

Dept. of Homeland Security
US Coast Guard Auxiliary
Flotilla 070-12-06 East Cooper
Auxiliary – Record of Unit Meeting

Unit Number: 070-12-06

Location: Sea School, 624 B Marina Dr., Charleston, SC 29492 (Daniel Island)

Date: 20 April, 2023

Time: 1900

Type of Meeting: Regular Business

The meeting was held in person and electronically via Zoom and was called to order by FC John Swink at 1900, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Officers present: FC John Swink, VFC Dawn Gallapis, FSO–MA, NS John Frassanito, FSO–SR Kathy Pascale, FSO–IS, HR Joe Ego, FSO–PV, VE Bob Gerber, FSO–PB Mike Pascale, FSO–PE, MT Susan White, FSO–DV Scott Heisler

Members present: David Desplaces, Walter Runck, Ed Gerhart, Craig Hammer, Chad Rogers, Wilfredo Rios-Fret

Total attendance: 15 present, QUORUM was met.

Guests Present: Charles Osburn, Diana Belknap, Braden Kushdilian, Dik Kushdilian

Training: None

FC Announcements:

Welcome to our guests this evening.

Tonight is a different meeting format, you'll notice that not everyone is wearing ODUs. Some are wearing uniforms representing different Auxiliary programs they are involved with.

Later in the meeting, we'd like to take some time to talk about those programs, just so we're aware of the different types of activities offered.

Oath of Membership was administered to new flotilla member Wilfredo Rios-Fret, who was also presented with a Membership Certificate. Welcome Wilfredo!

A motion was made by David Desplaces, seconded by Joe Ego, to approve the March minutes. The motion was approved.

Earlier this year we got information from the division about stack ranking of all District 7 flotillas. There are three different criteria that are covered, if anyone wants a copy, happy to share. On a scale of 1-3, we were a 3 (highest) in all categories. Congrats on all the hard work!

As we've emerged from Covid, we're able to do more things. My goal is to make sure we keep meetings moving along, get information out to our flotilla but make sure you're aware of

opportunities and get out and have some fun. The more you put into it, the more you'll get out of it.

Two key components of the Auxiliary mission are Boating Safety & Education as well as Public Safety. Where we are year-to-date: one new member so far, 114 vessel exams, 33 Boat America students, 2,736 logged hours vs 1,954 at the same point last year, 26 hours logged on boats. Operations have been slow with lack of facilities but hopefully will improve.

Some new opportunities where the gold side can use some help. We can be a force multiplier for active duty. Many things we can do, for example GPOW watch stander, standing watch at Comms center, VEs, culinary assistant, boat crew. I encourage everyone to read the article in the Newsletter regarding the Commandant's recent address. Click on the link to hear her address.

VFC Announcements:

As CG Auxiliarists, we are no longer allowed to participate in Wreaths Across America. We can participate as civilians but not as an organized CG group.

Are there any additions to the officer reports that are in the newsletter?

Staff Reports:

Justo Torres: FN, PA: Not present

Joe Ego: IS, HR

IS: Nothing further to report

HR: Nothing further to report

John Swink: OP

OP: We're cautiously optimistic about new facilities. Boat Academy is going on now with Flotilla 12-8. Nothing further to report.

Dawn amendment: John and Dawn are covering Boat Crew Qualification with CG. We have official approval to pursue being CG-qualified crew members. Details will be sent via email.

Susan White: PE, MT:

PE: Class was held last Saturday with 12 participants, 4 youth. Next class is May 20th.

MT: Instructor qualification is now offered online. Our ADSO-MT Kerry Eakins is attempting to get more intense training within the division by doing member training weekends. Late fall or early winter. Contact Susan for more information.

Bob Gerber: VE, PV:

VE: Stickers are available to anyone who needs them.

PV: Nothing further to report

John Frassanito: MA, NS:

MA: Nothing further to report

NS: Nothing further to report

Rhett Myers: CM: Not present.

Dawn Gallapis MS, CS:

MS: Nothing further to report.

CS: Mike Pascale will help with roster/emails and communications/social media.

Scott Heisler: DV: Scott read a statement from Directorate of Diversity and Inclusion.

“Every post is honorable, in which a man/person can serve his country.”

The entire statement was published in the April newsletter.

Mike Pascale: PB: Nothing further to report but two comments:

Scott thank you for submitting the statement from the Directorate, which was in the April newsletter; I've received a request to use it in another newsletter.

Thank you to Joe Ego for your AUXAIR mission submission to the newsletter.

Old Business: None

New Business: MLEA is working on getting a tour together for anyone interested in helping out. Lt. O'Neil has been assigned as project officer to organize next steps.

Awards: The Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation was presented to John Swink by David Desplaces, State Coordinator for Life Jacket Wearer Observation Team. John pointed out that David Desplaces also received the commendation and thanked him for all of his efforts.

Uniform displays/Auxiliary programs. The following members gave a short talk about programs they are qualified for and what we hope to accomplish by holding these roles.

Bob Gerber: Vessel Examiner

Susan White: Public Education

John Frassanito: CA1 (Culinary Assistant 1)

Dawn Gallapis: Ombudsman

Mike Pascale: Quarterdeck watch stander for CGCs STONE and HAMILTON

David Desplaces: Life Jacket study program

Joe Ego: AUXAIR pilot Division 7

Walter Runck: Operational Support

A motion to adjourn was made by Joe Ego and seconded by John Frassanito.

The meeting was adjourned at 2115. Next meeting will take place on 19 May, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by,
FSO-SR Kathy Pascale