



United States Power Squadrons®

District 2

Fall Conference 23 October 2010

**The Ramada Inn of Albany, 3 Watervliet Avenue Extension,
Albany, NY**

Minutes of the Conference

D/C Frank DeBaggis called the meeting to order at 0900. After the presentation of the colors, D/Flag/Lt Carl Filios led the pledge of allegiance. District Chaplain, D/Lt Peggy Howland gave the invocation.

Hearing no objections, the chair reserved the privilege to change the order of business as necessary. D/C Frank DeBaggis greeted the members. D/C DeBaggis called for introductions and asked R/C Richard Rutland, SN to introduce the National Officers & Emeritus Members of the Governing Board who were present. In addition to himself, he introduced Vice Commander Robert Baldrige, SN and Stf/C Susan Darcy, JN and Member Emeritus, P/C Farnsworth, JN. Stf/C Susan Darcy, JN introduced the District Guests. In attendance was only Vice Commander Robert Baldrige, SN for Baton Rouge Squadron who is also the Chief Commander's Representative.

D/C DeBaggis then introduced Vice Commander Robert Baldrige, SN the National Administrative Officer to deliver the Chief's message. This was that we need more members and we must extend our reach with other organizations. We must teach our class and seminars and that get our name out there. New tools are now available. 1) The Cyber Squadron was established to allow people to join on-line for \$90 as an unattached member and we got over 500 new members. We have it set up for recruiting by squadrons. 2) They have a free trial membership for 300 on-line ABC people paid \$50.00 and will go into the Cyber Squadron. 3) Beginning 1 December 2010 for ABC3 Classroom Students for 6 months membership in your squadrons after which they will be billed by National for an annual membership. The Squadron will have the option to give them this membership and let them try you out squadron membership. They must be entered ED-26 data on-line and are entered as Single or Family unit. They will be members on that date but their anniversary date will be 6 months after the class. All billing will be done through HQ.

Membership Types have been unified to include all legacy Family Members are now active members. At the National level there are only 2 rates single or for ½ that number the family unit become. If the Squadron charges different rates for the categories they are being asked to make the same changes. Also the entrance fee will go away on 1 December 2010. On 1 November 2010 there will be no new Family they will come in as Additional Active. There is a Dues Calculator online to figure out your dues.

The question came up by Frank Kemp of Stamford, asking if the Assessment for District would need by-law changes and it was recommended that all reference to this assessment be removed from the bylaws and be voted on at the time of the budget.

The USPS is the sole provider of On Water Certification and it is suggested that it be included with Summer Conferences or Council and the Coast Guard has give us a grant. There has been an arrangement made with Brunswick Dealers have our seminars and courses at the dealerships where they will sell our materials, provide classroom space and advertising. We will manage the programs given. The dealers will become a Corporate Member and hope that we will work with them and get them to be local members. Other partners are NSB Council, US Sailing, the Canadian Power Squadron, Rosepoint- Jefferson and Weems & Plath.

A new program was the Leadership Development program for the Administrative officers with our own Susan Darcy. The Century Fund was developed to provide funding for Officer's

Training Programs. And they are developing a new program for Executive Officers and it will be introduced in Orlando. The Administrative Officers course will be a prerequisite for the Executive officers.

Special mention was given to Donald Gladstone, Robert Stats and Jack Cohen are 50 year members of USPS and the list of 17 Members form D2 who participate on the National level was read. Mention was made that Norwalk Squadron is now 75 Years old.

The meeting was adjourned at 1030 for the workshops. After the workshops the social hour was to begin at 1145 followed by a lunch at 1230. The Fall Conference will reconvene at 1330. Cdr Law gave the announcements. Stf/C Susan Darcy discussed a CD that she prepared.

Squadron Workshops

Educational Workshop "The Highly Classified Secrets to Excellence, (For Yours Eyes Only!)"	Facilitators:	D/Lt/C George Hallenbeck, AP D/Ist/Lt Carl Filios, AP
Squadron Websites and Newsletters "Your Squadron's Keys to Visual Communication, (The Eyes Have It!)"		D/Lt/C Susan Ryan, AP Cdr George Danko, AP
Boating is fun...we'll show you how! "Increase Your Squadron's Membership by 40%, or Triple This Workshops' Money back! (A Real Eye Opener!)"		D/C Frank DeBaggis, AP Stf/C Susan Darcy, JN

Following the Luncheon, the Fall Conference Reconvened at 1330.

D/C Frank DeBaggis called for reports from the morning workshops. The workshop reports were given and in general all had positive feedback and left the attendees with many new ideas to improve our District and Squadrons.

The Roll Call was taken and P/D/C Robert Shivokevich, SN introduced the P/D/C's. In attendance

P/R/C Frank Thompson, SN	Stf/C Susan Darcy, JN
R/C Richard Rutland, SN	D/C Martin Feldberg, AP
P/D/C Robert Zimmerman, SN	P/D/C Jeffrey Gerwig, AP
P/D/C Harrison Valante, SN	P/D/C Robert Shivokevich, SN

Governing Board Emeritus member P/C Clarkson Farnsworth, JN, general members P/D/C Martin Feldberg, AP and then he asked that all the Squadron Commanders stand and be counted as members of the Governing Board.

R/C Richard Rutland, SN introduced the Past District Educational Officers. In attendance was R/C Richard Rutland, SN and P/D/Lt/C Ed Weber, SN.

D/Lt/C Lacey Williams, AP introduced the District Bridge (all present). The Rules Chairman D/Lt Howard Sklar, AP was present.

D/Lt/C Virginia Schmidt-Gedney, AP introduced the District Commanders and SEOs took the roll call of the Squadrons and delegates and announced there were 61 members present, which was a quorum.

The secretary then asked for the minutes of the Spring Conference (10 April 2010) be accepted as distributed. Motion to accept was made by P/D/C Robert Zimmerman, SN and seconded. D/Lt

Peggy Holwand asked that her title be corrected. A vote was taken and the minutes were accepted as corrected. It was also requested that the draft minutes be placed on the D2 Website within 1 month of the meeting for attendees to review and comment on any correction prior to the meeting. Request was made that the minutes be sent in a native form not PDF.

D/Lt Howard Sklar, AP of the Rules Committee present found that the three resolutions presented by Berkshire Sail and Power Squadron meet the criteria to be sent to the National Rules Committee. The Following are the proposed changes:

2.7.6 Send to each squadron treasurer a notice of the annual assessment levied against it by the Fall Conference. Assessment notices shall be mailed no later than 1 January of each year. Send to each squadron, quarterly, a list of the new members who have joined for which the squadron owes district assessment and the total amount due for all new members.

3.2.5 At or before the Summer Council meeting, approve and recommend to the following Fall Conference a detailed budget of the operating expenses and anticipated income, and the annual assessment to be levied against the squadrons, including the formula for determining the assessment for various membership categories, for the fiscal year commencing on 1 April of the following year.

4.3.2 Adopt annually, at the Fall Conference, a detailed budget including the annual assessment to be levied against squadrons. The amount of the annual assessment shall be established as part of the budget it supports.

These changes have been sent to the National Rules Committee representative for review and approval which has been completed and they are to be put on the Agenda for the Winter Council meeting and Fall Conference for a vote. The Resolution presented by Darien Sail and Power Squadron do not meet the criteria for a bylaw change or they do not require a bylaw change. Darien Sail and Power Squadron were informed of the committee's decision.

P/C Denise Terry, S reminded all members about being prompt in sending in your reservations. She was holding a meeting after the general meeting for those hosting the next meetings. Please fill out the survey.

P/D/C Frank Thompson, SN reported there was nothing to report for the Law Committee.

Bridge Officers reports were included in seat packets and there were some additions.

District Executive Officer D/Lt/C Lacey Williams suggested Merit Mark requests be done quickly and announced our District 2 Merit Mark Aide, and mentioned that the Deacons Bench will be raffled off at the Spring Conference.

District Education Officer D/Lt/C George Hallenbeck, AP mentioned the partnering with Brunswick Corp, Boating Operator Certification, New ABC3 book, the Educational Fund and Sail Angle.

District Administrative Officer D/Lt/C Susan Ryan, AP urged all squadrons to do more on the water events.

District Secretary D/Lt/C Virginia Schmidt-Gedney, AP announced that D/2 has a new set of Bylaws as of 18 October 2010.

District Treasurer D/Lt/C Melvin Goldstein, AP stated the financial report was in the seat packet and the budget would be discussed later under new business.

Lt/ C John Steger, AP asked that the reports be presented on SailAngle in advance of the meeting, to encourage use of this media and to get the reports out before the meeting for review by the attendees.

D/C Frank DeBaggis, AP reported on the issue of improper billing. He and our treasurer reviewed the bills that were sent to the individual squadrons for new member assessments and found no discrepancies.

Stf/C Susan Darcy, JN announced that both of our Youth Poster Contest submission will be going to Orlando for national judging.

D/Lt/C Mel Goldstein, AP presented the Proposed Budget for the year 2011-2012. Copies of the budget were included in the seat packets. Included in the proposed budget and the actual amounts spent through September of this current year for review. A question was raised about unbudgeted receipts and these are actually funds being filtered through the treasury for meeting and events. The budget process was then discussed. The budget will be a deficit budget and it will be balanced by reducing the on hand reserves after reducing the assessment from \$6.00 to \$4.00 per active member. In about 17 months from now we will assess for members differently. Discussion was held to discuss the idea of a deficit budget verses actual expenses. Also the \$1000.00 per conference is not included in the budget. Darien requested as a resolution to reduce the reserve funds by multiple means. Our national representative was asked if in his opinion that we could allocate the funds from reserve as they do at national. He replied that this decision was within our means and does not preclude using reserves to balance the budget. By passing the budget we are passing a resolution. A motion was made to accept the budget as presented by John Steger and seconded, and discussion by P/D/C Bob Zimmerman, SN recommended we reject this budget. The number of members represented in the budget was brought up to date of 1340 members. This change in assessment will be for this budget only. After a vote the motion passed by the more than the required 2/3 majority and the new budget is accepted.

Frank Kemp of proposed a resolution to adjust the formula for the district assessment for the year 2011-2012 that members be assessed current multiple family members be charged no more than 1 ½ times that of an active member. V/C Baldrige discussed this issue of member types and dues status to encourage family memberships with reduced price and additional active members. The new membership will bring more talent to the field with the family unit membership. The Single Active member and the Primary Active Member (PAM) of a family unit will pay 150% of the Single Active Member. If they are over 18 they can all be eligible to hold office. The legacy family members will be active and become part of a (PAM) family unit and he reminded the conference there is a dues calculator on line. Currently no family members will be assessed by District until the year of 2011-2012 and all new members will be active or additional active members to allow Districts and Squadron to make the changes. Frank said that in view of the explanation he would withdraw his proposed resolution since it was not. It is recommended that District and Squadron adjust their dues structure to Family Unit Dues and on 1 November all new members will be Additional Active and 1 December there will be the 6 month free membership program will start.

50 Year Membership Awards were presented to Donald Gladstone from Mid Hudson, Richard Staats from Mid Hudson and Jack Cohen from Norwalk.

Life Membership Award for P/C Arthur W. Volstad, SN from Saugatuck River from the Spring Conference.

The Shipping Over Award criteria has been disrupted by the new dues structure and the renewal number is higher than expected and we may have to change the criteria. The winners were 1st Place - Mohawk Hudson, 2nd Place – Sacandaga and 3rd Place - Champlain

P/D/C Harrison Valante gave his Safety Report. The Mel Cohen Safety award was presented: 1st Place - Sacandaga Power Squadron; 2nd Place - Westchester Sail & Power Squadron; and 3rd Place Greenwich Sail & Power Squadron; Honorable Mention- Saugatuck River Sail & Power Squadron.

Educational proficiency awards, David Robertson - Champlain, John Penderson - Darien, Robert Henry and Ralph Kravitz - Greenwich, Robert Trenez -Storm King, and Alan Herbert- Stamford.

The following Squadron Educational Awards were presented:

Carl L. Plock Memorial Award	Berkshire
Greenwich Piloting Award	Champlain
P/R/C Frank Gratz Memorial Award	Norwalk
Lake Candlewood Award	Norwalk
D/2 Past DEO Award	Penfield
Prince Henry Award	Darien
Stanley Stevens Memorial Award	Greenwich
Stamford-Doolittle Award	TBD
Mal Ochs Children's Safe Boating Award	Greenwich

Congratulations to all the winners.

John Steger asked that the fire training unit be brought to the next Fall Conference and take the money out of the discretionary funds for shipping of the unit.

D/C Frank DeBaggis made his closing remarks about keeping the negative out of all events to encourage people to come to events and how Sacandaga has grown on the principle that "boating is fun... we will show you how". D/C DeBaggis thanked everyone for coming and asked that he be notified of Squadron Holiday parties and COW's for posting to the District website. D/C DeBaggis presented the Vice Commander with a D2 flag.

Announcements were by Gary Law who presented Sacandaga Burgees to D/C DeBaggis and Vice Commander Baldrige. The cocktail party will be at the pool. Remember to turn in your surveys.

D/2 Chaplain Peggy Howland delivered the benediction and the Color Guard retired the colors.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
D/Lt/C Virginia Schmidt-Gedney, AP
USPS - District 2 Secretary