

Auxiliary Change of Watch ceremony



BM1 Rich Gonzalez (r) swears in the 2010 staff officers at the annual Change of Watch dinner while Commander Jan Haley (second from r) looks on.

Flotilla plans for busy 2010 at Lake Anna

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 87 Lake Anna, installed its 2010 leadership and staff officers at its annual Change of Watch ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 12 at the Robinson Tavern and Grill in Locust Grove. During the meeting, members were also recognized for outstanding achievements.

Jane Haley was reelected as Commander for a second year with Maureen Daniels returning as the Vice Commander for a second term.

BM1 Rich Gonzalez, I representing Coast Guard Station Milford Haven was the special guest. He expressed his gratitude for the thousands of volunteer hours Flotilla 87 provides the Lake Anna community and the Coast Guard. Gonzalez said the Coast Guard could not accomplish its mission to promote recreational boating safety without all the time and efforts performed by the auxiliary.

Vice Commander Daniels, who is also staff officer for operations, thanked Flotilla members for efforts during 2009 and urged

them to prepare for an even busier schedule of activities in 2010.

"Our first priority will be to promote boating safety on Lake Anna," said Daniels. "The Flotilla's goals will be to increase the number of complimentary boat inspections so our neighbors and visitors to the Lake will have the necessary safety equipment mandated by Virginia law; offer a variety of boating safety classes to meet the needs of a variety of boaters; and strengthen our relationship with businesses, marinas, organizations and law enforcement around the lake who share our interest in making the lake a safe and fun environment in which to live and play."

A three-hour "on the water" training component with enrollment in the Coast Guard's class, "About Boating Safely" will also be offered by the Flotilla in 2010.

"We are very excited about the prospect of offering this opportunity to the boating public," said Jean McCormick, staff officer for public education. "It will provide new boaters with the chance to learn boating skills and techniques from Coast Guard Auxiliarists trained in seamanship."

Flotilla instructors are also looking into offering a "Suddenly in Command" class for any passenger in a boat who might have to assume responsibility for driving in the event of an emergency. Other offerings under consideration are a personal watercraft class, a multi-week "Boating Skills and Seamanship" class and the state course, "Boat Virginia."

"Our goal is to serve the boating public," said McCormick. "We will try our best to meet their needs."

Boaters interested in improving their skill level and in meeting Virginia's new boating requirements should feel free to contact Jean at jeanmccor@aol.com or call her at (571) 236-5247, or visit Flotilla 87's [website](http://a0540807.uscgaux.info), <http://a0540807.uscgaux.info> for more information.

For more information on the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 87, contact Daniels at (703) 362-6387.