



**FLOTILLA 092-06-04**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 8, 2023**  
<http://uscgauxlorain.us/>



## **CALL TO ORDER BY FLOTILLA COMMANDER**

MEETING FORMAT: In-Person and Virtual

ACTUAL START TIME: 19:35

Pledge led by: Bruce Kole

Invocation By: Al Rosich

Total Attending: 10 In-Person: 6 On-Line: 4 Retired Member: 1

### **SECRETARY REPORT - Kevin Settle**

Prior Meeting Minutes Report - Kevin Settle FSO-SR

No additions or corrections

Motion to Accept by: Jack Benton

Second Motion by: Michele Rosich

Vote: Passed

### **FINANCE OFFICER REPORT - Peter Baillie**

- No Activity. Financial balance remains the same as January 2023.  
No Vote Because of no change in balance

### **FLOTILLA COMMANDER REPORT - Bill Ferry**

In February, VFC Rutter and I held our second Flotilla monthly meeting. We've really been stretching to use new technology to build upon the work of my predecessor, Russ Cromwell, who instituted Virtual Meetings for our Flotilla during the Covid emergency and really made it a natural part of our Flotilla. VFC Rutter and I discussed ways to take

Russ's baton and run with it. We held a successful, technologically great meeting. Some of the technologies that we're using are things some readers take for granted, but new to us (to me). Others are all new, pioneering stuff. One thing we are doing that may be unique or at least rare is that we have a hybrid meeting, with about a dozen people live in the room at Station Lorain and about a dozen more online, virtually. This hybrid meeting format is challenging - but it really opens up attendance to all members - even those with health and mobility issues.

Here are some things we've done: we learned that audio feedback issues are caused, on both Virtual platforms we've used, whenever there are two computers/tablets/phones on in the room with ANY amount of speaker or microphone. We instituted a rule that only one computer will handle ALL audio for the room. There can be multiple computers in the room, but both Virtual platforms we've used (Zoom and GoTo) do not allow iPads or phones to go to a zero volume level - thus there is ALWAYS feedback if one of those is used. But we have had VFC Rutter, VDC Cromwell, and FC Ferry's computers all on at the same time (albeit Rutter and Cromwell at a zero level of volume).

Next, we wanted to improve the pickup of sound from the room. We are using an after-market, high-end "omni-directional" (all direction) microphone, plugged into the main meeting computer. This sits in the middle of the room and, after testing and experience, we have learned that it will reliably pick up all reasonably strong voices. We have a couple members who are known to have quiet voices - and for those persons, we ask them to come to the table where they are closer to the mic.

We wanted the folks at home, the Virtual meeting participants, to SEE what was going on in the room. Zoom allows a remote camera, which in our case is FC Ferry's iPhone mounted on a tripod, which we use by placing at the front of the room, by our projection device (a big, big TV on the wall). This remote camera faces the audience and can be switched away from FC Ferry's ugly mug to the glorious faces of the audience. We keep it on the audience in the pre-meeting social time, and we use it any time the focus is not on FC Ferry.

Finally, FC Ferry is catching up with VFC Rutter and VDC Cromwell in learning to use the Share Screen function. In addition to our trying to get meeting times, or rather the "business" part of the meeting over with more quickly, and to make meetings more fun, we are trying to bring in more "life" to the Members. So in this last meeting we shared pictures of our Members doing outside, non-Auxiliary things that they enjoy. We had a

picture of Member Joe Bercik pitching a baseball at Pirates Baseball Fantasy Camp in Florida. And of FSO-MS Bruce Kole relaxing on a tropical beach on his last vacation. These lighter moments keep things fun - and are easy to accomplish using the Zoom software.

### **MORE MEETING NEWS**

In our February meeting, we gave some time to Black History Month. Coincidentally, we have an African-American member who recently took a painting class and painted a huge (4' x 6'?) painting of a great American, Olivia Hooker, who was the first black woman in the Coast Guard, was a distinguished professor, and an Auxiliary member. Flotilla Member Jolyn Jones gave a short talk about the challenges Dr. Hooker faced, especially in those times, and how she overcame those challenges so that she could serve her country. A BIG BRAVO ZULU to Member Jolyn Jones for delivering an excellent talk, and showing her painting (which we brought to the Station). This was our FIRST non-training, non-official talk solely for the interest of our members and I could NOT be PROUDER than I am of Jolyn.

We are seeking a speaker for our next meeting, which is during WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH. Suggestions???

### **FINANCE NEWS**

Our Flotilla put together, rather quickly, an Audit Committee, which went over FSO-FN Peter Baillie's books for 2022. Bravo Zulu to the Committee Members, who JUMPED at the opportunity to serve: Chairman Jack Benton, Gary Krause, Chris Kuebler, and Tom Cole. And a big Bravo Zulu to FSO-FN Baillie, who passed the audit with flying colors.

### **INTRA-DIVISION COOPERATION**

Flotilla 092-06-04 is acutely aware of the challenges our fellow 092-06 Flotillas face in terms of Membership, Activity, and etc. It seems every membership organization, from Country Clubs, to Rotary, to Churches are having trouble, much of it to do with Covid - but more likely ACCELERATED by Covid. Membership in community organizations has been declining for a couple decades.

Our Flotilla has been blessed and/or lucky to remain strong during these trying times. And we are very fortunate to be based out of Station Lorain, which provides us space for an office, a supply room, a supply shed, a tool shed, and a boat garage. Quintuple blessed, perhaps.

We know that Akron has trouble keeping up excitement while unable to do activities in their local waters, due to lack of USCG radio support. And we know that Goodyear (Huron River) has too few active members (Baird Pfahl cannot be ALL the FSO positions, though he tries).

Every Flotilla has its ups and downs over time.

What I would like to do is promote INTRA-DIVISION Cooperation. We have a strong Boat Crew group. We could use another Coxswain. We sometimes could use more crew. But in any case, we're ON THE WATER. The other Flotillas Boat Crew members should JOIN US for missions.

We have a good track record of Social Activities. We have members two-hours away (Kevin Settle) and members two minutes away (Russ Cromwell and Jack Benton). Yet we GET TOGETHER for Social Events. There is NO REASON not to invite Akron and Goodyear to these events. Especially true in that many Goodyear members have to drive PAST Lorain to get to the Huron River. And they drive from AKRON. We are ALL ONE. Let's act like it.

Flotilla Commander Knish is setting up for the Cuyahoga Falls Memorial Day Parade. Last year, Lorain participated in this Akron Flotilla event. I propose we participate again - and let the planning take into account the early start, the long drive, and the long day that we Lorain folks face. Last year we almost got it right. Let's perfect the job this year and support Akron in this Parade.

Flotilla Commander Tremelling - let's hear it. How can we help your Flotilla? I think our Facility Boat needs to explore the Huron River basin, stop for lunch at a place of your recommendation, and really start to get to know you.

I can speak for many of our Flotilla Members when I say that we have more fun when we work together with others. Let's have some fun. This is a volunteer organization. We all know why we're here - but drudgery is NOT one of the reasons. We can accomplish much together. I hope to help this along.

## **REPORT FROM DIVISION COMMANDER - Dave McCollum**

- No Report

**VICE FLOTILLA COMMANDER REPORT - Jeff Rutter**

- VFC contacted staff members to remind them that their February report was due.

**FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICER REPORTS**

**FSO-AS Jeff Rutter (Aux Scout) rutterj@gmail.com**

- I have been working with the SO-AS (Ferry), AUC Jack Benton, and Virginia Suda from Division 092-07, on core organizing for the Safety at Sea Event, Saturday 22 July 2023. The latest has been to create a “Boarding Manual”, which gives information to potential registrants. This will be distributed before the end of February. The event is already being promoted by some Sea Scout Ships and Leaders. We have “upped our game” this year in creating a deadline by which registrations must be made - before we make a go/no-go decision on the event, which date is a whole month prior to the event date. In this way we can make the go/no-go decision before significant resources (Auxiliarists’ time, talent, and maybe treasure) are committed.

**FSO-CM Peter Baillie (Communications Officer) angusbaillie@yahoo.com**

- No Report

**FSO-CS Tom Cole Communication Services) tomcole430@gmail.com**

- I made some updates to our flotilla calendar and website.

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**SPECIAL SECTION OF THE MINUTES**

If you are reading this Special Section of the Minutes, please keep it a secret from others, but let Jeff Rutter know you have found the “Special Section”. You will earn our praise, and a small token of our appreciation for participating in the governance of YOUR Flotilla by reading the Minutes. Thank you!

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**FSO-DV Dave McCollum (Diversity) [daveaux0604@gmail.com](mailto:daveaux0604@gmail.com)**

- Dave had no report, Bill added a note about the Auxiliary being unable to charter a single-gender Sea Scout Ship, as violating our own principles.

**FSO-HR Dave McCollum (HumanResources)[daveaux0604@gmail.com](mailto:daveaux0604@gmail.com)**

- No Report

**SO-IS Michele Rosich (Information Services) [merosich@windstream.net](mailto:merosich@windstream.net)**

- Reminder to members who are VSC's - your VE Workshop needs to be done before June 30, 2023 for this year to be entered into AUXDATA II.
- Requesting members to turn in their hours monthly so that they can be entered into AUXDATA II each month.

**FSO-MA Robert Koenig (Materials) [capt.bobonlake.erie@gmail.com](mailto:capt.bobonlake.erie@gmail.com)**

- Put an order in with ANSC for what we need for the start of the boating season. The items on order will be delivered to Russ Cromwell and he will take the supplies to the CG Station Auxiliary Document Room.
- Met with Dave McCollum to sign some 7025 forms missing my signature.

**FSO-MS Bruce Kole (Marine Safety) [brukole@gmail.com](mailto:brukole@gmail.com)**

- Our Division 06 now includes three active flotillas. Flotillas 092-06-04 and 05 have FSO-MS officers. Flotilla 092-06-01 FC and VFC have been contacted regarding Marine Safety and Environmental Protection activities.
- Flotilla 092-06-04 incorporated a MS training session in the February online/in person Flotilla meeting. The current National Security Threat level was examined and followed up with "America's Waterway Watch" video. The implications of "See something, Say something" were discussed as it relates to the Port of Lorain and on the water missions.
- The next MS training session is being scheduled and will examine threats to the water of the Great Lakes, Lake Erie in particular. The impacts of PFAS, synthetic "forever chemicals," pose dangers for fisheries and the drinking water of 500,000 people in Ohio. The Black River Remedial Action Plan will also be updated.

**FSO-MT Jeff Rutter (Member Training) [rutterj@gmail.com](mailto:rutterj@gmail.com)**

- Spring D-Train is coming up fast. District Training Conference takes place March 17-19 at the Clarion Hotel Marina and Conference Center in Dunkirk, NY. Nearly all of the training sessions are on Saturday, March 18. If you didn't get the email from Russ with all the info, please let him know and he will get it sent to you.
- Boat Crew training is ongoing.

**FSO-NS Thomas D Raszka (Navigation Systems) [flybuoy2@yahoo.com](mailto:flybuoy2@yahoo.com)**

- No Report

**FSO-OP Jack Benton (Operations) [trilogy1850@gmail.com](mailto:trilogy1850@gmail.com)**

- Flotilla 06-04 Performed 10 Station Lorain Security Checks for February.
- In cooperation with Cleveland Harbor OIC, Flotilla 6-4 has removed all hazardous chemicals they have used in maintaining their Operational Facility prior to the station's Lorain's upcoming environmental inspection. Cleveland Harbor will work with our Flotilla to establish its own SDS (Safety Data Sheets) inventory and supply us with an appropriate locker for storage.
- MSU Cleveland offered us some shelving units they were replacing to upgrade our RBS and PPE storage at station Lorain, which we accepted and have now installed.
- Flotilla Operations Crew continues to upgrade and relocate some of its Facility Electronics for this coming season.

**FSO-PA Kevin Settle (Public Affairs) [kevmac447@yahoo.com](mailto:kevmac447@yahoo.com)**

- Plans are being made for all available Flotillas in Division 6 to be involved in the Cuyahoga Falls Memorial Day Parade. More details when the parade gets closer.
- If there are any other parades we would like to be involved in as a Division please let us know.
- Vermillion Safety town will be June 14th. Bill Ferry & Jeff Rutter will be representing Flotilla 04.

**FSO-PB Russ Cromwell (Publications) [auxruss@twc.com](mailto:auxruss@twc.com)**

- No Activity - Nothing turned in to use for a publication

- But we did have some activities we COULD have used in a newsletter, but no one thought of taking pictures or writing an article on the activities. I was one of the members in the activity and I forgot to take pictures too, so I am equally at fault. The bottom line is if we don't submit things for a newsletter, there is no newsletter.

**FSO-PE Bill Ferry (Public Education) [clevelandbill@mac.com](mailto:clevelandbill@mac.com)**

- The FSO-PE of Flotilla 092-06-04 (Lorain) was approached by a member of the Bay Village 60+ group, which is sponsored by the City of Bay Village Community Development department. They are asking if our Flotilla can put on a presentation about kayaking to their members. Members of the Bay Boat Club will be invited, also (the Bay Boat Club has approximately 100 kayak-only members). They are talking about April for a date, to be announced. Contact information was shared.
- In a continuation of our presentations to the Vermilion Police Department's Safety Town, Flotilla 092-06-04 (Lorain) will once again present on June 14th at the Vermilion Elementary School. We do two sessions, as they have two "shifts" of pre-K children. This year, we have been asked to give general swimming information in addition to our one note samba "Don't Just Pack It - WEAR Your Life Jacket".

**SO-PV Russ Cromwell (Program Visitor) [auxruss@twc.com](mailto:auxruss@twc.com)**

- No PV's reported for February 2023 for our 04 flotilla.
- FSO-MA officer has ordered some new documents for us to use. He is starting to build up our supplies a little so we don't run short. Bob has sent the items to my address and when they arrive I will take them to our CG Station Auxiliary Document room.
- If anyone is interested in being an RBS/PV visitor, please contact me. Russ Cromwell ([auxruss@twc.com](mailto:auxruss@twc.com))
- Will be sending a ZOOM invite to VEs and PVs to discuss our techniques, procedures, and paperwork processing. At this time, it looks like March 22nd at 1900 (7 PM), and should only take around 1 hour to cover things. If you are not a VE or a PV and would like to attend the Zoom meeting, contact Russ Cromwell at [auxruss@twc.com](mailto:auxruss@twc.com).



## **FSO-VE Russ Cromwell (Vessel Examination) auxruss@twc.com**

- The 2023 VE Workshop has been turned in by quite a few members according to our FSO-IS Officer Michele. If you are a VE and haven't done yours yet please do the 2023 Workshop. If you need help finding it, contact Russ Cromwell.
- Our First VE Outreach has been scheduled thanks to Bill Ferry FC of our flotilla. Bill was contacted by Bay Village Boat Club requesting a VE Outreach Day on May 20, 2023. The starting time is still to be determined and will be mentioned in a future information update. So VE's in 04 get your 2023 workshop done if you haven't finished it yet!
- I Will be sending a ZOOM invite to VEs and PVs to discuss our techniques, procedures, and paperwork processing. At this time, it looks like March 22nd at 1900 (7 PM), and should only take around 1 hour to cover things. If you are not a VE or a PV and would like to attend the Zoom meeting, contact Russ Cromwell at [auxruss@twc.com](mailto:auxruss@twc.com).
- In discussion - mentioned were the new Dockside Advising App (the old term for Dockside Advising was "Dockwalking", which has "connotations", so we are not using that term any longer. Further, a suggestion was made that VEs, PVs, and Dockside Advisors be always caring Membership Information/Pamphlet/Application.

## **SPECIAL REPORTS OR COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **AUXPAD Jeff Burdick (or Bill Ferry)**

- No report

### **SUNSHINE COMMITTEE Jolyn Jones**

**(Sent in February)**

**Aux Anniversaires 7 cards !!**

**Jolyn jones ,Margaret Tournier ,Ken Distler ,Randy Johr ,Geared Krause ,Joseph Golob , Jeffrey Rutter**

**BIRTHDAYS 🎂! #6**

**Jack Benton, George Harizal, Margaret Tournier, Jeff Burdick, Don Shoonover, Marie Shimmandl**

Jolyn needs more stamps.

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Memorial Day Parade in Cuyahoga Falls.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Have you considered becoming a Culinary Specialist (CS) in the Auxiliary Culinary Assistance program?
- Let's Decide if we're doing the Memorial Day Parade in Cuyahoga Falls.
- Let's Do A Fish Fry - Friday March 24th. WHERE?
- We are in need of many committee's. Social, Awards, Historical, Safety at Sea, Parade, Honor Guard, Uniform .... Please let FC know what you are interested in being involved with.
- D-Train is in March and the Flotilla will give any member not under orders \$50 to help defray their expenses. If they attend and submit a receipt, they will be reimbursed. Motion by Jack Benton, 2nd Russ Cromwell, passed by all in attendance. WE HAVE ONE MORE SEAT IN A CAR ...
- Joyln bought cards for the Sunshine Committee and spent \$52.81. Anything over \$50 needs to be approved by the Flotilla. She bought a quantity of very nice cards for Birthdays and Anniversaries  
Motion Russ Cromwell to reimburse \$52.81 to Jolyn.  
2nd Al Rosich  
All in favor- passed
- March 24 social event for a Fish Fry, details to come.

### **AWARDS:**

DCDR Dave McCollum gave a Golden Quill award to Russ Cromwell for his efforts at doing the minutes while Kevin Settle was not at the last meeting. (It took him 20hrs!)

### **GENERAL AUXILIARY DISCUSSION**

Bruce Kole made a presentation about micro-plastics.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

- Division Commander - Dave McCollum  
Congrats to Russ on the Golden Quill Award
- IPDCDR – Open
- Flotilla Commander - Bill Ferry (“I’ve said enough”)
- VFC - Jeff Rutter
- IPFC -Russ Cromwell
- Senior Active Member - Jack Benton  
“We need to see more people at our meeting”
- Retired members – Rose Melko  
“I am proud to be a Retired member of this organization and Flotilla”
- Guests/ Other members (None)

## **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

- Motion to Adjourn by: Bruce Kole
- Second Motion by: Russ Cromwell
- Vote: Pass
- Actual Adjourn Time: 20:38hrs

<b>IMPORTANT DATES</b>		
March 17, 18, 19	Spring D-Train	Dunkirk, NY
March 24	Flotilla Fish Fry 4:30PM	Donerschwaben Olmsted Falls
April 22	Auxiliary Social Event	To Be Announced
May 20 - 26	National Safe Boating Week	Everywhere
May 20 (Confirmed)	VSC Outreach Event (in the AM)	Bay Boat Club
May 29 (Approved)	Memorial Day Parade	Cuyahoga Falls
June 24	VSC Outreach & PICNIC	To Be Announced
July 6 - 9	Cleveland Tall Ships (MAYBE)	Cleveland
July 22	SAFETY AT SEA	Station Lorain
Aug 4 - 5	USCG Anniversary Celebration	Everywhere
Sept 2 - 4	Cleveland Air Show	Cleveland
Sept 15 - 17	Fall D-Train	Dunkirk, NY
Sept 23	Auxiliary Social Event	To Be Announced
Dec 9	Flotilla Holiday Party	To Be Announced

<b>TEN MOST SENIOR MEMBERS</b>	
<b>ENROLLED</b>	<b>NAME</b>
06 Apr 1970	Marie R Shimandle
04 May 1978	George A Harizal
27 Jul 1979	Karen Kamm
11 Jun 1991	Christine A Raszka
11 Jun 1991	Thomas D Raszka
19 May 1992	Jack E Benton
31 May 1994	Alan M Rosich
07 Jul 1997	Kenneth C. Sarnecki
01 Jul 2003	Russell W Cromwell
12 Nov 2004	Michele E Rosich

<b>MEETING TREAT VOLUNTEERS</b>			
January	Ferry	July	
February	Jones	August	
March		September	
April		October	
May	Rutter	November	
June		December	