

## **Highlights of the Operation SPLASH Mtg., August 1, 2017**

Rob Weltner announced the passing of Joan Flatley, a long-time active SPLASHER and member of Capt. Kevin O'Toole's Freeport crew for years. She will sadly be missed by many.

Rob announced that Town of Hempstead Supervisor Anthony Santino has agreed to put the two pumpout boats back into the water. One will be located in Zack's Bay and answer to a VHF radio call.

**Senior VP Skip Zawrotny** welcomed Gareth Moore, new captain to the SPLASH port in Freeport.

**First VP Report:** The Town of Hempstead Lido Festival by the Sea will be held on Sept. 23 and 24. Volunteers are needed to man the SPLASH table.

### **Second VP Report:**

1. The P-Tech Group—students from Uniondale, Freeport and Wyandanch—took part in a business skills-building project at a Shark Tank event at SPLASH headquarters.
2. In an effort to gather data needed to help get funding for the remediation of our waterways, water testing by Captains Tom Hogan, Danny Lee and Paul San Paolo and their crews is ongoing through October. Rob Weltner presented plaques to the Adelphi and Cortland University interns, who are also involved in this project.
3. Open Mic Coffee Night Events are taking place 8/12, 9/9, 10/14 and 11/11 at SPLASH headquarters. Musicians, singers, artists are offered space for artistic and cultural expression. A \$5 entrance fee goes to SPLASH. Volunteers are needed to get the advertisements out.

### **Chapter Reports**

**Freeport:** Capt. Anthony Alfieri advised that the canals be hit for cleanup. And he reminded captains and crews that wood should be left in the large dumpster behind the building.

**East Rockaway/Bay Park:** Capt. Danny Lee reported on the mess left by the sunken barge.

**Wantagh:** Capt. Tom Hogan noticed that the waterways are looking cleaner.

**Massapequa:** Capt. Angelo Meloro also reported on the cleaner state of the waters.

**Lindenhurst/Babylon:** Capt. Paul San Paolo reported on 10 signs made by Rob DiGiacomo that read "Help SPLASH Keep Our Beaches Clean." They are posted along the waters from Robert Moses to Long Beach.

**President's Report:** Rob Weltner reported on the following:

1. Nassau County is currently examining bids for the project to connect the pipeline along Sunrise Highway to the Bay Park and Cedar Creek STPs.

2. Sixty students from Taiwan participated in the trip to the Jones Beach Coast Guard Station and the shoreline cleanup. Lots of SPLASH boats and volunteers attended. It's part of a learning experience to bring sea life education back home to Taiwan.
3. A NYC representative spoke at the Nassau County Legislature to support the plan to re-activate the Queens water wells that threaten to pollute our only water source. He was met with tremendous resistance from Nassau County residents. He understood the message. But Mayor DiBlasio is still pushing ahead to re-open those wells.
4. Thirteen greenfly traps, constructed by Strong Long Island and finished by Operation SPLASH, are now installed on the marshes. They are high enough to be visible to boaters. They use the new Chesapeake Bay design intended to discourage ospreys from trying to construct nests on top.

## **New Business**

The meeting closed with a showing of The Nature Conservancy video, entitled *Jim's Solution*. It features Jim Ruocco and focuses on the state of our waterways and the need for drastic measures toward remediation. *Jim's Solution* has been named Official Selection of the Long Beach Film Festival.