**MAXIM AWARD NOMINATION PACKAGE**

Date: Feb. 18, 2020

From: Denis Keyes FC 86 District 7

To: Antoinette Borman DCDR 8 District 7

Subj: Maxim Award Nomination

Name: Julia “Judi” Bidwick #1157820

Unit: 070-08-06

Region: Atlantic East

1. Appearance:

Judi Bidwick presents an impeccable appearance in uniform and she wears the uniform correctly and with pride. Her photos in uniform are attached.

1. Types of courses:

Judi has taught both member training and public education courses for the past twenty years. She came to the flotilla with a Master of Arts degree in Administration and Supervision with a major in English Literature. Judi is responsible for the comprehensive *Boating Skills & Seamanship* course which she offers four times a year and has taught each of the 13 lessons, including improving Power Point presentations by adding photographs and incorporating her personal experiences into the narrative. She teaches *Always Boat Safely* at least once every year over a two-day period. Judi has developed a nine-hour, hands-on *GPS for Mariners* course which she co-teaches twice a year.

Judi travels to elementary schools each year in order to teach water and boat safety and has often taught *Boating Fun* to pre-school and first and second graders. She works with local **4-H clubs** teaching boat safety and an environmental class from **Sea Partners** which she expanded to cover areas of interest to youth and teens, specifically regarding current problems in the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, Judi taught the local high school tenth graders a boat safety, 1 hour-seminar course as a pre-cursor to the boating course that is required for the students’ Florida Boat Card. Some of the students took the Boating Skills and Seamanship course and two students joined the Auxiliary.

Judi continues to teach the *Paddling* class when the needed. Once again, she expanded that class to include various ways to transport kayaks and stand-up-paddle boards by bringing in owners who trailer their small boats or have one-man loaders. These demonstrations are especially valuable to novice paddlers.

Judi teaches the *Suddenly in Command* class five times a year and has augmented the course content by adding local videos that show what factors can lead to a boat captain being incapacitated. It then includes what steps to take if that situation occurs. Judi offers this class free of charge.

Judi reaches out to community groups and schedules presentations tailored to their interests. She recently visited the local **Bitter Ends Sailing Club** to demonstrate the different types of life jackets (PFD) that are available. She collected all types of jackets, including inflatables, to show to the club and then performed a life jacket check on each of the twenty-five members who wore their own jackets. Judi later taught their **Youth Sailing Club** the safe boating seminar and the environmental **Sea Partner** class, after which everyone walked on the beach to pick up plastics, etc. Judi also met with the **South Venice Civic Association** and delivered a 1-hour safe boating seminar.

When the now defunct *On-the-Water* course was still taught as a logical follow-up for those who took and passed the *Boating Skills & Seamanship* Course, Judi used her facility to take the class graduates on a four plus hour cruise to demonstrate all of the forty listed course objectives. She demonstrated how to dock and undock between boats, talk to the crew, tie off a boat to boat the way the Coast Guard does it, accelerated the boat up on a plane, and many other important points. This was highly rated by participants.

When Judi worked at the national level as a branch chief (BC-TIL), she and her team developed the original flotilla leadership online course for Auxiliarists. For a time, she taught this course locally until it was made available online to members nationally.

Judi has taught all of the AUXOP courses over the last fifteen years and continues to work with the Member Training Officer to offer at least three of the required courses in the spring each year, and additional member training courses in the fall. She ensures that the courses are available to the entire Division 8 membership. Throughout the year, Judi is available to work with new crew and coxswain trainees as instructor and mentor, where needed. When a previous Member Training Officer was ill, and until he recovered, Judi assumed responsibility for the program and helped to prepare flotilla candidates for their crew and coxswain certifications. She also reached out to members from other division flotillas and invited their participation. During that two-year period, Judi used the Standardized Auxiliary Boat Operations Training Job Aid (SABOT) as a comprehensive training tool to augment the standards in the Auxiliary Boat Crew Qualification Guides.

Judi taught each of the Mandated/Core Training courses for those who had problems taking the courses online. Judi previously taught both the 8-hour TCT and TCT Refresher courses and is certified to teach the new Risk Management 4-hour course and has recently completed teaching the course for twenty-seven members from flotillas in Division 8.

Judi’s level of instructional competence is excellent. Instructors visit her classes to observe her techniques and ability to teach, maintain classroom control and most importantly, engage large groups of students.

1. Ability to adapt:

As mentioned previously, over the years, Judi, has added photographs, videos and narratives to the existing Power Point Presentations in *Boating Skills & Seamanship, Suddenly in Command, GPS for Mariners, Paddling and Always Boat Safely* courses. She adds her local knowledge to the classes and expands on existing material to make it more meaningful by citing local events and mishaps—both positive and negative—which enhances the learning for class members. More information relative to the point of adapting to local needs will be explained further throughout many of the following descriptions

1. Use of training aids:

Judi is always looking for training aids that can improve her teaching. Broadly speaking, any device that helps teach can be called a teaching aid. That includes objects of various kinds, pictures, maps, videos, computers, etc. or anything else to enhance and enliven classroom instruction. Judi uses training aids in each of her classes. She adds to her collection each year, whether it’s a bag of dock lines, a huge box stuffed with life jackets, radios, EPIRBS, fenders, fire extinguishers, flares, emergency beacons, sound producing devices, and so much more. She uses these and others routinely and points out the advantages that some have over others. In the case of flares, which go out of currency in three years, the Coast Guard has recently approved Electronic Emergency Locator Beacons that are more effective and never expire. Judi has one which she displays in the classroom. She recently purchased a self-inflating belt life jacket which she demonstrates in class. Judi tries to keep abreast of the ever-expanding innovations and products available to boaters, which she can share.

Judi uses the white board to simulate docking procedures, having created magnetic boats and magnetic arrows that point in the direction the current and the direction of the wind. She demonstrates multiple ways of docking and undocking the boat. Suffice it to say that she has “a bag of tricks” for every class that she teaches.

When Judi flew with the Auxiliary as an observer, she took photos of each body of water, bridge, and landform in her area of responsibility. She incorporated these photos into her Power Point and shows such things as local reduced speed and no wake zones, specific bridges and how they open, shallow areas of the Intra-Coastal Waterway and entrances to the Gulf of Mexico. These are particularly helpful visuals to show the classes the area where most will be boating.

In terms of innovation, Judi was the driving force in back of our success in improving classroom teaching equipment. She was especially creative by applying for and receiving a grant from Sarasota County to improve classroom presentations by enhancing both audio and video equipment. She replaced a traditional projector and screen with a new computer interfaced with a high definition, 72-inch smart television that can project Power Points and link to the internet.

For the *GPS for Mariners* course, Judi purchased enough GPS units that students use in the classroom for hands-on experience. Recognizing that students had difficulty seeing what teachers were actually entering into the GPS as they demonstrated, Judi purchased an Elmo Projector to display everything on the television screen. Instructors in other classes also readily take advantage of this technology.

1. How do the training aids help?

Judi recognizes that students learn best by doing. Consequently, she has amassed a large collection of life jackets of different types (and in various conditions) for members of the class try on when she teaches the chapter on Equipment for Your Boat in *Boating Skills & Seamanship*. She randomly hands them out to the class to wear and each is checked for type, fit, and serviceability. Some are too small, and others have missing hooks or broken zippers. This activity demonstrates the importance of wearing a proper fitting jacket, in good working condition, and one that is specifically suited for a particular purpose. Judi also inflates a jacket so students can see the benefit of this types of jacket. This is a typical example of how Judi uses training aids and interacts with students. She uses training aids to demonstrate buoys, day markers and other signs on the water, especially the Intra-Coastal Waterway which is difficult for boaters not familiar with the signage and are used to boating on rivers and lakes.

Other training aids include a mounted cleat for each member in the class when learning to tie knots or belaying to a cleat. Judi makes and provides each student with a four-foot piece of finished rope which they use to practice their knots. Instead of covering the textbook material about knots in one session, she has developed a sequence of lessons to teach knots associated with boats each night. Judi has found that many (probably most) students require multiple practice sessions, hence adopting the “practice makes perfect” or experiential teaching philosophy. Each class starts with required boating knots, and students have an opportunity to get help from Auxiliary members who assist with this activity.

The Navigation chapter in Boating Skills & Seamanship is always challenging to students. For it to be meaningful, students need to have a hands-on experience following a fair amount of basic and sometime confusing information. To accomplish that objective, Judi purchased enough plotting tools and charts for everyone in the class to actually plot a multi-step navigational journey. To see that each student gets the guidance needed to achieve, Judi recruits’ additional Auxiliary members to assist that evening. These examples are just a few of the ways Judi integrates audio-visual aids and technology in all of her classes.

1. Describe her command in the classroom:

Judi tries to create a safe, positive classroom environment where students are comfortable, have a sense of rapport with their teacher and peers, and believe they can be successful.

She begins the process as early as the night of registration where she begins interacting with students, attempting to find some connection, learning the reason they are taking a course, finding about such things as whether they own a boat, their experiences and more.

On the first night of class, Judi introduces herself, talks about her background, her connections with the Auxiliary, and her own boating experiences. She encourages others to share with their classmates some of their experiences. Judi goes over the order in which each class will be taught and suggests study techniques and practices that have proven most successful.

She provides a name tag for each student which they display on their tables. By the end of the first or second class, Judi knows everyone by name.

Judi praises the students for taking each class, pointing out that they will be better prepared and safer than eighty percent of boaters, who never took a class. She tells them she will try her best to see that they will learn and they will have fun doing it. She makes it clear that students are free to ask questions at any time.

Judi starts all classes on time which begin with a variety of motivational activities. She moves the class along at a brisk pace, involving students to the extent possible, and pausing frequently to ensure that everyone understands the material.

During the typical three-hour session, Judi gives at least two breaks, during which the class can try her home-made baked snacks that she provides each night with coffee, water, or soft drinks.

Judi has the remarkable ability to establish rapport with students. She is incredibly acceptable and never judgmental. She puts students at ease and interacts with them as peers having fun with each other. She uses humor where she can and shares stories that will make a point that coincides with the particular lesson. It is quite apparent that Judy likes people and enjoys being with them every evening. By the way, Judi never misses a class; even when others are teaching, she is there to show student support. She is responsible. She knows what students need to know and she makes every effort to see that the gain that knowledge. Judi wants students to feel that they really need her, that she is the font of knowledge about boating that will make them safe boaters, and that can be achieved if they pay close attention. She is! It works!

To obtain information on how students perceive her command of the classroom, Judi uses a self-developed evaluation sheet and explains how important it is to give anonymous feedback on her and other instructors so each can improve instruction or add relevant material, etc. This evaluation sheet is a valuable tool for all instructors. Judi reads each one and shares the comments with other instructors. She gives specific feedback--both verbally and in writing to instructors where they need to quicken the pace of instruction or where more explanation is needed on a particular topic. The instructors are eager to improve and welcome the feedback.

1. Describe how she engages students:

Prior to the start of each class, Judi often visits with students, asking about their day, if they were on the water, or how they might be using the information they are learning in class. In so doing, Judi learns about her students and their boating skills and is able to address individual questions or concerns. She can also ascertain whether they had difficulty with the chapter they read to prepare for class.

Judi believes in student involvement and hands-on learning. Consequently, she avoids lecturing the class. Instead, Judi makes students a part of each lesson, drawing out what they have learned. She often begins a class by asking the class what they learned during the last class. “Tell me just one thing.” Judi is animated and has a way of relating to individuals in the class while still teaching the entire class. She walks around the class, moves up and down the aisle, makes eye contact and keeps each lesson moving at a brisk pace. She uses mnemonic ways of helping students to master concepts—she sings the Popeye song about spinach (being green), the same as the can (of spinach) buoy. Students never forget these experiences.

Judi has countless pictures that capture the interest to her students. Some depict boaters doing the right thing, like a kayaker towing a 26-foot **Sea Ray** or the opposite of a boater holding an infant without a life jacket while he leans over the side of his boat feeding a porpoise. If lessons can be learned from these pictures, Judi will help the class to see the consequences of choices that boaters make.

She also has videos that rivet students to the screen, life and death situations from which students can learn. One depicts a story of a father and his 10-year-old son returning from an enjoyable fishing trip when they are suddenly tossed overboard without life jackets and unable to get back on board. It is stories like this that hold the interest of the class, gives them a lot to talk about and a lot to learn. Fortunately, in this case, there was a happy ending, but it could have turned out quite differently.

Docking a boat can be a challenge and it’s something that generally holds the attention of the class. Unfortunately, Judi can’t take students on the water, but she can and does illustrate with models exactly how docking occurs under different environmental conditions. While she explains the various situations that might occur, she draws information from students who may have had similar experiences.

When Judi gives examples to illustrate, she realizes the importance of making them relevant by using local reference points with which most people are familiar. For example, when teaching about bridges, Judi will project pictures of local bridges that may be open or closed, with signs indicating water depth, the frequency to call the bridge tender, etc. Having boated for many years in the local waters, Judi has developed a good knowledge of the bays, creeks, and waterways that boaters might travel. She warns of the shallow depth in this part of Florida and tells stories about each of the bays from her experience and draws on those in the class to share their knowledge. This gets everyone involved and it also allows for students to get together at the break to ask each other about similar experiences. One twelve-year old told of the time when he ran aground in local waters and how he learned not to get out of the boat to try to extricate it from the sandy bottom. When he did, even though the water was not very deep, he was not able to get back into the boat until another boat came to assist.

When teenagers join the class, Judi makes sure they sit in the front of the classroom with their parents and she makes a concerted effort to interact with them, praise them for their accomplishments and make them feel a part of the class. Because many are quick to learn knots and are eager to show their prowess, Judi will use them to demonstrate proper tying.

If a student’s cell phone rings in the classroom, instead of embarrassing someone, Judi quickly says, oops, that’s my alarm to remind me to ask a question about what we just learned! Who can tell me……?

Judi manages her classes exceptionally well; her lessons are never boring. She recognizes that student involvement and relevance are key factors in maintaining student interest.

1. Describe how she inspires students:

Judi has the natural ability to inspire others. It is obvious to the class that she herself is knowledgeable and eager to share that knowledge with them. She thanks them for taking the boating safety classes and points out how much safer they will be when the class is over. Throughout the duration of the classes, Judi provides class members constant positive feedback on their responses, recognizing the progress they are making. Judi recognizes that each student is different and has different learning styles and tries to address this by individualizing instruction to the extent possible. When the class is over, Judi wants students to feel good about themselves and what they have learned, and ready (most importantly want) to learn more about water related activities. She modifies the final exam for students who have a disability by allowing the student to write in the booklet or even takes the student into a private area to present the questions orally.

Before each student leaves at the end of the last class, a class photo is taken where all proudly display their certificates. Judi wants them to know that she will still be available after the class ends. She gives each one her personal business card and invites them to call her if ever they have any questions. Moreover, she invites them to return in the future if they want to take all or part of the course again at no cost. Although it is not unusual for someone to return for the GPS class, recently a couple returned after eight years to retake the *Boating Skills & Seamanship* class, because they finally bought a boat and were now ready to get on the water.

Judi makes sure students are aware of other classes that the Auxiliary offers and encourages them to take advantage of those opportunities. Many students elect to follow *Boating Skills & Seamanship* with *GPS for Mariners* or *Suddenly in Command*.

1. Describe her development of new or innovative ways of teaching:

Judi’s classroom is more like a laboratory or workstation where hands-on activities are provided, and students are involved in the learning process. Of course, Judi uses power point program to provide structure and focus for students, but the slides are updated before each class with photographs and they incorporate as much local information as possible.

Team teaching is an ongoing process with Judi in her classes. She enjoins instructors from other flotillas as well as those in her own who can bring this exciting challenge into her classroom. With the GPS for Mariners course where she teams with her husband, Judi manages the introduction of material while using the ELMO to demonstrate what her hands are doing to the GPS unit. Her teammate works the classroom to make sure students are focused on the topics and are having success with their GPS units.

Judi also instituted a teaming approach in the Suddenly in Command class where each instructor focuses on a particular topic and they exchange methods as they ask questions, demonstrate life jackets, or show videos that bring to life the cause and effect of becoming a captain when this was totally unplanned.

Judi makes effective use of inquiry-based instructional techniques to find and identify potential problems (What if?) prior to finding effective solutions. Giving an example of a boating problem in the Gulf of Mexico, especially entering the Venice Inlet, Judi will ask open-ended questions about what problems one might incur as a boat enters rough water with a following sea. This opens all kinds of responses from class members. Students are involved and they can use their knowledge to define problems and help to solve them by sharing their experiences.

Judi initiated a process of cooperative learning with her Boating Skills and Seamanship classes whereby she breaks the class into teams of two or three and asks them to answer a series of questions from the Florida Boaters’ Guide that they will share with the class in 30 minutes. This technique has proven very successful by keeping the class productively engaged, and allows them to work and learn with others and sharing with the whole class.

Judi strives to assess students’ abilities, methods of sharing, working styles, interests, comfort level, and more. She tries to learn as much about them as possible, so she can meet their individual needs.

This starts at registration prior to classes beginning. She talks with each person, finds out where they are from, what their interests are, what boating experiences they have, what they hope to get out of a boat safety class. Then, prior to each class, Judi engages folks as they come in as to what they thought of the lesson after reading the chapter; what they didn’t understand; how their day was. Judi also shares with them what her experiences have been that day, enabling students to feel safe and secure in sharing in a class setting. She also modifies her teaching style for those who need further explanations without making an individual feel “out of place.” Judi modifies the final exam for those who may read slowly by having an instructor read or work with them in a separate setting.

Creating a flexible environment is another method Judi uses. Often, she will set up a problem that requires students to step outside the classroom in order to follow a GPS setting. Initial directions are given both in writing and orally so students can follow and complete the exercise accordingly.

As previously notated, it was mentioned how Judi brings many different types of life jackets into class so all students can try one on to check the type and fit. This gives students a chance to stand up and move around while benefiting from the lesson.

Role playing is another method Judi uses when working with radios. Most students have never used a radio onboard a boat, so Judi brings in a set of walkie-talkies to use. Especially in the Suddenly in Command class, where it may be an urgent message that needs to be sent out, Judi reviews the May-Day responses and quickly hands a walkie-talkie to a class member who has never used a radio. The member is emotionally involved because her husband has just fallen overboard and may have hit his head. This procedure is especially helpful for the whole class but in particular for those who have never “pressed a call button” or spoken using an FHV radio.

Visualization is used frequently. In her member training classes, Judi uses the model of a boat that is placed on casters, along with another one whereby crew learn to tie off two boats in a side-by-side tow. These models can be used outside on a blacktop where classroom is modified to incorporate fresh air and special movement. These techniques have been valuable for those members seeking crew or coxswain certification.

Judi has brought in outside professionals to speak with her classes; specifically, the local weatherman who has taught a lesson on weather to her classes. She also invited an instructor from University of South Florida to talk about the buoys offshore that give information such as water temperature, wind speed, and wave height.

Judi stimulates the class environment just by being there. She moves around the room; gives a star to those who answer the first question of the day; hands out tootsie rolls to those who ask provocative questions or who answer her esoteric questions.

Judi is a master at having every kind of teaching tool available to show or demonstrate in class—buoys, day boards, dock lines, emergency lights, EPIRBS, flags, flares, horns, unusual signaling devices, radios, fire extinguishers, fenders, and cleats of all sizes.

1. Describe her ability to serve as a role model or act as a mentor to less experienced instructors:

Judi is not only a role model for other instructors, but she is a role model to all for the way she holds herself, wears her uniforms, guides others who are new, or assists in doing mundane tasks such as cleaning the classroom, running off materials, carrying, designing, and making materials for parades or updating materials for the radio room.

New members quickly learn that Judi is a key player in the flotilla and ask for her to serve as their mentor. In spite of a heavy workload as Public Education Officer, Publications Officer, and Proctor, Judi never turns anyone away, often mentoring several people at any one time. She recently mentored and instructed a new member by teaching, modeling, and getting him certified as a Telecommunications Operator and watch stander.

Judi is currently continuing to mentor the newly appointed Member Training Officer, who worked with her earlier to become certified as an instructor, and now needs considerable guidance in his new role.

Judi has mentored other instructors and has created classes for them to teach, modeling the type of teaching skills they need to be successful. She talks about pacing material and teaching methods in a class and how important it is to refrain from simply rehashing Power Point Presentation verbiage, but to use them to reinforce the important concepts presented. She emphasizes the importance of communicating effectively and knowing the subject matter as well as only using Power Point to cue one to the topic and then the rest is up to the instructor to deliver the cogent points, reinforcing as necessary. She emphasizes that individuals learn differently and stresses the importance of demonstrations for those who are visual learners. Reinforcing verbally is just the icing on the cake. In the last two years, Judi has brought in three new instructors.

In closing, suffice it to say that Judi is the “go to person” in the flotilla, the one that everyone looks to for guidance and information on a broad variety of subjects or for historical perspective on issues. This year she was once again recognized as Flotilla Auxiliarist of the Year!

C. Why should she win the award:

Based on the aforementioned credits and the attached attestations, I feel Judi Bidwick should win the Maxim Award. She is interested in more than just teaching a class; she educates through her actions, through her modeling and demonstrating behaviors that bring education alive. Judi has a gift that she shares with all she comes into contact with, whether in a class setting, in a flotilla meeting, in a galley sharing her knowledge of the food service, in a presentation to the public, on a boat in a parade, when delivering RBS materials, in the articles she pens in the flotilla newsletter or in her mentoring of new members. She is the consummate educator and uses every situation to contribute to the USCG Auxiliary missions.

See attachments for other documentation…….

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To : Nominating Committee for the COMO Daniel Maxim Award for Excellence in Education-

My wife ,Anne and I recently completed the Coast Guard Auxiliary Boating and Seamanship skills course in Venice, Florida.

We knew nothing about boating and knew we needed to learn but when we signed up for the course we both expected that the six, three hour classes starting at 6pm would be long and tiresome.

Having completed the course a few weeks ago we found that Judi Bidwick made the course so interesting that the three hours each night passed quickly.   We covered a lot of material and Judi made the course fun and presented the material so it was easy to learn.

There was a section of the book that was presenting how to exit a dock and how to approach a dock and the book was somewhat confusing.  Judi used the white board and two cutout boats to illustrate what the book was trying to convey and it was so easy after she explained it.

She moved quickly but always was open to questions and would scan the room to see if anybody seemed to be having trouble so she could make sure that everybody was engaged and learning.

She made it clear that class started promptly at 6pm and she started on time and ended on time.  There were no stragglers.

Judi was supported by a team of Auxiliary volunteers and Judi directed them but always did it with a smile on her face.  You could tell that they all respected her and she respected them.

The course far exceeded our expectations and Judi conveyed her knowledge and enthusiasm for boating to us.

We have told many of our friends about the course and how great a teacher Judi is.   Judi and the other Auxiliary members are all volunteers and she and they all wanted us to gain boating knowledge and wanted to share their boating experiences with us.

We could not have had a better teacher.

We hope that the Committee will vote to award Judi the recognition that she deserves.

Thank you for your consideration.

John and Anne Corgan

[corgan@comcast.net](mailto:corgan@comcast.net)

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On October 2nd Captain Anne invited three members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary: Judi Bidwick, Dottie Olszyk, and Maribeth Putnam to give a talk on safety on the water.

Sailors donned life jackets, then the Coast Guard staff began their inspections. We looked really good in our correctly fitted jackets!

Later Judi Bidwick showed us how to tie a “bowline on a bight” This line will help someone get up the ladder onto the safety boat. The line is thrown to the sailor in the water who then either puts the loops through their legs or arms. Judi and our own Beth Anderson also gave a demonstration on towing with a lifeline with instructions on how to steer with or without a rudder.

Judi met with my Vice Captain, race captain and myself in the fall to present a program that was perfect for our group because she used various techniques to get the point across to how a life jacket should fit properly, which was my goal as Captain. She engaged us with tales of experiences on the water and all of us enjoyed interacting with her. As you can note from our Bitter Ends FB page her introduction of a bowline on a bight has now been an integral part of our safety on the water protocol.

I would highly recommend Judi’s Nomination for the Maxim Award for Excellence in Education.

Anne Chotkowski

VWSS Captain

Six years ago I was a student in one of Judi Bidwick’s BS& S classes. Her presentation of

the material and her ability to personally connect to the students in that class is why I am

a member of the Auxiliary today. Since joining the Flotilla I have been helping Judi with

the classes she presents to the public and have been a student in many of the classes she

presents to our Flotilla. I can say without any hesitation that I have rarely encountered a

person more dedicated to education than Judi.

As an educator myself, I immediately recognized that Judi has a unique teaching style

that pulls her students in and keeps them focused. When first meeting new students she

quickly learns their names and something personal about them. She asks questions about

their connection to the waterways and then listens to their answers. She then uses that

personal connection to make that student feel comfortable, feel confident that they made

the right decision to attend the class and feel ready to learn and be successful in the class.

After Judi has developed a friendship with her students she goes on to gain their

confidence. Judi is always very knowledgeable about the subject she is teaching. She is

always open to questions and only a very few times have I heard her graciously say, “I

don’t know, that is a good question, I will find you an answer”. Many times I have seen

Judi show the ability to adjust to an unplanned situation and stay positive, on task and

keep the momentum of the class going. It might be a video that doesn't work or a speaker

that is late, but Judi keeps the class engaged. That is a teaching skill that comes after

much experience.

After Judi has gained the friendship and the confidence of her class, she gains and keeps

their attention through various teaching methods and tools. She uses hands on tools,

visual tools, personal stories, storytelling by the students themselves, supplemental written

material and speakers. Judi delivers her material in a very professional manner. She

knows when to spend time on details and more pertinent information and when to lightly

cover the material. The course is always outlined and the outline is presented to the

students in advance so that they can come prepared. Active participation by the class is

very much encouraged, which helps many students retain the material. By adding a

good dose of light heartedness and laughter periodically, Judi creates an environment

where her students want to be there and want to learn more. I know Judi has taught

many classes to elementary age children. From watching her interact with young people

at festivals and such, I know her good sense of humor and creativeness serves her well in

those situations also.

I have been in attendance at the conclusion of many classes that Judi has taught. At the

end of these classes, Judi has gained friendship, confidence, attentiveness to her teaching

ability and lastly respect of each of her students. The respect is evident in that they

continue to ask her questions/ opinions of the studied subject and want her answers, they

are smiling and laughing, they are on a first name basis and we continue to see many

students from the public classes return for another class or they refer a friend to a future

class.

The students in the public classes especially, leave the class feeling like they were an

important, contributing part of the class. I believe this is because Judi made each one feel

important and well educated.

Judi’s instruction of Auxiliary classes is very diverse and has been invaluable to our needs

as a Flotilla. She maintains the same teaching style with the Flotilla as she does with the

Public.

Deedra Atz

FSO-FN

In the last 5 years of watching Judi present and share her knowledge and experience of boating at the flotilla, she always has a sunny, pleasant disposition and a professional rapport. Being a former school teacher, Judi is talented and has a style of presenting that gains the classes’ interest, whether it involves sharing videos, providing materials relevant to the lesson, or sharing stories from her personal life experiences.

Judi visits with local schools and 4H clubs to teach them the importance of water safety and demonstrating how to properly use life jackets. She also regularly networks for outreach with local venues and events such as the Venice Christmas parade, the Sharks Tooth Festival and Safe Boating Week.

Within the Coast Guard, Judi performs as a crew member, she assists with food preparation, is a vessel examiner and a program visitor. Judi also teaches several classes including risk management, navigation and auxiliary operations in addition to circulating an interesting and informative periodic newsletter for our members and working with Public Affairs.

It is my opinion that Judi’s hard work and dedication to the Coast Guard and the community makes her more than deserving of this award.

Dottie Olszyk

FSO-MA

Re: Judi Bidwick, Recommendation for Nomination for the Maxim Award for Excellence in Education

 Her knowledge of content

                         As a semi-retired, distinguished college educator, I can say without hesitation that Judi is a master instructor bar none!

The way she controls a class

                     Judi is an erudite teacher who controls her classes with respect, tact and humor.

Depth of knowledge of both Member Training and Public Education courses

                        I had the privilege of being under Judi's tutelage in a recent U.S. Coast Guard Public Education course. Judi has a depth of knowledge of boating skills and safety that are based upon a wealth of experience and years of study.  To illustrate, I made a suggestion in the chapter on weather and without looking at the manual she knew the exact page and concern that I was expressing. She said she would pass my good suggestion along to be possibly be included in the next version of the text.

Use of various techniques to get points across to students

                     Judi shares true stories to underscore pertinent points discussed in the book and on the PowerPoint slides. She also uses numerous visual aids and hands-on activities, which were extremely helpful to me as both a visual and tactile learner.

Her warmth and personal relationship with members of classes

                      It is easy to tell Judi enjoys interacting with the students in her class. She is a natural at building personal relationships, learning student names from the very first day of class and using them throughout. I look forward to taking another boating class with Judi. She even encouraged me to join the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, which I am seriously considering because of Judi's passion and years of service.

She is a master at the following:

Her pace of instruction

Use of meaningful teaching aids

Adapting instruction to both children and adult

Innovative ways of teaching

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***Elizabeth K. Hawthorne*, PhD**

**ACM Distinguished Educator**

Judi Bidwick

Here are my thoughts regarding Judi and her nomination for (and being awarded) the Maxim Award for Excellence in Education.

 Judi and I were “introduced” to each other when I enrolled in a Boating Safety and Seamanship class and I was immediately impressed with her presence and command in a classroom setting.

 Her knowledge of the material, her experiences and how she related them to the instruction, in addition to her interaction with the participants made for an enjoyable, and highly successful learning experience.

 Little did I know how much I was to learn because of her skills, knowledge and personality.

 As a fellow “Auxiliarist”, I’ve had the opportunity to attend more courses which were taught by Judi and each and every one of them has been just as successful as the previous ones. Her classroom environment is a model for excellence, as well as fun and informative. Her preparation is commendable, her use of various teaching techniques, “props”, and carrying on a dialogue with the class to keep them informed, attentive and feeling included are skills that, yes, are learned, but are also part of one’s inner qualities and traits. Judi cares about people! These are the reasons why she is such a successful and effective instructor in all venues that the Coast Guard Auxiliary has asked her to partake in.

 I have also had the privilege of being able to view her as my “unofficial” mentor, and as a new FSO-MT, I am fortunate to have an available and immediate source of invaluable knowledge at my fingertips to help me grow and become more effective and successful within the Auxiliary.

She recently taught the 4-hour Risk Management to a group of 18 Auxiliarists where all came away amazed at her ability to move through the course appropriately, her knowledge of Auxiliary mission knowledge, and her efforts to explain new material in an informal manner. Even with this course she was able to use her humor. Her recognition of each member of the class enabled her to question appropriately and engage the group on a familiar yet, professional way.

 Judi is a model educator and Coast Guard Auxiliarist, who has abilities and devotion to the success of the “mission” that are rare and extremely valuable. Whatever challenge, opportunity or assignment is placed before her, you can be sure it will be accomplished each and every time with pride, excellence, warmth and professionalism."

Joe Remo

FSO-MT

I am a member of Flotilla 86, Venice FL, have taken the course BS&S from Judi, and subsequently acted as assistant for several months of the same course for the public under Judi Bidwick. I believe she is due to receive the highest award available for her excellence in teaching this and other courses for AUX.

My reasons are as follows.

1. Judi is a professional; she stays on point.

2. She thoroughly covers all the material in the curriculum.

3. She knows her material, inside and out.

4. She has relevant experience as a boater, and it shows in her teaching.

5. Judi is brilliant at connecting with students of all sorts in a friendly manner.

6. She clearly enjoys teaching, and that is obvious to the students.

7. She has a great sense of humor, jokes with students in appropriate ways.

8. She is very patient with mistakes, never bad tempered.

9. She is willing to answer any questions patiently.

10. She uses many good examples to illustrate her points.

11. She goes the extra mile, even so far a baking treats for every class.

12. Lastly, Judi's results show in her classes' performance on the tests. She and they are all winners.

I unreservedly recommend Judi Bidwick for the award she has so well earned and deserves.

John H. Heyer

I’m sure a lot has been written already about Judi’s knowledge, the way she connects with students, able to teach all ages at the same time but I have an experience to share.

When I attended my first class with Judi, it was a full class with very different levels of students as far as learning ability. I helped the young man next to me with several subjects, knots, charts, Navigation, etc. What I didn’t realize or I failed to notice was this young man had a severe learning disability. Judi recognized this, formatted her class so others didn’t notice but still was able to get us all the information needed to fully complete our class. She knew he was struggling and arranged his final test which was very fair and he had to answer the same questions but she knew how to test him without any embarrassment and was able to make this student feel good about himself. I didn’t notice until the final exam that she is excellent in knowing her class and making it inclusive.

I truly wish I had her in HS and any class. I haven’t seen such an educator as good as Judi in my college, military, and technical training career.

We should name the Training Center Building after her.

John Hurman

I have known Judi Bidwick for almost eighteen years and consider her an excellent and worthy candidate for the COMO Daniel Maxim Award for Excellence in Education. My recommendation is based on her long-term commitment to educational programs in our Flotilla and superior performance in class. Judi’s innovative ways of teaching, combined with her warmth and personal relationship with members of classes, has led to the establishment of highly successful Member Training and Public Education programs.

She easily adapts to both children and adult programs and is very skillful in using meaningful teaching aids and applying different techniques to get points across to students.  Her teaching philosophy focuses on helping students cultivate a sense of engagement, develop their judgment by teaching them how to assess risk and integrate knowledge gained in different courses.

Finally, she continuously demonstrates the following qualities:

* Experience the Joy of Making a Difference
* Enhance the Learning Process Firsthand
* Enjoy Interpersonal Interaction
* Benefit from Creating Variety
* Being a Lifelong Learner

Juan C. Hernandez, PhD

Former Flotilla Commander

Flotilla 86

Venice, FL

Dear Mrs. Bidwick, March, 2018

I, along with our other adult members of the 4-H Club, what to thank you for your time in preparing both the Boat and Water Safety Class in the fall and the Conservation-Sea Partners class in the spring for us.

The children loved the water safety class, especially when you had them in a “mockup of the boat” with Mr. Bidwick driving the boat. They loved learning what to do when someone falls overboard and they each wanted to fall out of the boat in order to be rescued! That was such a creative way to have the children involved in something so important. Having life jackets to fit each student was a miracle and they loved trying to put them on themselves. They learned how difficult it might be if they hadn’t tried it before. Having them sign the Panda Award was a great idea, and they are taking it very seriously. In fact, one child asked his parents to buy him a special life jacket that he can wear when he goes on their family boat!

Our parents were truly impressed with your ability to get the young children to interact with you. You talked with them, asked them questions, and made them feel like they had known you a while. They loved the boat exercise. To get them to talk with you and volunteer to do things for you, is a miracle because even some of their teachers are not able to do that.

We loved the slides of the wildlife that are harmed by what we place in the water; it got the point across to not only the children but their parents. Inky, the Whale, is a wonderful video and it captivated all of us. Knowing that was a real whale that was returned to the sea in Florida after being rehabilitated was wonderful.

It is evident that you enjoy what you do and you are so good with the children. They all asked if they could go back to see you again sometime. Their efforts after the conservation class were very productive. Each child was able to get several grocery bags filled with litter, plastic bottles, cigarette butts, paper, etc. The children felt they were really helping to keep some of our birds and sea animals from getting sick from the trash found on the beaches.

Again, we all appreciate what you did for our club—they children and adults who were lucky enough to attend both of your classes. They children also loved the fact that you made cookies for them.

I almost forgot to include our 80 second grade students at Pine View School—they, too, enjoyed when you shared Inky with them. Needless to say, their teachers were impressed with your ability to control all of those “little people” at one time.

Again, thanks for taking time to create such a meaningful lesson for our club.

Sincerely,

Kim Dillard

4-H Club Leader

Judi Bidwick

It has been my pleasure to observe Mrs. Judi Bidwick working in the classroom and outside the

classroom. Because Judi does not turn teaching/education or life-long learning off, her

dedication to the Boating Safety curriculum in our flotilla is ceaseless. Year after year she offers

public safety boating courses and every year her classes are full of eager learners. Some of them

eventually become Coast Guard Auxiliary members. Judi is always willing to help new or

“green” flotilla officers get their legs under them and go on to be successful.

Judi’s instructional style is one that I have always admired: Listen, learn, help then lead. When

Judi understands what you need to learn, she will teach to your needs. When she understands

how she can help you, she will lead you in the direction of success. The respect that Judi has

earned in our flotilla by all members speaks highly of her accomplishments in the classroom.

The award for which Judi is being considered has been securely earned through the hard work

and dedication she has shown to Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 86, and the Venice community.

Japanese culture celebrates and designates certain individuals as “Living National Treasures”.

The actress Betty White and the singer/songwriter are American Living National Treasures. I

would submit that Judi Bidwick’s tireless efforts year after year with the Boating Safety course in Venice, Fl. have earned her the designation of Living Community Treasure.

Robert Spong

My name is Ryan Bagnal, and I am the Vice-Commander of Flotilla 86 in Venice, FL. I am writing today to provide my enthusiastic recommendation of Ms. Judi Bidwick as the recipient of the Maxim Educator’s Award.

I have had the privilege of taking multiple classes that were taught by Judi over the past 2 years, as well as observing her as she taught classes in which I wasn’t a student. I have seen her teaching classes to the general public, as well as courses that are specific only to Auxiliary members. In all cases, Judi demonstrates the ultimate in professionalism, courtesy, kindness, and the ability to make the class enjoyable for all participants.

Judi is a retired school administrator, and her training and natural abilities shine through in every course she teaches. I myself am a licensed teacher with 10 years of experience teaching at the K-12 and University levels, and I can only hope I will one day be an educator of the same caliber as Judi. She is just that good. I have seen her teaching multiple Boating Skills and Seamanship classes to the general public, and I have observed her working with students as young as 8 years old all the way up to 80+ years old. She has a unique ability to adapt her teaching style to the age, abilities, and needs of her students to an extent that I can only describe as ingenious.

For example, I took my initial BS&S class with her in the fall of 2018, and we had one student in the class who was a Medical Doctor. Obviously, he caught on to the material very quickly as an adult learner of superior intellect. Taking the same class were that doctor’s 2 sons, one of whom was only 9 years old. He was a very intelligent boy, but had a little trouble learning the many knots we had to know for the class and keeping up with the pace of the class (as it is designed for youth and adult learners). Judi made sure to verify his knowledge of the required materials every step of the way before moving on to the next part of the course, and she made sure he had the resources (including help from his fellow students) he needed to succeed in the course.

She is also more than willing to stay after class to work with students who need extra help or have questions about the material. She can easily teach any student from an elementary school child to a senior citizen, and she does so with confidence, obvious educator training, superior intelligence, natural abilities, and a smile on her face. Her sunny demeanor is also always age-appropriate for the student to whom she is speaking. She always makes sure that students in the class know from the beginning if there are minors in the class, and that the adults in the class behave appropriately (using appropriate language and subject matter) so that the minor students and their parents can be confident of the learning environment.

Judi cares about every student she teaches, and she does her best to spread her vast knowledge of good seamanship, boating safety, communications, and every other subject she teaches to as many people as possible. She works much harder than most people half her age. She is kind, courteous, professional, sweet, caring, and interested in the success of every student she teaches. She has been working with the Auxiliary teaching courses for decades now, and there are literally thousands of people who are better boaters and better Auxiliarists because of her help.

I myself would not be the Auxiliarist I am today were it not for her helping me out countless times over the last two years, and I certainly would not be in a position of leadership were it not for her direct assistance. She has boosted my confidence numerous times, worked with me personally to help me learn to properly do my job, and given me the confidence I need to do my duties.

I can think of no one who is more deserving of this accolade than Judi Bidwick. Of the hundreds of educators with whom I have worked, she is simply the finest I have ever known. Please honor her countless and invaluable contributions to the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary by presenting her with this award which she so richly deserves.

Semper Paratus,

Rev. Ryan P. Bagnal

Judi Bidwick

I am a student of Judi’s as well as a colleague.

Two things about Judi’s teaching stand out in my mind:

I can recommend her classes without reservation and without fear that my recommendation might come back to haunt me.   She is unique.  
  
On at least three occasions, former students have come up to me at vessel exams or at public events to tell me that they took Judi’s classes ten or fifteen years ago.  Invariably, they remember that learning boating safety in her classes was fun, relevant and memorable.  They were curious as to whether she was still teaching, and wished her well.

Few people have had the ability and devotion to sustain an educational mission for so long with such a high degree of excellence.

My personal opinion is that at some point the training center should be named the Bidwick Training Center, to properly recognize the teaching achievements of both Al and Judi Bidwick.

Tom Perrin