



# I Want to Help But I Don't Know How...



by VINCENT PICA

CHIEF OF STAFF, FIRST DISTRICT, SOUTHERN REGION (D1SR)  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Hello! I am Vincent Pica. As you can tell from the title, I am responsible for running a component of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, the volunteer arm of United States Coast Guard Forces.

Many people have an urge or calling to serve. They think about ways that they can, on their own terms and on a time and schedule that works for them, contribute to their Country and to their community, especially if they can have fun doing it and be recognized for whatever they do put in to it. The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary was created by an act of Congress back in 1939 when threatening storm clouds of national concern were looming on the horizon. Today, more than 32,000 American patriots are volunteer members of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary performing virtually every mission of the regular Coast Guard except those dealing with law enforcement and military action. If it doesn't need a weapon, you'll find Auxiliarists volunteering to do it.

Currently, as in 1939, there are concerns for the future security of America, and as part of the Department of Homeland Security, Auxiliarists contribute to the protection of our waters and our way of life. In addition, Auxiliarists undertake a great many missions that fall under the domain of the US Coast Guard but which do not have such high-level national impact thereby freeing active-duty itself to concentrate on such matters. Auxiliary



missions have historically included teaching Boating Safety to the Public, performing Vessel Examinations, and undertaking Operational Patrols of our waterways. Today there are a great many additional missions that are added to that list including Aviation, Cooking, Radio Watch Standing, Translation Services, and Public Affairs, just to name a few.

**Membership is open to all individuals who:**

- Are American Citizens.
- Are 17 Years of Age or Older (no upper limit).
- Have no Felony Convictions.
- Are Willing and Able to Volunteer to Serve their Community and Country.

You need not own or be a maven with a boat; in fact, you can be a great contributor without ever being on the water. The Auxiliary will provide free training in a great many subject matters. You are welcome to participate in any of the missions that interest you, to the levels and timings of participation that suit your personal schedule. Some worry about it being expensive. Annual dues are \$50. That's about \$4/month. Uniforms are available at low-cost and every penny you spend is tax-deductible. And, if you offer your boat for use by the USCGAux, your mission-related fuel use is reimbursed, 100%. Some worry that you will need a tremendous time commitment. You don't need gobs of time. Give us 12 hours a summer in crew time and you will be in continuous good standing. Only two hours if you want to teach seamanship, rather than practice it. I warn you though. There is so much enjoyment and satisfaction in this role that you will give well more than that.

This will only be the Land of the Free if it is also the Home of the Brave. Serve your Nation. Serve your Neighbors. On your terms. Be brave. Get in this thing.

So, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at [JoinUSCGAux@aol.com](mailto:JoinUSCGAux@aol.com) or go direct to the D1SR Human Resources department, who are in charge of new members matters, at DSO-HR and we will help you "get in this thing..."



## County Clerk Update

by SUFFOLK COUNTY CLERK

JUDY PASCALE

### COUNTY CLERKS LOBBY IN ALBANY

Suffolk County Clerk Judith Pascale recently attended the New York State Association of County Clerks (NYSACC) Annual meeting in Albany to discuss important issues and legislation affecting County Clerks.

Several important County Clerk related issues were discussed and several key pieces of legislation were highlighted as part of the NYSACC legislative agenda, including matters related to Freedom of Information Laws and the recording of mortgage documents, and court cases. The NYSACC conference also provides County Clerks a great opportunity to meet with their respective state representatives and discuss pending legislation.

"The Office of County Clerk has evolved from a stamp and file office to what will eventually be a paperless environment. Over the next five years we will have seen greater changes in the way we do business than the past one hundred years combined," commented County Clerk Pascale.

Over the last several years, the New York State Legislature has enacted laws that call for the electronic filing of Supreme Court cases as well as the electronic recording of land records. While neither is required by law in Suffolk County yet, the ground work is being laid to prepare for its eventual implementation. Both programs will offer costs savings to the County and create greater work efficiencies for all those utilizing the County Clerk's Office.

"County Clerks throughout the State have maintained an excellent relationship with the State Legislature. Working closely with the Long Island delegation in Albany, I'm confident we will continue to put forward cost saving measures that are in the best interests of our mutual constituents," concluded Pascale.



Assemblyman Dean Murray, Senator Lee Zeldin, County Clerk Judy Pascale, Assemblyman Dan Losquadro, Assemblyman Phil Boyle.

## Insurance Talk with Tom Neppell

• by TOM NEPELL [tneppell@industrialcoverage.com](mailto:tneppell@industrialcoverage.com) • 631-736-7500 X 129

### How Can I Save Money On Auto Insurance? Part 2

Last week I discussed several ways to help you save money on auto insurance. Following are a few more suggestions:

1) Buy Your Homeowners and Auto Coverage from the Same Insurer: many insurers will give you a break if you buy two or more types of insurance. You may also get a reduction if you have more than one vehicle insured with the same company. Some insurers reduce the rates for long-time customers. But it still makes sense to shop around! You may save money buying from different insurance companies, compared with a multi-policy discount.

2) Maintain a Good Credit Record: establishing a solid credit history can cut your insurance costs. Most insurers use credit information to price auto insurance policies. Research shows that people who effectively manage their credit have fewer claims. To protect your credit standing, pay your bills on time, don't obtain more credit than you need and keep your credit balances as low as possible. Check your credit record on a regular basis and have any errors corrected promptly so that your record remains accurate.

3) Take Advantage of Low Mileage Discounts: some companies offer discounts to motorists who drive a lower than average number of miles per year. Low mileage discounts can also apply to drivers who car pool to work.

4) Ask About Group Insurance: some companies offer reductions to drivers who get insurance through a group plan from their employers, through professional, business and alumni groups or from other associations. Ask your employer and inquire with groups or clubs you are a member of to see if this is possible.

5) Seek Out Other Discounts: companies offer discounts to policyholders who have not had any accidents or moving violations for a number of years. You may also get a discount if you take a defensive driving course. If there is a young driver on the policy who is a good student, has taken a drivers education course or is away at college without a car, you may also qualify for a lower rate.

To recap these last two articles to try to save money on your auto insurance premium, when you comparison shop, inquire about discounts for the following:\*

Antitheft devices; auto & homeowners with the same company; college students away from home; defensive driving courses; drivers ed courses; good credit record; higher deductibles; low annual mileage; long-time customer; more than 1 car; no accidents in 3 years; no moving violations in 3 years; student drivers with good grades.

\*The discounts listed may not be available in all states or from all insurance companies.

The key to savings is not the discounts, but the final price. A company that offers few discounts may still have a lower overall price.

Source: Insurance Information Institute