



U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
District Eleven North Region
DIVISION COMMANDERS REPORT



To: Dean McFarren, Commodore

4 Aug 2021

Cc: District Board and Staff

From : Lewis C Derfuss, Division Commander

Division: 5

HIGHLIGHTS/"3 UPS":

1. Working with Division and Flotilla staff to prepare for upcoming elections
2. Division 5 kicks off fellowship with Division Luau faces new setback with spike in Covid cases.
3. All Programs resuming within stated guidelines with emphasis of completing Coxswain and Boat Crew qualifications and annual 12-hour minimums.

DETAILS:

1. Our Division meeting is on 5 Aug and the main item of new business will be selecting qualified candidates for both Division and Flotilla elected leadership positions. First round of nominations for DCDR and VCDR will open at this meeting and Flotilla Nominations should start this month as well. We received guidance yesterday that there will be 3 options In-Person voting, On-Line Electronic voting and a Hybrid voting method, but not sure how that will work with at least two different sets of guidelines on nominations and election guideline. I think we will avoid using the Hybrid method unless clear guidelines are established on how to use the different sets of guidelines
2. We had a celebration of the lifting of many of the Covid Restrictions and once again enjoy our cornerstone of Fellowship at the well-received Division Luau, but now have to take a step back and regroup due to spike in Covid cases and updated guidelines from CG and CGAUX Leadership. We had gotten clearance from the Vallejo Yacht Club to again start meeting in-person and planned to do that on 5 Aug, However, we received new masking requirements for inside gatherings, coupled with scheduled construction road closure of HWY 37 the main route for our flotilla 55 membership, so we decided to remain on-line at least for this month. Many of our Flotilla's were also preparing to transition back to live or hybrid meetings, but also delayed that for another month. We all want to error on the side of caution to keep our membership safe and hope we can transition to live meetings next month if the Covid situation allow us to safely do that.
3. We have transitioned to live in-person activities as permitted by Phase 3 Guidelines and hope we don't move backwards because on new Covid spikes. These activities include Patrols, Boat Crew Training, VE's, PV's, PA events and in-person meetings and fellowship. We encourage all members to take advantage of Webinars and live activities. FL 55 and FI 53 continue to have multiple approved patrols including crew and trainees from other flotillas as well as our flotillas. Those who are due Requal or are working on initial Quals or just seeking to get your 12- hour minimum underway time please Contact Wil Sumner FL 55 or Lew Derfuss SO-OP 5 and make your needs known. We all are rusty after over a year of no patrol activities, and we need to train to get prepared for QE Check rides. We have lost several qualified Coxswains and Crew due to moves, health issues and crossing the bar and need to work hard to replace these losses with newly qualified members so we properly support the CG and CG Station's needs. We have also lost some AUXFAC's so are now working with more limited resources. We have applied for a mini OPTREX for 2 of our Coxswains and 3 Crew at

the beginning of Sept and are gearing up for FL 55 OPTREX in Bodega Bay 24-26 Sept. We will also start recruiting sign-ups for Fleet Week Patrols and shoreline duties in the near future.

PROJECTS:

1. We have scheduled on District calendar--2021 COW for Division 5 for 5 Dec. Have been in communications with new TRACEN Leadership and working on details to plan another great event.
2. Continue planning for our Fall OPTREX hosted by FL 55 at Sta Bodega Bay 24-26 Sep. Members in need or Requals and planning on attending need to send your request to Wil Sumner FSO-OP 55 wilsumner_cgaux@yahoo.com and Lew Derfuss SO-OP 5 Blueskier@sbcglobal.net so you can be vetted and added to the QE Request form ASAP. This form needs to be submitted at least 30 days prior so NLT 22 Aug so we have time to prepare. Any questions contact Wil or Lew
3. We decided to postpone a plan to have a joint BBQ tentatively on Aug 7 with Station Vallejo and Division 5 membership till next year when the new station opens.
4. We are working on preparing members to take on positions of leadership as both elected and appointed staff officers as the election season for 2022 is rapidly approaching.

CHALLENGES/OBSTACLES/OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Time and funding constraints
2. Phase 3 has again given us more flexibility to preform some traditional missions and opportunities to meet in person and socialize. Emphasis on importance of considering Covid vaccinations to further remove restrictions on missions we perform.
3. Emphasis on OPTREX's, Fall PCA Fair and COWS
4. Training and scheduling 29 required 2021 requalification check rides as well as initial qualification of Coxswains and Boat Crew members.
5. Focus on individual Flotilla strengths and combined and open up and communicate training opportunities among Flotilla's, combining efforts to achieve maximum results.

AGENCY INTERACTION:

1. Looking forward to again working closely with Sta Vallejo, Sta Rio Vista and Sta Bodega Bay staff in providing Operational Support with Joint Patrols to support both CG Station and Division Boat Crew Training, Qualification, and Currency by providing AUXFAC's and Crews upon request as well as routine support to AOR as allowed.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Most have been previously highlighted in this report: To summarize: Retain, attract, train members. Increase support to CG Missions by use of increased qualified members working toward some focused goals. Have Fun in doing the above and Fellowship. Addressing and working towards breaking down the barriers working against our success. Lead Division 5 to be the Premier Division. Strive to win NACO 5 Star award across the Division—achieved 4 of 5 Flotilla submitted and approved

PHOTO GALLERY: None this month