

MAY 2015

The Navigator Express is the Coast Guard Auxiliary's compilation of stories covering all Auxiliary activities and is published by the Public Affairs Directorate

OMBUDSMAN OF YEAR BRINGS SENSE OF 'OHANA' TO UNIT

By Shelley Kimball

2013 Coast Guard Military Spouse of the Year

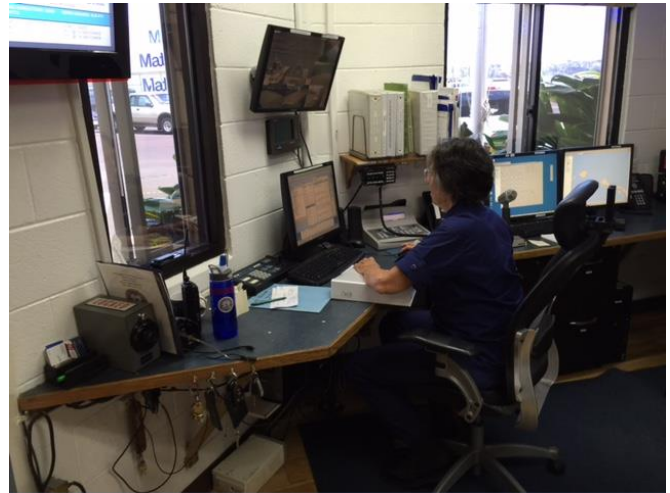
KAUAI, Hawaii – It is the sense of “ohana,” or family, that Annie Leighton brings to U.S. Coast Guard Station Kauai, Hawaii. However, it almost feels like that word is not big enough to embrace all she is to the station.

They call her Auntie Annie. It is a specific term of endearment on the island.

“Auntie – it’s a term used in Hawaii for someone who is older, friendly, supportive, and in my case, rather weird,” she says with a laugh. Annie is the fourth generation of her family to live on the island and uses that knowledge to help Coast Guard families adjust who are new to the island.

Fittingly, Leighton is not only an Auxiliarist at the station, but she is also the Ombudsman. This year she has been named the Wanda Allen-Yearout Ombudsman of the Year.

The national award was created in 2009 to recognize the active duty or reserve Ombudsman who has demonstrated the greatest contribution to the Coast Guard and families by maintaining open lines of communication between the command and families and assisting in identifying and helping to provide the support services most needed. It was officially named the following year in honor of a Coast Guard spouse, Wanda Allen-Yearout, who was a driving force behind the Ombudsman program. Senior Chief Petty Officer Seth Carter, the officer in charge at Station Kauai, said he nominated Leighton for the award because she is such a big help in so many ways – whether standing watch as an Auxiliarist or going out of her way to assist families.



KAUAI, Hawaii – Annie Leighton, Ombudsman of the Year and Coast Guard Auxiliarist, stands watch at Coast Guard Station Kauai. Photo courtesy Annie Leighton

“I nominated Auntie Annie because simply put, I truly believe she is the best Ombudsman in the Coast Guard,” he said. “I know there’s some partiality there, but Annie has a genuine care for every person.”

Leighton came to the station about 10 years ago as an Auxiliarist. She qualified as a communications watchstander. Then she was asked to become the Ombudsman.

Her connection to the U.S. Coast Guard goes back even further than that though. She enlisted around 1980.

“I lasted 17 days,” she said. “It was a traumatic experience, but it gave me a really high regard for the service.”

The regimentation just was not for her. However, she uses that experience now to help out any member of the Coast Guard family who feels homesick or overwhelmed. “It enables me to have a little sympathy and empathy for them,” she said.

After leaving the Coast Guard, Annie ran a motorcycle shop on the island. About 20 years later, her business was bought out, and she had more time on her hands. Her dedication to the Coast Guard had not left her, so she came back to it.

She said it is an honor for her to be part of the life at the station. Being both an Auxiliarist and an Ombudsman makes it possible for her to check in on both the active duty members and their families. She often meets new families at the airport so she can get to know them right away. She also organizes outings for the spouses. “The families, especially, deserve the support”, she said.

She juggles all that comes with living in a new place, especially when the active duty member is out on a cutter, she said. Finding work, getting kids in schools — it can be a lot to handle. “The families carry a heavy load,” she said.

Now Annie is pretty much an institution at the station, Carter said.

“Auntie Annie’s smile and big heart are contagious throughout the station,” he said. “I kind of joke about this at times, but I truly believe this – Auntie Annie is the station mother. She has a sensitive, honest way about her that people seek out, because they know Auntie Annie will give her direct wisdom to you, like it or not, command included. It never comes across as brash but, rather, encouraging and loving in nature.”

That is part of what she loves about working with the station, she said. Her input as Ombudsman matters to command, and the support she receives from everyone at the station makes it easier to do her job. Without command and cadre support, she said, it just will not work as well.

“The support and the buy-in that happens at this station is so important,” she said. “If these guys are getting half of what I am getting out of this, then we’re all winning.”

That effort is making a difference, Carter said. Families know they can count on Annie to get them through.

“When families are dealing with life events they want a person they are comfortable with and hold complete trust in,” Carter said. “Annie is that person. Annie is the type of person that you know you could call anytime, and she would drop whatever she’s doing and be there for you. Rain or shine, day or night, she will be there and has been there.”

Stand up for cultural differences. Address injustice, inequity, disrespect and exclusion.
Take the Civil Rights Awareness Course.

NATIONAL ARTICLES WANTED

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Affairs Directorate is soliciting articles, photos and videos for the “Coast Guard Auxiliary Live” blog at <http://live.cgaux.org/>. Articles must be of national public interest and less than 500 words long. Please include photos, videos and other visual media. If you wish to send an overview of a proposed article, the editors will carefully review it. The AP Stylebook is the guide, and if help is needed, just ask. Use the contact form, under “submit ideas” on the blog site for initial contact at http://live.cgaux.org/?page_id=66

Securing the homeland is securing your work space.
Take the Security Fundamentals Course.

SOCIAL MEDIA: STAYING SAFE ONLINE

Reprinted as received from Coast Guard All Hands Official Blog of the Coast Guard Workforce



Social media becomes more a part of our lives with each passing day. With the ease of utilizing mobile devices, staying connected via social media sites and apps has never been easier. However, staying connected and using these tools has become so

mainstream, that it is necessary to take important precautions to keep our “social media footprint” as safe and secure as possible.

Here are some important reminders and tips to consider when using social media:

Location sharing

If you are going on vacation or taking a quick trip to see family for the holidays, be careful about sharing your location on social media tools.

Checking into airports as you travel and the use of geo-tagging on social media posts throughout your normal day are just two examples. Both of these

things can alert others when you have left your home vacant or show patterns in your daily habits.

Geo-tagging and location sharing show up in security settings for various social media apps. When you hit the “accept” tab, make sure you know what you are accepting! To turn off any of these features, check out the help sections of individual apps for assistance.

Location sharing is also important to keep in mind for Coast Guard members. If you are on a cutter and continually checking in to areas or making posts when you have service near land, you could be alerting others to the cutter’s location. Remember Operations Security (OPSEC)!

Accepting friend requests

While many people routinely only accept friend requests from people they know and trust, it has become more and more routine to follow social media accounts of people we do not know. If you are going to allow someone to follow your account and what you post, make sure you either know and trust them, or are comfortable with what you are sharing to allow them access.

With the influx of professional networking sites, it becomes even easier to share personal details about your work life and allow people you may not know access to those details. Before you connect with anyone on one of these sites, you should always check out their profile for legitimacy before you allow them to see your personal details. Again, make sure you are only sharing things you are comfortable sharing with others!

**Return all gifts that violate
US Coast Guard policies.**

[Take the Coast Guard Ethics Course.](#)

FOUR DECADES OF DEDICATION

Reprinted as received from Coast Guard Alaska
Official Blog of the 17th Coast Guard District
Posted by PA1 Kelly Parker

FRITZ CREEK, Alaska - To volunteer your time for 40 consecutive years takes dedication. And in the realm of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, this means countless hours assisting in rescues, helping local Coast Guard units and providing lifesaving training and safety checks to the public.

It was in 1974 when George Eischens joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary. He began his military service in the U.S. Air Force, the job that brought him to Adak, Alaska. Soon after departing from the Air



FRITZ CREEK, Alaska - Auxiliast George Eischens has been a member of the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary for over 40 years.
U.S. Coast Guard photo.

Force, Eischens found himself back in Adak, this time working for the U.S. Navy. An ardent fisherman and living on an island where fishing is a way of life, the Auxiliary seemed like a natural fit.

“I got a job in Adak, and I worked with the Navy there,” said Eischens. “They had a Coast Guard Auxiliary unit, so I got hooked up with them and from then on I went on to be the top dog in that flotilla.”

During his 40 years of selfless service, Eischens has worked through all the ranks of the Auxiliary, culminating in the designation of Coast Guard 17th District Commodore. Since AuxData came online and began tracking Auxiliary mission data in 2002, Eischens has volunteered more than 1,753 hours.

“His dedication to the service has been exemplary, that’s for sure,” said Mike Riley, Eischen’s flotilla commander in Homer, Alaska. “He’s been with us a long time and has provided a lot of local knowledge that he’s passed down to other coxswains and crews in the Auxiliary.”

In February 2007, Eischens earned the BMC David Borg – Professional Auxiliary Coxswain Award for assisting in the rescue of a person trapped in an overturned skiff. The year prior he conducted four search and rescue cases, along with 22 other missions that included assisting 11 mariners and saving \$55,000 in property.

“It was all in trying to help so the people could enjoy the water and get back home safely,” said Eischens. “It paid dividends. We’ve had some rescues. We were able to get to them before the cold water took them.”

**Protect yourself from unwanted infection;
wash your hands often.**

[Take the Influenza Training Course.](#)

CALL FOR ARTICLES AND PHOTOS FOR THE NAVIGATOR

It is time to send your articles for the 2015 Navigator. We are collecting stories and photos for the 2015 Navigator. We need your assistance in finding the best of the best in activities, mission successes and outstanding contributions. Share your Auxiliary work at its finest.

Please, review your files for people who have made a significant difference in our RBS missions, who have served long and well, and for outstanding missions or activities that show our contribution to the Coast Guard and our nation. Send their story to us for possible inclusion in this year's Navigator edition. Email Anne Lockwood at anne.lockwood@me.com to submit content or to obtain additional information.

We need these articles by 15 July 2015. Photos should be high resolution, show action and everyone in proper uniform conducting correct procedures. All photos need proper captions following The Associated Press Style Guide.

Build resilience – Prevent Suicide

**[Take the Building Resilience and Preventing
Suicide Course.](#)**

LOOK BEYOND MARINAS TO SPREAD THE WORD ON SAFETY

By Maura Casey
014-25-5

MASSENA, N.Y. - Brian Harte has been an Auxiliarist for less than a year, but it took him no time at all to shed a different light on Recreational Boating Safety.

A professor who teaches Criminal Justice and Homeland Security courses at the State University of New York at Canton, Harte joined the Auxiliary in August of last year (Flotilla 1, Division 1, Sector Buffalo) and became a Program Visitor by mid-September.

Yet the boating season in upstate New York is short, particularly in a town like Massena which borders the St. Lawrence River and is just 75 miles from Ottawa, the capital of Canada. Harte did not want to neglect using his program visitor skills over the winter, but

boating season was ending. So rather than discussing life-jacket wear and boating safety regulations at traditional settings such as marinas, he initially focused his efforts on raising awareness of signs of potential terrorism through the America's Waterway Watch Program.

Harte said when he brainstormed how best to share the message of vigilance and safety, he started with insurance companies, doctor's offices, chiropractic offices, counseling centers, public libraries, etc. However, then he went further.

"It occurred to me that I could cast a wider net if I thought more globally regarding how to best reach people," Harte said. "Why not consider visiting businesses or establishments that people frequently visit?"

His thoughts raced to other establishments such as banks, child care centers, barber shops and pharmacies. Then he began to think about how people travel and spend their time. He began to realize that bus stations, subway stations, airports, train stations, ferry stations all had possibilities, as did leisure and recreation sites such as state parks, aquarium exhibits and campgrounds.

So Harte went to work. He established a routine of making at least a dozen stops every month "any place people wait," talking to people in laundromats, pet salons, nail salons, hair salons, dry cleaners, banks, auto parts stores and home supply stores, often trudging through the snow to do so. Harte shares literature and informs people about the Recreational Boating Safety program the American Waterway Watch program and proper life jacket use. Nobody has ever turned him away, Harte said, and people generally appreciate spending a minute to think about how to keep themselves and their towns and neighborhoods safe.

"There are hundreds of ways we can partner with the community, linking our public safety programs with diverse organizations. We can foster a 'safety-conscious' mindset throughout communities where we work and live," Harte said.

Now that the boating season is about to begin in earnest, Harte will be even more busy.

**Recognize, prevent and respond to
sexual assault.**

**[Take the Sexual Harassment
Prevention Course.](#)**

JOIN US FOR THE 6TH ANNUAL 'READY, SET, WEAR IT!' LIFE JACKET WORLD RECORD DAY EVENT

By National Safe Boating Council



Photo courtesy of National Safe Boating Council

Are you looking for an exciting way to promote life jacket wear in your community for National Safe Boating Week (May 16 - 22)? Host a "Ready, Set, Wear It!" Life Jacket World Record Day event on Saturday, May 16. We need your help to beat last year's world record of the most life jackets worn and inflatable life jackets inflated. We had 6,973 participants worldwide in 2014, and – since starting the world record in 2010 – we have had nearly 20,000 participants in over 10 countries.

Safe boating is fun boating for all, so bring together your family and friends, even your four-legged ones, on Saturday, May 16. Register an event here or join an event near you, <http://www.readysetwearit.com/>.

The top three organizations with the highest number of participants at a single event will be given a "Ready, Set, Wear It!" Certificate of Achievement from the National Safe Boating Council. Now is the time to challenge a friendly competitor: who can get more people to their event, all in support of safer boating and life jacket wear?

Upcoming Dates

Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day: May 15
Ready, Set, Wear It! Life Jacket World Record Day:
May 16
National Safe Boating Week: May 16-22

For More Information:

Questions? Contact Yalda Moslehian, Communications Coordinator, at ymoslehian@safeboatingcouncil.org or (703) 361-4294. For more information and to register your event, visit www.readysetwearit.com, and join us

on Facebook at www.facebook.com/readysetwearit, and on <https://twitter.com/readysetwearit> using hashtag #rswi15.

What is your business, is not for others.
Take the DHS/Protecting Personal Information Course.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



This annual contest recognizes Coast Guard Auxiliary Photographers who have successfully captured interesting and compelling images of Auxiliary members and assets in action across specified program categories. Each Coast Guard Auxiliary member may submit up to two photographs per category. (ONLY one category per email please) Each submission must:

1. Indicate the category to which it is being submitted in the CAPTION and EMAIL SUBJECT LINE - Example: "2015 Photo Awards Contest - Fellowship"
2. Photo titled with the topic category and photographer's initials (example: Operations JM) - OR - proper USCG AUXILIARY VIRIN
3. Contain a concise photo caption and credit information/name of photographer as per the Coast Guard PA Stylebook.
4. Photos must have been taken between 1 May 2014 and 30 May 2015.

If identifiable minors are present in the photo a signed proper model release form must also accompany the submission form #7020:

http://wow.uscgaux.info/Uploads_wowII/092/ANSC_7020_photo_release.pdf

All entries must be in digital .jpg format of at least 5 megapixels and follow all standards as outlined in the USCG Auxiliary Public Affairs Policy Guide and USCG Policy on Photography. Only red eye removal, lighting enhancements, and cropping are permitted. Photos may be color or black and white. Any photograph with improper uniforms, procedures or other infractions of policy will be excluded.

All photos and accompanying material must be submitted electronically to Branch Chief-Photography Joseph Giannattasio:

pa_pb_contest_entries@cgauxnet.us no later than 30 May 2015. No hard copies will be accepted.

Eight categories for photo submissions are:

Public Affairs Event - Auxiliarists spreading the Auxiliary message to external and internal audiences

Fellowship - Auxiliarists having fun in a social setting (alcohol and smoking not visible)

Marine Safety - Auxiliarists engaged in proctoring marine license exams, assisting in inspecting containers, vessels, engaged in beach cleanup and or other environmental activities

Member Services - Auxiliarists recruiting and/or providing information or services for members such as training, finger printing, photo taking and mentoring

Operations - Auxiliarists operating boats, aircraft, radios, etc.

Public Education - Auxiliarists providing recreational boating safety instruction or courses in weather, GPS

Vessel Safety Checks - Conducting recreational boating safety checks, discussions of proper boat equipment

Team Coast Guard - Auxiliarists, reservists and Active Duty working together on missions, training, PA events or fourth cornerstone events

MANDATED TRAINING REMINDER

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR MEMBER TRAINING OFFICER – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=T-DEPT&category=mandated-training>

HELP WANTED

<http://cgaux.org/members/wantads/>

USCG AUXILIARY PHOTOS AROUND THE NATION



MIAMI - Fifteen members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary are honored as the first team of Auxiliary Mass Rescue Operations Specialists at the Coast Guard 7th District in Miami, March 23, 2015.
Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Jon-Paul Rios

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