CEO Corner // Message from RADM Cari Thomas

Summer is here. My garden is bursting with tomatoes, zucchini, squash, peppers and herbs! What is great about summertime where you are? The CG Festival will be back in Grand Haven this year, Coast Guardsmen will be marching in parades in cities like Cape May, and boats will be in parades all over the country like Alameda and Fort Lauderdale. Air Shows are back this year, and you can expect Coast Guard planes and helicopters in places like Dayton, Cocoa Beach, Long Island and many many more.

At CGMA we are excited with a flurry of activity. Our office is transitioning from 100% remote to a hybrid model, and it is working very well for us. The same great service and connectivity is available to our Reps and clients, but it is good to be together for the creativity and comradery of our 10 person staff! If you think of it, our staff size is smaller than an 87’ patrol boat crew!

With summer come PCS Transfer and Hurricane Season. Both keep us very busy as we support clients with the expected and unexpected circumstances that accompany both scenarios. I am excited for you to read more about the Distinguished Public Service award and the various ways we honored those who have stood in solidarity with us as we yet again, historically, served the Coast Guard community during the COVID pandemic.

Keep in touch and remember to wear your sunscreen!

Cari B. Thomas
RADM Cari B. Thomas, USCG (Ret.)
Chief Executive Officer

CGMA receives the Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service Award

Congratulations are in order! CGMA was given the Distinguished Public Service Award at our recent annual meeting and we wanted you to know.

Really and truly it’s because of you, TOGETHER we ensure that Coastguardsmen never face financial difficulties alone.

Photo Left: Ms Gwendolyn Fouch, CGMA Office Manager holds citation for Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service Award presented to CGMA at Mutual Assistance Annual Meeting.

Mutual Assistance made a bold choice. We are convinced that Coasties are worth it, worth stretching and doing what we can, when we can. So springing into action during COVID-19 and starting 6 new programs and enhancing others, CGMA provided a whopping $4.2 million dollars. All told in 2021, Mutual Assistance gave a total of $9.1 million in assistance;
$5.7 in grants. That's the most assistance CGMA has given in a year and the highest total for grants given. Ever.

In recognition of its historic effort, Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) was presented with the Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service Award for the organization’s extraordinary response during the 35-day partial government shutdown and the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating steadfast support of the entire Coast Guard Community.

COVID-19 related assistance: introduced eight temporary assistance programs designed to widen the financial safety net for the Coast Guard community, providing $4.2 million to 6,188 Coast Guard families.

During 2019 Department of Homeland Security lapse in appropriations: provided $8.4 million in financial assistance to over 6,200 Coast Guard members and families in just 35 days—breaking all previous records of support.

"During times of uncertainty throughout America’s history, our Coast Guard continues to perform critical missions that protect our national interests, promote economic prosperity, and ensure public safety; Mutual Assistance has stood by us throughout all these challenging endeavors," Admiral Karl L. Schultz, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard summarized when presenting the award.

CGMA Annual Meeting Awardees

CGMA Annual Meeting is a chance to publicly celebrate the unique efforts of the last year and the wonderful people that contributed to the success of our missional efforts.

At the 2021 Annual Meeting, CGMA honored two years worth of award recipients since we were delayed due to the pandemic from hosting an in-person meeting during 2020.

Watch our Year in Review video. There are so many great highlights and milestones that we want to celebrate with you!

We are making great strides for our strategic initiative to make CGMA #evenbetter through the amazing support and valuable investment of time and resources by these great partners!
Meet our 2021 Award Recipients

Beyond the unique challenges caused by the pandemic, 2020 was an exceptional year for disaster response by CGMA. Petty Officer Matthew Hines, assigned to Base Miami, stands out among his peers for his boundless energy in responding to the need for disaster relief throughout the Gulf Coast. Petty Officer Hines disbursed over a half million dollars in response to damage inflicted by hurricanes LAURA, MARCO, SALLY and ETA. As a member of the Personnel Support Teams deployed in the aftermath of these storms, he provided tremendous outreach to affected personnel.

“What CGMA Ambassador of the year means to me: People may see it as the personal award that it is, but I see $500,000+ in assistance distributed to hundreds of families, lives changed and that’s hard for me to articulate.

CGMA Ambassador is tremendous personal achievement, helping shipmates is extremely rewarding and I’m honored to be recognized. Having the ability to hand out money to members & families on the spot after a disaster is a truly wonderful feeling that this unique collateral provides.”

YN1 Matthew Hines
CGMA Representative
2021 CGMA Ambassador of the Year

The 2021 Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Values Pennant was presented to FedPoint. This award recognizes the effort of an organization that significantly promotes CGMA's mission or engages with CGMA in an activity that reflects the highest values of Helping Our Own.
As an organization, FedPoint, provided significant support to promoted CGMA’s timely and essential disaster and emergency relief programs to the clients we serve and was instrumental in Mutual Assistance's ability to complete our mission. By supporting the CGMA Invitational, FedPoint has enhanced CGMA’s ability to provide support to all of our Coast Guard communities.

The 2021 CGMA “So Others Might Live” award was presented to the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association.

This award recognizes the effort of an individual or organizations who can truly be called a friend of CGMA. It is given to those who provide their own brand of unusual and unique support to the mission of Helping Our Own.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Association and its members are given this award in recognition of their compassionate and generous response in the face of a tragic circumstance. In the wake of one of the most devastating events, when Coast Guard families were faced with a maelstrom of tragedy, the Auxiliary Association, responded, as they always do, with the most charitable of instincts. Partnering with CGMA, they helped provide grants directly to those families severely impacted by a fire in the Cape Hatteras housing development.

Normally mild and temperate weather with lots of rain is the hallmark of the Seattle climate, but this fair city is experiencing an unusual heatwave.

CGMA is ready to support Coast Guard members and their families during these weather anomalies. Whether it’s a wildfire, hurricane, tornado, or winter storm, CGMA’s Disaster and Emergency assistance programs are geared to getting swift support when and where it’s needed most.

CGMA Disaster Assistance is already being provided to those in the Seattle area facing needs for temporary housing, transportation, or another related needs. Your donation will accelerate this response for this and other disaster emergencies. With help you, our incredible donors, CGMA is ready to serve the Coast Guard community every day.
You can make sure CGMA is Semper Paratus for the task at hand!

Give Help. This good work is made possible by generous donors like you!

Get Help. Need assistance? Talk to your local CGMA Representative.

DONATE - GIVE HELP

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