U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

District 1, Southern Region – Division 7

Regular Monthly meeting, Division 01407

MINUTES OF MEETING: 02 November, 2022

CALL TO ORDER AT TIME: 1941 hrs

PLACE: Norwalk Flotilla Base

OPENING CEREMONY: Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence.

NUMBER PRESENT: 12 officers and 2 guests

PRESENT: **Voting members:** DCDR Robert Cody, VCDR Michael O'Connor, F.C. Judith Cassara, F.C. Barry Wilde, IPDCDR Mike Reidy, Eric Riznyk (For FC), Evan Tilley (For FC)

Non-Voting members: Carol Saar, Ray Birnbaum, Linda Lakin, Sherrye Platt, Ezra Williams, Peter Grunthal

QUORUM: Yes

GUESTS: Ann Marie Nista, Ed Wiederkehr

MINUTES ADOPTED: October minutes approved after discussion, Proposed by Cassara, seconded by Wilde.

- Discussion: $250 paid to Coast Guard Mutual Assistance
- No protocol in place to enforce requirement by Comm Stone for uniform inspections. Inspections likely not required beginning 2023.

DIVISION COMMANDER REPORT: Bob Cody:

-Ribbons awarded by CG will be provided
-Cody wants officers' reports to be focused on prior 30 days, next 30 days, and any pertinent issues

FLOTILLA COMMANDER REPORTS:

71. Portchester: Judith Cassara: Monthly meeting coming up in one week.

72. Norwalk: FC Richard Keen: presented by Eric Ryznik:

- Moving monthly meeting up one week.
-Zoom for new members, for ideas, such as pizza night, movie night.
-Work party Oct 22 to winterize vessel.
-Raising interest in FSO positions.

74: Stamford: FC Walter Roberts. No report.

75: Mamaroneck: FC William Lipscomb: Mike Reidy presented.

- Flotilla number at 59 members.
-Need new bridge. Hamel and Freed have put their names in.
-24ft Grady White tested. Now on the hard in New Rochelle.
-Ed Petree left, going to New Jersey.

77, Fairfield: FC Josephine Mills: Evan Tilley presented:

- Election of officers on Nov 10.
- Slate unchanged – Mills for FC.
- Roster at 22, lost 2 members, (One non-payment, the other a transfer).
- Boat America Course held in October, total students 51 for the year.
- Michael Coenhaver (Spelling?), Norwich Military Academy, transferring to 77.
- Ostergard transferring back from Stratford.
- "Need a mission to keep members activated".
- Planning a training session in the Winter – a course on weather.

78: Cos Cob: FC Barry Wilde:

- Election next Wednesday.
- A member has requested PQS for Public Affairs – photography. Wilde will investigate.

DIVISION COMMANDER: DCDR Bob Cody:

-District quiet for last 6 weeks.
-Questioned who will go to the election meeting of each Flotilla to observe and validate.
-Walter Roberts reported to him that 74 has no candidates for FC and VFC. No waiver has been requested.

DIVISION VICE COMMANDER: VCDR Mike O'Connor:

-District quiet.
-An email sent in his name this day was something hacked, not sent by him.
-The 41 is still operating for members who need hours.
-Thursday patrols, with CG for CG training.

-Patrols Sundays, for member training.
-He will propose in January or February that District policy be modified to allow an active Coast Guard member to act as a QE. This has been successful in other districts. Current policy is for October to be held for QEs only for new Boat Crew, this needs to be changed to allow renewals.
-Consistency is needed for forms and inspections of facilities.
-Consistency needed among District staff.
-Short of PLBs, shortage not happening in other Districts.
-Processing very slow.
-Plan to send resolution to District in January / February to make changes.

Member Comments: Shortage of Coxn's and Boat Crew. Only 4 QEs in the District, plus one at Station. Lakin suggested that if members (in 2022) had 50 or more boat crew/coxswain hours, could Mike O'Connor send up the chain a suggestion that REYR is waived in 2023, until QE session is completed. If we are in REYR, there is an additional requirement of 12 hours on-water before you can even get a QE session. This additional 12 hours requirement would be waived if we are not in REYR.

STAFF OFFICER REPORTS:

CM: No report

- Reidy noted that grounding of antennae is under way. Obtaining approval from Andy.

CS: Reidy:

- No changes have been made to the Division 7 website with the exception of posting the minutes from the October 22 meeting.

DV: Ezra: nothing to report.

FN: Platt: Prior balance $ 5,061.71
Current balance $4,388.96

Motion to increase ad expense in Boaters' Guide by an additional $100 for inside back [page;
Proposed O'Connor
Seconded Wilde
Approved

FS: Position vacant

HR: Birnbaum

1.Flotilla 7-1: No report
2.Flotilla 7-2: George Kollitides, Donnalisa Persiani,Ilya Korisch,Richard Allin, Luca Mikkola-Patelcan, Mercedses Motz, Robery Andular, and Joanna McElnea can be sworn in at the next meeting they attend. With six new members in 2022. I completed the new member orientation with Steven Mazzola and Michael Babich. Their packages have been sent to DIRAUX. I have had contact with two potential new members and one transfer candidate.
3.Flotilla 7-4: working on membership with Prabir Datta, Ishani-Ray Datta, L. Cesiro, Christopher Nutt, Andrew D'Alessandro and F Russo. Followed up on SN Eckhardt's application status. Finally received a notice of his completed membership
4.Flotilla 7-5: Discussed the AUX with two new candidates, Carmine Torchetti and Ryan McCann.They are both interested.
5.Flotilla 7-7: Carmelo Mendez attended our last Flotilla meeting and given introductory material about the missions of the Auxiliary and a 7001 form. Hope to get him to fill them out soon. Michael Cowenhaven is a Norwich university graduate and no longer wishes a military career. He is considering joining the Auxiliary. The FC and I are trying to get him to join.
6.Flotilla 7-8: Madelyn Contreras has completed her New Member Course and will sit for her exam shortly. Donald Scanlon, Demetrios "Jimmy": Frazis and Yannik Passemart are in AP status and are working on Core Training. Jake Williams is course completed and waiting for clearance as a member.
7. Remember membership recruiting is everyone's job.
Added at the meeting:

- good flow of new members applications.
- Division 7 is the most successful of 16 divisions in this regard.
-The deadline for removing members for nonpayment is November 15.

IS: Saar:

I taught the new FSO-IS for the Fairfield Flotilla for 3.5 hours earlier today. She has a lot of work ahead of her since members of her flotilla submitted Activity Logs that need to be reviewed by her. And then I have to approve or reject each one.

Added at meeting:

-current training on how to extract spreadsheets for activity logs and election eligibility.

-Saar is requiring for December that Flotilla Commanders send Form 7077 by regular mail sharing elected officers and appointed officers. Do not email, must have by regular mail.

-Will make changes in AXII for elected and appointed officers in early 2023.

-Members are sending in activity logs. Approximately 60 activity logs need to be reviewed, and 10 need clarification.

-It is necessary for members to enter their hours in AXII, but this is not happening.

After discussion regarding the need for an accessible printer – motion to spend up to $120 on monochrome printer.

Proposed by Cassara
Seconded by Wilde
Approved.

MT: Hamel. No report

NS: Roberts: No report

OP: Wilde:

- Remember to remove batteries from strobes and PLB's.
- The District is not buying these two items.
- Suggest leadership academy at the Norwalk base.

PB: Lakin:

- Hope to get out in two weeks the Seven Seas newsletter. Discussed difficulties in communications between PB and PA. No more communications between Connecticut and New York.

PE: Tilley:

Division 7 has recorded a total of 234 students receiving P/E certificates in 2022 which is within our goal of 300 students receiving certificates for the year.

Flotillas 74, 75, and 77 have scheduled classes in November leaving a final total of students available for our next Division 7 meeting.

PV: Stilo: No report

OLD BUSINESS:

Cody bringing forward the Fellowship Breakfast from next May Sunday Jan 8. Will have FirstNet attend.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Association is providing grants for brochures.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Cody introduced Peter Grunthal (FSO-SR Flotilla 74) as the Division SO-SR.

- Cody announced that he (Cody) and O'Connor will stand for re-election as DCDR and VCDR
- Christmas gifts for children of Active Service Coast Guard at Station - Eaton's Neck. Members should bring gifts to Norwalk Base.
- For required Division Zoom meetings, Cody can provide access.
- More contact is thought desirable between Division and Flotilla officers.

Cassara and Birnbaum noted COW reservation. (earlier in meeting)

GOOD AND WELFARE:

Allan Verschoor still has medical issues.

NEXT MEETING:

Division meeting Wednesday December 7.

Fellowship Breakfast Sunday January 8, 2023, 1100.

ADJOURNMENT: Time:2101
Proposed: Wilde
Seconded: Cassara

Respectfully Submitted:
Peter F. Grunthal, SO-SR
Auxiliary Division 014 - 07
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