

Report to EXCOM, March 14, 2011

In light of the extreme tragedy this weekend with the earthquake in Japan as well as the severe damage along the California coastline, let me bring some lighter news for your day. Effective **Sunday** March 13th, District Eleven North accomplished the initial steps of the Aux Chef program. At this time, the five instructor trainees completed the requirements to become Aux Chef's as well as instructors for our district.

While there is NO good time for any tragedy, the fact that this Coast Guard Coastal concerns triggered standby alert, it also gave our district an outstanding start to the Aux-Chef program. The galley at Yerba Buena Island traditionally closes at noon on **Friday** and from that point through **Sunday** night goes on "light" duty with only cafe style - phone order service.

Due to the standby alert, the galley was required to go full operational over the weekend. It was clear that few were ready for that and as a result, our Auxiliarists were put to work immediately as fill-ins for shortage and rather than start our evening class at 1700 hrs., all the class participants immediately went to the galley. The majority of task that we completed were mainly aiding the washing of pots and pans, dishes, and cleaning dining room areas. We did not start our class room requirements until a couple of hours after due start time. From that point on we were very active at all meals preparing, serving, and assisting the galley. In fact, we spent so much time in hands-on assistance that all participants totally completed all PQS requirements of the course, which typically is done over a period of several visits to a galley.

This clearly was a sign that the Auxiliarists representing our District Eleven and the Aux Chef program erased any doubt in the minds of the gold-side that questioned our purpose, mission, and use of this program. It was VERY WELL accepted by the time we concluded on **Sunday**.

I will make a more full report later when our immediate attention eases from current issues. However, I wanted to pass this information onto you all and let you all know that you can and should be proud of the accomplishments of these fine volunteers who gave more of themselves, both financially as well as hours of service.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Thomas