1970s

1971: Under the 1971 Federal Boating Act, Auxiliary flotillas are allowed to open on sole state waters. Federal construction of inland lakes, dams, and reservoirs greatly increases boating in western and plains states and scores of flotillas begin to operate there. As a result, the search and rescue caseload soars, reaching a peak of 58,000 persons assisted in 1980.

1973: Youth courses begin with development of Water `n Kids course. Auxiliary takes over seven small boat stations on Great Lakes.

1975: Coast Guard adopts "Bender Blue" uniform, replacing khakis.

1979: Bolling Douglas of the 7th District elected first female district commodore.