



Happy New Year!

**US Coast Guard Auxiliary
East Bays Flotilla 7-11
Aids to Navigation Team, Bristol, Rhode Island
January 2022**

I hope you find this newsletter useful, informative, and maybe even amusing. Suggestions and comments are always welcome.

Very respectfully,

Don Fennessey

Your humble FSO-PB editor

Coronavirus is affecting all of us in the Auxiliary. Please be patient as new information comes to us.

Flotilla Meeting Notes

COVID policy once again forbids us from getting together in person. However, we did have a good Zoom meeting to kick off 2022. We had 11 total on Zoom. What a handsome group! This was the first meeting with Morgan Beltre (center) as Flotilla Commander. She has the most wonderful infectious smile and enthusiasm. Mark Marosits (top left) is our new Vice Flotilla Commander, and he is off to a great start as well. We have an excellent leadership team. We had three immediate past officers emeritus with us – Marcus Mitchell (2nd row left), ex- Division 7 Commander, and Brian Welsh (top row right), our outgoing Flotilla Commander, and Lynette Lopes (bottom right), our outgoing VFC.



Here's a recap of the meeting:

- **Welcome, Initial Remarks, Call to Order**
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Introduction of Guests:** None tonight.
- **Adoption of agenda:** Approved.
- **Approval of prior meeting minutes:** Approved.

- **FC's Report (Morgan Beltre)**
 - **News from Division:** New COVID guidance is out. There are restrictions on what we can and can't do, including not being able to have in-person flotilla meetings. Hopefully, things will improve in the coming months.
 - **Operation Christmas Tree** was a big success. Several flotillas donated.
 - Division **Change of Watch Dinner** has been postponed from 5 February to the end of April/early May. Location TBD.
 - **D-Train** (Division Training) will take place from 26 February to 6 March and will be virtual. This is another great opportunity for good AUX training.
 - **N-Train** (National Training) has been rescheduled from February to March.

- **VFC's Report (Mark Marosits):**
 - Thanks to all FSO who served last year.
 - Division encourages flotillas to work together and share resources for AUX Missions like Vessel Examination, Public Education and Boat Crew Quals. Bigger flotillas can help smaller ones like ours. This is a good idea.
 - Mark was impressed with the number of women in AUX leadership throughout the Division.

- **Marcus Mitchell:** Is a commissioner in the RI Human Rights Commission. He might be able to bring in a guest speaker to talk about diversity and equity. He mentioned that AARP is also an advocacy group.

- **Staff Reports:**
 - **FSO-NS/CS (Kevin Ratcliffe)** Along Route 114 there are two low wooden bridges which are likely to be removed soon. This will open up more water for recreational boating and another area where the AUX can patrol in the Palmer River. Also, some Barrington roads may be under water by 2035. This could have Coast Guard implications.
 - **FSO-OP (Brian Welsh)** He, Mark Marosits, Kevin Ratcliff, and Raven James are taking boat crew classes with Flotilla 07-06.

- **FSO-MT (Mark Marosits)** All flotilla members are asked to review their current status for required courses and qualifications in AUX DATA. We do have some delinquents, so get going before being placed in REYR status. Most courses time out after five years. On 19 January, a new AUX training system will take effect. That probably means that everyone will have to use a new password. Flotilla members have suggested training topics such as proficiency with AUX DATA II, how to fill in Forms 7029 and 7030, and uniform information. Everyone in the flotilla received a note from Mark explaining that we will be offered on-line training in AUX DATA II next week. Gotta sign up with the instructor Nick Butziger at nick@butziger.com to register. AUX DATA II is tricky to use well, so this is a good opportunity to improve our skills.
- **General Business**
 - Any award ceremonies will probably not be held until the Change of Watch dinner and are likely to be mailed to individuals.
 - We have a new AUX applicant – David Harris – who has started the application process and had his fingerprints done this week. He works at NUWC in Newport. Hope we can meet him soon.
 - Marcus, as our Diversity Officer, talked about the annual NACO 3-Star award, which our Flotilla has won for at least the last two years. He related an interesting story related to diversity. We all (at least the older members) remember the song “La Bamba: by Ritchie Valens. The song originated with the Ambamba people in Congo and Angola. Some were taken as slaves to Veracruz, Mexico, where in 1682 they defended the city against pirates. Some of the words translate to “I’m not a sailor. I am a Captain”. That shows a commitment to each other. A great lesson.
 - **PAY YOUR DUES IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO ALREADY!**

Featured Training: None this month.

Motion to Adjourn: Approved heartily and quickly!

Next Flotilla Meeting – Wednesday, 9 February at 7:30 PM, maybe in person or for sure on Zoom. Please join us for fellowship, fun and service.

Semper Paratus!