



FLOTILLA 04-76
OCTOBER 2019

LIFELINE NEWSLETTER
Volume #10



Shipmates, as we begin to enter into the Fall/Winter months, our VE program is looking ahead to 2020 and all the opportunities ahead. Thanks to our team of examiners, we had another stellar season. PE is experiencing much success and kudos to Ralph on a good year. As you know elections were held this month and the new leadership is anxious to see that we succeed next year. I encourage each and everyone to consider stepping up to fill a position of leadership. Our perpetuation is contingent upon new ideas and members doing the job. **“Many are asked to do what the few will do”. To be the best-it requires the best of us all!** Our recent Fellowship event at Yards was a tremendous success thanks to Scott Sigman for planning. **Remember-this is an “Auxiliary event” with significant others only– friends should not be included.** I cannot stress this enough. Also, the chain of leadership and management must be maintained. Some are violating this procedure and will be spoken to directly. In closing, please remember we are participating the Veterans Day Parade on November 3rd with American

Legion Post 405. Time-meeting at the Union League (Broad & Samson Streets) -Café Meredith-1st floor at 10:30 am. The parade route is 17th and JFK to 5th & Market Street. The parade begins at 12:00 pm. Attire- Suit & Tie or Bravo Jacket. If interested, please email Scott or Gary for details.

Semper Paratus

Charles J Miller, II
Editor-FC

Flotilla 4-76 Fellowship at Yards



Fellowship has been called a cornerstone of the Auxiliary, and for good reason. It is an opportunity for members of the Flotilla and their families to come together, share stories, and enjoy some food and drink.

Last night, in the spirit of Halloween, Octoberfest, and even a loud and rowdy Philadelphia Union Soccer game, Flotilla 4-76 showed up in force at Yards Brewery Tap Room. Just feet away from where this local brewer creates over 20 different beers, over 20 members of the Flotilla feasted on ribs, wings, and broccoli, and enjoyed some delicious libations.

Some of the Flotilla was even able to have their photo taken with Phang, the Philadelphia Union Mascot.

However, the highlight of the evening was being able to share time with so many Flotilla members and their families.

By the end of the night, everyone was full and knew all about the Philadelphia Union and its fanatical fan base known as the Sons of Ben.

QE for Boat Crew

Flotilla 4-76 is about to embark on re-vitalizing of its assistance to a core mission of the Auxiliary by creating its own Boat Crew.

Currently there are 5 members in training for Boat Crew and 1 in training for Coxswain. If all goes to plan, the Flotilla will have a Coxswain and 6 qualified Boat Crew Members by the summer of 2020.

One of our members, Scott Sigman, just completed his QE for Boat Crew in October and as he explained to me, it was a team effort.

It took two years starting with an in-class program at TRACEN and then many weeknights and Saturdays on the Delaware River in a USCG Auxiliary Facility (a boat certified by the USCG to serve as an official USCG Auxiliary sanction vessel).

In order to become qualified, the member needs to first complete a list of sign-offs including knot tying, first aid, swimming, navigation, towing, anchoring, and other boat related tasks. However, these sign-offs are not possible without a mentor or several mentors.

Thankfully, within our Flotilla, FSO-OPS, Ash Kernan is a high skilled member of the Boat Crew and is very close to his qualification for Coxswain. FSO Kernan was able to mentor Scott over the two years, both on the river and in-class.

As Scott explained, the most difficult part of the program is being able to complete several practice stern and side tows and a final sign-off tow because that task requires using two USCG Aux Facilities at the same time and both with a qualified Coxswain and Crew.

Once Scott completed his sign-off for the towing, he was finally ready for his QE day which occurred on Columbus Day.

In Order to complete the QE, Scott was required to participate in each step of the Boat Crew process starting with a pre-underway check. The QE then required Scott to complete a stern and side tow with another Facility, anchoring, navigation, a man over board drill, line handling, and knot tying. After completing the on the water component, the QE then asks random questions from each chapter of the sign-off book. Once that is completed, and you have answered successfully, you pass!

Scott is thankful for the support and time spent by FSO Kernan over the past two years. Scott is also grateful for the help and support of Coxswain Andy Crowley, for not only providing two years of mentorship, but also the use of his boat 993 which is an official Facility used in training and for the QE. Other Auxiliaries who mentored and helped during the two years and at the QE included Tom Kelmartin, John Morrison, John Yowell, Celia Crowley, and Maureen Lucas.





The Teaching Point

Flotilla Education Newsletter of 4-76...the teaching flotilla

October 2019

Twelfth Edition

An Informed Auxiliarist Makes a Better Flotilla

It is that time again...elections...come and gone.

What happens now?

The newly elected Flotilla Commander has a bunch of stuff to do even before the New Year starts:

First off, thanks to the current bridge; Flotilla Commander Charles Miller and Vice Flotilla Commander Dot French. They piloted the hardest two jobs in the Auxiliary. Their diligence and competence afford the next bridge to pick up and carry on.

Second: Staff needs to be picked...this one is tough. Staff picks come from those whose competence and perceived competence make them stand out, allegiance to the flotilla, its precepts, and goals are so important, support for the flotilla in terms of presence at staff meetings, general meetings, and the all-important fellowship event and willingness to lead from the front.

This year we are running on a theme: Flotilla building. We need to continue to grow in all areas and all missions. It's not enough to be the leading flotilla in the Division, we, as a flotilla, need to set an example for the Auxiliary. All growth is not equal. Superior Flotilla growth leads to superior Auxiliary growth.

With that in mind, I will enlist the aid of Scott Sigman, Vice Flotilla Commander elect, to help with the selection process. Although the staff serves at the pleasure of the Flotilla Commander, it is managed by the VFC, the chief of staff if you will.

Each Staff member, when appointed, will be assigned at least one Assistant Flotilla Staff Officer. That process will allow for mentoring and create a backup for each office.

Each staff pick will receive a letter asking if they are willing to serve in a position, and a job description will be contained therein. If the person asked is willing to serve after understanding what is expected of them, then a formal notice of appointment will follow...all by the numbers. When the staff picks are complete, a form for that purpose is filed and the staff then becomes the staff. If you are thinking of moving up to Staff Officer, and you are interested in a certain job, just let me know. It would be helpful to know why you selected a position and where you intend to go with it. That gives me some insight.

Thanks to Charles Miller, the Audit Committee and the Budget Committees are in place. The Audit Committee starts its work after the last check for 2019 is cut, and the Budget Committee will present their recommendations at the November Meeting. The budget must be approved by the membership present at that meeting. And to the point of flotilla support, don't forget the Change of Watch is at hand.

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The budget must be approved by the membership present at that meeting. And to the point of flotilla support, don't forget the Change of Watch is at hand. The Flyers will not be represented as planned due to an All-Star Game that day. However, Scott Sigman is in contact with the Philadelphia Eagles who are involved in working for a cure for autism. We may just get an Eagle and Swoop! In my twenty years in the Auxiliary, I have heard time and time again, a Flotilla Commander refers to the flotilla with which they are affiliated as "my flotilla".

Nope, the flotilla belongs to you. The member is the single most important component to the Auxiliary. I have also heard that the Auxiliary is not a democracy. If you pay dues and vote, guess what...you are a part of a democratic organization. Some may like to think this is the military; it is not. It is, however, the uniformed wing of the United States Coast Guard, and instrumentality of the Federal Government. This separates the Auxiliary from all other types of volunteer organizations. Wing; great word. Wings can

make you fly, unless they are broken. I would like 76 to be the healthiest wing of this organization. Only you can make that happen. So, are we to be the wings upon which the mission flourishes, or will we need repair? From where I sit, Flotilla 76 is above the crowd in soaring mode. I would like us to fly as high as we can .As it says on our website; a Force Multiplier!

If you have done your Risk Management, you know one of the most important things you can do is step up and speak up. The bridge and staff need to know what is on your mind. The general meeting is a great place to hear you speak up. Your presence there is all important. If you are not there, our flotilla is not the recipient of your input, your intelligence, your ideas, and your knowledge. Don't let the few decide for the many. And further, get involved. If you can't decide where you would like to help, contact the FSO-HR. That is a great first step. The flotilla and its mission need your help; teaching, public affairs, the visitation program, vessel exams, boat crew, recruiting and retention. The list is endless. One of the most important parts of getting involved is our fellowship events, be they a separate event or a gathering of friends after a successful day's mission. I am grateful for the chance to serve, but it is my aim to make the flotilla younger and more diverse in all areas. Help me! I am on my way out; you are on your way in. Looking forward to seeing you at Yards tonight!

Ralph

MORE FROM YARDS “FELLOWSHIP” EVENT





**A FANTASTIC NIGHT WAS ENJOYED BY ALL!
THANKS SHIPMATES FOR ANOTHER GREAT
EVENT...**

Photos: Scott Sigman & Charles Miller

- IN MEMORIAM -

Maureen K. "Mo" (Stumm) Lucas

July 13, 1958 ~ October 19, 2019

Maureen K. "Mo" Lucas, 61, of Philadelphia, PA, passed away on October 19, 2019.

Born in Darby, PA in 1958, she was the daughter of the late Albert F., Sr. and Kathleen E. (nee Becker) Stumm. Maureen was an active member of many organizations, including the Coast Guard Auxiliary-FSO-Finance, FSO-Materials, SO-Operations, the Eagle National Bank Walk/Run for 24 years, the Afghanistan and Iraq Outreach Program, the Special Olympics as a coach, St. Demetrios Greek Festival, Little Flower Manor, as well as many other charitable organizations.

Maureen was the loving mother of Melissa "Misty" Rice (Sergio); dear sister of Eugene Stumm, Denise Garrity (Hugh), Brian Stumm (Joanne), and Nadine Stumm; predeceased by her siblings, Albert Stumm, Jr. (the late Leona), Kathleen Stumm, Kevin Stumm, and Gerard Stumm (Larraine); also survived by her former sisters-in-law, Lee Petzelt and Connie Mussey, 19 nieces and nephews, 25 grand nieces and nephews, and too many friends to count.

Relatives and friends are invited to her Visitation 6-8 PM Friday, October 25, 2019 and 8:30-10 AM Saturday at The Donohue Funeral Home, 8401 West Chester Pike, Upper Darby, PA 19082, 610-449-0300, followed by her Funeral Mass 10:30 AM at St. Laurence Church, 8245 West Chester Pike, Upper Darby, PA 19082. Interment private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to The Coast Guard Mutual Assistance, <https://www.cgmahq.org/>, would be appreciated.

I knew Maureen and worked with her on the building of TRACEN while being in Flotilla 04-02 when I first joined the Auxiliary. Her commitment to service and to the Auxiliary was exemplary. She enjoyed her various roles and made everyone who came in contact with her feel special. She will be sorely missed by all she touched.

I pay tribute to this fine Auxiliarist and “Thank Mo for making my introduction to the Auxiliary a model to emulate for others.



Flotilla members – Ray Sims-FSO-MT, Maureen Lucas-FSO-MA-FN
and Charles Miller – FSO-PA/PB enjoying the day. TRACEN's Pirate Day Festival

October 2013



Ray Sims-FSO-MT, Maureen Lucas-FSO-MA-FN, Celia Crowley-FSO-RBSVP, Andy Crowley-FSO-NS and Kathy Eltz-IPFC-FSO-CS-HR.

October 2013