

HEARTLAND GUARDIAN



N-TRAIN 2012

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N-TRAIN 2012

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1989

50th Anniversary of
Auxiliary
celebrated;
history program
established.



Vice Admiral Sally Brice-O'Hara, Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard was the keynote speaker for N-TRAIN 2012 (Commodore James Vass, National Commodore on right)

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DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS FROM N-TRAIN

N-Train St. Louis was an informative and productive event. I had the opportunity to address concerns regarding C-Schools with the CGHQ training person, discuss concerns about returned travel claims with a representative from the Personnel Services Center, and work with my fellow Directors of Auxiliary on how to approach new DHS requirements concerning conferences. Closer to home, I was also able to spend time speaking with Commodore Washburn and the other D8ER attendees. I even had the opportunity to see the Auxiliary Chain of Leadership and Management in action following the bridge collision in Paducah. Thanks to everyone for a prompt & proportional response!

Juliet Hudson, CDR, USCG
Director of Auxiliary, District 8 Eastern Region



Left: General Assembly
Right: Como Washburn and COS McGonigal
Below: Como Vass addresses Public Education session



Photos: Ron Tvorik USCGAUX

COMMODORE'S REPORT

This year's N-Train was especially informative and very well organized. This year the information was communicated in a clear concise format with very little room for interpretation. One of the things we strive for is better communication. This year National has tried to make the new information and training meet that goal. I believe they did a superb job in communicating to our DSO's and Leadership exactly what is expected and what is changing and being updated.

We saw for the first time our SLO's and LLO's involved at N-Train. The National Staff has realized a weakness in our State Boating Law Administrator and Legislative Liaison Officers. For years this important position has gone relatively unnoticed. Now they are on the front lines fighting for legislature and Boating Laws which will save lives and provide funding to help with boating safety. Don Metz has done a superb job with National in bringing this to the forefront. With Don's help we will be able to save more lives in our AOR.

Our HR, PE, MT, IS, DV Officers attended as well. Many new changes and clarifications were discussed and learned. POMs is due for an upgrade as well as AuxData. The Coast Guard has agreed to fund a POMs upgrade for the Auxiliary. We are eventually going to tie job skills information into AuxData. Close attention was paid to Diversity since it is a new position. Keith Blosser will do a fine job for us as we roll out his program in conjunction with Admiral Papp's Policy on Diversity.

Look for more detailed information at D-Train, the Pilot House and the Heartland Guardian as we move into the boating season.

Again, it is my pleasure to serve with you. I look forward to seeing you at D-Train in West Virginia!

V/r,
Rick Washburn
DCO

COMMENTS FROM CHIEF OF STAFF

N-Train in St. Louis is an excellent opportunity to meet Auxiliaries from other Districts, as well as members of the National Staff and the National Board.

Frequent conversations in hallways and the restaurants provide a sense of where various programs are headed, and what issues other folks are trying to deal with. You may find folks that have just solved the very problems you are currently struggling with.

Additionally, the National Board meets and votes on proposals that will affect all Auxiliaries. This year several proposals were passed. They were:

1. Create a position for SO-DV or FSO-DV in AuxData - passed
2. Change the period of time allowed to remain in REYR status from 5 years to 3 years - passed
3. Create a ribbon for Program Visitor (PV) - passed
4. Proposal to increase dues was amended and passed with a \$5 increase scheduled for 2013
5. The State Liaison (SL) and Legislative Liaison (LL) positions are to be separate - passed

Additional details and specific information will be forthcoming in the next few months. However, please remember these items do NOT go into effect immediately. They need the approval of the Office of the Chief Director, as well as (in some cases) the approval of the Coast Guard Uniform Board.

So take these proposals for what they are, a glimpse of what may be happening in the future, and not something that has suddenly changed. Knowing what changes may be coming, or are being considered, is a good reason to spend a day or two at N-Train.

See you there next year!

Bill

Bill McGonigal
DCOS 08E

HUMAN RESOURCES

As ADSO-HR I had a rare opportunity this year. Alan Hall, DSO-HR became incapacitated with an injury and could not make the trip to Saint Louis. When he asked me to substitute for him this year, there was not even a flicker of hesitation, as I was checking my planner I already knew the answer, "You bet!!"

I will agree with Bill McGonigal, our District Chief of Staff. The opportunity to attend one of these National functions, N-TRAIN and NACON, are par none. Should anyone get to take advantage of one of these events, do not hesitate to go. You may regret someday not making the trip.

The Human Resources class was most enlightening in the information passed on to the DSO's in attendance. In addition to the information passed on from the Instructors, there was mountains of feedback from the attendees. Just to sit and listen to methods used in Recruiting and Retention, and ideas thrown out on how to improve our processes was worth the trip in itself.

The most enjoyable part for me of the entire trip was to be able to sit down in a group after the class and swap ideas and methods we did not have time in class to cover. After class we always took time for "group therapy" and network with other Human Resources Officers. I think all of us in these groups took something home that we can put into practice on our own levels, whether it be District, Division, or Flotilla level.

In addition to our Human Resources information some of us were introduced formally to the AIM Program at the Coast Guard Academy. I myself have not been aware of how in-depth this program is and how we can all work on the program in some way. We also were given the "dime tour" of the AuxChef Program as well as the coming Webinar Program, which appears to be the coming technology way.

Given the knowledge gained, and knowledge shared, all in all this event is well worth the effort. Again, I suggest to everyone, that if the opportunity knocks, you answer the door when advanced training comes into play.

Randy Ventress
ADSO-HR 08E

Diversity Training and Program building... a new day in the USCGA

I was fortunate to be able to attend the N-Train Diversity & Inclusion "Train the Trainer" sessions held in St. Louis Missouri from January 27 through the 29th of 2012. I met with my DSO-DV peers through out the weekend for national training sessions in diversity and I am totally committed to the National Diversity Programs goals and agenda. I attended with members from Atlantic East, Atlantic West, and Pacific Areas including members from both Alaska and Hawaii. I learned a lot and made some new friends.

Training included materials and mentoring that captured the essence of the Diversity Policy Statements from Admiral Papp, Commandant USCG and National Commodore, James Vass, USCGAUX. Our primary trainers were CDR William Makell, USCG HQ, Office of Diversity and Donald Lloyd, ANACO-DV, USCGAUX Diversity and Inclusion Department. We also had training provided by Branch Chiefs including our own Atlantic West Branch Chief, Pam Huck.

One of the main drivers of diversity today is the fact that the average age of the Auxiliary is 63. Members traditionally in the past tended to be Caucasian and as America has changed, the Auxiliary has not kept pace reflecting the national demographics. This means that young people are not becoming members, but the talent pool that is out in abundance is not coming in as well. Part of the strategic plan is to make the Auxiliary the volunteer organization of choice for all citizens, so the message of who and what we are needs to make it into all corners of our society, including onto collage campuses so we may reach as many talented individuals as possible.

During my stay in St. Louis, I also had a chance to discuss Diversity issues with both DCO Washburn and CDR Hudson. Both are committed to Diversity and are supportive of the agenda. We discussed a vote taken recently at the National level regarding support rolls for diversity under the DSO-DV and ADSO-DV level. I am in the process now of training my two ADSO-DV assistants, Jason Caudill and Stephen McLain both of Tennessee.

The three of us are coalescing as a team and are training to National standards and on the same page regarding the program. Our plan is bringing the Division level to work into giving support and assistance as well, so we can provide a consistent message out to all the membership. Eventually, we may even bring diversity positions down to the flotilla level, but correct management is important and the message must be that of the National program. This will take time, but in speaking with my ADSO's we are all eager to begin the work.

At the end of the ST. Louis training, I got an invitation to assist on a National diversity sub-group that is reviewing Title 14 of the United States Code. I think I was asked because I am also a lawyer and an ADSO-LP within 8ER. Well, I jumped at the chance. To be a part of a Federal Code review where our input could actually change Federal Law is exciting. It is amazing the amount of opportunities that are available within the Auxiliary where an average person like myself can really make a difference is one reason why this is truly the volunteer organization of choice. I am looking forward to getting out and doing training within the District and, in working with others to make the diversity vision a reality.

By Keith D. Blosser
DSO-DV, ADSO-LP, SO-PV, FSO-PV



Keith, left front, and his classmates at NTRAIN

Photo: Ron Tvorik USCGAUX

PUBLIC EDUCATION TRAINING

This is a brief summary of the National Education Department's Public Education Training Schedule held at N-Train on 27 to 29 January. On 27 January, at 1900, Como Dave Maul DIR-E welcomed the DSO-PE staff. He told us that a BC-DSO liaison position would soon be created. Since 1996 participation in PE classes has been continually declining. The PE classes used to provide 40 percent of the money needed to run a flotilla. Some districts are experiencing PE book problems such as slow delivery and non-Auxiliary sources selling the books. Boating requirements are now in 49 states and territories that are similar but different.

Como Tom Venezia continued on with the future of the Coast Guard Auxiliary PE. He stated that in 1995 about 54,000 BS&S books were sold compared to 5,000 sold in 2011. There has been a change in mission sets. The trend line in the last four years, regarding students, has gone from 94,000 to 68,000. Currently the boater's trend line is flat and not going down. He mentioned that in NY State you cannot charge for a boating class. Como Maul reminded everyone that the PowerPoint Presentations will be available on the National Education website. Based on DSO-PE feedback, the Instructor Workshop, which will be required for all Instructor's this year, has gone back for some reworking and should be available on our web page NLT 20 February.

A lively discussion was held regarding the following: Best Practices Video Series that opened comments on how to choose the Best PE Instructor in the Country, a National Data Base for a Certification Manager and Public Education advertisements in various publications throughout the country. Some discussion was also held regarding the Power Squadron's Seminar Courses that are not NASBLA approved and have a high price tag. A very sensitive issue, that we were asked to think about, was what to do about the state courses that are causing us major concern. Como Maul would like DSO-PE feedback ASAP.

Next, Como Tom Venezia and Irene Wetzel not only provided us with Webinars for PE information but also a live Webinar demonstration. Bob Tippett, located in Table Rock Lake, MO, did a role play as if he was teaching us an ABS class. It was very interesting and Bob did a good job with the demonstration. Our Friday evening session ended at 2200.

We reconvened our PE session at 1015 with a briefing regarding VE/PV and RBS Departments. Lil Haines, DIR-VE/PV and Bruce Johnson, DIR-RBS spoke to us. Bruce reminded us that the BSA alone has 5 million scouts and with our current MOA we have a great opportunity to work with them. He also provided us with a handout regarding the Recreational Boating Safety Outreach "B" Department.

Wayne Stacey, a civilian working at the Coast Guard Headquarters Office of Boating Safety, also spoke to us. He mentioned that there are 17 million boats registered in the United States. Wayne was very supportive to our PE classes and our work with the boating public. Pam Dillon, Director NASBLA, mentioned that in 1960, NY was the first state to require boater education and 52 years later there are 5 states that still do not require some form of boater education. She stated that education works and that we need numbers (students).

Tom Walsh, DVC-ET and Christy Walsh followed on to present the required Instructor Workshop for 2012. We were asked to evaluate it and make suggestions for fine tuning. They did a great job grasping our attention by using the following techniques: having us pretend we were 17 years old again, showing us a Japanese beer commercial that had no words in it, a true story of their grandson driving a race car and showing us how to properly introduce a PE class.

DSO-PE 8WR Tracey DeLaughter and Wayne Stacey were asked to help with a demonstration. This demo was to show us that 85% of boaters do not know what they're doing. Stacey was asked to describe to Tracey how to tie a Bowline without using any gestures. Then Stacey was asked to show Tracey how to tie the knot. The final approach was to help Tracey actually tie the Bowline there by showing us the best method of the learning process. Christy described the success of an all female Suddenly in Command class she conducted. We were given a handout regarding the PowerPoint presentation for this class. Our session concluded at 1600.

Our Sunday session began bright and early, at 0800, with DSO-PE D7 David Wall presenting the updated AUXPlus PE Workshop. David has worked with AUXPlus for 4 years and states that it is now very user friendly. Some positive factors are better record keeping, share records by email, make ready letters by email, attendance records and the 7030 form that has an automatic fill out. David did an outstanding job, in the short time he had, on how AUXPlus works. Como Steve Johnson talked to us about the new WOW Dashboard. This is a site for setting up PE courses on a National Data Base. You can click on the WOW link at the National website to learn more about this. Tom Walsh talked to us about marketing and supported the National Data Base. He said our PE information will be presented in an interesting and clear manner. This will really help us since the key issues are time, money and work.

Our greatest asset is our name, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, since it's known and respected. John Vanosdol led a brief discussion of the Power Squadron's 24 PE modules. They are one subject short courses. Our last discussion was a continuation about a National Award for the Auxiliary PE Instructor of the Year and Flotilla of the Year for Outstanding PE Work. The main issue was to determine the proper criteria to be used. We ended our N-Train experience at 1200.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ron Tvorik, BC-ESS/DSO-PE 8ER/FC 0821806

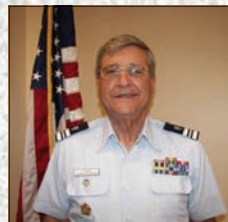


Photo: Ron Tvorik, DSO-PE
File photo



**SAVANNAH, GEORGIA COAST GUARD RESERVE VESSELS UNDERWAY
Circa 1940-1945**

Photo: U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Archives and used by permission from USCGAUX National Department of Public Affairs/History Department