



December 3, 2014

News Release

Coast Guard Auxiliary installs 2015 Leadership

A Change of Watch ceremony was held for U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12-3 Lake Murray on December 1, 2015 in Chapin, SC.

The change-of-watch ceremony is a time-honored event preserved by military tradition. It is a formal custom that is designed to transfer command responsibility. The Auxiliary is the volunteer, non-military component of the U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, tasked with many of the same operational missions as the Coast Guard.

Division Commander Allen Crothers conducted the swearing in oath of office for the 2015 flotilla leadership at the ceremony. Lake Murray Coast Guard Auxiliary leadership elected positions for 2015 are Festus Burchfield, Flotilla Commander and Clay Goodwin, Vice Commander.

Appointed staff officers positions are Kenneth Plessner, Communications; Barbara Burchfield, Communication Services (website), Peggy Peterson, Diversity; Barbara Burchfield, Finance; Festus Burchfield, Human Resources; Michael Mikutaitis, Information Systems; Scott Iverson, Marine Safety; Michael Mikutaitis, Materials; Barbara Burchfield, Member training; Festus Burchfield, Operations; Billy Lindsay, Public Affairs; Kent McCain, Public Education; Scott Iverson, Marine Dealer Program Visitation; Lucy Wingard, Secretary and Clay Goodwin, Vessel Examiners. Flotilla Commander Festus Burchfield also announced special events appointments to John Mezynski as Chairman, National Safe Boating Week, and Stephen Pstrak as Parade Coordinator.

John Palmer, Chief Boatswain's Mate (BMC) U. S. Coast Guard Station Charleston, and his wife Kimberly attended the dinner and ceremonies. During the dinner, a slide show presentation "2014 in Review" highlighted the flotilla activities, patrols and events during the past year.

BMC Palmer presented Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendations (MTC) and ribbons for exemplary service and performance by members for two activities in 2014. The "National Safe Boating Week Team" awards went to members Festus Burchfield, Barbara Burchfield, Kent McCain, Clay Goodwin, Russell Jernigan, Billy Lindsay, John Mezynski, Michael Mikutaitis, John Byers, Kenneth Plessner, Peggy Peterson, Donald Carty (retired), and Susan Carty (former member). The second MTC was presented by BMC Palmer to the "Operations Training Team" members Festus Burchfield, Barbara Burchfield, Billy Lindsay, Roger Deaton, Russell Jernigan, Stephen Pstrak, Kenny Uschelbec and Lucy Wingard.