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*Leadership of 5NR*

<b>Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX)</b> CDR (SEL) Victoria Taylor		<b>D-AD</b>	Jason C. Flynn, Donald W. Merrill
<b>Operations Training Officer (OTO)</b> CWO4 Douglas Schubert		<b>D-AA</b>	Phil Walmsley
<b>District Commodore (DCO)</b> COMO Thomas J. Dever		<b>DSO-C</b>	Vickie M. Tyler
<b>District Chief Of Staff (DCOS)</b> Joseph J. Giannattasio		<b>DSO-C</b>	COMO Ken Brown, Janet Brown
<b>District Captain Central (DCAPT-C)</b> Kurt P. Sarac, Sr		<b>DSO-DV</b>	Ruth A. Bearce
<b>District Captain East (DCAPT-E)</b> Noreen Schifini		<b>DSO-FN</b>	COMO Robert J. Perrone, Sr.
<b>District Captain West (DCAPT-W)</b> Robert J. Kuhn		<b>DSO-LP</b>	Martin C. Mooney Sr.
<b>Immediate Past Commodore</b> COMO Barry M. Kyper		<b>DSO-SL</b>	Harry W. Otto
<b>President Past Captains Association</b> Alfred O. Grimminger		<b>DFSO</b>	Thomas Callahan III
<b>Division Commanders</b>		<b>DDC-Logistics</b>	Robert G. Vanderhook
<b>DCDR 01</b>	David J. Clendening	<b>DSO-CS</b>	Richard Taylor, II
<b>DCDR 04</b>	Peter A. Lacey	<b>DSO-FS</b>	Noreen Schifini
<b>DCDR 07</b>	Allan R. Cromheim Sr.	<b>DSO-HR</b>	Steven G. Trojanov
<b>DCDR 08</b>	James Edward Hans	<b>DSO-IS</b>	COMO Jan Robert Munroe
<b>DCDR 12</b>	Peter C Branker	<b>DSO-MA</b>	Armand F. D'Auria
<b>DCDR 15</b>	Diego Herrera	<b>DSO-PB</b>	Timothy P Marks
<b>DCDR 16</b>	Terry F. Bearce	<b>DSO-SR</b>	Celia A. Crowley
<b>DCDR 17</b>	Joseph R. Mathews	<b>DSO-AS</b>	William T. Skelly
<b>DCDR 18</b>	Kathleen A. Kunyczka	<b>DDC-Prevention</b>	Alfred O. Grimminger
<b>DCDR 19</b>	Richard B. Taylor, II	<b>DSO-MS</b>	Gregg R. Bollinger
<b>DCDR 20</b>	Mark Eugene Lancaster	<b>DSO-MT</b>	Theodore R. Hall
<b>DCDR 21</b>	Terry L. Hilbert	<b>DSO-NS</b>	Frank J. Williams
		<b>DSO-PA</b>	COMO Kevin C. Murphy
		<b>DSO-PE</b>	Pamela L. Thompson
		<b>DSO-PV</b>	Russell M. Galson
		<b>DSO-VE</b>	Edwin W. Seda
		<b>DDC-Response</b>	Douglas L. Smith
		<b>DSO-IM</b>	Gregory M. Stough
		<b>DSO-CM</b>	Richard F. Lord
		<b>DSO-AV</b>	William A. Fithian
		<b>DSO-OP</b>	Kurt P. Sarac, Sr

**Front Cover:** Commodore Tom Dever at the helm of USCGC Eagle, just as he has been at the helm of 5NR for the last two years.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Barbara Sama*



## *From the Desk of the Commodore*

### **A Farewell Address to the Executive Committee (EXCOM) - USCG Auxiliary District 5 Northern Region 1 November 2020**

**\*\*\*While this message is addressed to our EXCOM, COMO Dever welcomes the opportunity to share it with all of the 5NR members. \*\*\***

In the future if anyone looks back at our time in office and measures our success using the usual tools and statistics, they will come away with no idea of just how successful you have been. No summary of mission hours or statistics recorded in our AUXDATA record keeping system will reveal the extraordinary amount of work you did, the careful and thoughtful leadership you provided or the adaptability that was required of you during these past two extraordinary years.

It has been my great privilege to serve as your Commodore through two of the most unusual and unforeseeable years in our Coast Guard's history – a time that began with a government shutdown and ended with a global pandemic! Through it all, while you focused on the mission – the safety of the boating public and the support of the Coast Guard, you always put the member first. Your leadership led to many great accomplishments.

2019 began with a government shutdown. Under your leadership, Auxiliarists immediately came to the aid of our Active Duty brothers and sisters who were not receiving paychecks. You established food pantries throughout the District to serve Active Duty families. During the shutdown D5NR Auxiliarists gathered donations & staffed pantries & kitchens at Sector Delaware Bay, TRACEN Cape May, Air Station Atlantic City and at many Boat Stations throughout the District.



**Commodore Thomas J. Dever  
District Commodore  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
5th District-Northern Region**



Auxiliarists helping during the 2019 government shutdown.

*photos by Joe Giannattasio.*

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## *From the Desk of the Commodore, continued*



The Cape May flotilla's annual Memorial Day Flower Boat ceremony in 2019. The ceremony was initiated by the Auxiliary and has been performed every year since 1965.

*photo by Joe Giannattasio.*

With the loss of funding due to the government shutdown, the 2019 Spring D-Train had to be cancelled – a decision made by our EXCOM during a meeting at N-Train in St. Louis as we all ate the world's worst (St. Louis) pizza. We all thought that would probably be our most unusual, unpleasant emergency decision during our terms of office – little did we know it would only be the first!

Reacting quickly, each District Captain then organized training in his or her Area to replace the lost D-Train courses. The convenience of one day training close to home and the assistance of funding provided by DIRAUX enabled more than twice the number of Auxiliarists who normally attend District Training (D-Train) to attend the three events and enjoy fellowship over a hot lunch.



Western Area training at Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, PA. Eastern Area training and Central Area Training took place at Stockton College in Egg Harbor, NJ and at the Red Lion Christian Academy in Bear, DE, respectively.

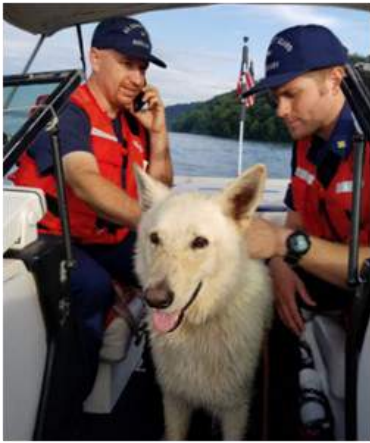
*Photo by Joe Giannattasio.*

In 2019 we enjoyed an extraordinarily successful operational season. Extensive training and updating of qualifications early in the season at the Area Training and on line was followed by activity throughout the district on the water and in the air. Our district came to national attention when we had three life saving rescues over the summer. Our members were well trained, reacted quickly and appropriately and were a credit to our service. There was a rescue of jet ski operators from the water. They were in danger of going over a dam on Blue Marsh Lake. We had a “dog at sea” rescue on Lake Clarke and the rescue of six boaters from a capsized boat in the swift current of the Delaware River.

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## *From the Desk of the Commodore, continued*



Above from L to R: The happy ending to the “crowd favorite” dog rescue; the aftermath of the 4 July 2019 Delaware River rescue of 6 boaters from the capsized boat on the right in the photo; Although down to one airplane, District 5NR pilot and Air Crews still maintained weekly Rotary Wing Air Intercept exercises with Air Station Atlantic City until the COVID shelter at home guidance.



Since 2012 District 5NR's Auxiliary Air Program has assisted USCG Small Boat units with shoaling/obstruction assessments and photo-documenting their AORs after winter months and following major storms. The air program also provides aerial winter ice photography of the shipping lanes throughout the district to supplement the ice observations of the DCAPT-Central.

You led the training of members and the implementation of programs including: the deployment of our members to North Carolina and Texas for hurricane responses, the identification and certification of our Auxiliary Clergy Support members, Auxiliary support in nearly every department at Sector Delaware Bay, at the Atlantic Strike Team at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, at most of the Coast Guard Stations in our district, for the boat crew for Helicopter Operations training at Station Atlantic City, for Pollution Response including the recent Broadkill Beach, DE oil spill response, for photographers, for USCG radio operations - especially in the Western Area, and for the normal Auxiliary missions too numerous and diverse to list them all here. We arranged for a donation of electronic billboard time for recruiting ads.

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## *From the Desk of the Commodore, continued*

You provided our members with two opportunities for all-day visits to Cutters, boats, Station Philadelphia, and Sector Delaware Bay to meet with Active Duty and Reserve members and learn about opportunities to serve with them.

You established and supported our district's AUXSCOUT program and partnership with the Sea scouts including the founding of our first Ship.

Thank you for assisting me and CDR (SEL) Taylor with your input as she has updated our District Policy Manual.



Left: A district 5NR Auxiliarist stands watch every weekend at USCG STATION CAPE MAY

**Right:** Auxiliarists during a tour of Station Philadelphia meet with Reservists to learn about the new 29-foot response boat -small II (RB-S II).

Thank you for reacting quickly and decisively when the Search and Rescue Detachment in Bowers Beach was threatened by the collapse of the adjacent building and erosion of its own pilings. Many of us visited the site and after several meetings arrived at a solution to provide the necessary repairs and reinforcement to the SARDET building and voted to provide the necessary funding. The SARDET's along the Delaware Bay and River are an important asset to our district and our recruiting and retention in the Central Area of our district.

Thank you for your support of the repairs to Flotilla 052-08-02's building on the Cape May Harbor.

You assisted me in the preparation of NOGIs which kept our members informed of decisions.

*Continued on the next page...*

## *From the Desk of the Commodore, continued*



Above left: The Delaware Bay side of SARDET Bowers Beach seen from the location of the destroyed building next door.

Above right: Beginning last week, major renovation work began on Flotilla 08-02's headquarters (The Shack) that involved painting and placement of 'pavers' on the road-side of the building. Members of the Renovation Team included members and their families, Active Duty STA CAPE MAY & CUTTER Shipmates, and great neighbors. The building was originally built as a boathouse in 1890 by the U.S. Lighthouse Establishment. The boats used for servicing area navigation lights were stored in the building until 1939, when it became a U.S. Coast Guard Lifeboat Station. In 1947 it was licensed to the Coast Guard Auxiliary Cape May flotilla.

In the fall of 2019, you helped plan and present the best attended D-Train in many years. The focus on new members and the excellent training and fellowship provided was appreciated by all who attended. The plan was to move to a new venue for the spring D-Train and everything was in place and ready to go when, only one week before the event we had to cancel due to the rapid spread of the Coronavirus.

As I write this, the virus is still spreading and still a threat to many. Every activity and action we have taken since early March in this year of 2020 has continued to be with the pandemic and safety of our members in mind.

It has been an honor to be a part of an EXCOM that met and talked regularly and discussed openly each of our concerns and the solutions proposed to address them. Our members benefitted from our diligence and professionalism. I know we all thank our Director for her openness and willingness to listen to us at every turn of events. Looking back every decision that was made was discussed until it could be unanimous – from the original decision to shut down all face to face activities, to a gradual reopening of specific activities to the current situation where all activities except operations are permitted but only if strict safety measures are followed. Through it all you put our members' safety first while recognizing that recruiting and retention of members and keeping membership worthwhile was essential. Members' morale remained high.

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## *From the Desk of the Commodore, continued*

Under your direction a robust online training program was established to provide member training including core training, AUXDATA II training and many opportunities to gain diverse qualifications, to work toward AUXOP member status or to just learn.

You worked with me to convey our members' concerns and ideas to our national leadership.



Above, left to right: The pandemic stand-down has been a tremendous opportunity for Auxiliary members to take online training courses and obtain certification, to make masks for the Auxiliary and Active Duty and to provide online tutoring to the children of Active Duty members.

While my term as District Commodore does not end until December 31st, I will focus my time over the next two months to a smooth transition to Commodore-Elect Giannattasio's new term and to supporting him and his priorities. I have enjoyed serving in elected positions almost continuously since 2006 but serving as your Commodore has been the most rewarding experience of all. It has been wonderful to serve you and I look forward to assisting the new 5NR District Commodore and EXCOM as requested. I hope you enjoyed working with me as much as I enjoyed your company, leadership, and accomplishments.

Thank you 2019-2020 Auxiliary EXCOM members: Immediate Past District Commodore (IPDCO) COMO Barry M Kyper, District Chief Of Staff (DCOS), Joseph J. Giannattasio, District Captain Central (DCAPT-C) Kurt P. Sarac, Sr., District Captain East (DCAPT-E), Noreen Schifini and District Captain West (DCAPT-W), R. (Jeff) Kuhn. Thank you CDR (SEL) Victoria Taylor, Director and Douglas Schubert, Operations Training Officer. Barry, your sound advice, informed by your experience was valued greatly. Joe – the District will be in great hands under your leadership! Thank you for your support and friendship.

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## *From the Desk of the Commodore, continued*

Thank you also to the members who made the EXCOM meetings productive and organized and who contributed so much: 2020 EXCOM Secretary (DSO-SR), Celia Crowley and District Commodore's Aides, Donald W. Merrill, (D-AD), Jason C. Flynn, (D-AD) and Philip B. Walmsley (D-AA). Many thanks to Al Grimminger, President, Past Division Commanders' Association for your valuable contributions.

Our great friend and EXCOM Secretary in 2019, Marilyn Hughes, crossed over the bar on January 20, 2020. We all miss her very much!



Clockwise Above: 2019-2020 District Captains Kurt Sarac (DCOS Elect), R. Jeff Kuhn and Noreen Schifini. District Chief of Staff Joe Giannattasio (DCO Elect) and 2020 EXCOM Secretary Celia Crowley. Not pictured: Barry Kyper, IPDCO.

*All Photos by Barbara Sama.*

Tom

COMO Thomas J. Dever, District Commodore

District 5 Northern Region, US Coast Guard Auxiliary

The USCG Cutter EAGLE visited the Fifth Northern District from 27-29 September 2019 and invited area Auxiliarists and their families to join the tall ship's crew for a sail up the Delaware River and VIP tours of "America's Tall Ship."



## *Message from the Chief of Staff*

### **The Next Challenge: Navigating the Unknown**

First, THANK YOU. Thank you for electing me as your next District Commodore. The chance to serve the Auxiliary, the Coast Guard, my country and fellow Auxiliarists is an honor; I take pride in our core values and the missions we execute every day. We are able to apply our unique skills and abilities to assist the Coast Guard in performing their objective, saving lives or property, which is our reward at the end of the day. I have the privilege to work with an amazing team of selfless members, whom I call family.

Right now, what a world we're living in. When we began 2020, we never could have imagined the situation we'd be in just several months later. Before COVID-19, we never conceived of things like remote meetings and conducting training via video conference. We took something that could have been debilitating for the district and found new ways to make things work. Granted, we're still learning how to operate under these conditions, but we're doing it. We know members still have concerns about safety, their families, their work environments, and their careers. We know some of us have lost loved ones, jobs, and an overall sense of security about the world. Saying this is an incredibly difficult time is an understatement, but the Auxiliary is an adaptive organization, and we are always ready. Even during these trying times, 5NR Auxiliarists have remained active. Members developed new fellowship concepts, assisted the active duty by making protective facemasks for Coast Guard families and are providing tutoring for their children. Even our members who were quarantined at home, still found many ways to get involved and give back, including donating money or supplies, volunteering virtually, and checking in on people who might need support, among other worthy endeavors. We know so many of you want to get out there and do your 'Auxiliary' jobs, that's just a fact; we know there are members chomping at the bit to get back to normal. Auxiliarists want to work. But safety is always going to be our number one priority.

Yes, It does feel like a confusing time. One thing that remains the same at a time like this is how relevant the Auxiliary is, how needed we are. And the thing that makes us, as Auxiliarists, shine is our ability to adapt to the unknown. To show up to a role during coronavirus and know it's not the first time we've been called to serve in an unfamiliar role, and we adapted and succeeded. This is not our first ride on the roller coaster!

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**Joseph Giannattasio**  
**District Chief of Staff**  
**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary**  
**5th District-Northern Region**



## *Message from the Chief of Staff, continued*

Are you new to the Auxiliary or you don't know what to do during this 'downtime'? Try to catch up on any online training that is needed. Have you completed the BQII course? Is your CORE training up to date? What about the Introduction to Risk Management? How about reviewing the Auxiliary Manual? Many courses are available for you to continue your competencies and training during this downtime. Even more training is being made available to you from National, District 5NR, divisions and flotillas.

A rising tide lifts all boats, and there is a lot of good on the horizon. I am excited for what the next year is going to bring. Your incoming EXCOM has already been meeting and getting up to speed on the state of the district. Before the New Year I will be communicating my Commodore's Vision Statement and Plans for the next two years. COVID-19 or not, the Auxiliary has always shined brightest when faced with adversity. Your adaptability is invaluable and very much appreciated.

In the meantime, keep your masks handy and stay tuned as we navigate these waters together.

Joseph Giannattasio

District Chief of Staff

District Commodore (elect)



## *Robert J. (Jeff) Kuhn, DCAPT-W*

### Wrapping Up My Term

The District Captain (DCAPT) position has been an amazing experience. I got to see every aspect of the Auxiliary, the very best, and, once in a while, the worst. It is the busiest job I have ever had in the Auxiliary, certainly the most challenging and easily the most rewarding. It is a good thing I was retired from my teaching career when I embarked on the adventure two years ago.

Although my term extends until 12/31/2020, emotionally it ended today. EXCOM held a low-profile Change of Watch celebration and dinner this afternoon. I was privileged to button the DCAPT shoulder boards (the strangely named “frocking ceremony”) on my successor, Doug Willwerth. I have known Doug for many years and have great confidence in him for the Captain position. He has a good temperament for it. My most important task now is to help him ease into the job.

I would like to tell you a little of what I have experienced in the last two years, starting with interaction with the regular duty, or gold side. I can tell you unequivocally that the regular duty Coast Guard understands what we provide and appreciates us. Those Coasties who have been in for few years have seen the Aux out on patrol, working with the public, serving at bases and stations across the country and responding to calls for help in any imaginable way, and sometimes unimaginable ways. We extend the reach of the Coast Guard into areas and missions that would otherwise be unserved. I recall with enormous pride the food pantries that the Aux set up at Coast Guard Stations all over the country during the government shutdown last year when military pay was held up. I heard thanks and praise today when Captain Theel addressed the group at our ceremony.

To further illustrate the point, if you will indulge me, I would like to relate a personal story that preceded my term as DCAPT. I play in the Coast Guard National Golf Tournament and have done so 14 of the last 16 years. As I am writing this, the 2020 tourney in Myrtle Beach starts in nine days. I have met only one other Auxiliarist playing at that event over the years, even though Auxiliarists are eligible to join in. We are either shy or intimidated. I cannot explain that. However, the regulars all know I am an Auxiliarist, and I wear that identity with pride. The local Auxiliary generously volunteers to manage some of the logistics of the tournament each year. When Admiral Thad Allan was Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard (He came to National attention during the Katrina disaster), he attended the tournament two successive years. One afternoon during the four-day tournament about a hundred of us had a Q and A gab session with him. I am not shy about opening my mouth (That is sometimes good and sometimes not so much.) and raised my hand to ask a question. I introduced myself as an Auxiliarist. I have long since forgotten my question, but I will never forget that Admiral Allen came back to me and *bowed* to me, shook my hand and thanked me for my Auxiliary service, evoking modest applause from the group. I had a chance to talk with him briefly afterwards, and I was amazed at how much he knew about the Auxiliary and what we do for the Coast Guard. He even knew our annual dollar value to the Coast Guard budget. The next year he returned for the tournament, wearing the same golf shirt I think, and remembered my name. I have been all in since that moment!



**Robert J. Kuhn**  
District Captain—West  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
5th District-Northern Region

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## *Robert J. (Jeff) Kuhn, DCAPT-W, continued*

My point is this: There may be times that you feel underappreciated when your award has not yet arrived, or your qualification is late to appear in AUXDATA. These are logistical things that will get fixed. Of late, there have been many logistical issues. Make no mistake; however, your contributions are valued and appreciated.

On the Auxiliary, or “silver” side, I have had as a DCAPT, the privilege of getting to know so many amazingly dedicated folks in Fifth Northern District and have made many friends. I have had the pleasure of meeting our leadership right up to top of the National chain. The level of commitment is mind boggling. In 2019 the DCAPT's were funded to attend NACON. Actually, I got to attend both NACON and NTRAIN that year-- amazing experiences. I may have remembered this number wrong, but I think there are 32 DCAPS in the world, and all but a couple attended. There is a DCAPT from Guam and American Samoa and two from Alaska! After spending a week with these fine folks, I learned we all share the same challenges, recruitment and retention being a frequent topic of discussion. We all share the same feelings of pride for our service to country, the boating public, and a profound sense of commitment to our Core Values of Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty.

I would like to wrap up on that last topic, the Core Values. You may have heard me say this before. We join the Auxiliary for different reasons, but we all take the same pledge, and we are all expected to embrace the Core Values as a standard for ourselves and a model for our interactions with our fellow Auxiliarists and, in fact, with everyone with whom we interact. I do not mean to sound like I have it all figured out, because I am a work in progress just like you. However, I do mean to say that our Auxiliary experiences can and will build character and help make us all more honorable men and women. Could this be the most important and enduring reward for our Auxiliary investment?

Oh, and then there is the pandemic. Stay safe! Stay strong. Keep spirits up. We will get through this together. *Semper paratus!*



## ***Noreen Schifini, DCAPT-E***

Two years ago, when I was elected to the position of District Captain—Eastern Area, I never in my wildest of dreams could have predicted what they would look like. Let's start with the Government shut down at the beginning of 2019. Our members were told to stand down as there was no funding available to the Coast Guard and no protection for the Auxiliary. Did that stop our members from stepping up? Absolutely not! They went out and collected food, gift cards and whatever else was donated for our shipmates on the Gold Side. When the budget crisis in Washington was resolved, our members went back to work doing what they do best—serve. Led by Eastern Area Division Commanders: Allan Cronheim, Division 7; Jim Hans, Division 8; Paul Casalese, Division 16; and Kathy Kunyczka, Division 18 our members contributed an outstanding number of '99' hours totaling 73,745 in just 2019.



**Noreen Schifini**  
**District Captain—East**  
**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary**  
**5th District-Northern Region**

2020 certainly hasn't been the easiest of years for our Auxiliary. The COVID-19 stand down began back in March and continues in a few areas as I write this. Only some of our members were able to get in a few hours of activity before we came to a screeching halt! Our Eastern District Staff Officers stepped up immediately providing online training, for not only our members but the entire District, in required workshops such as Risk Management and creating opportunities to learn about other competencies.

The Auxiliarists in my Eastern Area are involved in many disciplines in direct support of the active duty Coast Guard. They serve as watch standers at many stations as well as the Atlantic Strike Team. The Auxiliary Helo Ops Team works with Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City in helping the pilots train in addition to assisting rescue swimmers and mechanics get qualified for Air Ops. Our enthusiastic qualified Food Services members assist in cooking at stations and on cutters as needed. The list goes on and the Coast Guard is constantly finding additional ways that the Auxiliary can assist in their missions.

While the last two years have been challenging to say the least, I have been blessed to meet and work with an outstanding group of leaders and members in our organization. That, I wouldn't trade for anything!

***Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty***



# Getting to Know Our New EXCOM



## *J. Douglas Willwerth, DCAPT-W (Elect)*

### **1. Tell us about your background.**

Most important, I am married to my best friend and biggest supporter Deborah, and we have 5 grown children through our blended marriage. At last count (said with great humor), we have 21 grandchildren ranging from 4 months to 21 years old. I have had a very rewarding career in the medical field for almost 40 years. I am a Paramedic in Pennsylvania, worked as a technician and administrator in a cardiac catheterization lab the majority of my career, and was a clinical specialist for a pacemaker/defibrillator company until a few years ago. Despite being on-call over 35 years and the intense stress of each of these roles, I loved and still miss taking care of patients. While working in the cath lab, I was adjunct faculty for the Paramedic Program at HACC for many years, helping to train future EMS responders. I have been and continue to be a CPR/First Aid Instructor for over 40 years, often training Auxiliary members. I have had the honor and privilege to be a Flotilla Commander and Vice Commander 3 times each, and most recently a Division Commander. I am a Vessel Examiner, Program Visitor, Fingerprint tech, and TCO for just a few highlights in the Auxiliary. I have participated in many committees and leadership roles over the span of my professional life and Auxiliary career. Now in my partial retirement and slightly changing gears, I am starting a frozen yogurt franchise! There is more but I don't want to run out of room and bore you with too many details!



**J. Douglas Willwerth  
District Captain—West (Elect)  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
5th District-Northern Region**

### **2. What are your goals for your term?**

- Encourage good communication up and down the chain of leadership.
- Process improvement on recruiting and retention.
- Focus on training course coordination within Divisions and Flotillas.
- Increase the recognition and awards within Divisions and Flotillas.
- Streamline new member training and implementation practices.

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## *John Douglas Willwerth, DCAPT-W, continued*

### **3. What inspired you to seek your elected office?**

I just had this conversation with my wife a few days ago. When I first joined the Auxiliary nearly 30 years ago, I looked up to the older and seasoned “senior” members to be mentored and learn many new things. There is a constant demand for leadership in the Auxiliary, and I feel it is my way now to “give back” and share what has been given to me in the past. I enjoyed the challenges and rewards as Division Commander, and believe the same to be true going forward as a District Captain. In the recent past, some of our colleagues and previous leaders had strongly suggested that I run for this elected office, bringing me to this moment. The Coast Guard and Auxiliary have supported and educated future leaders through enhanced and specific leadership training programs, providing tools that give a good base to do these leadership roles.

### **4. What is your favorite part of being part of the USCGAUX?**

The friendships made here are the best! I have discovered so many great people and talents, having the utmost respect for the professionalism and training at so many levels. As volunteers, this group continues to give their time and resources, often sacrificing that time from their families. I feel honored to be a part of this organization because of that dedication and love of duty. As a Division Commander, I was blessed to meet so many wonderful members in other Flotillas, giving me a deeper appreciation of who we are, what we do, and our deepest values as volunteers! It has been wonderful that members have many opportunities to learn and participate in so many programs. There is something here for everyone! I have appreciated the education and advanced training received over the years. If you interview any member, they will have a reason or “hot button” that brought them to become a member of one of the greatest volunteer organizations in the world! Personally, I was recruited while sitting in a PE class, wanting to learn more about weather in an advanced course as a member.

### **5. What is your top priority you would like to accomplish in your term?**

I am hoping that we will continue to grow in size and strengthen our core group of people throughout the coming year. We need to build, develop, and retain a strong membership through mentorship at the Flotilla level. Without sounding like a broken record, mentoring is so very important to retaining our members. We can recruit lots of people, mentoring them into the organization will keep them here. Leadership will emerge from that strength, providing future growth to our organization. Learning from my previous experience both as Flotilla Commander and Division Commander, I look forward in continuing to move that growth forward as a leadership team member in the District, providing positive direction for all members.

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## *John Douglas Willwerth, DCAPT-W, continued*

### **6. What is one area you would like to help improve?**

Communication! I think this is one quality that always needs maintained as a human being. Whether it be in a personal relationship or an organization such as this, good communication helps to clarify and even avoid many issues. It is an up and down way of conveying information that will need to be shared with each other for the potential change or improvement of any process. I will continue to encourage and provide any tools that are necessary to try and improve our processes, including any communication. This will include not only the Division Elected and Appointed Staff, along with the Flotilla Commanders and Staff, but members within the District. This is viewed a “team” effort that will include everyone!

### **7. What message would you like to give to your shipmates?**

Folks, 2020 has been a very challenging year for all of us. First and foremost, I hope and wish all of you good health throughout and beyond the COVID crisis in the upcoming year. I truly hope that in 2021, we will be able to push forward with what we have come to know and love in our organization. Going forward, this brings me to the next thought I would like to share and ask for you to keep in mind. My outlook is to always “keep your glass half full” and stay optimistic, hoping you share the same. When challenged with a situation, instead of seeing things as problems, they will instead become *“opportunities”* for improvement. This will challenge *us* to fix something that is not working. It will allow *us* to learn, grow, and even improve, creating a different perspective that will decrease the intensity and make these situations easier to handle in the future. Keep an open mind to see through the eyes of others before jumping to conclusion or judgement. You may not think about it, but each of you are leaders! If you maintain that mindset, and as you develop your leadership knowledge and skills within the District, I would ask all of you to use this approach and process in your style. Let’s share our successes, and work through those *“opportunities”* together. Remember that Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty continue to be our core values in the Auxiliary. Let’s continue to have fun and enjoy what we do best!

### **8. What is one fun fact that someone may not know about you?**

I like to stay busy, constantly tinkering and puttering with many things. I have accumulated so many hobbies over the years, but there is one thing I enjoy when time allows. I have a 2000 Harley Davidson Ultra Classic motorcycle that I have owned since 2006. When I was a young adult, I had a much smaller Kawasaki motorcycle, but sold it when I became a responsible parent. Maybe owning a Harley now has become a part of my second childhood! When I dress and look like a “biker dude” it makes me chuckle to watch the stereotypical reaction that many people may have. Yes, I wear a helmet and do my best to be safe. I have taken care of and have seen the bad things that can happen to responsible riders. There are a few motorcycle stories and photos that I can share, so let me bend your ear someday!

## *Cynthia C Chaimowitz , DCAPT-C (Elect)*

### 1. Tell us about your background.

Although I grew up with water surrounding me on Long Island, I never heard of the Auxiliary until I moved to Delaware. My late husband Nate and I decided to take a USCGA safe boating course. We ended up joining the flotilla in Seaford, DE, and I got completely swept away with Auxiliary programs. In particular, the excitement of the crew program quickly got my attention and has not subsided to this day.

My current offices are:

- Immediate Past Commander, Division 12
- SO-FS Division 12
- ADSO-FS
- FSO-OP
- VFC Flotilla 12-09
- I am a member to the D5NR Honor Guard
- ADSO-PA Central

I have earned the following qualifications:

- AUX PA3,
- AUX FS (Supporting CG Station Indian River Inlet)
- RBS
- BCCREW (patrolling with SARDET Bowers Beach)
- AUX PCO (Paddle Craft Operator, the precursor to AUXPAD. I was the first and only PCO in the State of Delaware)



**Cynthia Chaimowitz  
District Captain—Central (Elect)  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
5th District-Northern Region**

### 2. What are your goals for your term?

- One of my goals for my term is keeping the SARDET's secure, stable and active for the 2021 patrol season. I would like to see training expanded into different AOR's.
- Also focus on recruitment, retention and mentoring of our current members.
- Another goal is the timeliness and accurate presentation of awards and qualifications.

*Continued on the next page...*

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## *Cynthia C Chaimowitz , DCAPT-C*

### **3. What inspired you to seek your elected office?**

When I was Division 12 Commander, I arrived at a District Board meeting and found that none of the awards earned by my division members that year were listed. Ribbons, medals, commendations and qualifications are how we encourage our members. I am passionate about encouragement and was emotional during my report.

### **4. What is your favorite part of being part of the USCGAUX?**

Fellowship is my favorite part of being in the USCGAUX! The great people that I have met with like minds and missions. I thoroughly enjoy catching up with the members that I have met in the tri-state area and look forward to meeting with them at D-Train and other local events.

### **5. What is your top priority you would like to accomplish in your term?**

As a top priority, I intend to support the Divisions and Flotillas where needed, improve and retain their membership, encourage the leadership to award its members and any other issues that may arise. Going forward virtually with COVID-19 I would like to find ways to bring back the enthusiasm to our members after this long shutdown.

### **6. What are areas you would like to help improve?**

- A focus on the retention of existing members.
- I would like to improve the timeliness of presenting an award to the member once it has been bestowed.

### **7. What message would you like to give to your shipmates?**

My message would be one of availability, consistency and reliability to assist my shipmates to reach their goals and their needs in the auxiliary. If I can't provide a solution immediately, I will get back to you as soon as possible. Please reach out to me with any concerns.

### **8. What is one fun fact that someone may not know about you?**

Here's a fun fact. I started taking a conversational Spanish class in February of 2020 and got in about four weeks of studies before everything shutdown due to COVID-19. I hope to finish the class one day before I return to Miami where I am originally from.



## *James Edward Hans, DCAPT-E (Elect)*

### **1. Tell us about your background.**

A native of Southern NJ and a 1985 graduate of Rutgers University. 1st Career was serving as a special agent with Department of Defense stationed at Ft. DIX, Charleston Navy Base and Camp Lejeune.

In the mid 90's I entered the world of Hospitality Management, and worked in the Coastal Carolinas, Florida and Southern NJ

### **2. What are your goals for your term?**

Our primary mission will be to transition to a post Covid-19 Environment. Re-energizing our members to resume the task of ensuring safety to the boating public, continuing to work hand in hand with the active duty, while at the same time finding creative solutions for our members to serve safely in a post pandemic world.

### **3. What inspired you to seek your elected office?**

Accepting the role of leadership opportunities has provided a segue to understanding a much broader vision of the needs of our Auxiliary. By interacting and working with diverse backgrounds and different challenges, I'm given the opportunity to draw on experience that hopefully will be of benefit to others.

### **4. What is your favorite part of being part of the USCGAUX?**

Fellowship with such a diverse group of individuals, while at the same time knowing you and others are stepping up to provide genuine real substantive contributions that protect our boating public and could possibly save lives.

### **5. What is your top priority you would like to accomplish in your term?**

The pandemic has and will continue to alter how we go about our daily lives. Ensuring the health and safety of members while at time continuing to educate our boating public must be our highest priority.



**James Hans  
District Captain—East (Elect)  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
5th District-Northern Region**

*Continued on the next page...*

## *James Edward Hans, DCAPT-E, continued*

### **6. What is one area you would like to help improve?**

Encouraging growth, education and development of our members must be a priority. All members must be encouraged to actively participate, and share their talents and skills in appointed and elected offices.

### **7. What message would you like to give to your shipmates?**

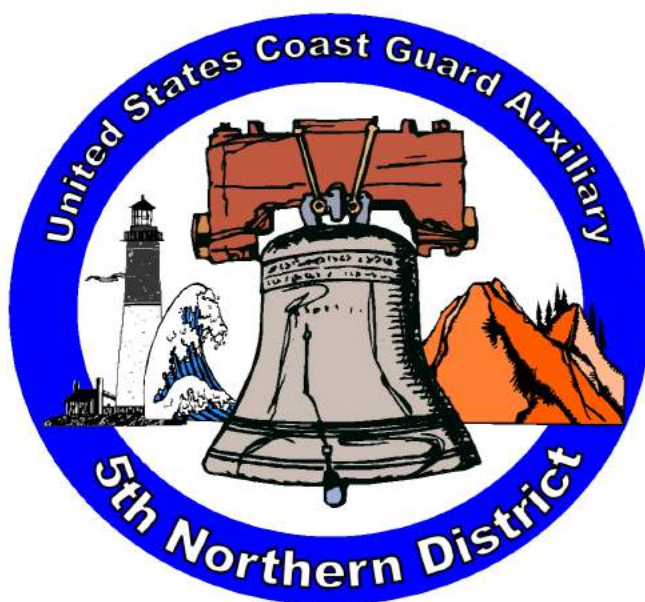
I listen, I read and I enthusiastically engage. The door is always open, the phone is always on, and I will respond to every email. "Let's talk"

### **8. What is one fun fact that someone may not know about you?**

If I knew grandchildren were this much fun, I would have skipped raising my own kids, and gone straight to being a Pop Pop.



# A Focus on 5NR Departments





## *Auxiliary Food Services*

*Miss cooking for your kids, the Auxiliary has the perfect program for you!*

With budget cutbacks to the Coast Guard, it became obvious that Auxiliarists had many new roles that they could play as part of Team Coast Guard. Auxiliarists had been informally supporting stations and cutters by helping in the galleys. In 2006, the Auxiliary Chef (AUXCHEF) program was approved as a pilot program. District 5SR then spearheaded its development, serving at small boat stations, on cutters underway and at VIP events throughout the 5th District. In January 2009, the National Commodore and National Executive Committee approved the AUXCHEF Program as an Auxiliary National Program. In 2013, the AUXCHEF program was renamed the AUXFS program to more closely resemble in both name and practice the policies and standards required of active duty Coast Guard Food Service Specialists. In 2018, the Coast Guard renamed their Food Service Specialists to Culinary Specialists (CSs). Do you need culinary training? Absolutely not, but you should be familiar with basic cooking skills such as how to cook eggs and turn on an oven. Formal training will be provided for you.



**Noreen Schifini**  
**District Staff Officer - AUXFS**

So how does this work for the Auxiliary? Here are some of the ways that this program gives Auxiliarists another means to contribute to and support the Active Duty. It begins with providing simple Food Service training to Auxiliarists. Once officially qualified, AUXFS can relieve the Culinary Specialists (CSs) at small boat stations and cutters so that they can take leave, attend "C" schools or other training, or perform other duties. We are often asked to provide assistance at Coast Guard and Auxiliary VIP events, such as Change of Command ceremonies or holiday parties. One of my favorite events is the Breakfast with Santa at Sector Delaware Bay. We cook for approximately 125-150 members of the families of those stationed there. They do love the chocolate chip pancakes!

*Continued on the next page.*



## *Auxiliary Food Services, continued*



The AUXFS program has recently been deployed to support the Coast Guard and Auxiliary in emergencies and natural disasters. Our members have traveled to cities to assist after hurricanes had devastated areas in Texas and Louisiana. There are many opportunities for you to make a difference.

## *Marine Safety*

### **THE RECYCLING OF MONOFILAMENT FISHING LINE**

Article written by Hugh Mehorter, FSO-MS 053-16-07

Taken from the July/August edition of *Compass*, Division 16's newsletter

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Monofilament fishing line (MFL) recovery and recycling is just one of many U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary outreach opportunities designed to raise awareness of marine debris and pollution. During this time of COVID-19 limited shutdown I have constructed several of these recycling receptacles to be installed at various locations in an effort for anglers to properly dispose of their used lines.

Monofilament fishing line (MFL) is a single strand high density material and was the Dupont family's motivation to develop another marketable use for nylon in the late 1930's. Their idea worked, but not without unforeseen consequences: It's the most common form of fishing line today and leads the way in manufacturing of most all fishing nets. It didn't take long to see the growing rate of serious marine life injuries, mortalities and disfigurements in the fish, mammals, birds and reptiles. Each year more than 100,000 marine mammals are killed when they ingest debris or become entangled in ropes, fishing line or nets, additionally as many as 2 million seabirds die. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) marine debris threatens over 265 different species of marine and coastal wildlife through entanglement, smothering and interference with digestive systems. For these reasons, programs have been developed to recycle fishing line and keep it out of the environment. Specialized containers have been designed to collect these lines for that purpose. Whether disposed of improperly or through neglect MFL can be hazardous not only to marine life, but also swimmers, divers, boat propellers and more. Sadly, even when put into the trash it can still end up harming wildlife at the landfills. You can help, do your fellow boaters and wildlife a favor and recycle your used fishing line, ropes and netting; this product is the ocean's most persistent form of pollution and data indicates that it can take up to 600 years to biodegrade. Most people are aware of the need to recycle but generally do not know that MFL can be recycled or how it can be done. Our message should emphasize the need for avoiding harm to the environment and to remember that part of our mission involves protecting the wildlife. Many tackle shops now offer recycling, and waterfront recovery bins are becoming more popular. Receptacles can be installed at fishing locations, landing ramps, and docks where anglers could be encouraged to dispose of their unwanted line in a responsible manner. The used line can then be collected by volunteers and shipped to parent companies where it is then melted down into raw plastic pellets and remolded into various fishing related products such as line spools, tackle boxes, fish habitat structures or even park benches.

Monofilament line collected by most all organizations and state agencies is sent to the Berkley Conservation Institute which, with the help of anglers everywhere, has recycled more than 9 million miles worth of fishing line. Berkley has a long history of promoting and facilitating fishing line recycling and are in the process of building anew program to lead this effort worldwide.

*Continued on the next page...*



## *Marine Safety, continued*

For more information go to <http://berkleyfishing.com/recycling>.

The “Reel in and Recycle” program of the Boat US Foundation is one of the MFL projects that are funded by both the National Fish and Wildlife foundation as well as NOAA’s Marine Debris program. Their website offers a YouTube video that goes step by step on how you can construct your own MFL recycling container.

Visit them at:

<https://www.boatus.org/monofilament/>



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## *Public Affairs*

### **What Our Core Values Mean**

Christopher Orlando PA3

We have all heard the Core Values of Honor, Respect and, Devotion to Duty since we took our oath of membership, but what do those phrases mean? According to the Coast Guard Auxiliary Leadership page, the definitions are below:

**Honor** – Integrity is our standard. We demonstrate uncompromising ethical conduct and moral behavior in all of our personal and organizational actions. We are loyal and accountable to the public trust.

**Respect** – We value our diverse membership. We treat each other and those we serve with fairness, dignity, respect, and compassion. We encourage individual opportunity and growth. We encourage creativity through empowerment. We work as a team.

**Devotion to Duty** – We are volunteers who seek responsibility, accept accountability, and are committed to the successful achievement of our organizational goals. We exist to serve. We serve with pride.

These are all powerful phrases and they mean something different to each member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. The best way to give these phrases their power is to live it.

Integrity is the ability to hold your head high, shoulders back, knowing you are representing yourself, your loved ones, and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to the best of your ability. This is in words, actions, social media postings, and our presentation to the world. Integrity is recognizing that we are all people, friends, and shipmates with the ability to rely on each other and can hold each other accountable in failure and cheer on our successes.

Respect is serving others in your unit, no matter their background. It is the idea that we all gather for a common mission of recreational boating safety and service to others. We encourage all members to get involved and create an open environment for every shipmate to succeed. The most basic way to do this is invite the new member to sit next to you. The shortest distance to showing respect is saying hello and including others. Everyone deserves a seat at your table.

Devotion to Duty may be one of the easiest values to uphold. By offering your time and skills to volunteer, you have already shown a devotion to duty. Devotion to our mission starts by setting goals and putting members in a place to reach them. This also includes members volunteering to help your unit reach those goals by offering your skills for the mission.

When you see the Core Values, is there a shipmate you think of? A memory during your Auxiliary career that sticks out? Maybe a goal you wish to achieve or take on? We share these Values and, if we continue to live them, we will always be Semper Paratus.



*Christopher M. Orlando AUXPA3  
ADSO-PA Social*



## *Public Affairs, continued*

Good evening shipmates!  
Let's begin our meeting.

### DIGITAL ETIQUETTE

When in a virtual meeting, remember to mute your microphone to limit distracting background noise.



Use the hand raising feature or group chat to avoid talking over your shipmates.



Limit distractions by going into a quiet room and having all resources necessary to contribute to your flotilla's meeting.



USCGAUX 5NR-CO

*Graphic made by Christopher M. Orlando AUXPA3, ADSO-PB East*

# Information from Around the District





# Upcoming 5NR Events

Taken from the calendar on the 5NR Website created by Linda Skvarla, ADSO-PB

For more detail go to the 5NR website and view the calendar

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=053&category=CALENDAR>

District 5NR Calendar

District 5NR Calendar

## 5th Northern District

November 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov 1 All disenrollm Division Auxil WINTER UNIF	2 DIRAUX to m Review AUXD 10am EXCOM	3 DIV 16	4	5	6 DIV 7	7
8	9	10 DIV 18, 17, 2	11 DIV 8	12 DIV 19	13	14
15	16 DIV 18	17 DIV 4	18 DIV 1	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 DIV 12	27	28
29	30	Dec 1 DIV 16	2	3	4 DIV 7 Division Auxil	5

## 5th Northern District

December 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	Dec 1 DIV 16	2	3	4 DIV 7 Division Auxil	5
6	7 7:30pm EXCOM	8 DIV 15, 17, 2	9	10 DIV 19 HANUKKAH	11	12
13	14 DIV 4	15 DIV 1	16 Certification c	17	18	19
20	21 DIV 18 FIRST DAY OF	22	23	24 DIV 12	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Data Entry 26	Jan 1 DIV 7	2

District 5NR Calendar

District 5NR Calendar

## 5th Northern District

January 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31 Data Entry 26	Jan 1 DIV 7	2
3	4 10am EXCOM	5 DIV 16	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 DIV 15, 17, 2	13 DIV 8	14 DIV 19	15	16
17	18 DIV 18	19 DIV 4	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 DIV 12	29	30
31 UNIT FINANC	Feb 1 Admin 7 AV 1 10am EXCOM	2 DIV 16	3	4	5 DIV 7 (12:00pm) D	6

## 5th Northern District

February 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	Feb 1 UNIT FINANC Admin 7 AV 1 10am EXCOM	2 DIV 16	3	4	5 DIV 7 (12:00pm) D	6
7	8	9 DIV 15, 17, 2	10 DIV 8	11 DIV 19	12	13
14	15 DIV 18 Unit Financial	16 DIV 4	17 DIV 1	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 DIV 12	26	27
28	Mar 1	2 DIV 16	3	4	5 DIV 7	6

# *Coast Guard Auxiliarists in District Fifth Northern Step Up to Provide Tutoring for Active Duty Children*

*Text by Joseph Giannattasio*

**“We had a need, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary had resources that could fill that need.....” - CDR (SEL) Victoria Taylor**

Auxiliarist tutors in District Five North was an idea created by CDR (SEL) Victoria Taylor USCG, Director of the Auxiliary’s district. The volunteers aim to provide Coast Guard families with a way to get their children the tutoring they need when the pandemic is causing many students to take classes virtually and study from home; a major challenge for active duty parents who are always serving, whether near home or afar.

CDR (SEL) Taylor explains the genesis of the idea. “Coast Guard members were talking, as we always do; about family, parents, spouses; children and the schools they attend, etc. Conversations were had about the resource, [Tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com), which is especially excellent for military, and I used when my boys were in primary school. It seemed that many Coast Guard members, being caring parents, desired tutoring for their children.”

“I can’t remember exactly how the idea of tutoring came about,” CDR (SEL) Taylor continues. “but during conversations with Captain Anderson, and then with Commodore Kyper; it was brought up that we have many Auxiliarist who are retired educators. Thus the idea formed. Tutoring would be a way Auxiliarists could still do what they love to do: give, help and above all aid the Coast Guard. This could be achieved without financial resources, which we didn’t have due to the government shutdown.”



Auxiliarist teacher Lorraine Bianco ensures our youth not only survives, but possibly thrives during this crisis.

“So I drafted a solicitation to our Auxiliarists requesting an email response if they would like to be a tutor and if yes, to provide their credentials. I sent this solicitation to our AUX right before the 2018 Christmas Holiday and what a response I received. Over the Holidays I was totally flooded with emails from so many AUX members explaining how they would love to help Coast Guard families in educating their children.”

*Continued on the next page...*

## *Tutoring, Continued*



Auxiliarist Frank Bigley is 'Ready and Able' to serve the Coast Guard, and their families.

CDR (SEL) Taylor said she saw a gap in learning with the rise of online classes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "We started this program in early 2019 and it fell right into place with today's world of Zoom, Skype, etc. The classroom can be a challenging place to learn, whereas one on one tutoring can cater to a child's individual learning style; whether it be visual, auditory, or kinesthetic. Many children have special learning needs that can be catered to during a one on one tutoring session. Plus tutoring can improve a child self-esteem and personal growth."

"The COVID-19 crisis has forced education systems throughout the country to find alternatives to face-to-face instruction. As a result, online teaching and learning have been used by teachers and students on an unprecedented scale," said Auxiliarist tutor Lorraine Bianco, a career high school educator who recently retired but stepped up to help.

"Now, with COVID-19, many of our children are learning remotely which is even more of a challenge; for both children and parents," noted CDR (SEL) Taylor. "We are having an overwhelmingly positive response, our Auxiliarists are making a huge impact; providing relief for our Coast Guard members so they can do their missions and have a helping hand with educating their children while they learn remotely."

Currently, a wide variety of subjects taught by Auxiliarists from all across the district in one-on-one virtual sessions to allow for students to receive help.

"It is great to watch someone who is struggling with a math problem or chemistry concept to view it from a different perspective and suddenly have it make sense," notes Auxiliarist Frank Bigley. "Tutoring Coast Guard family members offers this and the ability to take some of the load off the Coast Guard member and their family. The academic hurdles faced by both the families and the students today provide a great opportunity to help take some of the pressure off their shoulders. Hopefully, taking this pressure off the families and students will make a small difference during these very trying times."

*Continued on the next page...*

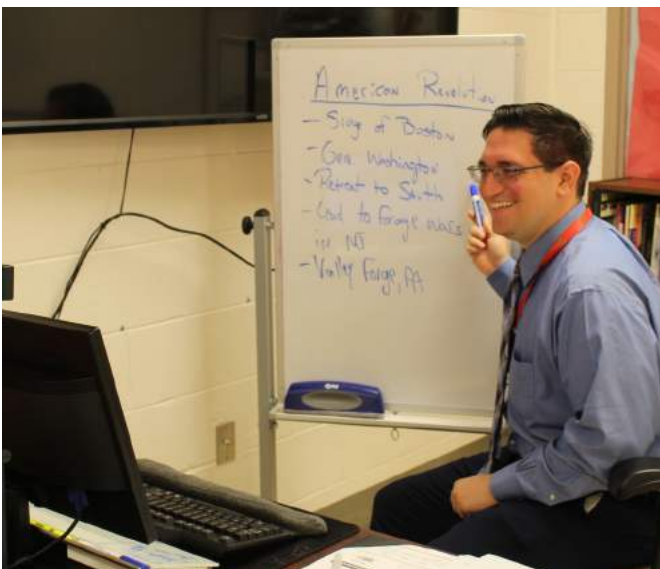
## *Tutoring, Continued*

“One of the reasons why I became an educator in the first place was to be able to give back to the community that has provided so much opportunity for me,” stated Auxiliary member Justin Abate. “Volunteering to tutor members of Coast Guard families just lets me continue to do that on a whole new level I grew up on the water, and knowing the Coast Guard was there if I needed them meant the world to me and my family, so I'm just glad to be able to help out now when they need my expertise as a teacher.”

“I strongly believe in mentorship and one on one support for our youth” shared CDR (SEL) Taylor. “I have mentored and still mentor several young individuals, in which a handful have joined the Coast Guard and one joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary.”

Auxiliary members who have a professional educational certification and who feel confident in certain subjects are encouraged to participate. Leadership is about doing the most you can with the situation that's in front of you. Coast Guard Auxiliarists have trained for the day when they can use what they know to make a difference. That day is here along with the chance to make sure our youth not only survives, but possibly thrives during this crisis.

CDR (SEL) Taylor sums it up nicely. “Our AUXSOME District Five Northern members are resilient, smart, innovative and above all they care. This makes them ideal for a wide variety of projects, especially the tutoring initiative. In fact it isn't even an initiative any more, since you, our amazing Auxiliarists, have turned it into a fully implemented program. I am extremely blessed to have an amazing group like you to work with.”



Justin Abate's philosophy on Auxiliary Leadership is about doing the most you can with the situation that's in front of you.



## *Boating Tips*

### **Our Tips for New Boaters from #Tip Tuesday**

1. Take safe boating class once this is over and wear your life vest.
2. Get a mentor to show you 1-on-1 your target recreational area and help you practice docking and trailering!
3. Always maintain situational awareness. Reassess your operations frequently and honestly.
4. Make sure your boat is clearly labelled either with a kayak if found sticker or the reg... It's rough sending out crews for missing people that aren't missing just the boat floated away.
5. Never overestimate your skills or underestimate the sea--situational awareness at all times.
6. Don't drink while boating.
7. Check your child's life jackets before you head to the water. They need to fit . Last years jacket might not be the right size this year
8. Be sure to put in the drain plug before launch.

Thank you to all who submitted!

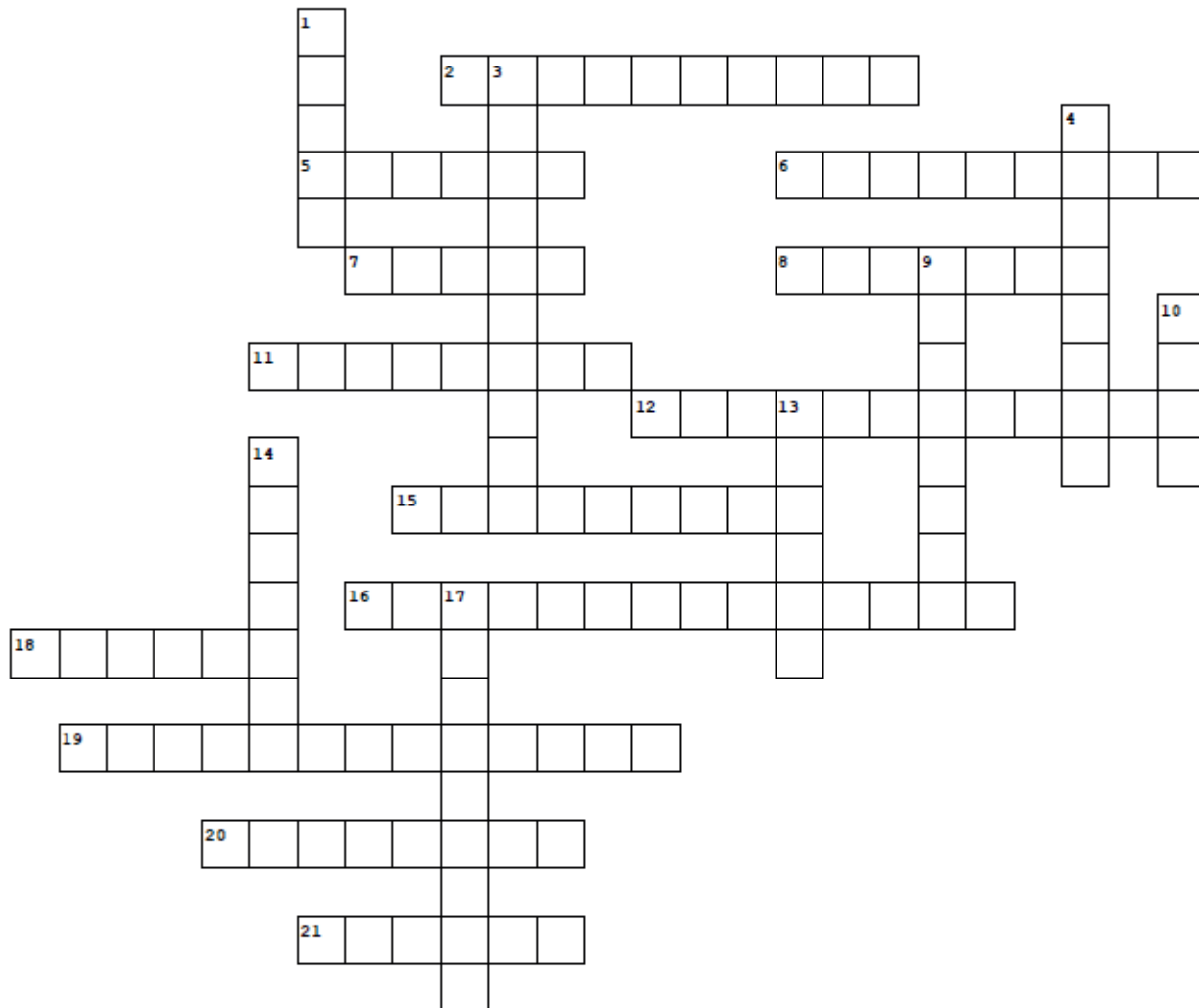


Boating tips gathered from 5MR Facebook followers in March 2020.

*Graphic made by Christopher M. Orlando AUXPA3, ADSO-PB East*

# Crossword Puzzle

## Are You an Auxiliary Guru?



### Across

2. Authority for administering the Auxiliary.
5. Stocks uniform items, and PE materials.
6. "DV" staff office
7. A district may be divided into one or more.
8. "FN" staff office
11. Disestablished division property and assets go to.
12. "PB" staff office
15. "PAH" district staff office
16. "CM" staff office
18. Auxiliarists hold \_\_\_\_\_.
19. GAR is acronym for.
20. Organizational level above a flotilla.
21. A towing light is what color?

### Down

1. Separates the parts of a radio message.
3. "OP" staff office
4. Can establish or disestablish a flotilla.
9. "AV" staff office
10. Supplies publications, forms, manuals, etc.
13. determines # of boat's fire extinguishers.
14. Number of members required to charter a flotilla.
17. "MA" staff office

## *Meet Our Commodore-Elect*

*By Timothy Marks, DSO-PB*

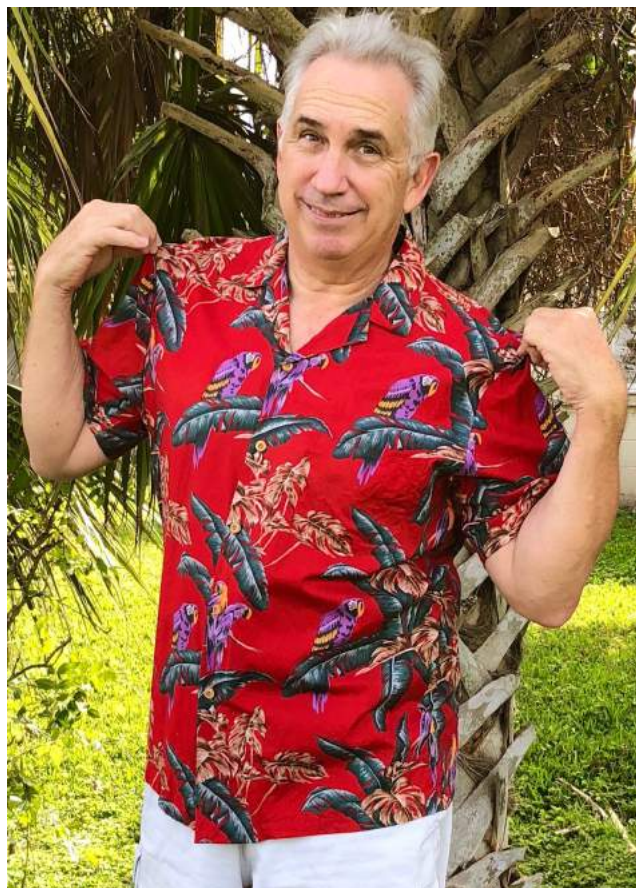
Commodore Joe Giannattasio was born and raised in a small town at the New Jersey shore where everyone knew everybody, so he was generally well behaved and did well in school. He became a paramedic. Went to college, visited Brazil during winter break. Overstayed and got deported from Brazil.

After college Joe was a suit-and-tie-guy in New York City. He missed the beach, so he went on a two-week vacation in the Virgin Islands ... and stayed twelve years. He owned and operated some bars and restaurants. Learned to sail. Learned to dive. Learned to fly. Sold the restaurants. Became a Private Investigator. Joe went through Hurricane Hugo and saved some people. He survived a terminal illness, decided then on to live for a living.

Joe moved back to NJ, still a Private Eye, met a wonderful girl. He joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary after 9/11 to support his best friend in the Coast Guard and all service men and women. His friend retired, Joe stayed in the Auxiliary because he enjoys it and the friendships developed. Joe has served on every Auxiliary district elected and appointed office levels, including National Staff, he was selected as the Coast Guard's National Auxiliarist of the Year for 2017.

Joe retired a few years ago and bought a classic ice cream stand with a mini-golf course. He finally built the Jeep of his childhood and has an impressive Aloha Shirt collection.

This might be all what you want to know, but for those of you who want to hear a little more, ask Joe to join you for a chat during a future in-person, or virtual, conference.



Joe Giannattasio with his authentic Magnum P.I. jungle bird design Hawaiian Shirt, the 'Holy Grail' of Aloha garments.



# ***POPEYE - The Coastie***

*Written by Barbara Sama*

**In the beginning,** Popeye was actually a civilian mariner. He then became a Coast Guardsman, who later did a stint in the Navy and also tried to enlist with the Army. He faithfully returned to be a Coastie! The protagonist of the cartoon series, his characters took many changes, but the 40-year old from “Sweethaven” is still Coast Guard strong today.

**An eye for an eye?** Not according to Popeye. He lost his eye in a gruesome fight with the SEA HAG and her GOONS. It was later changed to a squint. He held no grudge and said “She yam what she yam”.

**Friends and Family** complete his image. There is the all time girlfriend, Olive Oyl, Sweet Pea the adopted son, and of course there are the nephews, in-laws and many more. The animation may have taken minor looks but his ability to speak only in mangled English became his identity. His first adventures started at 6 including crap shooting, treasure hunting, and of course, sailing.

**“Blow me Down!”** As a young sailor on the Josie Lee, Popeye always stayed in front of the mast in defiance to the mighty winds. During these night anchor watch, he would yell out these famous words.

**Brutus or Bluto?** Are they the same or are they related? The theory is that they are brothers. They're were so many different adaptations in the series, that some of the old characters were revived to keep the characters consistent.



**“Stop in the name of the Coast Guard”** were the famous words he yelled to Bluto.

*Continued on the next page...*



# ***POPEYE - The Coastie, continued***

## **TEST YOUR POPEYE KNOWLEDGE**

1. NAME ALL FOUR NEPHEWS
2. FATHER'S NAME
3. GREAT GRANDFATHER NAME
4. FAVORITE FOOD
5. MAGICAL CREATURE FROM AFRICA
6. SON'S NAME
7. HOMETOWN
8. OLIVE OYL'S PARENTS
9. OLIVE OYL'S BROTHER
10. POPEYE'S HAIR COLOR
11. FIRST COMIC STRIP ADVENTURE?
12. ACTOR TO PORTRAY POPEYE IN 1980 MOVIE
13. DAY THAT WIMPY THE MOOCHER, WILL PAYBACK FOR THE HAMBURGER
14. YEAR POPEYE RETURN TO ORIGINAL COAST GUARD UNIFORM.
15. WHAT WAS PIPE MADE FROM



### Answers:

1. PIPEYE, PEEPEYE, POOPEYE, PUPEYE POOPDECK
2. PATCHEYE
3. SPINACH
4. EUGENE
5. THE JEEP
6. POPEYE JR.
7. SWEETHAVEN
8. NANA & COLE OYL
9. CASTOR OYL
10. AUBURN
11. THIMBLE THEATER
12. 1929 ROBIN WILLIAMS
13. TUESDAY
14. 1978
15. CORN COB



Images /information from :Fleishcer studios; Thimble Theatre;Famous studios; B Stilwell and creator E.C. Segar & Sagendorf

## Auxiliarists' Use of Social Media

**In September, the Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Charles Ray, sent the following email to leaders throughout the Coast Guard:**

To U.S. Coast Guard Leadership,

I need every CO, OIC, Supervisor, and Leader to clearly hear this message and communicate its content to every member of our workforce. The challenging effects of our high operational tempo during a global pandemic, forecasts for an active hurricane season, widespread protest for social justice, and the backdrop of a National election could potentially serve to divide us without a conscious effort to avoid any such division. When we say that we are "Stronger Together," we do not ignore our differences, but instead note that despite those differences we are ALL united in our sworn Oath to the Constitution, to our shared commitment to our Core Values - Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty, and in service to the American public.

It is also important to recognize that each of us are representatives of the Coast Guard at all times. In every interaction with each other inside our lifelines, and outside our lifelines with our fellow citizens, whether in person or on-line, I encourage you to be guided by two simple questions: Do my actions and words create an environment of unity and respect, or do they create divisions? Do my actions and words inspire my fellow American citizens' confidence and trust in their Coast Guard?

Along these lines, today we released ALCOAST 337/20 - COAST GUARD MEDIA/SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICIAL, UNOFFICIAL, AND PERSONAL USE GUIDANCE, which provides guidance to the workforce and reinforces acceptable conduct within the social media arena.

Across the Country, as we face challenges together, there is no room in our Coast Guard for divisive or exclusionary behavior, nor actions or behaviors that discredit you or our Coast Guard. Our fellow citizens count on us to be vigilant, mission focused guardians of maritime safety, security, and stewardship. Whether at a "call hands," at quarters or muster, or in one-on-one conversations, stay engaged and make sure your crews understand that in a professional military service - We Succeed Together.

Semper Paratus!

Admiral Charles W. Ray



**Admiral Charles W. Ray**  
**Vice Commandant**  
**United States Coast Guard**

## Auxiliarists' Use of Social Media, *continued*

Admiral Ray's message is clear: All of us as members of the Coast Guard team - military personnel, civilian personnel, Auxiliarists – are representatives of our service at all times during our commissions, enlistments, employments, and memberships. Moreover, our words and actions must consistently communicate unity and respect among those with whom we serve as well as the to the public that we all serve.

Admiral Ray also cites ALCOAST 337/20 - COAST GUARD MEDIA/SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICIAL, UNOFFICIAL, AND PERSONAL USE GUIDANCE (<https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/General-Messages/ALCOAST/>). Although this message is specifically applicable to Coast Guard active duty, reservists, and civilian employees, its basic tenets closely align with the requirements and expectations of Auxiliary social media policies found in Section 5.R. of the Auxiliary Manual, Commandant Instruction Manual 16790.1 (series) (<http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=H-DEPT&category=auxiliary-manuals>), most notably:

- a. Auxiliarists are expected to ensure their use of social media, even when in a personal capacity while not assigned to duty, neither inadvertently nor deliberately connects or associates with, or projects an image of connection or association with, inappropriate material that is not consistent with the Coast Guard's Core Values and Guardian Ethos.
- b. Auxiliarists are expected to remember the Coast Guard's Core Values and Guardian Ethos, and keep in mind how their official as well as unofficial social media and online posts will reflect upon themselves and the Coast Guard.
- c. Auxiliarists shall avoid behavior while acting in a personal capacity, not assigned to duty, that negatively impacts or conflicts with their ability to perform their function when assigned to duty.

The Auxiliary Chain of Leadership and Public Affairs program managers at national and district/regional levels are readily available resources to provide invaluable consultation and review whenever a question or concern exists about potential social media posts.

**This is official policy as endorsed by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary National Board and by the Executive Board of District 5-Northern Region. Auxiliary-wide compliance is in effect immediately.**

# USCG Auxiliary Public Affairs in Action During COVID-19 Pandemic

By Noreen Schifini

LAKEWOOD, NJ: Members from the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 16, located at the Jersey Shore, participated in the outdoor Jersey Shore Boat Show this past weekend. Auxiliarists were on hand to answer any boating questions that the public might have and provide valuable information on safe boating requirements. The team interacted with numerous visitors to the booth and registered approximately 60 people for various aspects of the Auxiliary, including About Boating Safety courses, Vessel Examinations and Membership in the Auxiliary. The Auxiliary is the uniformed, volunteer support for the U.S. Coast Guard.

## Public Outreach in a Pandemic

During the course of the current pandemic the Auxiliary has adjusted its mission parameters to minimize potential COVID-19 exposure to other Coast Guard Team members as well as the public they serve. Strict adherence to policy included practicing social distancing in the display space, keeping a safe distance from show participants and the wearing of masks. Surface and hand sanitization are used throughout the day and only limited supplies of literature put out in response to the flow of attendees past the booth. All displayed literature not utilized is properly disposed at the end of the event. Currently, Auxiliary public outreach is only being done at open-air venues. COVID Risk Mitigation Policies are constantly adapting to evolving nature of the pandemic.



**Left:** Aux. Bill Iwanyk answers a safe boating question.

**Right:** Aux. Jim McMahon discusses Marine Safety

*Photo by Auxiliarist Noreen Schifini, PA3*

*Photo by Auxiliarist Paul Casalese*



# USCG Auxiliary Public Affairs in Action During COVID-19 Pandemic

Continued



Auxiliarists Paul Casalese and Jim McMahon (Division 053-16) host Auxiliary Safe Boating Table at the Jersey Shore Boat Show, October 3-4, Lakehurst, New Jersey.

*Photo by Auxiliarist Noreen Schifini, Public Affairs Specialist 3*



## *Really “Board” with the Auxiliary*

*by Timothy Marks, DSO-PB - District 5NR*

Growing up on the ‘Jersey Cape,’ Joe Giannattasio spent much of his time at the beach; swimming, sailing, wake skimming and surfing are all common activities for most kids at the shore. Many Auxiliarists know Joe from his participation in various District Fifth Northern offices and activities over the past 17 years. Joe says that his decision to serve in the Coast Guard Auxiliary was a direct result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. “Many people say they support our servicemen and women,” he said. “I wanted to demonstrate my support in both word and deed, so I joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary flotilla in Cape May. And though he is now far along from his youth, Joe still retains much of his seashore lifestyle and combines it with designing Auxiliary inspired custom surfboards and skim boards.

“I thoroughly enjoy being in the Auxiliary and part of Team Coast Guard,” says Giannattasio. “And I started customizing items associated with activities I enjoy and my sentiment of the Auxiliary.



**CAPE MAY, NJ** - Proudly displaying various styles of the Auxiliary ‘slash’ on the beach.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Tim Marks.*

Joe has created numerous Auxiliary inspired works over the years, items he has customized include flight helmets, water skis, a Jeep, aircraft sections, and a wave runner. But the majority of his Auxiliary-styled works have been surfboards, skateboards and skim boards that he donates to the ‘Friday-Fun-Nite’ auctions held during district conferences (DTRAINs); the proceeds going toward deferring the cost of conducting the DTRAIN. They are all numbered and signed by Joe, each one generating spirited bidding.

There are additional benefits according to Joe. “I quickly noticed how these custom-works inspire awareness and appreciation of the Coast Guard Auxiliary to the public, especially to younger people.” He strives to be an example and promote the Auxiliary through his creations.

Two years ago the U.S. Coast Guard honored Joe Giannattasio as the 2017 National Auxiliarist of the Year. But, the creative and hard-working Auxiliarist insists that the prestigious national award is but one of the benefits he has gotten in return for his contributions to the Coast Guard mission. “The Auxiliary has presented me amazing opportunities and thrilling experiences,” said Giannattasio. “The most significant is the bond developed with other Auxiliary and active duty members, and I consider them special - like family.

*Continued on the next page...*



## *Really “Board” with the Auxiliary, continued*

When asked what item he plans to modify next with an Auxiliary theme, Joe already has a project in mind: “I’ve been searching for a reasonably priced small submersible watercraft this year.”



**CAPE MAY, NJ** - Auxiliarist Joe Giannattasio in his workshop with a few of his Auxiliary themed creations.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Tim Marks.*



# *National Election*

*Article and photo by Barbara Sama*

Our 1st ever electronic National election was held on 22, August of 2020. Commodore King expertly presided over the elections during this 2 hour session which had over 200+ members watch the procedures.

- Alex Malewski was elected as our next leader.
- With him will stand Gus Formato as our Vice Commodore.
- Gary Barth is the Deputy National for the Atlantic East
- Tom Mullally is the Deputy National for the West
- And Mary Kirkwood is the Deputy National Pacific

The session went off with very little problem as Commodore King guided the board members through each election. This online vote provided many members the opportunity to watch the elections, who otherwise would not have been able to travel to Orlando for NACON2020.

Our thanks to All the hard work behind the scenes that gave us this opportunity.

SEMPER PARATUS



# *The History of the Auxiliary Yachting Cap*

by Joseph Giannattasio, AUXPA1 5NR

Co-researched by Steve Marthouse District 5NR

When the Coast Guard Auxiliary was conceived, it was entirely made up of U.S. citizens who owned motorboats, sailboats and yachts, and who would volunteer their - and their boats' - services to assist the Coast Guard. Many of the original Auxiliarists were yacht club members. In August 1941 the New York Times reported that in nearly every yacht club along the East Coast "a batch of members had banded together in a Coast Guard Auxiliary flotilla." A very unique item that symbolizes the Auxiliary's connection to its Yacht Club heritage is the Coast Guard Auxiliary Yachting Cap.

Yachting caps have long represented the sailing and boating world since the turn of the 20th century. It is a military looking hat, but designed for a more casual appearance, most manufacturers of military uniforms such as Lancaster and Bancroft produced yachting caps of the period. In every case an emblem or device is found on the front of the band over the visor. Traditionally this identifies the yacht club to which the yachtsman belongs and indicates their status in that club. The central part of this device was an enameled metal or silk embroidered disc showing the distinctive flag of the club. The Coast Guard Auxiliary's device incorporated a white enameled metal disc featuring the blue Auxiliary ensign, placed at the intersection of two crossed fouled anchors in gold.

Early records show that in the beginning, uniforms for Auxiliarists were a mix of yacht club uniforms with bars or patches on them. By 1942, a specific uniform was decided upon for the Auxiliary by the Coast Guard. Khaki shirt, khaki trousers, cap with khaki cover and black visor, and brown shoes was the prescribed uniform which was to be bought and paid for by the individual members. Since yachting caps were already owned by the majority of boaters who became Auxiliarists, and they were generally identical and equally expensive as combination covers, yachting caps were deemed optional. The Auxiliary cap device was to be mounted on the front of the cap. The following extract from a 1954 publication by the then Director of the Auxiliary, 3rd Coast Guard District (now Fifth Northern) contains a mention of the yachting cap. "The uniform is worn only when on Auxiliary business ... It is not worn when yachting on an individual basis; nor should the cap or shirt with collar devices attached be worn. The yachting cap device is proper." Inferring that the Auxiliary yachting cap could be worn while in uniform, and researching old Auxiliary photos supports this finding.



## From Top to Bottom -

1. Original Auxiliary Yachting Cap Device.
2. Original Auxiliary Yachting Cap with device mounted.
3. Auxiliary cap insignia mounted on a yachtsman cap circa 1945.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photos by Joseph Giannattasio.*

## *The History of the Auxiliary Yachting Cap* *Continued*

The 1950's and 60's editions of Chapman's Piloting, Seamanship and Small Boat Handling contained page-plates showing in detail the flags and insignia adopted by the Coast Guard Auxiliary at the time, all including the yachting cap device. The Auxiliary yachting cap device continued until 1975 when the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary transitioned to the newer 'Bender Blues' type uniforms, covers, and devices currently utilized.

These yachting caps were popular in the 1940's thru the 1960's, and the tradition continues with vintage yachting and sailing enthusiasts worldwide. They also represent a period in Coast Guard Auxiliary history long gone. Today, Auxiliary yachting caps with devices are very rare and sought after by collectors.

### SOURCES:

- Coast Guard at War - Auxiliary XIX, Historical Section USCG Headquarters. May 1, 1948
- USCG Auxiliary Membership Qualification Guide - CG-302 - April 1955
- Chapman's Piloting, Seamanship, and Small Boat Handling. 1952-1969 editions.
- Bravo Zero: The Coast Guard Auxiliary in World War II, C. Kay Larson



Early photo of Auxiliarists from Lower Egg Harbor Yacht Club, NJ. Note Auxiliary Yachting Caps and Devices.

*Uncredited image from D5NR archives.*



## *Crossing the Bar*

### **Auxiliarist Crossing the Bar - August 8-October 25**

**Sept 2020**

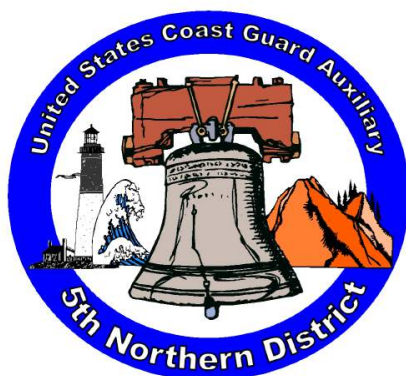
9/25/00 Bruce Beattie (17-04)



## *COVID-19 Guidance*

Please see the latest workforce guidance on COVID-19 at [www.uscg.mil/CoronaVirus/](http://www.uscg.mil/CoronaVirus/)

# Photos from Across the District



## *Members Try Home DIY Projects During COVID Stand Down Precaution*



Totes made from an old uniform are all the rage with military families. Linda Skvarla is a master sewist and developed this great idea into an Auxiliary project. It's a design that can be easily modified to make different sized / shaped bags, i.e., a messenger style bag. The size of this bag is perfect for a few books, an iPad or the like.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio.*

Auxiliarist Linda Skvarla adds an Auxiliary touch to holiday decor with Christmas stockings created from Coast Guard Auxiliary uniform materials. Now here is a stocking that Santa can't wait to fill.

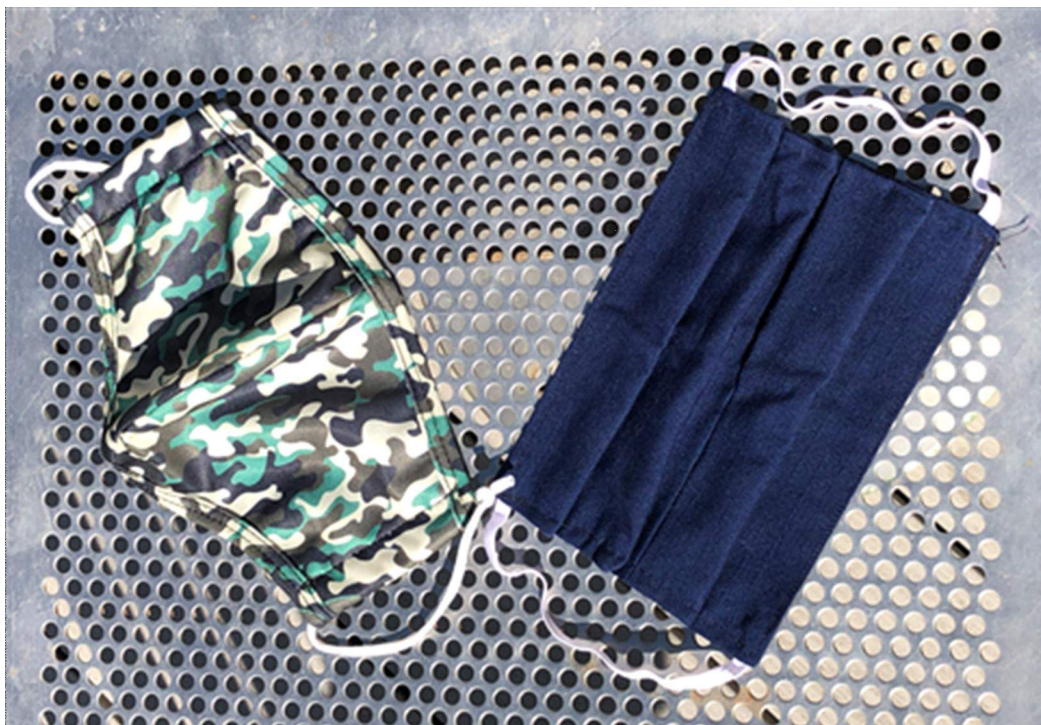
*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio.*





## *Members Try Home DIY Projects During COVID Stand Down Precaution*

Create to give. Many Auxiliarists in the crafting and sewing communities are making protective masks, gowns and other essential items and donating them to the family members of active duty Coasties. As Auxiliarists, Chris and John Burns pitched in during this unprecedented crisis by sewing protective masks of various sizes for the children and spouses of active duty members in Cape May.



This Auxiliary flatcar with boat is actually an O-scale train car custom painted by an Auxiliarist-elf for a Coast Guard family.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo  
by Joseph Giannattasio.*

## *Members Try Home DIY Projects During COVID Stand Down Precaution*

These customized protective masks promote member safety as well as public awareness of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by  
Joseph Giannattasio.*







CONESUS LAKE, NY: It's a clear sunny 04 September afternoon when Rick Young is proudly displaying the Auxiliary Ensign from his boat's bow staff, but also note the 2020 Courtesy Vessel Exam sticker. Rick's boat had been examined prior to the stand down order and provided many hours of enjoyable and safe on-the-water time this summer. (Photo: Courtesy of Rick Young, FC 053-19-04 and PA3)

*Photograph by Richard R. Young, Ph.D., 19-04*



## ***EXCOM 2020***

*All photographs by Barbara Sama*



## *EXCOM 2020, continued*

*All photographs by Barbara Sama*





# *A Message from the Editor*

Happy Fall 5NR,

Earlier today I was commenting to my wife that this edition of Topside is 58 pages long. She was amazed that during the non-patrol season and during a pandemic that it has so many pages. It surprised her that there was enough going on to put in the newsletter.

I believe that is a testimony to the dedication, hard work, and the amazing number of activities that the members 5NR are involved in. I think we all should be proud that even during this unprecedented time in history, that our district has not shied away from doing our duty to the Coast Guard and the

country, all the while doing it with all the recommended precautions and safeguards in place. I also believe it is a testimony to our leadership for helping us all navigate through these uncharted waters.

Hang in there. This situation the world finds itself in will eventually subside and things will return to "normal". We have weathered it this far, we can go remaining stretch! Stay safe and enjoy this fall and upcoming holiday season.

Semper Paratus,  
Tim Marks  
DSO-PB



Timothy Marks  
District Staff Officer -  
Publications

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## Come Visit us on the Web

Coast Guard Auxiliary homepage:

<http://www.cgaux.org/>

5NR Website:

<http://www.5nr.org/index.php>





# Parting Shot

COMO-Elect Joseph Giannattasio at the helm of USCGC Eagle. In January he will take the helm of 5NR as our new Commodore.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo  
by Barbara Sama*

