddle craft returned if found a drift and many coloring books and crayons. They also gave out oil pads to boaters and answered many questions.



The sheriff's office Corporal Callison (Cpl.) and his K9 partner gave a demonstration. Members of the community were given an opportunity to see the strength of Reaper and able to ask questions. Officer Reaper was wearing his bullet proof vest and one

of the questions the children asked was how much it weighed. Cpl. Callison's response was "five pounds. Reaper weighs 75 pounds and is trained in narcotics but is mostly a patrol dog." The second demonstration from the Calvert County Sheriff's office was given by Deputy Daly and a drone. He told those present that the County currently has 16 drones in the fleet.

The second community supported by 23-06 was the Twin Beaches held at Kellum Field in Chesapeake Beach. Mark Campbell and Harry Scott staffed the booth there. They also gave out boating safety literature, coloring books and crayons and answered many questions. The attendance estimate there was about 250 people.

Connie Cosgrove

FSO-PB



L-r: Alyssa and Liam Enmques , Morgan and Beau Barrett, Bill Smith and Brian Bergin

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National Scout Jamboree Task Force: A Beacon of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty

The 2023 National Scout Jamboree, a remarkable event held every four years, brought together thousands of young scouts from across the United States to celebrate scouting's rich history. Notably, this Jamboree marked a historic moment, being the first to include BSA Scout female participants, signifying the evolving inclusivity of the Boys Scouts of America. Amidst the array of impressive exhibits, the U.S. Coast Guard stood out as a shining example of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty. Command Master Chief Shawn Burn led the Coast Guard Task Force, a dedicated group of over 40 individuals from Active Duty, Reserve, Auxiliary, and Civilian backgrounds. This highly anticipated gathering promised to be an unforgettable experience for scouts, fostering personal growth, and creating lifelong memories. The U.S. Coast Guard Task Force played a significant role, sharing their rich history and imparting valuable maritime skills to the young scouts. Their collective efforts not only demonstrated the Coast Guard's commitment to service but also aimed to inspire the next generation of leaders on their own journeys of excellence. Let us delve into the exciting world of the National Scout Jamboree 2023 and explore the memorable experiences participants encountered during this extraordinary event.

The National Scout Jamboree has a storied history, commencing with its inaugural gathering in 1937. Throughout the years, the event has evolved and expanded, mirroring the evolving interests and needs of young scouts. From its humble origins in Washington, D.C., the Jamboree has flourished into a grand gathering, finding its permanent home at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. The Jamboree serves as a testament to the enduring spirit of scouting, providing young participants with an exceptional array of activities, including hiking, rock climbing, water sports, and leadership development. Core values like teamwork, resilience, and self-reliance are

instilled, fostering an appreciation for nature and community service.

Command Master Chief Shawn Burn, a leading figure in the Coast Guard, highlighted the strategic planning and execution of the Task Force's involvement in the 2023 National Scout Jamboree. The Coast Guard, a crucial component of the nation's maritime security, search and rescue operations, and environmental protection, played a pivotal role in showcasing its Core Values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty during the event.

The Task Force itself comprised a diverse group of dedicated individuals from various branches of the Coast Guard. Among them were the esteemed Active-Duty personnel, serving as the backbone of the organization. Additionally, the Reserve members, ever prepared to offer support, brought their unique experiences and expertise to the team, enriching the collective knowledge of the Task Force. The Auxiliary members, embodying the spirit of volunteerism, contributed their time and skills to complement the Coast Guard's multifaceted missions. Lastly, the Civilians, experts in their respective fields, played a crucial role in supporting the Task Force's intricate logistics and planning, ensuring the success of their mission.

The involvement of the U.S. Coast Guard Task Force in the 2023 National Scout Jamboree not only demonstrated the Coast Guard's unwavering commitment to their Core Values but also served as an inspirational force, guiding the young scouts toward a path of excellence, leadership, and service. This diverse and dedicated team showcased the best of the Coast Guard, leaving a lasting impact on all participants, and fostering admiration for the dedication and spirit of these guardians of the sea.

Throughout the five months leading up to the National Scout Jamboree, the Task Force dedicated themselves to embodying the Coast Guard's Core Values - Honor, Respect, and

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Devotion to Duty. These values form the backbone of the Coast Guard's culture, shaping the actions and decisions of every individual who wears the service's uniform.

Honor, the first Core Value, represents the Coast Guard's commitment to integrity, ethics, and doing what is right, even when faced with difficult choices. This value was reflected in the Task Force's approach to planning and executing their exhibit, ensuring that every aspect of their involvement was conducted with the utmost professionalism and honesty.

Respect, the second Core Value, embodies the Coast Guard's dedication to treating everyone with dignity, fairness, and compassion. As they engaged with Jamboree attendees, the Task Force members demonstrated respect for each individual's unique journey and encouraged them to pursue their dreams while considering the Coast Guard as a potential path.

Devotion to Duty, the third Core Value, epitomizes the Coast Guard's commitment to fulfilling responsibilities and duties with unwavering dedication. The Task Force exemplified this value in their meticulous planning and execution, leaving no detail overlooked in their pursuit of excellence.

The Coast Guard Task Force's collective efforts bore fruit at the National Scout Jamboree, establishing the Coast Guard's exhibit as the event's must-see attraction. Visitors were captivated not only by the thrilling displays of Coast Guard capabilities but also by the inspiring stories shared by Task Force members, recounting their personal journeys within the service. Attendees gained a firsthand look at the Coast Guard's cutting-edge equipment and technology, witnessing the breadth of its responsibilities, from search and rescue demonstrations to environmental protection efforts and maritime security operations. The exhibit's interactive nature engaged visitors of all ages, fostering a deeper appreciation for the Coast Guard's critical role in safeguarding the nation's waters.

The National Scout Jamboree 2023 was a treasure trove of unforgettable experiences for participants. The event boasted a diverse program, encompassing adventure sports, cultural exchanges, merit badge workshops, and educational exhibits. Scouts were encouraged to push their physical and mental boundaries, embracing challenges to develop new skills. From high-adrenaline pursuits like zip-lining and mountain biking to traditional scouting activities like knot-tying and fire-building, each endeavor contributed to physical fitness and the cultivation of leadership and teamwork skills. Participants relished the opportunity to collaborate with scouts from diverse backgrounds, fostering cultural exchange and nurturing lasting friendships.

The Jamboree's allure extended beyond adventure-filled days, featuring captivating speeches from inspiring speakers, influential leaders, and accomplished professionals across various fields. Through these interactions, young minds were ignited with fresh perspectives and insights, empowering them to realize their potential for making a positive impact on the world.

The Task Force's primary objective revolved around guiding Jamboree attendees towards contemplating a rewarding career in the Coast Guard. By generously sharing their personal experiences and rate-related skills, Task Force members bestowed invaluable insights into the life of a Coast Guard member. Their unwavering dedication and passion for service profoundly impacted the young scouts, sparking within them a newfound desire to embark on their own journeys of exploration, leadership, and dedicated service to their nation.

Character development stood at the forefront of the National Scout Jamboree 2023, and the event made deliberate efforts to emphasize this aspect. Through a diverse range of activities and workshops, scouts were exposed to the fundamental values of integrity, respect, and responsibility. Engaging in meaningful discussions and participating in hands-on projects, scouts

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were inspired to cultivate ethical decision-making skills and personal growth, becoming better-rounded individuals.

The significance of community service also held a prominent place in the Jamboree's program. Scouts were actively encouraged to contribute to local projects and initiatives, nurturing a profound sense of social responsibility within them. These activities instilled a profound and lifelong commitment to making positive contributions within their communities, fostering the growth of responsible and compassionate citizens.

The U.S. Coast Guard Task Force's involvement in the 2023 National Scout Jamboree demonstrated the Coast Guard's unwavering commitment to Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty. Through their engaging and inspiring exhibit, they showcased the Coast Guard's vital role in safeguarding the nation's waters and inspired a new generation of leaders to consider a future within the service. The Task Force left an indelible mark on its participants, instilling valuable life lessons, fostering camaraderie, and nurturing a shared appreciation for exploration and service. As scouts departed the event with cherished memories and newfound aspirations, they carried with them the profound impact of the Coast Guard Task Force's dedication, commitment, and embodiment of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty. Their dedication to service and values left an indelible mark on all who attended the Jamboree, fostering a brighter future for both the Coast Guard and the young scouts who may one day proudly don the Coast Guard uniform.

Hector Corrales

SO-PA

Scouts participated in hands-on Damage Control Wet Training during the Boy Scout National Jamboree 2023.



Introducing the New "Water N' Kids" Youth Course and Toolkit

We are pleased to announce the launch of an exciting youth water safety class, called "Water N' Kids" designed to enhance safety, skills, and knowledge for students ages 8 to 10 years (third and fourth grade). Developed by the Public Education Directorate, this course includes many support templates to help instructors contact schools, teachers, parent information, a general lesson plan, and more for those instructors who want to expand their flotilla's course offerings.

"Water N' Kids" is designed to teach basic water safety topics to young students. There are 12 items in the tool kit, including:

- Sample Elementary School Letter
- Sample Elementary School Thank You Letter
- Sample High School Letter
- Sample High School Class Flyer (Boat America)
- Sample High School Thank You Letter
- Sample Youth Course Water N' Kids Flyer
- Student Course Completion Certificate
- Classroom Course Completion Certificate
- Water N' Kids Certificate Letter to Parents
- Summary Lesson Plan for Instructors
- Water N' Kids Instructor Notes (PDF)
- Water N' Kids PowerPoint Presentation
- What topics are included in this course?
- Swimming safely.
- Rip currents.
- Wearing life jackets
- Basic boating safety.
- Clean environment

Getting our instructors into school classrooms will provide a tremendous growth opportunity in boating safety. Not only can we affect the current generation of boaters, but also their families and the next generation. *Water N' Kids* can be the shining example of "a child shall lead."

Please go to the E-Directorate website to download *Water N' Kids* and join the mission to help educate our school community.

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Safety at Sea

The annual Safety at Sea occurred on Saturday, September 16, and was a resounding success. Division 23 and other Sector Maryland National Capitol Region division members supported the full-day event at Coast Guard Yard Curtis Bay in Baltimore.

The Sea Scouts is a program of the Boy Scouts of America and the official youth program of Auxiliary. The Coast Guard and Auxiliary jointly hosted the Chesapeake Bay Sea Scout Safety at Sea event. The purpose of the event is to provide Sea Scouts and their leaders with an opportunity to receive hands-on instruction in a variety of boating safety skills and equipment that is not generally available to them.

The Safety at Sea event featured training stations that included using rescue flares, paddle craft safety techniques, man overboard drills, fire extinguisher operation, dewatering pumps, advanced marlinspike skills, marine environmental protection, Coast Guard and Coast Guard Academy recruiting, and an introduction to Auxiliary missions and membership. The Safety at Sea event provides Sea Scouts with remarkable opportunities to gain hands-on experience in critical safety-related situations, from dewatering to damage control to emergency signaling and firefighting. Safety at Sea is designed to challenge the Sea Scouts in a safe and fun environment.

Margaret Butler

DCDR

National Recreational Boating Safety Survey Expertise Solicitation

The Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety (CG-BSX) wants to hear from the Coast Guard workforce to create the next National Recreational Boating Safety Survey (NRBSS)! The NRBSS is administered to over 25,000 boaters every 5 to 10 years. It seeks to identify trends in safety, usage, and technology, helping the Coast Guard discern the number of recreational boats and boaters utilizing our waterways and properly regulate recreational boating.

This is YOUR chance to influence this nationwide survey of boaters and tell CG-BSX what the current trends, concerns, and issues are in recreational boating. For example, have you seen something during your Auxiliary maritime activities that needs to be addressed by the Coast Guard? Is there new technology such as iPhone SOS monitoring, boating smartphone apps, or peer-to-peer-sharing of boats that the Coast Guard should examine? By sharing your questions, concerns, and observations you can help CG-BSX create its NRBSS!

This solicitation is extended to all active duty, reserve, civilian, Auxiliary, and Coast Guard Academy personnel and runs through October 27, 2023. Please consider contributing your input. You need to have a CG_Ideas@Work account in order to do so. You can create such an account at: <https://cg-ideasatwork.ideascalegov.com/a/community/login>. This NRBSS solicitation can then be found as a Featured Challenge under the Active Campaigns menu.

To view past NRBSS for reference, please visit <https://uscgboating.org/statistics/national-recreational-boating-safety-survey.php>. Questions should be directed to the appropriate Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM).

Editor's Note: The above was received email through the list server

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Member's Corner – Jim Welday

I've been an active member of the Auxiliary for over 30 years. I have enjoyed numerous opportunities to serve, mentor and assist with various activities and events. To me, it's been an honor and enjoyable experience to be part of the USCG.

Before I joined the Auxiliary, I had a boat and always aided people in need on the water. I received a phone call on a Thursday, and someone asked me, "hey, are you the guy who renders help on the water." Someone's boat was stuck on the rocks at Herrington Harbor. I notified the Coast Guard. I went out and made my vessel, Michelle II, available to assist that family on the water. My story was featured on the front page of the Capitol newspaper as a successful rescue operation. Now the opposite side of the story was the backlash from small towing services regarding taking away their business capital.

A neighbor requested that I should consider joining the Auxiliary. I've been fortunate to live in an area with an active Flotilla here in Annapolis which supports the Annapolis Station and many facets in the region/area. Of course, I immediately delved into the operations, continued and became an active watch stander. Originally, there was a time I performed the duty of watch stander in DC at the Air Force base in a trailer. After 9/11 DC built a CG station on Bolling Air Force Base to accommodate the program fully. Now that there is a full-service watch stander system functioning in DC, I dedicate the majority of my time here in my own back yard. To this day I remain committed and thankful for both qualifications.

The Auxiliary is dealing with many challenges and issues but it's up to each individual who joins to remember why they joined and commit to craft their skills and harness their talents, addressing the needs of the organization daily. Yes, it takes work, energy, passion, commitment, and communication to be successful. But if we pull

together and help each other every day we can help the organization survive and thrive.

Look guys, the pandemic came and went, and we are still standing. Our goal is to slowly get involved in personal one on one interactions and dialogue while building our technology base to support and make us better. Everyone new and old has talent to share and they have a vested interest in our missions, principles and core values. But it takes people, work and volunteering in the Flotilla, Division and District levels to achieve our goals. Let us practice Semper Paratus!

Mark Campbell, VCDR conducted the interview with Jim

National Board Recommendations at NACON 2023

At the 2023 Auxiliary National Conference (NACON) in Orlando, FL two weeks ago, the following recommendations were placed before the National Board. They are summarized, with the Chief Director's final actions, below:

1. Recommendation: Revise the Auxiliary Manual Regarding Points Eligible for Annual Service Award – "M" Device (Originator: Director of Prevention Kim Cole / Date: 01 June 2023)

a. Recommendation and Discussion:

(1) Members working in the Operations Program Navigation Systems (NS) are not currently granted the ability to earn NS points toward the Annual Service Award "M" device. It is therefore recommended that these members be allowed to earn points when working within longstanding NS mission codes as follows:

Navigation Patrol – 3 points – code 03
ATON – 3 points – code 30
PATON – 3 points – code 31
Bridges – 3 points – code 32

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(2) Per the Auxiliary Manual, page 11-11, A.11.f.

(3) “M” Device, members may earn points toward the “M” Device that may be worn on the Annual Service Award. To achieve this award, a member must accrue at least 200 points in any combination of the following activities that include: Commercial Fishing Vessel Exams, Uninspected Towing Vessel Exams, Uninspected Passenger Vessel Exams, other Commercial Vessel Exams, each hour performed in the Marine Safety, Security, and/or Marine Environmental Protection mission categories, and outreach mission code 80A. However, this list unfortunately overlooks member hours devoted to performing CRUCIAL MISSIONS within the NS Division of the Prevention Directorate. These missions are represented by NS codes 03, 30, 31, and 32, which are standard on form 7030. Enabling members to earn points for NS hours toward the “M” Device will serve to elevate morale, encourage participation, increase productivity, and equitably reflect the critical necessity of these four missions.

b. Recommendation and Discussion: Approved

c. Chief Director Final Action: Approved. Appropriate adjustments to AUXDATA II are necessary to implement this change. AUXDATA II will be modified to make this change effective beginning on January 1, 2024.

2. Recommendation: Create Leadership Development Ribbon (Originator: Director of Training Robert Kumpf / Date: 21 May 2023)

a. Recommendation and Discussion:

(1) It is recommended that the Auxiliary National Board approve the creation of a U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Leadership Development Ribbon to be awarded to members of the Auxiliary who successfully complete all of the requirements to earn a leadership competency level as prescribed by the Training Directorate. This ribbon would be awarded upon completion of leadership competency level 2, after which the Auxiliarist

would be issued an identifying device (small bronze star) for each additional leadership competency level completed through leadership competency level 5.

(2) The Training Directorate firmly believes that such an award program for the Auxiliary would provide an excellent return on investment and would help us with our current leadership development and retention issues and challenges. Furthermore, it would give those who take steps toward professional and leadership development the recognition that they so rightfully deserve. Achieving leadership competency level 5 should be a sought-after professional development goal for every Auxiliarist wearing officer shoulder boards, currently serving in, or aspiring to serve in, an elected or appointed leadership position. This sort of material recognition for their efforts along that road would help bridge the gap between our current leadership deficiencies and where we need to be should we continue to strive to be a force multiplier for the U.S. Coast Guard.

b. Recommendation and Discussion: Approved

c. Chief Director Final Action: Approved. Ribbon creation entails coordination with the Coast Guard Office of Medals and Awards, the Coast Guard Clothing Design and Technical Office (CDTO), The Institute of Heraldry (TIOH), and ribbon manufacturers and takes approximately 12 months to complete.

3. Legal Officers Program Qualification Insignia (Originator: National Commodore Gus Formato / Date: 13 June 2023)

a. Recommendation and Discussion:

(1) Present and former DSO-LPs, ADSO-LPs, and, when authorized by their active-duty supervisors, legal services attorneys, will be authorized to permanently wear a silver-colored Legal Program Qualification Insignia similar to the insignia approved for members of the Coast Guard's military and civilian legal professional staff not

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assigned to Coast Guard Judge Advocate General (CGJAG) positions. The Auxiliary's present and former Auxiliary Chief Counsels, Deputy Chief Counsels and Assistant Chief Counsels will be permanently authorized to wear gold colored Legal Program Qualification insignia similar to the insignia approved for members of the Coast Guard's legal professionals assigned to CGJAG positions. Permanent wear is only authorized for both insignia if the member has served at least 1/2 of the term of office which qualifies the member to wear the insignia.

(2) By ALCOAST 148/23 APR 2023, Mr. Calvin M. Lederer, then Acting Judge Advocate General and Deputy Chief Counsel (CG-0954D) announced the approval of the Legal Program qualification insignia for military and civilian members of the Coast Guard's specialists in the field of law. The ALCOAST states that "Wearing an insignia is a celebration and reflection of an individual's significant professional achievement. Earning insignia builds esprit-de-corps while visibly representing professional competence." Admiral Linda Fagan "...established the intent that all personnel who achieve excellence in their specialty should have the opportunity to represent their excellence through the display of earned insignia." The Commandant's Auxiliary Policy Statement recognizes the contributions of the Auxiliary's lawyers who work diligently and tirelessly "...to enable the Coast Guard to successfully execute all of its missions." Having served at all levels of elected leadership in the Coast Guard Auxiliary I can personally attest to the innumerable valuable contributions made by the Auxiliary's outstanding legal professionals at the district and national level, many of which have unquestionably been critical to the successful execution of the many missions and activities of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The contributions of our legal professionals should be recognized in the same manner as those made by the active duty Coast Guard's legal professionals.

b. Recommendation and Discussion: Approved

c. Chief Director Final Action: Approved. In order to distinguish both silver and gold insignia as earned by Auxiliary legal officers, each shall have a silver "A" centered on the insignia in similar fashion as other Auxiliary insignia. Insignia creation entails coordination with the Coast Guard Office of Medals and Awards, the Coast Guard Clothing Design and Technical Office (CDTO), The Institute of Heraldry (TIOH), and insignia manufacturers and may take up to 12 months to complete.

Editor's Note: The above was received email through the Chief Director's list server

Workforce Resilience Course Name Change

1. The "Workforce Resilience" course (course code 502379), which is currently one of the Auxiliary Core Training (AUXCT) course requirements, has been renamed "Sexual Assault Prevention, Response and Recovery." The course code number remains the same. The name change does not impact current AUXCT requirements or course currency, and the course remains available to be taken through the Auxiliary Online Classroom (<https://classroom2.cgaux.org/moodle/course/index.php?categoryid=36>) and the Auxiliary Learning Management System (AUXLMS / <https://auxlearning.uscg.mil>).

2. The Coast Guard is currently conducting a 90-day Accountability and Transparency Review of our law, policy, processes, practices, resources, and Service culture relevant to eradicating sexual assault and harassment in our ranks. Course code 502379 is under review and is expected to be revised following the results of this 90-day review.

3. **AUXCT Course Requirements:** As a reminder, AUXCT is comprised of the following repeatable and one-time courses:

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a. Repeatable Courses: To be successfully completed by the end of the first full year of enrollment and then once every five years thereafter:

- (1) Sexual Assault Prevention, Response and Recovery (502379).
- (2) Security Fundamentals (810030).
- (3) Privacy at DHS: Protecting Personal Information (810015).
- (4) Sexual Harassment Prevention (810000).
- (5) Civil Rights Awareness (502319).

b. One-time Courses: To be successfully completed only once (new enrollees must

complete them by the end of the first full year of enrollment).

- (6) Ethics 1 / Personal Gifts (502306).
- (7) Basic Qualification Course II (BQ II).*

*This AUXCT requirement only applies to Auxiliarists enrolled or re-enrolled on or after February 1, 2018.

4. The Auxiliary Training Directorate's AUXCT Training page (<https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=T-DEPT&category=core-training>) addresses options for completing the AUXCT courses.



Happy Halloween