



FLOTILLA MEETING MINUTES

Flotilla 013-02-08

8 JANUARY 2015

16 Members, 5 guests in attendance.

Respectfully Submitted: FSO-PB Marshall Hewitt, for FSO-SR Gladys Benshimol

Call to order- VCDR Spiller at 1900

Pledge of Allegiance- FSO-MA Hanson

Introduction of Visitors- VCDR Spiller facilitated introductions of LCDR Seaton DIRAUX, OTO Langdale, LT Metz (MSD), Barbara Hanson and Rachel Catana.

Adoption of Minutes of previous meeting- Motion to approve was made by FSO-MA Hanson. FSO-VE Jamieson seconded. Motion carried, minutes were approved.

Announcements, Additions to Agenda- None.

Flotilla Staff Officer Reports-VFC Joyce

- a. **Upcoming Shows-** FSO-VE Jamieson announced that the upcoming Rockingham Park Fishing and Hunting Expo in Salem, NH on 10 and 11JAN will provide excellent exposure for the Auxiliary with an expected attendance of 10-12,000. Volunteers are still sought to assist with the booth. Hours will be 1000-1900 Saturday and 1000-1700 Sunday. Uniform will be Winter Dress Blue or Tropical Blue. FSO-VE Jamieson also noted his correspondence with the author of an article on Electrical Shock Drowning (ESD) and discussion followed on this as a safety issue to be addressed in future operations
- b. **Public Education –**SO-PE Grossi said a BS&S class is scheduled in Kittery for 3 MAR, and a nautical chart reading course for 16 MAY in Ogunquit.
- c. **Finance Officer's Report-** FSO-FN Wirth presented the Flotilla budget and separate OPFAC budget. VCDR Spiller added that four grants will be submitted this quarter and two more next quarter for the OPFAC, which is expected to log approximately 200 hours of operation in the coming year. The OPFAC Committee will present an update at the next Flotilla meeting. VCDR Spiller also noted a net increase of approximately \$2500 over last year's Flotilla budget.

Old and New Business VCDR Spiller

- **District Conference D-Train, 2-4 JAN –**
 - Budget cuts continue to impact the Auxiliary.
 - April 2015 D-Train conference cancelled.
 - Only one D-Train conference is planned for next year.
- **PPE Inspection Verification –**
 - A Flotilla PPE plan has been drafted
 - Flotilla PPE and PPIRBs will be checked monthly with the goal to have everyone entered in the book by MAR and to synchronize a 6-month inspection cycle.
 - OTO Langdale led a discussion of the use of steel-toed boots vs. boat shoes for Flotilla operations.
 - LCDR Seaton and VCDR Spiller noted that 2182 Hz gear has been donated by the Coast Guard which the Flotilla may have access to this year.
- **Change of Watch 31JAN –** FSO-FN Wirth reported that only five RSVPs have been received to date for the 31 JAN COW at the Regatta Banquet and Conference Center in Eliot, ME. Those planning to attend are asked to respond soon.
- **Semper Paratus Award-** Paper ballots were collected for the Semper Paratus Award vote following a voice agreement to employ the honor system by those who have already voted by absentee email ballot. Nominees are: SO-PE Grossi, FSO-MA Hanson, DCDR Raynor, VCDR Spiller, MBR Cookson, and FSO-MS Dehne.
- **Swear in new members-** VCDR Spiller. None
- **Award Presentations –** LCDR Seaton
 - MBR Manning – AUXOP
 - FSO-IS McAndrew - 8-hour TCT
 - FSO-CM McTaggart – 8-hour TCT
 - MBR Manning – Intro to Marine Safety and Environmental Protection



- MBR Manning – Good Mate Program of Instruction
- MBR Manning – Communications Specialist
- MBR Brown was to receive RBS device from LCDR Seaton. FSO-PA Welsh explained that MBR Brown could not attend due to recent hospitalization.

Comments by Auxiliary and other Coast Guard personnel

- LCDR Seaton stated that necessary training will be provided despite the cancellation of training conferences. He emphasized the importance of signing up for appropriate C-Schools so the Coast Guard can plan needs and budget.
- FSO-CM McTaggart asked LCDR Seaton: Is the Coast Guard more reliant on the Auxiliary? LCDR Seaton responded “definitely” and that the Auxiliary is an integral part of the Coast Guard. He added that it’s important for Auxiliarists to report all their hours so the Coast Guard can justify related budget to Congress.
- LT Metz spoke about integrating the Flotilla OPFAC into MSD missions.
- OTO Langdale discussed training initiatives and the many opportunities for the Auxiliary to become involved in various programs.

For the Good of the Auxiliary-

- DCR/BC-RAS Moe expressed regrets on behalf of FC Costa who could not attend due to family illness and FC Costa’s appreciation to the Flotilla for his election as FC.
- ADSO-OP Hogan suggested that cards be sent on behalf of the Flotilla to MBR Brown, FC Costa and FSO-SR Benshimol.

Closing Remarks, Adjourn business meeting – No remarks.

ADSO-OP Hogan moved to adjourn the meeting. FSO-PA Welsh seconded the motion, which carried. Meeting adjourned at 1945.

Next meeting 05 FEB 2015.