

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM COMMODORE CHRIS HARSHFIELD
District Commodore – 11th District, Southern Region
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



On behalf of all of the members of the 11th District- Southern Region of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, I extend the warmest welcome to you. Our district extends from Morro Bay southward to the border with Mexico, and encompasses all of Arizona, parts of Utah and Nevada – including Las Vegas, the Hoover Dam and the Colorado River. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is a multi-faceted organization serving the general boating public as the Coast Guard’s provider of Recreational Boating Safety services, while at the same time offering augmentation support to the active-duty Coast Guard mission. We are a uniformed membership and adhere to Coast Guard regulations and policies in carrying out our tasks. The number of programs supported by the Auxiliary and the vast array of free training and qualifications available to members are far too many to include in this message. What I can tell you about in some detail are the qualities and interests of our members, which should help you identify with them and to relate to the reasons they joined the Auxiliary.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary was created on June 23, 1939 by an act of Congress as the United States Coast Guard Reserve. Two years later, in World War II, a military reserve was established, and the volunteer, civilian component was officially designated as the [U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary](#) which serves under the direction of the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, currently [Admiral Karl L. Schultz](#). Today, your Auxiliary has approximately 26,000 men and women nationwide and nearly 1,500 members in District 11 Southern Region, devoted to assisting you to be safe and have fun while on the water. Additionally, our members stand side by side with active duty Coast Guard men and women in fulfilling the various essential Coast Guard missions in protecting our shores from hostile and environmental threats.

Our members are all regular folks who lead lives much like yours and your neighbors’, with jobs, families and an array of skills and interests. Like many Americans, they were interested in joining an organization as a volunteer to give back and make a difference. However, being the only congressionally-sanctioned volunteer arm of a military service, our U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary members achieve an elevated level of volunteerism and duty that, in my view, sets them apart. In recognition of all the Auxiliary has done to support the Coast Guard mission, we have earned the nickname “*America’s Volunteer Guardians*”.

I encourage you to start at our website <http://www.d11s.org> , and review the links for Boating Safety, Operations, and Staff and scan the opportunities that are available to you. I guarantee that you will come across one or more, if not many, categories that spark an interest. When that happens, and you have questions, go to the link below to find nearby flotillas, and be contacted by a member in your neighborhood who can answer your questions:

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

COMO Chris Harshfield