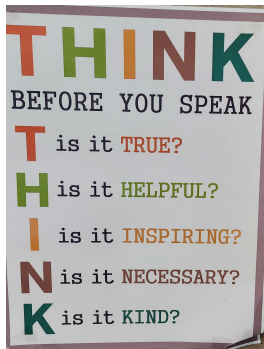


# “The Fun One”

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 12, DECEMBER 2023



*THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
OF FLOTILLA #1,  
OF THE  
GREAT PLAINS DIVISION  
IN THE  
8TH WESTERN RIVERS REGION*



**Omaha NE Flotilla  
TANGIER SHRINE CENTER  
2823 S. 84th St.  
Omaha, NE 68124**



## FLOTILLA 33-1 OFFICERS

Flotilla Commander (FC) - Barclay Stebbins  
Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC) - Barb Westcott  
Immediate Past Flotilla Commander (IPFC) - James Wolfe

AUX Scout - Patrick Rezac  
Communications (FSO-CM) - Jim Westcott  
Communication Services (FSO-CS)-

Ben Zimmerman

Diversity (FSO-DV) - Barb Westcott  
Treasurer (FSO-FN) - George McNary  
Human Resources (FSO-HR) - James Wolfe  
Information Services (FSO-IS)-Barclay Stebbins  
Materials (FSO-MA) - Bernie McNary  
Marine Safety (FSO-MS) - Doug Ives  
Member Training (FSO-MT) - Jim Westcott  
Aids to Navigation (FSO-NS) - George McNary  
Operations (FSO-OP) - Barclay Stebbins  
Public Affairs (FSO-PA) - Patrick Rezac  
Publications (FSO-PB) - Barb Westcott  
Public Education (FSO-PE) - Cannon Kinchelow  
Program Visitor (FSO-PV) - Cannon Kinchelow  
Secretary (FSO-SR) - Cannon Kinchelow  
Vessel Examiner (FSO-VE)-Warren Koehler

Send articles for "The Fun One" to:  
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Omaha NE Flotilla  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
8th Western Rivers Region.  
Opinions expressed herein are not  
necessarily those of the  
U.S. Coast Guard or  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

**On Facebook we are found at:**  
**USCGAUX Flotilla 85-33-01**

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<b>Dec 2</b>	<b>Division Holiday Party</b>
<b>Dec 15</b>	<b>Flotilla Holiday Party</b>
<b>Dec 25</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS</b>
<b>Jan 15</b>	<b>Flotilla Meeting</b>
<b>Jan 27</b>	<b>CHANGE OF WATCH</b>

**8WR DISTRICT MONTHLY TRAINING LOOK AT THE DISTRICT CALENDAR ON THE WOW WEBSITE TO FIND THE DATES**  
See the calendars and check our website for possible date changes, RBS dates and other operations.

## INSIDE THIS EDITION

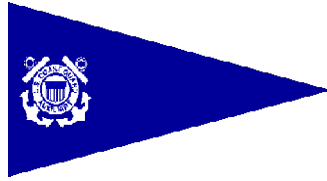
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**Please remember to check out the website at:**

<http://a0853301.wow.uscgaux.info>

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## FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S MONTHLY LETTER



***DECEMBER 2023***

A little historical trivia: 119 years ago...on December 17, 1903, the Wright Brothers made history with the first heavier-than-air flight. This iconic image was taken by US Life-saving Service Surfman John T. Daniels. And the Coast Guard was there!



First, Thanks again for allowing myself and Patrick Rezac the opportunity to be at the helm of the Fun One. The best part about these positions is finding ways to support you and getting the things done to make all of us successful in our missions. When you succeed, we all succeed. I cannot say enough about all of your accomplishments this year. You had numerous challenges with boat crew training activities and QEs, they all got done. Your PA, PE and all of the recruiting events were very successful. Your hard work brought great success to all of our missions, and at the end of the day, we did have a lot of fun.

As we discussed at the November meeting, staff positions are critical to our success in mission areas. Thank you all for stepping up again and filling those roles for 2024. As we talked about there are a few things that we need to really need to work on for 2024. Most importantly is getting our new members engaged with all of our activities and schedule a couple of joint PA and VE events together.

With that all said, December is a time to relax, unwind with family and friends, and remember the reason for the season. Also, Fellowship is a cornerstone of the organization. So, please if you can please take advantage of the two upcoming events this month.

2 Dec 2023 - Division 33 Meeting/Fellowship - All members are welcome.

15 Dec 2023 - Flotilla Meeting/Fellowship - All flotilla members are invited.

If you have any questions about these let me know.

As always, I truly appreciate your efforts in all you do and your support!

Barclay Stebbins, FC



## THE DIVERSITY MINUTE

This information can be found at:

[How to Boost Diversity and Inclusion in Volunteer Programs  
\(linkedin.com\)](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/how-boost-diversity-inclusion-volunteer-programs-annan)

### How do you increase diversity and inclusion in volunteer programs?

Diversity and inclusion are important values for any organization, especially for those that rely on volunteers to achieve their mission. However, creating and maintaining a diverse and inclusive volunteer program can be challenging, especially in times of social change and uncertainty. In this article, you will learn some practical tips on how to increase diversity and inclusion in your volunteer programs, from recruitment to retention, and from training to recognition.

#### 1) Why diversity and inclusion matter

Diversity and inclusion are not just buzzwords, they are essential for the success and sustainability of your volunteer program. Diversity means having volunteers from different backgrounds, identities, experiences, and perspectives, who can bring their unique skills, talents, and insights to your work. Inclusion means creating a culture of belonging, respect, and empowerment, where every volunteer feels valued, supported, and engaged. The advantages of a diverse and inclusive volunteer program are vast - it can help you reach more communities and beneficiaries by reflecting and understanding their needs; it can boost creativity and innovation through the diverse ideas and opinions of your volunteers; it can improve your performance and impact by leveraging the skills, knowledge, and abilities of your volunteers; and it can bolster your reputation by displaying your commitment to social justice, equity, and inclusion.



Continued on the next page

## **2) How to recruit diverse volunteers**

The first step to increasing diversity and inclusion in your volunteer program is to recruit diverse volunteers, which means expanding outreach and communication strategies to attract and engage people from different groups and segments of society. To do this, you should conduct a diversity audit of your current volunteer base to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement. Additionally, review and update your recruitment materials, such as websites, flyers, brochures, and social media posts to ensure they are inclusive, accessible, and appealing. Partnering with diverse organizations and networks such as community groups, cultural associations, faith-based organizations, schools, colleges, and businesses can also help promote volunteer opportunities and referrals. Lastly, create and advertise diverse volunteer roles that match the interests, skills, and availability of different types of volunteers like youth, seniors, families, professionals, students, newcomers, or those with disabilities.

## **3) How to train diverse volunteers**

The second step to increasing diversity and inclusion in your volunteer program is to train diverse volunteers. This involves providing them with the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to be successful in their role, as well as educating them about your organization's values and policies regarding diversity and inclusion. To do this, you should develop and deliver a comprehensive orientation program that covers the basics of your mission, vision, goals, and culture, as well as the specific duties and tasks of the volunteer role. Additionally, offer ongoing training and development opportunities that focus on topics such as cultural competency, anti-oppression, anti-racism, conflict resolution, and team building. Furthermore, use diverse and inclusive training methods such as online modules, webinars, workshops, videos, podcasts, and handouts that cater to different learning styles. Lastly, seek feedback from your volunteers to evaluate the effectiveness of your training program and identify areas for improvement.

## **4) How to retain diverse volunteers**

Retaining diverse volunteers is the third step to increasing diversity and inclusion in your volunteer program. To keep volunteers motivated, engaged, and committed to your organization, it's important to provide regular support and supervision, create a sense of community and belonging, offer flexible and meaningful volunteer opportunities, and acknowledge and appreciate them. This could involve checking in with volunteers, listening to their concerns and suggestions, addressing their challenges and problems, providing guidance and advice, celebrating diversity and inclusion of your .

Continued on the next page

highlighting their stories on social media or website, nominating them for awards or recognition programs, and inviting them to events or activities.

## **5) How to measure diversity and inclusion**

Measuring diversity and inclusion in your volunteer program is the fourth step to increasing it. This involves collecting and analyzing data and information to assess the progress and outcomes of your efforts, and reporting and communicating your results to demonstrate accountability and transparency. To do this, you should define and track diversity and inclusion indicators and metrics, such as the number, demographics, satisfaction, retention, and impact of your volunteers. Additionally, use diverse methods of data collection, such as surveys, interviews, focus groups, observations, and testimonials to capture both quantitative and qualitative aspects of your performance. Analyze the data to identify strengths and weaknesses in your practices, compare results with goals and standards, and generate insights for improvement. Lastly, report and communicate findings to share with stakeholders, showcase achievements and impacts, and solicit feedback for future actions.

## **6) How to improve diversity and inclusion**

The final step to increasing diversity and inclusion in your volunteer program is to improve diversity and inclusion. This involves implementing and monitoring changes and improvements, as well as reviewing and updating your strategies and plans. To do this, you should [create an action plan](#) that outlines the specific actions, responsibilities, timelines, and resources for improving your performance. Additionally, you should review and update policies and procedures that reflect your commitment to diversity and inclusion. Engaging stakeholders such as volunteers, staff, beneficiaries, partners, and donors is also important. Invite them to participate in decision making and implementation, seek their opinions, ideas, and feedback, and acknowledge their contributions. Lastly, it is important to learn from experiences by celebrating successes, acknowledging challenges and failures, seeking best practices and lessons learned, and embracing continuous learning.

## **7) Think of what else you would consider**







# INFORMATION BUG SEPTEMBER, 2023

The information for this article was found at:  
[20 Unique Christmas Traditions from Around the World](https://countryliving.com)  
([countryliving.com](https://countryliving.com))

## 20 Unique Christmas Traditions Around the World That May Surprise You

We have many tried-and-true [Christmas traditions](#) in the United States: [decorating your Christmas tree](#), baking [holiday cookies](#), and opening [Christmas presents](#), to name a few. Some more modern traditions include watching [Christmas movies](#) and keeping up with [The Elf on the Shelf](#). But some of the ways Christmas is celebrated around the world might surprise you.

Once you learn about what happens in other countries, you may even want to start some of these traditions into your own home. And others, you might want to skip! How about waking to find rotten potatoes left in your shoes by a mischievous Father Christmas? Or Kentucky Fried Chicken for your [Christmas dinner](#)? Believe it or not, those are actual Christmas traditions around the world.

From Christmas by the beach with fresh seafood in New Zealand, to hot porridge that keeps families warm during the cold Finland winter, you'll discover just how different these global holiday traditions are. What's more, we think you'll wow your family during your [Christmas party](#) with all of the following interesting [Christmas trivia](#).

### Sweden

The Yule Goat has been a Swedish Christmas symbol dating back to ancient pagan festivals. However, in 1966, the tradition got a whole new life after someone came up with the idea to make a giant straw goat, now referred to as the Gävle Goat. According to the official [website](#), the goat is more than 42 feet high, 23 feet wide, and weighs 3.6 tons. Each year, the massive goat is constructed in the same spot. Fans can even watch a livestream from the first Sunday of Advent until after the New Year when it's taken down.

### Philippines

If you thought the United States went all out with [Christmas decorations](#), you should see what the Philippines does. Every year, the city of San Fernando holds *Ligligan Parul* (or Giant Lantern Festival) featuring dazzling *parols* (lanterns) that symbolize the Star of Bethlehem. Each *parol* consists of thousands of spinning lights that illuminate the night sky. The festival has made San Fernando the "Christmas Capital of the Philippines."

Continued on the next page

### **Japan**

Although Christmas isn't a national holiday in Japan (an estimated one percent of the population is Christian, according to [Smithsonian Magazine](#)), its citizens still find an interesting and delicious way to celebrate. Rather than gathering around the table for a turkey dinner, families head out to their local Kentucky Fried Chicken. The tradition began in 1974 after a wildly successful marketing campaign called "*Kurisumasu ni wa kentakkii!*" or "Kentucky for Christmas!" The fast food chain has maintained its yuletide popularity, causing some people to order their boxes months in advance or stand in two-hour-long lines to get their "finger lickin' good" food.

### **Iceland**

Similar to the 12 days of Christmas in the U.S., Iceland celebrates 13. Each night before Christmas, Icelandic children are visited by the 13 Yule Lads. After placing their shoes by the window, the little ones will head upstairs to bed. In the morning, they'll either have received candy (if they're good) or be greeted with shoes full of rotten potatoes if they're bad. And you thought coal was a terrible gift!

### **Finland**

On Christmas morning, Finish families traditionally eat a porridge made of rice and milk topped with cinnamon, milk, or butter. Whoever finds the almond placed inside one of the puddings "wins"—but some families cheat and hide a few almonds so the kids don't get upset. At the end of the day, it is customary to warm up in a sauna together.

### **New Zealand**

Because summer falls during Christmastime for Kiwis, a number of their traditions center around a barbie, or grill, where families and friends gather for a casual cookout of fresh seafood, meat, and seasonal vegetables. The New Zealand Christmas tree is the Pohutukawa, a coastal species that blooms a bright-red color in December, providing shade during the sunny days as they sing carols in both English and Maori.

### **Denmark**

Before Christianity came to the Danes, Christmas Day was a celebration of brighter days, *jól*, as it occurred just before winter solstice. Today, homes are decorated with superstitious characters called *nisser* who are believed to provide protection. On the evening of December 24, Danish families place their Christmas tree in the middle of the room and dance around it while singing carols.

Continued on the next page



### **Martinique**

In the French Caribbean island of Martinique, *la ribote* is a longstanding tradition where families visit their neighbors during Advent and on New Year's Day bearing holiday food like yams, *boudin créole*, *pâtés salés*, and pork stew. They sing Christmas carols together into the early hours of the morning, adding their own creole verses to traditional lyrics.

### **Norway**

In Norway, the Christmas season, called *julebord*, begins Dec. 3, filling up local bars and restaurants throughout the month. Families celebrate Little Christmas on Dec. 23; each have their own ritual for the day that may include decorating the tree, making a gingerbread house, and eating *risengrynsgrøt* (hot rice pudding)

### **Ireland**

The Irish leave a tall red candle in a front window overnight, a welcoming symbol of warmth and shelter for the holiday season. Traditional Christmas fare in Ireland often includes homemade roast goose, vegetables, cranberries, and potatoes.

### **Barbados**

A Christmas table in Barbados isn't complete without a baked ham decorated with pineapple and sorrel glazes, a rum cake, and [Jug Jug](#), a dish inspired by the Scottish influence on the island combining pigeon peas, guinea corn flour, herbs, and salt meat.

### **Poland**

On Christmas Eve in Poland, many families share *oplatek* (an unleavened religious wafer), each person breaking off a piece as they wish each other Merry Christmas. Dinner may not begin until the first star appears in the night sky and, traditionally, an extra setting is left at the table should someone show up uninvited.

### **The Netherlands**

*Sinterklaas* is the Dutch name for Saint Nicholas, the man recognized by children by his long white beard, red cape, and red miter. Kids put a shoe by the chimney or back door and wake up on Christmas morning to find treats like gingerbread men, marzipan, and chocolate letters inside.

### **Portugal and Brazil**

Brazilian and Portuguese families come together on Christmas Eve to eat dinner as late as 10 p.m. Then, at exactly midnight, they exchange gifts, toasts, and wish each other a Merry Christmas. Midnight mass, *Missa Do Galo* (Rooster Mass), is a chance to meet up with neighbors and extended family to wish them well for the holiday season. The service is often followed by fireworks in the town square.

Continued on the next page

### **Austria**

Alpine countries like Austria have a legend that a devil-like creature called Krampus joins their St. Nicholas festivities on December 6. Children are asked for a list of their good and bad deeds: Good children are rewarded with sweets, apples, and nuts, and bad children worry what Krampus might bring on Christmas morning.

### **South Africa**

While the traditions around South Africa vary by region and culture, most families come together for a cookout, called *braaing* on the holiday. Marinated steaks and boerewors sausages serve as the main course, followed by a customary dessert of malva pudding (pictured) served with a custard. Traditional fir Christmas trees are decorated with a variety of baubles included hand-beaded African ornaments.

### **Ukraine**

Orthodox Christians make up nearly [49 percent of Ukraine's population](#); they observe Christmas Day on January 7 by dressing in traditional garments and walking through town singing carols. A dish called *kutya*, made of cooked wheat mixed with honey, ground poppy seeds, and sometimes nuts, is a popular Christmas Eve treat. Some families throw a spoonful of *kutya* at the ceiling: If it sticks, there will be a good harvest in the new year.

### **Mexico**

All across Mexico members of the Church put on Pastorelas (Shepherd's Plays) to retell the Christmas story. The Mexican Christmas season begins early in December with Las Posadas, a religious march that re-enacts the journey of Mary and Joseph. The vibrant red poinsettia flowers are also used in holiday arrangements for decoration throughout the country.

### **Switzerland**

Swiss families make their own advent calendars for the holiday season. These calendars are either given to children as a surprise or made together as a fun activity. Each day's bag reveals a new surprise or treat, with the biggest gift on Christmas Eve.

### **El Salvador**

Central American countries like El Salvador toast Christmas with fireworks displays on December 24 and 25. Children celebrate with smaller firecrackers called *volcancitos* (little volcanos) and *estrellitas* (little stars) while those who are a little older tend to prefer the larger varieties and Roman candles

Continued on the next page

**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
8th Western Rivers Region  
Division 33  
Invites YOU to our fall  
2024 Change of Watch Meeting  
& Dinner**

***DIVISION MEETING***

will be held at the  
Auxiliary Station Omaha  
located at 9800 John J Pershing Drive, Omaha NE.  
On the 27th of January, 2024  
and will start promptly at 10:00 Hrs. (local time).

**Uniform will be "Trops" or business attire.**

***CHANGE OF WATCH DINNER  
AND LANTERN CERMONEY***

will be held at the  
CASIO'S RESTERAUNT  
Located at 1620 S. 10th St., Omaha  
beginning at 1800 Hrs.

**Uniform will be Tropical Blues or Business Attire**

**SOCIAL HOUR WILL START AT 1800 HRS.**

**PLEASE CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING MENU ITEMS:**

**8OZ Top Sirloin - \$38.00**

**Atlantic Salmon - \$38.00**

**Chicken Parmesan - \$ 31.00**

**Tax and gratuity are included in the above prices,  
payment via cash or check will be collected prior to the dinner.**

**Your family is invited to attend.**

**ADULT BEVERAGES WILL BE AVAILABLE VIA A CASH BAR**

**Please advise me of your dinner choice and the number attending.**

**RSVP to me by January 20, 2024**

**With your intention to attend the meeting, lunch and  
training, the dinner or all three.**

**You may call or text me at 402-510-0308,**

**Or email me at [kc0h1b@cox.net](mailto:kc0h1b@cox.net)**

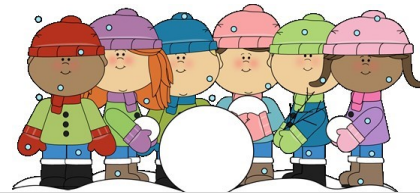
**The uniform of the day will be Tropical Blues, AWU or Business Casual.**

# December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Omaha Flotilla Holiday Party	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Merry CHRISTMAS	26	27	28	29	30
31 Happy New Year						

# January 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Omaha Flotilla Meeting	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			