

Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23 5SR



Top: Sea Scout Honor Guard, Change of Watch. Left: Mark Bertacchi, Division Auxiliary of the Year. Right: Sarah Ramson, Harpist for the Change of Watch

Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 14 Issue 4

Winter 2022-2023

National First Place Division Newsletter—2021 & 2022



This year's jointly held Division 23 in-person Change of Watch (COW) on January 21, was surreal and felt like a huge icebreaker after nearly two years of virtual Division COW's. It gave me great joy to see the surprises on everyone's face. But most importantly, it made me very proud to hear and listen to

all levels of the Auxiliary's district and the Coast Guard describe our impact in 2022. I thoroughly enjoyed witnessing good old fashion fellowship. We were honored to have as our guest the next of kin for those who crossed the bar in 2022. This included Donna Wentz Daniels (Phil Wentz), Violet Garland (Kirby Garland), Vicki & Kiri Johnson (John Johnson) and two grandchildren and Richard Whilden (Peggy's son) at this year's change of watch. Each family was presented with an Auxiliary logo engraved momentum with their family member's sir name. Each family member in attendance was tremendously blessed by all the recognition and special tributes to their loved ones.

A huge thank you to the COW Committee and the support from the Flotilla Commanders and Vice from Flotilla 23-01, 23-02, 23-03, 23-04, 23-06, 23-07, Willie Witters, Connie Cosgrove, Mark Campbell and Michael Taylor. Teamwork begins by building trust and the only way to do that is to overcome our need for invulnerability. Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments towards organizational objectives keep an organization healthy and growing. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results. Coming together is a beginning and working together is a success. The strength of our collective division is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.

Congratulations to everyone for their hard work across all of our missions in the Central Chesapeake. It truly inspires me every day. I can't thank you enough for your dedication,

professionalism, and service to the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary. I am committed to working tirelessly alongside you and on your behalf to advance our service to Recreational Boating Communities and to promote boating safety in Central Chesapeake.

Today, our organization faces new challenges and has new opportunities. The world we operate in is changing rapidly. If we keep pace, we will uphold our tradition of service to the American public. But if we lag behind, as the future arrives, we will struggle to execute our missions. These achievements represent just a fraction of the important work we accomplished together in 2022. You continue to be an inspiration, and I hope you are as proud as I am of the significant role you play in keeping Maryland boating communities safe. I look forward to many more great things coming in 2023.

Starting a new year feels like starting with a blank page. We have 365 days (well, 330) to make a difference in our lives and those we serve in the boating community. And when it comes to being a leader, a new year means an opportunity to lead with new paradigms and leave the traditional ones in the past. Why do we need to update our strategic plan & leadership model? Today the ability to evolve with changing markets is a sign of sustainability. Modern styles of leadership are intended to drive our organization's evolution by empowering the people within to lead and share on their own. An updated leadership model has two large benefits, among many others. Primarily, the most powerful way to reach new members is to share information and inspire by telling stories. And secondly, 70% of American people are disengaged from their work. With COVID-19, people are evaluating their life purpose and looking for more meaningful ways to find satisfaction. As an organization when we replace a closed, traditional style of leadership with a more open and collaborative one it welcomes an atmosphere of growth that will cultivate both stories and engagement with those around us,

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2022 Board & Staff

DCDR: Margaret Butler

VCDR: Mark Campbell

IPDCDR: Willie Witters

23-1 - Annapolis

David Sire, Flotilla Commander

David Stadler, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-2 - Solomons

Phil DeMarais, Flotilla Commander

George Weston, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-3 - West Annapolis

India Ochs, Flotilla Commander

Dorothy Neiman, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-4 - South River

Paul Feinburg, Flotilla Commander

James Regensburg, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-6 - Drum Point

Tom Hardisty, Flotilla Commander

Steve Birchfield, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-7 - Herring Bay

Brian Shrift, Flotilla Commander

Chris Jensen, Vice Flotilla Commander

Division Staff

SO-AS—

SO-CM - Jim Welday

SO-CS - Steven Hildebrand

SO-DV - Mace Coleman

SO-FN - Michael Taylor

SO-HR - Dave Keyser

SO-IS - Leonard Butler

SO-MA - Christopher Jensen

SO-MS - Wendy Norwitz

SO-MT - Ray Feller

SO-NS - Alberto DeCapitani

SO-OP - Jim Farrell

SO-PA -

SO-PB - Connie Cosgrove

SO-PE - Mark Bertacchi

SO-PV - Ron Price

SO-SR - Susan Casler

SO-VE -

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1 April 2023

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

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specifically those we serve in the recreational boating community. But I believe our society is experiencing a paradigm shift as people adapt to post COVID norms in 2023.

On February 2, 2023, I unveiled and introduced our 2023 strategic plan to the Division 23, Central Chesapeake Board and Staff Officers at our annual kick-off meeting. Our 2023 theme is **“Optimize, Scale & Pioneer”**. Our priorities for 2023 exemplify the following initiatives: **1.)** Deploy innovative recruiting practices; **2.)** Develop individually tailored, on-demand, and modernized learning; **3.)** Revolutionize talent management policies **4.)** Advance a future-focused, integrated approach; **5.)** Drive a culture of innovation; **6.)** Strengthen the Auxiliary relevance to local Coast Guard units and establish new mission capacity in support of multiple Coast Guard initiatives by expanding its expertise. I’ll be visiting each Flotilla in the 1st quarter and sharing our Strategic Plan with our membership.

I’d like to publicly recognize each of you for the support, vision, and extraordinary leadership that you demonstrate to our shipmates every day. Despite these unprecedented times of the recovering effects of the COVID pandemic your leadership has made us more productive and more resilient. As a division we will build on this foundation into 2023.

Margaret Butler

DCDR



Margaret and Dorothy share a moment after the COW

Member’s Corner – Ray Feller

Having retired from the Navy, I always enjoyed going to sea. In 2003, I retired from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and wanted to work in something that involved maritime activity in the Chesapeake Bay.



Didn’t know what I could do but figured it would be good to get a Coast Guard license. Among other things, a Coast Guard license required first aide training. Taking the required first aide class at Calvert Hospital allowed me to network with others. Bill Smith was in the same class for his volunteer activities. We conversed and Bill mentioned his other volunteer activity, the CG Auxiliary. He explained all the neat things they were offering. It sounded better than anything else that I knew about out there.

My first job after I got licensed was to teach at a CG licensing school. Too far from the water, so I contacted the local flotilla. Flotilla Commander at the time was Dave Keyser and he accepted my application and once the processing time of 5-6 months passed, I was accepted. I joined Flotilla, 15 -06, currently Drum Point 23-06 and began my entry into the USCG Auxiliary operations program and never looked back. Bill Smith and I finished our Boat crew training simultaneously and completed our qualification examiner check ride with Stan Green in 2004.

Years later the experience and camaraderie have been fulfilling. I have a lot of memories from my flotilla and a lot of experiences Sector and Auxiliary wide. There are always opportunities to use training and skills on the water and engage with the public with beneficial information.

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The challenge will be as the Auxiliary evolves and changes getting the next generation to assist with management of the mission at hand. Members like Ron Price have a good feel for recruiting and attracting potential members in the electronic age.

Our vision must be service oriented like supporting today's Southwest Border patrols, hurricane response, helping with oil spills, initiatives to help engage and grow our membership. September 11 2001 galvanized Americans to support and recommit service to our Nation. We need to continually provide our expertise and professionalism to the United States Coast Guard and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Interview by

Mark Campbell

VCDR

Awards

Following is a list of awards that were given to members during 2022 according to AUXDATA II. I would like to thank Jim Welday and George Weston for information they provided me to compile this list. If you are listed here and did not receive your award, please let your Flotilla Commander know.

Auxiliary Membership Awards:

5 years

Darian Pringle, 23-1

Tam Cragg and Philip Goldberg, 23-4

Aurnyarat (Tui) Nookong, 23-6

Linda Peters, 23-7

10 years

Deborah Cranford, 23-1

Bryan Teague, 23-3

James Jefferson, 23-6

15 years

James Farrell, 23-1

Barry Howard, 23-2

Mark Campbell, 23-6

20 years

James Regensburg, 23-4

William E. Smith, 23-6

25 years

Robert Gittings, 25-7

30 Years

Jim Welday, 23-1

35 years

Connie Cosgrove, 23-6

Sustained Auxiliary Service Award

23-1 Margaret Butler, 4500 hours, 6th award; Leonard Butler, 1500 hours, 2nd award; Doug Casler, 750 hours, 1st award; Marie Squillace, 4500 hours, 6th award; Richard Thompson, 750 hours, 1st award, David Sire, 1500 hours, 2nd award; and Jim Welday.

23-2: George Weston, 750 hours, 1st award

23-3: Mark Bertacchi, 6000 hours, 8th award; Joseph Espino, 6750 hours, 9th award; John Fewer, 6750 hours, 9th award; Dorothy Neiman, 5250 hours, 7th award

23-6: Mark Campbell, 23-6, 6750 hours, 9th award; Ray Feller, 5250 hours, 7th award; Tom Hardisty, 3750 hours, 5th award

23-7: Robin Ainsworth. 750 hours; 1st award and Joseph Distefano, 750 hours, 1st award

Auxiliary Achievement Awards

Margaret Butler, 23-1

Willie Witters, 23-6

Auxiliary Commandant Letter of Commendation

Leonard Butler and Ed Martin, 23-1

Auxiliary Commendation Award

Joseph Espino and John Fewer, 23-3

Auxiliary Meritorious Service Award

Joseph Espino. 23-3

CG Meritorious Team Commendation for Fleet Week

Michael Adams, James Beyea, James Booker, Margaret Butler, and Leonard Butler, Ed Martin, Darian Pringle, David Stadler, Kathleen Sullivan; 23-1

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Paul Deafenbaugh, Lynn Disque, Joseph Espino, James Farrell, John Fewer, Dorothy Neiman, and Bryan Teague; 23-3
Mark Campbell, 23-6

CG Meritorious Team Commendation for Safety at Sea

Margaret Butler, Leonard Butler, Darian Pringle, and David Sire, 23-1; LeRoy Cullery, John Fewer, 23-3; Willie Witters, 23-6

CG Meritorious Team Commendation for Form 7017 Project

Susan Casler, 23-1; Delores Latham, 23-2; Dorothy Neiman, 23-3; Tam Cragg, 23-4; Connie Cosgrove, 23-6 and Robin Ainsworth, 23-7.

CG Meritorious Team Commendation for Auxiliary Breach Remediation Team

Joseph Espino, 23-3

CG Meritorious Unit Commendation for Safety at Sea

Michael Taylor, 23-3

CG Meritorious Team Commendation—Logistics Team from January 2020-December 2022 as ADSO-PB

Connie Cosgrove
SO-PB

Auxiliarist of the Year

At the Division Change of Watch the Auxiliarist of the Year for 2022 were recognized and was asked to stand if they were in attendance. The Division Auxiliarist of the Year for 2022 was also named.

Jim Welday, 23-1; George Weston, 23-2; Lynn Disque, 23-3; Connie Cosgrove, 23-6; and Joseph Distefano, 23-7. Mark Bertacchi was named Division Auxiliarist of the year.

Congratulations to all.

Connie Cosgrove
SO-PB

Change of Watch awards

Throughout the Division Change of Watch different levels of awards were presented.



The first award of the day was presented by

Bosun Joshua Motta SM-NCR. He presented a Meritorious Team Commendation Award to John Fewer, Bill Smith, Roy Culley, and Willie Witters for their support on 17 September 2022 with the sea scouts and the Safety at Sea program held at U.S. Coast Guard Yard Baltimore, Maryland

George Weston, Flotilla Commander (FC) 23-2 and Gini Shrift, FC 23-7 announced members who earned special awards from the Flotillas. Those awards by flotilla were:

23-1: Carl Tross Memorial Award – Jonathon Lambert and Richard Thompson. This award goes to a new member serving during their first years who is exceptionally active in one or more areas.

George Fox Memorial Award – Margaret Butler. This award is presented to a member performing extended service for five or more years in three or more different areas.

23-2: Dee Latham – CG Meritorious Team Commendation for serving on the Pilot Project Team for form 7017.

Dee Latham – Certificate of Appreciation for devoting significant time and effort to support flotilla activities.

Robin Oullette - Outstanding Service Award for his tenure as member and officer in Flotilla 23-2.

Bob Banks - John Johnson Memorial Award — For a new member serving during their first two years who is exceptionally active in one or more areas.

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23-4: Tam Cragg - CG Meritorious Team Commendation for serving on the Pilot Project Team for form 7017.

23-6: Ray Feller, David Keyser, Maxine Noyes, Harry Scott, William Smith - member who exhibited outstanding dedication and service to the Flotilla over many years.

George and Gini also announced the Auxiliarist of the Year for each Flotilla.

Margaret Butler and Mark Campbell gave out the following division awards.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Superior Operations Service Award for directing a pilot program initiated by the National Response Directorate to test the readiness of coxswain/crew to respond to SAR cases. Three AUXFAC participated in a simulation that required them to use search and rescue skills for three distress situations. The pilot was evaluated as a success and will be used as a future exercise available throughout the Auxiliary. The award was given to Jim Farrell, Dave Sire, Michael Adam, Christian Converse, Charles Eames, Steven Hildebrand, Michael Makatche, Edwin Martin, Rick Thompson, Adam Yearwood, Marie Squillace, Denise Collins.

2022 Exceptional Leadership Award- Dave Sire, Philip Demarais, India Ochs, Paul Feinberg, Thomas Hardisty, Brian Shrift for their work as Flotilla Commander. Each also received an official citation from the Anne Arundel County Senate Delegation for exceptional leadership in executing the Recreational Boating Safety Program.



Retirement Certificate for Jeff Conopask for 41 years of service to the Auxiliary from 1981 to 2022. Jeff is a member of Flotilla 23-3. Jeff was qualified as a coxswain, aids verifier, and instructor and mentor.

2022 Life Time Achievement – Jim Welday
2022 Recognition of Exceptional Leadership Achievement Award – Ray Feller and Michael Taylor

2022 Exceptional Service Award – Susan Casler
2022 Bridge Builder Award - Mark Campbell, Willie Witters, John Fewer

2022 Innovation Team Award - Leonard Butler, Barry Cohen & Stephen Klein

2022 Diversity Award – 23-1, 23-2, 23-3, 23-4, 23-6 and 23-7

Connie Cosgrove

SO-PB

Creation of Auxiliary Master Cutterman Designation

1. On 15 November 2022, the Chief Director of Auxiliary signed CG-BSX Policy Letter 22-12, Auxiliary Master Cutterman Designation. This designation recognizes Auxiliarists who demonstrate prolonged commitment and dedication to supporting the Coast Guard cutter community. The specific criteria, recognition, and awarding procedure are detailed in Policy Letter 22-12. All Auxiliary leaders are encouraged to review and advertise it, and consider members who may be eligible for the designation.

2. The policy letter can be found on the Chief Director of Auxiliary (CG-BSX) website at: CG-BSX Policy Letters.

Editor's Note: the above information was received in an email.

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Division holds first in-person COW since COVID

On 21 January, over 100 members of Division 23 and invited guests attend the first in-person Change of Watch (COW) since 2020. Everyone was grateful for the chance to once again fellowship with members from other Flotillas.

The event began with Miss Sarah Mari Ramson (12 years old) playing her harp during the social hour. Mark Campbell, Vice Division Commander (VCDR) gave the call to order shortly after the noon hour and Margaret Butler, Division Commander (DCDR) welcomed everyone. Connie Cosgrove, Flotilla Commander (FC) 23-6 gave the invocation. Immediate Past Flotilla Commander Brian Shrift was our Master of Ceremony.

Following our three-entrée lunch Miss Ransom played America the Beautiful on the harp. Under the leadership of Dr. Derrick Cogman, Sea Scout Ship 1959 presented the colors. Dave Sire, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander for 23-1 led the pledge of allegiance. Margaret thanked the Sea Scouts and presented each one of them with an Auxiliary challenge coin and an Auxiliary coffee mug for their parents.



Dorothy Neiman, FC 23-3 introduced our invited guests. BM1 Steven Stefanisin, Auxiliary Liaison Officer (AUXLO) from Station St. Inigoes; Petty Officer Michael Klopp, and Bosun Mate Chief Senior (BMCS) Matt Kinsman both from Station Annapolis, Bosun Joshua Motta, Sector Maryland National Capital Region (SM-NCR); Master Chief Petty Officer (MCPO) Kevin Eldridge, SM-NCR;

Commander Baxter Smoak, SM-NCR; Nick Lomangino, District Captain, SM-NCR; and Ben Feril, National Commodore Sea Scouts and family members of those who crossed the bar in 2022.

Paul Feinberg, FC 23-4 addressed the significance of the missing man table and what each element on the table represented. Margaret had put together a moving tribute to John Johnson, Phil Wentz, Kirby Garland, John Troffo, Anita Murry, Peggy Whilden, and Walt Discenza who all crossed the bar in 2022. Dave Stadler, FC 23-1 read the



Crossing of the Bar poem and rang the bell once for each member. Miss Ransom played Amazing Grace. Jonathan Lambert and Jim Welday gave a final salute to our shipmates.



Nick Lomangino thanked Margaret for allowing him to speak at our COW and for rearranging our program to fit his schedule. Nick said we were

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living in changing times. He told us he had seen a lot of change along the way in his Auxiliary journey and said “but change is good”. He said, “protect our integrity, that no one can take it away but you can give it away. Remember the Auxiliary core values and honor them – Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty. I am an Air Force combat veteran and I believe in the country and our values.” Margaret thanked Nick and presented him with a paperweight with the Auxiliary logo and his name.

District Commodore (COMO) Krogmann addressed us virtually through Zoom. COMO Krogman thanked Commander Smoak and Ben Feril for attending. He thanked Joanne Revis for her support to the Auxiliary and he thanked the division board for their hard work. COMO Krogman thanked us for our great effort in 2022. COMO Krogman told us he had finished his Ops plan for the next two years and that we needed to be flexible. The Plan will be posted on the D5 website. COMO Krogman said “My leadership goals throughout the year 2023, we will strive to: 1. Always listen to every point of view. 2. Approach a situation with an open mind. 3. Focus on ways we can excel. 4. Make “our presence” irreplaceable. 5. Exceed prior numbers for all missions in our District. 6. Take all actions to enhance/further the reputation of the U.S. Coast Guard. 7. Make “NO EXCUSES”!”

Ben Feril, National Commodore for the Sea Scouts told us he was also an Auxiliarist. He said he had been involved with scouting since 1968 as a boy scout. He said “with the help of the Auxiliary the Sea Scouts set up 27 new ships in 2022. The Auxiliary had 20,400 hours in support of the Sea Scout program.” He thanked us for our support. Margaret presented him with a challenge coin and an Auxiliary mug.

Margaret showed a PowerPoint presentation of Division 23's year in review. Denise Collins & Michael Makatche joined us through Zoom and gave us insight of what it was like when they were

working with Customs and the Border Patrol along the Southwest Border of Texas. They were responsible for storing the bags, back bags and the belongs of the non-citizens that crossed over the border. They were set up in teams of 2-3 people and they worked in shifts. The shift they happened to pull was from 2100 until 0500. The facility was only open four weeks before they got there so there were no procedures in place. They came up with a procedure to help organize the items they took in so it was easier to find the items when the non-citizens departed for other destinations. Margaret thanked them for their service. She told them she had a paperweight with their name on it and a citation also.

Joanne Revis from DIRAUX briefed us on what her office does for the Auxiliary and challenged the leaders of the Division to be the best they can be.

BM1 Steven Stefanisin from Station St. Inigoes thanked us for supporting them in the large Marine events in Solomons such as the Solomons Island Yacht Club Blessing of the Fleet, 4th of July fireworks, the waterman's docking contest, and other events of that nature. He thanked Harry Scott, Flotilla 23-6 for his radio watchstanding every Friday.

BMCS Kinsman, Station Annapolis thanked the Division for the support they receive at events such as fireworks, the Blue Angels flyover, and the many Search and Rescue missions. He said, “I have a sense of relief knowing my one boat has the support of six or seven Auxiliary operational facilities.” He thanked Nancy Hames and Jim Welday for their support of the Comms room. He said “if I need something one call to Darian Pringle gets it done.” He thanked Margaret for all the support the Division gave them during their Open House. He thanked the Sea Scouts and told them he was a former cub scout. He said “the Station has an open-door policy.

Commander (CDR) Smoak was our keynote speaker for the day. He began by thanking us for allowing him to be a part of our COW. He said,

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“the Coast Guard could not be who we are without the Auxiliary. I thank you for your flexibility.” He thanked Nick for his leadership and Margaret for all she does. He also thanked her family for allowing her the time to do what she does. He thanked the FC and Vice Flotilla Commanders (VFC) for their leadership. In 2022, 8700 hours were reported in administrative and management tasks. CDR Smoak said, “I am a prior Eagle Scout. The Coast Guard is hurting for people. I am hopeful the Sea Scouts will be an answer by becoming a member of the Coast Guard.” He told us that safe boating courses are critically important to the public and the Coast Guard. He said, “the Auxiliary is a true force multiplier. I thank you for your professionalism and dedication.”

MCPO Eldridge told us that what the Auxiliary contributes to the Coast Guard does not go unnoticed. He thanked us for what we bring to the table.

CDR Smoak gave the oath of office to all elected and appointed officers. Margaret in her closing remarks thanked everyone for attending and all the support the COW committee had given her in preparation for the event. She thanks Barbara Thrawley, DCDR Division 24, her help with the awards. The 50/50 drawing won by Tom Hardisty and the drawing for three door prizes closed out the event.

Connie Cosgrove

SO-PB

Laura Birchfield

Photographer



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Bertacchi named Division Auxiliarist of the Year



Our 2022 Division “Auxiliarist of the Year” is Mark Bertacchi, of Flotilla 23-03.

Mark Bertacchi is cited for superior performance of duty while

serving during the period from January 2022 to December 2022. Demonstrating exceptional leadership and competence, while spearheading the Division Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) initiatives division-wide in 2022. He has worked tirelessly with Flotilla Commanders, Division Staff Officers, and Flotilla Staff Officers many occupied by newly appointed members requiring extensive training and support in the performance of their duties. Mark Bertacchi facilitated open communications and led cross-training opportunities, helping to alleviate many of the staffing shortfalls and increasing member engagement division-wide. His experience in management was routinely sought for important RBS initiatives within the Division such as local boat shows and marina events. Notably, he launched several Public Affairs, Public Education, and Vessel Examination Safety Days throughout Central Chesapeake. His efforts provided executive leadership and management while assisting Flotilla units in need. Finally, he is lauded for selflessly contributing countless hours of service. Mr. Bertacchi’s diligence, perseverance, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are keeping with the highest traditions in of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Bravo Zulu!

Margaret Butler

DCDR

Collins and Makatche serve on Southwest Border



During this year’s Change of Watch, Denise Collins and Michael Makatche of Flotilla 23-01,

received a Superior Operations Service Award for superior performance while serving on the Southwest Border.

They demonstrated exceptional leadership while developing the Coast Guard Auxiliary programs in direct collaboration with U.S. Coast Guard during a critical mission at the Southwest Border.

They worked tirelessly in collaboration operationally with multiple Department of Homeland Security component agencies such as Federal Emergency Management Agency, Customs and Border Patrol Agents and provided non-citizen support efforts while on an assignment of duty in Texas.

Together they executed excellent business acumen and helped to alleviate many of the Coast Guard staffing shortfalls at the southwest border as they processed, in some cases, over 2000 non-citizens a day. They were responsible for storing the bags, back bags and the belongs of the non-citizens that crossed over the border. They were set up in teams of 2-3 people and they worked in shifts. The shift they worked was from 2100 until 0500. The facility was only open four weeks before they got there so there were no procedures in place. They helped come up with a procedure to help organize the items they took in so it was easier to find the items when the non-citizens departed for other destinations.

Margaret Butler

DCDR

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Upcoming Boat Shows



We are looking for Auxiliarist from Division 23 to staff the Public Affairs booth at the upcoming boat shows. Every year, Annapolis City Dock (affectionately dubbed “Ego Alley”) is transformed into

a boater’s paradise when the United States Powerboat Show and United States Sailboat Show come to town.

The first boat show is the Bay Bridge Boat Show held in Stevensville Maryland across on the Eastern Shore. So, volunteers head across the Bay Bridge and distribute boating safety literature and engage with the general public. Division 23 supported last year’s event that exposed us to thousands of boaters and enthusiasts that descend on Annapolis to see the latest and greatest boat models, maritime tech, and boating products.

Mark your calendars for Division 23 participation in the upcoming FY2023 boat shows as follows:

1. Bay Bridge Boat Show, Stevensville, Maryland on April 13-16, 2023
2. Annapolis Spring Sailboat Show, Annapolis (City Dock), April 28-30, 2023
3. United States Power Boat Show, Annapolis (City Dock), October 5-8, 2023
United States Sailboat Show, Annapolis (City Dock), October 12-16, 2023

Second Virtual AUX-CT Workshop Scheduled

Division 23 and Sector Maryland National Capital Region Flotillas will host its 2nd Virtual Auxiliary Core Training (AUX-CT) workshop on February 25, 2023. These courses are mandatory for every Auxiliarist and four are required every five years. Ethics is required only one-time. At the conclusion of the virtual workshop, participants will gain understanding of Ethics, Civil Rights & Sexual

Harassment Prevention as well as the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary Core Values.

Previously on January 14, 2023, Flotilla 054 22-02 hosted a Mini CORE AUX-CT Workshop in collaboration with Division 23, from 9:00am to 12 noon. The hugely popular workshop, less than 3-hour format, was attended by over 45 participants. Registrants

gained a comprehension and understanding of Workforce Resilience, Security Fundamentals & Privacy taking advantage of getting it done ahead of the upcoming 2023 boating season.

Margaret Butler
DCDR



Boating Safety Application for Smart Phones

1. The Coast Guard Boating Safety application has allowed smart phone users on the Apple and Android mobile operating system platforms to input a profile, email a float plan, review safety equipment requirements, and obtain emergency assistance, as well as other features. Unfortunately, the application is no longer available in the application stores since updates have not been possible.

2. The Coast Guard is exploring the future of the application and hopes to put out additional information in the next 90 days. In the meantime, Auxiliarists should advise anyone who is interested in the application that it is not available, and users who have the application on their smart phones should be advised to delete it until further notice.

Editor’s note: the above was received email in ALAUX 005/23

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AUXILIARY COVID-19 GUIDANCE - VERSION 5

1. All Auxiliarists are highly encouraged to review the latest version of the Auxiliary COVID-19 Guide which has been posted in AUXDATA II and on the Chief Director of Auxiliary (CHDIRAUX) website at: Auxiliary COVID-19 Guidance. To review the guide in AUXDATA II, login to AUXDATA II; from the AUXDATA Navigation Bar select “More,” then “Files,” and then select “Libraries.” The guide and other relevant COVID-19 information are located in the folder, “CG Auxiliary COVID-19 Guidance.” Questions regarding the content of the guide should be directed to the appropriate Auxiliary Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM).
2. The following are highlights within this revision (review the Guide for more details about each item):
 - a. The temporary restriction that requires all Auxiliarists to be fully vaccinated prior to volunteering for an assignment to duty (ATD), has been suspended. All Auxiliarists may request ATD in any Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) COVID-19 Community Level without the need to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test unless otherwise requested in accordance with the “Meetings and Conferences” section of the Guide.
 - b. District Directors of Auxiliary (DIRAUXs) and Order Issuing Authorities (OIAs) should follow the CDC guidance and recommendations applicable to their AOR’s current CDC COVID-19 Community Level. Please review the following regarding CDC COVID-19 Community Levels: COVID-19 by County CDC.
 - c. All Auxiliarists are expected to view the CDC COVID-19 page at Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) CDC for further information on transmission, prevention, symptoms and emergency warning signs, people at higher risk for severe illness, exposure risk, preventing infection, etc.
 - d. Community Level mask wear guidelines follow:
 - (1) CDC COVID-19 Community Level of High: All Auxiliarists shall wear a high-quality mask. (An example of a high-quality mask is a cloth mask that properly fits over the nose, mouth, and chin to prevent leaks; has multiple layers of tightly woven, breathable fabric; has a nose wire; and has fabric that blocks light when held up to a bright light source. Another example of a high-quality mask is a procedure mask (aka surgical mask) with a proper fit over the nose, mouth, and chin to prevent leaks; has multiple layers of non-woven material; and a nose wire.) See CDC’s page on types of masks and respirators for further information: [Masks and Respirators \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/masks/)
 - (2) CDC COVID-19 Community Levels of Medium and Low: Masks are optional for all Auxiliarists unless otherwise directed by DIRAUX or the cognizant Coast Guard OIA.
 - e. Auxiliarists, regardless of vaccination status, may apply for and attend mission-critical Auxiliary C-schools. Full COVID-19 vaccination is still required to apply for and attend non-mission-critical C-schools. Please review ALAUX 046/22, Resumption of In-Person Auxiliary C-schools, which identifies mission-critical Auxiliary C-schools and can be found at the following: 2022 ALAUX (uscgaux.info), for further information.
 - f. Currency Maintenance can be found in ALAUX 048/22, Calendar Year (CY) 2023 Annual Currency Maintenance Requirement Tracking for Crewmember, Coxswain, PWC Operator, and Nighttime Certification, at 2022 ALAUX (uscgaux.info). Any questions should be directed to the servicing DIRAUX and Operations Training Officer (OTO).
 - g. All official Auxiliary engagement activities that entail attending other-than-Coast Guard or other-than-Auxiliary conferences, conventions, or other large gatherings are authorized in accordance with CDC guidelines, Coast Guard policy, and Auxiliarists shall follow State and local policy if more restrictive.

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h. All Auxiliary gatherings (meeting, conferences, training, etc.) are authorized to be planned and executed in any CDC COVID-19 Community Level without the need for further Coast Guard or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) clearance or waiver. This is regardless of their duration, type of gathering, number of participants, or vaccination status.

i. Official travel is authorized for all Auxiliarists regardless of vaccination status. Auxiliarists must continually check the CDC COVID-19 Community Level for the areas they will be traveling to and from. In addition, Auxiliarists must review CDC's travel notices at: Travelers' Health | CDC and Domestic Travel During COVID-19 | CDC

3. DIRAUX offices, Coast Guard units, and OIAs are continually assessing operational risks posed by COVID-19 and developing mitigation strategies in advance of mission performance. They remain the best sources for guidance regarding Auxiliary assignments to duty within their respective areas of responsibility. All Auxiliarists are expected to help them by exercising caution and adhering to Coast Guard guidance.

Editor's note: The above was received in an email from the Chief Director's office - ALAUX 004/23

2023 National Workshops

Ref: (A) Auxiliary Manual, COMDTINST M16790.1 (series)

1. **National Operations Workshops.** The Surface and Telecommunications Workshops are required for 2023. The Air Operations Workshop is a mandatory task included as part of the Air Station Safety Workshop. Like 2022, the National Operations Workshops (Surface/Air/Telecommunications) may be completed via webinar. The workshop training material must be delivered by an Auxiliarist qualified in the respective operations program provided they are either a certified instructor or are under the supervision of

a certified instructor. Instructors may use any webinar delivery platform that is available in their region. Instructors are encouraged to work with their Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM) to determine the proper delivery platform. **Self-Attestation is NOT permitted for any of these National Operations Workshops.** The workshops will relay significant, needed information and will take longer than 1 hour (possibly 2 hours) to complete, please plan accordingly. Details for the 2023 required National Operations Workshops are listed below:

a. Surface Operations Workshop. This workshop is required for all boat crew coxswains, boat crew members, personal watercraft operators, paddle craft operators, and those currently training for any of these competencies, including members in Required Yearly Not Met (REYR) status who intend to regain their certification.

b. Air Operations Workshop. This workshop is a required element of the annual Air Station Safety Workshop. It is required for all pilots, air crew, air observers, and those currently training for any of these competencies, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification.

c. Telecommunications Workshop. This workshop is required of all operators and owners of Auxiliary Radio Facilities. It is required of those currently holding Telecommunications Operator (TCO), or in training for TCO qualification, and those who are using AUXCOM as their "grandfathered" qualification for radio operation. This does not apply to the operation of radios on aircraft or vessels which are covered by crew certification.

d. The 2023 National Operations Workshop presentations (Air, Surface, and Telecommunications) are located at the National Response Directorate web page at the following link: National Operations Workshops - 2023

e. Instructors of these workshops must submit a Workshop Mission and Attendance Report (ANSC-7039) to their IS officer for entry into AUXDATA II.

Continued on page 13— see workshops

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2. National Vessel Examiner and Instructor Workshops. The Vessel Examiner (VE) and Instructor (IT) Workshops are required for 2023. These workshops are intended to be viewed by members and completion logged via a self-attestation form as described below. These workshops may also be facilitated by an Instructor via webinar or in person as District COVID-19 Protocols permit.

a. VE Workshop. This workshop is required for all certified Vessel Examiners, and those currently training to become Vessel Examiners, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification. The VE workshop presentations are located at the National V-Directorate website (in the Member Zone) at: 2023 National VE Workshop. The workshop may also be accessed at: http://wow.uscgaux.info/Uploads_wowII/V-DEPT/2023_VE_workshop_Dec_4_22.pdf

b. IT Workshop. This workshop is advised for all certified Instructors, and those currently training to become Instructors, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification. The IT workshop is located at the E-Directorate website "What's New!" page (in the Member Zone) at: 2023 E-Directorate Workshop. In addition, members can go to Workshops ([uscgaux.info](http://www.uscgaux.info)) and find the 2021, 2022, and 2023 IT Workshops in archive.

c. Members who individually view the VE or IT workshops in their entirety must submit a Workshop Attestation Form to their FSO-IS for entry into AUXDATA II. In order to make data entry easier, IS officers may collect forms for all their members required to complete these workshops and make one entry into AUXDATA II using the last day of the month of the Activity/Task Completion date. This form is located in the same location as the VE and IT Workshop presentations listed above. Note: When adding the VE workshop task to Activity Logs in AUXDATA II use the task named "Vessel Examinations Workshop" in the Workshops task category list.

d. If the workshop is facilitated by an Instructor in a webinar or group setting, the Instructor must submit a Workshop Mission and Attendance Report (ANSC-7039) to their IS officer for entry into AUXDATA II.

3. National Culinary Assistance Specialists Sanitation Workshop. This workshop is required for all Auxiliary Culinary Assistance Specialists and those currently training for this competency, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification. Please follow the instructions on the Auxiliary Culinary Assistance Specialists Website for completing the Annual AUXCA Sanitation Workshop. After completing the workshop and passing the required test on the National Testing Center, course completion will be logged into AUXDATA II via the National Testing Center course results upload. There is no need to create separate activity logs for completion of this course in AUXDATA II. The appropriate DSO-CA will automatically be notified of course completion. The workshop is available through the Auxiliary Human Resources Directorate web page/Divisions tab at: National Auxiliary Culinary Assistance Website

4. Per chapter 8.B.1.g of reference (A), all **required** workshops must be completed no later than 30 June 2023. If not completed by **30 June 2023**, members required to complete those workshops will have their affected competencies place into Required Workshop Not Met (REWK). If a required workshop is not completed by 31 December 2023, the affected competencies will be placed in REYR status.

The Air Operations Workshop is a required element of the annual Air Station Safety Workshop. Both workshops must be completed by the end of 2023. The task should be entered into AUXDATA II for participants.

Editor's Note: The above was received email. It was contained in ALAUX 002/23

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Flotilla supports Toys for Tots

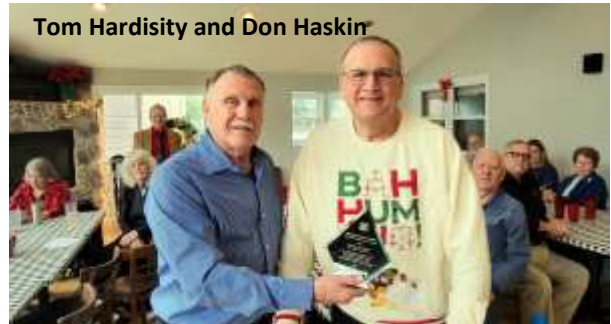
Flotilla 23-6 has been supporting the Marine program Toys for Tots since 2015. Members who choose to participate buy toys to donate to the program. Those who do not like to shop send a check to Connie Cosgrove and on Black Friday she does the shopping for the toys. This year the Flotilla provided close to \$400 worth of toys that included back packs for older children.

Ms. Brenda King the local point of contact for Toys for Tots in Calvert County was a guest at the Flotilla Christmas Party on 3 December to collect the toys.

Tom Hardisty, Flotilla Commander gave awards to Maxine Noyes, Bill Smith, Harry Scott, Ray Feller, and Dave Keyser for all their contributions to the Flotilla over many years. Tom also presented the Auxiliarist of the Year Award to Connie Cosgrove. Retirement awards were given to RT West who is retiring at the end of 2022 and to Don Haskin who retired during COVID.

Steve Birchfield, Vice Flotilla Commander presented Tom Hardisty with an oar to thank him for his dedicated service as Flotilla Commander during 2022.

Connie Cosgrove
FSO-PA



Tom Hardisty and Don Haskin



Tom Hardisty and RT West



Tom Hardisty and Maxine Noyes



Tom Hardsity and Connie Cosgrove

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New Member Training Forum launched

Division 23, Central Chesapeake launched a new Auxiliary Member Training Forum notification system on January 5, 2023. This new training tool will allow you to research, explore or register for all the member training opportunities within our Division, District 5 Southern Region (5DSR) and all levels of our organization using your smartphone or computer. It is designed to equip you with the latest cutting-edge training notifications tool in real-time so that we continue our tradition of exceptional service in order to respond to the growing demands and evolving threats that the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary faces as we serve the recreational boating community in the Central Chesapeake. Let us become a more trained asset to the Coast Guard as we build on our ability to lead in crisis to support the Nation during emergencies. It all starts with being the best trained workforce.

Making training opportunities accessible to everyone in the Central Chesapeake workforce is one of my highest priorities in FY23. Our Division 2023 theme is **“Optimize, Scale & Pioneer”**. Guided by our Core Values, we will transform the way we train, recruit, inspire, and develop our people. We will build an inclusive culture that gives everyone a sense of belonging, empowering all to deliver their personal best while serving as part of the world's best U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Special recognition and appreciation to Leslie Nicholas, 23-03 for her diligence as well as support in developing our initial pilot. Bravo Zulu.

Margaret Butler
DCDR



Public Affairs Event at Tri-State Marina

On January 28, 2023, Division 23 and Flotilla 23-03 (West Annapolis) hosted a Public Affairs event at a marine dealer in Deale, Maryland. The event was attended by over 90 participants. Special recognition to Division Staff Officer for Public Education, Mark Bertacchi and Donald Parker, 23-03 for staffing the event.

Central Chesapeake distributed boating safety materials, answered boating questions, and scheduled Vessel Safety Checks for future dates. Margaret Butler, Division Commander (DCDR) attended the event. Tri-State has committed to the Auxiliary to host a Maryland State Boating Safety Course on March 11, 2023, from 0900 to 1500. This will be an opportunity to provide boating safety literature to the boating public, create opportunities for instructors to acquire annual currency hours and for Flotilla Commanders to recruit new members. For more information, contact Mark Bertacchi, SO-PE.

Margaret Butler
DCDR

Updated 7012 & 7012a Forms

Both the 7012 (standard Vessel Safety Check) and 7012a (Paddlecraft VSC) forms have been updated. The hard copy form is available from ANSC and the e-copy is available on-line. Both the front and back of the forms have been updated incorporating regulation revisions pertaining to Engine Cut-Off Switches (ECOS), Fire Extinguishers & Life Jackets (PFDs).

Editor's note: The above was received email

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AUX-MSAM Qualification Update

A. Marine Safety Administrative Management (AUX-MSAM) Qualification, dated 01 Sep 2009

B. Marine Safety Administrative Management (AUX-MSAM) Qualification, dated 01 Jan 2023

1. This ALAUX announces the cancellation of reference (A), and the promulgation of reference (B).

2. The revision of reference (B) reflects best practices, organizational structures and functions of the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary, duties and responsibilities of Marine Safety Officers / Verifying Officers, and general information regarding the Coast Guard with respect to the Marine Safety Division of the USCG Auxiliary.

3. Reference (B) can be found on the Prevention website: Prevention/Response Marine Safety PQS (uscgaux.info).

4. Reference (A) will have a cancelation date of 01 April 2023. Thereafter, reference (B) shall be used by all Auxiliary members toward AUX-MSAM qualification.

5. All online modules, PQS workbook sign-offs, and an oral board must be completed prior to a member receiving a Letter of Designation (LOD).

Editor's Note – the above was received email - ALAUX 006/23

Resumption Of In-Person Auxiliary C-Schools

1. The Chief Director of Auxiliary's (CG-BSX) Policy Letter 21-01 of 28 May 2021, last revised on 28 November 2022 to authorize attendance at Auxiliary C-schools deemed mission-critical even if individuals were not vaccinated against COVID-19, is again revised due to recent Coast Guard policy changes regarding COVID-19 vaccination.

2. The key revision authorizes individuals who are unvaccinated against COVID-19 to attend all in-person Auxiliary C-schools.

3. The policy letter can be found on the CG-BSX website at: CG-BSX Policy Letters.

Editor's Note: The above was received email



Neiman and Fewer receive Letter of Appreciation

Coast Guard Commander Miles Randall, Cutter Transition Division, Surface Acquisition Division, and his Deputy Mr. Michael Ciaglo attended the December 8 Flotilla 23-3 meeting. They issued a letter of Appreciation to Dorothy Neiman and John Fewer. The letter of appreciation read:

"It is with great pleasure that I offer my sincerest thanks to you for your participation in the departure event for three Uruguayan Navy 87' Marine Protector Patrol Boats, transferred to the country of Uruguay under the Excess Defense Articles (EDA) program. Your willingness to provide a platform to Surface Acquisitions Logistics Center (SALC) personnel in order to document this historic departure is greatly appreciated.

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The SALC Cutter Transition Division (CTD) is tasked with executing the transfer of decommissioned Coast Guard cutters to foreign partners via the EDA process. This program provides strategic allies around the world with assets to perform missions in support of national defense and humanitarian needs, much like the US Coast Guard. In this process, the CTD reactivates the cutters and trains the receiving crews to operate all cutter systems and perform basic maintenance in order to safely and efficiently execute those missions. The departure of the three Uruguayan patrol boats represented the culmination of a year-long effort and the first US Coast Guard EDA transfer to the Uruguayan Navy in 30 years. The ability to capture this notable moment provided both the US Coast Guard and Uruguayan Navy with proof-positive of the significant level of effort put forward by both the CTD and Uruguayan crews following the last seven weeks of intensive training. Your participation and professional presence provided these cutters and crews a warm send-off on their journey home and ensured the event was captured for posterity. Bravo Zulu!

Connie Cosgrove

SO-PB

India Ouch

Photographer



John Fewer and Dorothy Neiman on patrol your participation in the departure event for three Uruguayan Navy 87' Marine Protector Patrol Boats, transferred to the country of Uruguay under the Excess Defense Articles (EDA) program.



Happy Valentines Day