



# USCGAUX



## Flotilla 11-4 District 8ER

Percy Priest, Nashville and Middle Tennessee

Flotilla Commander: Michael Simpson

Flotilla Vice Commander: James Mayo

### January - Volume 17, Issue 1



## NEXT FLOTILLA BUSINESS MEETING MONDAY 16 JAN, 19:00

Paul B. Huff Army Reserve Center  
3598 Bell Road Nashville, TN 37214  
Contact Phone: (615)-346-5362

### DATES AND EVENTS.

#### THE 2017 NASHVILLE BOAT SHOW

It's that time of year again and we must ask for your support and participation in the 2017 Nashville Boat Show. It will be Jan 19 thru Jan 22 at the Music City Center 201 Fifth Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37203  
Hours each day are:

Thursday	1/19/2017	2 PM-9PM
Friday	1/20/2017	12 PM-9PM
Saturday	1/21/2017	10AM-9PM
Sunday	1/22/2017	11AM-5 PM

Please put these dates on your calendar and make plans to help us out with the watch-standing on one or more of those days. Reply to Ralph Underwood SO-NS [wralphu@hotmail.com](mailto:wralphu@hotmail.com) with the times and dates you would be willing to take a watch. Don't wait until the last minute. That way he will have plenty of time to work up a good watch schedule. The uniform of the day will be ODU's or Trops. Unless otherwise noted.

#### INAUGURATION DAY

Friday January 20 2017

Editor Ramon Llorens FSO-PB 11-4, 8ER. Please submit Stories, Photos or Ideas to: [ramon.llorens@dhscaux.net](mailto:ramon.llorens@dhscaux.net)

## Annual Change of Watch Awards Banquet Eighth Eastern Region Division 11



Photo by, Ramon Llorens, Jr.

### Fellowship Uniforms and Awards

One of the outward benefits of membership in the Coast Guard Auxiliary are to proudly wear the uniform and insignia of office while participating in many of the activities involved in the Auxiliary's missions. When one puts on this uniform, one truly feels the weight of responsibility, having taken the Auxiliary membership oath and the promise to uphold the Coast Guard's core values. The fellowship and conversation with so many honorable men and women who wear this uniform whether

Active Duty or Auxiliary made the evening informative and inspirational.

The pride of wearing the Auxiliary uniform is amplified by awards and advancement. There are ample opportunities to receive recognition by completing Auxiliary training courses, participating in authorized programs and being appointed or elected to positions of leadership. Change of Watch was a great opportunity to meet many of the most active and involved members of the Division, the District and more.



Photo by, Ramon Llorens, Jr.

Above L to R - Jimmy Helton, DCDR; Fred Gilman, DCDR Elect; Commodore Rick Schal; and Commodore Elect Randy Ventress. Division Commander and Master of Ceremonies, Jimmy Helton brought the meeting to order, welcomed us and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He also introduced the special guest and speakers as they took their positions on the bridge. He did a great job of organization, keeping the proceedings lively and orderly with a few jokes and entertaining off the cuff remarks along the way. Fred Gilman DCDR Elect later presented him with a replica of the Eagle in recognition of his service as DCDR, 2016.



Photo by, Ramon Llorens, Jr.



Photo by, Ramon Llorens, Jr.

Ms. Betsy Woods, Boating Education Coordinator, TWRA

Special Guest Speaker Betsy Woods, Boating Education Coordinator for the TWRA was first to speak. She cited several tragic incidents which have occurred on the waters of our AOR. She also thanked the Auxiliary for our continued presence and support of recreational boating safety working hand in hand with the TWRA toward the same goal. She stated as with many governmental agencies, their people are stretched pretty thin, especially during the hunting seasons. Having the Auxiliary doing safety patrols give them vital flexibility to use their resources elsewhere.

Guest Speaker, from "The Gold Side" MST1 Ashley Schad, also thanked us for all of the work we do to aid him in his local Coast Guard mission.



Photo by, Ramon Llorens, Jr.

MST1 Ashley Schad, Marine Safety Detachment Nashville

He elaborated that our volunteerism goes even further than we might imagine, allowing him much appreciated family time as he gestured toward his young family in the audience.



Photo by, Ramon Llorens, Jr.

Commodore Rick Schal addresses the membership as COMO Elect Randy Ventress has the gears already turning.

Commodore Rick Schal emphasized the fact that the Gold Side (Coast Guard) needs our help, assistance and expertise more than ever due to new additional assignments, sequestration and personnel cut backs. As a result of this increased need, many new opportunities have been opened to the Auxiliary. Some of the specific new needs and opportunities are as follows;

1. TCO (Telecommunications Operator) Allowing Auxiliary Members to work at Coast Guard Communication Facilities.
2. Mandated Training - Allowing Auxiliary Members to work on ships, at Sectors, Units and Detachments.

COMO Schal pointed out, this type of training is no different than that required for all federal employees and has gained traction in the cooperate world. We might as well lead the way, embrace it and learn from it to make us all better Auxiliarist, employees and citizens)

3. Additional and expanded C-Schools to increase Auxiliary expertise.
4. New Public Affairs I, II and III Classifications to meet Coast Guard PA Standards.
5. Higher standards for Coxswain and Crew.
6. CPR, First Aid and First Responder training.
7. AUXCHEF, just re-named to "Culinary Specialist" to allow Auxiliary Members to work on Ships and at CG Stations.

***Mandated Training While a Challenge For Some Members, But a Vital Element to be Relevant in Today's Auxiliary.***

8. Interpreter Program for assistance with Non-English speaking individuals.
9. Trident Program to assist the CG in their legacy Marine Safety and Environmental Protection Programs.
10. Dealer Visitor Program to assist the CG in Recreational Boating Safety efforts.
11. Paddle Craft Safety Programs to reverse the trend of accidents and deaths in this relatively new boating area.
12. Un-inspected Towing Vessel Inspectors and Un-inspected Passenger Vessel Inspectors to assist the CG in Vessel Inspections.
13. Watch Stander Qualification to assist the CG in Watch Standing duties at Stations and on Ships
14. Train Volunteers for the new Coast Guard Museum at New London, CT scheduled to open in 2019.

In conclusion, he challenged the entire membership to take advantage of these new opportunities and be a true **"Force Multiplier"** for the Coast Guard.

One of the final official duties of the current Commodore was to lead the Division Officers for 2017 in their oath. Charged up and ready to

embrace these new roles and challenges. Members raised their right hands and repeated the words which have no doubt been a right of passage for the leadership of the Auxiliary for more than Seventy Five years. It is worth noting, many of these individuals have taken on multiple elected and appointed responsibilities at the Flotilla, Division and even the

District level. There is certainly a role for everyone in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to **"Be Relevant"**.



Photo by, Lori McNulty

Chris Jones, Bruce Anstey, Angie Perrault, Diane Gilman, Ramon Llorens, Fred Gilman, Justin Elam, Randy Ventress, Rick Schal



Photo by, Ramon Llorens, Jr.

CW04 Nick Frascella; Fred Gilman, Division Commander Elect; Commodore Rick Schall; and Commodore Elect Randy Ventress

On behalf of the Director of Auxiliary's, Nick Frascella took the helm and gave us much insight from the "Gold Side". Covering many of the same points as Rick Schall from a different point of view. The overall theme of the night and his main point was: **"Making the Auxiliary Relevant to the Coast Guard"**. Additional points he discussed were the opening of proposed National Coast Guard Museum. This will create a new and unique opportunity for Auxiliarist to travel to New London Connecticut, train and learn in-depth Coast Guard history, then serve as docents and guides in and around the museum attractions. This sparked a lot of interest and conversation amongst those in attendance.



An artist's rendering of the future National Coast Guard Museum in New London, Connecticut. (Image courtesy the National Coast Guard Museum Association)

Additional opportunities are serving as Watch Standers at Stations and on the bridge of cutters while in port to relieve the active duty personnel. The role of Culinary Specialists has been a big hit and there is plenty of room for more men and women to join this highly appreciated service.

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Another need which has been identified as one quite suited to the Auxiliary is that of Interpreters of all languages, The Coast Guard is leading the way amongst all of the armed forces in diversity and inclusion, so I would expect this to become a strong initiative for Active Duty and the Auxiliary. Further roles are Sector/Unit/Detachment Coordinators, Incident Management (Gap Analysis) etc. This was a colorful entertaining yet eye opening description of the National long term vision for the Auxiliary's future and relevance." Mr. Frascella finished his speech by thanking the Division for all of its efforts on his watch as he stated his plans for retirement from active invited to trade his gold buttons for silver and join the ranks of the Auxiliary.



Photo by, Ramon Llorens, Jr.

Division Commander Frederick Gilman

After having taken the oath, Fred Gilman addressed the Division first thanking Jimmy Helton for all of his accomplishments at the helm and for preparing him for a smooth transition as DCDR 2017. He also thanked the Flotilla Commanders, the Division Staff Officers and Auxiliary members for their support in their respective positions, for without them we could not have achieved our goals in 2016. Looking forward, he intends to build on our relationship and increase communication with MSD Nashville. First by meeting with LTCDR DeWitz to assess needs, then build out an Emergency Readiness Plan for the entire Division. As DCDR Fred Gilman stated: **"Together we as a "Team" can make a difference"**.

The Change of Watch ceremony culminated with a rousing speech by our newly sworn Commodore, COMO Edward Randall (Randy) Ventress. Like icing on the cake, he set the stage for what to expect from him and what he and the Coast Guard leaders expects from the District, Division, and Flotillas in 2017.



Photo by, Ramon Llorens, Jr.

COMO Randy Ventress ; DCDR, Fred Gilman; IPCOMO Rick Schal

At this point I am going to break away from the speech given at Change of Watch and go a bit deeper. I had an opportunity to speak with COMO Ventress at length to get to know the man, his drive and his vision. I first met Randy when I joined and had to have my finger prints done. We met at a Marina where he was also setting up a future boater safety event. I saw right then he was a leader who stays involved and on the move.

During his 13 years in the Auxiliary, he has gone through the elected progression of Flotilla Commander, Division Commander, District Captain, District Chief of Staff, and now beginning his two year term as District Commodore. Along the way, he has also held every Flotilla Level office with the exception of FSO of Finance. I mentioned during the swear in of Division officers, some people take on multiple responsibilities, Randy is no exception, in fact I would say he is the example. By my count he held 7 appointed or elected positions in 2016, all of which require dedication, training and time.

Randy Ventress "Wakes up Thinking Auxiliary" and a key part of his leadership is his stated belief, "Serving the needs of our members, the Coast Guard, and our Communities" is what its all about,

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with an emphasis on our members. "I believe our members are our most important resource" and we plan to offer more information and **Value Added** training to our members. I believe that an informed member is a happy member and it all goes to serve our primary mission Recreational Boating Safety".

"I want our members to know who their leaders are, and I don't want them to think I'm in a different universe than they are. Everyone in the Auxiliary is a member of a Flotilla, and we have the same issues as any member. As members we have the **Right Thing**, and that is found in the New Member Pledge. As leaders we have the added responsibility of doing the **Right Thing** for all of our members, and that is in the Pledge we take as Elected and Appointed Officers".

"When I first came into the Auxiliary the last thing I wanted to be was a grumpy old Commodore. I never considered myself a leader, ever. I have always prided myself as being a team player, and I still do. When I started Leadership Training in the Auxiliary something grabbed me. I wanted to help our members, and my thoughts were that I could help best by leading the way. I guess that led me to becoming the grumpy old Commodore".

"I'm doing the thing I like to do in the Auxiliary and that is helping each members get what they need, supporting the Coast Guard, and educating the boating public in the many areas that we can use our expertise in".

Doing more with less has long been an underlying theme in the U.S. Coast Guard. Perhaps that is what historically has made the Auxiliary vital to accomplishing the overall mission. "In District Eight Eastern Region we have a very strong Executive Committee, a strong Board, and a strong, energetic District Staff. Another strength, is the Director of Auxiliary, LCDR Jaime Salinas, who is working in our best interest and putting his full weight of support behind us".

When I began this interview, I thought it was going to be the history of Randy Ventress, but it is really the future, his leadership and plan to train and empower every member willing to get on board. COMO Ventress has taken the helm, and is leaning in. The line at the bottom of his email sums it up best.

**"Think Auxiliary, it's the right thing to do  
Let me know when and we can go for it!"**

## Serving our members the Coast Guard our Communities



Photo by, Ramon Llorens, Jr.

## Honoring the Past, Preparing for the Future

Members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary being volunteers receive no direct compensation for the many hours of time and effort they donate to the Coast Guard. Recognition is received through the well-deserved awards presented throughout the change of watch proceedings. In many cases this is considered to be the Auxiliarist's paycheck.

Every year across Middle Tennessee active members of Division Eleven teach boating safety classes to the public and provide free vessel safety checks in an effort to educate and promote recreational boating safety. Auxiliary members engage in marine safety patrols, search and rescue operations and environmental cleanups in support of the active duty Coast Guard personnel. Auxiliarist also stand radio watches at many Coast Guard stations and provide culinary service by preparing meals at stations or on Coast Guard vessels far and wide. We, the Auxiliarist of Division Eleven are true Force Multipliers for the US Coast Guard, Homeland Security and the United States of America.

Source Unknown, paraphrased from the change of watch program

### **ANNUAL DUES ARE PAST DUE**

\$50 for 2017 payable to "US Coast Guard Flotilla 11-04" are now due. Please mail your check to:  
Janet Kallam, FSO-FN 11-04  
209 Lakeshore Drive  
Old Hickory TN 37138

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