

# Waypoints

DIVISION 15, 8<sup>TH</sup> WESTERN RIVERS REGION  
1st Quarter 2020

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## Meet the Division Commander

Welcome! My name is Kevin Rardin. I currently serve as Division 15 Commander of the 8<sup>th</sup> Western Rivers District of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Our five flotillas stretch from Memphis in the East to Fort Smith in the West. Let me tell you a little about the Auxiliary and my experience in it.



I joined the Auxiliary six years ago. I had retired from the Army Reserve two years before, and I was beginning to miss belonging to a group of Americans who are willing to do more than the minimum in life. I read about the Auxiliary: a group of uniformed citizen-volunteers trained to help the Coast Guard in all its many missions except those of an exclusively law enforcement or military nature. I wondered whether there might be a place for me in this organization. I was also interested in learning about small boats. I attended some meetings of the Memphis Flotilla, I asked some questions, and I decided to join. It was one of the best decisions I've ever made.

In the years since, I've met so many good men and women of varying backgrounds. Although prior military service is respected in the Auxiliary, it is not a requirement for membership. We have members from all walks of life. This diversity in backgrounds is one of the strengths of the Auxiliary.

Yes, I learned about boats, but I've also learned about planes. The Auxiliary has an aviation

program, and I'm currently working toward becoming a certified Auxiliary Air Observer. Once I achieve this status, I'll be able to fly as part of an Auxiliary crew on authorized Coast Guard missions.

I've taken on some interesting tasks, everything from setting up Boat Safety classes for the public to mapping locations of boat docks in the Mid-South for the active duty Coast Guard. I've also had the chance to exercise leadership skills at both the Flotilla and Division levels. The Auxiliary makes a contribution to the quality of public life in our country and our communities. I am proud to be a member.

## Central Arkansas Flotilla Receives Boat Donation

In 2019 the flotilla was offered a pontoon boat to serve as a unit facility and with extensive advice from Richard Lawrence, it was accepted for Auxiliary use. It is currently being docked at the Rock City Marina in North Little Rock.



*James Harrison in front of the flotilla's new boat. Photo by Jason Ortega*



*David Keyser and Doris Ayers (center left) swearing in Wanda Thorp (center right) as Flotilla Commander and Janet Kelly (far right) as Vice Flotilla Commander of the Hot Springs Flotilla at their Change of Watch (Photo courtesy of David Keyser)*

## **Wolf River Conservancy's Annual Tree Planting Day DCDR Rardin**

On February 22, 2020, DCDR Rardin and FSO-IS Steven Chow, of the Memphis flotilla, represented the Coast Guard Auxiliary and participated in The Annual Wolf River Conservancy's Tree Planting Day at Shelby Farms. Along with other volunteers from community organizations, a total of 5,000 trees were planted. These trees will stabilize the banks of the Wolf River and prevent soil erosion. The Conservancy's mission is consistent with the Auxiliary's environmental protection mission.



*Kevin Rardin (left) and Steve Chow (right) at Tree Planting Day at the Wolf River Conservancy (Photo courtesy of Kevin Rardin)*

“The Conservancy’s efforts to protect the Wolf River present a meaningful opportunity for the Memphis Flotilla, if Flotilla members will seize it,” said DCDR Rardin.

## **January Division Meeting Based on Notes Taken by SO-HR Patricia Lewis**

The 2020 Change of Watch and 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Division meeting took place January 25 at the Pickering Center in Germantown, TN. Division Commander Kevin Rardin and Division Vice Commander Rick Barnes presented numerous awards and certificates. This was followed by the swearing in of both officers in their same positions for 2020 by District Captain (South) Pat Lewis. The February leadership training class to be held in North Little Rock was discussed. Retired member Pauline McKee led fellowship and prepared both breakfast and lunch for attendees. A significant issue raised by the Fort Smith flotilla was the need for major necessary repairs to the roof and ceiling of the station. Several members of the Memphis flotilla offered to help and a “white elephant” sale is being considered for the May Division meeting to help raise funds to assist with this issue.

## **Diversity and Inclusion SO-DV Doris Ayers**

We are all aware that changes in the population have affected the make-up of all groups. The USCG Auxiliary is no exception. Therefore, we have a plan to disseminate information for Division 15. This will be accomplished through newsletters and training. Diversity brings a new awareness to many of us, and will build understanding, cooperation, respect and inclusion.

We will first begin by exploring the meaning of diversity and then look at the steps we can take to accomplish diversity within Division 15.

## WHAT IS DIVERSITY?

*Diversity is about people. It is about the environment that we work in with each attaining a panacea of accomplishments. It is about how we value and appreciate those that are unlike ourselves. It is about how we think and how that translates into how we act. The Coast Guard considers diversity a matter of **readiness**. We must take pride in our own uniqueness, welcome others as individuals and enjoy our similarities and our differences.*

Diversity is about acknowledging differences and adapting practices to create an inclusive environment in which diverse skills, perspectives and backgrounds are valued. It is about understanding the uniqueness of each individual member which results from a diverse blend of backgrounds and lifestyles and recognizing the value of using those different perspectives and ideas to enhance the quality and outcomes of our mission. Diversity means accepting, welcoming and valuing the differences inherent in every individual member and recognizing the contribution that a diverse membership can make to our organizational effectiveness and operational performance.

*Striving to Accomplish Diversity...* It is important for us to pursue the goals that are set for us by the Commodore, and one of those goals is to implement the goals of the National Commodore's Diversity Policy. The best way to accomplish this is to follow the instructions regarding how a flotilla qualifies for the *NACO Three Star Award for Excellence in Diversity*.

As your Division Staff Officer for Diversity, I would like to see every Flotilla in our Division receive the **NACO Three Star Award for Excellence and Diversity**. This is an annual award intended to recognize Flotillas and Divisions for distinction in managing and valuing diversity. Flotillas that are recommended to receive the NACO Three Star Award of Excellence for Diversity Management are required to accomplish several action items (activities). These action items (activities) are directly related to goals designed to promote a diverse environment. There are only four goal categories to address.

- **Goal #1 Create a Positive Environment**
- **Goal #2 Value all Members**
- **Goal #3 Promote Individual Success**
- **Goal #4 Carry out Diverse Outreach Activities in the Community**

Each Goal has six (6) action items (activities), which are listed on Form 7064, to choose from. Of the six, we need to accomplish only four of them to meet criteria.

Most likely we have all done the work to be eligible for this award and now it's just a matter of completing the **FORM 7064** (Application for Award). This Form can be found in the Forms Warehouse. It is a good idea to save this form to your desktop as a working copy.

I would like to work with you or someone in your flotilla to help complete this form for 2019. The submission of FORM 7064 would be sent directly to the Deputy Assistant National Commodore for Diversity (ANACO-DV'd) via email by June 30, 2020 for the work done in 2019).

## **Human Resources** **SO-HR Patricia Lewis**

Recruiting and retention are vital for the growth of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. When the number of disenrollments are higher than the number of recruits it is important to look at what auxiliary members can do make a change.

Mentoring is the piece of the solution that pulls it all together and creates an environment that encourages members to achieve and find their favorite mission. Successful mentoring relationships have mutual respect, trust built through good communication, realistic self-expectations and self-perceptions. Integrity equals follow through on what one says they will do. A mentor gives honest, fair feedback. Mentor and member reach agreement on abilities, talent, and progress. Expectations are shared.

Mentor and Mentee equals partnership. An agreement between two people. It is sharing

experiences and expertise through listening to each other to help with personal and professional growth. Mentoring is not just for new members. At times, our more experienced members find themselves needing to change their missions for one reason or another. When a member can no longer do their favorite mission, they can find support and encouragement through a mentor relationship.

Remember, we are a team of professional volunteers working together to support the U S Coast Guard.

## **Communications** **SO-CM Doris Ayers**

Beginning December 2019 through September 2020, the Coast Guard Auxiliary National Staff Telecommunications Division is providing Auxiliarists the opportunity to test a new communications technology known as Motorola's WAVE Mobile Communicator which is an application that operates through cell phones, laptop computers, tablets and two-way radios. Communication is protected with standards-based encryption and security protocols to provide privacy and data integrity.

National Telecommunications is evaluating WAVE as a means of providing communications for our general membership and for our management groups. WAVE is not being considered as a replacement for our two-way radios which operate regardless of the availability of cellular or Wi-Fi service. But, soon, we hope to connect WAVE to some of our two-way radio networks.

Fifteen WAVE licenses were allocated to all Auxiliary Districts for a 15-day period. District 8WR was given an opportunity to test out the WAVE system for the 15-day period beginning in December 2019. On Dec 27, 2019, I was given the opportunity to participate in the WAVE Project with other members from our Division to test and evaluate WAVE. After spending the day on this system and seeing its capabilities, I believe WAVE would be a great asset for Telecommunications.

Some of WAVE's features include:

- Group calling for everyone in a WAVE talk group
- One-to-one calling for making private calls to anyone in the WAVE System
- User status showing other WAVE users on the system with a map showing their locations in real time.
- Call history showing your recent conversations and messages
- Multiple talk groups will be available (This is much like two-way radio channels)
- Restricted talk groups where certain groups/units/teams can talk and conversations will not appear on unauthorized user's WAVE screens.
- Voice encryption where federally approved AES-256 encryption protects your conversation from being heard by anyone outside of WAVE.



*Michael Strobel at the Central Arkansas Flotilla booth at the Little Rock Marine Expo in January (Photo courtesy of Michael Strobel).*

## Recent Awards

Central Arkansas flotilla: Frank Wilson received the AUXOP award and Jason Ortega earned his Vessel Examiner Qualification.

Hot Springs flotilla: Janet Kelley and Jack Thorp received the Apple Award.

Fort Smith flotilla: Kenneth Pevehouse and Teddy Thornton were awarded their Crew Qualification Certificates.

Memphis flotilla: Kevin Rardin, Rick Barnes, and Jake Mohundro received their 5-year Membership Service Award. Steve Chow received his 3<sup>rd</sup> Sustained Service Award.

Russellville Flotilla: Curtis Cutler received his 20 Year Membership Service Certificate and Myra J. and Dennis Carl Harris received 10 Year Membership Service Certificates. Dennis Carl Harris received the Apple Award for 2018 for 15 to 100 hours as Lead Instructor. Blaine Selby received the VE/RBS Service Award for both 2018 and 2019 and the Public Education Service Award for 2018.

Clara Meyer, SO-FN, received her 40-year Membership Service Certificate.

## Division Facebook Page

For those members that use Facebook, please consider "liking" the Division's new Facebook page and sharing articles from it with your friends. It can be found at [https://www.facebook.com/US-Coast-Guard-Auxiliary-Division-15-8th-Western-Rivers-110539307146029/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/US-Coast-Guard-Auxiliary-Division-15-8th-Western-Rivers-110539307146029/?modal=admin_todo_tour)

## Division Schedule 2020

May 16: Hot Springs Auxiliary station.

June? Fort Smith? Operations exercise with Division 5.

July 15: Webex

October 3: Central Arkansas. Will be hosted by the Fort Smith flotilla at a location to be determined.

## 2020 Officers and Staff

DCDR	Kevin Rardin
VCDR	Rick Barnes
IPDCR	Dan Turner
SO-CS	Blake Sasse
SO-CM	Doris Ayers
SO-DV	Doris Ayers
SO-FN	Clara Meyer
SO-FS	Bob Evans
SO-HR	Patricia Lewis
SO-IS	Phil Hunkins
SO-MA	Joe Zehler
SO-MS	Patricia Lewis
SO-NS	Frank Wilson
SO-OP	Michael Strobel
SA-PA	Shelly Ayers
SO-PB	Blake Sasse
SO-VE	William Woodell

Waypoints is the official quarterly newsletter of Division 15, 8<sup>th</sup> Western Rivers Region of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

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