

New Officers Inducted in Les Cheneaux Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla

By Amy Polk

Commander Dewey Lopes will lead the Les Cheneaux Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla for another year and was inducted with other new officers at the organization's Change of Watch Thursday, December 14. The Les Cheneaux Flotilla's 35 members come from Cedarville, DeTour, Hessel, and Pickford.

Bob Jones will serve as flotilla vice-commander and LaVonne Bauer is immediate past commander. Other officers include Chris Roney, aids to navigation chair; Bert Crockett, communications services, finance, and communications; Cindy Shutt, information systems and personnel services; Dave Crockett material (equipment and supplies) and operations; Dewey Lopes, member training; Sharon Quigley, public affairs; Sharon DenBoer, publications; LaVonne Bauer, public education; Sara Jones, partner visits; Mary Crockett, secretary, and John Quigley, vessel exams.

Bob and Sharon DenBoer were recognized for their many hours of volunteer service to the flotilla. Mr. DenBoer has contributed more than 20,000 hours and Mrs. DenBoer more than 19,000.

Cindy Shutt received a certificate of appreciation for her role as secretary for Division 16, which includes seven flotillas in Alpena, Cheboygan, Clark Township, Paradise, Roscommon, and Sault Ste. Marie.



Dewey Lopes (left) presents an appreciation gift to LaVonne Bauer for her service as a flotilla commander. The piece was lettered in nautical flags that were hand-stitched by Wendy Lopes.

Bert Crockett also received a certificate of appreciation for his work with the Les Cheneaux Flotilla.

LaVonne Bauer received a framed declaration composed of nautical letter flags, hand-stitched by Mr. Lopes' wife, Wendy, for serving as flotilla commander until Mr. Lopes replaced her in 2005.

U.S. Coast Guard Captain Quain Kahler of Sector Sault Ste. Marie



Coast Guard Auxiliary staff officers of the Les Cheneaux Flotilla (back row, from left) Dave Crockett, Dewey Lopes, Bert Crockett, Sharon DenBoer, Cindy Shutt, Sara Jones, Bob Jones; (in front) LaVonne Bauer, and Mary Crockett are sworn into another year of service by United States Coast Guard Captain Quain Kahler of Sector Sault Ste. Marie.

stranded vessel, he said, the auxiliary in Paradise flashed headlights from land to guide the tug towing the *Seneca* into safe harbor near Grand Marais. Auxiliary members also helped relay communications to the vessel and alerted the Coast Guard to an oil leak from the vessel.

"The auxiliary is a great example of people who look for and see the opportunity" to help, Captain Kahler said. "The Coast Guard Auxiliary helped us out in three instances in this situation. We wouldn't have known about the oil leak if it hadn't been for them."

The auxiliary is always looking for volunteers, and anyone who wants to join should call Dewey Lopes in Cedarville at (906) 484-2097.

'Yoostabe Yoopers' Seek To Donate

A group of Colorado residents who were formerly residents of the Upper Peninsula would like to donate funds to U.P. causes. The Yoostabe Yooper Club of the Denver area gathers several times a year, including a summer picnic and a winter gathering, and most recently attended an "Escanaba in Da Moonlight" play in Aurora,

Colorado.

Those who would like to submit an Upper Peninsula cause for consideration for the club's charity fund may contact Carl Johnson Jr. at 12972 West Louisiana Avenue, Lakewood, Colorado, 80228, or by e-mail at carl@jcpfinancial.com. Mr. Johnson's telephone number is (303) 987-3626.

Bird Watching Is Topic at Library Talk

"Bird Watching in Mackinaw City and on Mackinac Island" will be the topic presented Wednesday, January 3, at 7 p.m. at the Mackinaw Area Public Library in Mackinaw City.

Jeff Dykehouse of Cheboygan

will present the free program about the habitats and types of birds, waterfowl, owls, and hawks found in the area. He will discuss what to look for while bird watching, basic tools, and migration habits to look for.

Several CCSS Events To Be Held in Rudyard for Dec., Jan.

Consolidated Community School Services of Rudyard will hold the following events in December and January.

There will be open swim sessions at the Rudyard Pool Wednesday, December 27, and Wednesday, December 29, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The Rudyard Pool was closed Sunday, December 24, Monday, December 25, and will be closed Sunday, December 31, and Monday, January 1. This includes Early Bird, Open Swim, and Water Aerobics.

The Olympic-sized pool will be open for free use Saturday, January 13, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Children can use the alligator float, water slide, or any of the pool's floating toys.

A water safety instructor class will prepare participants to instruct Red Cross swimming lessons.

Participants must be at least

16 years old by the end of the course. Classes will be Wednesday evenings, from 6:45 p.m. to 9:45 p.m., for 10 weeks, beginning Wednesday, January 24, at the Rudyard Pool. The cost is \$89.

A paper and ink techniques beginner course for making scrap books, cards, and other projects will allow participants will learn paper and ink crafting techniques.

By the end of the course, students will have at least 20 six-by-six pages of techniques to incorporate into various crafts.

Classes begin Monday, January 15, and continue each Monday for six weeks at Rudyard Middle School from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The cost is \$45. The price includes materials.

To pre-register for any class, or for more information, call Consolidated Community School Services at (906) 478-7605.

Coast Guard Withdraws Live Fire Plan Owing to Protest

The U.S. Coast Guard, December 18, withdrew a proposal to conduct live-fire training on the Great Lakes, following public protest. It had sought 34 safety zones for live-fire training in the Great Lakes, none of them around the Eastern Upper Peninsula, for machine guns the agency has mounted on some of its boats under an anti-terrorism program.

The Coast Guard is part of the Department of Homeland Security.

The proposal was killed following internal review, meetings with many community leaders, nine public meetings, and numerous comments received from the public and elected representatives, the Coast Guard reported.

Among complaints were public safety, pollution from the lead bullets.

"The Coast Guard appreciates the thoughtful comments we received and we will work with the public to ensure the Coast

Guard can meet any threat to public safety or security. We are committed to addressing the concerns that training be safe, preserve the diverse uses of the Lakes, and protect the environment," said Rear Admiral John E. Crowley Jr., commander of the Ninth Coast Guard District. "As a native son of the region, I take the Coast Guard's role as guardians of the Great Lakes very seriously. The Great Lakes are one of the nation's most precious resources. The current

[proposal] is unsatisfactory and I will take the time to get this right. We will not conduct live-fire training on the Great Lakes to satisfy non-emergency training requirements unless we publish a rule, and I intend to reconsider the number, frequency of use, and location of water training areas as well as other concerns raised by the public. I am also committed to pursuing environmentally-friendly alternatives to the lead ammunition we currently use."

Michigan Politics

By George Weeks



Weaver Continues To Battle High Court 'Gag Order'; Changes 'Abusive Conduct' by Republican Majority

In October, I wrote that the long-simmering feud between Michigan Supreme Court Justice Betty Weaver and the four other Republicans on the seven-member bench "is beginning to erupt."

Last week, it burst forth with unprecedented fury when Weaver denounced the court's 4-3 order to impose what she called a "gag order" advancing "a policy toward greater secrecy and less accountability. I strongly believe that it is past time to end this trend and let sunlight into the Michigan Supreme Court."

The majority, according to an Associated Press account on another ruling Thursday, involving

flamboyant attorney Geoffrey Fieger, said Weaver's criticism was "rooted in personal resentment." In 2001, the majority declined to give her a second term as chief justice.

The initial dispute was a December 6 order approved by Chief Justice Cliff Taylor and Justices Maura Corrigan, Stephen Markman, and Robert Young prohibiting justices from disclosing any "correspondence, memoranda, and discussions" on cases before the court, even after they are resolved.

After Weaver's 14-page dissent on that order was released Thursday, the court issued its denial of Fieger's request to post-

pone disciplinary action against him for vulgar remarks about some judges while he appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Weaver contends that the four justices should disqualify themselves on action against Fieger. The former judge of the Leelanau County Probate Court and the Michigan Court of Appeals argues that she should be able to publicly say why.

On January 17, the court plans a public hearing on its order "preserving the integrity and confidentiality of the Court's deliberative process and to reflect practices that have characterized the Michigan Supreme Court, and to the best of our knowledge every other appellate court within the United States, including the United States Supreme Court, since their inception."

The hearing also will address how to deal with a justice who "violates or threatens to violate" such an order. That's a bombshell. Tom Farrell, who long ago covered the court for United Press International and later was the court's public information officer, said: "In the last 50 years or so, I don't think the court has ever been embroiled in anything like this."

Under a "God help this dysfunctional court" headline, *Detroit Free Press* columnist Brian Dickerson wrote last week that Michigan's justices "are locked in a blood feud that makes the sniping between Rosie O'Donnell and Donald Trump seem downright collegial."

Weaver resolutely refuses to talk to the press about the fray. But I'm told she bristled earlier this year when I referred to her as "batling Betty." Her understandable view, enforced by citations in her dissent, is that the conflict is a constitutional issue, not a personality spat. She wrote:

"Finding no 'gag rule' in the Michigan Constitution, statutes, case law, court rules, and canons

of judicial ethics, the majority of four has decided instead to legislate its own 'gag order.'" She said the four have "tried to erect an impermeable shield around their abusive conduct."

As for being court contrarian, she writes that "In matters of principle and legitimate public concern...the public does not expect a justice to 'go along to get along.'" She sees herself as a justice fighting against the court transforming itself "into a 'secret society' by making rules to protect themselves from public scrutiny and accountability."

(Several hours after Thursday release of the high court dueling documents in Lansing, Weaver repeated admonition about judges not "going along" when she spoke at the Benzie County courthouse at investiture of three-term Probate Judge Nancy Kida.)

In her dissent, Weaver said confidentiality of the court's deliberative process "does not extend to illegal, unethical, and improper conduct. Abuses of power and grossly unprofessional conduct are entirely unrelated to the substantive, frank, and vigorous debate and discussion of pending or impending adjudicated cases that a properly exercised judicial privilege should foster."

Battling Betty may bristle again, but the independent-minded justice is pushing what those of us outside those historically secret chambers might call Betty's Bombshell.

After their January hearing, the robed ones on the high court bench will have to sort out the legal and constitutional questions. But from where this scribe sits, anyone advocating the bright light of public scrutiny is to be applauded.

George Weeks retired this year after 22 years as political columnist for *The Detroit News*. His weekly *Michigan Politics* column is syndicated by *Superior Features*.

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The quotation under the flag of *The St. Ignace News* on Page 1 is from the 10 triads written by Dr. Fred Newton Scott, creator and teacher of the first continuous course in journalism in the United States at the University of Michigan in 1890. The 10 triads are chiseled on the parapet of the Detroit News Building at 615 Lafayette Boulevard, Detroit. They were headed "Ideals of the Press" or "The Newspaper in a Free Society," and serve as a reminder of what a free press means to us.