



# United States Power Squadrons®

**District 2**

**Spring Conference 2 April 2011**

**Holiday Inn, 232 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, 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 and the singing of the Star Spangled Banner was led by P/D/C Harrison Valante. District Chaplain, D/Lt Peggy Howland gave the invocation.

D/C Frank DeBaggis called upon P/D/C Jeff Gerwig to remind our members of those who have sailed beyond the horizon over this past year. We lost a total 10 members from our group.

D/C Frank DeBaggis greeted the members. Hearing no objections, he reserved the privilege to change the order of business as necessary. Parliamentarian would be P/D/C Frank Thompson. D/C DeBaggis introduced the nine first timers. There would be a special luncheon table for the first timers with P/C/C Creighton Maynard, SN.

D/C DeBaggis introduced the immediate P/C/C Creighton Maynard, SN, a member of Fort Worth Power Squadron in District 21, Texas, to deliver the Chief's message summarized as follows: "Greetings from C/C Frank Dvorak, SN. Last year his message was to turn around and revitalize the organization and he had suggested that concentrating on non-renewals was the best way to do it. This year it is to have our squadron and district officers take part in the Leadership Training Program by using the interest from the Century Fund. There has been a program for the administrative officers and this has been extended to the executive officers. The program was developed by professional instructors and others who help with the program. Get your members involved. Cost for administrative and executive officers is zero. The best way to keep your members is to get them involved and this program is to provide the means to encourage involvement.

Cyber membership is up to 1216 members in a 4 month period. The Squadron Commander, Education Officer and public contact are getting notice of these new members and you should invite them to join your squadron.

The on the water Boat Operator Certification (BOC) program is moving on. We are the best boating safety education organization. It is felt that the Coast Guard Auxiliary (CGAux) and USPS are moving closer together since the CGAux is busy with security and operations; the USPS has great educational training and materials. The Coast Guard Auxiliary does not have insurance to allow on-the water training. USPS now having insurance coverage can provide on-the-water training we can encourage others to join us while we are teaching. Make friends with the CGAux.

The partnership with Brunswick can provide our organization with and the presentation was made by the CEO, Dusty McCoy at the national meeting. Dealers will become corporate members of our organization. They will provide the boats, they will sell our materials, provide the space to conduct the courses, etc and we will conduct the courses. Then we will be able assist in teaching the new boat owner to operate them safely. Classes are the backbone of our organization. Remember to be sure not give our courses away since we teach much more than what is required by the State programs. The education fund is supporting the University Programs and On-the-Water Training. If you let the hotel staff take the Fire Training program they may give you some benefits for free."

He asked the audience some questions:

- Why is the USPS encouraging boaters in a boat under 18' to wear a life jacket? There were 736 deaths last year. He asked who agreed with the policy and 76 said yes - 9 said no. These latter felt that too many government regulations already existed.
- Should we have mandatory education? That would make easy reciprocity. Our group responded with a majority in agreement but others felt that too much government was not good and this might interfere with State rights. He wanted the audience to tell national what they thought about the various segments of USPS and let the Bridge know what they were thinking.

He took questions from the audience –

- A comment was made that SailAngle was not working for some members. It brought many unwanted emails.
- Why not add the BOC to the Seamanship and Piloting? Is it time?
- Movement to rewrite the Instructor Qualification? What will be the qualification for on-the-water training instructors?
- A comment was made that some members were not happy about merit marks being e-mailed. The change from mailing the merit marks saved \$17,000.

The last of the C/C remarks was a reminder of the Fall Governing Board in September in Raleigh, NC.

The meeting was adjourned at 1015 for the workshops. After the workshops the social hour was to begin at 1145 followed by lunch at 1230. The Fall Conference will reconvene at 1330.

Membership Workshops  
Educational Workshop

Facilitators: D/Lt/C George Hallenbeck, AP  
D/1st/Lt Carl Filios, AP

Making the Most of the ABC3 Course

D/Lt/C Susan Ryan, JN  
D/Lt/C Ginny Schmidt-Gedney, AP

Orientation for New Members

John Steger, AP

Following the Luncheon, the Fall Conference reconvened at 1330. D/C DeBaggis called for review of the Membership Workshops. The workshop reports were given and in all had positive feedback and left the attendees with many new ideas to improve our district and squadrons.

D/C DeBaggis called for introductions and asked P/R/C Richard Rutland, SN to introduce the National Officers & Emeritus Members of the Governing Board who were present. In addition to himself, P/C/C Creighton Maynard and Stf/C Susan Darcy, JN and Member Emeritus, P/C C.B Farnsworth, JN. Governing Board members, our Commander and DEO, Stf/C Susan Darcy, JN, P/D/C Martin Feldberg, P/D/C Jeff Gerwig, AP and all the Squadron Commanders are part of the Governing Board. P/D/C Robert Shivokevich, SN introduced the P/D/C's.

P/D/C Frank Thompson, SN P/D/C Stu Stegall, AP P/R/C Richard Rutland, SN P/D/C Harrison Valante, SN  
Stf/C Susan Darcy, JN P/D/C John Supple, AP P/D/C Fred Mangelsdorf, SN P/D/C Robert Shivokevich, SN  
P/D/C Suzanne Nentwich, AP P/D/C Martin Feldberg, AP P/D/C Jeff Gerwig, AP

P/Lt/ C Joe Lynch introduced the past education officers present.

P/R/C Richard Rutland, SN P/D/Lt/C Ed Weber, SN P/R/C Anne Peskin, SN  
P/D/Lt/ C Robert Kelly, SN P/D/Lt/C Joe Lynch, AP

D/Lt/C Lacey introduced the District Bridge and the Rules Committee Chairman.

D/1<sup>st</sup> Lt Carl Filios, AP introduced the district guests In attendance are P/C/C Creighton Maynard, SN and his wife Glenda, and R/C Joseph Balboa, AP from District 4.

D/Lt/C Virginia Schmidt-Gedney provided the roll call of the squadrons and delegates and announced there were 66 voting conference members of a total of 116 who were present, which constituted a quorum.

The minutes of the Fall Conference were in the seat packet and the only corrections were to the names of Weems & Plath and John Steger.

Motion to accept the minutes as corrected was made by P/D/C John Supple, AP and seconded by P/D/Lt/C Joe Lynch, AP. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

D/Lt Howard Sklar, AP of the Rules Committee noted that the report of the Rules Committee was in the seat packet. He then thanked the members of the Committee for all their hard work and also D/1<sup>st</sup>/Lt Carl Filios for his assistance.

The Auditing Committee report was read. All the financial records were in order. A motion was made by P/D/Lt/C Robert Kelly, JN, and was seconded by Howard Sklar. The motion passed.

Lt Denise Terry, S presented the report for the Conference and Councils Committee. A meeting will be held after this meeting for all those who will be hosting future conferences. Lake Candlewood is hosting the Fall 2011 and Westchester will host the Fall of 2012.

P/D/C Frank Thompson, SN stated there were no legal issues before the legal committee.

P/R/C Anne Peskin, SN stated the squadrons of southern Connecticut had been doing a great job with Increased participation in the children's program. There was more inter-squadron activity. She suggested that all squadrons might choose a common day for meetings to avoid scheduling conflicts.

The Ad Hoc Committee report was presented by P/D/Lt/ C Robert Kelly, SN. The committee was asked to review the items to the budget and assessment for the district and to make recommendation to change the operation guide. Portion of the district guide will be deleted while the deleted portions have not been thoroughly discussed but they include the exact dollar amount of the assessment because it would be a budget issue. The second area was the issue of guaranteed meals at both conferences and councils which had not been enforced for years.

The Committee recommends that the Council:

- A. Adopt a policy of keeping reserves at no more than 2 times the last available full fiscal year's actual expenses, with the caveat that assessments should never fall below \$1.00 per member;
- B. when approving and recommending next year's budget and accompanying assessments to the Conference, reduce the assessment to no more than \$2.00, with an eye towards continuing that practice until the goal of paragraph A above is met; and
- C. include with all budget and assessment recommendations the formula used for determining the assessment for each class of membership for the term of that budget, which formula should be the same as that then utilized by National.

If the foregoing recommendations are accepted, the Committee offers the following Resolutions:

Resolved, that Section 3.1 of the District 2 Operations Guide be amended by replacing the following existing provision with the proposed provision which follows it:

Existing Provision:

Section 3.1

The current per capita assessment on squadrons is \$5.50 per member, payable by each squadron on or before 15 June of each year.

Proposed Provision:

3.1 Assessments

3.1.1 Formula for Classes of Membership

The annual budget shall include the formula for determining the assessment for each class of membership for the term of that budget, which formula shall mimic the formula utilized by National.

3.1.2 Minimum Assessment

The annual per capita assessment on squadrons shall not be less than \$1.00 per Primary Active Member, and pro-rated for all other memberships.

Resolved, that:

Resolved that Section 3.2 of the District 2 Operations Guide be amended by replacing the following existing provision with the proposed provision which follows it:

Existing Provision:

3.2 At district meetings, each squadron of the district shall financially guarantee luncheons as follows:

(a) two at a Council; and (b) at a Conference, two plus one half (rounded up to a whole number) the number of delegates to which the squadron is entitled. Host squadrons shall be reimbursed by the delinquent squadrons for luncheons not used under this formula.

Proposed Provision:

3.2 District Reserves

The Reserves of the District (defined as the amount of total funds on hand less the actual operating expense for the most recent full fiscal year available) shall be no more than 2 times the amount of the actual operating expense for the most recent full fiscal year available.

Note: Depending on the size of the Reserves at a given time, it is anticipated that this goal may take more than one assessment year cycle to achieve.

A Motion was made by Howard Sklar, AP and seconded by John Steger, AP to accept those resolutions. A motion to table was by P/D/C Martin Feldberg, AP and seconded by P/D/C Susan Darcy, JN. A vote was taken on the tabling and the motion was defeated. Discussion continued on the resolution wording was had and explained. The motion to accept the resolutions passed.

P/D/C Harrison Valante, SN reminded all of Safe Boating Week in May. A discussion of the inflatable PFDs involved a demonstration of what happens when they are inflated. He asked D/Lt/C Susan Ryan, JN to inflate one. He asked the audience to remember the "Inflate Them" event on May 21, 2011.

P/D/C Susan Darcy, JN announced that Northern Trek had been moved to the following weekend, May 20-22, 2011.

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

District Treasurer D/Lt/C Melvin Goldstein, AP stated the financial report was in the seat packet. Current budget ended this fiscal year almost \$2000.00 in the black. The coming year assessment will be \$4.00 and the assessment will reduce until we reach the proposed limits.

District Secretary D/Lt/C Virginia Schmidt-Gedney, AP thanked all for reports that had been sent in by e-mail. She asked for reports to be sent in advance of the meetings. She asked for photo CDs and for Ensign and D/2 News. A special thanks to P/D/C Martin Feldberg, AP. She then talked about the Fall Conference at Lake Candlewood October 28, 2011.

District Administrative Officer D/Lt/C Susan Ryan, JN, reminded all that membership is the key, as written in her report in the packet.

District Education Officer D/Lt/C George Hallenbeck, AP stated SEOs would receive their electronic copy via e-mail. ED-80 and ED-1 need to be sent in. He then thanked D/Lt Carl Filios, AP for his assistance.

District Executive Officer D/Lt/C Lacey Williams, AP said his report was in the seat packet.

D/C Frank DeBaggis, AP thanked Carl Filios, Peggy Howland, Anne Peskin, Rosemary and Gene Boone, Frank Thompson Martin and Ina, Wayne Garnsey, Bob Kelly, Stu Segal, Susan Darcy, Lonnie and Bob Zimmerman, Dick Rutland, Howard Sklar and others for their help.

Unfinished Business:

The Berkshire proposal to amend the bylaws approved at the Winter Council and Conference. The motion was made by P/D/C Jeff Gerwig, AP and seconded by D/Lt/C Susan Ryan, JN to accept the motion. No discussion was had and the motion passed.

Awards 50 & 25 Year Merit Mark Recognition  
William F. Vance, SN, Westchester- Governing Board Emeritus Status.  
Thomas and Margaret Malone- Champlain Life Members  
Howard Sklar- Cross County Life Member  
Tom O Conner- Storm King Life Member  
Alan Goldman- Westchester Life Member

Educational Proficiency Awards: AP + 3 electives  
John Holden- Berkshire  
Dave Trudeau- Berkshire

Educational Achievement Award: SN  
Robert Kelly, SN

Richard Moore Operations Training Award: Promotion of Operation Training  
Mohawk Hudson Sail and Power Squadron

Distinctive Communicators Award/ Publications: to the Staff of D2, Berkshire, Darien, Greenwich, Mid Hudson, Norwalk, Storm King and Westchester Sail and Power Squadrons.

Distinctive Communicators Award/Publications:  
Mid Hudson, Berkshire, Saugatuck, Storm King, Westchester, Cross County, Darien, Greenwich, Lake Candlewood, Mohawk-Hudson and Sacandaga.

P/D/Lt Ed Weber announced that we had 100% participation in the Education Fund and all squadrons received Honor Roll certificates.

The Outstanding Squadron Award would be postponed to the Fall Conference.

The Past District Commanders' award was given by P/D/C Jeff Gerwig, AP this year's criteria was publication. The honorable mentions are Cross County, Lake George, Mohawk Hudson, Norwalk, Sacandaga, Saugatuck River and Storm King. The 3<sup>rd</sup> place Westchester, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Greenwich, and the 1<sup>st</sup> place went to Berkshire.

Doing it Right Awards went to Sacandaga Power Squadron, Darien and to Greenwich.

Membership Growth Awards went to Berkshire, Champlain, Mohawk Hudson, Norwalk, Sacandaga, Stamford and Westchester.

New Member Awards went to for new members Berkshire 14, Champlain 6, Norwalk 14, Sacandaga 6 Stamford 19, and Westchester 11 new members

Vessel Safety Check Awards:

Sacandaga received a national award for have more than 10% of their active members qualified as VSE and performing VSC equal to their membership.

The most Vessel Exams- Storm King 70, William Burbidge did 25.

The Millennium Club (1000 personal exams) - Don Wilson 2010 Lake Candlewood

D/C Frank DeBaggis, AP talked about the Youth poster Contest – Honorable Mention Kenu Okura and 2nd Place Ellie Scabotta for the National Poster Contest with a check for \$100.

The “N” Club presented a runner up award to Greenwich Sail and Power Squadron.

D/C Frank DeBaggis, AP invited Tena to the podium and presented her with flowers; he also presented P/D/C Susan Darcy with flowers for her assistance. Tena presented gifts to Ina and Janet for assisting her. D/C Frank DeBaggis, AP presented P/C/C Creighton Maynard, SN with the Berkshire Burgee and the D2 Flag. He then made his closing remarks about encouraging people to come to events and that "Boating is fun... we will show you how". Provide fellowship for members. Membership in the Canadian Power Squadron is down 16% and he said he would like to take credit for it but could not.

He then dismissed his appointed officers. He turned the meeting over to P/C/C/ Creighton Maynard, SN who dismissed the bridge except for the Secretary. He relieved Frank of his office. P/D/C Martin Feldberg, AP read the Nominating Committee report as follows:

#### **District Bridge Officers**

District Commander D/Lt/C Lacey M. Williams, Jr., AP Mohawk-Hudson

Executive Officer D/Lt/C Susan Ryan, JN 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

Assistant 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

Report has been filed and distributed. No additional nomination had been received. A motion was made to for the Secretary to cast one vote for the slate of officer s as presented and amended and circulated not discussion was had. The motion was carried. D/C Lacey Williams was the sworn in by D4 D/Lt/C Joseph Balboa, AP. The remaining elected officers were then sworn in by P/C/C Maynard Creighton, SN. He then turned the floor back to D/C Lacey.

D/C Williams, AP presented a D2 Flag to Joseph Balboa, Susan Spring presented P/C/C Maynard and D/Lt/C Balboa Mohawk Hudson Burgees. He called P/D/C DeBaggis, AP back to the podium who the D/C epaulettes to Lacey. Lacey then introduced his family and friends and gave Frank with his parting gifts - his PDC Burgee and epaulette, and a plaque. Frank turned over "the Gavel" and Susan Spring presented Frank with squadron's appreciation gift and the D2 Bridge appreciation gift.

D/C Lacey Williams presented the officers flags and epaulettes to D/Flag/Lt Ina Digilio, P and D/Lt/C Howard Sklar, AP. He introduced his goal for the year of growth through communication and cooperation. He asked members to give him their complaints and suggestion to make District better. On-the Water Training would be a big part of this year.

New Business:

The Ad Hoc Committee for this year was reappointment for the upcoming year.

D/C Williams commended P/C Susan Spring for all her work in making the arrangements for the conference, and then presented a clock to her.

Frank Isley present some information from Mohawk Hudson. Other announcements were made.

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

The meeting was adjourned.

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