

District Public Affairs Report

Date: 14 May 2024
 From: Chuck Cobery, DSO-Public Affairs
 To: Commodore Curtis Han, District 11N Board and Staff
 Subj: Activities report for April 20024

To my colleagues:
 I am pleased to submit my PA report regarding activities within D11N.

**Division 6:
 Valentine's Day Feast**

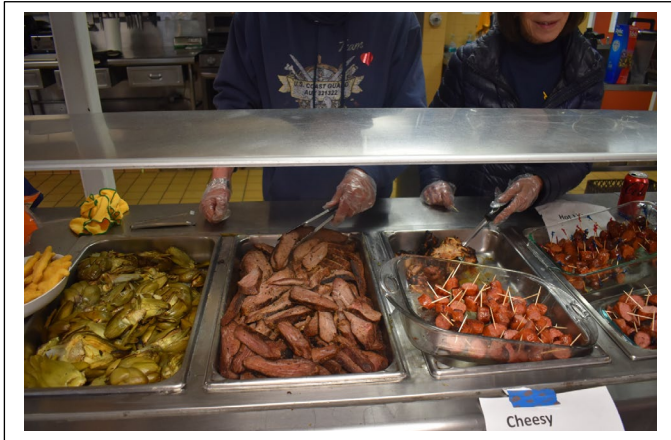
These photos came to me bit too late to print in the February PA report, but they bear sharing with the District. On Saturday, February 17, members of Division 6 hosted an informal Valentine's Day Barbeque luncheon for the fifty or so members of Coast Guard Station Monterey and their families at the Station's galley. The menu included tri-tip, Corralitos Market Sausages, baked potato, barbequed artichoke, chicken, and salad. This annual event is a heartfelt *Thank You* to the Station for the outstanding support and fellowship provide throughout the year. All hands left the event with a full belly and there was enough food left over for the duty section. All photos provide by Auxiliarist Michael Goldberg.



Station Monterey Commanding Officer, Lt **Matt Peryea** (second from left) begins to fill his plate at the Division 6-hosted Valentine's Day luncheon at Station Monterey.



Auxiliarist **Jane Smith** and her husband Commodore **Wally Smith** attend to the serving line at Station Monterey.



Artichokes, tri-tip, and Corralitos Market sausages highlight the menu at the annual Division 6 Valentine's Day luncheon at Station Monterey.



Grill Master Extraordinaire Auxiliarist **Mark McLaughlin** turning out the goodies as Commodore **Tracy Schultz** watches and learns...



No event is complete without a cake. Besides the Happy Valentine's Day greeting, the cake displays a cutter in heavy seas and reads "**I can't even fathom how swell you are!**" Coast Guard Auxiliary humor at its best (?)

All in the family

In early May Commodore **Wally Smith** and his wife Auxiliarist **Jane Smith** traveled to Chattanooga, Tennessee to bear witness to and participate in the promotion of their Coast Guard member grandson, **Adrian Lopez-Smith**, to Chief Petty Officer. He is stationed in that city aboard a 65-foot Coast Guard River Boat. Commodore Smith was influential in his grandson's choice to join the Coast Guard and he and Jane were honored to be able to pin Lopez-Smith with his new rank insignia. Lopez-Smith's next

assignment will be as the Executive Petty Officer (XPO) aboard a Coast Guard Cutter out of Galveston, Texas. Congratulations to Chief Petty Officer Lopez-Smith as well as to his very proud grandparents!



Commodore Wally Smith and his wife Jane flank their grandson, Adrian Lopez-Smith on the day of his promotion to Chief Petty Officer in Chattanooga, TN. The new Coast Guard chief's former vessel, the USCG Ouachita, is tied to the pier in the background. Photo provided by Commodore Wally Smith

Division 1 Opening Day on the Bay

On April 20, 2024, members of Division 1 and the Coast Guard collaborated in the Treasure Island Sailing Center (TISC) Opening Day on the Bay on Treasure Island, San Francisco. Members from the Gold Side were Chief Petty Officers **Christopher Sundeen**, **Mark Denton**, and **Tony Valashinas**. Auxiliarists **Louis Sarto**, **Nancy Marion**, and **Marissa Hoke** represented the Silver Side. The team set up a booth and greeted the event attendees with boater safety information, life jackets, and in-person explanation of the missions and opportunities with the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Marissa Hoke reports that the team “accomplished building our positive brand with the public as America’s lifesavers”. Marissa further reports that the executive Director of the event, Chris Childers, was delighted with the day and with Team Coast Guard’s performance and looks forward to next year.



Kids of all ages delighted in the life jacket photo stand. Photo by Marissa Hoke. Used with permission.



Auxiliarist **Nancy Marion** instructing a child and his family how to properly wear his new life jacket, donated by the Treasure Island Sailing Center. Photo by Ted Barone, roaming event photographer.



Amidst setting up the TISC exhibit. Left to right: USCG CSC **Mark Denton**, USCG Aux **Nancy Marion**, USCG PCPO **Tony Valashinas**, USCG CMSC **Cristopher Sundeen**, USCG Aux **Marisa Hoke**, and USCG Aux **Louis Sarto**.

It's the Big One!

Safe Boating week is almost upon us. Events have been planned, booked, and coordinated and we are on our final approach. I am grateful for Commodore **Dean Mcfarren's** leadership and expertise in chairing this important event. Thank you, Sir! For all the Division representatives for Safe Boating week: Please do not forget to capture your people in photographs and text doing the things we do so well as Team Coast Guard. When all is said and done and the reports filter in from the Divisions, Dean and I will incorporate the photos and statements and put a District package together for review by Commodore Han and subsequent forwarding to the National level. There will then be a determination by senior PA officers as to which District had the best Public Affairs Safe Boating Week in 2024. I firmly believe we have a serious shot at it if we make this a team effort. As I stated last month, let's get out there and proudly show our colors by promoting our number one mission of boating safety to the public, and maybe even recruit a few new members. You all have my deepest respect and I look forward to your reports.

Very Respectfully Submitted,
Chuck Cobery
DSO-PA
D11N

