



The Grayfox Association

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From: Commanding Officer, NSCS Grayfox TWR 825

SUBJ: NSCS GRAYFOX TWR 825 ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

Year 2019 saw further progress toward USCG certification and improvements in the operation of the Grayfox and training program. The Cadets and ship crew proved the performance of the program in many outstanding demonstrations of ceremony and training. A few of the highlights are shared here.

US Coast Guard certification was initiated with a request in February 2014. Major milestones remaining include shipyard inspection. Each year we update USCG vessel documentation, FCC license, beacon registration, and fire and safety. The Commandant of the USCG approved our waiver request on November 28, 2017 to be evaluated as a Subchapter T, 100-ton Small Passenger Vessel. In April 2018, USCG MSC contacted Grayfox and expressed interest to support Grayfox certification and shipyard inspection. Capt Eickel and Semerad completed an analysis of shipyards and cost and selected a shipyard in Cleveland. The Grayfox currently operates as a private vessel ensuring safety measures are in place and fully compliant.

Over the last 5 years, program administration has been solid with detailed planning and program tracking. A robust organization has been in place with the addition of new Board members, supporters, and crew. Administration of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) Grayfox unit for Grayfox crew administered by the Magellan system is more developed. Additional progress has been achieved with administration record keeping and documentation, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), project plans, work repair records, and ship logbooks. Insurance is provided by USLI, NSCC for Cadets and crew, and Hold Harmless Agreements. All of this is required for USCG certification.

Financial planning and controls are firmly in place and an annual budget was prepared and approved. Detailed financial record keeping of ship maintenance and repairs is in place. Financial records and ledgers for 2019 were closed. Griffin Accounting will complete the 2019 tax filing. We have an excellent track record of administration.

The Grayfox crew completed numerous projects and community service events. The ship participated in Port Huron community fairs and open house events, Blessing of the Fleet and Navy League Sunday at Mariners Church, Tourist in Your Own Town, Art in the City, Boats for Vets, Great Lakes Memorial Service, etc. The River Walk development increased traffic for ship visitors and sight-seeing. The Grayfox Assn acquired a 38ft



Double Cabin boat for additional training and cruised from Grosse Pointe. This was used to take 12 Veterans out during Boats for Vets. The Grayfox Assn also maintains a 29ft sailboat for training.

The Grayfox operates as an independent non-profit education organization. The Grayfox leadership team envisions the program to become a self-sufficient training and education program supporting the local community and hosting national events.

The Grayfox Association continues to work with the Bluewater Convention & Visitors Bureau, Desmond Marine, City of Port Huron and the local community to improve the community and visitor experience. We are a member of the Bluewater Chamber of Commerce.

The prospects for 2020 are more promising. The pursuit of USCG certification will continue with the shipyard period. The volunteer organization is much stronger with younger volunteers taking an active role. Business and vendor relations are excellent. The Grayfox reputation is excellent and confidence that the program will succeed contributes to its attraction.

Since 1997, the Grayfox has been committed to providing American youth with a drug and alcohol-free environment to foster their leadership abilities, broaden their horizons through hands-on training and guide them to becoming mature young adults. Grayfox crew complete Darkness to Light, for responsible youth training.

We encourage you to visit the Grayfox website at www.nscsgrayfox.org or contact us at nscsgrayfox@gmail.com or 586-825-3706. Better still, visit the ship and watch the Cadets and crew in action. We sincerely thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

JM Semerad

Captain Jim Semerad
Commanding Officer