

# Benefits of Membership

A magazine for Coast Guard Auxiliary members Second Quarter | 2021



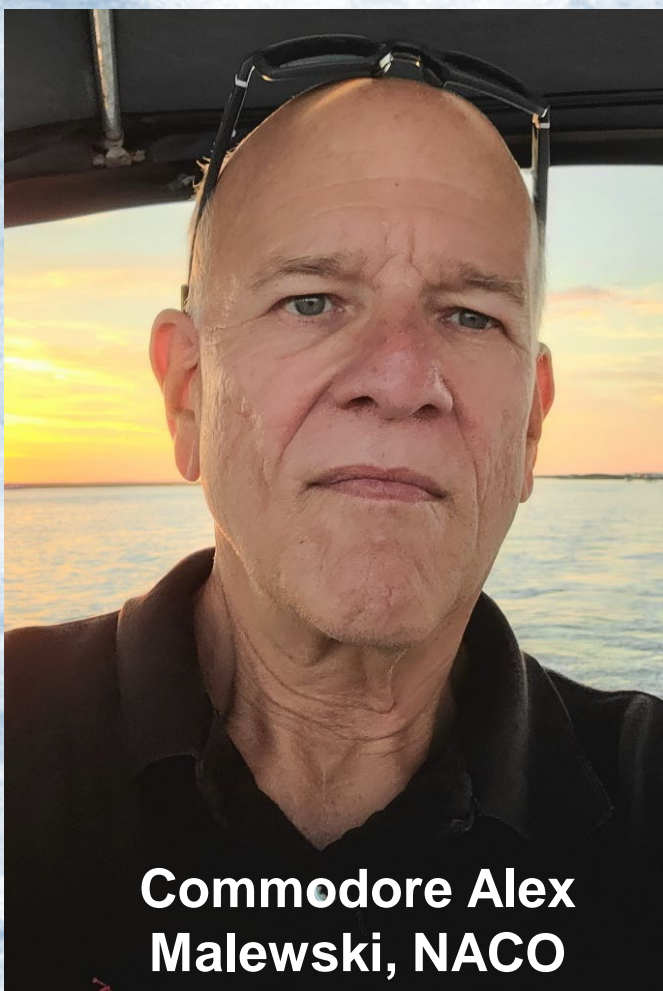
Lights – Camera – “Epic”  
The doors are opening up for you.



NACON 2021  
Rosen Centre - Orlando  
August 16-21







**Commodore Alex Malewski, NACO**

# NACON - We're back, with a vengeance.

The USCG Auxiliary traditionally holds two national events a year. The National Convention (NACON) in August and National Training (NTRAIN) in January. NACON 2020 and NTRAIN 2021 were both canceled as a result of COVID 19 but the Auxiliary will be meeting in person again this August in Orlando, Florida. This past Memorial Day Americans got back on the road and some news outlets referred to the large numbers traveling as "Revenge Travel." I think "Revenge" has a negative connotation and NACON is anything but negative but I will say that the Auxiliary will be back with a vengeance.

## This year NACON will be epic.

We will do our best to make up for what we missed this past year and add new training and events. We will recognize Commodore Larry King's service as National Commodore and present a number of the major awards that were scheduled to be awarded last year. Specialized First Aid training known as "Stop the Bleed" will be given and there will be special presentations for Women in Leadership. As usual we will have a number of C-Schools that are already fully booked. In past years District Staff Officers from two to three disciplines were brought to NTRAIN in January for training but none were brought to NACON. This year we will bring the DSOs to NACON for Information Services (IS), International Affairs (IA), Public Education (PE), Vessel Examination (VE), Marine Safety (MS) and Emergency Management (EM) for specialized training and presentations that they can bring back to their Districts.

I am very excited about the international interest in this year's event. Normally representatives of the Coast Guard Auxiliaries from a number of countries attend including the Philippines, Australia and the Dominican Republic. This year not only have the Philippines, Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Denmark, Japan, Korea and the Kingdom of Tonga expressed an interest in attending but members of the Active-Duty Coast Guard of Japan, Korea and the Philippines have

requested information about the event and are considering attending.

The best part of NACON however will be the Fellowship. Fellowship is one of the four Cornerstones of the Auxiliary and it has been sorely lacking for the past fifteen months. Virtual Cocktail parties are great but there is nothing like getting together in person. Besides, I hate drinking alone. The Auxiliary has stepped up during the pandemic and with a combination of virtual meetings, phone calls and other methods has done an amazing job of staying relevant and accomplishing its missions under difficult circumstances but at last we have the opportunity to get back together, in person, and enjoy Fellowship that is so important to the success of our organization. So why not get back on the road, take a trip to Orlando and attend the National Convention of the best volunteer organization in the world. The event is held at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida and we get a reduced rate of \$111.00 per night. Bring the spouse and kids, you can always visit "Mickey".

Visit the NACON Website at <https://www.cgauxa.org/nacon-2021.html> for details about registration, schedules and hotel info. Don't wait, the first block of rooms has already sold out.

See you in Orlando!  
Semper Paratus



**Plan a Road Trip  
to NACON 2021**

BOM BOM BOM BOM BOM BOM BOM BOM BOM BOM BOM BOM BOM BOM BOM BOM





# NACON 2021

## August 16 – 21, 2021

### Public Schedule of Events

### “Ready, Resourceful, Resilient”

#### Monday, August 16, 2021

Travel Day – ANACOs, DIRs, DIR-ds, ASOC’s and Instructors, Auxiliary Clergy Support Program

0800 - 1130 NEXCOM Meeting

**1130 - 1300 LUNCH**

1300 - 1730 NEXCOM Meeting (Closed)

1730 - Dinner (on your own)

**“NACON Shatters the Glass Ceiling”**  
**Commodore Gus Formato, VNACO**

#### Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Travel Day – DIRAUXs, P-NAC, DCOs, DCOSs,

0800 - 1130 NEXCOM Meeting (Closed)

0800 - 1130 ASOC (DCOSs, DIRs)

0800 - 1130 Auxiliary Clergy Support (ACS) Program

0800 - 1130 ANACOs meet with DIR-ds

ANACO - Response & Prevention

ANACO - Recreational Boating

ANACO - Force Com

ANACO - Planning & Performance

ANACO - Information Technology

**1130 - 1300 Lunch (on your own)**

1300 - 1730 ASOC (DCOSs, DIRs)

1300 - 1730 Auxiliary Clergy Support (ACS) Program

1300 - 1730 DNACOs Join with Staff (ANACOs, and DIR-ds)

DNACO – Operations

DNACO - Recreational Boating Safety

DNACO - Mission Supports

DNACO - Planning & Performance & Information Technology

1730 - Dinner (on your own)

#### Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Travel Day – OTOs, BSX Staff, ANACO-CF, ANACO DV

0800 - 1130 Auxiliary Clergy Support (ACS) Program

0800 - 1130 Committee of the Whole (Open to all)

**1130 - 1300 Lunch (on your own)**

1300 - 1730 Staff Training – Staff Training (ANACOs, DIR-ds)

1300 - 1730 ASOC (DCOSs, DIRs)

1300 - 1730 Auxiliary Clergy Support (ACS) Program

1300 - 1600 NACO/VNACO with DCOs and DCOSs, P-NAC

1300 - 1730 DNACOs Join with Staff (ANACOs, DIR-ds)

DNACO – Operations

DNACO Recreational Boating Safety

DNACO - Mission Supports

DNACO - Planning & Performance & Information Technology

1600 - 1800 Aviation Roundtable

**Wednesday, August 18, 2021 Cont.**

1630 – 1730 Q & A with CHDIRAUX and BSX – open to all members  
1730 - Dinner (on your own)

**Thursday, August 19, 2021**

Travel Day – PNACOs by 1700, General Attendees and Speakers DSO travel

0800 - 1130 CHDIRAUX Forum (DIRAUXs, OTOs)  
0800 - 1130 Directors Council (DIRs, DIR-ds)  
0800 - 1130 National Executive Staff Council (ANACOs and ANACO-ds)  
0800 - 1130 Auxiliary Clergy Support (ACS) Program  
0800 - 1130 DNACO meetings with DCOs, DCOSs  
Atlantic West  
Atlantic East  
Pacific  
**1130 - 1300 Lunch (on your own)**  
1300 - 1730 OPCOM (Open to all)  
1300 - 1730 AUX-04 Distance Education Tech Training – Basic  
1300 - 1730 Auxiliary Clergy Support (ACS) Program  
1300 - 1730 OTO  
1730 - Dinner (on your own)

**Friday, August 20, 2021**

Travel Day – DSO MS

0800 - 1015 National Board Meeting Opening Ceremonies (Open to All)  
**1015 - 1030 Coffee Break**  
1030 - 1130 DSO Information System (Closed session)  
1030 - 1130 DSO International Affairs (Open to All)  
1030 - 1130 DSO Public Education (Open to All)  
1030 - 1130 DSO Vessel Examination (Open to All)  
1030 - 1130 DSO Marine Safety (Open to All)  
1030 - 1130 DSO Emergency Management (Open to All)  
1030 - 1130 National Board Meeting (Open to All)  
**1130 - 1300 Lunch (on your own)**  
**1130 - 1300 International Luncheon – Open to all attendees**  
**(NACO, VNACO, DNACOs, and FLAGS to attend)**  
1300 - 1430 National Board meeting (Open to All)  
1300 - 1730 DSO Information System (Closed session)  
1300 - 1730 DSO International Affairs (Open to All)  
1300 - 1730 DSO Public Education (Open to All)  
1300 - 1730 DSO Vessel Examination (Open to All)  
1300 - 1730 DSO Marine Safety (Open to All)  
1300 - 1130 DSO Emergency Management (Open to All)  
1300 - 1130 Academy Admissions Partner Program  
1445 - 1515 PNACO Briefing  
1445 – 1700 DNACOs Join with Staff (ANACOs, DIR-ds)

“The best part of NACON however will be the Fellowship. Fellowship is one of the four Cornerstones of the Auxiliary and it has been sorely lacking for the past fifteen months.” **COMO Alex Malewski**





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## Commodore Gus Formato, VNACO



“NACON Shatters the  
Glass Ceiling”

### There's A New Dawn

As a nation, we are on the verge of breaking the back of this pandemic.

We have quarantined, social distanced, masked up and have used gallons of hand sanitizer and disinfectant. We all keep PPE close at hand.

And now as more and more members have vaccines available to them and restrictions fall by the wayside, we find the Auxiliary poised to return to what we do best, support the Coast Guard.

We've taken AUXOP courses and workshops virtually. We've met via ZOOM and Microsoft Teams. We interviewed prospective members across the hoods of cars to remain socially distant and through it all managed to recruit 1300 new members.

We've held our OPCOM and National Board meetings virtually and live streamed them to every member who wish to view.

The adjustments we have made to remain relevant during all of this have taught us so much and as this new dawn approaches, not only are we a ready workforce, but we are a smarter and much cleverer workforce. We are a Coast Guard Auxiliary who can turn no into perhaps and perhaps into yes.

Through this crisis, we found an opportunity to shine. We have reinvented ourselves over the past 16 months to adapt to the Coast Guards changing needs.

Auxiliarists made masks on their home sewing machines, they prepared countless meals for our active-duty brothers and sisters, in addition to instructing boating safety virtually and serving as interpreters. Our medical staff have augmented active-duty staff on bases, Cutters and at our southern border.

Through all of this we have demonstrated our resolve and our commitment to the Coast Guard, as well as this great nation of ours and we stand ready for this new dawn and whatever tomorrow may bring.

Semper Paratus

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to NACON 2021

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According to many 2021 travel trend reports, some pandemic-era habits from last year show no signs of slowing down. Most will continue to travel domestically, take road trips, explore small towns and take scenic drives to nearby lakes, beaches and explore the great outdoors. With 59% of families reporting that they are more likely to drive instead of fly, 2021 will be another year filled with road trips.<sup>1</sup>

Plan your next getaway and enjoy the open road with deals from your [AuxA](#) Avis and Budget Car Rental Savings Program. Members can save up to 30% off base rates on every rental, plus receive additional offers like dollars off, a complimentary upgrade or a free weekend day.

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<sup>1</sup> [VRBO Trend Report](#)

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**Friday, August 20, 2021 Cont.**

- DNACO - Operations
- DNACO - Recreational Boating Safety
- DNACO - Mission Supports
- DNACO - Planning & Performance & Information Technology
- 1730 - 1830 Fellowship and Cash Bar
- 1830 - 2200 Fourth Cornerstone Dinner
- PATRIOTIC “ MASK” ARADE LEMONADE BALL”

**Saturday, August 21, 2021**

- Travel Award Recipients for Banquet, Presentation Speakers for Awards
- 0800 - 1130 National Board Meeting (Open to All)
- 0800 - 1130 DSO Information System (Closed session)
- 0800 - 1130 DSO International Affairs (Open to All)
- 0800 - 1130 DSO Public Education (Open to All)
- 0800 - 1130 DSO Vessel Examination (Open to All)
- 0800 - 1130 DSO Marine Safety (Open to All)
- 0800 - 1130 DSO Emergency Management (Open to All)
- 0800 - 1130 International Roundtable
- 1130 - 1300 Lunch (on your own)
- 1130 - 1300 NAC Luncheon – Open to all Attendees
- (Current and Past Commodores, NEXCOM CG Flags to attend)
- 1300 - 1400 Coast Guard Academy Families (Open to All)
- 1300 - 1730 DSO Information System (Open to All)
- 1300 - 1730 DSO International Affairs (Open to All)
- 1300 - 1730 DSO Public Education (Open to All)
- 1300 - 1730 DSO Vessel Examination (Closed Session)
- 1300 - 1730 DSO Marine Safety (Open to All)
- 1300 - 1730 DSO Emergency Management (Open to All)
- 1300 - 1730 International Roundtable
- 1300 - 1415 Leading the Auxiliary (DCOs only)
- 1300 - 1415 Women’s Leadership Initiative (Open to All)
- 1300 - 1415 Stop the Bleed (NACO, VNACO, DNACO, ANACO, DCOs)
- 1430 - 1545 Women’s Leadership Initiative (Open to All)
- 1430 - 1545 Stop the Bleed (NACO, VNACO, DNACO, ANACO, DCOs)
- 1300 - 1400 Wrap up meeting (NACO, VNACO, DNACO, N-EA, N-C)
- 1830 – 1930 All Hands Reception and Cash Bar
- 1930 – National Commodore’s Banquet

**Sunday, August 22, 2021**

Travel Day – All except those authorized to remain

**Monday, August 23, 2021**

Travel day for N-Cd and select staff

Recognition of Commodore  
Larry King’s service as  
National Commodore  
Saturday August 21st





Ribbons and Metals <https://auxcen.com/uniforms-uniforms-ribbons-medals/?sort=featured&page=1>





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**Join Costco today. Get a \$20 Costco Shop Card as a new Executive Member. Or, get a \$10 Costco Shop Card as a new Gold Star Member.**





## AuxA Partner Sirius Signal Launches Digital Float Plan

AuxA Partner Profile

By Lou DiGiusto, CMO AuxA

*Editor's note: A key mission for AuxA is to select and establish partnerships with great brands that salute your service in the Coast Guard Auxiliary through benefits they offer to our members. Sirius Signal offers our members a 15% discount on their electronic visual signal SOS products and for each purchase will make a donation to AuxA. Sirius Signal is the first AuxA partner to include AuxA's new campaign "ADD-A-DOLLAR/SAVE-A-LIFE" to the Sirius Signal checkout page on their website. Those dollars are all contributed to AuxA in support of the Auxiliary's RBS mission. Sirius Signal also provides public RBS education by including Auxiliary's RBS messaging on its media platforms "Ask the Commodore."*

"2020 had an incredible impact on the 'Water Sports' industry; recreational boating, kayaking, personal watercraft and all types of paddle craft-sales soared to over 50% increase from 2019. Water Sports provided families with a safe way to enjoy recreation while keeping with social distancing protocols during the pandemic." Said Sirius Signal CEO Anthony Covelli in a recent interview for AuxA. Covelli also said that the tremendous increase in boating, kayaking last year has outpaced the need for fundamental safety training. "I think people buying a boat think 'hey, I can drive a car so I can drive a boat' and during a year where it was tough to join an in-person boating safety class, the gap between owning a boat and getting RBS education became much wider." Said Covelli.

He said that the Coast Guard Auxiliary provides the best opportunity to educate the boating/paddle craft community on fundamental safety on the water. "It's more important now than ever, no organized group can better close the gap than the Coast Guard Auxiliary." He encouraged boaters, kayakers to join the Auxiliary and stressed the need for Auxiliary recruiting efforts.

Steve Caldero, the CMO for Sirius Signal; "Education is the key. There's no 7-Eleven to turn into when I'm on my boat in the San Pedro Channel between LA and Catalina Island."



Sirius Signal key mission mirrors that of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, safety on the water. Their latest product, a smart phone app that will allow boaters/paddle craft participants to easily file a float plan to Coast Guard standards that will aid in taking necessary safety measures. The app is available to all boaters/kayakers. It is compatible with Android 5.0 and up and IOS 13.0 and up.

Features;

1. Files a float plan in just four easy steps. Can remotely activate the C-1002 eVDSD SOS light using your cell phone or smartwatch.
2. Can send the float plan to designated contacts. P-2 Sirius for BOM
3. 911 Emergency messaging allowing boaters to send a distress text message to designated first responders such as USCG or towing service with Google Map position.
4. Every 15 minutes check-in after your plan's ETA.
5. Remote checking on battery status.

[siriusignal.com/application](https://siriusignal.com/application) or call 888-526-0005

Covelli also previewed the transition in RBS from pyro-display signaling (pyro-flares) to electronic display signals such as the eVDSD C-1002 that meets all Coast Guard emergency signaling standards. "I remember, Steve Caldero said, when I ignited a hand-held pyro flare at an Auxiliary training class (before the pandemic) I had never done that before, I couldn't believe the heat, you can't look at it, it's dripping hot chemicals... I thought can you imagine doing this for the first time at night in a rough sea in an emergency?" Many boaters/kayakers are now transitioning away from pyro-display devices (flares) to the much safer, environmentally cleaner, electronic devices.

"We are very excited about the next generation of eVDSD technology that we will announce soon. Our mission at Sirius Signal is that as a boater, or paddle craft participant that you will always be safe, be seen and be found."

AuxA thanks Sirius Signal for its salute to your service in the Coast Guard Auxiliary and for its support of the Auxiliary's RBS mission.



**Sirius Signal gives you the opportunity to submit any questions you have about boating and Paddlecraft safety. [Click Here](#)**

**Commodore Vin Pica of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Answers Your Boating Questions**

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There are a variety of planned events and opportunities to visit with Team Coast Guard members and leadership from around the nation. Meet up with old friends and make some new ones! We haven't seen each other for a while and this will be a great chance to catch up!

# NACON 2021 AUGUST 16-22

“READY, RESOURCEFUL, RESILIENT”



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Friends, family and fellowship all together! Did we mention good food? Don't miss it!



What is your favorite part of NACON? We are looking forward to the annual PATRIOTIC dinner and Lemonade Ball on Friday, August 20th! No need to wear a ball gown or tux! The evening is dedicated to the Red, and Blue in casual, patriotic attire! We cannot wait to see you and your fun outfit!

Fun, fellowship, and learning.







Coast Guard Mutual Assistance

1005 North Glebe Road, Suite 220  
Arlington, VA 22204

10 March 2021

Commodore Pica,

*Vin and all that helped*

I am honored to announce that the Auxiliary Association has been selected as a recipient of the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) So Others May Live award. As an organization, your support has significantly promoted CGMA's timely and essential disaster and emergency relief programs to the clients we serve and has been instrumental in ability to complete our mission of Helping Our Own.

Your support for CGMA's programs had a significant impact in our family outreach and education efforts. Specifically, Operation Extended Hands, the effort to raise monies for the members and families affected by the devastating fire at Station Hatteras Inlet housing complex, provided needed support at a time when tragedy struck. The over \$31,000 raised by Auxiliary members around the Coast Guard paid for funerals, relocation costs, replacement of household goods and personal effects, and other unexpected costs when a fire resulted in the unspeakable loss of three Coast Guard dependents. While the lives affected could never be completely restored, your donations helped ease the pain of the loss felt by the entire local and extended Coast Guard community.

Your efforts have helped CGMA reach a larger segment of the Coast Guard family and reflect credit upon the organization as a Coast Guard community member. I hope that you will be able to join us for our Annual Meeting on 19 April 2021 so that we can provide you with formal recognition. Thank you for your efforts in support of CGMA.

Sincerely,

*Cari Batson Thomas*

Cari Batson Thomas

Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard (Ret)  
Chief Executive Officer, CGMA

Commodore Vincent Pica  
Coast Guard Auxiliary Association  
1302 W First Street, Suite E1  
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**For the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association, help is in your name. We want to honor the CGAuxA commitment to serving others. We're proud to offer secure financial services to those who help keep our coasts and waters safe.**

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# Essentials

Because you're a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association you now have access to exclusive "members only" discounts through a variety of programs like Office Depot and OfficeMax, Lenovo, and more!



Getting Back to Business Reference Guide

[Learn More](#)

\*In order to receive your association discount, account registration must be completed through the above shop online link.

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TO PLAY**



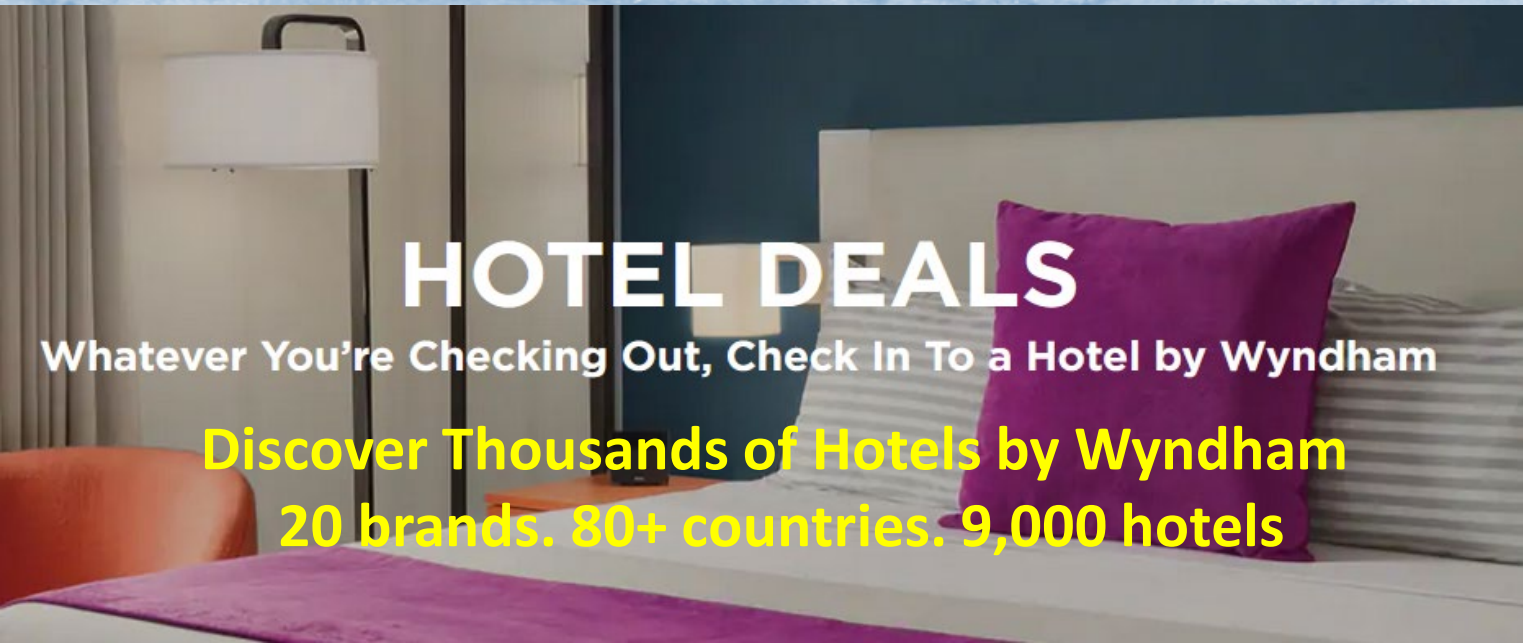


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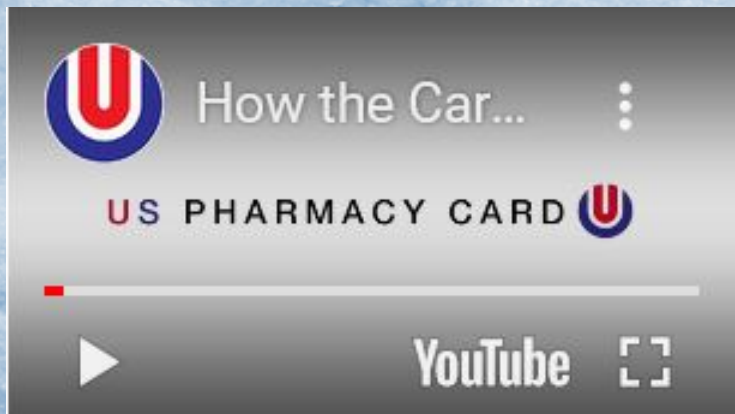


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# MetLife

**You're eligible for preferred pricing on America's #1 pet insurance.**



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AuxA has been given the highest ratings available as a 501-c3 entity that independent rating agency can assign.

[www.cgauxa.org](http://www.cgauxa.org)



## Corporate Matching Gifts

Matching gifts are a type of corporate giving program that can essentially double an employee's initial donation to an eligible nonprofit organization. Companies of all shapes and sizes have created matching gift programs to give back to nonprofits and encourage employee philanthropy.

## Corporate Volunteer Grants

Through volunteer grant programs, a company gives money to nonprofit organizations based on how many hours an employee volunteers. Currently, over 45% percent of Fortune 500 companies offer volunteer grant programs for their employees.



Last year, 91% of our people gave their time, money and talent to the causes they care about. If you are employed, your spouse, your children, or your relatives want to support COAST GUARD AUXILIARY ASSOCIATION INC perhaps they could suggest Benevity. Other sites will be featured in the coming months also.

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The governing body of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association, Inc. is the Board of Directors, which has all powers of governing and directing. The board is charged with overseeing the management of the business and its organizational affairs. The Association's governance principles are found in its formal policies as established in accordance with its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. *THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP* is the official publication of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association, Inc. to provide articles of interest and information to its members.

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