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The Grayfox Association

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From: Commanding Officer, NSCS Grayfox TWR 825

SUBJ: NSCS GRAYFOX TWR 825 ANNUAL REPOR FOR 2014

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. We continue to upgrade the Grayfox program to train Cadets.

The challenges in 2014 were with the transition and reorganization of the Grayfox program with the passing of Capt William Barnhardt in late 2013. The Board of Governors determined to continue the program. With this included the update of all of the organization and finance administration process and procedures and the pursuit of US Coast Guard vessel certification. Vessel certification has been a requirement for the Sea Cadet training ships since 2008. The 2008 recession, U.S. government sequester, government shutdown, and defense budget cuts place extraordinary pressure on the operation and funding of the Grayfox program. Training had come to a halt in 2012.

Year 2014 saw a vigorous program of reorganization. Many of the accomplishments are outlined in Attachment A.

A new organization, The Grayfox Association, was created which updated the existing non-profit organization documentation with the IRS and State of Michigan. All administration and finance accounts for the last few years were audited and updated, as were all vendor accounts. The Grayfox was transferred from Navy Sea Cadet Corps to The Grayfox Association, an incorporated non-profit 501 c 3. The organization achieved a clean administrative and financial bill of health.

The St Clair Community Foundation oversees the Port Huron waterfront. It endeavored a makeover of the waterfront area. A lease agreement was created for the Grayfox pier area. The Grayfox responsibility included removable of the storage shed and cleanup of the area. The pier, a former railroad ramp, was raised and leveled and a new wooden deck and railings installed. All power cables were buried and new DTE Energy cables and meters installed. An access ramp was constructed, native plants and grasses were cultivated along the shoreline, and a walking path constructed. Several follow on projects remain in the 3 year plan with shared responsibility between the St Clair Community Foundation and The Grayfox Association.

US Coast Guard certification was initiated in February 2014. The US Coast Guard inspection team performed a courtesy evaluation in March. This served to prepare work



schedules for the ship and crew. An underwater survey was completed of the hull. Project plans were prepared for USCG certification, general repairs, shipyard work, and pier improvements. General clean-up of the ship was completed and discrepancies noted. Sea trials were performed to exercise all equipment and discrepancies noted. A baseline inventory was completed of ship assets. More than 200 ship drawings were scanned and catalogued. Online and paper files were inventoried, catalogued, and updated. A website was created. A clear picture of the current state of the Grayfox emerged. Action plans were prepared and work commenced. At year end, the Grayfox completed nearly all USCG action items, except tonnage measurement and shipyard inspection.

The Grayfox organization capitalized on volunteers and Cadets to complete numerous projects, from cleaning to repairs. Two (2) of three (3) NSCC summer training sessions were conducted, although while the ship was shore side. The ship travelled to Detroit for Navy League Sunday to exercise and test the operation of equipment. The ship participated in Port Huron community fairs and open house events. Sea Cadet, NJROTC, active and Reserve Navy and Coast Guard participated so that all external and internal spaces received attention. Refer to Attachment A for an outline of work completed.

The prospects for 2015 are more promising. The volunteer organization is much stronger with new younger volunteers taking an active role. With the organization administration much better documented, the prospects for financial support have improved. Business and vendor relations are very good. The Grayfox reputation has improved and confidence that the program will succeed contributes to its attraction. The volunteer crew and community is encouraged and confident that USCG certification as a passenger vessel is achievable in 2015.

With USCG certification, the vessel will be certified as a passenger vessel under 100 tons. The Grayfox will operate as an independent non-profit education organization. This expands the opportunities for the Grayfox to train youth and adults, sponsor ship cruises, conduct dive training expeditions, support summer events in Port Huron, host passenger cruises, conduct open ship receptions and tours, and a host of other activities. The Grayfox leadership team envisions the program to become a self-sufficient training and education program supporting the local community and hosting national events.

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

Jim Semerad
Commanding Officer