

Flotilla 87 Meeting Minutes April, 2023

Unit: 113-08-07, Mendocino County

Date: 15 April, 2023

Meeting Start: 1106 via Zoom

Attendees:

Helen Mackenzie Morris, FC

Leon Thomsen

Chris Aycock

Madeleine Brink, SR

Division Attendees: Commander Bill Hale.

Station Liaison:

AP Status: Scott Smith

Guests: None.

Quorum: was met.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Previous Meeting Minutes: Madeleine moved to approve the minutes, and Chris seconded.

Station Liaison Report: None.

Flotilla Commander (FC) Report:

1. **Rack cards:** Glenn said that some information is overstated but Helen said that all of the information is gleaned from our website. The photos tell a story though some of them show members who have since retired. The card is two-sided and Helen is going to use contact paper in order to show both sides when she duplicates them. Bill said that rack cards are a good idea and he suggested ordering rack card holders from the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Bill will send Helen the information for ordering them, as well as a couple of holders that he has. Chris will stop by the Blair House where Helen lives to pick up a couple so he can display them in Fort Bragg. Bill said that the sight of a member in uniform gives a suggestion of legitimacy to our recruitment activities.
2. **Status of Pt. Cabrillo lens:** The Fresnel lens is still out of commission. The Coast Guard is in charge of the lens and will try to make the parts to repair it. Leon asked what was wrong with it and Helen told him that the clutch on the motor needed a part. Leon told us about the firm owned by his brother-in-law in Pennsylvania which made the control mechanism and that his brother-in-law might be able to help them obtain the part. He said that the Coast Guard will probably get caught up in red tape and expense. Steve said that the broken part may be decades old.
3. **Lens tours:** Tours started last Saturday (4/8/23). Jen sent a list of the dates and Madeleine will post them at her school. The Flotilla gets \$25 of the proceeds from each shift of lens tours if a member is there in uniform. Madeleine left a poster with dates of all of the next tours and posted one at the Little River Post Office and gave one to Coast radio station in Fort Bragg who will inform listeners when each date approaches.
4. **Rich Thomas** has offered to go with Helen to the station. BM Carpenter is our liaison and Chris said that when he was over there he told BM Carpenter that Helen was trying to reach him. BM-Carpenter will call Helen on Monday. Rich Thomas has offered to go to the station to hold cooking classes. He holds a culinary certificate with the Coast Guard. Helen asked Rich to give her a call regarding training the Coast Guard people. Bill said that one of the most requested support activities by the Coast Guard was related to culinary assistance. Bill said that it was one way to get on a Coast Guard cutter. Helen said that she isn't sure how practical a cooking class would be. Bill said that it was one of 83 support activities that the Auxiliary can do for the Gold Side. Helen suggested asking them what we could do to help them because they are short-staffed. Chris suggested to

start with the Chief. Helen said that the main thing that we did was to hold meals with the CG people and their families which we did before Covid. These meal dates were St. Patrick's Day, a July 4th BBQ, and Thanksgiving. Bill said that he overheard the men talking about how much they appreciated these events and looked forward to them. Helen said that we are short-staffed and will ask Steve if he can cook. On the BBQ everyone was taken for a lens tour afterward. Helen said that we have no contact with the Gold Side and would like us to become more involved.

5. **Lens cleaning:** A cleaning was performed on Friday April 7th in the afternoon. The crew consisted of Steve, Helen, Jen and Madeleine and several different cleaning solutions were used to find one that was effective as we can no longer use Nevr Dull for environmental and health reasons. A solution of vinegar and flour was used on the lens glass. The flour is non abrasive and the brass on the lens was left until we found a substitute. The same vinegar plus flour solution was used on the stanchions on the 3rd floor but this proved ineffective in removing fingerprints. Brasso was attempted and this proved more effective, but Helen in the meeting today said that Howard's Brass Cleaner worked well and that she was going to buy some at the hardware store to use on the exterior of the fogged-up windows. Madeleine suggested cleaning the windows on a Saturday morning as she works in the week. Helen said that we don't have to be in uniform but to wear navy blue clothing so that the public knows it's Coast Guard people working on the lighthouse. She said that Vibram soles on our uniform boots track in a lot of dirt as does foot traffic from the tours.
6. **Chris Aycock** is an ordained minister and holds a devotional service at the Coast Guard station around the time of shift change on Wednesday mornings. He stays for about an hour afterward to hold counseling sessions. Helen asked if she could tag along with him and Chris said that he would ask Chief Malauro. Helen wants us to re-establish contact and that she didn't receive any response about them cooking food if we left it. This happened for the St. Patrick's Day lunch.
7. **New members:** There is a married couple, Nancy and Mark Currier, who expressed an interest in joining us. Richard Hambright has been a volunteer at the lighthouse for about 5 or 6 years and has the paperwork. We are going to ask Jen to mention this to him and get a copy of the paperwork to him if he continues to express his interest. New members fill out the paperwork, complete the Core Courses, and then are charged pro-rated dues when all is complete. If anyone is having difficulty with paying dues, Bill said that we are empowered to pay them for the member.
8. **Bank account:** Madeleine said that the Flotilla bank account stands at \$3,214.58.
9. **Jen and the Boating Safety Class:** Bill has offered to give Jen an online Boating Safety class which is all she needs to become Basically Qualified. She is very busy with lighthouse duties.

Vice Flotilla Commander's (VFC) Report

Other Staff Reports:

Commendations, Awards and Member Recognition:

1. Helen received a letter of Commendation for her work at the fuel farm, leadership of the flotilla, and all of her projects. The letter was read by Bill during the Division meeting last Wednesday 4/12.
2. Madeleine received a certificate for 15 years of membership.

New and Continuing Business:

Good of Order/Fellowship:

Meeting adjourned: 1216 hours. Chris moved to adjourn and Madeleine seconded.

After Meeting Notes:

Important Future Dates:

Next meeting - Saturday May 13th at 1100. I'm unsure about this date as it's been changed because Safe Boating Week is May 20-26.

Web Site References

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=113-08-07>

Flotilla 87 web site

r/s,

Madeleine Brink, FSO-SR, Flotilla 87