



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



NEWS RELEASE

First Southern Region, Division 2 Change of Watch 2007

The Silver and Gold were out in style on this cold night in January to honor the new Bridge of Division 2 in one of the services oldest and most traditional ceremonies the Change of Watch. This is where the outgoing Captain officially passes to the incoming Captain responsibility for the leadership of the Division for the forthcoming year. It is an event filled with both nostalgia and expectation.

Division 2 was honored to have with them from the "Gold" side, Commander Elizabeth Young Director of the Auxiliary, First District SR, and Commander Brian S. Willis Chief, Waterways management Dept. Sector New York as well as other distinguished senior personnel from the Coast Guard.

The "Silver" side was represented by COMO Thomas Venezia, District Commodore and Stephen Ackerman, District Vice Commodore and David Ten Broeck, District Rear Commodore as well as the senior officers and members of Division 2.

John Farrell SO-PS did an excellent job as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. After the opening ceremonies the guests spoke to the group about the past, present and future of the Auxiliary and the importance of the Auxiliary in supporting the mission of the Coast Guard. Commander Young shared very impressive statistics concerning the accomplishments of the First Southern Region during the past year and reiterated her support and commitment to the Auxiliary for the future. Commander Willis endeared himself to the gathering by referring to the Auxiliary as the "Platinum" side.

The main event of the evening commenced with the installation of the incoming Division Captain Tom Evans and the Division Vice Captain Bill Anania. They expressed their appreciation to Sharon Fox Past Division Captain for her extraordinary accomplishments and dedication in leading the Division during the past year. They then went on to outline their commitment, goals and plans for the future, and to name their Division Staff Officers for 2007. The formal swearing in ceremony followed.

Fred Klapproth SO-PE then moved to the Awards Presentation part of the meeting whereby members and Flotillas were recognized for their achievements.

The Bud Parcells Award for the Outstanding Auxiliarist was awarded posthumously to Walter Lee for his truly outstanding contribution to the Auxiliary not just in 2006 but throughout his long and distinguished career.

The following were the division 2 Awards by category:

Operations: Flotilla- Flotilla 2-2, Crew-Trudy Bopp First Place, Matthew Leahy Second Place
Coxswain- Dolores Verbanaz First Place, Lou Bopp Second Place

Operational Support: Flotilla - Flotilla 2-2, Individual-Walter Lee First Place, Phyllis Lindmeier Second Place.

CG Administrative Support: Flotilla- Flotillas 2-2 and 2-6 Tie, Individual-Peter Wilps First Place, Steve Gillooly Second Place

Member Training: Flotilla- Flotilla 2-4, Individual-Harold Harris First Place, Sharon Fox Second Place

Vessel Examination: Flotilla 2-2, Individual Rose Covert First Place, Bill Anania Second Place

Recreational Boater Safety: Flotilla 2-2, Individual Doug Ziemba First Place, Colleen Pinelli and John Farrell Second Place Tie

Public Education: Flotilla: Flotilla 2-6, Individual Non-Lead-Robert Hook First Place, Walter Lee Second Place, Lead- Fred Klapproth First Place, Bill Anania Second Place

Personnel Services: Flotilla only- Flotilla 2-3

Public Affairs: Flotilla- Flotilla 2-2, Individual Todd Totland First Place, Rose Covert Second Place

Upon completion of the awards the group engaged in that most important of Auxiliary mandates FELLOWSHIP. The event ended with the warmest wishes to Tom Evans and the new Bridge on assuming their responsibilities and the most sincere thanks to Sharon Fox for her past stewardship of the Division.