



FLOTILLA 04-76
December 2015

LIFELINE NEWSLETTER
Volume #12



Greetings and Happy Holidays to you all. As we approach the end of 2015, we thank each and everyone for your continued contributions and service throughout the year. We have accomplishments to be proud of and we also gained new members to ensure our future success. We have a new bridge taking the helm in January 2016, and we wish them and us all, a prosperous New Year! Let's keep the momentum going into 2016 and beyond. Again, *Thank You ALL* and enjoy the holidays!

Semper Paratus

Charles J Miller, II-Editor
FSO-PB-AFSO-PA

Charles A. Stiteler
AFSO-PB





***United States
Coast Guard Auxiliary
Flotilla 4-76
Change of Watch Committee
cordially invites you to attend our
Annual Change of Watch Luncheon and Ceremonies***

***Saturday, January 30, 2016 at
THE CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA
300 West 2nd Street, Essington, Pennsylvania 19029
Social Hour and Cash Bar at 1200 (12pm) and Gourmet
Luncheon Buffet at 1300 (1pm)***

***Menu Selections will include the following:
Grilled Seasonal Vegetables with Balsamic
Vinaigrette
Spinach, Almond and Sundried Cranberries with
Buttermilk Dressing
Carved Marinated Flank Steak, Honey Glazed Salmon
Filet, Penne with Vodka Sauce
Lovely Assorted Desserts Table, Coffee, Tea and Iced
Tea***

Upon receipt of your check, at \$44.00pp, you will receive a personal 'Boarding Pass' to be presented upon your arrival to the event. Please remit payment made to CGAUX Flotilla 4-76, to Ralph Onesti, 807 E. Ridley Ave., Ridley Park PA 19078

In addition to the normal Change of Watch Awards Ceremony we will have a Flotilla 4-76 Community Service Award presented to our honored special guest Charles H. Ramsey, Commissioner Philadelphia Police Department.

Please respond quickly as the attendance of our special guest of honor will create an immediate demand and seating is limited.

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Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey President Obama's selection to serve as Co-Chair of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

FLOTILLA AWARDS



Charles Miller –FSO-PB AFSO- PA was awarded the Sustained Service Award for 5 years service.



An Open Letter to Elected and Appointed Staff Officers for 2016

Congratulations on becoming an elected or appointed staff officer in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Your position will give you an opportunity to use your talents fully to influence the direction and quality of Auxiliary activities today and for many years in the future.

No organization accomplishes anything worthwhile unless behind the scenes there is an efficient, dedicated, and loyal staff. As you perform your duties, please consider and emphasize the following: The effect of your actions on the members and their flotillas. It is always a good idea to attend your local flotilla and division meetings and listen carefully to the discussion and comments. You should actively participate in any programs or activity for which you are responsible. This allows you to more accurately meet the actual needs at the grassroots level. Service to our members is a primary goal. Be especially sensitive to the needs and concerns of new members. Remember that you not only represent yourself but all members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The necessity for being accountable. Being accountable implies the responsibility of constantly being informed of tasks, persons

responsible for accomplishing those tasks, and the status of actions related to those tasks. Auxiliary members should expect nothing less from you and your subordinates.

Value of our Members. People are our most valuable resource. We need you to make that statement real and relevant at all levels of the Auxiliary. The National Leadership has worked hard to ensure that you have the resources, training, policy, and guidance necessary to promote success. You have a special obligation to know, understand, and develop your staff and the staffs at all levels within your discipline area.

Strong Leadership and Management. There is simply no substitute for strong leadership, deliberate mentoring, and situational awareness of the people and events around you. You must be engaged, learning people's strengths and talents while helping them address and overcome weakness. You need to be proactive, not micromanaging yet asking the right questions, providing feedback, and taking intentional steps to develop leaders and a workplace environment that engenders pride as well as a culture that breeds loyalty and commitment. By doing so, you can make early course corrections and stop practices that do not conform to our shared Auxiliary values.

The need for research and accuracy in completing your tasks. Has this been done before, or is it being done in some unit? Are there lessons learned? What existing policies apply? Should changes be recommended? Has the field been consulted? Does it reduce existing bureaucracy and empower the field to make decisions? Does it possess the quality level that you wish associated with your name?

The benefits of coordination. This includes other divisions, flotillas and other experts wherever they may be. The more input received, the better the results with less mistakes. Try out your letter, idea, or plan on others to be sure your meaning is clear and understandable before you disseminate it to the field for action.

Initiative - doing the right thing without being told. Your goal should be to assist the leadership to lead competently. Seek out

challenges and problems. Communicate with and propose solutions to our leaders. Strive to be the leading expert in your area of responsibility since this is how you are perceived.

Visibility - ensuring others are aware of your actions. Always keep supervisors (and other staff officers that your actions affect) informed of your work as it progresses. This will avoid duplication of effort, or worse, conflicting guidance to our fellow members. Never knowingly let those with whom you work or advise make a mistake. Be forthright in giving them your honest opinion. If you make a mistake, admit it, and move on. Let your reputation for integrity be above all else.

Diversity is an important aspect when selecting members for your team. Diversity includes utilizing the vast array of skills that are available throughout the membership. You need to look at the talent across the broad spectrum of our population and recruit all kinds of people who will add to our capabilities and the missions in which we may be asked to participate.

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Following the above guidelines will result in a smooth working staff that supports the leadership's needs and vision as well as the needs and concerns of the membership.

The insignia of your office provides visible recognition of all the important responsibilities that you have accepted. Wear it with pride.

Editor's note: The above letter is a revised version of the 2013 National Commodore's appointment letter to members of the National Staff. The wording has been changed to reflect guidance for officers at the local levels. Although it was written for National Staff members, the

content can be applied to all levels of Coast Guard Auxiliary officers, both elected and appointed.

Courtesy Harry Dyer - Division 17 newsletter – 12/2015

The below article is not meant to promote any particular view of our flotilla, only to keep members informed about issues concerning the CGAUX.

Push begins to allow Coast Guard Auxiliary members to carry concealed



Some contend the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary should be allowed to carry if they have a permit, as the Second Amendment doesn't end when the uniform is put on. (Photo: U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary)

Following a terrorist attack on U.S. service members this month, a petition has begun to allow members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary to carry firearms while in uniform.

The Auxiliary, established in 1939, consists of some [30,000 volunteer members](#) who combined contribute an average of two million hours per year to the Coast Guard's mission. While serving, often at stations and on Coast Guard vessels, members wear modified military uniforms.

This, argues member of the group, makes them just as much a target as active and reserve personnel.

“In the aftermath of the killing of 5 U.S. servicemen by a terrorist in July—and a pattern of such incidents during which, a total of 34 unarmed U.S. Servicemen have now been killed within the United States, and 54 more have been injured since 2009, volunteer civilian USCG Auxiliarists should not have to give up their right to bear arms as a condition to serve their country and local community,” James Lamb told Guns.com Tuesday.

“It is clear the USCG Auxiliary Uniform makes an Auxiliarist just as much a target as members of our armed forces for further attack,” explained Lamb who has started a [Change.org petition](#) asking the Commandant of the US Coast Guard and National Commodore and Board of US Coast Guard Auxiliary to allow members who have valid state or local issued concealed carry permits to carry firearms while in uniform.

Current regulations— much as those for the Department of Defense— prohibit the carry of personal firearms on Coast Guard installations, which fall under the Department of Homeland Security.

“First and foremost, the concealed carry of privately owned firearms on board federal facilities, unless authority has been granted by competent authority, is prohibited,” [reads an official memo](#) signed by Cmdr. William Seward, head of some 5,700 Auxiliarists in the Coast Guard's Seventh District which includes Lamb's flotilla.

“This applies even if otherwise authorized to carry concealed in other jurisdictions. Additionally, the possession of privately owned firearms and ammunition while attending an approved Auxiliary function or participating in an authorized Auxiliary activity, including regularly scheduled detachment, flotilla, or division meetings is prohibited,” explained the memo.

Seward's directive, distributed in May, takes into account the personal feelings of the volunteer Coast Guard personnel, but contends his hands are tied.

"I understand that this is may be frustrating to some. These restrictions are legally required and in no way a reflection of the value of the Auxiliary to the Coast Guard or the American people," says Seward.

Although tasked with education and boater safety missions, the Auxiliary had teeth at one point.

During World War II, the Auxiliary was armed after the Coast Guard was made part of the Navy for the duration of the war. Thousands of volunteers, then termed Temporary Reserves, served in picket boats searching for German and Japanese submarines off the coast, often in their own vessels, and were termed the "[Corsair Fleet](#)."

In more recent years, however, the Auxiliary has been held back from national defense and law enforcement missions with the exception of serving as an opposing force in exercises and conducting unarmed waterways patrols.

Nonetheless, Lamb argues that with the current trend towards asymmetric warfare seen in acts of domestic terrorism, and moves afoot to arm both [National Guard](#) and [DOD recruiters](#), the Coast Guard should get on board as well.

"Simply stated, the USCG should put the safety of its active duty, reserve and civilian volunteers first," said Lamb.

Courtesy: Guns.com article – 7-28-2015 Chris Eger

FROM THE ARCHIEVES:

Coast Guard Auxiliary plans Delco center



On their way to the ceremony to launch construction of the project, Coast Guard members pass a 31-foot boat donated by Marcus Hook Borough. (RON CORTES / Staff Photographer)

By Allison Steele, Inquirer Staff Writer

Posted: May 03, 2013

By this time next year, the Coast Guard Auxiliary hopes one corner of Marcus Hook will have become a bustling hub for local members to train, teach classes, patrol the waters, and more.

Marcus Hook officials, businesses, and politicians are collaborating with the auxiliary, a uniformed, all-volunteer branch whose members perform almost all of the tasks associated with the National Guard, to build a training facility on the edge of the Delaware River. The facility, which Coast Guard members are aiming to have completed by midsummer, will have room to hold boating safety and other classes for recruits, and the river will provide a site for training with the auxiliary's boats and floating piers.

"Having this here will help in a lot of ways," said Thomas Dever, commander of the auxiliary's Southeast Pennsylvania-based Division 4 and an architect in Glen Mills. "Having more people and activity on the waterfront will be good for the area. It's a way for us to be part of the community. And it's a great home base for our members."

Dever was one of many auxiliary members, politicians, officials, and members of the business community who gathered Thursday on the sunny bank of the Delaware River to launch construction of the project, funded by donations and volunteer labor from area unions.

On any given weekend, boaters, fishermen, and freighters might cross paths with members of the auxiliary, who are trained to take on all missions of the Coast Guard except law enforcement and military operations. That means they patrol the water and air regularly, assist in search and rescue missions or natural disasters, recruit for the Coast Guard, respond to environmental or pollution issues, and more.

"On the water, I'm happy if people think the auxiliary is the Coast Guard, and I'm happy if they see the Coast Guard and they think it's the auxiliary," said Capt. Kathleen Moore, who oversees the port at Delaware Bay in Philadelphia.

There are about 30,000 members of the auxiliary nationwide, several hundred of whom live in Delaware and Montgomery Counties. Up to this point, members have trained in a number of informal locations, Moore said. After a center in Delaware closed some years ago, members had to travel to Cape May for specialized training.

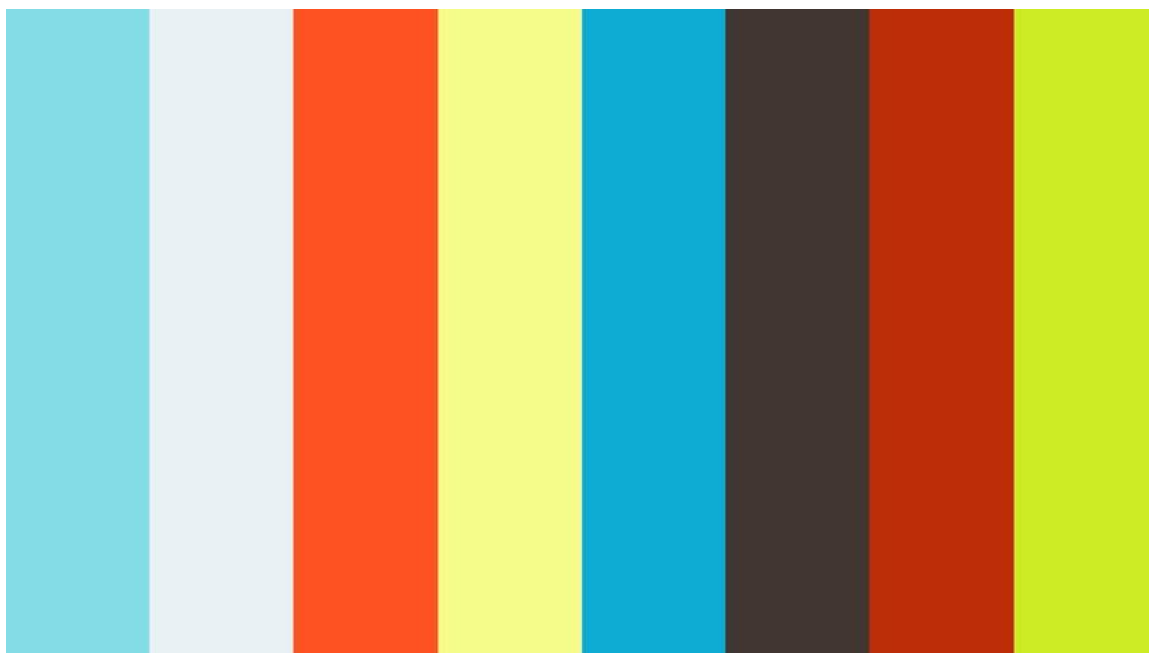
The new facility will be built behind the community center, next to a park and over an octagonal shed on the water's edge that houses seasonal decorations and other items.

Reprinted: Philly News



DIVERSITY:

<https://vimeo.com/28387501>



News from the Diversity Department of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary

Announcing the Auxiliary's Strategic Plan for Managing Diversity, including a new website with valuable resources to enhance your recruiting efforts with Diversity. This website is scheduled to be posted on Sept 1, 2011. This program was created at the National Conference of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, August 26, 2011 by the Public Affairs Department.

If you have an opportunity, please check out the video by Donald C. Lloyd – Asst. National Commodore Diversity at the vimeo link shown above. It is truly what the Auxiliary is about as we move forward into the 21st century.

Family fun things to do in & around Philadelphia for the holidays and into 2016: by Judy Blue.

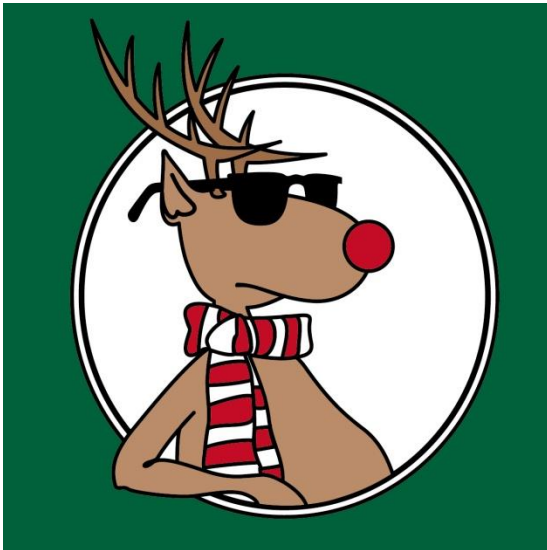
If you are looking for these to entertain family members, check out these links:

Your kids can see Broadway shows for free this February

[Http://ilovefreeconcerts.com/your-kids-can-see-broadway-shows-for-free-this-january/](http://ilovefreeconcerts.com/your-kids-can-see-broadway-shows-for-free-this-january/)

The 15 Must-See Holiday Attractions In Philadelphia For 2015

[Http://www.visitphilly.com/articles/philadelphia/must-see-holiday-attractions-in-philadelphia/?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=VisitPhillyFacebook&utm_content=Social](http://www.visitphilly.com/articles/philadelphia/must-see-holiday-attractions-in-philadelphia/?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=VisitPhillyFacebook&utm_content=Social)



DIVISON 04 HOLIDAY SOCIAL EVENT

On Sunday, December 13th, various members from Division 04 met at the Marcus Hook Training Center to celebrate the holidays and tour the facilities. It was a great time to meet new members, share stories and re-acquaint ourselves with people we've not seen in some time! A fun time was had by all. 76 was "well" represented!!



Newly elected FC-Ralph Onesti and Allaire Corbett share a moment.



John Monaghan-FSO-VE, Frank Michel & Patty Lahov .

(Photos: Charles J. Miller-FSO-PB)



Pat Cunningham, Janet Hawes and George Matuszewski-FSO-HR, 04-07.



Ralph, Allaire and Jim share interesting conversations on Flotilla activities.



Flotilla 04-76 was well represented. Here, Ralph, John, Frank, Patty and Jimmy Deleon pose for a group photo.



Tim Nelson & Dave Desimone-DCDR Elect 04
enjoy a “lighter” moment.



As we near the close of 2015, I'd like to wish you all a Happy
Holiday, Merry Christmas and a Joyous & Happy New Year.

Thank you for all your support throughout this year. Our Flotilla is on the verge of a new chapter and we need each and every member to continue to reach out to new and old members and re-commit to our vitality and perpetuation. Our new Bridge is counting on you to make 2016 – “**A New Beginning**” - full of promise and achievement. Together, it can get done!

Best regards,

Charles J Miller, II
FSO-Publications.

PS: I thank Judi Blue for her support & contribution to this issue.