Division 23 Volume 16 Issue 3 Fa

Fall & Winter 2024

National First Place Division Newsletter—2021 & 2022

5DSR Publication of the Year—2023



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It's always an honor to be given the privilege to serve in any capacity in the USCG and the USCG Auxiliary. More than any commendation, award or medal is the trust bestowed by the members of Central Chesapeake to grant you the opportunity to serve in 2024 and again in 2025 as your DCDR.

We were given an exceptional board of officers to lean on during the year and without their diligence, expertise and advice there would be no leaders. It's true when they say no man is an island and we don't stand alone, and I am grateful for each and every one of them.

We join in the spirit as volunteers, explorer, seek new options/roles, adventurers, journeys to harness new ambitions. For some it may be a renewed call to service, others a minute of mission to give in admiration of blessings received over a lifetime. Or for some an unknown chapter later in life that's propelling you to continue, getup and keep moving. The why, when, and how's are not so important, what is significant is the fact each one of you stepped forward to pledge to make a difference.

How that acknowledgment begins is just a call to action. The minute you set the wheels in motion by applying to any organization and creating time, becoming innovative and committing to a purpose is how it starts. You loan your talents, character, skills, gifts to build, create a better Auxiliary. There is no single gesture or word but multiple actions that delivers everyone to single point or moment. As I stood before many of you during the calendar year to either, welcome, greet or thank you I have been in awe of the many individuals, stories, backgrounds I have encountered from

around the globe who happen to make it under one roof, room or audience. And that is what's unique and special about the Auxiliary. You never know its impact or where it may lead!

As you set out anew, whatever mission you support remember the goal is to always inspire to the tradition of the service. We don't know or predict what each day will bring. That is why we train in a culture of safety and education: whether emergency management and response or merchant marine and boating safety all our numerous missions are essential to the general public. As you look forward to 2025 keep watch, stay alert, be a good mate, and return to safe harbor and continue to be a mentor. Always remember we count on you and we need you.

Mark Campbell DCDR

Elections Held

Elections were held to set a new set of officers for 2025. Your elected leaders for 2025 are:

Division – Mark Campbell, DCDR and Rick Corrales, VCDR

23-1: Leonard Butler, Flotilla Commander (FC) and Margaret Butler (VFC)

23-2: Richard Sikorski, FC and George Weston, VFC

23-3: Jamal Lee, FC and John Krisko, VFC

23-4: Paul Feinberg, FC and Tam Cragg, VFC

23-6: Larry Mattivi, FC and Joseph Enchill. VFC

23-7: Joe Distefano, FC and Helen Gemignani, VFC

Congratulations to all our elected leaders

Connie Cosgrove

SO-PB

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2024	Board	ጴ	Staff
2024	Dualu	CX	Stail

DCDR: Mark Campbell VCDR: Roy Culley IPDCDR: Margaret Butler

23-1 - Annapolis

Lenny Butler, Flotilla Commander Douglas Casler, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-2 - Solomons

George Weston, Flotilla Commander Richard Sikorski, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-3 - Greater Annapolis

Hector Richardo Corrales , Flotilla Commander Mace Coleman, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-4 - South River

Tamm Cragg, Flotilla Commander Paul Feinberg, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-6 - Drum Point

Larry Mattivi, Flotilla Commander Connie Cosgrove, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-7 - Herring Bay

Gini Shrift, Flotilla Commander Brian Shrift, Vice Flotilla Commander

Division Staff

SO-AS-

SO-CM - Jim Welday

SO-CS - Steven Hildebrand

SO-DV - Robert Banks

SO-FN - Michael Taylor

SO-HR - Dave Keyser

SO-IS - Ellen Hatcher

SO-MA -vacant

SO-MS - Wendy Norwitz

SO-MT - Willie Witters

SO-NS - Dave Sire

SO-OP - Kimberle Sheehan

SO-PA - Rick Corrales

SO-PB - Connie Cosgrove

SO-PE - Joseph Distefano

SO-PV - Ron Price

SO-SR - Susan Casler

SO-VE - Joseph Sheehan

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COW deadline extended to 18 January!!!!



1 Feb 2025

Articles and pictures are encouraged and appreciated. Please email to the editor: Connie Cosgrove at cjcosgrove@earthlink.net

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Oyster Festival held

The Solomons Flotilla 23-02 had a busy time talking with the public at 58th Annual Oyster Festival held on 19 & 20 October at the St Mary's County

Fairgrounds. This annual event hosts the US National Oyster Shucking Contest and the winner moves up to the international championship in Scotland.

Ten different bands provided music for the crowds

throughout the event while they shopped the many vendors and sampled the offerings. Raw. smoked, grilled, fried oysters were a main food attraction.



The weather was perfect,

in the 70's with a light wind and plenty of sunshine. Our flotilla members spoke with the public about boating safety and answered their questions about boating, the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary. Lots of safe boating brochures were handed out to the public and the kids loved the coloring books!

We also initiated correspondence with a few people interested in joining the Auxiliary and are working to get a Boat Station tour for a high school senior who wants to join the Coast Guard when she graduates.

All in all, it was a highly successful PA event for our flotilla.

George Weston Flotilla Commander 23-2



Coast Guard Station Annapolis Open **House 2024**

On Saturday, 26 October Guard Coast Station Annapolis hosted

Annual Open House Event with the support of its two resident Flotillas, 054-23-01 and 054-23-03.

The theme for the Day was Trick or Trunk and the weather was a little breezy but otherwise a perfect Autumn Day.

It was pleasantly surprising to learn that quite a few of the visitors were fellow Coasties who brought their families to enjoy the day. And of course, the Trick or Trunk candy was available for the children as well as the occasional adult.

It turned out that a close runner up, if not a tie for

enjoyed response vehicle with the Fire and Rescue Truck was Jim Welday's of 23-01



"Rubber Duckie" Operational Facility.

In addition to the Annapolis Fire and Rescue Truck, other popular attractions were the Coast Guard's Small and Medium Response Boasts; a.k.a the 29 and the 45 respectively, the small Buoy Tender and crew from Coast Guard Sector Maryland National Capital Region Aids to Navigation Team, aka the ANT.

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Open House—continued from page 4



In addition to the Auxiliary displays handout and materials. active duty and reserves were on hand with recruitment displays and personnel as guests entered the grounds.

In addition to the candy, the Auxiliary table exhibited the likes of marine safety and environmental protection themed coloring books. Inky the Whale, Boating and Water safety, and Sammy the Sea Otter were a hit with the children. Recreational boating safety information and support items for the adults were also handed out. There was also time for fellowship and "Talk Shop" particularly with members from Division 24, many of whom supported the event in 2023; and with the Active Duty/Reserves.

There was a visit from Annapolis City Mayor, Gavin Buckley. The Coast Guard Honor Guard was in attendance. Sources have indicated that Mayor Buckley was pleased with his experience at the event, which of course included a visit aboard the 45 Medium Response Boat.

Roy Culley

Division to celebrate 50 years

Division 23 (formerly Division 15) will celebrate their 50th anniversary on 17 January. The unit was initially stood up on 17 January 1975. I hope to have some of the history in the next issue of the Chatter in 2025.

Auxiliarist of the Year 2024

The Auxiliarist of the Year award recognizes the most exemplary performance by an eligible Auxiliarist during the calendar year. Only those Auxiliarists who consistently demonstrated sustained and exceptional standards proficiency, conduct, uniform appearance, initiative, and performance of duty that achieved results which reflected the highest quality of teamwork and customer service are considered for nomination. This award parallels the awards for the Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year and the Civilian Employee of the Year.

23-1: Ellen Hatcher23-2: Gerry Davit23-3: John Fewer23-4: Paul Feinberg23-6: Joseph Enchill23-7: Helen GemignaniDivision: Ellen Hatcher

23 –1 Special Awards

Each year Flotilla 23-1 presents special awards to members who have gone over and above the norm. This years awards and the recipients are:

GEORGE FOX AWARD - Nancy Hasselback Hames

EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE AWARD - Edwin Lafayette Martin

EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE AWARD - David Elwin Sire

CARL TROSS AWARD - Steve Fridakis

CARL TROSS AWARD - Justin Cashman

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Awards

In this issue of the Chatter, I am listing all awards that were received by member during the calendar year 2024. Congratulations to all.

has become known as the 85th anniversary award. The citation was published in the Spring Issue of the Chatter. It is for exceptionally meritorious service from June 24, 2019 to June 23, 2024. All Auxiliarists who were in the Auxiliary during those dates will be receiving this award. Award was signed by Admiral Fagan, Commandant.

Sustained Auxiliary Service Award



<u>23-1</u>

Ellen Hatcher, 2nd award; Carter Rardon, 2nd award; David Sire, 3rd award;

23-3

Rick Corrales, 3rd award; Brian Teague, 4th award 23-6

Tom Hardisty, 7th award

Membership Service Award



10 years Ellen Hatcher, 23-1 Roy Culley, 23-3 15 years

Tudorel Caliga; Mark Bertacchi, 23-1

20 years

Don Parker, 23-3

Auxiliary Achievement Award for service as DVC—2023-2024

Rick Corrales

Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation - **Social Media Division**

Rick Corrales

Connie Cosgrove SO-PB with help from SO-IS Ellen Hatcher

23-6 Holds Christmas party and election

23-6 Christmas party was held at Adams Tap House for Ribs on 7 December 2024. This year's election was held during the Christmas party.

Mark Campbell ran the election. Larry Mattivi had to miss the party due to his mom being in the hospital and phoned in. The screening committee put forth Larry Mattivi for Flotilla Commander. Election was by voice vote since there were no other candidates. Joseph Enchill was elected by voice vote as Vice Flotilla Commander.

Following the election while waiting on our meal, Connie Cosgrove presented Tom Hardisty, Jon and Tracey Stivers with a framed retirement certificate and a thermo cup that was engraved with their beginning date with the Auxiliary, their retirement date and the offices they had held. Larry Mattivi was still on the phone and wished them well.



Connie Cosgrove announced that Jospeh Enchill was chosen as 23-6 Auxiliarist of the year for 2024. Larry Mattivi read to the Flotilla what he had prepared to say when presenting the award to Joe. Joe received a wooden engrave pen set.

Following our meal, the program continued. Mark Campbell presented Connie Cosgrove with the award for 5DSR Publication of the year. He also presented Floraisa Mattivi with a certificate for Larry as Flotilla Commander for 2024.

Jake Kepich and his service dog joined us for lunch and to except the toys members had given to the Toys for Tots program in Calvert County. Jake thanked everyone for their generosity. He told us that our generosity was much appreciated and went to help many children.

Connie Cosgrove

SO-PB

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Flotilla 23-6 Holds Annual Food Drive

On the 9th of November, Bill Smith, Harry Scott and Connie Cosgrove made the annual drop off of non-perishable food items and cash donations to the Chesapeake Cares Food Pantry. Boy Scout Troop 789 was on hand to help with deliveries.

Since our delivery in 2023, the Pantry moved to their new home in April. They moved into a warehouse where they share space with End Hunger.

Debbie Weber, Director of the pantry gave us updated information on the food pantry. Debbie said, "in the last three months we have seen an increase in the families we are serving. In October we had 79 new families join through the Giving Thanks Program. We have 600 packages of food scheduled to go out at Thanksgiving and we have reserved 650. "Debbie also said they do 60 home deliveries in Calvert County. Two items that they are able to provide to clients because of hunters and fisherman is venison and catfish. They also participate in the Retail Recovery Program which is a program where they can obtain items from stores such as Sam's, Shoppers, and other stores. These items are items such as crackers, pistachios, etc. Debbie told us that they have 350 volunteers and five part time staff.

While we were talking with Debbie, the Boy Scout Troop Leader came over and thanked us for all the Auxiliary does. He is not only the scout leader but a Coast Guard Captain at Coast Guard Headquarters. Captain Boda's day time job is Deputy Director of Marine Transportation.

Debbie gave us a tour of their new space at the front of the building where they will move before our next November visit. All together between our cash donations and non-perishable food our total donation was 740 pounds of food. What a great feeling to give to others in need.

Connie Cosgrove

SO-PB



Original Member of
Division 15
Crosses the Bar.

Carol Nimmer Palmer crossed the bar on April 24, 2024 as a result of a car accident in Greensboro NC.

Carol was a member of Flotilla 15-04. She served as Flotilla Commander of 15-04 in 1986. She was the first editor of the Chatter printing the first issue in August 1979. She remained editor until 1981.

She also served as Division 15 Growth and Retention officer, which became Member Resources and is now known as Human Resources. Carol also served as Assistant District Staff Officer for Member Resources when John Cosgrove served as District Staff Officer for Member Resources.

Connie Cosgrove

SO PB



Division 15 Change of Watch (COW)—25th anniversary in the year 2000. I was Division Captain at the time as well as the editor of the Chatter. Carol presented me with a framed copy of the invitation to the COW in 1975 that was the chartering invitation. John Cosgrove is seen to the right of the picture. He was the District Rear Commodore at the time. Now known as District Captain.

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Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Marks A Century of Service

On November 1, 2024, Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) will mark 100 years of service and support for members of the U.S. Coast Guard and their families.

CGMA traces its roots to the efforts of Mrs. Clara Billard, wife of the 6th Coast Guard Commandant, who recognized the need for a formal support system to assist Coast Guard personnel facing financial hardships. She founded the League of Coast Guard Women, the precursor to CGMA, with a mission to "minister to the general welfare" to provide emergency financial assistance to Coast Guard members and their families.

- 3. From the very beginning, interest-free loans and grants made to members in financial need became the core of assistance. Coast Guard families expecting babies counted on the delivery of layettes with baby supplies, another popular program since the earliest days. Other initial support included visits to members in the hospital and Christmas gifts for children.
- 4. As the United States entered World War II, Coast Guard Welfare was formally established as a staff element of the Coast Guard and inherited the League's mission. Loans and grants raised from donations by Coast Guard personnel helped their shipmates endure financial difficulties often related to illness, the death of a family member, or debt issues.
- 5. A final name change occurred when the organization became Coast Guard Mutual Assistance in 1979. At that time, the Board voted to include Coast Guard Reservists, Civilians and Auxiliary members for CGMA eligibility.
- 6. In 1985, CGMA became one of the four Congressionally recognized military aid societies. Each Service has just one.

- 7. In 1996, CGMA was established as a non-profit and shared office space with Personnel Service Center until 2013. Although physically separated from Coast Guard headquarters today, CGMA's Board Chair has always been the Commandant, the Board President has always been the Assistant Commandant of Personnel/Human Resources, and all Board members represent the Coast Guard community. This governance allows CGMA to maintain a healthy lifeline with and quickly respond to changing needs of the Coast Guard community.
- 8. Since its inception in 1924, CGMA has provided over \$240 million in assistance through a suite of programs designed to support Service member's financial resilience. CGMA proudly offers financial assistance to Active Duty, Civilian employees, Reserve and Auxiliary members, Retired service members, PHS Officers and Chaplains, and surviving family members. Our vision as we enter the next century of service is a Coast Guard community empowered by a trusted network and shared resources to eliminate financial worry.
- 9. On this centennial, we celebrate CGMA's enduring commitment to serving the Coast Guard as well as our Coast Guard community who makes this mission possible.
- 10. CAPT Ryan P. Matson, Acting Assistant Commandant for Military Personnel (CG-1M), sends. 11.

Editor's Note: The above was received email

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Flotilla 23-6 participates in Patuxent River Appreciations Day

The Calvert Maine Museum once again hosted the annual Patuxent River Appreciation Day on 12 October 2024. This event is held every year to draw attention to and to celebrate the bounty we receive from the Patuxent River.

Flotilla 23-6 sets up a safety booth every year at this event. On the evening of 11 October, Bill Smith, FSO-PA and Tracey Stivers went to the museum for setting up the display. Bill had a schedule set up for watching standing the following day. The event opened at 1000 and went until 1700. One of the volunteers to take a shift was Robin Moon, a retired admiral from the Navy. She not only is an Auxiliarist with 25-7 but she also gives tours of the Skipjack Dee at the museum. Other watch standers were Roy Culley, Vice Division Commander; Connie Cosgrove, 23-6. Vice Flotilla Commander; and 23-6 newest member Nicole Claggett as a trainee.

Many questions were answered. Kids loved the coloring books and crayons. So, all in all it was a very good day.

Connie Cosgrove so-pb



Bill Smith and Roy Culley interact with Rosemary and Nevaeh Cox and Franklin Calkins

Posting Of Auxiliary National C-School Calendar

The Auxiliary National C-school calendar for Fiscal Year 2025 has been posted at https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=aux00. This first version only includes sessions that have already been scheduled up through April 2025. The calendar will be updated as additional sessions are scheduled. The training dates for currently scheduled sessions may shift, therefore Auxiliarists are strongly encouraged to periodically check the calendar for changes that occur throughout the year.

Members interested in attending a C-school can now submit a Short-Term Training Request (STTR, form ANSC-7059; available at https://forms.cgaux.org/forms1.php) in accordance with the form's instructions and associated Auxiliary district policy.

Please note that funded training quotas are much more limited than in previous years. Many courses will therefore have fewer sessions and will be able to accommodate fewer students. A few courses will only have virtual options available this year. Only in-person sessions, and not virtual sessions, are listed on this calendar. Members who are interested in attending an in-person C-school should review that course's description and prerequisites and submit a STTR as early as possible. Members may attend an Auxiliary Cschool on unfunded orders issued by their District Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX), but they must first check with the listed course Point of Contact (POC) to make sure there is space to accommodate such a request, and they are responsible for arranging the provision of orders with their DIRAUX office. For certain C-school courses there may be opportunities to hold additional sessions at DTRAINs for attendance by local students, though these opportunities will be limited. Requests to do

Continued on page 10—see C-Schools

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C-Schools continued from page 9

so should be submitted to the identified course POC.

Any questions about a course, including about its description and prerequisites, can be answered by checking the C-School Student Support Sites. The links to the sites are located at the bottom of the Auxiliary C-School page at https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=aux00. A member can also contact the course POC directly using the contact information provided on the Auxiliary National C-School calendar.

Editor's Note: The above was received email through the chain of communication

Good news - Sector MD-NCR's S-Train is back!

Save the Date for Saturday, March 1, 2025.

The Coast Guard has invited us to use their facilities at the Coast Guard Yard at Curtis Bay, MD, and they will be participating in our S-train.

There will be training opportunities for all members. The sessions will include "Meet the Coast Guard," new member orientation, Operations Workshop, RM/TCT Refresher, introductions and training regarding several mission areas, AUXDATA Help Desk, and much more.

Plan to join your shipmates at Curtis Bay for excellent training, fun, and fellowship.

The S-Train event schedule will be forthcoming.

We look forward to seeing you in March.

Henry Hays District Captain

It is not too late to attend the Change of Watch 2025

The Change of Watch (COW) COW is scheduled for 26 January 2025. It is a joint effort again this year with involvement of each Flotilla during the planning of the event.

The COW this year is on a Sunday afternoon with social hour beginning at will be an afternoon affair with the social hour beginning at 1200 and the formal program beginning at 1 p.m. The cost is \$55 which includes gratuity.

We will be honoring those who have crossed the bar in 2024. We are inviting a member of the family and a plus one to the event so that they can be present when we honor their loved one. There will be a guest speaker representing Sector Maryland National Capital Region as well as a representative from the Executive Committee and DIRAUX. Elected and appointed officers will receive their oath of office. There will also be awards presentations given.

We will also be celebrating the 50th anniversary of our Division. Our charter date is 17 January 1975.

The Uniform of the Day is either Service Dress Blue, Tropical Blue or Business Attire.

The reservation deadline was 11 Janary but has been extended to 18 January. Checks made out to USCG Division 23 and mailed to Connie Cosgrove, 1105 Dan Bowen Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678. If you can attend please email me at cjcosgrove@earthlink.net.

Hope to see you there!

Connie Cosgrove

COW Committee

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2025 JOINT CHANGE OF WATCH CENTRAL CHESAPEAKE DIVISION 23 Flotillas 23-1, 23-02, 23-03, 23-04, 23-06 and 23-07



WHERE: Renditions Golf Course, 1380 West Central Avenue, Davidsonville, MD 21035 410-798-9798 or 1-888-451-4144.

WHEN: Sunday, 26 January from 1200 to 1630 (12 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.). Uniform of the Day: Service Dress Blue, Tropical Blue or Business Attire

SOCIAL TIME CASH BAR: 1200 – 1300 (12:00 – 1 p.m.)

COW: 1300-1630 (1:00 p.m. -16:30 p.m.)

BUFFET MENU: House Salad, Roasted Roast Beef, Herb Encrusted Baked Chicken, Baked Salmon Filet in a lemon herb marinade, Herb Roasted Red Potatoes, Wild Rice Pilaf, Steamed Vegetable Medley and Warm Rolls with butter. Coffee, tea, lemonade and water. Soft drinks available at the bar. If you require a vegetarian or special diet restriction, please let us know.

DESSERT: Cake

RESERVATION DEADLINE: 18 January 2025.

PRICE PER PERSON: \$55 INCLUDES GRATUITY.

CHECKS MADE OUT TO - USCGAUX DIV 23

NAME_______FLOTILLA______
NAME_______FLOTILLA_____
Email ------

Phone Number

MAIL RESERVATION AND CHECKTO:

CONNIE COSGROVE 1105 DAN BOWEN RD PRINCE FREDERICK, MD 20678.