



US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Saginaw Bay

Division 24

Division 24 Change of Watch and Meeting Minutes 22 January 2022

United States Coast Guard STA/ANT Saginaw River, STA Tawas

Randy Mey, DCDR

Dave Wallace, VCDR

***Call to Order:** The Division Change of Watch was called to order by DCDR Randy Mey via on-line meeting at 1414 hrs.

***Pledge of Allegiance:** All present were led in the Pledge by COMO Cathie Slabaugh.

***Roll Call:** Members present were: Randy Mey, DCDR; Dave Wallace, VCDR; Garrison Bromwell, IPDCDR; Bob Wolff, FC 24-01; Steve Craighead, FC-02; Wes Gulliver, FC 24-05; Bob Campbell, FC 24-08; Ron View, SO-FN, SO-IS; Walt Kline, SO-CM; John Penne, SO-OP; Eric Koch;

Kurt Schulze; Ken Mangus, DCAPT-C; COMO Cathie Slabaugh; BMCS Ken Mize; and CAPT Brad Kelly, USCG.

***Missing Members:** VCDR Dave Wallace recognized members who have passed by narrating the Missing Members Table and Honors Ceremony.

***Division and Flotilla Elected Officers:** BMCS Ken Mize read the Prologue and CAPT Brad Kelly led the Flotilla Officers' oath. CAPT Kelly led the oath of Division officers. At 1424 hrs, DCDR Randy Mey officially relieved Garrison Bromwell of command of Division 24.

***Awards:**

Popeye Award: Ed Fibranze passed this award to Randy Mey to honor his work with the Sebewaing Flotilla.

Member Training Instructor: 2nd: Bob Wolff; 1st: Garrison Bromwell.

Public Education Instructor: 3rd: Byron Arnold; 2nd: Ed Fibranze; 1st: Wes Gulliver.

Vessel Exams: 3rd: Jerri Smith; 2nd: Byron Arnold; 1st: Garrison Bromwell.

Dealer Visits: 3rd: John Allen; 2nd: John Locke; 1st: Randy Mey.

Coast Guard Op. Support: 3rd: Chris Howard; 2nd: Bob Wolff; 1st: Garrison Bromwell.

Aviation Operations – Pilot: 2nd: Bill Church; 1st: Ron Cybulski.

Air Crew/Observer: 3rd: Dave Stokes; 2nd: Danny Haag; 1st: Mark Francisco.

Flotilla Public Affairs: Bay City 24-01.

Member Growth: Bay City 24-01.

VCDR Annual Award: Ron View.

DCDR Annual Award: Chris Howard.

***Honored Guests:** DCDR Randy Mey introduced CAPT Brad Kelly, Commander of Sector Detroit. CAPT Kelly welcomed the new elected officers and gave thanks to all in the USCG Auxiliary. CAPT Kelly stressed the importance of living and exemplifying a culture of respect and devotion to duty.

In addition, DCDR Mey introduced BMCS Ken Mize, Officer in Charge of Station Saginaw River. BMCS Mize in his remarks offered that there will be challenges this year, but devotion to duty always shines through.

DCAPT Ken Mangus thanked out-going DCDR Garrison Bromwell for his service, congratulations to the award winners, and offered his assistance to the Division 24 Flotillas if needed.

***IPDCDR's Remarks:** Garrison Bromwell stated that it had been a remarkable two years since he took the oath of office. He thanked all Division 24 members coping with COVID-19 changes, especially moving to on-line meetings. He also stressed that any achievement is shared by *all* members.

***District 9CR COMO's Remarks:** COMO Cathie Slabaugh stated that the Auxiliary has met the challenges of COVID-19. COMO Slabaugh offered an historical quote to inspire Division 24: "You've seen my descent – Now watch my rising."

***Closing:** DCDR Randy Mey adjourned the Change of Watch at 1450 hrs.

***Division 24 Board Meeting:** DCDR Mey convened the Board Meeting at 1502 hrs. Chris Howard, SO-SR, called the roll.

*Garrison Bromwell made a motion to accept the Minutes of the October and December Division Meetings, seconded by Bob Campbell. Motion passed unanimously.

*Garrison Bromwell made a motion to accept the Division 24 Finance Statement, seconded by Bob Wolff. Motion passed unanimously.

*Old Business: Garrison Bromwell revisited efforts to develop a Division 24 logo. He reported that we will need a new designer. Several members offered suggestions for logo designs.

* New Business: COMO Cathie Slabaugh outlined COVID reconstitution guidance for District 9CR. There is now a vaccine mandate for Auxiliary members if meeting with the public or U.S. Coast Guard. Medical and religious exemption language is being developed. Members must fill out a COVID attestation form if wanting access to a federal building or Coast Guard Station. Outdoor events will be approved by the DCDR through a "blanket" assignment to duty. All other events of less than 50 people must be approved by DIRAUX.

*Marketing Flotillas: DCDR Randy Mey introduced the following strategies for further development:

- Provide contact information with Vessel Safety Checks
- Leave "Join the Auxiliary" pamphlets during Dealer Visits
- Safe Boating Week proclamations
- Public Affairs Booths at all VSC Blitzes
- Public Speaking events when allowed
- Social Media: Active Facebook accounts for each flotilla; schedule training.
- Radio, TV
- Sea Scouts, Boys and Girl Scouts, Sea Cadets meetings when allowed.

-Boater Safety courses: Always include Flotilla contact info.

VCDR Dave Wallace will work with Vessel Examiners to hand out contact information as well as Auxiliary recruitment info. DCAPT Ken Mangus suggested handing out garbage bags with Auxiliary logo and contact info. Bob Wolff stressed the importance of “working” the Auxiliary mission message into Vessel Exams. VCDR Wallace suggested getting Safe Boating Week proclamations to the city/township levels by 01 May at the latest. He suggested each Flotilla be responsible for getting three proclamations this year, perhaps at the city, county or village level. DCDR Mey stated that his son would be willing to conduct training in producing new social media content.

*Five minute break at 1600 hrs.

*Meeting reconvened at 1605 hrs. Wes Gulliver suggested contacting “Under the Radar Michigan” TV show on PBS for a possible Auxiliary segment. IPDCDR Bromwell stressed the importance of *always* having a Public Affairs booth present at Auxiliary events. In addition, Boater Safety courses should *always* include an invitation to join the Auxiliary.

***Member Training:** Bob Wolff, FC 24-01, offered training from the USCG Social Media Handbook. Overall strategy should always be to tailor a message to your audience. Auxiliary members working with social media should be especially careful about privacy issues, conform to operational security, and post no “face” pictures of children unless a release has been signed by a parent/guardian.

***Adjournment:** DCDR Randy Mey adjourned the meeting at 1627 hrs.