**Division 6 Commander 2023 new year comments & remarks**

Hello to all that read this,

Again another year has brought us all I hope, some new insight into our lives.

The Coast Guard, and the Auxiliary, are constantly modifying our functions and response to an ever- changing environment.

Our COVID years have past I hope, and we had to learn how to navigate a new world pattern, there were more recreational vessels purchased and used during that time, but the Coast Guard Auxiliary was curtailed in activities in reaching out to these new boat owners.

The results are in, and our communities experienced a large spike in Boating injury, accident, and fatalities. I believe we all are concerned with those facts and want to engage our Flotilla (RBS) influence back into our communities to provide better educational opportunities to our neighbors, friends, and communities. We want them to be safe while enjoying the great water related activities they intend when beginning the process of Buying there watercraft.

We are a Key in helping others safely enjoy those Recreational Boating activities. I am reminded by the time all of you spend of your own time supporting your communities. As I have talked to you I have found the common thread that each of us cares. We want to do more and we want to help others take on the same vision we have. So I encourage everyone to re-engage to the levels you can to safely manage preforming the (RBS) missions, and to take the time to invest yourself in at least one other person this year, to mentor them, with the vision of community we have in the Auxiliary. We are a team and it shows, we can produce more as a team than we can as an individual.

USCG District 13, Division 6 will work to engage others in the work we do, but they mostly do not just appear on their own. It takes each of us to work at recruiting new members, it takes the team to build them into great active members of your Flotilla.

So this year, let us focus on our primary work of bring on new members to help our mission with the Coast Guard grow larger and better. And as a team we will build our Flotilla’s so we each do not have to carry the load of 3 or more people, the work load will balance and we then can get more accomplished as we utilize our expertise in a more focused way.

I also want to remind everyone that one of the Keys to success is building personal relationships through fellowship activities, make sure to plan those for the year, it is in that way we also build in retention of our current member, we all have the need to belong, and we can fulfill that need by intentionally reaching out to one another as friends in this together.

Thank you for electing me as the Division Commander this year, I believe we will again have a great year forming new relationships and life-long bonds with one another, and our active duty Coast Guard men and women.

V/r

Marcus Smith (Commander Division 6)