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Auxiliary Leadership Link The Digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity

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2019 Commodore Daniel Maxim Award for Excellence in Education

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Education Directorate is pleased to announce the selection of Auxiliarist Julia “Judi” Bidwick of Seventh District (D7), Flotilla 86 in Venice, Florida as the 2019 Commodore Daniel Maxim Award for Excellence in Education awardee.

Auxiliarist Gary E. Kocher of Ninth District-Eastern Region, Flotilla 16 in Alexandria Bay, New York and Auxiliarist Michael L. Chase of Seventeenth District, Flotilla 22 in Kenai, Alaska are also congratulated for being selected as the Regional winners from Atlantic West and Pacific Regions respectively. They demonstrate exemplary instructor performance and an outstanding spirit of service to members of the public and to Coast Guard Auxiliary members.

The Commodore Daniel Maxim Award for Excellence in Education was established to motivate and inspire the entire Instructor cadre to reach beyond the comfortable or ordinary to achieve the extraordinary. Some of the goals of the Award are to increase the diversity of courses offered by flotillas and additional numbers of classes offered; to improve Public Education and Member Training Instructor effectiveness and performance; to improve mentorship of newer or lesser experienced Instructors; to develop new and innovative teaching methods and techniques; and to develop new and innovative teaching aids.

Auxiliarist Bidwick enrolled in the Auxiliary in April 1998 and has consistently volunteered between 100 and 200 hours a year in Public Education and Member Training on top of thousands of additional hours in multiple mission areas. She is a masterful instructor who skillfully runs her classes with respect, tact and humor. Auxiliarist Bidwick brings to her classes a wealth of experience and in-depth knowledge of boating skills and safety.

She effectively shares true stories to underscore pertinent points in the sections she is teaching. She is well-known locally for the numerous visual aids and hands-on activities that she brings to the class to facilitate learning by both visual and tactile students. In addition, it is apparent that Auxiliarist Bidwick sincerely enjoys her interaction with the students and easily builds relationships by learning the student’s names by the first day of class and then using their names throughout the class. She is equally effective teaching pre-teens, high school students, and adults and is frequently sought out in the community to offer age-appropriate classes. She displays a unique ability to adapt her teaching style to the age, abilities and needs of her students. Endorsement after endorsement praise her style of instructing and her interaction with the students. Auxiliarist Bidwick’s interest in the success of her students often translates into recruitment of new Auxiliary members who have become successful officers and long-term shipmates.

Auxiliarist Bidwick is a model educator as well as a Coast Guard Auxiliarist who constantly displays the abilities and devotion to the success of the mission, characteristics that are rare and extremely valuable. She embraces each teaching opportunity with pride, excellence, warmth, and professionalism.

Auxiliarist Bidwick’s dedication to Public Education and Member Training missions personifies every one of those goals and is an inspiration for all Coast Guard Auxiliary instructors to achieve an even higher level of educational skills. Her commitment to excellence in all she does is the bedrock of Auxiliary devotion to duty.