



# U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 65

## USCG Auxiliary, Flotilla 65, Miami South Monthly Business Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 03 May 2017.  
Time: 19:30 hours.  
Location: [Elks Lodge](#), 6304 Southwest 78<sup>th</sup> Street, South Miami, Florida 33143-4928.

- I. Call to Order: FC David Neal.
- II. Roll Call: Sign-in sheet circulated.
- III. Presentation of Colors, Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Salvador Cardenas, USCG Liason.
- IV. Inspirational Message: Moment of silence.
- V. Business Meeting: Led by FC David Neal.
  - A. Call for additional agenda items, (members wishing to have items discussed must submit for addition to the agenda.)
  - B. Guest Introductions: Shane Pineda, high school senior, who wants to be a pilot in the USCG. Oswaldo Otero, business owner, who wants to serve the USCG. Nicolas Castillo, senior at University of Miami, who wants to get involved with the Auxiliary. David Ward, security consultant and former chief of police, who wants to join the Auxiliary. Salvador Cardenas, USCG Liason to our Flotilla, who serves active duty in small boat operations and appreciates what the Auxiliary does with assisting in training at the USCG Station.
  - C. Approval of Meeting minutes: April 2017 business meeting minutes circulated for consideration. Motion to approve: First by Scott Blumenthal; Second by Bob Hopps; motion approved by acclimation.
  - D. Member Welfare: Noting of the passing of Julia Mesa, the wife of Julian Mesa, Flotilla member, who was unable to attend meetings due to taking care of his wife. Noting of the passing of former active and distinguished Flotilla member Dominique Romeo, who passed away at the age of 97 years old. He was a very active member. He knew how to do patrols and how to teach the skills to others. Current members Frank Sullivan, Fred Jaca, and Roy Hellman, who knew Dominique very well, expressed sentiments that Dominique was a fun person, a teacher, always there for you supporting you, and a positive influence for all members. He will be missed. Members may visit the Stanfill Funeral Home website for information about services.
  - E. Report from Division: Main issue is the Division budget, which has \$29,000 in the bank, and steps are being reviewed as to figuring out how to use it, perhaps to buy the PPE gear. Initial estimates could be between \$2K to \$3K to spend on a per flotilla basis. There will be an upcoming open house at the USCG Air Station, but a date will be determined at a later time.

VI. Reports: Committee Reports.

- A. Fellowship Committee: Tony Lapicola is organizing the set-up of the canopy display and Frank Sullivan will provide the cookout and food for the NSBW event on May 20th at Black Point Marina to be held between 9am and 2pm. A decision is pending for our July picnic to decide if we should go with Dixie Ribs again to provide the catered food, which was charged last year at a \$15.00 per adult, and \$8.00 for children. The event is scheduled for Saturday July 22nd, at Matheson Hammock Park at the main pavilion. A motion was made to have Dixie Ribs to cater the event. Discussion followed on making sure we have enough members to attend to meet the requirements to get the expected pricing per person, which should be around 40 people. Motion received a First by Tony Lapicola, and a Second by Scott Blumenthal. Approved by acclimation.
- B. Recruitment Committee: Bob Hopps reported that we have three new people attending the meeting tonight who want to join, and a few more are interested who were not in attendance.
- C. Staff Officer Reports - Distributed with agenda.
- |    |                         |    |                         |
|----|-------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| a. | FSO-FN Frank Sullivan   | k. | FSO-PA vacant           |
| b. | FSO-CM Frank Sullivan   | l. | FSO-PE Carol Moppert    |
| c. | FSO-CS William Ambros   | m. | FSO-SR James Guilmartin |
| d. | FSO-HR Bob Hopps        | n. | FSO-VE vacant           |
| e. | FSO-MA Dan Berger       | o. | FSO-AV Steve Cruz       |
| f. | FSO-MS James Guilmartin | p. | FSO-PB Enrique Ventura  |
| g. | FSO-MT David Neal       | q. | FSO-DV vacant           |
| h. | FSO-PV Scott Blumenthal | r. | FSO-CC vacant           |
| i. | FSO-IS Tony Lapicola    |    |                         |
| j. | FSO-OP Ross Gibson      |    |                         |

Notes for FSO Reports:

1) Frank Sullivan read the financial report. The balance is \$10,300 starting in March. But Division dues, the monthly storage fees and pizza fellowship have reduced our balance to \$7,304 dollars. We have fewer boating safety classes. We need to be advised our balance is decreasing.

2) Operations - Ross Gibson reports: Coxswain Eric Jones will go out on May 20th and he needs two qualified crew. Scott Blumenthal, Coxswain PWC, will go out on the same mission. There will be space for trainees. Note that Eric explained for crew or trainees that you should only sign up to go if you are sure that you can serve on the mission. Another mission is planned to be a SAR boat offshore for the Miami Beach Air Show for May 28th. This is an extra mission.

Don't sign up unless you are sure to go. Eric needs to know if you can make it on the Tuesday before the scheduled mission. Trainees can go with other Flotilla's on other missions - talk to David Neal and he can find you a boat that's going out.

3) Carol Moppert - Public Education: On Saturday, May 27th, there will be a boating safety class at Diver's Direct. Please pass out notices to get students. Also, be aware of events that arise in the community so we can set up a table and ask for volunteers to participate.

4) Member Training - David Neal: There will be upcoming training on Monday, May 8th, at the Moose Lodge.

## VII. Old Business

- A. Need for 2017 FSOs: Diversity, VE, Public Affairs, Career Counseling.
- B. Update member information online: Members need to update your email addresses because mailed notices are getting bounced back.
- C. National Safe Boating Week: In addition, there will be a NSBW public visitation representation at Divers Direct on May 21st, from 9:00am until 12:00pm. Members are encouraged to participate. Contact Scott Blumenthal for details.
- D. RS&S Gear: All Coxswains, Crew, and Trainees on boat safety patrol missions are required to have USCG approved safety equipment as of June 1st, 2017. The gear, such as the SAR vest, PFD, Epirbs, and PML and strobes are required and sign-offs on paperwork proving that you have the proper gear will be required. The USCG Station has ordered all SAR vests and equipment, and FC David Neal will be tasked to pick up the gear. We cannot use our own gear after June 1st. Also, Station has ordered specialized gear bags. Coxswains, Crew, and Trainees must carry paperwork with you proving that you were signed off on the equipment. Most gear is checked semi-annually, and the gear must be tested once per month. Inflatable type life jackets must have approved canisters and two pouches for gear, such as for Epirbs and signal mirrors. The SAR vest goes over and outside of your PFD and the vest is set up universally so that all crew has the same gear in specific places and pockets, which puts the Auxiliary in line with what the active duty USCG does.

## VIII. New Business

- A. Standing Rules: We need to vote on the additions to the Standing Rules. The only thing added is in the Appendix, which is where and when we meet and the amount of the dues is set at \$75.00. It was attached to the email. We have about 55 people as total membership. We do have a quorum in order to vote. A motion to append the standing rules for the meeting location and date and the dues amount was made. Motion received a First by Maria Armas, a Second by Tony

Lapicola. More than 2/3rds of the membership voted in the positive, as required for a majority vote, which was approved by acclimation.

- B. Roy Hellman mentioned an Honor Flight event, not affiliated with the Auxiliary, but as a fundraiser on Sunday May 7th, from 12:00pm to 7:00 pm. This honors World War II veterans, and this is one of the ways how they raise money for the honor flights. See Roy for details.
- C. Carol Moppert talked about our Flotilla hours. We need to turn in our hours. We are short on boats, and some of us need to requalify for active crew again. We have other opportunities for people to get involved in more hours for land based events, such as communications, open houses at the Air Station, and community events. Many opportunities are available.
- D. If you have an inflatable, you have to have it signed off. Don't expend the cartridge to test it, but inflate it manually to test it instead. You must have a form proving the inflatable has been tested.
- E. Be advised that Matheson Hammock is checking for parking. For crew for missions you need to get a parking pass at the police station, or you have to pay for parking. David has parking passes for official Auxiliary business, not for going fishing.
- F. Awards: Sustained Auxiliary Service - Award for Fred Jaca, Past Division Commander Award, Public Education, Outstanding Service. Carol Moppert (5<sup>th</sup> Award), Scott Blumenthal (10<sup>th</sup> Award); (7,500 hours) Auxiliary Performance Award VE-RBSVP - Scott Blumenthal; Outstanding Service for Dealer Visits; Auxiliary Membership Service Award - Robert Hopps (10 years), Stanley Flanders (15 years), Roy Hellman (15 years), Federico Jaca (20 years), Anthony Lapicola (10 years). Carol Moppert, Dealer Visits, Service Outstanding for Dealer Visits.
- G. Comments from the Floor: None.

Setting of date for next business meeting: Wednesday, 07 June 2017 at 1930, [Elks Lodge](#), 6304 Southwest 78<sup>th</sup> Street, South Miami, Florida 33143-4928.

Motion to adjourn: First by Maria Armas, Second by Mel Sandberg. Motion to adjourn approved by acclimation.