

To: Members of District 5

Date: 29 July 2022

From: D/C Stephanie Ward, AP

Subject: Commander's Report to ABC - MidAtlantic Summer Council

Greetings everyone! I hope you all are having a safe and enjoyable summer. I would like to invite you to the 2022 ABC-MidAtlantic Summer Council at the beautiful Rock Hall Landing Marina in beautiful Rock Hall, Maryland, "The Pearl of the Chesapeake." Special thanks to event chair John O'Reilly for organizing this wonderful event along with all of those who have volunteered their time to make this such a success. While we've had several other conferences since Covid restrictions have been lifted, this is the first on-the-water event and I'm excited to see our members enjoy what this organization is all about. As an added incentive, your Bridge will be serving as grill masters at Friday's lunch!

As the Commanders and Executive Officers know, I hold a monthly call to update on National and District activities and share ideas, and I'm very impressed by what is happening in our Clubs and Squadrons. We are hard at work publicizing America's Boating Club, with activities including participation in parades, conducting the Jump Start program, using the Simulator with our partner West Marine, exhibiting at boat shows and even at local Farmer's Markets! All of this has had a positive impact on our membership goals.

I know that many of you of received an outreach by Miles Gee asking for your input on the Reorganization efforts. While the proposal for disbanding of Districts has been eliminated for now, there are a number of other proposals that are being considered and it's important to make your opinions known. Please consider participating in this valuable endeavor. While change is always a little scary, it can also bring good results if managed appropriately. We as the members should be driving this change – top up, not top down!

As your Club plans its summer activities, please make sure to share theses on the District website so others can participate; one thing we've found is there's

strength in numbers and we want to ensure that everyone can share in the fun! One event I'm very familiar with is the Delaware River Educational Cruise, hosted by ABC – Delaware Valley. This will be held on August 17th and is always a popular event. Please continue to share your social, educational and civic activities. I know there are other Clubs doing things and as Covid restrictions continue to ease, I'm optimistic that we will be able to increase our organizational and public events and visibility.

Also important is to have your events represented in local media. Do outreach prior to the event so you have a relationship already established with your newspapers.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy summer and look forward to seeing you all in Rock Hall!

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Ward, AP