

HEARTLAND GUARDIAN



YOUR PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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Diversity

The District Publications Team is most ably led by Gerlinde Higginbotham, District Staff Officer for Publications. Gerlinde also serves in many capacities, most recent the office she currently holds as District Captain-East, beginning her second year in that Office. A member of Flotilla 18-06 Gerlinde also is the Editor of The Pilot House.

In her private life Gerlinde is a Licensed Social Worker, under retainer with Scotts Miracle-Gro as a College Retention Specialist with the M G C Scholarship Program.



Photo Right: Submitted by Gerlinde Higginbotham USCGAUX



Photo: Ron Tvorik
USCGAUX

Certainly no stranger to this department, Maurice Moulton joined the Auxiliary in 2004 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. When his family returned to central Ohio in 2005, Maurice transferred to Flotilla 18-06 where he has been a Boat Crew Member since 2006.

Maurice enjoys working with computers and taking pictures. He has served as a Communications Systems Officer at both the flotilla and Division levels and a Publications Officer at the flotilla, Division, and District levels.

Currently serving as an ADSO-PB for District 8ER, Maurice is an engineer, married with 2 children, and enjoys flying when he can find the time. "I'm looking forward to supporting the PB team as we continuously improve our publications".



Photo: Valerie McQueen
USCGAUX

Thomas McQueen, a graduate of Northern Kentucky University, comes to the HEARTLAND GUARDIAN staff with a bit of experience, being involved in writing and publishing for quite a while; from writing three books (one being a college text book) to owning a community newspaper and currently owns and operates a sports newspaper.

In the Coast Guard Auxiliary two years, Thom has shown an energy and interest that is second to none. Thom has qualified in several operational areas, as a MOM patrol member and District Proctor and has earned the AUXOP qualification. While Division Materials Officer, he created the Re-Store exchange and the "Doc" Walker pages, both a way to exchange used uniforms and materials among members.

An AUX-12 C School Graduate, he is ready to take the oral boards for the PA III designation. As for this publication, "I enjoy working with the staff of the Heartland Guardian", he said. "I am really looking forward to working with and learning about our District members".



Photo: file photo
Randy Ventress
USCGAUX

Winding down in his second year as Division Commander for Division Eleven and in need of a project, District Staff passed on to Randy the opportunity to take on this publication that got a fantastic start through the efforts of Lynn Miles, DSO-PA. Randy cut his teeth in the Auxiliary Publications World eight years ago literally the moment after he got sworn into the Auxiliary. Taking a defunct flotilla publication and rebuilding the publication to go on to win the District top honor was the starting point to get to this point, giving new life to his Division newsletter and starting his flotilla's first newsletter, both of which was the best in the District competition two years running.

"I feel that written communication is one of the more effective ways to get our messages out to not only our members, but the boating public as well, and I look forward to serving our District in this Office".

Mom of a Guardian/Coastie and an Auxiliarist

By: Elizabeth Holland Flotilla 16-06

The term living vicariously through your children doesn't quite apply here. Not only am I a proud mom of a Guardian/Coastie, I am also a proud member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 16-06. I may be too old to be on active duty, but I can serve my country and community providing a service to help protect others on our local waterways and learning to be a better/smarter boater.

Our adventure began in the spring of 2010, Danielle's senior year in high school when she informed us that she wanted to join the Coast Guard. I was somewhat apprehensive. I really didn't want her to pursue this route because of the possible danger and the distance she would be away from home. What I wanted her to do was go to college. We are a very close-knit family.

Being sure of her decision, I told her that we would do what was necessary to make it happen. A close friend of mine, Steve Adams, an Auxiliary member, told me that he could get in touch with someone who could help us. Little did I know this involved many phone calls and several trips to the recruiting office in Nashville.

Danielle joined the Coast Guard, and we made what seemed like the longest trip ever to Nashville for her swearing in. Our hearts were heavy as we said our goodbyes. Our quiet, close-knit family life was about to change drastically. Danielle was heading for boot camp and who knows what and wouldn't be home for a long time.

Her father and I earnestly began researching what the Coast Guard and boot camp was all about through various forms of media (i.e. Internet, brochures, the Military Channel, etc.). Her time in boot camp seemed never ending, but I knew she was a very strong individual both physically and mentally, and was sure that she would succeed.

We finally got the call telling us that it was a done deal, and graduation was imminent. Our trip to Cape May was a great experience. The beauty of the town and the anticipation of seeing her again kept us on pins and needles. To see her walk in front of me in uniform after six weeks of missing her was also one of the most emotional times in my life. We were surprised to hear that she was receiving Honors that day for the Physical Fitness Award along with her job assignment to Key West, which was sixteen hours south of our home in Chattanooga.

I have heard that many Coasties will change their minds many times before they finally settle on a career path, and Danielle was no different. Her Senior Chief had suggested that she choose to become a rescue swimmer due to her being such a strong swimmer (thanks to swim lessons at five years of age as well as participating on the local swim league for thirteen years) however, she had her heart set on the BM track because she wanted to operate a boat.

My first visit to Key West involved a boat ride on a Coast Guard vessel. This was a great experience, and so began my interest in the Coast Guard. One day Steve asked me if I might be interested in the Auxiliary. This question made me stop and think. I knew basically nothing about a boat except for the limited knowledge of Danielle's chosen career. Sure, I had water skied some in my teen years, but never once did I consider pursuing anything remotely close to doing what Danielle was doing.

Danielle has adventures all the time. The things she deals with on a daily basis could include alien migrant interdiction, first aid and CPR, search and rescue, law enforcement, or drug interdiction. Even though I am not doing the things she's doing, it somehow gives me a connection to her as I learn how to do a small portion of what she does. We recently got to work side-by-side on the Tennessee River for an event. This was an awesome time for me as I was able to see her in action. I knew my daughter was mastering various aspects of her job, but to actually watch her perform them was amazing...as Danielle is amazing.

I do not know what is in store for me, but I am looking forward to experiencing a piece of what my daughter experiences; and serving my country and community as a volunteer in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.



Photo Top:
Elizabeth and Danielle

Photo Left: Danielle

Photos:
Elizabeth Holland
USCGAUX



Quote of the Month

"It is amazing what can get done when no one cares who gets the credit".

Harry S. Truman

33rd President of the United States

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Rachel Lynn Fasone
Flotilla 72, Division 7, Eighth District Eastern

Rachel graduated from Pennsylvania State University in May of 2011 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting. After four years of hard work in the Smeal College of Business and an internship that helped her decide her future, she accepted a job offer with S.R. Snodgrass, A.C. A few weeks after graduation she began her career as an external auditor and immediately initiated her studies for her CPA Certification. Rachel enrolled in the Coast Guard Auxiliary in April of 2008, but because she was matriculating at Penn State and holding two part time jobs to defray the fees required to attend a major university, was unable to participate with Flotilla 7-2.

Rachel stated recently "Since my career has led me back to the Pittsburgh area, I plan to become more involved with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and Flotilla 7-2." And that she has. In April she passed the Vessel Examiners Exam and this summer became an active member of the Flotilla 7-2 Vessel Examiners Team.

MEMBER TRAINING MOMENT

It was a nice Summer day and Julie and her Mom decided to take the personal watercraft out for a ride. They zoomed straight up the lake and went into a bay with calmer water. They were having lots of fun doing donuts when the craft stopped running. They were a long way from shore and no other boats were in sight. Clouds were starting to roll in and it was getting darker out. The wind was getting stronger.

Two hours later Julie's Dad started to get worried that they had not returned. He called the local Coast Guard Auxiliary for help. They asked him these questions. How many people aboard? Where was their point of embarkation? What was their destination? When were they expected to return?

What should Julie and her Mom have done before leaving home port? (answer on page four)



Photo Above: PFD Panda, Paul Boyd, Ralph Underwood prior to getting underway.

VETERAN'S DAY 2011

Communities all around our Nation celebrated Veteran's Day in many ways, some with concerts, some with picnics, some with parades. No matter the means that our communities participated this year, the one theme has been to salute those that have sacrificed time out of their lives, and even their lives in some cases, to give us the freedoms that we enjoy every day.

Nashville, Tennessee is no exception. Every year this community puts on quite a parade, complete with marching bands, military vehicles past and present, vintage cars with Very Special People riding in them, among these decorated Vets that gave much more than we the everyday people give, many of them Combat Wounded, many of them with longevity that can only be envied by many.

For the second year in a row, Division Eleven of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary has been honored to lead-off the parade. Falling in behind the 101st Airborne Band, P.F.D. Panda and team consisting of Larry Carter, Paul Boyd, and Harry Stephenson from Flotilla 4 and Joseph Campano, Ralph Underwood, and Randy Ventress (a.k.a. Panda) Flotilla 5 mounted the Division Eleven entry in the parade.

P.F.D. Panda was a visual hit with the crowds that lined the parade route. Panda tells me that the big hit for him was the crowd and that the opportunity to honor those that have served was very enjoyable. One little guy in a red wagon along the route held up a sign that said, "My Daddy will be home for Christmas". This brought into perspective the sacrifices that not only our Military members make, but the sacrifices the loved ones back home are making as well.



Photo left, left to right: Larry Carter, Joseph Campano, Ralph Underwood, and Panda

Article: Randy Ventress USCGAUX
All Photos: Harry Stephenson USCGAUX

Local Strengths, National Solutions Diversity Management for a Modern Auxiliary

Change for change sake is never a good plan. But as the Auxiliary further changes to modernize and realign with the active duty component, there is no more important step than to change for the better, to make sure all of our members have a chance to fully participate to their fullest, and to be utilized as assets and force multipliers for the Coast Guard team.

Change to better identify skills, change to include more members in programs and activities, change to offer additional resources and options to the active duty side is always a good plan.

The Auxiliary has started this new plan. A new Diversity program has just been rolled out that is being woven into the very fabric of our Auxiliary units from top to bottom. There is new structure and new offices with this plan and support for the new plan comes from the highest of levels.

Today, the Auxiliary is guided by the high level diversity policies that are from the Commandant of the Coast Guard. No member shall be subject to discrimination in the Auxiliary or in the performance of their duties because of their race, the color of their skin, their religion, their sex, their age, their national origin, or even their disability.

All Auxiliary leaders need to play a role in implementing diversity enhancing activities and to actively be mindful of, and work toward diversity goals and objectives.

To implement, support and educate the Auxiliary on the goals and objectives of the new plan, there has been created a National Diversity Team. The NACO shall appoint an Assistant National Commodore, Diversity (ANACO-DV) who will be leading the new National Diversity Team.

The team will be composed of District Staff Officers for Diversity (DSO-DV) from each of the 16 districts/regions including our own 8th District Eastern Region. It will also include representatives from the Auxiliary Training Directorate and Human Resources Directorate as well as the Auxiliarist representative to the Coast Guard Commandant's Diversity Advisory Council (DAC).

The National Diversity Team will not just be supporting the three goals of diversity which are: 1. Positive environment; 2. Value all Auxiliarists; and, 3. Promote individual success...but also will be establishing objectives to support and promote these goals. Some objectives might be to: conduct district and national training through seminars, workshops, forums, and panel discussions; to engage and educate the membership on Diversity including the many positive effects on the organization; or to help share practical experiences in managing Diversity issues and problems through publications, conducting surveys and even exit interviews to develop intervention strategies and promote member satisfaction.

The concept of Diversity is not just confined to the above three goals. It also includes a new perspective, a new twist to be Embraced, a new lens in which to view the world and for the world to view us. That is the Diversity of our own members' life skills.

The skills Auxiliarists bring to the table that may be of benefit to Team Coast Guard are virtually unknown and in many ways untapped potential for the team. There is a need to assess the membership and somehow capture the skills and potential within. Many members are carpenters, plumbers, teachers, licensed doctors, lawyers, insurance professionals and even chaplains. Many members are firefighters, peace officers and EMT first responders. Many of our members are accountants, paralegals, bankers, writers, editors, and media professionals. We have members in both the public and private sectors of our economy with all manner of experience levels and expertise. We have members who possess federal security clearances. We have both military members and former military members from every branch of the service, with skills that may be needed or possibly tapped in the near future if the Coast Guard were to know of them and have need.

Diversity today does value all Auxiliarists, and what we have to offer. Diversity today does promote individual success and a positive environment. As the National Diversity Team comes together this year and the new work begins, we know it is not entirely new work, but an extension of hard work already done in this area by dedicated Diversity minded members that have set the foundation for this next vital step. There is still much work to be done by all members, and I look forward to being a part of this process as we go forward with the new mandate.

By: Keith D. Blosser, ESQ.
DSO-DV, ADSO-LP
Eighth District, Eastern Region



Photo: Curt Pratt USCGAUX

A Did You Know Moment

Interoperability is a property referring to the ability of diverse systems and organizations to work together (inter-operate). (Wikipedia Encyclopedia)

The **IEEE** Glossary defines interoperability as the ability of two or more systems or components to exchange information and to use the information that has been exchanged.