



# United States Power Squadrons®

**District 2**

**Winter Council 26 February 2011**

Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, Poughkeepsie, New York

**Minutes of the Council**

D/Lt/C Lacey Williams called the meeting to order at 0900 due to a delay in the arrival of D/C Frank DeBaggis. D/Flag/Lt Carl Filios led the pledge of allegiance.

D/Lt/C Lacey Williams greeted the members. D/Lt/C Lacey Williams called for introductions and asked D/Flag/Lt Carl Filios introduced our District Guest, P/R/C Jack Fletcher, SN. D/Lt/C Lacey Williams introduced the Bridge. The Rules Chairman D/Lt Howard Sklar, AP was present.

P/D/C Robert Shivokevich, SN introduced the P/D/C's. In attendance are P, P/R/C Frank Thompson, SN, P/R/C Stu Steagall, AP, R/C Richard Rutland, SN, P/D/C Irwin Staple, AP, P/D/C Wayne Garnsey, SN Stf/C Susan Darcy, JN, P/D/C John Supple, AP, P/D/C Susan Nentwich, AP, P/D/C Martin Feldberg, AP, P/D/C Jeffrey Gerwig, AP and P/D/C Robert Shivokevich, SN

D/C Frank DeBaggis asked Cdr Virginia Moore to give the invocation.

P/D/ Lt/C Robert Kelly introduced the Past Education officers. In attendance were R/C Richard Rutland, SN and P/D/Lt/C Ed Weber, SN, P/R/C Anne Peskin, SN and P/D/ Lt/C Robert Kelly.

D/Lt/C Virginia Schmidt-Gedney, AP took the roll call of the Squadrons and delegates and announced there were sufficient members present, and there was a quorum.

The secretary was asked for the minutes of the Summer Council 2010 which were in the seat packet and were posted on the D2 Website. Motion to accept the minutes as present was made by P/D/C Jeff Gerwig, AP and seconded by P/D/C Robert Shivokevich, SN, a vote was taken and the minutes were accepted.

The district officers presented their reports. The Treasurer stated the balances in the accounts as of 15 Feb 2011 are: checking \$26,266.30, CD \$11,010.86, Money Market \$10,015.59 for a total of \$47,292.75. The budget was still in the black with about \$8000.00 but there are expected bills.

The Secretary asked for photo's and documents to electronic archive. As of 23 October 2010 were approved at the Conference and rules signed off 18 October 2010 by the rules committee. R/C Jeff Gerwig, AP of the National Rules committee said this would be taken care of shortly on the national web site.

The breakout groups attended by the Secretary at the national meeting were the PRO whose theme was "keep it simple". District and squadrons are simplifying website and e-mail address and link to the USPS location. I will try to have the PRO meeting information on CD at the Spring Conference.

During the Treasures' meeting it was brought up that active duty military are not to be charged national dues and if you have any members of you squadron who are on active duty you are to make national aware of their status. Remember to send your 990 and TR-1 forms by traceable mail.

The Administrative Officer, recognized P/D/C Jeff Gerwig, AP requested all squadrons report those members who have passed away during the year 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2010 for the Memorial Service to be held at the Spring Conference. Her full report is in the seat packet. We are trying to listen to the needs of the squadrons and are putting information in the D2. Please read and write articles for the D2 news. There is a questionnaire for listing topics for future meetings content.

The Executive Officer spoke on his attendance to the National Meeting. He attended a luncheon for Commander, Executive Officer's at which the members Coast Guard stated that this year they were giving more money to USPS and that the CGAUX would no longer be teaching boating courses. They are being directed to spend their time on Homeland Security and that USPS should but out their hand to the CGAUX and should treat the CGAUX members as USPS members except with they must become members on-water-courses where they must become members.

The DEO ask that all ED-80 and ED-81's should be submitted to him and he would forward them to National after signing off. CT is considering online education. The USPS should allow CGAUX as USPS members for pricing of the boating

course. The online listing can now handle listings of all courses not only the Boating Courses. State books are available. He asked for topics for the Spring Conference.

D/C Frank DeBaggis stated that at the Spring Conference he said we should invade to Canada reduce their membership and at the national meeting the C/C of CPS-ESP was beside himself because their membership was down 16%. Was that because some of the D2 members took him up on his idea? Was it Bob? He has approved 3 members of Squadrons to fill elected offices that have not taken an advance grade (Loretta White of Peekskill, and Jeff Musica and Chris Hanna of Mohawk-Hudson) and will be reported to the National Executive Officer. Chris is currently enrolled in Piloting.

#### The Committee Reports:

The Law Committee: P/D/C Irwin Staple, AP stated there are no major problems and he is happy to be here and he is still practicing and may get it right one of these days.

The planning Committee: P/R/C Anne Peskin, SN spoke to the consortium for education and the councils and conference planning to be discussed next.

The Councils and Conferences: P/C Denise Terry, S stated that we have change the surveys for our meetings make them more descriptive, please add you comments. The list of the upcoming events is: Spring Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY, Summer Council in Bridgeport, Fall Conference in Danbury, CT, and the Fall Conference 2012 will be hosted by Westchester PS. Please return your surveys.

The membership committee: P/C William Linke, SN and P/D/C Robert Shivokevich, SN - Bill Linke stated due to the changes in our dues structure, anniversary billing, it becomes more difficult to report the actual numbers at meetings and the changes that go along with them. We continue to lose members every year. A question was asked if the loss was due to retention or fewer new members, the major lose are nonrenewal. P/D/C Robert Shivokevich, SN mentioned the new membership and benefits for our members at the national level and that our squadrons should use funds for the members not accumulate it in a bank account. "Invest in our members".

#### Unfinished Business:

Berkshire resolutions have been sent to the National Rules committee and have been approved and now must be sent to a conference for a vote. A motion was made by P/D/C Jeffrey Gerwig, AP and 2<sup>nd</sup> by P/D/C Robert Shivokevich, SN to send the resolutions to the Spring Conference for a vote to change the D2 Bylaws. The motion passed unanimously.

The resolutions are as follows:

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.

The topic of Spring Conference break-out groups was the discussed and a show of hands was taken on the topics which had been presented in the handout. It was thought that we might have one speaker not a breakout. There was not a strong feeling either way. The various topics were accepted at different levels. How to recruit members, advertising using free USPS materials, free venues for events, making the most of Safe Boating week and hands on DB200 were the top topics. The lunch table gatherings were discussed to help each of the specific officers for networking. P/D/C Wayne Garnsey, SN suggested that we have a Website and DB 2000 gathering to train members on the how to use it and where to find things.

Stickers, and forms for VSC's were available from P/C Robert Terry, P as well as other materials. Paddle boats can be inspected. Information has been placed on SailAngle in the VSC file cabinet. He also asked that each squadron report the chairman of the VSC committee be sent to him so he can forward all the information. Remember to use the time of the VSC to talk to fellow boaters on safe boating and squadron activities.

D/Lt/C George Hallenbeck, AP asked for topics for the Education breakout. Topics such as Operations Training at the District level, working with CGAUX on education and advertising, Instructor Development, identifying boating education specialist list for specific course, 6 month membership process, requests sending for exams for non members and listing of non ABC course online, the Brunswick MOU and what needs to be done to establish a great relationship, how do we compete with the state free courses.

D/C Frank DeBaggis continues his remarks with a discussion of the nominating committee and how you should start immediately after the COW to encourage involvement by the membership. He stated he has located great talent in the members of the district and since he will be on the nominating committee as P/D/C he will be looking forward to some great people on the bridge. He has formed an Ad Hoc committee with Wayne Garnsey to look at the Bylaws and Operation Guide that have to be updated and to help the squadrons to survive and flourish and the surplus etc.

Robert Terry reminds us that the Safe Boating Committee materials for Safe Boating Week will be ready in March which is late compared to usual.

Susan Darcy has CD's for distribution to the council members.

A motion to recess the meeting was proposed and seconded. The meeting was recessed for a presentation of Boat Operator Certification with P/R/C Jack Fletcher, SN.

Following the Luncheon, the Winter Council reconvened at 1330.

D/C Frank DeBaggis called for the reading of a change to Operations Manual by Berkshire Sail and Power Squadron. The Following is the proposed changes:

Background: All new members joining District 2 Squadrons, beginning December 1, 2010, can only join as "Active" members and not "Family" members, and are subject to district assessment under the D2 Bylaws. Existing "Family" members were changed to "Active" members by USPS by vote at the USPS Governing Board on September 4, 2010. USPS has given districts the opportunity to exempt those Active members from district assessment for 18 months, expiring on June 1, 2012.

Resolved, that the District 2 Treasury use District 2 funds to underwrite the difference between 150% of district assessment for, "Single Members with a Family Unit, (Code AC15,)" and the total amount due the district treasury under the current D2 Bylaws, for all new members joining a D2 Squadron retroactive to December 1, 2010 and running until and expiring on June 1, 2012, Respectfully Submitted, Cmdr Richard Gore.

A motion was made and seconded to send the resolution to the spring conference for a vote. Discussion of the resolution continued and it was recommended that we vote down the motion to send it to the conference and a quorum was present. The motion was defeated. A Motion was presented and seconded to vote on the resolution now as an adjustment to the 2011-2012 budget. The resolution was passed unanimously.

The Ad-hoc committee met and will continue its work and will report at the Spring Conference between the now and Summer council the committee will make recommendations to the budget and finance committee on what to do with the surplus and the assessment for the year beginning April 1, 2012-March 31, 2015 for the Summer Council. Following the Summer Council the committee will work on the Bylaws and Operation Guide to update the material and forward the information to the Rules Committee for action and then onto National.

The Nominating Committee report was presented by P/D/C Martin Feldberg, AP as follows:

District Commander D/Lt/C Lacey M. Williams, Jr., AP Mohawk-Hudson  
Executive Officer D/Lt/C Susan Ryan, AP Greenwich  
Educational Officer D/Lt/C George R. Hallenbeck, AP Stamford  
Administrative Officer Cdr Howard A. Sklar, AP Cross County  
Secretary D/Lt/C Virginia Schmidt-Gedney, AP Lake Candlewood  
Treasurer D/Lt/C Melvin Goldstein, AP Cross County  
Ass't. Educational Officer D/1st/Lt Carl Filios, AP Berkshire

General Committees

Nominating Committee  
P/D/C Jeffrey C. Gerwig, AP (2012) Darien

P/D/C Robert Shivokevich, SN (2013) Champlain  
D/C Frank J. DeBaggis, AP (2014) Berkshire  
P/C Diane M. Supple, AP (2012) Peekskill  
Lt/C Nathan Sobelman, P (2012) Storm King

Rules Committee

P/D/Lt/C Joseph A. Lynch, AP (2014) Lake Candlewood  
P/D/Lt/C Robert P. Kelly, JN (2013) Westchester  
Cdr George J. Danko, AP (2012) Mid Hudson

Auditing Committee

P/C Mary Lou Lytle, N (2012) Lake Candlewood  
D/Lt Alexandra Digilio Feldberg, P (2012) Storm King

D/C Frank DeBaggis made his closing remarks about traveling to Squadron events and meet the members.

D/Lt/C Lacey Williams, asked all members to get their reservations in ASAP. Uniform for the Saturday meeting will be uniform G. Rear Commander Joe Balbo will be the Chief Commanders rep.

D/ P/C Susan Darcy, AP reminded us that Northern Trek is the same price as last year.

D/C DeBaggis thanked everyone for Remember to turn in your surveys.

Cdr Virginia Moore delivered the benediction.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

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