



United States Power Squadrons®

District 2

Fall Conference 30 October 2011
The Ethan Allen Inn, Danbury, Connecticut
Draft Minutes of the Conference

D/C Lacey Williams called the meeting to order at 0900. The pledge of allegiance was said and District Chaplain, D/Lt Peggy Howland gave the invocation followed by Harrison Valante leading the singing of *The Star-Spangled Banner* and *O Canada* (this in French thanks to Serge).

Hearing no objections, the chair reserved the privilege to change the order of business as necessary. D/C Lacey Williams asked P/D/C Martin Feldberg to introduce our guests including Vice Commander Richard Peoples, the National Treasurer; Guy and Nina Anastasio and Gene and Sharon Molteni from Bayside and P/C Serge St. Martin and his wife Jocelyn who are members of D/2 and also represent the Canadian Power Squadrons. He then introduced the first timers, Mathew Crusallutis from Peekskill, Marie Starnes and Bob Kisker from Lake Candlewood, and finally Jack Croft from Westchester.

D/C Williams introduced V/C Richard Peoples, SN, National Treasurer, to deliver the Chief's message. "Time to turn things around" is the theme. Membership has turned around; on-the-water training and the free 6-month membership for ABC3 graduates are working. We need to focus on non-renewals. V/C Peoples gave D/Lt/C George Hallenbeck a brochure from Banana River PS listing cost for courses as an example to be distributed to D2 SEOs. We need more members and must extend our reach with other organizations. The Cyber Squadron was established to allow people to join on-line. They now have a newsletter for the cyber members. Please respond to the cyber member notices and encourage the cyber members to join your squadron. There is advanced training on the water through Marine Max dealers using their facilities and USPS instructors. The boat and truck have been leased thanks to a Coast Guard grant. The Brunswick partnership is going to be expanded with safety advertising using the USPS information.

"Leadership Development is still being paid from the Endowment Fund for Administrative Officers. Next year they will include Secretaries and Treasurers.

"The Coast Guard Auxiliary and also the Australian Coast Guard are looking to use some of the USPS courses but it will have to be rewritten for the Australians – the navigational aids are used differently to ours. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is spending more time on homeland security and less on education, and we can provide the education. If you give seminars, charge for them; don't just give them away for free. Please make sure you remember the Education Fund.

"At Greensboro a dues increase of \$2.00 was voted in 2012 and there is a Social Media Intern on staff. Remember the National Safe Boating Council's website has all types of videos that can be downloaded and used for courses. 2014 is the 100th anniversary of USPS.

"If you are having an on-the-water course, the boat to be used must be insured. It does not have to be owned by a member of USPS. The person in command must be a USPS member and the activity has to be approved by the Squadron Executive Committee or the District Council."

D/C Williams reminded everyone that D2 has 100% participation in the Education Fund thanks to the efforts of P/D/C Ed Weber.

The meeting was adjourned at 1030 for the three workshops. After the workshops the social hour was to begin at 1145 followed by lunch at 1230. The Fall Conference will reconvene at 1330.

Squadron Workshops:

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| Educational Workshop | Facilitators: | D/Lt/C George Hallenbeck, AP D/Ist/Lt Carl Filios, AP |
| Doing it Right | | D/Lt/C Howard Sklar, AP P/R/C Anne Peskin, SN |
| “Innovative Ways to Promote Your Squadron From Ziplocs to Social Media” | | Paul Okura, S D/Lt/C Susan P. Ryan, JN |

Following lunch, the Fall Conference reconvened at 1330.

Now that the snow had started to fall more heavily the order of the meeting was changed to accommodate those who had to leave.

Mike Brown presented the Norwalk resolution for the D2 Boat Show display. A motion was made by him to form a committee to decide on the type of display and content, it was seconded by Virginia Schmidt-Gedney. The motion passed unanimously.

There are 6 members who have reached 50 years with the USPS: Fredrick Suhr, Gilbert Alvarez, Arthur B. Reichling, Roger Macy, Richard Hosterman and Henry Seymour. The plaques will be distributed to them at squadron events.

The workshop reports began with Peggy Howland on “Innovative ways... Social Media.” This stressed social media as a way to network, particularly with the younger generations. There was an explanation of the types of social media and what can be done with each to promote the USPS brand and your squadron events. There was an exchange of suggestions on the types of activities that could be used – Flare/Up!, weekly sails and raftups as well as your courses. It was an excellent way to introduce your activities outside the membership. Ziploc bags could be used to leave flyers on people’s boats at docks and marinas. A copy of Paul Okura’s presentation was handed to each participant.

Diane Supple reported on “Doing it Right” beginning with an explanation of what works for the kids’ programs in Stamford done by Anne Peskin and George Hallenbeck. The discussion continued with using a Flare/Up! as a great community outreach program. The Flare/Up! program outline created by Frank Kemp of Darien was given to the members of the breakout.

Joe Lynch reported on the “Educational Workshop” and explained the on-the-water program, the 8-hour seminar from national which should be registered using HQ800. The cost should be about \$200 per person (\$124 to National) and National will help advertise the seminar for the squadron. The squadron will present the venue, the number of boats, and how many students, etc. to National. The material is sent to the student directly who pays for it to national and the remaining funds go to the squadron. The instructor must be IN certified through BOC. Another item was the distribution of the 11-minute CD shown in Greensboro “Almost a Perfect Day” about a boating accident as shown through a court room scene discussing the environmental stresses. ABC3 is being approved by NASBLA now with a new section called decision-making and new exam questions eliminating environmental questions over rules of the road. The new texts, instructor manuals and slides will be coming out in January. The answer keys will still work. E-Learning was introduced with webinars, Weather, EPIRBs etc. on line with distance learning.

D/C Williams then called for introductions and asked P/D/C Martin Feldberg, AP to introduce the P/D/Cs present:

P/R/C Frank Thompson, SN
P/R/C Richard Rutland, SN
P/D/C Harrison Valante, SN

P/D/C Fred Mangelsdorf, SN
P/D/C Martin Feldberg, AP
P/D/C John Supple, AP

The members of the Governing Board who were in attendance were D/C Lacey Williams, D/Lt/C George Hallenbeck, SN and all the Squadron Commanders.

P/D/Lt/C Joe Lynch, AP introduced the Past District Educational Officers. In attendance were P/Stf/C Richard Rutland, SN, P/D/Lt/C Ed Weber, SN, and P/R/C Anne Peskin, SN.

D/Lt/C Susan Ryan, JN introduced the District Bridge all present. The Rules Chairman P/D/Lt/C Joe Lynch AP was present.

Commander Williams called for any corrections and additions to the minutes from the Spring Conference. The only correction to the minutes was correct the name of the conference from Fall to Spring on page 2 of the minutes to reflect the correct information of the Spring Conference; a motion was made by Anne Peskin, SN to accept the minutes as corrected and seconded and the motion was carried.

D/Lt/C Virginia Schmidt-Gedney, AP introduced the District Commanders and SEOs and took the roll call of the Squadrons and delegates and announced there were 44 voting members present at the beginning of the meeting with a total of 98 possible members, thus constituting a quorum of more than 25% of the available members present.

D/Lt/C Mel Goldstein presented the Treasurer's report which was included in the seat packets.

The Secretary's Department at National is trying to scan documents and would like to have copies of the Squadron Historian reports for each year. You can contact the department to find out which copies are not on file with National and provide the information to the Department.

D/Lt/C Howard Sklar, AP announced the Poster contest results with 2nd place going to Ellie Swaboda and Katie Ryan, 1st place going to Ava Swaboda 6-8, and Emma Samaniego 9-11, and Cristina Samaniego for the 12-14 age groups. Darien was second nationally in the new member's award.

D/Lt/C Susan Ryan, JN mentioned her report was in the seat packet.

D/Lt/C George Hallenbeck, AP reported his report was on file and that the steps to be on water have been setup.

D/C Williams asked all squadrons to remember merit marks have got to be submitted and that the bylaws of all squadrons except Storm King needed to be updated.

Council and Conference reports: P/C Denise Terry listed the upcoming conference: Winter Council March 3, 2012, Spring Conference April 20/21, 2012 in Greenwich, Fall Conference 2012 and Westchester's 75th Anniversary as well as Spring Conference 2013 in Westchester.

R/C Anne Peskin, SN reported on the Planning Committee and reminded us of subjects discussed over the years that may be topics for future break outs.

1. Encouraging members to attend meetings by subsidizing cost – happening now.
2. Merging of Squadrons - happening now.

John Supple, AP reminded the Commander about the need to add Joe Lynch, AP to the Nominating Committee and a motion was made and seconded to accept Joe on the committee.

D/Lt/C Mel Goldstein presented the budget for 2012-2013. A copy was in the seat packet, There were difficulties with the Anniversary Billing. He then asked for a motion to accept the budget as presented

and it was passed. V/C Peoples mentioned that currently all squadron funds must be kept in banks. They will be presenting an amendment to the bylaws that all excess funds (over 150% of operating capital) be invested with the advice of a registered investment advisor.

The following Squadron Educational Awards were presented:

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| Carl L. Plock Memorial Award | Champlain |
| Greenwich Piloting Award | Peekskill |
| P/R/C Frank Gratz Memorial Award | Berkshire |
| Lake Candlewood Award | Berkshire |
| D/2 Past DEO Award | Penfield |
| Prince Henry Award | Westchester |
| Stanley Stevens Memorial Award | Sacandaga |
| Stamford-Doolittle Award | Westchester |
| Mal Ochs Children's Safe Boating Award | Anne Peskin, SN |

Educational proficiency awards went to Kevin and Cynthia Dinan of Berkshire, Anthony Leigh of Darien, Bill Strong of Greenwich, and William Greenwald, David Van Deusen, David Brown and Michael Easterly of Mohawk Hudson.

Congratulations to all the winners!

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

D/C Lacey Williams thanked the Lake Candlewood Power Squadron for hosting an excellent conference and asked Commander Matt Lombardo to receive the D/2 \$1000.00 Contribution to the cost of the conference breakfast and lunch and Matt thanked all who made the choice to come.

D/2 Chaplain Peggy Howland delivered the benediction.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

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