

New year brings in new Commander



Maureen Daniels (from left) and Jane Haley are sworn in as the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Lake Anna Flotilla 87 Vice Commander and Commander respectively by incoming Division Commander Ed Hollowell and 2008 Division Commander Ginger Ellis.

Jane Haley will lead the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Lake Anna Flotilla 87 as the 2009 Flotilla Commander and Maureen Daniels will serve as Vice Flotilla Commander. The new leaders were sworn in during the organization's December Change of Watch dinner.

"Being elected as the Commander of Flotilla 87 is a great honor," Haley said. "The members have placed their confidence in me to guide them in the coming year as we strive to serve the boating public."

Haley, who lives in Hanover County near Ashland and also has property at Lake Anna, has been an Auxiliarist since 1999, initially serving with the Richmond Flotilla 34. She transferred her membership to Lake Anna in the summer of 2006 after several years patrolling Lake Anna as a member of the Richmond Flotilla.

"It just made sense to transfer and become a member of the Lake Anna group because I was so involved with them on a regular basis," she said.

Haley said her decade-long involvement with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary has been a good experience.

"I had several friends who were members of the Auxiliary and they convinced me it was a great group to join," she said. "We have a lot of fun along with our other duties. The Auxiliary provides numerous educational opportunities that one would not be able to access without being a member."

As an Auxiliarist, Haley is crew qualified and personal watercraft qualified and has also held the roles of vice commander, marine safety staff officer and secretary. She has also taken five Incident Command courses and four specialty courses and is certified as an Aid to Navigation •verifier.

When she's not patrolling Lake Anna., Haley is the supervisor of child nutrition services for Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools and is a member of the School Nutrition Association on the local, state and national level.



Maureen Daniels

"I am looking forward to conducting safety patrols on Lake Anna and providing boating safety education classes for the community," she said. "It is our goal to have at least one safety patrol every weekend and holiday during prime boating season and to have public education boating safety classes that are filled to capacity every time they are offered."

The new Flotilla Commander encourages others to join the Auxiliary to broaden their horizons and give back to the community. A watercraft is not required and there are many roles that can be filled that don't require being on the water on patrols.

"[Auxiliary] provides more educational opportunities than most organizations. Joining the Auxiliary exposes you to people who become a part of your family. We have a lot of fun. There is a high level of satisfaction in helping the boating community," Haley said.

The Flotilla Commander is a one-year term with the potential for one additional term.

"Serving in the Coast Guard is important to me because it affords me an opportunity to give back to the community," she said. "Being an Auxiliarist allows me to sharpen my skills and share them with others. I feel the members of Flotilla 87 make Lake Anna a safer place for others through education and by sharing our collective knowledge and expertise with the boating public."

Daniels, who is the vice commander, was also recognized as one of two Auxiliarists of the Year.