

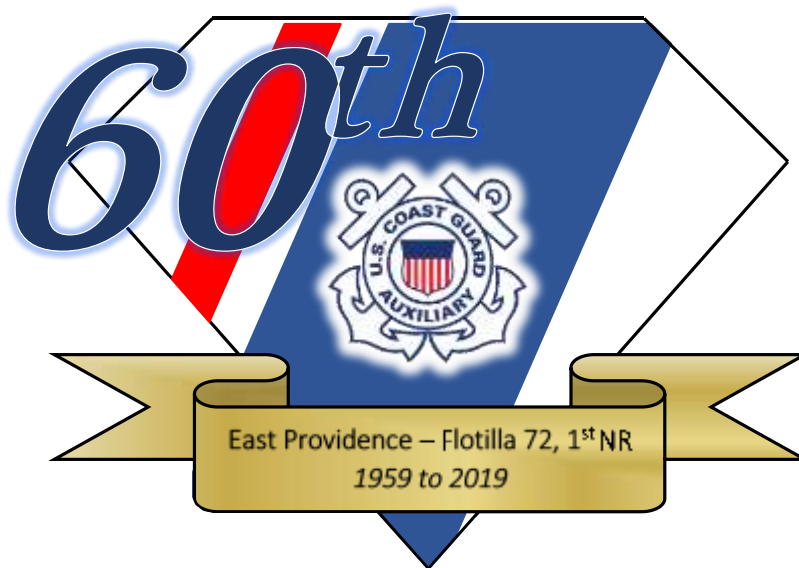
Fair Winds

Official Newsletter
of the
East Providence Flotilla

Flotilla 72, 1st Northern

Volume 13 – Issue 1

February 2019



A Rare Benchmark: This month, members of the East Providence Flotilla proudly celebrate sixty years of service to the Rhode Island boating community, our local Coast Guard units and our Nation. Our longevity would not have been possible without the dedication, time and effort of all our members, past and present, throughout these years. Here is to another sixty years of service...

– Image Courtesy of Editor

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This Month

– Celebrating Black History month.

– Happy Birthday to the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, Celebrating 78 years of service!



Leading the Way: Last December, Chad Cavanaugh (left) and Patricia Tarro (right) attended the Leadership Development Academy held in New London, Connecticut. Chad and Patricia are our flotilla commander and vice commander, respectively, for 2019.

– Photo Courtesy of P. Tarro

2019 FLOTILLA STAFF DIRECTORY

Communications (FSO-CM): Vacant

Communication Services (FSO-CS): C. Lawrence

Diversity (FSO-DV): P. Burke

Finance (FSO-FN): D. Kryston

Food Service (FSO-FS): J. Dennis

Human Resources (FSO-HR): R. Lawrence

Information Services (FSO-IS): P. Tarro

Materials (FSO-MA): J. Dennis

Marine Safety (FSO-MS): Vacant

Member Training (FSO-MT): C. Cavanaugh

Navigation Systems (FSO-NS): Vacant

Operations (FSO-OP): R. Lawrence

Public Affairs (FSO-PA): Vacant

Publications (FSO-PB): C. Lawrence

Public Education (FSO-PE): Vacant

Program Visitation (FSO-PV): Vacant

Secretary Records (FSO-SR): H. Finkelstein

Vessel Examination (FSO-VE): Vacant

Member Awards & Achievements

- **Jonathan Lazieh** and **Paul Burke** were administered the new member oath.



Chad Cavanaugh received his first Auxiliary Operations Service Award.

- **Diana Kryston** received a Certificate of Appreciation for serving as our Diversity and Finance staff officer in 2018.
- **Patricia Tarro** received a Certificate of Appreciation for serving as our Information Systems staff officer in 2018.
- **Chad Cavanaugh** received a Certificate of Appreciation for serving as our training staff officer in 2018.
- **Harry Finkelstein** received a Certificate of Appreciation for serving as our Secretary/Records assistant staff officer in 2018.
- **Bob Lawrence** received a Certificate of Appreciation for serving as our Operations staff officer in 2018.
- **Chad Cavanaugh** and **Patricia Tarro** completed the Leadership Development Academy.
- **Happy 60th Birthday** to all the members of the East Providence Flotilla!



In 2019: 65% of our members were present for our celebration. Seated (l to r): H. Finkelstein, C. Cavanaugh and P. Tarro. Standing first row (l to r): F. Castello, D. Kryston, R. Lawrence, D. Griswold and C. Lawrence. Standing back row (l to r): C. Binegar, S. Blair, P. Burke, C. Bishop and J. Lazieh.

– Photo Courtesy of Janet Tarro

Bravo Zulu!

From the Top

By Chad Cavanaugh, Flotilla Commander

As I write my first “From the Top” newsletter article, the flotilla is seeing a bit of an uptick in recruitment. I have already signed-off on the paperwork for two new members. Also, there are at least a couple of people from a recent course that have shown an interest in possibly joining our flotilla. While this is great news, it is imperative to continue our recruitment drive. Over the past year, the flotilla maintained one hundred percent member retention. The majority of the membership did a great job in fulfilling various training requirements or staying current in their qualifications. Please continue to monitor your re-qualification dates in the various training areas so that you continue to stay current with your qualification(s). We do not want anyone falling behind.

Many of us can recall, there was quite a roller coaster ride for our flotilla members during the late part of 2017 and early part of 2018. I would like to begin by taking this opportunity to thank Chris Lawrence, our 2018 Flotilla Commander, and Harry Finkelstein, our 2018 Flotilla Vice Commander, for all of their hard work and dedication that they put forth last year on behalf of our flotilla. It is important to recognize that without their efforts and the cooperation/efforts of our membership, there was a very good chance that our flotilla could have been dissolved and ceased to exist. With that in mind, I am happy to be a part of the East Providence Flotilla as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of our flotilla’s founding this month. The 60th anniversary is a milestone that we should all be very proud of, and we should take a moment to remember all those members that came before us throughout the past sixty years.

It is with great honor that I serve as your elected flotilla commander for 2019. The transition of leadership has been rather smooth thanks in no small part due to Chris, our flotilla staff and our membership. Together with my Vice Flotilla Commander, Tricia Tarro, and the entire flotilla staff, we look forward to another successful year. While the flotilla is running well, Tricia and I are working on coming up with ideas of ways to continue to improve the flotilla. We are also working on a couple of tentative social events for later this year. There will be more information to come as we firm up the details so stay tuned!

In conclusion, I want to make it a point to state that this is our flotilla. What I mean by this is that all suggestions or comments on how to improve or change things are welcome. The overall success of the flotilla will only be as strong as the effort that each and every one of you puts forth.

Stay Semper Paratus!

Member Reflections

By various flotilla members

Paul Burke (member since 2018):

In 2016, I learned about a unique volunteer opportunity at Boston Light, the oldest light station in the United States. I joined as a volunteer and found the staff was made up of National Park Rangers, National Park volunteers, Boston Harbor Island Park volunteers and the U.S.C.G. Auxiliary.

I learned much about the light, its history and spent much time with the staff. I found in order to more than just help with tours, I would have to join the Auxiliary. I was told it takes a long time to join and gain proper vetting. None the less, I inquired about how to join and the best way go about it. Folks at the light station knew of several flotillas in my home area, but were adamant that I join one with proper assets and skilled personnel in order to gain qualifications. I spoke with the lighthouse keeper about the East Providence flotilla. She introduced me to Jan Koleszar at a lighthouse function at the Coast Guard base in Boston. Jan encouraged me to connect and attend a meeting. I joined the East Providence flotilla at a time of transition and the process of getting a member number took a few attempts, however, with perseverance things worked out well.

Once active, I was able to start training. I was honestly surprised, but more so impressed with the requirements needed. The information in the training material was current and detailed. I learned things that have helped me in both work and life. As I met and spoke with various members, I could see that one could do as much as they wanted in the Auxiliary. The only hurdle I face is time. The available opportunities are a main attraction. I feel it is important to give back to the community in some way. With the Auxiliary, I can do this while learning along the way alongside like-minded people whom I admire for their sense of duty. I look forward to a year where I can contribute and add some value as a member of this great organization.

Carrie Bishop (member since 2014):

Our flotilla is celebrating its 60th Anniversary of existence. I've been with the East Providence flotilla since August of 2014. I'm going to write about **Fellowship**. What do you think of when you hear the term fellowship? Is it like a group of friends united in a goal? Is fellowship the warm, cozy camaraderie of friendship? Is fellowship a feeling of belonging? Is it waiting to greet your shipmates as they arrive at a monthly flotilla meeting? Is it talking together before the meeting starts, and after the meeting is adjourned? I'm thinking as I write this article that it is all of the above and a bit more. I'm going to try and put down on paper what our flotilla means to me.

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Member Reflections

By various flotilla members

(Continued from the previous page)

I remember being nervous about joining and whether I would find the building. Wondering what on earth I would wear to my first flotilla meeting. I remember ironing my clothes and fixing my hair and makeup. I also remember grabbing my pocketbook, my cellphone, my keys, and promising my parents that I'd call or text upon my safe arrival to the meeting. I also remember this was a special meeting, the occasion being the 75th year anniversary of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. We had a special guest, Commander Fred Seaton, at this meeting. Two other prospective members were there as well. I remember how attention was called when CDR Seaton walked into the conference room where our meetings are held. I remember signing in as a guest and how new everybody and everything was to me.

I remember how I studied, got the membership package done along with the fingerprinting. I was thrilled when I got my member number and had my picture taken for my ID card. I was excited I was to receive my ID in the mail. I was thrilled when I was finally sworn in as a member and how everyone was happy for me. It will be five years as a member this August. I think about the classes, the meetings and writing my first article on how one becomes a flotilla member. Most of all, I think of the friends I've made in the flotilla.

I think about the classes I've taken such as boat crew, mandatory training and team coordination training. I think about our holiday meetings and about our regular meetings. I think about the picnic we had in Colt State Park. I also think about the presentations we've had such as the one by member John Dennis on his time while serving aboard the *USCGC Northwind* as an AUX food specialist. The weather presentation by TJ Del Santo, a local meteorologist at Channel 12. I think about how dedicated we are to our group, and how we stick together.

I think of talking before and after meetings, hanging around in the galley, eating snacks and drinking coffee. I think about how we'd continue talking in the parking lot. Catching up on our lives outside the flotilla, flotilla business or our various positions. It is the small moments, like this, that make me think about our flotilla and how much it means to me. You know those small moments of fellowship shared between us. I am awfully happy to be part of this flotilla. I am glad I joined. I enjoy the fellowship we share at our meetings. **Happy 60th Anniversary to our flotilla!!!**

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Member Reflections

By various flotilla members

(Continued from the previous page)

Chad Cavanaugh (member since 2016):

I have been a member of the East Providence flotilla for about three years now. Although three years does not seem like that long of a time, I have seen and experienced quite a bit. In that timeframe, there have been three flotilla commanders in three years. Some of the membership got the opportunity to go on a very exciting airplane ride in a CG plane (very rare opportunity). I have been fortunate enough to be part of the crew program and got the chance to go on several safety patrols including: Save the Bay Swim, Quonset Air Show, Providence Fireworks and Fall River Boat Race. One memorable patrol was when we worked alongside the Active Duty for a no traffic zone perimeter for a security summit with dignitaries from many countries throughout the world. It was very impressive to see the Active Duty in full body armor with weapons at the ready. I will admit that I originally joined the flotilla with one goal in mind of getting training that would count towards a future career change. I figured that I would join, go through the Boat Crew training program and get crew qualified which would look good on my resume for a new job in the maritime industry. Well, I did get my crew qualification and I did end up getting a part-time entry level job shipboard in the maritime industry. Then I was asked to become an appointed staff officer. I am currently the elected flotilla commander which is a position that I never thought would be possible for me. To be honest it was just something that just was not on my radar at the time. I never thought that I could have accomplished so much in such a short amount of time. I am very appreciative of the training that I have and continue to receive as well as all the opportunities that I have been given which have allowed me to grow both personally and professionally.

Harry Finkelstein (member since 1971):

I just received a copy of my annual member summary report. I usually take this report and file it away with all my others. For some reason, I stopped and looked at it. The first thing I noticed was my name. It is usually misspelled, but not this time. Next, I checked my flotilla enrollment date. In that space, it said June 2nd, 1971. What 1971? That couldn't be right, but it was! That was forty-eight years ago! I sat back and thought about that for a moment. Forty-eight years ago, I joined the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Thinking back to 1971, I realized that I never owned a canoe, never mind a boat. Why would I join a military-like organization? I had enough of the uniforms when I was on active duty.

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Member Reflections

By various flotilla members

(Continued from the previous page)

However, I had a neighbor who owned a boat. He would invite me along when he went out to sea. Every trip we made he taught me something different. From cleaning the wooden deck to polishing the brass. At the time, I thought I was invited aboard to be a cleaner. "Not so", he said. He wanted me to know everything about the boat in case of an emergency so I would know what to do. Made sense to me.

By the end of the year, I was invited to a flotilla meeting. I was introduced to the other members and we got to talking; of course, the conversation turned to the Coast Guard Auxiliary. It was not long before I joined them for a breakfast at Coast Guard Station Rockaway. I got a chance to talk with the active duty Coast Guard. In those days, they were allowed to take civilians out on patrol with their base commander's permission so I jumped at the chance when I was invited. A short time later, while I was on board, we were called on to escort a ship into New York harbor past the Statue of Liberty. I had never seen the Lady in the harbor from that angle. By the time we returned to Station Rockaway, I was hooked. I wanted to learn more and loved being on the water. I wanted to help. I made my feelings known when we got back. It did not take long for the members to sit me down and start with the classes. Not only were they interesting, but they were fun, as well. It did not take long for me to work my way up the chain of leadership either. Starting from a staff officer to flotilla vice commander to flotilla commander, then on to the division level. Thinking back to all those jobs, each one built upon the other. It was the way to be involved and get experience plus an interesting education.

Eventually, I bought a boat and become part of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Operations. In the beginning, it was scary. I wanted to do everything right the first time. Yeah, sure. I remember some of the mistakes I made, and how the flotilla rallied around to help me learn how to make the corrections. Without realizing it I became part of a big family.

Forty-eight years... it seems like a long time ago, but it was really just yesterday. Now our flotilla is celebrating sixty years of service. I wonder if I will be able to celebrate the same.

Robert Lawrence (member since 1993):

In 1992, I determined that I needed to learn more about boating rules and laws, so I looked around for a class. I found out that the East Providence flotilla was presenting a course. While attending the class, the flotilla commander approached me about joining the flotilla. I checked more into what the

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Member Reflections

By various flotilla members

(Continued from the previous page)

Auxiliary did and decided to join. My first project was to become crew qualified. While pursuing this, I also obtained the instructor qualification. As time passed, I became a vessel examiner and program visitor too. Eventually, I obtained my coxswain qualification. Over the years, I held various staff positions at the flotilla, division and district levels. I got into the elected officer positions, working my way up to district captain. Each position I took on was to benefit our flotilla in meeting its goals. In my twenty-six years, I've enjoyed my time in the Auxiliary especially in the operations program. If I had to do it again, I would not change a thing. Because of time, age and health, I am gradually slowing down in my activities. Hopefully, our newer members of the flotilla will keep things going. I will continue to help the flotilla as much as I can. Joining was one of the best things I did.

Chris Lawrence (member since 1993):

As I reflect back upon my twenty-six years, I think of all good times our flotilla has had and its accomplishments. The friends that I have made as well as those I have lost. In this time, I am grateful to have had a number of people: some in the Auxiliary, some in the Coast Guard and those at home who have inspired me, made a positive impression upon me, served as a positive example, took me under their wing or helped shaped me into the Auxiliarist I am today. I am proud to be part of an organization that serves its Country and local communities, selflessly and silently. I am humbled to be part of this flotilla.

When I first joined, it was awkward being the youngest person in the flotilla at the time. Fitting in was not easy at times given the age differences. Keep in mind, we all contribute in some way, whether large or small, so never sell anyone short. In a sense, our flotilla is like our extended family. Lookout for and respect each other. Each of us makes a difference. Always be proud of your Auxiliary service. Stay positive. Most importantly, get involved! Share all your acquired knowledge and experience with others, especially those you mentor. Do not let it be lost!

We've encountered our portion of difficulties and challenges too, but we have always overcome them. The one thing that has contributed to our longevity is that despite our occasional differences we are able to move forward and work towards our flotilla's common goals. A big part of leadership is to listen more than speaking.

It is an honor to be a part of our flotilla's legacy, our flotilla's history and some of our flotilla's accomplishments. No one knows what the future holds for us. Sixty years from now, I hope there is an active, vibrant East Providence flotilla with dedicated members just like you.



Welcome Aboard! Last December, Jonathan Lazieh (left) was administered the new member oath by Chris Lawrence (right).
– Photo Courtesy of P. Tarro



Cake Cutting: Longest serving members, Harry Finkelstein (left) and Bob Lawrence (right) help cut the first piece of our 60th anniversary cake.
– Photo Courtesy of Steven Blair



Joking around: Flotilla staff members share a moment of levity before taking the oath of office from flotilla commander, Chad Cavanaugh (right).

– Photo Courtesy of Steven Blair



Welcome Aboard! Paul Burke (left) was administered the new member oath by flotilla commander Chad Cavanaugh (right).

– Photo Courtesy of the Editor



Finances: Diana Kryston (left) receives her Staff Appointment Certificate from flotilla commander Chad Cavanaugh (right).

– Photo Courtesy of the Editor



Information Systems: Patricia Tarro (left) receives her Staff Appointment Certificate from flotilla commander Chad Cavanaugh (right).

– Photo Courtesy of the Editor



Records: Harry Finkelstein (left) receives his Staff Appointment Certificate from flotilla commander Chad Cavanaugh (right).

– Photo Courtesy of the Editor

Attention All Hands!

- Please remember to **submit your paperwork** for all of your Auxiliary activities, **especially your member activity log (ANSC 7029)**, in a **timely manner** to our flotilla information systems officer (FSO-IS), Patricia Tarro, at Tarro@outlook.com . All of your time and effort **makes a difference** so make it count by getting it entered into AUXDATA!
- A new year: Please remember to **check and update your skills bank**, if necessary, in the Auxiliary Directory annually. In times of need, the U.S. Coast Guard may tap your skill set(s) for augmentation or assistance. A link to it can be found in the “*Members Only*” section of our website.
- **Training!** Links to the Auxiliary Learning Management System (for the CORE courses), National Testing site, and FEMA can be found under the “Member Training” tab of our website, listed below. Please check out upcoming opportunities on our calendar! Don’t see anything of interest, please contact our training officer, Chad Cavanaugh. Do not forget to report your study or test time under category 99D of your 7029 form!
- If severe, adverse weather conditions (hurricanes, blizzards, major storms, etc.) are expected to impact our local area, flotilla members and their families are highly encouraged to seek safety and shelter accordingly. When it is safe and conditions permit, flotilla members are asked to either email or phone their flotilla commander as to their status and safety for accountability purposes. Once adverse weather has passed, an email or phone call might be sent automatically via the flotilla commander or the Everbridge system from district. If this is the case, flotilla members need only respond to it accordingly. Accountability is done for both military and civilian government personnel to account for the safety of all personnel and their families as well as status of all personnel, assets and resources in the area should there be a need to utilize them. Being part of the U.S. Coast Guard family, the Coast Guard Auxiliary follows the same model. Stay *Semper Paratus*! Above all, stay safe!
- **Recruiting!!!** Our top focus this year is recruiting new members into our ranks. Please join our effort, be active in recruiting and partake of any recruiting opportunities that arise.

Remember that Recruiting...

- *is a number one flotilla priority!*
- *is the responsibility of all of us.*
- *insures our flotilla's future.*
- *attracts new talent.*
- *strengthens our programs.*

and Diversity...

- *is about inclusion.*
- *is about engagement.*
- *nurtures creativity.*
- *embraces our differences.*
- *capitalizes on talents.*
- *strengthens our flotilla.*



- Coming Events -

- *Boat Crew Training: February 20th - Sector SENE office in East Providence.*
- *Flotilla Meeting: March 13th - Sector SENE office in East Providence.*
- *Boat Crew Training: March 20th - Sector SENE office in East Providence.*
- *R.I. Saltwater Fishing Show: March 22nd to 24th - Providence Convention Center.*
- *Flotilla Meeting: April 10th - Sector SENE office in East Providence.*
- *Boat Crew Training: April 17th - Sector SENE office in East Providence.*
- *Flotilla Meeting: May 8th - Sector SENE office in East Providence.*
- *National Safe Boating Week: May 18th to 24th - various events.*

"This newsletter received clearance on 18 February 2019"

Our newsletter is meant to be an informative and valuable resource to our flotilla members and local Coast Guard units. Its purpose is to keep them apprised of our flotilla activities as well as presenting various relevant articles of interest to our readership. Any member of our flotilla or the U.S. Coast Guard may submit an article or photo for inclusion in this newsletter.

Do you have a story to tell? Do you have an article or photo of interest for our members? We want to hear from you. Please send your submissions to the editor:

*Chris Lawrence, East Providence Flotilla Publications Officer
at claw_72@verizon.net*

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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Special Thanks to this Issue's Contributors:

Patricia Tarro	Paul Burke
Carrie Bishop	Chad Cavanaugh
Steven Blair	Harry Finkelstein
Janet Tarro	

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