

FLOTILLA 04-76
January 2018

LIFELINE NEWSLETTER
Volume #1



Shipmates, Happy New Year and I trust you all enjoyed the holidays and are ready for an exciting year of Auxiliary activities! We have a new Bridge and let's work hard to ensure their success. As always, you will be asked to assist on projects, events, etc, and we hope we can count on your support. 04-76 has always been a **Leader** in this Division and we cannot fall off course. Plan to attend our January meeting and lend a hand whenever/wherever you can! Remember-You Make A Difference When You Volunteer!

Semper Paratus

Charles J Miller, II FSO-PB
Editor

If a window of opportunity appears, don't pull down the shade.

Tom Peters



FROM THE COMMANDERS DESK

From the Office of the Flotilla Commander
-Matthew C. Jones

Shipmates. Happy New Year and to another year of Auxiliary Missions. January through March will be a transitional period for me, first time Flotilla Commander. With the helpful assistance from Mr. Oldak, Mr. Miller, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Onesti and VFC Kernan, my goal is to have many of our 2018 year 'ironed out,' by March.

Today, after reading our Lifeline, I encourage you to set four goals for the 2018 year. Set two personal goals and set two Auxiliary goals. Make them attainable and make sure the goals can fit into your schedule.

The four missions of the Auxiliary are Member Services, Recreational Boat Safety, Operations and Marine Safety, and Fellowship.

A 2018 outlook for 4-76...

- Member Services, classes are scheduled, member training is in the works and for those who would like to work on certain qualifications, contact the respectable Staff Officer.

- Recreational Boating Safety, vessel examines need qualified vessel examiners, in addition we need outgoing personnel to visit boating clubs and dealers
- Operations and Marine Safety, boat crew and coxswain comes to mind, but never forget about the support functions, communications and radio. Public Affairs will work on our presence, more river events, a tent and reliable two person teams, will benefit our Flotilla.

Lastly Fellowship, we will work for quarterly events for the Auxiliary. 4-76 always need more qualified personal to help and supplement the Aux and the Coast Guard. So to sum up my outlook, the work is getting accomplished; we will find more personnel internally to assist and aide.

Flotilla meeting nights are always the fourth Tuesday of the month. The Flotilla wide meeting will commence at 1900, will be capped at one hour, and something new, following the meeting at 2000 will be the Staff Officer meeting, which will be capped to 30 minutes. Committee chairs will now be included in our Staff meeting. FSO reports are due by the 20th of every month. Next Flotilla meeting is January 23, 2018.

VFC Kernen and I have expressed interested into a Flotilla-wide event in the spring. An event in the works for comradery with the Gold Side from Sector and Small Boat Station, Philadelphia Police and Fire.

It will coincide with a Delaware River Event/Festival. During the event, VFC Kernen will be taking individual photos for our Website and a 2018 Yearbook. It is truly difficult to make an event mandatory for a volunteer organization, but if you see the importance to strengthen our Flotilla, our legacy and future growth, your attendance will be greatly appreciated. The uniform

of the day would be proper tropes or ODUs. The Bridge, FSOs and committee chairs will have pictures taking in Service Dress Blues at another time.

Any questions you may have please remember to use the chain of command. Always remember to wear the uniform correctly and proudly.

Honor, Respect, Devotion to Duty Semper Paratus

Upcoming events

Marshall Edelman will be doing a presentation on uniforms and what is expected of the Auxiliarist at Sector.

Date: 27 Feb 2018

After the Flotilla Meeting.

Advanced Coastal Navigation

Start: Thursday 18 Jan 2018

This is a thirteen week endeavor.

1900 General Greene Room, Sector

For those who started this, you have your books and charts.

For others, please let me know and I will see what I have in the closet.

This course is a commitment toward getting your AuxOp.

It is a lot of work but fun.

Ralph Onesti



January 2018

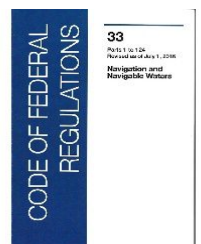
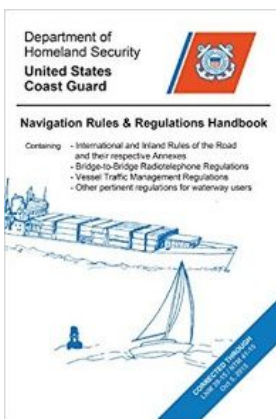
Public Education...so where are we going?!

Can Lobbying be a good thing?!

Someone on the gold side asked me why I do this (public education). My response was simple; no need to think. The Auxiliary can do just about everything the Coast Guard does save law enforcement and carrying weapons. However, they (Gold Side) don't do what we do, instruct.

The Coast Guard, via the Colregs, (Collision Regulations) and CFR's (Code of Federal Regulations) mandates what we can and can't and should do

on the water. They don't make sure those on the water get that information. The states, local governments, marine police all want us to know, but none of them tell us what we need to know. Oh...they have their rules...but it is the Auxiliarist and other folks like the Power Squadrons that make the schedules, man the classes and get the info across. We make sure we are certified to teach. We make sure we have the materials to get the instruction to the boating public to educate. That's right, educate. And, as volunteer organizations, by definition, we don't do it for the



money!

A good day is when a boater is saved from certain destruction at sea, but it is a great day when the knowledge we impart stops them from making uneducated moves, or taking chances that get them into trouble in the first place.

We teach them the necessary equipment_for their vessels. We teach radio use, lines and knots, navigation, safety at sea, what to do in an emergency, how to protect themselves, their families, other boaters, and their vessels.

So why is it then we feel lucky if we get a mere two percent of the boating public each year in our respective class rooms? Are they going online? Are they taking these truncated classes that just barely give them enough information to get that boating certificate? Are they circumventing the entire process and taking their chances on the water? I would love to have an answer or two.

In public education, we need those answers, for once we know, perhaps we can get to more of those boaters before we must risk our crew people to pull someone out of the drink by their hair...it happens.



With the new plans to connect the city of Philadelphia with its riverfront, comes the insurgence of more and more boaters to our bulkheads. More boaters who will come to the city to see the new activities, more boats clogging up the river, and our river is not only for recreation, but huge, unlimited ton commercial vessels visit our port day in and day out. Ever hear of the “law of gross tonnage”? Sometimes, they don’t even see us! Remember the Duck incident?!

So, what is the plan? How do we reach those boaters that will visit our city? In class I say, “we’re not selling safety here, we’re selling comfort.” I ask the class: “wouldn’t you be more comfortable if you knew that all the other boaters in your area had the same education? It’s comforting in knowing they know what you know. We do that on land...why not on the water.

Online Education	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flexible hours• The ability to work full time at home while attending classes• Cheaper due to transportation savings• Adaptability to learning styles and diverse needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficulties with technology and interface• Lack of computer skills and self-motivation/discipline• Lack of problem solving skills and perseverance• 10 to 20% higher drop-out rates

Advantages of Classroom Learning

- Direct access to the instructor in class
- Better Communication between the Tutor and Students
- Computer resources are not needed
- Offer to participate in Cultural and Sports activities.

I think part of the problem is lobbying by the boating retailers. If it is harder for boaters to get on the water, it would be harder to sell a boat. However, I think they dismiss the laws of supply and demand. The powers that be can demand the education necessary to get that boat

on the water without being a menace to their fellow boaters. After all, we are the only game in town; supply and demand!

We can lobby too, and we do. We do it through our VE program. Every time we inspect a boat we can point people to our classes. We do it through PA. Every time we attend an event where boaters go, we can education them to the education available. Our Marine Visitor program is another source or lobbying; getting those PE and VE flyers in the hands of the retailers to ultimately wind up in the hands of boaters. There are Boat Clubs, Sailing Clubs, Boat Shows, Marinas, Boat Repair yards, etc. We don’t need to compete with the retail industry, we can partner with it!



If the boat retailers are going to push boats, then we must push education. If they are going to push and get the states to accept those watered-down venues for that certificate, then we must educate the boating public to the difference of “in class room” education.

We must get those folks in our classes. Ever take a class on line? Ever want to raise your hand and ask a question? The PE program needs all hands to get the word out!



OK...time to get off the proverbial soap box and tell you where we are so far.

The Public Education Program is up and running not in small part to the efforts and support of the IPFC Glenn Oldak. We were given every resource and opportunity to do what it was that got us going before the brief suspension of educational service.

Also, and before we go a step further, the PE program, thanks FSO-CS Ash Kernen. We fed the information machine, but he turned the crank. Due to his exceptional and timely work, we have a web site that is up to date with the ability to pay for classes online and this is huge. We already have folks signing up across all classes using Ash's PayPal system. Along with paying for classes online, boating education consumers can purchase Gift Certificates.

Our Google Ad Campaign is up and running and working, drawing folks to the 4-76 classroom. More innovative ideas are in the works. We are also working with partnering with the Power Squadrons to further extend the reach of boating education.

In short, we are on track to beat last year. What does that mean? More money...sure. But it's not the money we are after. It is the safe boater!

Ralph Onesti

Public Education Committee



A NEW BEGINNING

Shipmates, as we embark on a New Year and new leadership, there will be new opportunities for us all. **Stepping Up** to expand educational programs, promoting the Auxiliary to the public at every venue, and showing just how committed we are to **Achievement**.

Each member has various skills-some are great public speakers, educators or managers. Whatever your skill sets are, share it with our membership.

Now, is not the time to refrain from taking a position to volunteer. We need you to make a difference-contribute in any way you can. When called upon, just *DO IT*...

We Are a Team; no organization can be productive without its members filling the gaps. Can we count on you?

