**DEPARTMENT of HOMELAND SECURITY**



#### UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

#### Flotilla 014-02-06

#### Monmouth Beach, NJ

Minutes for the May 21st, 2020 meeting.

Meeting called to order at 19:30.

Meeting was conducted via the internet pursuant to the waiver issued by the Auxiliary on April 2nd, 2020 to allow for digital meetings in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Awards:**  There were no awards presented.

**Introduction**: The meeting began with a moment of silent to mourn the loss of Ralph Dudley and the victims of Covid-19.

Fred Klapproth noted “everyone who met Ralph knew he was a kind person who made significant and varied contributions to the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary.”

Dan Smuro noted Ralph was a member of the Auxiliary for about twenty-three (23) years. He enrolled in 1997 and was a member of Flotilla 2-1 in Sayreville until about 2006, when he and Catherine subsequently transferred to Flotilla 2-6. He had a lot of certifications during that period and was extremely active. Dan noted Ralph was likely certified in everything that was available at the time: boat crew, coxswain, crew member, instructor, vessel examiner, recreation boating safety visitor, navigation verifier, watch stander, and a telecommunications officer.

Ralph had four hundred and ninety three (493) missions during his time period; that number likely doesn’t account for everything, though, as some records from Flotilla 2-1 in Sayreville likely aren’t included in that number. He had fifty-seven (57) patrols and two (2) facilities. He had three thousand five hundred and seventy one (3,571) hours of which three hundred and fifty two (352) hours were on patrol. He had thirty-two (32) awards including the Boat Forces Operation Insignia, seven (7) Coast Guard unit commendations, six (6) Sustained Auxiliary Service Awards, five (5) Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendations, a Transportation 9/11 Ribbon, and one (1) Auxiliary Commandant Letter.

Dan also noted: “It was quite a productive career, in fact, I would use the term Ralph would always use when you asked him he how he was doing: outstanding. It was an outstanding career and he will be missed.”

Bill Szilasi made a motion to add Ralph’s name as a candidate for the Walter Leade Memorial Bar Plaque. Motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

**FC (Fred Klapproth)** - Recounted the Division conference call from the previous week. There was discussion about how the Auxiliary will resume following the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly as related to hours necessary to maintain qualifications. It is expected the Coast Guard will give Auxiliary some accommodations but so far there hasn’t been anything official announced. Does not expect all Auxiliarists to “immediately jump into action” and every Auxiliarist will need to make a personal decision regarding what missions they wish to participate in and to what extent. Every member will be able to decide this for him or herself. Risk Management training via webinar has been approved; it is split into a minimum of two (2) sessions. More information will be forthcoming.

**VFC (Bob McNamara)**– Report submitted electronically. Minutes for Division sent out. Nothing additional to report.

**FSO-SR (Dennis Mikolay)**– Minutes from the February 20th, 2020 meeting were submitted on March 3rd, 2020. One amendment: Dave Radeschi submitted report for February electronically on February 19th, 2020.  Motion to approve amended minutes submitted by Catherine Dudley. Seconded by Lou Krupkin. Motion approved.

**FSO-FN (Vince Mancino)**– Report submitted electronically. Technical difficulties prevented Vince Mancino from speaking during the online meeting. Motion to approve March and April Financial reports submitted by Catherine Dudley. Seconded by Lou Krupkin. Motion approved.

**FSO-OP (Dan Smuro)**– First patrol was scheduled but didn’t happen due to Covid-19 pandemic. Nothing additional to report.

**FSO-HR (Fred Klapproth)**– Reported submitted electronically (included the report from the Division).

**FSO-IS (Dan Smuro)**– New passwords will be sent out soon. Requests that when Auxiliarists have hours to add, please call Dan Smuro and he will provide a walkthrough for the new process.

**FSO-MA (Walt Kudler)**– Report submitted electronically.

**FSO-MS (Lou Krupkin)**– Report submitted electronically. Boating season seems questionable. Provided information on the Memorial Day charity run. Will attempt to do a full twenty-seven (27) miles. Recommended Flotilla members check out the *Walk to Remember*.

**FSO-NS (Bob McNamara)**– Report submitted electronically. Local Notice to Mariners issued today: local bridges will open on the hour every hour. Last season, it was every two (2) hours. However, they will be open on-demand on the hour. Seasonal buoys have been placed.

**FSO-MT (Bob McNamara)**– Report submitted electronically. Nothing additional to report.

**FSO-CS (Bill Szilasi)**–  Website updated. First trial run of online meeting seems successful.

**FSO-PB (Amanda Prascsak)**– Report submitted electronically. Facebook page updated to provide a “pinned” post about suspension of Boating Safety Course.

**FSO-PE (Catherine Dudley)**– Boating Safety Course is currently suspended due to Covid-19 pandemic. Catherine has received many inquiries from the public about when they will resume. For the time being, Amanda Prascsak has volunteered to put a notice on the Flotilla’s Facebook page.

**FSO-PV (Tony Milillo)**– Report submitted electronically. Nothing additional to report.

**FSO-VE (Dave Radeschi)**– Report submitted electronically. Noted there is a hundred (100) question practice test that was sent out earlier which might prove useful to those who have yet to take the online test. Virtual vessel examination has been authorized but it does not result in the issuance of a decal.

**FSO-CM**(**Joe Ruffini**) –

**Aviation Advisor**– Doug Livornese submitted report electronically. Unlikely there will be any aerial activity anytime soon as social distancing is not feasible aboard aircraft.

**Uniform and Flag**– **N/A**

**Committee Reports: N/A**

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:**Catherine Dudley expressed appreciation to the Flotilla for remembering Ralph’s many efforts on behalf of the Auxiliary. Additionally, Fred Klapproth will forward a list of website’s containing much-needed good news to the members. Fred Klapproth also noted the passing of former Flotilla member George Hoffman; an obituary was sent via e-mail.