

# Chesapeake Chatter

## Division 23 5SR



# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 15 Issue 4

Winter 2023- 2024

National First Place Division Newsletter—2021 & 2022



Greetings Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of all the members who participated in supporting the Change of Watch efforts through to

fruition, your dedication and tremendous work helped promote Central Chesapeake Region as we began the new year. Words alone cannot express our sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for your professional courtesy and support through the planning, developing of the program and finalizing the details to kick off this joint effort.

Special thanks to Margaret Butler, Immediate Past Division Commander (IPDCR) for her guidance, intuitiveness, special effects and dynamic audiovisual presentations. Her delivery of remarks was warm and stupendous and elevated the excitement of all who attended. Her diligence and representation on behalf of the Auxiliary was instrumental in communications with Renditions Country Club. Thank You for all your personal touches in making 2023 a year to remember.

Acknowledgement to our MC, Brian Shrift for moderating our event as in previous years with ease and poise. Gini Shrift for photography and support; our set up team springing into action and creating the set and prompts, our audio experts for creating an efficient sound production as well as our registration team for greeting all of our patrons. Thank you to the sea scouts and Sarah Ramson for entertainment creating a welcoming and harmonious atmosphere.

To the Chain of Leadership, the flotilla commanders and vice commanders, past and present, you demonstrated outstanding leadership in preparation and devoting your time and talents, throughout the year and during transition to ensure that plans were uninterrupted or delayed. Without your confidence and unyielding enthusiasm, we

wouldn't have been able to have a successful event.

To the finest Staff Officers in the Division/Flotillas, you have always answered the call to provide whatever assistance was necessary to ensure we could push through until the end. You have been the pillars of our efforts providing expertise to coordinate and create opportunities emphasizing the importance of T-E-A-M.

Lastly, for anyone whom I might have inadvertently not mentioned, we humbly apologize but remember you are valued, and all the parts of the puzzle, are powerful when we join forces and stand together as one, One Nation, One Team.

We THANK YOU so much. Bravo Zulu to you all.

*Mark Campbell,*

DCDR

*LeRoy Culley,*

VCDR



## 2023 Auxiliarist of the Year

At the end of the year, Flotilla Commanders

nominate a member of their unit they feel has gone above and beyond during the year or over a period of many years as the Auxiliarist of the Year. This is a high honor to reward them for what they do.

The Auxiliarist of the Year for 2023 are:

Jim Farrell, 23-1

Dee Latham, 23-2

Mark Bertacchi, 23-3

Tam Cragg, 23-4

Thomas Hardisty, 23-6

Christopher Jensen, 23-7

Division – Jim Farrell and George Weston

*Connie Cosgrove*

SO-PB

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## 2024 Board & Staff

DCDR: Mark Campbell

VCDR: Roy Culley

IPDCDR: Margaret Butler

### 23-1 - Annapolis

Lenny Butler, Flotilla Commander

Douglas Casler, Vice Flotilla Commander

### 23-2 - Solomons

George Weston, Flotilla Commander

Richard Sikorski, Vice Flotilla Commander

### 23-3 – West Annapolis

Hector Richardo Corrales , Flotilla Commander

Mace Coleman, Vice Flotilla Commander

### 23-4 – South River

Tamm Cragg, Flotilla Commander

Paul Feinberg, Vice Flotilla Commander

### 23-6 – Drum Point

Larry Mattivi, Flotilla Commander

Connie Cosgrove, Vice Flotilla Commander

### 23-7 – Herring Bay

Gini Shrift, Flotilla Commander

Brian Shrift, Vice Flotilla Commander

### Division Staff

SO-AS— vacant

SO-CM - Jim Welday

SO-CS - Steven Hildebrand

SO-DV - Robert Banks

SO-FN - Michael Taylor

SO-HR - Dave Keyser

SO-IS - Jim Welday

SO-MA –vacant

SO-MS - Wendy Norwitz

SO-MT - Willie Witters

SO-NS - Dave Sire

SO-OP - Kimberle Sheehan

SO-PA - Rick Corrales

SO-PB - Connie Cosgrove

SO-PE - vacant

SO-PV - Ron Price

SO-SR - Susan Casler

SO-VE - Joseph Sheehan

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## Cover Photos

**Top Left:** CDMR Caren Damon. Deputy Commander, SM-NCR pins award on John Fewer

**Top Right:** Sarah Ransom plays the harp at COW

**Middle Left–** George Weston FC 23-2, Oyster Festival Queen, Richard Sikorski, CFC 23-2

**Middle Right:** Bill Smith, FSO-PA, Connie Cosgrove, FC and Harry Scott, FSO-HR at Chesapeake Cares Food Party

**Bottom Left:** Maryland State Police help lands at Station Annapolis for the annual open house

**Bottom Right:** Station Annapolis “Spruce Up” crew. L to r: BM3 Luis Pineda, Eddy Coleman, Kai Marcalus (a recent Eagle Scout recipient in Eddy’s Troop), and Dan Kraus (an apprentice Marine Technician at Pocahontas Marina in Edgewater).



1 April 2024

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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As we prepare ourselves for the exciting opportunities that will lie ahead, I would like to say serving as your Division Commander has been a tremendous privilege and honor. I look forward to continuing as the Immediate Past Division Commander (IPDCDR). As I reflect on the last two terms, I am filled with a sense of accomplishment, gratitude, and deep appreciation. 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 Auxiliarist. I look forward to witnessing the division's continued success under the leadership of the next term. I have full confidence in Mark Campbell, Division Commander (DCDR), and LeRoy Culley, Vice Division Commander (VCDR), and your collective abilities, passion and persistence to make us a model of excellence for D5SR.

As we bid farewell to the outgoing leadership team and pass the baton to the incoming leadership, it is important to reflect on the invaluable lessons learned and leadership tips that have shaped the success of Division 23, Central Chesapeake. Today, I would like to share five key leadership tips and lessons that I have learned along the way that have been instrumental in guiding me. I offer these tips to the incoming bridge of leadership to encourage them on the road ahead

1. **Vision and Communication:** A clear and compelling vision is essential for inspiring and guiding the members of the organization. Effective leaders communicate this vision with passion, clarity, and consistency, ensuring that every member understands their role in achieving the collective goals.
2. **Empowerment and Trust:** Great leaders empower their teams by delegating authority and fostering an environment of trust. Trusting your team members to make decisions and take ownership of their responsibilities not only builds their confidence but also strengthens the overall effectiveness of the organization.

3. **Adaptability and Resilience:** In the dynamic and ever-changing environment in which we operate, leaders must be adaptable and resilient. Embracing change, learning from setbacks, and remaining steadfast in the face of challenges are crucial qualities that enable leaders to steer their teams through turbulent waters.

4. **Mentorship and Development:** Effective leaders are committed to the mentorship and development of their team members. By investing in the growth and success of others, leaders cultivate a culture of continuous learning and improvement, ensuring the sustainability of the organization's capabilities.

5. **Unity and Camaraderie:** Team building and fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie among members are essential for creating a cohesive and high-performing organization. Encouraging collaboration, celebrating achievements, and supporting one another through adversity strengthens the bonds that hold the team together.

As we welcome the incoming bridge of leadership, I encourage you to embrace these leadership tips and lessons learned as guiding principles in your journey ahead. Your dedication to upholding the values of the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary as well as your commitment to serving our boating communities are commendable. Remember that your leadership will set the tone for the entire organization, and your actions and decisions will shape its future.

Together, let us continue to uphold the proud traditions of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, build upon the foundation laid by those who came before us, and chart a course toward even greater success. I have full confidence in your ability to lead with integrity, inspire with vision, and unite with purpose.

Congratulations to the incoming leadership, and best wishes for a successful and rewarding tenure. Semper Paratus!

*Margaret Butler*  
IPDCDR

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## Change of Watch held

21 January was a cold wintry day with temperatures in the 20s. When arriving at Renditions for the annual Change of Watch (COW) guest were greeted with a very cold room because of no heat. Thankfully the banquet room was head so we just had to get through the first hour with the registration table being in that room. Connie Cosgrove from 23-6 checked members in as they entered and her cousin, Larry Thrasher and Maxine Noyes , 23-6 sold 50/50 tickets.

Before turning the program over to the master of ceremony (MC) Margaret thanked God and her husband Lenny. She thanked the change of watch committee and told everyone that the committee started meeting and planning in October. Margaret said, "my term ended on 31 December and I was amazed at how fast the time went by and all that the Division had accomplished, you stepped by to the plate after COVID, Bravo Zula to the Flotilla Commanders and staff"

Once again, Sarah Ramson honored us with playing the harp. Brian Shrift was our MC. Following a three-entrée buffet, Brian introduced our distinguished guest. In attendance from the Auxiliary were Henry Hays, District Captain, Sector Maryland National Capitol Region (SM-NCR), Jim Thomas and his wife Amy, District Chief of Staff (DCOS) and District Commodore John Krogmann.

In attendance from Station Annapolis was BM1 Bolinger and BM1 Pena. Representing Station St. Inigoes was BM1 Steve Stefanisin, Auxiliary Liaison Officer (AUXLO) and the Officer in Charge (OIC), BMCS Keith Schieferstein. BOSN Joshua Motto, AUXLO, and Commander Caren Damon, Deputy Director, SM-NCR and Commander David Otani, Director of the Auxiliary (DIRAX) were also present.

Dr. Derrick Cogburn, skipper of Sea Scout Ship 1959 had his son, Sean Cogburn and Moira Ingo-Cartagena post the colors and he led the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the posting of the colors and before the tribute to our shipmates who

crossed the bar in 2023, Sarah played America the Beautiful.

A missing man table was set up to represent those we lost in 2023. Margaret Butler, Immediate Past Division Commander (IPDCDR) had put together a very moving tribute to honor the 10 members of the division who crossed the bar plus Nancy Gardner from Division 22. Paul Feinburg, VFC 23-4 read the names of those we lost and rang a bell once for each. Rick Corrales, Flotilla Commander (FC) 23-3 read a poem, Crossing the Bar, written by Alfred Tennyson. Jim Welday, and Rick Corrales gave a final salute.

We were honored to have family members of Eleanor Keyser, James Jefferson and Arthur Murray in attendance. Each of these family members were presented a paperweight with the Auxiliary logo and the name of their loved one. Connie Cosgrove, Vice Flotilla Commander (VFC) of 23-6 made the presentation to Julie Paluda, James Jefferson's daughter; Mark Campbell, Division Commander (DCDR) made the presentation to David Keyser and Ed Martin of 23-1 made the presentation to Rob Murray in honor of his father, Art Murray.

Dr. Cogburn introduced a former Sea Scout, Pierce Lily who is now an Auxiliarist in Flotilla 25-25. This Flotilla has been established for Sea Scouts interested in the Auxiliary. Pierce said, "10 months ago I didn't know anything about the Auxiliary even though he had been a Sea Scout since 2021. I want to thank Commodore Krogmann, Jim Thomas and CMDR Otani for their help and support." I am working on getting my boat crew qualification." The goal of Flotilla 25-25 is to link Sea Scouts with the Auxiliary. Dr. Cogburn said, "the Sea Scouts is the official youth program of the Auxiliary. The Sea Scouts are an example of what our youth can do."

Henry Hays, DCAPT, SM-NCR said he joined the Auxiliary in 2009. My goal is to visit all the division in SM-NCR. He said the good thing about Division 23 was he had worked with many of the members

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before he took office. One of his goals is to facilitate the division's working together. He gave the example of Division 23 holding the coxswain and crew academy and holding virtual public education classes. He congratulated us for our dedication to the recreational boating safety mission and said we may never know our true impact. He thanked us for all we do for the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard.

Jim Thomas, DCOS, said he joined the Auxiliary in 1998. He said he was glad to be at our COW. He said the COW was a celebration of two successful years for the IPDCDR and thanked Margaret for a job well done. He said, "the COW was also meant to celebrate the incoming officers, Mark Campbell, DCDR and Roy Culley, VCDR. He also said, "the COW celebrates everyone in the room. Everyone has a "why". Do you remember your "why"? In 2023 your division complete 1200 hours of patrol time, 510 regatta hours, 300 hours of member training, 600 hours of community relations, 469 program visits, 373 hours of public education, 700 hours of radio watchstanding, 510 vessel safety checks for 24,000 hours in 2023. Thank you for all you do."

DCO Krogmann began by thanking us for inviting him. He said, "The COW is the hardest thing to put together. It takes time and I congratulated you on an elegant COW." He thanked the FCs and said, "it is the most important layer of the Auxiliary. It is where all the missions get done." DCO Krogmann said, "District 5 Southern Region was number three in the nation in member growth in 2023. "He told us that a QR code has been added to the website to make it easier for people wanting to join the Auxiliary. He told us that the C School schedule is out and so is the VE workshop; which is mandatory for all vessel examiners. DCO Krogmann concluded saying, "2024 us going to be a great year."

Following DCO Krogmann's remarks, BMCS Keith Schieferstein OIC from Station St. Inigoes thanked the Flotilla 23-2 and 23-6 for their support. He congratulated 23-2 on their new growth. He

thanked Harry Scott from 23-6 for his dedication to the Station in taking the radio watch on Friday's. He told us there would always be a purpose for the Auxiliary because the boating public is going to continue to do stupid things. BM1 Ballinger from Station Annapolis, gave his remarks at the begin because he got called away. He thanked the Auxiliary for all they do and said to continue our good work.

CMDR Damon was the key note speaker for the day. She started her remarks with sharing a couple of stories with us. "A week before Christmas I got a call that a Sector comms Watchstander would have to be pulled away from the Command Center, which would cause a complete e-rack of the duty schedule, adversely impacting a number of young Coast Guardsman. Remembering Jim Welday of 23-1 who had recently been recognized by our Commandant for his dedication to watchstanding at Station Annapolis, I called John Fewer and requested Auxiliary support. Jim stepped up and assumed the Watch on Christmas Day and the days following thereby alleviation the need to disrupt junior members plans with family and friends over the holiday.

She continued by telling us that a week before the Station Annapolis Annual Open House, there was an unexpected change in leadership which could have led to canceling the event. This event has become somewhat of a staple in the community and a tremendous recruiting event for the Coast Guard – needless to say, we did not want to cancel. I again called John Fewer and he reassured me that Division 23 was there to help."

CMDR Damon continued saying "As I studied your websites and Facebook pages, and my notes from unit visits I couldn't help but revel in the fact that we have the best volunteer force in the nation. The Coast Guard could not run without the Auxiliary as illustrated by the two stories I just shared and the stories of other volunteers like Sully Sullivan who led the galley crew aboard the Coast Guard Cutter James Rankin, and Harry Scott, a man who has dedicated 22 consecutive years to

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serving Station St. Inigoes in a wide variety of capacities including more than 6,000 hours of watchstanding over 1,000 days of duty.

CMDR Damon said “there is no algorithm that tells you how many boating accidents or maritime incidents you prevented through your significant contributions to maritime patrol, public outreach and education, recreational and commercial fishing vessel safety and training.” CMDR Damon continued to reference statistics for what we do.

CMDR Damon said, “Personnel shortages continue to plague our Service, and as the global demand for our Coast Guard grows, we need your volunteer service now, more than ever!” She continued to say, “We also sincerely appreciate the dedication and support your families provide to you as you support the Coast Guard.”

CMDR Damon concluded by saying, “thank you for allowing me to be a part of this truly special and beautiful event and thank you for your leadership and service to the Coast Guard and the Nation. I like Pierce, look forward to the continued Coast Guard Journey.”

Following CMDR Damon, CMDR Otani, DIRAUX said “we wear the same uniform, use the same manuals, and our commitment to the boating public bring the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary together. He thanked us for choosing the Auxiliary. He thanked the spouses for supporting us in our endeavors. He thanked Margaret and Mark for their leadership over the past two years and wished Mark and Roy a successful year.

The afternoon came to a close with the presentation of awards, the oath of office and the 50/50. The Division presented CMDR Damon, DCO Krogmann and Jim Thomas with a special remembrance.

*Connie Cosgrove*

SO-PB

## Change of Watch Award

The awards presentation followed remarks from our guests. This portion of the program began with George Weston, Flotilla Commander (FC) 23-2 and Gini Shrift, FC 23-07 reading the awards that were previous given to the member at the Flotilla. These awards are listed in the awards article of this issue.

BOSN Joshua Motta, Sector Maryland, National Capitol Region (SM-NCR) read the SM-NCR Coast Guard awards. CMDR Damon, Deputy Commander, SM-NCR and CMDR Otani, Director of the Auxiliary made the presentation.

The first award given was the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Award for the 2023 Sea Scouts Safety at Sea Team. This award went to Donald Parker, Dorothy Neiman, Rick Corrales, Lynn Disque, Willie Witters and John Fewer for exceptional meritorious service on 16 September 2023.

The second Coast Guard award was given to John Fewer. He received the Auxiliary Achievement Medal for his service as Auxiliary Unit Coordinator from January 2022 to January 2024. John led a complete overhaul of the unit's Auxiliary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) program resulting in the disposal of vast amounts of unsafe equipment, the re-allocation of more than \$10,000 of cold weather PPE, and the issuance of new PPE across the Sector. He conducted an exhaustive analysis of the Sector's Auxiliary Standard Operating Procedures, providing invaluable recommendations to ensure compliance with new standards while dramatically modernizing policy implementation

Margaret Butler, Immediate Past Division Commander (IPDCDR) presented Mark Campbell, incoming Division Commander (DCDR) with an Exemplary Leadership Award for his work as the outgoing Vice Division Commander. Flotilla Commanders for 2023

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were also presented with an Exemplary Leadership award. Awardees were Dave Stadler, George Weston, Dorothy Neiman, Paul Feinberg, Connie Cosgrove and Gini Shrift.

Margaret presented a Newcomer of the Year award to Hector Ricardo Corrales for Exemplary Achievement since transferring to Division 23. Rick took on the role of Division Staff Officer for Public Affairs and worked tirelessly on several projects such as Sea Scouts Safety at Sea and the Open House at Station Annapolis. George Weston also received an Exemplary Achievement award for recruiting five new members to the Flotilla in a couple of months.

Margaret presented three Division Lifetime Achievement Awards to members of the Division. Recipients were:

Ray Feller, 23-6. Ray has served as Staff Officer for Member Training at both the Division and Flotilla. He had 16,547 service hours in multiple missions. Ray has also held the position of FC and VFC. Ray is moving to Florida.

Christopher Jensen who had 7,844 hours. Christopher joined the Auxiliary in 1997 and has held many offices since joining. He has held both the FC and Vice Flotilla Commander (VFC) position. Christopher has moved to Vermont.

Tom Hardisty was the third recipient of the Division Lifetime Achievement Award. Tom has been a FC and VFC. He has served as the Staff Officer for Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) at both the Division and Flotilla level. Tom routinely completes over 100 VSC per year.

*Connie Cosgrove*  
SO-PB



Margaret and Tom Hardisty—Lifetime Achievement Award

Margaret, George Weston and his wife

Margaret & Hector Rick Corrales



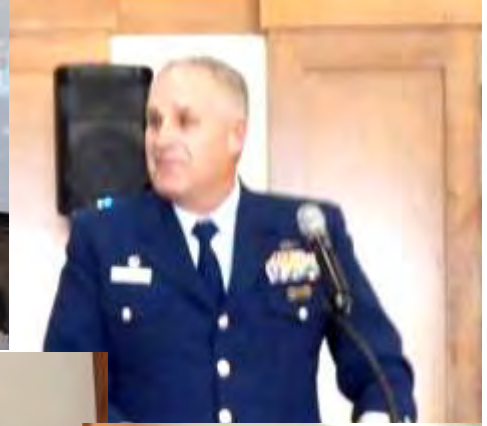
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**Top Left:** Presentation of Colors

**Top Right:** DCO Krogmann

**Middle left—** l-r: Connie Cosgrove, Julie Paluda, Dave Keyser, Mark Campbell, Ed Martin and Rob Murray

**Middle Right:** Jim Thomas, DCOS  
**Left:** Final Salute—Rick Corrales & Jim Welday

**Right:** 23-2 new member, Megan Alanis takes oath of office

**Bottom:** CDMR Damon, Margaret, DCO Krogmann, and Jim Thomas, DCOS

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## Awards

The following members have received awards since the last issue of the Chatter. Congratulations to all.

### Auxiliary Achievement Medal

Harry Scott, 23-6

### AUXOP

Rick Corales, 23-3

Helen Gemignani, 23-7

### Sustain Auxiliary Service Award

Gerry Davit, 2250 hours, 3<sup>rd</sup> award, 23-2

Tom Hardisty, 5251 hours, 7th award, 23-6

### Membership Service Award

#### 15 years

Bruce Petro, 23-4

Reid Sprague, 23-6

#### 20 years

Timothy Connor, 23-7

#### 25 years

Ginger Sauer, 32-6

### Meritorious Team Award

Bruce Petro and Paul Feinberg, Life Jacket Wearer Rate Observers, 23-4

### Leadership Competency Level 1 Certificate

Rick Corales, 23-3

### Vessel Examiner

James Booker, 23-1

Helen Gemignani, 23-7

### Carl Tross Memorial Award – 23-1

Given to a new member serving during his/her first one or two years who is exceptionally active in 1 or more areas

James Booker and Isabella Otero

### Capstan Award – 23-1

Recognizes members that make the Flotilla run smoothly

Susan Casler

### George Fox Memorial Award 23-1

Given to a member performing extended outstanding service for 5 or more years in 3 or more different areas

Dave Sire

### Certificate of Appreciation

#### 23-2

Bob Banks – Diversity and volunteerism

Gerald Davit – Operational and RBS Support

LeRoy Mattingly – RBS support

Richard Sikorski – Public Affairs Support

Ron Fields – Recruiting Support

#### 23-4

Bruce Petro – Dedication to sustaining the Flotilla

Heather Cragg – Dedication to sustaining the Flotilla

#### 23-7

Helen Gemignani – Staff Officer for Human Resources

Frank Voltaggio – Instruction and Editor of Flotilla Newsletter

Joseph Distefano – Recreational Boating Safety focus in VE/PV



### Instructor Development Course to be held

Flotilla 23-04, Tam Cragg, FC and Paul Feinberg, VFC are hosting a Virtual two-day Instructor Development Course on **February 16-17, 2024** (members **must** attend both days). Have your members use their smartphone and register using the QR code.

After successfully completing the IDC training, competencies and the required qualification, we will present you with a fully completed Instructor Package for you to sign-off and send to DIRAUX. We will upload their initial qualification hours into AUXDATA as well as facilitate acquiring the Maryland State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Instructor certification number as well.

*Margaret Butler*

IPDCDR

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## 2024 National Workshops

1. **National Operations Workshops.** The Surface Workshop is required for 2024. The Telecommunications Workshop is strongly recommended for 2024. The Air Operations Workshop is a mandatory task included as part of the Air Station Safety Workshop. Like 2023, the National Operations Workshops (Surface/Air/Telecommunications) may be completed via webinar. The workshop training material(s) must be delivered by an Auxiliarist qualified in the respective operations program provided they are either a certified instructor or are under the supervision of a certified instructor. Instructors may use any webinar delivery platform that is available in their region. Instructors are encouraged to work with their Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM) to determine the proper delivery platform. Self-Attestation is NOT permitted for any of these National Operations Workshops. The workshops will relay significant, needed information, and will take longer than 1 hour (possibly 2 hours) to complete so please plan accordingly. Details for the 2024 National Operations Workshops are listed below:

a. Surface Operations Workshop. This workshop is required for all boat crew coxswains, boat crew members, personal watercraft operators, paddle craft operators, associated Qualification Examiners (QE), and those currently training for any of these competencies, including members in Required Yearly Not Met (REYR) status who intend to regain their certification.

b. Air Operations Workshop. This workshop is a required element of the annual Air Station Safety Workshop. It is required for all pilots, air crew, air observers, Flight Examiners (FE), and those currently training for any of these competencies, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification.

c. Telecommunications Workshop. This workshop is strongly recommended for all operators and owners of Auxiliary radio facilities. It is strongly

recommended for those currently holding Telecommunications Operator (TCO), in training for TCO qualification, and using AUXCOM as their “grandfathered” qualification for radio operation. This does not apply to the operation of radios on aircraft or vessels which are covered by crew certification.

d. The 2024 National Operations Workshop presentations (Air, Surface, and Telecommunications) are located at the following link: National Operations Workshops - 2024.

e. Instructors of these workshops must submit a Workshop Mission and Attendance Report (ANSC-7039) to their IS officer for entry into AUXDATA II.

2. **National Vessel Examiner and Instructor Workshops.** The Vessel Examiner (VE) Workshop is required for 2024. The Instructor (IT) Workshop is strongly encouraged. These workshops are intended to be viewed by members and completion logged via a self-attestation form as described below.

a. VE Workshop. This workshop is required for all certified Vessel Examiners, and those currently training to become Vessel Examiners, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification. The VE Workshop presentations are located at the National V-Directorate website (in the Member Zone) at: Member Training ([uscgaux.info](http://uscgaux.info)).

b. IT Workshop. This workshop is strongly encouraged for all certified Instructors and those currently training to become Instructors, including members in Required Yearly Not Met (REYR) status who intend to regain their certification. The 2024 IT Workshop will soon be available through the E-Directorate website. Please continue to check the site for posting. The IT Workshop will be located in the "What's New!" page at: <https://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=E-DEPT&category=WHATSNEW>.

c. Members who individually view the VE or IT Workshops in their entirety must submit a

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Workshop Attestation Form to their Flotilla Staff Officer-Information Services (FSO-IS) for entry into AUXDATA II (this form is located in the same location as the VE and IT Workshop presentations listed above). In order to make data entry easier, IS officers may collect forms for all their members required to complete these workshops and make one entry into AUXDATA II using the last day of the month of the Activity/Task Completion date. Note: When adding the VE Workshop task to Activity Logs in AUXDATA II use the task named "Vessel Examinations Workshop" in the Workshops task category list. Similarly, when adding the IT Workshop to the Activity Logs in AUXDATA II, use the task named "Instructor Workshop" in the Workshops task list.

d. If the workshop is facilitated by an instructor in a webinar or group setting, the instructor must submit a Workshop Mission and Attendance Report (ANSC-7039) to their IS officer for entry into AUXDATA II.

**3. National Culinary Assistance Specialists Sanitation Workshop.** This workshop is required for all Auxiliary Culinary Assistance Specialists 1 and 2 (AUXCA-1/2) and those currently training for these competencies, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification. Please follow the instructions on the Auxiliary Culinary Assistance Specialists website for completing the annual AUXCA Sanitation Workshop. The 2024 AUXCA Workshop will soon be available through the H-Directorate website: <https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=H-DEPT&category=AUXCHEF>. After completing the workshop and passing the required test on the National Testing Center, course completion will be logged into AUXDATA II via the National Testing Center course results upload. There is no need to create separate activity logs for completion of this course in AUXDATA II. The appropriate District Staff Officer for Culinary Assistance (DSO-CA) will automatically be notified of course completion.

4. Per chapter 8.B.1.g of reference (a), all **required** workshops must be completed no later than 30 June 2024. If not completed by that date,

members required to complete those workshops will have their affected competencies placed in Required Workshop Not Met (REWK) status. If the required workshop is not completed by 31 December 2024, the affected competencies will be placed in REYR status.

- The Air Operations Workshop is a required element of the annual Air Station Safety Workshop and must be completed by 31 Dec 2024.

Editor's Note: the above was received email through the chain of leadership



## Flotilla supports Toys for Tots

Flotilla 23-6 has been supporting the Marine program Toys for Tots for eight years. Members who choose to participate buy

toys to donate to the program. Those who do not like to shop send a check to me and I do the shopping. One member does his shopping through Amazon and has it shipped directly to me.

This year Carly and David Brockinton represented Toys for Tots in Calvert County and attended our Christmas on 9 December to collect the toys.

*Connie Cosgrove*

FSO-PB

Pictured left to right are Dave Keyser, Larry Mattivi and Connie Cosgrove

# Chesapeake Chatter

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## Harry Scott receives Auxiliary Achievement Medal

On November 11, 2023 Auxiliary members from Flotilla 23-2, 23-6 and Flotilla 3-10 were welcomed to Station St. Inigoes by BM1 Steven Stefanisin, Auxiliary Liaison for a morning of sharing with the Active Duty. BM1 Stefanisin introduced the new Officer in Charge, BMCS Keith Schieferstein.

BOSN Joshua Motto, Auxiliary Liaison Officer from Sector Maryland National Capitol (SMNCR) read the citation for the Auxiliary Achievement Medal for Harry Scott. Harry was cited for superior performance while serving for 22 consecutive years of watch-standing at the Station from 01 Nov



2001 to 07 Nov 2023. During that time, he amassed more than 6,552 hours of watch-standing over 1,092 days.

BM1  
Stefanisin

presented the award to Harry and pinned the medal on him. In his remarks, BM1 Stefanisin said "Harry has been like a parent to us. He is kind, and actually he has been more like a grandparent to many of us." Harry committed, "the guys keep me young."

Following the award presentation, Deputy Commander Caren Damon had everyone move the tables to form a circle for a question-and-answer period. CMDR Damon had everyone introduce themselves and tell a little about their Auxiliary career. She continued the morning with asking what challenges did we see ahead and what Sector could do to help. Following about an hour of great discussion, everyone was invited to the mess hall for a taco lunch.

*Connie Cosgrove*

SO-PB

## The importance of Public Affairs in the Auxiliary

After graduating from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in 1974 with a BS in Physical Oceanography, I was recruited by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Survey (NOAA/NOS). For the next 18 years I conducted hydrographic surveys along the East Coast, Great Lakes, and Gulf Coast. I also obtained my USCG Master Captain's License during this time.

In 1992, we put down roots in Maryland and I managed nautical chart production, maintenance, new chart construction, digital chart products, and the Update Service working to baseline IATONS. In my last NOS position as Chief, Customer Affairs, I managed the outreach program that directly supported the NOAA/NOS strategic goal to support the nation's commerce with information for safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation. Needless to say, that those 38 years with NOAA/NOS provided a unique understanding from the recreational and commercial mariners point of view.

Public Affairs (PA) can be particularly rewarding for people who want to improve the lot of their fellow boaters. Long before I retired from NOAA/NOS I became involved with customer outreach by volunteering at boating events and shows all over the country promoting NOAA/NOS maritime products and services. Then in 1996 while managing the NOAA/NOS booth at the Annapolis Boat Shows I was approached by Art and Anita Murry from the Coast Guard Auxiliary. It was my custom after the shows to provide our used charts, Coast Pilots, and other products to the Auxiliary and Power Squadron for their training requirements. Art and I had a lot of common experiences and desire to promote boating safety. My motivation was to promote boating education and safety, in hopes of giving back to the maritime community. Art convinced me that the Auxiliary would be the perfect vehicle to make that happen.

Continued on page 14—see Public Affairs

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Public Affairs, continued from page 13

The mission of the Office of Public Affairs (PA) is to reach, inform, educate, and engage the recreational boaters. PA missions are one of the most essential functions of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Continuous, effective communication with the public about the services and activities we offer must be a priority concern at all levels within the organization.

At PA Events conversations with the boating public range from where they can get boating classes, captain license, life jackets, and boating safety requirements for vessel safety checks (VSC). There are the occasional questions that are directed to other agencies for answers and other questions that require research. Many times, I have learned new regulations, requirements, and where to find that information and passed it back to the boaters.

Ask yourself if you can answer; I just completed building a small runabout and cannot find who I need to contact to get a capacity or certification information? Can I carry a firearm aboard and what happens when I get boarded by the Coast Guard or Department of Natural Resource Police (DNR)? Should I document or register my vessel? If I am from a foreign country, do I need to comply with federal safety regulations? Never try and answer a question if you do not know the answer. It's ok to say you will have to find the answer and get back to the boater. Just make sure you close the loop with the person asking the question.

I get a lot of requests for VSCs; some I refer to other members others, I schedule for myself. I also point boaters to the National webpage [https://wow.uscgaux.info/i\\_want\\_a\\_vsc/index.php](https://wow.uscgaux.info/i_want_a_vsc/index.php) that all vessel examiners (VE) should be enrolled in. If you're a VE and not in the system ask your Flotilla Staff Officer for VE to help you signup so you get notified about requests from boaters.

During PA events very few Flotillas provide public education information on classes their providing

so we refer questions to the National webpage <https://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/> with a caution to call the contact information to verify the information and get updates about classes.

## **Promote a positive image**

I believe one of the primary rolls of the Auxiliary is promoting boating safety and education. While it is true that operations and administration support play a significant part of fulfilling the Auxiliary mission, they do not reach the number of recreational boaters that PA or Education does. Boat shows and other PA events provide the opportunity to connect with hundreds of experienced and novias recreational boaters. Providing information on boating regulations and rules, safety equipment, education classes, Coast Guard opportunities and services, and a myriad of other boating related information. There is an immediate sense of satisfaction knowing that we have helped a boater understand what it takes to be a safe boater.

PA activities can have far reaching influence and provide an excellent means of informing the public about the Auxiliary and its programs. It is also a very good vehicle to recruit new members. The last Annapolis Boat Shows provided our Flotilla with four new member prospects. We also directed additional perspective new members to other flotillas in the area.

Starting youngsters out early has a special joy, giving them a personalized Panda Award for wearing their life jacket and seeing their joy and that of their parents. Hopefully the adults start wearing their life jackets as examples to their children.

Unfortunately, over the past few years, we have become pre-occupied with certifying crew and coxswain for operational support and therefore the Public Education program has fallen off significantly. There has been low member turnout at PA and Vessel Exam events. Management needs to reevaluate where the emphasis should be placed to maximize the Auxiliary's mission and promote boating education and safety.

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## Auxiliary credentials

One of my first certifications in the Auxiliary was as an instructor after joining 23-01 Annapolis Flotilla (formerly 01-06) in 1996. Currently I serve as Division Chief for Navigation Systems at the national level and Flotilla Staff Officer for Navigation Systems. As an Auxiliarist I've served as a Flotilla Staff Officer for Information Services, Secretary, Member Training, Public Education, Navigation Systems, and Vessel Examinations. I have been Flotilla Commander and Vice Flotilla Commander, Division Boat Show Coordinator, the Lead Oceanography Merit Badge Counselor for the CG at BSA National Jamborees, proctored CG Master and Mate exams, and currently the AUX 06 C School Coordinator. I am AUXOP, Vessel Examiner, Aids to Navigation Verifier, Instructor, Mentor, and Boat Crew Coxswain certified.

*Ed Martin*

23-1



2023 Annapolis Boat Show

Left to right:

Dale Helms (retired from the Aux)

Al Stringer 054-22-05

Me (Ed Martin) 054-23-01

Earnest Stevens 053-12-03



George Weston, Oyster Festival Queen and Richard Sikorski

## Flotilla 23-2 participates in the National Oyster Festival

The Solomon's Flotilla, 23-02 set up and staffed a safety booth at the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual US National Oyster Festival. The event was held at the St Mary's County Fairgrounds on 21 & 22 October. This event attracts tens of thousands of attendees from across the United States as well as other countries.

About a hundred craft and specialty vendors attended as well as numerous food vendors selling everything from BBQ to Philippine food, to (of course) oysters. Two crowd attracting events are the Oyster Cooking contest and the US National Oyster Shucking contest. The winner of the shucking contest represents the United States in Ireland for the world championship.

Our Flotilla interacted with many hundreds of attendees, talking to them about safe boating, vessel examinations and the Auxiliary. It was a fun and rewarding experience.

*George Weston*

Flotilla Commander 23-2

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## Change to New Members and AUXDATA login

Beginning in November 2023 newly enrolled members will receive an email from AUXDATA II welcoming them to the Auxiliary and providing basic information about logging into the Auxiliary Member Zone and Training sites.

An additional AUXDATA II account/password notification, which previously has been sent immediately after initial enrollment, will now be delayed by 45 days. This change in timing will allow new members to focus on their initial training and introduction to the Auxiliary, which will provide them with a better understanding of the information in and uses for AUXDATA II when they access it.

New members may request earlier access to AUXDATA II via their Flotilla Commander or Information Services officer, or by sending an email to [auxdata@acumensolutions.com](mailto:auxdata@acumensolutions.com).

Editor's Note: The above was received email in a Leadership Link

## N-Train to be virtual in 2024

There are several reasons why your Auxiliary Leadership determined that the only course of action that makes sense is to shift N-TRAIN 2024 from an in-person to a virtual event.

On 18 JAN 2024 the House and Senate passed a third continuing resolution (CR) for fiscal 2024. That CR avoided a partial government shutdown that would have occurred on 19 JAN 2024, but it will expire between 1 and 8 MAR 2024. N-TRAIN 2024 was scheduled to run between 3 and 10 MAR 2024. If Congress failed to either pass a budget or another CR before then, we would have been without funding for the scheduled C School instructors, students, and many reimbursable

## 23-6 Annual Food Drive

Traditionally 23-6 has collected food and/or donations to support those less fortunate that rely on food pantries. We support Chesapeake Cares Food Pantry every year and provide non-perishable items or monetary donations to the Pantry. The Flotilla chose Chesapeake Cares because Harry Scott, a member of the Flotilla is a member of the church who sponsors the pantry. Also, the director of the pantry, Debbie Weber was my son's cub scout leader.

This year the Flotilla donated \$195.00 to the pantry which allows them to buy food through the commodities with the State of Maryland Food Bank. With this \$195 they will be able to purchase 865.9 pounds of food. The Flotilla also donated 85.9 pounds of food. Bill Smith, Harry Scott and myself delivered the donations to Debbie Weber at the pantry on 11 November.

While there, we talked with Debbie and she told us that the State of Maryland received a grant this year that allowed them to reach out to the waterman and purchase as much catfish as they could provide. Once the catfish is caught it is then taken to a facility for processing. It is flash frozen into fillets and packaged in family size portions.

Debbie also shared with us that as of 11 November, they had provided 557 Thanksgiving meals through the pantry. They expect to send out more on November 21. Debbie told us that with working with Farming for Hungry they were able to purchase broiler chickens from them which allowed constituents to choose between a turkey, turkey breast, ham or broiler chicken.

If you have never visited a food pantry to see the great work they do, I highly recommending doing that. It is such a great feeling knowing that you are giving someone who cannot afford it a Thanksgiving dinner.

*Connie Cosgrove*

SO-PB

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incidental expenses, and no active-duty members would have been able to attend. Moreover, waiting until the very last moment to cancel N-Train would be disrespectful of our members who have lives outside the Auxiliary.

Further mandating the decision now is that the deadline for cancelling N-TRAIN without a significant financial penalty from the hotel is tomorrow, 22 JAN. While we could have stood by and hoped that Congress would pass a budget or another CR in time, hope is rarely an effective strategy, so the decision had to be made now. Waiting to see whether Congress acted in time to hold an in-person event would have been irresponsible.

Finally, your Auxiliary is facing a severe shortfall in funding for the programs that are targeted at supporting our primary mission of protecting the lives and property of the nation's recreational boaters, support the Coast Guard, and support Auxiliary operations. Converting from an in-person to a virtual N-TRAIN will save thousands of dollars to fund those programs.

Please standby for further information. A schedule of events, meetings, and addresses from Coast Guard Leadership will be forthcoming.

Semper Paratus

*Agostino "Gus" Formato,*

National Commodore

Editor's note: The above was received email through the Auxiliary Leadership link



## Coast Guard Academy Assistance

From September 18-22, 2023, Flotilla 23-07 Auxiliarist, Dr. Robin Ainsworth, went on Temporary Duty (TDY) to the Coast Guard Academy (CGA). She augmented the dental clinic to help out with performing dental exams on the Second Class Year (third year/Junior) Cadets. Because the Cadets have rigorous training schedules, in addition to their class time, there is



only a limited amount of time each year for them to receive their dental exams, which is a

requirement for Readiness. All four Classes of Cadets are required to receive an annual dental exam. Their first dental exam is done when they arrive on the Academy's campus the summer of their first year known as Swab Summer. They then receive their subsequent exams in September of their second and third years. By August of their fourth year, they receive their last dental exam from the Academy clinic. They must be dentally qualified, along with other medical requirements, prior to the beginning of their Commissioning process.

Due to the high operational tempo during the week of dental exams, the CGA dental clinic usually asks for at least one dentist to help them in their effort to complete 250+ (average classes of cadets) exams. The Academy Dental Clinic is billeted for three dental officers but currently only have two dentists. With the shortage of dental officers, in addition to all health care providers, Coast Guard-wide, they requested Auxiliary Health

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Academy - continued from page 17

Care support again this year. Dr. Ainsworth provided \$8, 800.00 in dental services during the week she was there and prevented an active-duty dentist from another Coast Guard Clinic from needing to leave their post to help out. She took advantage of being in New London and was able to take a self-guided tour on the Coast Guard Cutter Barque Eagle before it went underway that week.

The Auxiliary Health Services has four divisions; Operational Medicine, Work-Life, Safety and Environmental Health, and Administrative. The Operation Medicine division currently has 65 providers that include eight dentists. Unlike the Auxiliary Chaplain Service, which is its own stand-alone Flotilla, the Auxiliary Health Service members are integrated with their respective local Flotillas.

*Robin Ainsworth*

FSO-CS, FSO-SR, 23-7

Pictured are: **Back row:** LCDR Blake Donaldson, retired CAPT Robin Ainsworth, CDR Scott Eckhart, Karen Robertson, Sheethal Mathew

**Front row:** Angelica Riebel, Reina Garcia, HS3 Madyson Lynch - photo by HSC Marvin Ainsworth



## Boating Skills and Seamanship Taught

In the fall of 2023, Flotilla 054-23-07 member, Helen Gemignani, participated in an intensive public education course called **Boating Skills and Seamanship** (BS&S) presented by Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 054-24-08 of Gaithersburg, Maryland.

This BS&S course was a comprehensive boater certificate course designed for both the experienced and novice boater. The course

consisted of core required lessons plus lessons providing up-to-date knowledge for handling boats under all conditions. Topics included Weather, Lines and Knots, Your Boat's Radio, Introduction to Navigation, Powering/Handling Your Boat, Rules of the Road, Highway Signs, Trailering, Equipment, and Which boat is right for you.

Twelve of the classes were delivered via ZOOM over seven weeks, from September to October, and culminated in a final five hour in-person class. The in-person class was hands-on knot tying, chart plotting practices and a demo of a Coast Guard Auxiliary member's portable radio facility. The flotilla delivered the same course last year and feel that the interest is great enough to continue offering it each year to the public.

There were ten students taught over 12 weeks by five different members of 054-24-08 who each taught their specialty chapters. The students ranged in age from 14 years old and up, who either already owned a boat or planned to buy one very soon. The youngest classmate was gifted his first Jon boat and wanted to earn his boating safety card so that he could start his boating life as a responsible and informed mariner.

Registration for the course was made through 054-24-08's CGAUX WOW page and the cost was \$75 for the public. Auxiliary members just paid for the cost of the book. At the end of the course, all students took the comprehensive closed book exam. Those who passed earned a course certificate and their BS&S boating safety card.

Special thanks to 054-24-08's Flotilla Staff Officer for Public Education, Dr. Grace Sagayadan, who organized and delivered most of the course. She was contagiously dynamic and the students all really enjoyed the class.

*Helen Gemignani*

New member of 23-7

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## Station Annapolis Welcomed the Community to an exciting Open House



### **An Unforgettable Day of Fun, Learning, and Community Bonding**

Nestled along the serene waters of Annapolis, Maryland, Station Annapolis stands as a stalwart guardian of our nation's maritime interests. On Saturday, October 21st, this station transformed into a hub of excitement and education as it welcomed the community to an unforgettable open house event. Visitors had the unique opportunity to witness the heroic efforts of Team Coast Guard, explore impressive vessels, and forge a deeper connection with the dedicated crew members who protect our nation's waters.

The open house was more than just an occasion for sightseeing; it was a celebration of community cooperation and a chance to engage with the heroes who safeguard our coastal communities. For the attendees, it was a day that offered both fun and enlightenment.

### **Exploring the Station and Beyond**

The open doors of the Station revealed a world of wonders. Visitors were invited to tour the facility, an inside look at the hub of Coast Guard operations. They inspected the Coast Guard boats up close, gaining valuable insights into the critical work performed by the men and women in uniform.

But the open house didn't limit itself to the Team Coast Guard alone. Several other esteemed

organizations lent their presence to underline the importance of collaborative community efforts. Local and state law enforcement agencies were on hand, showcasing their unwavering commitment to community safety. Search and rescue helicopter and their skilled crews stood as a testament to their indispensable role in maritime emergencies.

"We are humbled by the show of support from our local community across Maryland and delighted that Station Annapolis continues to be a pillar of maritime safety in the region," said Commander Roberto Concepcion, chief of response, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Maryland – National Capital Region. "It's not just about showcasing our operations; it's about solidifying the crucial relationship between our Coast Guard personnel and those we serve. It is amazing to witness the enthusiasm and engagement of everyone from the kids who are interested in what we do, to those who simply came by to show their appreciation for their first responders. Partnering with other agencies and community organizations for this event emphasizes the collective commitment we all have to safeguarding our local communities."

Furthermore, representatives from the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Coast Guard Recruiting Office Baltimore were present, ready to share information and answer questions. Their presence underscored the multifaceted nature of Coast Guard operations and the opportunities for community members to get involved.

Adding an extra layer of excitement to the event, U.S. Customs and Border Protection participated actively. Attendees had the unique chance to learn more about the crucial work of these agencies in protecting our nation's borders and ensuring the safety and security of our citizens.

### **Community Bonding and Gratitude**

Margaret Butler, Division 23 Commander, couldn't hide her delight at welcoming the community to the station. She said: "This open house is a wonderful opportunity for us to showcase our

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operations, interact with our neighbors, and express our gratitude for the support we receive. We look forward to a day filled with camaraderie, learning, and fostering a deeper connection between our dedicated Coast Guard Team personnel and the people we serve."

The community marked their calendars, and they came in droves. Families and friends gathered to enjoy this exciting and informative event. Station Annapolis was proud to extend an open invitation to the community and was thrilled to see so many people were there, eager to learn, to connect, and to express their support for those who ensure their safety at sea.

As the sun set on this memorable open house, one thing became abundantly clear: the bonds between our Coast Guard and the community are stronger than ever, ensuring the safety of our waters and our unity as a coastal community.

*Rick Corrales*

SO-PA



## Station Annapolis Gets a “Spruce-up”

On Tuesday, October 17th a few days before Station Annapolis’ Open House a group of young men who are all affiliated with Flotilla 23-03 stopped by to lend a hand straightening up around the Station’s grounds. Tools and a good attitude were brought along by Mace Coleman, Vice Flotilla Commander (VFC), 23-03, Eddy Coleman (my son), Kai Marcalus (a recent Eagle Scout recipient in Eddy’s Troop), and Dan Kraus (an apprentice Marine Technician at Pochontas Marina in Edgewater).

Similar to most properties that lie adjacent to a body of water, the grounds around the Station had developed a number of low spots and sink holes. The young men, along with the able assistance and muscle of BM3 Luis Pineda, managed to relocate a pile of dirt, the size of a small car, into the areas of need. Throughout the endeavor there was a youthful, fun banter between the boys, BM3 Pineda, and the other Station crew members engaged in the spruce up efforts.

The afternoon was time well spent for all, with Coleman later relaying that the boys commented on the way home, “That was fun, you don’t even have to pay us! “.

An arm or two may have been twisted in the effort to help out the Station. However, as we all know, time spent among our Coastie brethren has its own very special reward... service to others feeds one’s soul, no matter the age!

*Mace Coleman*

VFC 23-3



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## A Cooperative Effort

It is not unheard of for two different organizations to find that by combining their resources it can benefit both groups in meeting their individual goals. In the case of boating safety, this has led to the Coast Guard Auxiliary joining hands with the Maryland Natural Resources Police (NRP) in expanding both group's role in reducing the number of boating accidents on the Chesapeake Bay through a comprehensive boating education program. A handful of Auxiliarists hold membership in both groups and are therefore aware of upcoming events that could require mutual assistance.

While this is not a unique idea, what does make this special is that it was begun as an unofficial grass roots effort among the members themselves.

Last spring, Flotilla 23-07 was in need of additional vessel examiners (VE) for their VE Day at Herrington Harbor North in Tracy's Landing, Maryland. Gini Shrift, Flotilla Commander reached out to Anna Dahlstrom, Reserve Officer Coordinator (ROC) with the NRP, and asked for her assistance in providing VE personnel to aid with the usual backlog of VE requests that day. She was able to provide that support which greatly helped in accomplishing the goal. Since then, NRP personnel have asked for and been given assistance in manning their public affairs booths by Auxiliarists at local marinas. This arrangement has given the boating public an opportunity to have their specific questions answered by either a Federal or State boating representative, in one place.

With the success of those events, the next logical collaboration was to join forces in presenting a boating safety course to the public. NRP scheduled a Maryland Boating Safety Class at Harbor Cove Marina in Deale, Maryland which ran on October 7 and 14. In an effort to meet that goal, they asked two of Flotilla 23-07's qualified instructors to lend assistance at the class. In attendance were 13 students from the

surrounding Deale area along with two NRP RO instructors-in-training. Class was scheduled to begin at 8:00 both mornings and the instructors covered the topics of Knowing Your Boat, Before You Get Underway, Operating Your Boat Safely, Legal Requirements, Boating Emergencies, and Enjoying Water Sports.

In addition, on the last day the students were given the opportunity to learn about operating a VHF radio and how to call for assistance. Instruction was also provided on how to read a chart and navigating the local waters. As luck would have it, one of the students, Julia Powell, happened to be the Chief of the Navigation Services Division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. She gave a brief overview of the agency's change over to a paperless chart system which is going into effect shortly.

Following the positive results of the class at the Harbor Cove Marina, it is expected that future assistance between the two organizations will continue and both will benefit from sharing each other's resources.

*Frank Voltaggio,*  
FSO-PB



Auxiliariet Joe DiStefano reviewing chapter questions with students.

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## Teamwork



### National Three Star Divisity Award

L-r : Margaret Butler, IPDCDR; Mark Campbell, DCDR; Flotilla Commanders—Dave Stadler, 23-1; George Weston, 23-2; Connie Cosgrove; 23-6; Paul Feinberg, 23-4; and Gini Shrift, 23-7. Not in the picture was Dorothy Neiman, 23-3

Incredibly, Diversity always brings new rewards and conversations to the Auxiliary table. Whether we feature our Diversity strategy, brainstorming new initiatives and goals to support opportunities that embody the principles that shape our inclusive but diverse team or speak to the mission of fostering a culture of creativity and innovation, the highlights are endless and welcoming for all members.

We are fortunate as an organization to draw from a wealth of resources, best practices and demographics of varying talent and skillsets. We commit and embrace our best practices to tap and strengthen new perspectives for succession and planning. Create think tanks in leadership, a climate of respect to encourage view, insights, suggestions and ideas to grow and transition propelling our diversity vision, values and outreach.

As we strive to remain a service of choice we want to build on our best practices of mentoring, collaboration, flexibility, teamwork and fellowship to name a few. Standards which motivate and operate on the principle of fairness, honor and devotion to duty, themes we all share.

These are distinctions we use to create a positive environment, value each member, promote individual achievements and engage in outreach and recruitment in communities. The same initiatives we use to represent our National

### Commodore Three Star Award.

Diversity is our model to build bonds for today's Auxiliary, and a bridge to reach tomorrow's future. As long as each person contributes the pieces will fall in place and the Auxiliary picture will keep coming together.

*Mark Campbell*

DCDR

## New Fire Extinguisher Symbol

The American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC)



located in Eastport, Maryland has recently issued an update to their A-4 Fire Fighting Equipment standard. One of the changes is the upcoming

requirement for participating boat manufactures to begin installing the new symbol as shown below.

ABYC is a non-profit, member organization that develops voluntary global safety standards for the design, construction, maintenance, and repair of recreational boats. Its mission is to write, revise, and maintain technical standards for the recreational boating industry and performs this under the auspices of the United States Coast Guard and the National Marine Manufacturing Association, to name just a few.

This symbol will now be displayed at the intended location of each portable fire extinguisher on newly built recreational vessels. If they are in a locker or another enclosed space, this new symbol will now be identifying the location of the fire extinguisher at that access point.

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## New Public Affairs Workbook/PQS

A new and updated combined workbook/PQS has been created for PA3, PA2, and PA1 qualifications. The February 2016 versions of the PA3, PA2, and PA1 PQSs will be accepted through 31 March 2024. Oral board interviews for members completing the February 2016 PQSs must be completed no later than 31 March 2024. Members who have yet to begin their PA qualification must start their qualification process using the October 2023 versions of the PQSs.

The workbook can be found here: [New PA Workbook](#)

The above was received email through the Leadership Link

links to the sites are located at the bottom of the page at <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=aux00>. A member can also contact the course POC directly using the contact information provided on the Auxiliary National C-School calendar.

Editor's Note: The above was received email

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## Posting Of Auxiliary National C-School Calendar

The Auxiliary National C-School calendar for Fiscal Year 2024 has been posted at <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=aux00>.

Members can now submit a Short-Term Training Request (STTR, form ANSC-7059; <https://forms.cgaux.org/archive/a7059.pdf>) in accordance with the form's instructions and associated Auxiliary district policy. As training dates occasionally shift, members are encouraged to check the calendar periodically for changes that occur throughout the year.

Please note that funded training quotas are more limited than in previous years, so submitting a STTR early will increase a member's chances of getting a funded seat. Any member that wants to attend an Auxiliary C-school on unfunded orders issued by their District Director of Auxiliary must first check with the listed course Point of Contact (POC) to make sure there is space to accommodate such a request.

Any questions about a course can be answered by checking the C-School Student Support Sites. The



*Happy St. Patrick's  
Day*