



US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Saginaw Bay

Division 24

Planning Meeting Minutes 18 December 2021

US Coast Guard STA/ANT Saginaw River, STA Tawas

Garrison Bromwell, DCDR

Randy Mey, DCDR(e)

* **Call to Order:** The planning meeting was called to order by Garrison Bromwell, DCDR at 1000 hrs. IPDCDR Bob Wolff led the Pledge of Allegiance.

* **Roll Call:** Members present were: Garrison Bromwell, DCDR; Randy Mey, VDCDR; Bob Wolff, IPDCDR; Chris Howard, FC 24-01; Steve Craighead, FC 24-02; Bob Campbell, FC 24-08; Dave Wallace, VCDR(e); as well as guest Ken Mangus, DCAPT. DCDR (e) Randy Mey introduced the 2022 Division 24 Bridge. DCDR Garrison Bromwell introduced the Division 24 Staff Officers.

* **Special Board Meeting:** DCDR Bromwell called the roll of the 2021 Board due to microphone issues with SO-SR. The Chair entertained a motion from Bob Wolff to pay \$676.89 for 1,000 ice safety brochures, combining funds from flotillas and Division 24. FC Steve Craighead seconded the motion. During discussion, Bob Wolff stated that he presented a sample brochure to the

Station Saginaw River OIC and received positive feedback. Motion carried unanimously. Special Board meeting ended at 1012 hrs.

*** Review of End of the Year Report (2021):** DCDR Bromwell presented data comparing years 2018/2019/2021. Most relevant numbers are down for the Division. Although the “health” status of Division 24 is troubling, the numbers aren’t terrible. Membership levels of three of the flotillas are concerning. DCAPT Ken Mangus offered any help the Division might need. He stressed that public outreach via VSCs and public education classes will be extremely important for recruitment efforts.

*** Discussion of 2022 Goals:** DCDR Bromwell pointed out that all goals must be SMART goals, i.e. Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-Based. VCDR Randy Mey led a general discussion of how to recruit new AUX members. One suggestion was to hand out brochures and invite membership during Vessel Exams. Bob Wolff stressed the importance of the Program Visitor role, and that official business cards should accompany brochure distribution. IPDCDR Wolff also pointed out that VE and PV training needs to be updated. Both Bob Wolff and DCDR Bromwell suggested that a PA booth should be present at every VE event.

-Membership Growth: VCDR Randy Mey suggested a target of 15 new members; specifically five each for the three flotillas in crisis mode. Both DCDR Bromwell and VCDR Mey advocated for keeping the 2021 goal of “24 for 24”. i.e. 24 new members for Division 24 in 2022. VCDR Mey pointed out that the new member integration process is often convoluted and time-consuming. Bob Wolff suggested setting up a day for flotillas to learn “hands-on” how to log on to Auxdata II and Teams. In the Sea Scout program, the ship in Midland is going well. The Division may gain membership from adult assistants and older student members. FC Bob Campbell stated that efforts to start a ship in Tawas have not been successful yet. DCDR Bromwell suggested that a formal goal for 2022 should be to establish a Sea Scout Ship in Tawas.

-Coast Guard Support: IPDCDR Wolff stated that the Division should establish a long-range goal of seven (7) watch-standers. In the short-term, both watch-standing and Ice Patrol need at least two new participants in order to aid active duty personnel. In the Culinary Assistance program, DCDR Bromwell suggested a goal of two CA qualified members in order to further serve the active duty at Station Saginaw River.

-VSCs and Dealer Visits: DCDR Bromwell suggested that each flotilla publicize the Dealer Visit program to familiarize members with that aspect of the Auxiliary mission. In addition, the DCDR suggested a 2022 goal of twenty percent growth for the PV mission.

-Succession Planning: DCDR Bromwell stressed the need for newer members to step up for leadership positions. VCDR Mey stated his belief that lack of enthusiasm is an underlying problem. DCDR stated that each flotilla will have a succession plan by 01 July 2022.

-Fellowship: DCDR Bromwell stated that 2022 Change of Watch will be virtual, but that the Division meeting in July will hopefully be in-person. IPDCDR Bob Wolff suggested going to a Great Lakes Loons baseball game. SO-CM Walt Kline stated that the Auxiliary could get its name on the scoreboard for publicity.

-Other Suggestions: VCDR Randy Mey stressed the need for a speakers bureau to spread the word about the Auxiliary. Speakers should be presenting the Auxiliary mission to fishing and boating clubs and other civic groups. DCDR Bromwell suggested a goal for each flotilla to appoint a PA officer (if there isn't one currently) to work with the Division 24 PA officer.

SO-CM Walt Kline suggested that technical training should be simple and reinforced. "Don't handle too much at one time."

*** Meeting Calendar for 2022:**

22 January @1400 hrs – Division Meeting and Change of Watch

09 April @1000 hrs – Division Meeting (hybrid)

09 July – Summer Division gathering

08 October @1000 hrs – Division Elections

10 December @1000 hrs – Division Planning Meeting

*** Closing Remarks:** DCAPT Ken Mangus stated that the Division meeting was productive, with reasonable goals. He offered to help with meeting those goals.

*** Debrief: Good:** Teams worked (Bob Wolff). Achievable goals (DCAPT Mangus). Good dialogue (Randy Mey). **Bad:** Not enough participation (Walt Kline). **How to do better next time?:** Meet in person (DCDR Bromwell)

Finally, Dave Wallace "involuntarily volunteered" to provide meat for July's gathering.

DCDR Garrison Bromwell closed the meeting at 1140 hrs.