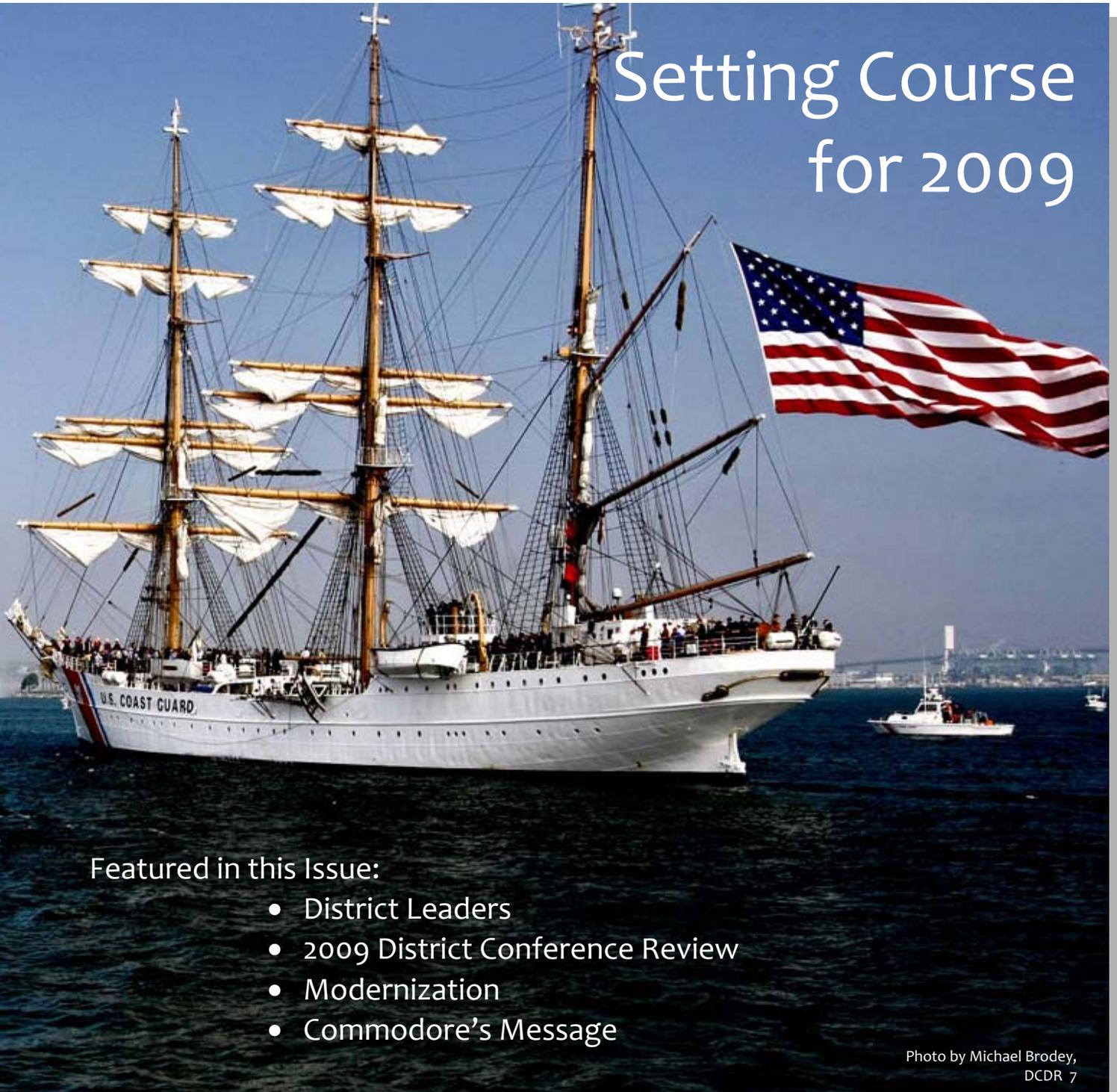




District 11SR

COMMODORE'S BULLETIN & DIRECTOR'S NEWSLETTER

Setting Course for 2009



Featured in this Issue:

- District Leaders
- 2009 District Conference Review
- Modernization
- Commodore's Message

Photo by Michael Brodey,
DCDR 7

Volume 9
Issue 1
February 2009

DISTRICT BRIDGE

District Commodore (DCO)

Michael Johnson

District Chief of Staff (DCOS)

Harry Jacobs

Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX)

CDR Richard Symons

Operations Training Officer (OTO)

CWO Chris Ruleman

District Captains (DCAPT)

Inland (I)

Mary Klock

San Diego (SD)

Wally Berry

Los Angeles / Long Beach North (LA/LB-N)

Bert Blanchette

Los Angeles / Long Beach South (LA/LB-S)

Don Napolitano

Immediate Past District Commodore (IPDC)

COMO Robert Sterzenbach

DISTRICT BOARD

President of the

Past Commanders' Association (PPCA)

Pat Swope

Division Commanders (DCDR)

Division 1	Dale Mathews
Division 2	Steve Nesmith
Division 3	Tom Jacobsmeyer
Division 4	Howard Levine
Division 5	Sharon Blenn
Division 7	Michael Brodey
Division 9	Robert Lamorte
Division 10	Carl (Bud) Gothann
Division 11	David White
Division 12	Trent Kelly
Division 13	Roger Helizon
Division 14	Robert Uy
Division 15	Darrell Hannon
Division 16	Mary Davis

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974

The disclosure of the personal information contained in this publication is subject to the provisions contained in the Privacy Act 1974. The subject ACT, with certain exceptions, prohibits the disclosure, distribution, dissemination or copying of any material containing the home address, home telephone number, spouses name, and social security numbers, except for Official Business. Violations may result in disciplinary action be the Coast Guard and/or civilian criminal sanctions.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Please submit all articles, pictures, corrections, and updates to the DSO-PB at fendtb@cox.net.

Please mail hardcopies or data CDs/DVDs to:

Bret Fendt
100 Cricklewood Ave
Henderson, NV 89002
(702) 743-6802

Next Submission Deadline:

20 MAR 09 | April 2009 Issue

DISTRICT DIRECTORATE CHIEFS (DDC) & DISTRICT STAFF OFFICERS (DSO)

DDC Response (R)	COMO Richard Miller
DDC Prevention (P)	Ralph Casale
DDC Logistics (L)	Donald Fox
Aviation (AV)	Martin Smith
Communications (CM)	John Olson
Communications Services (CS)	James Franklin
Finance (FN)	Virgil Campbell
Information Services (IS)	Kenneth Edwards
Materials (MA)	Richard Kaufman
Marine Safety (MS)	Deborah Johnson
Member Training (MT)	Dale Zimmermann
Navigation Systems (NS)	Richard Reinhardt
Operations (OP)	Roy Garboff
Public Affairs (PA)	COMO Fred Gates
Public Education (PE)	Victoria Jacobs
Publications (PB)	Bret Fendt
Personnel Services (PS)	Tom Shaw
Program Visitor (PV)	Eve Oppedisano
Secretary & Records (SR)	Stepheni Norton
Vessel Examiner (VE)	Anthony Lee

Cover Photo: Los Angeles, CA -- Auxiliarists aboard AUXFAC Marian Marie, escort the Coast Guard Barque "Eagle" into Los Angeles Harbor. Photo by **Michael Brodey**, Division Commander, Division 7.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Leadership Introductions

District Commodore Michael Johnson	Page 4
District Chief-of-Staff Harry Jacobs	Page 5
Director of Auxiliary, CDR Richard Symons	Page 6
Operations Training Officer Chris Ruleman	Page 7
District Captain - Inland, Mary Klock	Page 8
District Captain - San Diego, Wally Berry	Page 8
District Captain - LA/LB North, Bert Blanchette	Page 9
District Captain - LA/LB South, Don Napolitano	Page 9
District Directorate Chief - Prevention	Page 10
District Directorate Chief - Response	Page 10
District Directorate Chief - Logistics	Page 10
Message from DHS	Page 11
Change-Up Pays Big – Conference Review	Page 12
District Conference Photos	Page 13
Conversation with the Commandant	Page 14
Marine Safety & Environmental Protection	Page 16
Change & New Member Retention	Page 18
Your Key To A Dynamic Flotilla	Page 19
Ladies of the Night	Page 20
Modernization	Page 22
Commodore’s Message	Page 23
District Calendar	Page 23
Editor’s Corner	Page 23

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

...members will find an expanded *special edition* of the Commodore’s Bulletin & Director’s Newsletter. As we begin a new year with new District Leadership, this issue should serve as an introduction of the Bridge. Each of these members have dedicated themselves to the success of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and find great pride in serving you, the members of District 11SR. In a few brief pages, you will gain a small insight into their lives, developing a new perspective for who has been elected into key leadership roles.

In addition, members will find articles discussing a wide selection of topics, all chosen to inform, educate, and engage. We hope you enjoy.

DISTRICT COMMODORE



MICHAEL JOHNSON DISTRICT COMMODORE (DCO) DISTRICT 11SR

Michael C. Johnson was born in Kanab, Utah. In the mid-1950s, the Johnsons moved to the Page, Ariz. area to establish a new base of operations for the family business on what was to become the shores of Lake Powell. Michael's family business began running trips up the Colorado River from historic Lee's Ferry to what is now known as Rainbow Bridge National Monument. Mike worked in a variety of areas of the business, with ever-increasing responsibilities. Michael obtained his first Coast Guard Masters License for vessels up to 50 gross tons at the age of 17. He continued to work through his college years during his summer vacations.

Mike's education continued when completed his undergraduate work in 1975 at Arizona State University with a major in marketing. The family business having been sold, he moved from Page to Phoenix, accepting a position as a sales representative for Liquid Air Corporation. Earning a Master of Business Administration degree in 1980 followed by a Juris Doctor degree in 1983 from Arizona State University College of Law, Michael graduated in the top 15% of his class; Mike has practiced law in Phoenix since, focusing his practice primarily on business transactions and business and commercial litigation.

Mike joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary in 1995. As an active qualification examiner, coxswain, personal watercraft operator, instructor and vessel examiner he is also an AUXOP member, who has served in many capacities both elected and appointed, including District MDA Coordinator, District and National (DVC-LG) legal officer. His personal awards include the Medal of Operational Merit, Auxiliary Commendation Medal, Sustained Auxiliary Service Award (10), Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation, Dept. of Transportation 9-11 Ribbon, Auxiliary Member Service Award (2), Auxiliary Operations Service Award (3), Auxiliary Public Education Service Award (2), District Commodore's Award, Division Captain's Award, Division Vice Captain's Award, Flotilla Commander's Award, and Best Division Publication. In addition, Rear Admiral Kevin Eldridge presented him with the District Commander's coin for his leadership role in planning and managing a District-wide Operational Training Exercise.

Mike has also been active as an assistant scoutmaster in the Boy Scouts of America. Completing the highest levels of training offered to an adult leader, Wood Badge and the Venturing program, Powderhorn. Mike helped lead a 66 mile backpacking expedition and a 10 day canoeing expedition.

Mike has been married to Debi since 1976 who are the proud parents of their daughter Kristi and son Ryan. Kristi is working on a master's degree in landscape architecture at ASU and is an accomplished triathlete (completed two Ironman competitions). Ryan, an Eagle Scout, is currently attending Mesa Community College, working toward an undergraduate degree in Business and Communications.

DISTRICT CHIEF OF STAFF

HARRY JACOBS DISTRICT CHIEF OF STAFF (DCOS) DISTRICT 11SR

Harry M. Jacobs, born in Bridgeport, Conn. and was raised in California since 1946. He completed his undergraduate education at CSU, Los Angeles with a major in social studies and a minor in business education. He continued his graduate education at Cal State LA earning a Teaching Credential and a Master's Degree in Government. After five years of teaching and administration, he completed 4-years of post-graduate training in educational administration at the University of Southern California.



Harry entered the teaching profession in Los Angeles in 1965 and joined the staff of CSU, Los Angeles in 1967. During his twenty-year career with the Cal. State University System, Harry held administrative positions at the Los Angeles, San Francisco, Northridge and Pomona campuses.

After leaving the University system in 1987, Harry worked in private industry, but returned to college administration in 1990. In 1994, Harry began a 10-year career with the City of Los Angeles, retiring in February 2004. In December 2004, Harry started a professional grant writing company.

Harry joined the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary on July 23, 1980 and has held the Elected Offices such as: Flotilla Commander, Division Vice Captain and Division Captain, Vice President of the Past Captains Association, and Rear Commodore – LA/LB South. He was elected District Chief of Staff for 2009-10 in September 2008.

In addition, he has held Appointed Offices at the Flotilla, Division and District levels for D11SR. His service has included National Division Chief for Recruiting and Retention, Aide to two National Commodores and Assistant Director of Development for the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association. He has served on District and National Conference Committees for fifteen years.

Harry's qualifications include: Coxswain, Instructor, Vessel Examiner, Coast Guard Communications Watchstander-Controller, Telecommunications Specialist and Air Observer.

Harry is married to Past Rear Commodore Victoria L. Jacobs of San Pedro, California. Victoria is a Past Captain of Division 5, a Past National Department Chief for Personnel, and will be serving as the District Staff Officer for Public Education in 2009. Both have been active members of the Auxiliary since 1980.

DIRECTOR OF AUXILIARY



COMMANDER RICHARD SYMONS DIRECTOR OF AUXILIARY (DIRAUX) DISTRICT 11SR

CDR Symons was assigned as Director of Auxiliary, Eleventh Coast Guard District southern region in 2006. After college he began his military career by enlisting in the Navy Reserve as a Sonar Technician. After six years and service aboard two destroyers, he left the service and entered law enforcement. His initial experience was as a Security Investigator for Disneyland (yes, there is crime at Disneyland) and he later became a Police Officer with the City of Irvine, California.

In 1979, CDR Symons reentered military service, enlisting in the Coast Guard Reserve to serve part-time. He drilled as a Port Security Specialist First Class until being selected for Officer Candidate School in 1986. Upon commissioning, he was assigned to Group Los Angeles-Long Beach as a Search and Rescue Controller. Subsequent assignments have included multiple tours in Marine Safety Offices as Investigating Officer, Waterways Management Supervisor, Marine Environmental Protection Officer, and Executive Officer. CDR Symons served on the Pacific Area Operations Staff and was the first Chief of Force Optimization and Training for the Eleventh District. His recent assignments were as Chief of Personnel Services at Integrated Support Command (ISC) San Pedro and most recently as ISC Executive Officer.

CDR Symons has been married to his wife Annette, for 29 years and they have two children; ENS Christopher Symons, USCGR (deceased), and Jennifer Symons, a professional dancer currently performing at Tokyo Disneyland.

OPERATIONS TRAINING OFFICER

**CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER (BOSN)
CHRIS RULEMAN
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AUXILIARY
OPERATIONS TRAINING OFFICER (OTO)
DISTRICT 11SR (DPA-S)**



Chief Warrant Officer Ruleman reported to District Eleven in July 2005. His prior assignment was as Executive Petty Officer, Coast Guard Station Venice, LA. His primary duties were administration of the unit along with Coxswain and Boarding Officer.

CWO Ruleman graduated boot camp in January 1991. His first assignment was to Coast Guard Station Pensacola, FL where he qualified as watch stander and Boat Crew. In January 1992, he attended QM "A" School and transferred to the Coast Guard Cutter (CGC) Decisive as a Third Class Petty Officer. His next three assignments were as Operations Petty Officer and Deck Watch Officer aboard the CGC Saginaw, CGC Knight Island, and the CGC Chincoteague, respectively. CWO Ruleman advanced to Chief Petty Officer in 2001 and transferred to MSO Houston Galveston as an examiner at the Regional Examination Center.

CWO Ruleman's awards include; three Coast Guard Achievement Medals, two Commandant's Letter of Commendation ribbons, four Coast Guard Good Conduct Medals, Expert Rifle, Permanent Cutterman and numerous unit awards.

CWO Ruleman was born and raised in and around Houston, Texas. He currently resides in Huntington Beach, CA with his wife Merrie, son Justin (12), Daughter Ashlynn (8), and son Torin (5). He enjoys golf, running, and reading.

DISTRICT CAPTAINS



INLAND: MARY KLOCK

Mary and her husband Stanley joined the Auxiliary in 2000 as members of Flotilla 10-11 after taking a sailing class that was presented by the Flotilla. Shortly after joining, she attended a training program to stand watch at Boston Harbor Light but was interrupted by the unfortunate events of 9/11/2001. The immediate role of the Auxiliary changed and she proceeded to San Diego to perform harbor patrols in 8-hour shifts, 24/7, for 2 ½ weeks. Mary recalls, *“It was a very sobering experience and one which gave me great pride, to be able to serve my county in some meaningful way during its moment of crisis.”*

Mary has served in the following roles: Flotilla Commander, Vice Captain, and Division Captain. In addition, she has earned the following awards: CG Auxiliary Commendation Medal, Auxiliary Sustained Service Award (7), Presidential Unit Citation, Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation (2), Coast Guard Unit Commendation, Transportation 9/11 Ribbon, Auxiliary Recruiting Service Award, Auxiliary Operations Service Award, and Membership Service Award. Also she is Crew qualified, an ATON Verifier and has achieved the AUXOP qualification.

SAN DIEGO: WALLY BERRY

Wajeeh Berry, known to many as Wally, has lived in San Diego since 1978. Looking to channel his energy during retirement and following his passion for boating, Wally joined the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in 1999. He has earned numerous qualifications including: Trident, Uninspected Towing Vessel Examiner, Assistant T-Boat Inspector, Commercial Fishing Vessel Inspector, Uninspected Passenger Vessel Examiner, Assistant Life Raft Inspector, Assistant Harbor Safety Specialist, VSC Examiner, Crew, and Instructor.



He has kept busy and involved, participating in various vessel inspections in the Colorado Lakes system on 22 separate trips while conducting numerous 6-pax inspections as well as Commercial Fishing Vessel Inspections.

Wally has been an active volunteer in the law enforcement community for years as a member of the San Diego Crime Commission since 1995, Captain in the Honorary Deputy Sheriff's Association and a lifetime member of the California Highway Patrol 11-99 Foundation.

Wally has been married to Cheryl since 1988. He has four granddaughters, Grace, Bailey, Addison and Hayden, as well as a son, stepson, and two stepdaughters.

DISTRICT CAPTAINS

LOS ANGELES / LONG BEACH NORTH: BERT BLANCHETTE

Bert has been in the Auxiliary for ten years. During that time, he has completed competencies in Communications, Vessel Examinations, Instructor and Aids to Navigations. He is currently Crew Qualified and has a 20' Twin Jet Facility that is used for Nobel Eagle, Marine Environmental, and Safety Patrols. As a trailerable vessel it is used in the Marinas and Lakes. Currently Bert is working on his Crew Qualifications, finishing Life Boat Inspections, and Uninspected Vessel qualifications. In addition he is on the Auxiliary Underwater Dive Inspection Team (AUDIT). Bert has served for 4 ½ years as District Staff Officer – Publications.



In his personal life, Bert has been in the ice skating industry all his life. Currently he owns a business in which he owns and/or manages several ice skating centers along the west coast and one bowling center in San Francisco. In his spare time, Bert is an instructor and trainer for the American Red Cross, and continues to teach skating and teaching skills.



LOS ANGELES / LONG BEACH SOUTH: DON NAPOLITANO

Don is a native of Southern California who has earned Masters Degrees in Human Resources and Business from the University of San Francisco. In his private life, Don owns a construction company based in Orange County, California that specializes in building and performing government projects.

Don became a member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary in 1996. Over the years, he has held many elected and appointed positions including the District Staff Officer for the Material Center for four years. In addition, he is active in the Boat Crew program and owns and operates his facility for patrols. In addition to his time on the water, he is active in the Coast Guard MDA program.

Some of Don's hobbies are: cooking, wine collecting, boating, movies and exercise. He keeps busy as a volunteer at his church and has authored four books, one of which has been formally published. He takes pride in his a son, daughter and five grand children all the while subscribing to the theory that change is for certain and life is a journey.

DISTRICT DIRECTORATE CHIEFS



Response: COMO Richard Miller

From 1951-1955, COMO Miller was in the US Navy where he served three years of sea duty in the Pacific on two different ships, the USS Electron and USS Carpenter.

In 1956, he married Collene Miksch in Kansas. They celebrate having two children (son and daughter) and four grandchildren.

His volunteer activities included 16 years as an adult leader in the Boy Scouts of America (Orange County Council) from 1974-1989 and numerous service clubs and philanthropic organizations.

COMO Miller joined the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary in December 1980. His Auxiliary qualifications included: AUXOP, Coxswain, Instructor, and Vessel Examiner. He has held the following elected & appointed positions: Division Captain, District Rear Commodore, District Vice Commodore, and District Commodore of D11SR, President of the National Association of Commodores, District Diversity Advisor and National Branch Chief Personnel (Diversity-Pacific).



Prevention: Ralph Casale

Ralph was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1940 moved to Lindenhurst in 1955. Ralph served in the US ARMY from 1963-65 Rank: SP-4. Following his service, he married Joan Sangorge Alhambra California in 1967.

Ralph Casale became a member of the Auxiliary in 1968 joining Flotilla 13-7 in Baldwin N.Y. During his years of service, he has held several elected & appointed offices, including: Vice Flotilla Commander, Flotilla Commander, Division Vice Captain, Division Captain, Flotilla Staff Officer of Career Counselor, Materials, Personnel Services, Marine Dealer Visitor, Vessel Examiner. In addition he has held the Division and District offices of Member Resources (PS) Operations, Parliamentarian, Vessel Examiner, and Member Resources. Ralph's current qualifications include Crew, Vessel Examiner, Program Visitor, and Instructor, in total over the years, he has held 49 different positions.

Ralph held civilian certifications which included USCG License Atlantic Ocean Operator Passenger Vessel - 25 gross tons from 1973-1978.



Logistics: Don Fox

Don joined the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary on Feb, 09, 1984, and has held Elected Offices such as: Flotilla Vice Commander, Flotilla Commander, Division Vice Captain, Division Captain, and Rear Commodore LA/LB North.

In addition, he has held Appointed Offices at the Flotilla, Division, and District levels including District Parliamentarian for 10 years, and SO-IS for 8 years. He is currently SO-IS for Division 2, and District Parliamentarian. Don's qualifications include: Boat Crew, Instructor, Vessel Examiner, Telecommunications Specialist and Air Observer. Don was born in the Bronx. He joined the U.S.M.C Reserve and served for two and a half years. When the Korean War started he joined the U.S. Navy and served for four years. He married Rosalind (Roz) on May 19 1956 and lived in Island Park, N.Y. and Morganville, N.J. where they raised four children. They moved to California July 1991, and presently live in Laguna Woods.

MESSAGE FROM DHS

MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY JANET NAPOLITANO -003/09

MEMORANDUM FOR: Department of Homeland Security Employees

FROM: Janet Napolitano
Secretary, Department of Homeland Security

I would like to introduce myself and thank you for the opportunity to serve with you at the Department of Homeland Security. I am honored to take on this new role and continue the important work begun by my predecessors to protect our borders, safeguard our infrastructure, and improve our Nation's abilities to prevent, respond to, and recover from natural and manmade hazards.

As the former governor of Arizona, a state that shares a border with Mexico, I have worked closely with the Department on issues such as border-security and immigration. As the former chair of the National Governors Association, I have worked both in Arizona and with my colleagues across the country on disaster preparedness, emergency management and recovery efforts.



Photo Courtesy of Department of Homeland Security Website:
http://www.dhs.gov/albany/photos/Portrait_Napolitano_Tiles.jpg

The establishment of the Department is an impressive accomplishment, and you have provided a good foundation upon which to build. Yet, as we reflect on those achievements, there is still much work to be done.

Our goal must be to integrate all of the Department's Components into "One DHS." Each organization that became part of DHS brought its legacy of service, achievement, and innovation, and that heritage has contributed and will continue to contribute to the Department's greatness. By sharing our strengths we can and will achieve the shared sense of mission that will ensure we are doing everything we can to protect this great Nation.

I look forward to getting to know you; to tapping into your history, your knowledge, your hard work and your dedication; and to working with you to make the Department the best it can be.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Change-Up Pays Big Dividends at District Conference

“You can’t teach old dogs new tricks” but you certainly can teach them to old Seadogs! All you have to do is get their attention!

The workshop schedule for the District Conference featured many attention getting titles and subjects, which yielded a greater than expected conference registration and capacity attendance in each session. The response was so dramatic that facilitators reported standing room only and some difficulty trying to end their workshops at the scheduled time. The best news was that everyone reported that the mix of Auxiliary and Active Duty on the instructional teams worked very well and contributed to the resolution of questions that would have been left unanswered.



Nearly six hundred members were exposed to information about Marine Domain Awareness and the Small Boat Threat to America’s Security, Introduction to Elected Leadership at the Flotilla and Division Levels, Guidelines for Working with the Active Duty Coast Guard, Modernization, Website Development and Management, Properly Recognizing Member Achievement, Organization and Management Techniques, Security and Confidentiality Issues, Instructor Development, Surface Operations, Air Operations, ICS 210, POMS, Personnel Services, VHF-2-Meter Communications, Progressive Discipline, Public Affairs, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection, Decoding AUXDATA AND AUXIFO, Preparing Publications, Issues in Conducting Vessel Safety Checks and Understanding Navigation Systems. All this while our New Members were enrolled in a 4-part New Member Academy that covered the History of the Auxiliary, Offices and Qualifications, Uniforms and Courtesy and Protocols.

The offerings were so well received that titles will be expanded for the 2010 Conference, which is now in the planning stage. Below are some of the course titles being considered for 2010.

There will be encore presentations of the MDA and the Small Boat Threat to America’s Security workshop, Guidelines for Working with the Active Coast Guard, Current Security and Confidentiality Issues, and Progressive Discipline. New titles will include Understanding MARSEC Levels and their Impact on Member Behavior, Impact of Marine Safety and Environmental Protection on National Security, Handling Formal Message Traffic in a National or Regional Emergency, Coast Guard Base Security – a Tool for Protecting You and Your Mission, Photojournalism – a New Twist on Public Affairs, When the Uniform Code of Military Justice Applies to the Auxiliary, the new un-tucked ODU – How to Wear-and-Care for It, and many of our traditional workshops as well as our famous New Member Academy, too.

Your Conference Committee did a fantastic job of bringing to you an exceptional training curriculum, but you “haven’t seen anything yet!” The “change-up” works in baseball and we proved it works with our Members, too!

*Harry M. Jacobs
District Chief of Staff*

DISTRICT CONFERENCE



CONVERSATION WITH THE COMMANDANT

by Manny Romero, Division Chief, Training

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — U.S. Coast Guard Commandant ADM Thad Allen was here Feb. 5 to meet with leaders from Auxiliary Division 10—whose members form the essence of the Coast Guard on Arizona’s desert lakes.



In a relaxed breakfast meeting designed to acquaint the admiral with local personnel, the Coast Guard leader spoke of several initiatives to help align the Auxiliary with the Coast Guard modernization program. He also expressed optimism with the new administration in Washington.

This administration and new DHS Secretary (former Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano) “will be a lot more inclusive and deal with stakeholders and outreach,” he noted.

“I think the real difference is that the Bush Administration had a fixed idea of what should be and they kept trying to drive to that. I think the Obama Administration will focus on ‘how do we all work together and how can we arrive at the best conclusion?’

“It’s a different way of looking at problems and a different slant on diversity,” ADM Allen continued. “The more people you put on the problem, the more diverse opinions you’ll get. I think you’re going to

see an ascendancy of presidential diplomacy in this administration.”

Turning to the Coast Guard modernization program, the admiral alluded to his push for more transparency through “better use of the Internet, social media and networking. I think that’s right in line with where the president is going with e-government.”

“And,” he added, “I think you’re going to see a real push for making information more available to the public and make everything more transparent. That’s a real hallmark of this new administration moving forward.”

Known as a strong proponent of the Auxiliary, ADM Allen has worked closely with Auxiliary national leadership for the past several years as part of his “product line management” goal to make the Coast Guard more successful in the 21st Century.

Our new command structure “should give us some significant opportunities to more closely align with the Auxiliary...to serve you better and give you more visibility with us.

“It allows us to pull the skills and talents you have and put them to use for what we need beyond the traditional operational, inspection and education missions that you do.”

ADM Allen has often praised the Auxiliary during his
Continued on page 15



CONVERSATION WITH THE COMMANDANT

Continued

long Coast Guard career. The Tucson, Ariz. native did so again with this “hometown” audience by saying: “I’ve relied on you folks my entire 40 years in the Coast Guard at one point or another—every command.” Earlier he had complimented Division 10 on earning several diversity awards.



Photo by Manny Romero

“I think we’ve barely begun to tap the talents of the Auxiliary,” he said. “My philosophy is that there is nothing an Auxiliarist can’t do, unless precluded by

qualification or legal restriction such as law enforcement.

“There’s no one right way to be an Auxiliarist. When I was in Group Long Island Sound years ago, as an O-6, I took one of our Auxiliarists and she deployed on the *Eagle* for an entire summer as a cook. “And they never ate so good,” he quipped.

The Coast Guard leader responded to audience inquiries ranging from how the Auxiliary can help military families, to how implementation of the new Rescue 21 project will effect inland areas.

Designed to harness global positioning, Rescue 21 will replace aging, obsolete radio equipment and close 88 known coverage gaps along U.S. coastal regions.

General Dynamics C4 Systems of Scottsdale is the production contractor to replace the Coast Guard’s outdated system in the contiguous 48 states and Hawaii. The Coast Guard will be the system integrator for deployment to sectors in Alaska.

ADM Allen was in Scottsdale to conduct an annual program review with the CEO of General Dynamics.

Division 10 covers Arizona inland lakes and Lake Powell as part of Coast Guard Sector San Diego, District 11 (Southern Region).

Full ID for Pictures:

COMO Michael C. Johnson, District Commodore, D11SR

Retired Rear Admiral Bob Sloncen, Wellton, Arizona

CAPT Thomas Farris, commanding officer, U.S. Coast Guard Sector San Diego

Prevention Department, 2009

By Deborah Johnson, District Staff Officer - Marine Safety

The Marine Safety Performance Plan for 2009-2014, as presented by Rear Admiral James Watson, Director of Prevention Policy (CG-54), indicates that Marine Safety will play an increasing role in the Coast Guard as the service attempts to add stepped-up marine safety and security goals to protect our coastlines, ports and inland waterways to its already full list of responsibilities.



Rear Admiral Watson's bottom line is that the Coast Guard does not have enough active duty people to meet the needs of its missions, and it will therefore step up recruiting, make "M" careers a preferred choice, employ civilian contractors and seek to make better use of the Auxiliary to meet its mission goals. We have an enormous opportunity to step up to the plate with well-trained, hard working members dedicated to service in the "M" Department; with the periodic transfer of active duty people, Auxiliarists have the chance to become the knowledge base for "M" Departments in our two Sectors because this is where we live and work – we don't move every three years. So our training and knowledge of local areas and issues can become a tremendous resource for the active duty Coast Guard.



This opportunity carries with it a very heavy responsibility to train seriously, work actively and be both professional and responsible in our conduct, whether we are assisting active duty people or working with the general public. Working within the "M" areas is not as straightforward a process as that of becoming crew or coxswain qualified; instead, it requires taking and passing eight courses to gain core knowledge essential to many (but not all) tasks, and additional training in specific job areas to become qualified to work at a Sector in those areas.

As shown on the National Website homepage for Prevention, MS/MEP covers a variety of areas, including "support for marine environmental response assistance, port safety and security inspections, commercial vessel safety and security inspections (UTV, UPV, CFVE and other Foreign and Domestic Vessels), container inspection assistance, mariner licensing/ documentation/course audits, public affairs, area contingency planning, waterways management, MDA/America's Waterways Watch, MISLE support, and environmental education". So there is something for everyone, regardless of physical capability or area of interest, whether it is work at the Sectors or out in the general public!

The Trident Program is the Prevention (MS/MEP) training program; the required courses give members the necessary background to assist with MS/MEP activities and engage in further training in the form of Performance Qualification



Continued on page 17

MARINE SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

System designations which include on-the-job training in most cases. The Coast Guard expects that members seeking this further training will put it to use by actively working in support of “M” areas and missions, whether with active duty people, within the Auxiliary or with the general boating public.

So what can you do in the Prevention Department as an Auxiliarist? As it was previously mentioned, the national web page for the “M” Department lists seven different topics, each of which has many activities specific to that topic. For example, if you are interested in Prevention Outreach, which includes America’s Waterway Watch, Aquatic Nuisance Species and the Sea Partners Program, you might visit schools to give presentations on these topics or answer questions at a Public Affairs booth containing displays on these topics. Or you might be participating in a Clean Marina Program visit or a beach clean-up project. You could be teaching a Good Mate course, which emphasizes clean boating, or talking with vessel owners about the need to assist the Coast Guard with the safety and security of our waterways by watching the area where they routinely boat and reporting any suspicious activities.



If you like ATONS, PATONS, bridges or charts you may choose to become an ATON Verifier or help update navigation charts or work for the Bridge Administration group to check on local bridges. Aids to navigation are an important part of accident prevention, both for commercial traffic and recreational boating.

Or perhaps you might enjoy assisting at the Regional Exam Centers, where mariners renew their licenses and take licensing exams; opportunities for assisting at Sectors are available in a variety of areas: container inspections, Marine Domain Awareness inspections, radio watchstanding, clerical work and contingency planning are some of the activities conducted at Sectors. If you wish to work at a Sector, there is an application process that begins at the Flotilla level and includes one or more interviews prior to assignment to duty at a Sector office.

The Maritime Transportation Security Act requires regular readiness exercises using the ICS system – Auxiliarists may be asked to participate in some of these exercises, either as “victims” or perhaps to operate a radio or vessel facility in support of the exercise. Divisions and Flotillas may also conduct readiness exercises (like OPTREX), and this is an excellent way to contribute to the Marine Safety program in D11SR – every time you participate in an exercise, you improve your response skills for that time when the Auxiliary may be called upon to assist in a disaster situation. Practice – practice – practice - makes us better at our jobs!

So, if you are interested in the fields of marine safety/security and/or environmental protection, the “M” Department has something for you to do! Start by asking your FSO-MS what you can do today – we need your help and so does the Coast Guard!

PREVENTION

Change & New Member Retention

By Ralph Casale, District Director Chief - Prevention



As we move forward on the path of re-organization and modernization within the Auxiliary, one may find change frustrating at times. Over the course of my 40 years of service in the Auxiliary, I have witnessed many changes. When I joined in New York in 1968, the (working) uniform of the day was the equivalent of the Tropical Blue Long and was kaki in color while the Service Dress Blue was a double breasted coat similar to that of the present day Navy uniform.

The structure of the flotilla has seen changes during my tenure as well. The Flotilla Staff Officer of Member Training (FSO-MT) was at one time an elected officer. It is safe to say that over the last 40 years, the Auxiliary has experienced a few changes and will continue to change in order to evolve with the world in which we live.

What can we do to keep new members more than a few years?

Flotillas should review their Recruiting and Retention (R&R) System. As we begin a new year and a new campaign to attract and retain members, perhaps now is a good time to tune up your R&R System.

Many of our flotillas are finding new and excited members that are eager to get involved. While we want to fan these flames of excitement, there are a few points to keep in mind when considering these new members for staff appointments. It is my opinion that leadership should avoid appointing new members with less than one year of service, particularly to those key positions such as Information Services (IS), Operations (OP), Member Training (MT), and Vessel Exams (VE). A new member in a staff position experiences the burden of having to learn the duties associated with the position only through on the job training. This is a difficult task for an experienced member who has a working knowledge of the positions, much less someone new to the Auxiliary. This may cause premature burn out; too much work may leave no time for personal goals, job satisfaction or FUN. This is not why we joined the Auxiliary.

Such appointments of members with less than one year of service may affect the flotilla since the opportunity for errors increases. An effort should be made for a warm welcome to the flotilla with an offer of plenty of guidance & support during their first year. Ask new members what programs or certifications they wish to become involved in; find out what skills these members may have in their private lives that can be enhanced to serve the flotilla. Work to their strengths and develop and use a Mentor Program, encourage your seasoned members to be a Mentor.

District is doing its part to retain new members and will continue to make every effort possible. Our last District Conference had many new member Academy classes. After a member is accepted in the Auxiliary our job has just begun to keep them on the right track.

At one time in our history, the District 11SR Auxiliary slogan was "*Pay a Little Attention*". If you take a moment and think back when to when you joined the Auxiliary, ask yourself if you received the attention you would have liked, did you receive the training you were interested in?

I would like to challenge our leaders to take this opportunity in 2009 to "*Pay a Little Attention*" to your flotilla.

PUBLIC EDUCATION



Your Key To A Dynamic Flotilla

By Victoria Jacobs, District Staff Officer - Public Education

How many staff members does it take to put on a Public Education class? If your flotilla is in the habit of providing programs involving only a few members, your flotilla is missing a great opportunity to get your members working together and fired-up about PE. So, how many staff does it really take to put on a class? ALL OF THEM! If the job has been left up to only the FSO-PE the Flotilla leadership is missing out on a perfect opportunity to demonstrate TEAMwork (Together Everyone Achieves More) and member involvement. The PE Officer is the point person for the program, yet most of the other staff positions, with the oversight of the Flotilla leadership, need to be involved.

- ⇒ **CM** – Bring marine radios to class, answers technical questions, help students role play calls to the Coast Guard.
- ⇒ **CS** – Add class information to the flotilla web site.
- ⇒ **FN** – Receive and deposit funds received from students. Bring cash for change and receipt books to class. Prepare a balance sheet for class. Pay expenses as authorized.
- ⇒ **IS** – Check that each member involved records & submits the appropriate paperwork.
- ⇒ **MA** – Order books, pamphlets, and Instructor materials.
- ⇒ **MS** – Give flyers out during MS activities.
- ⇒ **MT** – Track Instructors' hours, be sure everyone stays qualified, help new Instructors teach the required number of hours to gain qualification.
- ⇒ **NS** – Add local Navigation Aids information to class sessions.
- ⇒ **OP** – Provide pictures of local waters, marine landmarks, and proper boat outfitting.
- ⇒ **PB** – Take a group photo of the graduates and include it in the next newsletter, with names. Send a photo to each of the graduates.
- ⇒ **PE** – Overall responsibility for the program, who teaches which chapter, classroom aides, coordinating refreshments, and similar activities.
- ⇒ **PA** – Prepare notices and articles for local media not covered by the CGAUX Class notices. Finds locations for class flyers and works to get the word out.
- ⇒ **PS** – Looks at those in attendance as potential new members? Visit the classes, outlines Auxiliary membership, offer New Member orientation. Invite to a flotilla meeting.
- ⇒ **PV** – Give out flyers during visits to local businesses.
- ⇒ **SR** – Keep the record of who agrees to take what action in the flotilla meeting.
- ⇒ **VE** – Give out class flyers and talks about the advantages of the class during Vessel Safety Checks

Looks like ALL the staff positions! Amazing isn't it? That means the entire flotilla needs to work together to put on a dynamic program. That is called teamwork. And who pulls all the staff members together? The Vice Flotilla Commander.

NOTE: REMEMBER, if there is a facility use contract to sign the District Legal Officer assigned to your Division must read and approved prior to it signing any commitments.

LADIES OF THE NIGHT...

By Deborah Johnson, District Staff Officer - Marine Safety



On a dark and stormy night..... with the wind howling like Valkyries, driving rain in icy horizontal sheets like a thousand spears..... the eyes of a young mariner strained into the darkness ahead... looking for safety... and finding none. The roar of

the ocean filled his ears.....and he heard not...but he felt the bite of Mother Nature deep in the bowels of the ship as she faltered for a moment on the teeth of eternity.....and then was lost for all time.....and he with her....

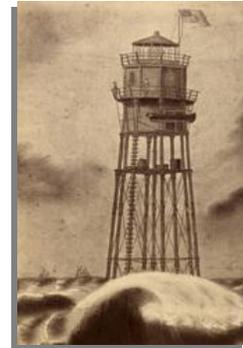
The year was 1840, and she was but one of more than 40 vessels to die on the Ledge... Minot's Ledge... between 1832 and 1841, with heavy loss of life and cargo. The irony of their deaths was that land and safety was located only a mile away near what is today the town of Scituate to the south of Boston Harbor in Massachusetts.

Mother Nature's "teeth" – Minot's Ledge – barely submerged and invisible in a severe storm – is only one of many groups of rocky outcrops along the rough coast of Massachusetts; finally, in 1843, Inspector I.W.P. Lewis of the Lighthouse Service produced a report about the hazardous Ledge that was supported by Captain William H. Swift of the US Topographical Bureau. The original suggestion to build a stone lighthouse similar to the Eddystone Light off the south coast of England was criticized by Swift, who instead proposed the construction of an iron pile lighthouse



designed to withstand the rough seas and tremendous storms off the coast near Scituate. The Ledge, barely 20 feet wide, was only dry for 2-3 hours a day, and Swift felt that construction of a stone lighthouse would be impossible on such a platform.

Construction of a 75 foot open-work iron light structure was begun in the spring of 1847, with workers living aboard a schooner moored near the Ledge and working during ebb tide on calm days. A total of nine 12-inch diameter holes were drilled to a depth of five feet – eight in a circle almost as large as the Ledge, with the ninth in the center; iron piling 10 inches in diameter was then cemented into each hole. Drilling equipment suspended on a triangular platform above the Ledge was operated by four men working in 20-minute shifts – the drilling platform and equipment were swept out to sea in severe storms twice during the summer of 1847, but miraculously none of the workers drowned. Although work had to be stopped for the winter, the holes were completed by the fall of 1848 and the iron lattice of the structure was put into place. Several braces were omitted, based on an idea that they would weaken the structure rather than strengthen it. With the pilings capped, the Keeper's quarters were erected on the platform and topped by a 16-sided lantern room housing a Fresnel lantern with 15 reflectors that produced a fixed beam with an arc of 210°. It was first lit on January 1, 1850.



Continued on page 21

LADIES OF THE NIGHT...

Mother Nature's teeth had been blunted... or had they????

Isaac Dunham - the first Lighthouse Keeper - was convinced that the tower was unsafe and wrote Washington to request that it be strengthened; he resigned on October 7, 1850 after no action resulted. His replacement - Captain John W. Bennett - felt the tower was fine..... until the braces began showing signs of strain due to recurring storms and constantly required repair. A committee appointed to investigate arrived on a calm sunny day and found no issues. In a March 1851 storm, the tower swayed violently for four days, but held. Then came the storm of April 8th - Bennett departed for the mainland 3 days later, but was unable to return to the light on the 16th due to heavy seas. Sometime in the wee hours of April 17th, the iron piling lighthouse broke near the area where braces had been omitted and plunged into the sea, the two Assistant Keepers faithfully ringing the bell even as they slid to their deaths.

Joseph Wilson was able to reach Gull Rock, where he apparently died of exposure and exhaustion; the body of the other Assistant Keeper, Joseph Antoine, washed ashore at Nantasket later. The Ledge had claimed two more souls....

Following this disaster, Minot's Ledge was guarded by a lightship between 1851 and 1860 while plans for a new lighthouse were drawn up by Brigadier General Joseph G. Totten; Barton S. Alexander, US Engineer, began construction on the new light in April of 1855. The granite was cut and assembled on Government Island in Cohasset while

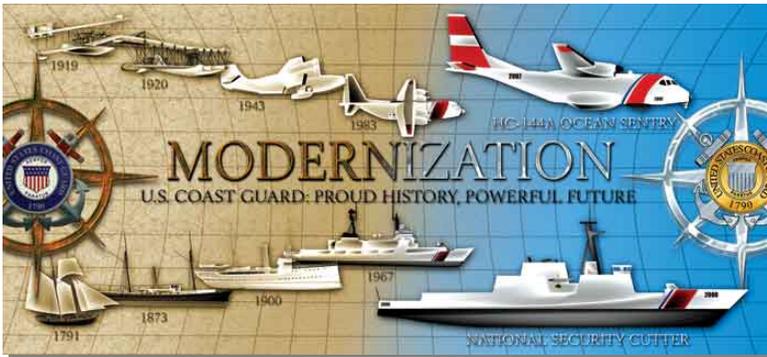
the Ledge was cut down to receive the seven foundation stones; permanent twenty foot tall iron shafts were set in eight of the original piling holes, while the center hole was left for later construction of a well for drinking water. During the construction, the barque *New Empire* struck the temporary tower, demolishing the iron scaffolding and the project had to be started over again. On July 9, 1857, the first stone of the new Minot's Ledge Lighthouse was finally laid; temporary sandbag



cofferdams were used to hold back the sea while the foundation blocks were laid two feet below the sea surface. The final stone was set on June 29, 1860 and the new Minot's Ledge Lighthouse lamp was lit for the first time on August 22, 1860.

A new flashing lantern, installed in 1894, flashes 1-4-3, having the same numerical count as the words "I love you" - the light became known as the Lover's Light. Automated in 1947, its 45,000 candlepower light sits 85 feet above the water, visible for 15 miles. The 97-foot tower has withstood every storm since, with waves sometimes engulfing the whole lighthouse. Mother Nature's "teeth" have been well-marked, ensuring the safety of ships at sea.

DISTRICT MODERNIZATION



Modernization – The Effects on D11SR

If you are like many of the members of the Auxiliary, you may have questions relating to a new buzz word, Modernization. Those who attended the workshop in January at the District Conference learned all about it. For those who did not attend, here is a basic break down. For more information and specifics, please go to the National Commodore’s website at

<http://www.auxnaco.org/> and open the Auxiliary Modernization Plan Presentation PDF. The following are the key elements affecting our District:

<u>Old Title</u>	<u>New/Current Title</u>
District Commodore.....	No Change
District Vice-Commodore.....	District Chief-of-Staff
District Rear Commodore	District Captain
Division Captain.....	Division Commander
Division Vice Captain.....	Division Vice Commander
Flotilla Commander	No Change
Vice Flotilla Commander	No Change

The following are the current proposed division changes that, if adopted, shall be effective 01 JAN 2010.’

New Division Numbers are To Be Determined

Sector San Diego

- Divisions 1 & 16 Combine
- Division 9 - No Change
- Division 10 - No Change

Sector Los Angles/Long Beach (South)

- Division 11- No Change
- Divisions 2 & 15 Combine
- Divisions 3, 5, & 13 Combine

Sector Los Angles/Long Beach (North)

- Division 7 - No Change
- Division 12 - No Change
- Division 4 & 14 Combine

Division Light Staff Configuration – For those divisions that face staffing issues, the Division Commander may elect to appoint the following Division Staff Positions: Finance (FN), Information Systems (IS), Secretary/Records (SR), *Response, Prevention, and Logistics.*

- **Division Staff Officer – Response (SO-R)**: This position covers Operations (OP), Communications (CM), Marine Safety (MS), and Navigation Systems (NS)
- **Division Staff Officer – Prevention (SO-P)**: Public Education (PE), RBS Program Visitor (PV), Vessel Exams (VE) and Public Affairs (PA)
- **Division Staff Officer – Logistics (SO-L)**: Communication Systems (CS), Publications (PB), Materials (MA), Member Training (MT), and Personnel Services (PS)

COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

2009 started early for our District. What a great District Conference! Attendance by our members and invited guests exceeded all expectations and, from what I have been told, set a new record. Given the economic climate and the early date for the Conference this year, it was impressive to see so many dedicated members attend, take advantage of the many excellent roundtable-style workshops, and just plain have fun. By the way, who was that guy with the dark mustache, painted face, tomahawk and knife walking around on fun night enjoying the food and even a little firewater? Oh, yeah—me! The Costa Mesa Hilton continues to provide us with a venue and amenities that simply cannot be matched. Because of that, we have extended our reservations for future Conferences through 2015.



I want to thank everyone for your confidence in me. Being able to serve our District as your District Commodore is a real privilege. The District Chief of Staff (DCOS) and I have assembled an excellent staff, and with the Board that is working for you, the member, I expect we will have an extraordinary year in 2009. My primary goal as your District Commodore is to help you make this District the one that all others in the nation want to emulate. We have already achieved that in part—our District Conference is clearly the best in the country. Our National Auxiliary leaders as well as many Coast Guard officers have recognized our District Conference as being on the top of the list. As many of you have heard, and more will hear as I travel to your Division Awards



Banquets and Changes of Watch, we need to grow our membership, strive to do a better job retaining our valued members, to become more professional, to create a better balance within our missions and to use good judgment in everything set we out to accomplish. Each member of every Flotilla is a key member of our team. We are one Auxiliary, and working together we can do great things for the Coast Guard and our country. Join me in making 2009 the greatest year yet!

2009 DISTRICT CALENDAR

Changes of Watch

- Division 5 – February 15
- Divisions 1 & 16 – February 20
- Division 11 – February 22
- Division 14 – February 28
- Division 2 – March 2
- Division 7 – March 8

District Board & Staff Meeting

- March 14
- May 2 (Memorial Marker Event)
- July 11 (District Picnic)
- September 12 (DCAPT elections)
- November 14

National Safe Boating Week

May 16-23

NACON

August 27-30



EDITOR'S CORNER

As you may have noticed, the Commodore's Bulletin and Director's Newsletter has seen a few changes. We hope that you like what you see. It is the Commodore's goal to increase the communication around the District. For those who attended the District Conference in January, you witnessed the awards for the many achievements and accomplishments of our members. Unfortunately, many of these good deeds are unknown to others. It is our hope that with this publication, we may begin Bridging the Gap across the District.

As this year continues, an invitation is extended to all members for articles and photos. Share your accomplishments and show us your activities. Together we can learn from one another and excel into our future as we celebrate our 70th anniversary.

On behalf of the District Publications Staff, thank you for your support.

Bret Fendt, DSO-PB
Bud Lathrop, ADSO-PB
Richard Reinhardt, ADSO-PB

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
COMMANDER (dpa-s)
ELEVENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT
1001 S. SEASIDE AVE, BLDG 39
SAN PEDRO, CA 90731-7391

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

**COMMODORE'S BULLETIN &
DIRECTOR'S NEWSLETTER**

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
U.S. Coast Guard
PERMIT # G-157

