



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

We met in person with eight in attendance. Lots of good interaction.

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.
- **Prior meeting minutes:** Approved.

FC's Report (Morgan Beltre) Morgan sent out an email with several attachments. Please read them at your leisure.

- **2022 Summer OPS Training Sign-up Sheet** – If you are interested in getting boat qualifications, use the form that Morgan sent, fill it out with your availability and send it to Morgan so she can forward it to the trainers in Flotilla 7-06.
- **Castle Hill Day** – This will be a fun day outside at the Castle Hill Station, probably to be scheduled after Labor Day. We might get a chance to ride on one of their patrol boats!
- **Flotilla 07-11 cookout** might be scheduled in late August or early September. Probably on a weekend when we can all relax together.
- **REYR-** Is everyone aware of their status? See Morgan or Mark.
- Kevin will create a link to the **Division's Onedrive** on our flotilla website. This will enable us to access any AUX forms and information through "one-stop shopping".
- One of the attachments Morgan sent was about **ILEAD**. It's a new pilot project which encourages members to speak directly to leadership (both District and Senior Aux Leaders) about cultural concerns within the organization relating to Leadership, Excellence, Diversity, and Inclusion. It also offers an opportunity for members to recommend best practices from their units to all units in the Auxiliary.
- We have formed a committee to look at setting up a **flotilla dinner in October**. We haven't done one in a while. Last one was at Jacky's Galaxy Restaurant. The committee will look at several options.

- There are three new **CG AUX recruiting videos** out. You can check them out by copying and pasting this link in your browser.
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2sznuasv48b4594/AACETE3dt9U6PJKDoNnDm_Ya?dl=0&preview=FINAL-RECRUITPSA-15.mp4
- If anyone is interested in Food Service Training contact Sally Hanson at (401) 932-5295 or sallyhanson.uscgaux@gmail.com

- **VFC's report (Mark Marosits)** - FC in VFC's Absence
 Mark offered lavished **kudos** on the work Nick Butziger and Brian Welsh have been doing to push the five Rhode Island flotilla forward together. He also thanked our flotilla FSOs for their hard work. He encourages members to become boat crew and vessel examiners. There is plenty of training available. Mark's qualifications in paddlecraft are going well. He is teaching ashore and afloat. If anyone wants to participate, Mark has access to kayaks.

- **Staff Reports:**
 - **FSO-NS (Kevin Ratcliffe)** There are plenty of opportunities for participating in weekly patrols. Your best bet is to contact Mike Quinn of Flotilla 07-06 who goes out every Wednesday night.
 - **FSO-CS (Kevin Ratcliffe)** The website is up to date.
 - **FSO-FN** Charlie Kovach reminded us to pay our \$38.00 annual dues. Please be prompt and avoid a \$10.00 late fee. Send your check to Charlie at:
 28 Greylock Rd.
 Bristol RI 02809-1626

 - **FSO-OP (Brian Welsh)** Brian gave a slide show of his AUX patrol of the start of the Newport to Bermuda race. It was a busy and fun event.
 - **FSO-PE (Charlie Kovach)** We are looking at setting up a Boating Safety class at Bristol Library in September. These have been very successful in the past and are our primary source of income.

General Business

Awards: The entire Coast Guard, including the AUX, have been awarded the Department of Homeland Security Outstanding Unit Award for service between 25 August 2017 to 30 November 2020. It looks like this:



Come to the next meeting and pick up your very own. There are unsubstantiated rumors that the border is real gold. If you continue with the AUX you could look like these guys eventually.



Featured Training: We were treated to a knot-tying clinic by Kevin Ratcliffe and Brian Welsh. We have no idea what this knot is or does, but it looks like fun. Come to the next meeting and you can play with ropes, too.



Update on Lynette: She's doing fine. She is getting close to the top of the transplant list and is in better health than she was for her last one. She is so awesome!

Motion to Adjourn: Approved heartily and quickly!

Next Flotilla Meeting – Wednesday, 10 August at 7:30 PM, in person with Zoom backup. Please join us for fellowship, fun and service.

Semper Paratus!