



## The Grayfox Association

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From: Commanding Officer, NSCS Grayfox TWR 825

SUBJ: NSCS GRAYFOX TWR 825 ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

We have exciting news to share for 2017. Year 2017 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.

Over the last 4 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 log books. 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 2016 were closed. Griffin Accounting completed the 2016 tax filing. We have an excellent track record of administration.

US Coast Guard certification was initiated with a request in February 2014. Major milestones remaining include engineering drawing review, load line, stability test, and shipyard inspection. We are in maintenance mode for vessel documentation, FCC license, beacon registration, and fire and safety. In March 2017, the USCG HQ responded to our application for inspection as a 224 Ton vessel under Subchapter H. The message included a list of drawings for engineering review and the conclusion that Grayfox cannot meet the Subchapter H requirements. USCG HQ recommended submission of a waiver application to the Commandant of the USCG to be evaluated as a Subchapter T, 100 ton Small Passenger Vessel. The application was submitted in June, and the approval was received on November 28, 2017. We may now proceed with the engineering drawing review as a Small Passenger Vessel 100 Ton with the USCG Marine Safety Office in Detroit and USCG Headquarters. The Grayfox operates as a private vessel ensuring safety measures are in place and fully compliant.



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, Navy League Sunday, Tourist in Your Own Town, Art in the City, Algonac Museum 25 year Anniversary, Boats for Vets, Great Lakes Memorial Service, etc. The River Walk development increased traffic for ship visitors and sight-seeing.

Significant projects included; painted the Starboard ship hull, topside preservation, Bridge preservation, Aft Berthing and head paint and repairs. power washed and cleaned the Lazarette, Refer to Attachment A for a detailed list of work completed.

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 St Clair Community Foundation, Bluewater Chamber of Commerce, Bluewater Convention & Visitors Bureau, Desmond Marine, Acheson Ventures, City of Port Huron and the local community to improve the community and visitor experience.

The prospects for 2018 are more promising. The pursuit of USCG certification will continue with the engineering drawing review. The volunteer organization is much stronger with younger volunteers taking an active role. Business and vendor relations are excellent. The Grayfox reputation has improved 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.

We encourage you to visit the Grayfox website at [www.nscsgrayfox.org](http://www.nscsgrayfox.org) or contact us at [nscsgrayfox@gmail.com](mailto: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