

“THE MISSOURI RIVER SKIPPER”

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 3, SUMMER 2022



SCHEDULE OF FLOTILLA MEETINGS

085-33-01	Omaha	3rd Monday
085-33-02	Lincoln	2nd Sunday
085-33-03	NP Dodge Park	3rd Tuesday
085-33-04	Des Moines	2nd Saturday

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Flotilla Meeting Schedule	2
Division Officers	3
Division Commander's Notes	4
Bellevue Teachers PA Event	5-6
Diversity Message	7-8
What we should know	9-10
Election Dinner Invite	11

**Published by and for members of
The Great Plains Division,
8th Western Rivers Region,
U.S. Coast Guard
Auxiliary**

**Opinions expressed herein are
not necessarily those of the
U.S. Coast Guard or
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.**



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE-PRIVACY ACT OF 1974

The disclosure of the personal information contained in this publication is subject to the provisions contained in the Privacy Act of 1974. The subject Act, with certain exceptions, prohibits the disclosure, distribution, dissemination or copying of any material containing the home addresses, home telephone number, spouses names and social security numbers, except for official business. Violations may result in disciplinary action by the Coast Guard and/or civilian criminal sanctions.

**Want to see more pictures?
Please remember to check out the website at:
http://wow.uscgaux.info/WOW_signin.php?unit=**

Staff Roster

Division Commander Barbara Westcott
 Division Vice Commander Douglas Eubanks
 Immediate Past Commander Brandon Butters
 Flotilla Commander 33-1, District 8WR..... James Wolfe
 Flotilla Commander 33-2, District 8WR..... Constance Walters
 Flotilla Commander 33-3, District 8WR Daniel Smith
 Flotilla Commander 33-4, District 8WR..... Samuel Mitchel
 Finance (SO-FN) George McNary
 Secretary of Records (SO-SR) Barclay Stebbins

Chief of Logistics Douglas Eubanks
 Auxiliary Scout (SO-AS)..... Patrick Rezac
 Communication Services (SO-CS) Douglas Eubanks
 Diversity (SO-DV) Ben Zimmerman
 Human Resources (SO-HR) Constance Walters
 Information Services (SO-IS)..... Doug Eubanks
 Materials (SO-MA) James Westcott
 Public Affairs (SO-PA) Randal Evans
 Publications (SO-PB) Barbara Westcott

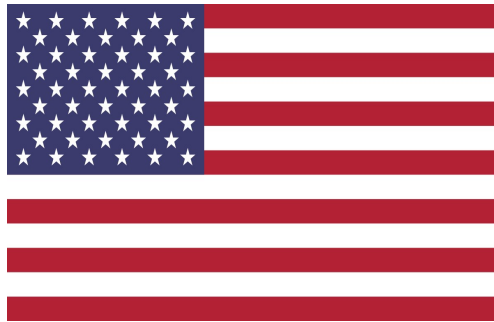
Chief of Prevention Daniel Smith
 Marine Safety (SO-MS) Randy Evans
 Member Training (SO-MT) John Hawkinson
 Navigation Systems (SO-NS) Daniel Smith
 Public Education (SO-PE) Cannon Kinchelow
 Public Visitation (SO-PV) Daniel Smith
 Vessel Examination (SO-VE) Daniel Smith

Chief of Response George McNary
 Communications (SO-CM) James Westcott
 Operations (SO-OP) George McNary

Other Appointments

Liaison to Iowa Brandon Butters
 Liaison to Nebraska Constance Walters
 Liaison to Coast Guard..... Barclay Stebbins
 Liaison to Corps of Engineers..... James Westcott
 Liaison to Bass Pro Council Bluff..... OPEN
 Liaison to Bass Pro Des Moines OPEN
 Liaison to Cabela's James Westcott

DIVISION COMMANDER'S MESSAGE WINTER 2022



Shipmates,

Summer has arrived and is showing it's self with a vengeance. We are experiencing extremes in both heat and lack of moisture. However, I have been told, that the "Farmer's Almanac is stating that we will have a colder, wetter winter. However as we know, Mother Nature will do as she pleases!

Operations have begun and the Communications Room at AUX Station Omaha is up and running. Members are busy with Vessel Safety Checks, Boating Safety Classes, and Public Affairs events.

On August 6th we celebrated the 232nd Birthday of the Coast Guard with a short business meeting which was followed by a pot luck picnic at the Auxiliary Station Omaha. The division purchased hamburgers and hot dogs, the buns and some soft drinks. The members brought a large array of food and there was a great time had by all.

Our Division Election is on September 24th. We will have our meeting, lunch, some training at the Auxiliary Station Omaha. Our social time, starting at 1800 hrs, and dinner will be a relaxed time at the La Mesa Restaurant, located at 1405 Ft. Crook Rd. S., in Bellevue, Nebraska.

Please also note the upcoming get together on December 3rd, which is our Holiday Party at the Pizza Ranch in Omaha. More information coming soon!

Barb Westcott, DCDR



The following article was provided by Cannon Kinchelow, SO-PE Division 33

Bellevue Teachers

On Tuesday August 9th, 2022, two (2) members of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary staffed a two-man table at the Bellevue Public School System “Vendor Expo 2022.” Dan Smith, FC 33-3 and Cannon Kinchelow, SO-PE, of 33-1, were invited to participate in the annual “Welcome Back to School” event held at Bellevue East High School.

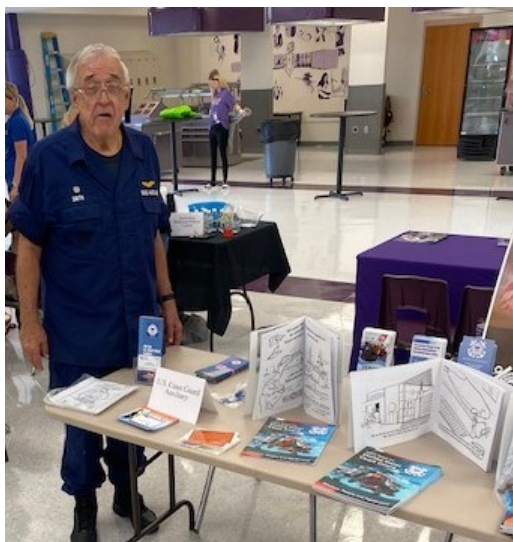
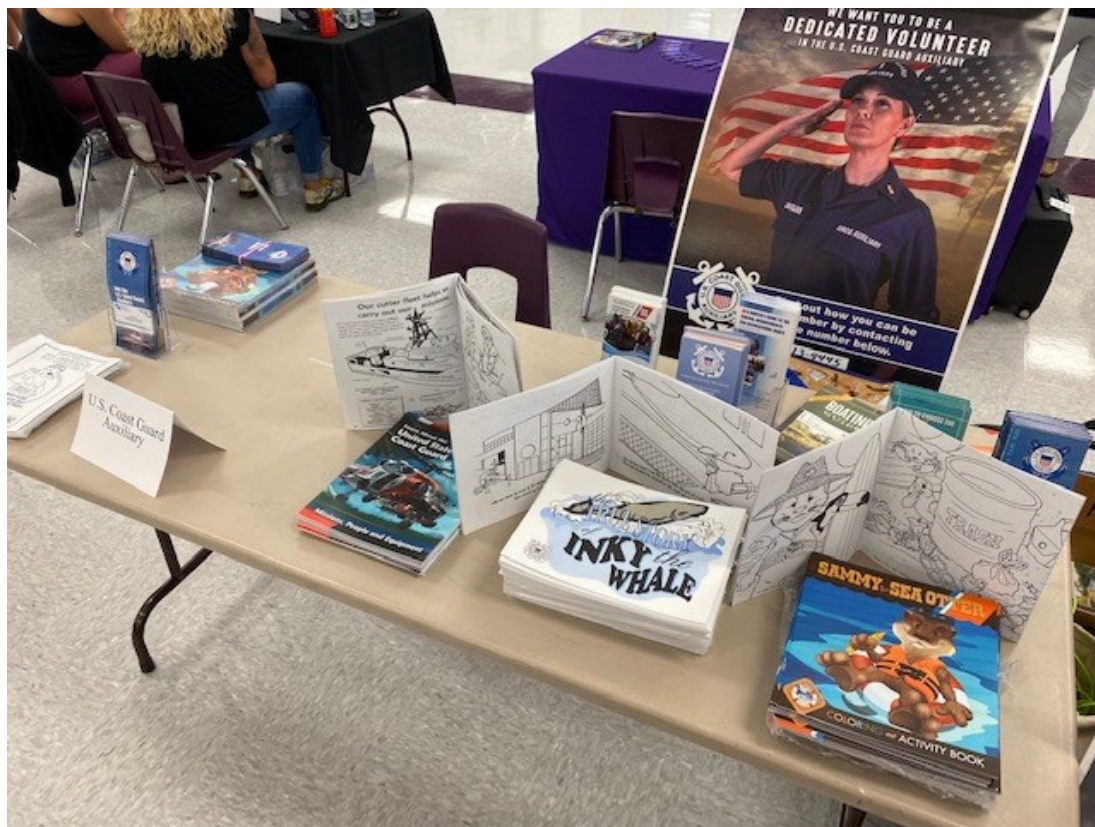
This is an annual event, welcoming the teachers back for the 2022-2023 school year. The Auxiliary was invited to be a participant for the first year and was scheduled from 0730 to 0815 hours. It was estimated that approximately thirteen hundred (1,300) staff members strolled through the school’s cafeteria visiting and speaking with the various representatives that were in attendance.

Several attendees stopped at the Auxiliary table to speak with and ask questions of the Auxiliarists and gather Coast Guard coloring books, tote bags and other items of interest. In conversation with some of the visitors, at least one of them had a father, brother, relative or neighbor that had served in the USCG. One staff member had a daughter that graduated from the USCG Academy in 2017 and was currently serving at the USCG base in Seattle, Washington. And yet another staff member requested recruiting information be sent to his son who is contemplating his future.

For this event, Dan Smith, FC 33-3, thought of interesting ways to “think outside the box” to get visitors to stop by our table. This was the first time the Auxiliary has been invited to take part in this event and hopefully it will not be the last.



Continued on the next page



Pictured at the booth is Dan Smith, FC of 33-3
Pictures by Cannon Kinchelow, SO-PE

Diversity and Inclusion

<https://www.techtarget.com/searchhrsoftware/definition/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-DEI>

What are the differences between diversity, equity and inclusion?

Although diversity, equity and inclusion are innately connected, they are also separate concepts.

Diversity is acknowledging that people aren't sets of specific characteristics and acknowledging that each voice is unique. Real diversity requires a deeper understanding of each person.

Diversity refers to how diverse a workforce is as it pertains to specific characteristics, including gender, sexuality, culture and experience. At its core, it's about welcoming different perspectives to a business.

Inclusion in an organization, on the other hand, is ensuring that each worker is given the necessary room to flourish and succeed, while diversity is about creating a workforce with a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences.

Inclusion is about giving all employees the opportunity to voice their opinions so they don't feel excluded based on their identities and enabling them to see themselves reflected in their organizations' values.

In the workplace, equity acknowledges that we're all different, and those differences make everyone great. As such, companies that adopt equity practices don't establish one-size-fits-all policies. Rather they take individual needs into consideration, while also readjusting organizational structures to account for the disadvantages minority groups face.

Roles of diversity, equity and inclusion in organizations and how to address them

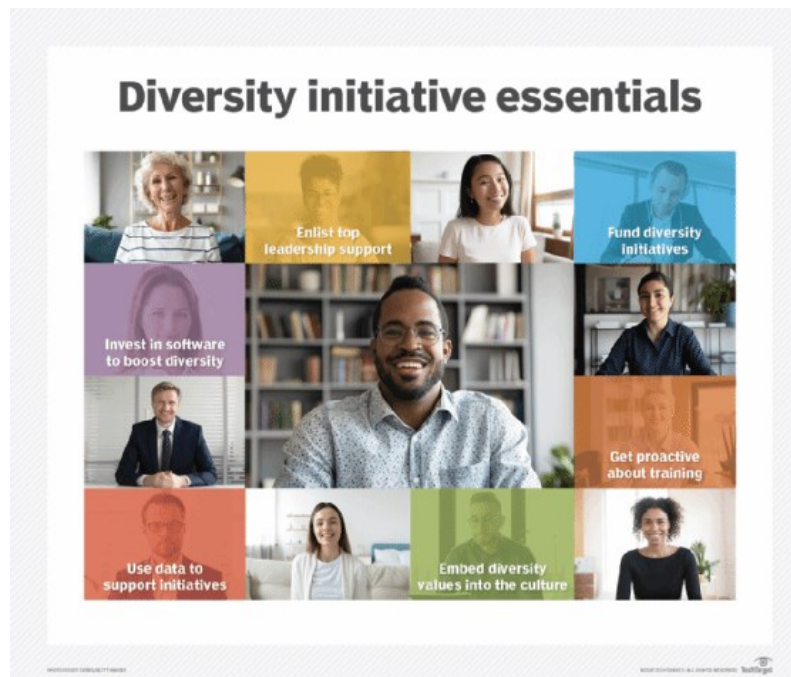
Companies with DEI policies are more creative and innovative as employees with different experiences, backgrounds and skills bring more to the table than nondiverse workers, which can have a positive effect on the organizations' bottom lines. In addition, employees who work at companies that have strong DEI programs are happier in their jobs, trust management more and perform better.

For DEI initiatives to be successful, workers must understand that everyone is responsible for building an inclusive corporate culture. That means implementing top-down company-wide strategies and programs to address and prevent workplace bias and promote inclusivity, recognition, respect and appreciation.

Continued on the next page

Here are some ways to approach implementing DEI in the workplace:

- Bring a chief diversity officer (CDO) on board who is responsible for building strategies to attract and retain diverse employees, improving the culture of the organization, supporting employee resource groups and creating a more inclusive work environment.
- Select a transformation committee comprising team members who are passionate about building a more diverse, equitable and inclusive organization. This committee will work with the CDO and other leaders to develop action plans to meet the organization's DEI strategy.
- Identify workers who want to act as DEI sponsors. Newer and/or younger workers are often eager to help with DEI initiatives. Strike a balance between senior and junior workers who can help encourage a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion within the company.
- Talk to employees about why DEI matters in the organization. Companies need diverse leaders who emphasize the need for DEI in the workplace.
- Ensure DEI is integrated into the larger business strategy and culture of the organization, including human resources.
- Develop sponsorship programs to provide opportunity and growth to minority or marginalized groups.
- Company management should ensure that the DEI goals are concrete, actionable and quantifiable.





WHAT WE SHOULD KNOW

This article can be found at the following website:
Boating Season 2022: 5 Water Safety Tips To Know
By DeAnna Taylor • Outdoor Afro

Boating Season 2022: 5 water safety tips to know

Written By [DeAnna Taylor](#) Published on May 23, 2022 [How To](#)

Warm weather means more Sunday fundays on a pontoon boat or pulling out family kayaks and canoes to cruise local rivers. However, you prefer to spend time on the water during summer 2022, safety first. Always! In preparation for the **National Safe Boating Council's** National Safe Boating Week (May 21 through May 27), Outdoor Afro wants to remind you of the dos and don'ts to boating season adventures.

“The best boating experience is safe boating,” said Yvonne Pentz, communications director of the National Safe Boating Council, a nonprofit dedicated to helping create a safe boating experience for all boaters and the lead organization of the Safe Boating Campaign. “Have fun on the water, make memories with your family and friends – all while boating responsibly.” That said, here are five best practices to help you stay safe while creating water moments:

LIFEJACKETS. LIFEJACKETS. LIFEJACKETS.

Lifejackets. It doesn't matter if you're a beginner or veteran swimmer, **wearing a life-jacket** (or at the very least, having them nearby) should always be at the top of your safety list. The council recommends having life jackets on children under the age of 13 while swimming or during other activities on open water. This also holds true for adults while boating.

ENGINE CUT-OFF DEVICE. Things happen. Better to be safe than sorry. Emergencies can arise on the water at any time. Whether you drop something into the water, or worse, a person goes overboard. An engine cut-off device — often worn around your wrist or **attached to your lifejacket** — ensures the boat's engine will shut off instantly.



WEAR IT

A program of the National Safe Boating Council

Continued on the next page

DON'T BOOZE AND BOAT. Yes, **a BUI is most definitely a thing.** So, no “Boating Under The Influence.” According to the council, BUIs accounts for one-third of all recreational boating fatalities. We all want to have fun on the water, but just like with a car, getting behind the wheel while under the influence is a big no-no. Alcohol impacts vision, balance, coordination, and judgment. Increasing the likelihood of accidents. Know that it’s illegal to operate a watercraft under the influence of both drugs and alcohol in every state. The Coast Guard enforces a federal law that provides BUIs, too. Including all boats: canoes, rowboats and ships.

BE AWARE OF CARBON MONOXIDE EXPOSURE. Most people don’t associate boats with producing carbon monoxide, but they certainly do. Because it’s an odorless and colorless gas, you likely won’t know if it’s being emitted. The best thing to do to **remain safe on the water** is to avoid swimming anywhere near the rear of a motorized vessel or sitting along the swim deck/platform while the boat motor is running.

HAVE A PLAN, WAYS TO COMMUNICATE BEYOND THE BOAT. Again, you never know what could happen during your outdoor water journeys. It’s always great practice to let someone back ashore know your route plan as well as how long you plan to be on the water.



Editors Note:

A float plan is **an overview of a boat excursion that can give authorities a head start in looking for a boater if he or she fails to reach his or her destination.** A float plan document should include: **Description of the vessel. Number of persons onboard. Destination, including the general route to be taken.**

The U.S. Coast Guard Mobile App - USCG Boating Safety

<https://uscgboating.org> › mobile

Features of the **app** include: state boating information; a safety equipment checklist; free boating safety check requests; navigation rules; **float plans**



**Being held on
Saturday the 24th of September, 2022
at the
LaMesa Restaurant
1405 Fort Crood Road South
Bellevue Nebraska**

**We will order dinner from off the menu LaMesa is the premier
Mexican restaurant having been awarded the "Best of Omaha"
For 19 years. Your favorite adult beverages are available.**

Uniform of the day for this event will be casual.

Please R.S.V.P. to Barb Westcott no later than 20 Sept.