

3 August 2022 Division 7 Board meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Bob Cody
Mike O'Connor
Mike Reidy
Judy Cassara
Rich Keen
Eric Ryznic
Bill Lipscomb
Barry Wilde
Ray Birnbaum
Ezra Williams
Linda Lakin
Joe Stilo

Seven out of nine voting members in attendance. A quorum was present, and we voted to approve the July meeting minutes.

Flotilla 72, Norwalk, FC Rick Keen -- Struggling with the flotilla's facilities. Problems with COGA and White Cloud. Domo is now in the water. Getting a late start in the season and are behind in patrols. The flotilla's meeting on the 9th of August will be a BBQ, and everyone is invited.

Flotilla 75, Mamaroneck, Bill Lipscomb – We had two major activities in July. The Blessing of the Fleet was well attended. Broke records of vessels that registered and spectators. The event is becoming a really good PR event. Two participants were awarded gift certificates to attend a boating safety class. At the end of the month, the flotilla assisted with the event “Swim Across America” that raised 1.5 million for cancer research and had over 400 swimmers in the water.

Flotilla 78, Cos Cob, Barry Wilde – We had six new people join the flotilla and several members are studying to become Vessel Examiners. There was a discussion about the process and the preparation to become qualified as a VE. There were comments that the actual vessel inspection was only half of the goal of doing a VE. The other half is interaction and education of the boat owner. Police departments are given the same decals that the Auxiliary uses to award to vessel exams that they conduct. The VE program is a good way to get new members involved in the flotilla.

Flotilla 71, Port Chester, Judy Cassara – Flotilla may have 3 potential new members. George Zygmunt is now a VE and we will try to get the new members qualified as VEs as well. The flotilla is doing patrols.

DCCR's report, Bob Cody – George Marrash has sent out the HARPAT report. Question on how to find out who in the division is qualified to do HARPATs. It's not a qualification tracked by national, so you would have to contact the DSO running the program. Our numbers are low, but not as bad as last year. D-Train is coming up in September. Max participation is requested, registration opened today. The AWU report is due to the DCapt by Friday. It's a pilot program, but the uniform can be worn as long as it's still serviceable, even if it doesn't get adopted by the Auxiliary. Boots are not bloused, can also wear “postal shoes.” Bill Lipscomb suggested that USCG Auxiliary be embroidered across the back/shoulders.

IPDR's report, Mike Reidy – We need to get better with our record keeping and reports. The finance reports should include more information. I would like to see our monthly bank statements every month. Why do we have over 6 thousand dollars in the account? That's more than we typically have. Reports are submitted electronically, but where are they? Let's use the Division's Gmail address, AuxDivision01407@gmail.com and the associated storage space to archive our records. We need to get a copy of the Division 7 Standing Rules posted on the website.

VCDR's Report, Mike O'Connor – Membership in the organization is shrinking, currently down to around 21,000. We have to get the members back and interested again and I don't think we can do that with Zoom. We must get a lot of people requalified. Now, before every patrol, coxswains must check to see that all crew are qualified and current before adding them to orders. What's the best way to verify this information? The Coast Guard needs us and wants to use us more. But we have to adhere to the programs and regulations. If you're going out on a boat to disperse ashes, do not do it under orders and don't publish photographs. The Ops officer for Station Eaton's Neck is now also a QE for the Auxiliary. There are only two Auxiliary QEs in Division 7. We have the DO-FN's report for this month. Our balance is \$6,119.71, same as last month. No receipts or disbursements. Last month a check was returned from the change of watch. The issue has been settled.

There was a discussion about the message that went out from the OTO. The consensus was that it was not an appropriate message to be sent to the membership.

If anyone has any Coxswains in training, please notify Barry Wilde.

Old Business, Ray Birnbaum – Ray needs letters from those that intend to run for Division office.

The Norwalk boat show is coming up and we (the division) need to get a backdrop. Motion to use division funds to buy a backdrop for no more than \$900 by Barry Wilde, seconded by Bill Lipscomb. Motion approved.

Let's try to get an SOS light to demonstrate at the boat show.

The safety lights are expensive. Mike O'Connor has found a company that still makes the old style with two rotating bulbs. He will send the information out to the board.

We need volunteers to cover the shifts for the boat show, Thursday, 22 September through Sunday the 25th.

Ray will call the CG recruiters to see if they are interested in coming to the boat show.

Next meeting will be September 7th at the Greenwich Water Club.

Good and Welfare – Memorial service for Ginny Lovas a week from Friday.

Meeting adjourned.