



# UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

## District 2 Spring Conference Change of Watch

*Hosted by Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron*

*Williams Inn 1090 Main Street, Route 7  
Williamstown, MA 01267-2620  
413-458-9371*



### 1 April 2017 Minutes

Spring Conference was Called to Order by D/C Vincent J. Evans, P at 0912.

#### Opening Ceremonies:

Invocation was given by P/D/Lt/C Melvin Goldstein, AP

The attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem was led by P/D/C Harrison Valante, SN

Because P/D/C Jeffrey Gerwig was unable to attend, the Memorial Service was led by Stf/C Howard A. Sklar, AP.

District 2 has lost the following members: Lt/C Minnie M. Greyer, AP – Darien; Sid Zacarias – Darien; P/C Frank Cioffi, SN – Lake Candlewood; P/C James W. Gryzbowski, AP – Lake George; Jeff Scott – Norwalk; P/C Kenneth T Marshall, AP – Penfield; P/C Robert H. Dunn, AP – Penfield; P/C Eugene R. Boone, AP – Stamford; P/D/C Wayne Garnsey – Storm King; P/D/C Artemas M. Pickard, SN – Rowayton.

The following introductions were made by Stf/C Howard A. Sklar, AP sitting in for P/D/C Jeffrey A. Gerwig, AP: The National Officers of the District and Governing Board Emeritus Members along with the D2 members of the Governing Board.

There was one District Guest introduced by P/D/C Denise A. Terry, AP. It was our transplanted member, Lt Alexandra Digilio-Feldberg, P from D22/Crystal River.

The Past District Commanders present, were introduced by P/D/C Gino C. Bottino, AP and the Past District Educational Officers present, were introduced by Stf/C Carl E. Filios, SN.

The Chair reserves the right to change the order of business.

**Chief Commander's Message:** D/C Evans introduced our own P/D/C Fred Mangelsdorf, SN who presented the Chief Commander's message. Mangelsdorf talked about the need to be teaching boating skills and to change to less formal meetings and attire. In 2015, the Educational Fund Trustees approached the BOD with a recommendation and was willing to provide the initial funding for a major program in outreach and advertising. After this beginning the Board came back looking for additional funds to continue this effort. The emphasis of USPS in recent years has been on membership – our purpose is not to grow but to teach boating skills. Louie thinks we should emphasis more on the three sides of the triangle. All we have to do is look at the membership numbers in D2. Greenwich with Susan Ryan, has gained membership – and as she says, it is hard work and lots of other Squadrons can do it, but really don't want to

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do the work. The new tag line or name “America’s Boating Club”, says we are a boating club – which should be attractive to paddlers; and both large and small boat users. The Educational Department has developed a Boating Primer which is excellent. Greenwich did a successful On the Water Training that was free for their members. Since the public couldn’t take the free training which was only for members, to join the Squadron. That may be the reason Greenwich’s membership has increased. The new Digital Media Library has many promotional videos which can be used. Louie says “Relax and Have Fun” – no one joined USPS to make money. Let’s be sociable.

**Comments:** Our biggest problem is selling ourselves. Using America’s Boating Club - The second hundred years. Name recognition is the most important thing! You have to go out and sell USPS. The promotional videos are excellent and do a lot for advertising us. USPS doesn’t advertise like Starbucks or McDonalds for brand recognition. USPS should also focus on families, water safety for the family. Cannot sell the value of joining the squadron. Boating activities are the “sell”. Recommendation to present the Paddle Smart seminar. Is there any confusion when you advertise “America’s Boating Club” thinking you have building?

**Determination of a Quorum:** D/Lt/C Susan L. Darcy, JN – There are 64 members present with 9 Squadron Commanders and 6 Squadron Educational Officers or their proxies. With 44 actual voters present, there is a quorum.

**Approval of the Minutes of the 2016 Fall Conference:** D/Lt/C Susan L. Darcy, JN – One correction was a missing “e” on one of the names who obtained the Educational Achievement Award, Greenwich Marie Genteale, SN. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the Fall Conference as corrected. The vote was unanimous.

**Breakouts – Run consecutively so everyone gets to attend them.**

**Educational Department Update:** D/Lt/C Karl M. Wagner, JN

The Digital Media Library (DML) has some interesting videos and with the re-do of the Seamanship course, being broken up into 6 or 8 segments, some or all of these segments will be in DML. The seminar pricing is changing – national noticed that seminars were being offered but the material was not being purchased. There now is a charge of \$10 for every student. There are waiver options but need notification to DEO Wagner. Wagner feels our ABC course is better or the best of all the state courses. Transitioning into ABCs using Seminars is a great way to attract students. How can we get a waiver to teach the state courses which are free? Contact the DEO.

**Presentation:** D/Lt/C Susan L. Darcy, JN

### **“Electronic Communication – Home Run or Strike Out?”**

Methods of Communication:

Face to Face or Phone – Surface Mail – Computer Meeting -- eMail

- When to use and pros and cons of all.
- Tips – Rules – Responses – Emojis

Discussion: About the use of Robocalls and the postal service (USPS.com) design/delivery for surface mail.

**Spring Conference Suspended for the Social Hour & Luncheon**

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### Spring Conference Reconvenes

**Bridge Officer Reports:** In the Electronic Seat Packet – Updates only.

Treasurer - D/Lt/C John P. Pedersen, SN

Thank you to the Finance Committee and the Auditing Committee that helped during the year.

Secretary - D/Lt/C Susan L. Darcy, JN

Thank you all who have helped me during the past year – all please stand up.

Educational Officer - D/Lt/C Karl M. Wagner, JN

If you need NY State Boaters Guide – see Carl Filios. I have CT Boaters Guide.

George Hallenbeck needs local boater volunteers for the making of videos for the DML.

Executive Officer - D/Lt/C Martin E. Feldberg, AP

Thank you to everybody for this year – thank you Susan.

Commander - D/C Vincent J. Evans, P

My report is in the seat packet. Thank you to the following people for all their help during the year: P/R/C George Hallenbeck, P/D/Lt/C Mel Goldstein, P/D/C Howard Sklar, and D/Lt/C Susan Darcy

### General Committee Reports

Rules

No report

Auditing

P/D/Lt/C Edward V. Weber, SN

Report is on file with the secretary – everything balanced and signed.

### Appointed Committee Reports

Law

No report

Councils & Conferences

No report

Marketing/Public Relations - P/D/C Susan P. Ryan, JN

Short presentation on slides that Greenwich uses to promote their squadron.

Thank you to Fred for shaking up the national Bridge.

Planning - Stf/C Howard A. Sklar, AP

There is no official report but there is a resolution to eliminate the Summer Council or combine it with the Conference. Discussion ensued as to how to eliminate the items that are covered in the Summer Council. Members talked about having a fun event at the Summer Council – not on the water but at the water.

Membership - P/D/C Susan P. Ryan, JN

Presented the statistics that P/D/Lt/C John W. Steger, JN developed showing the membership of D2 and using HQ800 to show the number of students. Remember the three most important items are: **Marketing/Recruiting**, Market new approaches for classes -- Class size leads to member growth; **Involvement** - Member inclusion - Good activities and meetings and **Retention**.

### Unfinished Business

**Financial Report:** D/Lt/C John P. Pedersen, SN

The report, as of yesterday (March 31), was distributed which shows that revenue is better than expenses at this time. There are some other bills that are still to come but still believes that revenue will be more than expenses.

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**Awards:** D/C Vincent J. Evans, P & P/D/C Fred Mangelsdorf, SN

**New Governing Board Emeritus Members:** The newest D2 Governing Board Emeritus Members (50 Merit Marks) are: Jack Cohen, P -- Norwalk Sail and Power Squadron and Donald Gladstone, P -- Mid-Hudson Power Squadron. The Cheer Squad from Mid-Hudson came up for a group photo with Don Gladstone.

**New Life Members (25 MM)** The District's new Life Members are: George A. Friend, P -- Greenwich Sail & Power Squadron; Gary T. Law, JN -- Sacandaga Power Squadron; John H. Supple, AP -- Westchester Sail & Power Squadron; Diane E. Valante, P -- Saugatuck Sail & Power Squadron; Harrison R. Valante, SN -- Saugatuck Sail & Power Squadron

**Educational Fund Honor Roll:** P/D/C Fred E. Mangelsdorf, SN

If a Squadron donates to the Educational Fund for each member or more, they become an Honor Roll Squadron. If a District has every Squadron in the District as an Honor Roll Squadron they are called an Honor Roll District. In Orlando, P/D/C Mangelsdorf had the pleasure of presenting the Honor Roll District Certificates to three Districts, one of them was District 2. Now D/C Evans will present the Certificate to the person who makes all this happen, P/DEO Ed Weber, SN.

**Outstanding Squadron Awards:** D/Lt/C Susan L. Darcy, JN announced the Squadrons who were the winners of the Outstanding Squadron Awards. Outstanding Achievement Award – Mid-Hudson Squadron – Painting; Outstanding Improvement Award – Greenwich Sail & Power Squadron – Diver's Helmet; Outstanding Educational Achievement Award – Darien Sail & Power Squadron; Outstanding Civic Service Award – Stamford Power Squadron. There was no Outstanding Fraternity Award this year.

**Past District Commanders:** P/D/C Denise A. Terry, AP – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Sacandaga Power Squadron; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Lake George Power Squadron.

**A Special Life Member Award:** D/C Evans announced a special Life Member Award was made for Wayne Garnsey and will be sent to Jane who now lives in Wisconsin.

**Vessel Safety Check/Examiners:** Cdr Robert J. Terry, P discussed the Chief Commander's letter on Vessel Safety Checks and showed the new Vessel Safety Poster. Cdr Terry presented the following Squadron Awards for Vessel Safety Checks: 1<sup>ST</sup> Place - Norwalk with 110 Examinations; 2<sup>ND</sup> Place – Sacandaga with 52 Examinations; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Lake Candlewood with 29 Examinations. Individual Awards went to: 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Jack Cohen, Norwalk – 110 Examinations; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Brian Barnier, Lake Candlewood – 29 Examinations; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Philip H. Roeber, Sacandaga – 23 Examinations.

**Distinctive Communicator Awards:**

**For Publications:** The following Squadrons and their publications were awarded the *Distinctive Communicator Awards* for their Publications: Berkshire – Log; Mohawk Hudson – Scuttlebutt; Sacandaga – Windjammer; Saugatuck River – Dredgings; Storm King – The Crown; and the D2 News

**For Web Sites:** The following Squadrons and their web sites were awarded the *Distinctive Communicator Awards* for their Websites: Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron; Darien Sail

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& Power Squadron; Greenwich Sail & Power Squadron; Lake Candlewood Power Squadron; Lake George Power Squadron; Mid-Hudson Power Squadron; Mohawk Hudson Sail & Power Squadron; Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron; Sacandaga Power Squadron; Saugatuck River Sail & Power Squadron; Stamford Sail & Power Squadron; Storm King Power Squadron; Westchester Sail & Power Squadron; and District 2's website.

**Educational Awards:** D/Lt/C Karl M. Wagner, JN & D/1<sup>st</sup>/Lt Andrew M. Cummings, JN – None at this time – at the Fall Conference, when the courses are done.

**District Commander's Final Remarks** - D/C Vincent J. Evans, P

Thank you all and thank you to my mentors for this year and the three years I've been on the Bridge. I have met so many great people by attending national meetings and our district squadrons' events. I encourage all to attend some national meetings.

**Dismissal of All Appointed Officers** - D/C Vincent J. Evans, P

**Change of Watch**

**Nominating Committee Report (on file)** - Stf/C Howard A. Sklar, AP

As shown in the minutes of the Winter Council, the District Secretary position is still open. Nominations from the floor, Cdr Sklar? Lt/C David J. Wilkinson, S for the position of District Secretary.

**Election of District Officers:** P/D/C Mangelsdorf asked if there are no objections, I will ask the District Secretary to cast one vote for the slate of office. Hearing none, please cast one vote for the slate.

**Installation of District Officers** – P/D/C Mangelsdorf swore in the new D/C and asked the others to stand in place and be sworn in.

**District Commander's Presentation**

D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN

We're going to have fun – the Bridge is here to help the Squadrons – Just ask and we'll be there.

**New Business** - D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN

Recognized P/D/C Robert Zimmerman to present a Resolution to recognize 40 MM members to be granted the status of Governing Board Emeritus members. Other announcements: May 20 – Mid-Hudson Auction and May 20 to May 26 Safe Boating Week. April 8 a Vessel Safety Examiner Class – at Solud Coffee in Norwalk from 9 to 1 – Cost \$20.

**Recognition of Host Squadron:** D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN

**Presentations:** Lt/C David L. Trudeau, JN – Berkshire, presented the Squadrons' gift to P/D/C Vince Evans. D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN presented Vince with his Past District Commander's Flag. Darcy presented a District Officer's flag to Andy Papademetriou and District Flag Lieutenants flags to Howard Sklar and Alexandra Digilio-Feldberg. She also presented a Chaplain's flag to Mel Goldstein.

**Benediction**

P/D/Lt/C Melvin Goldstein, AP

**Announcements**

P/C G. Richard Stidger, SN

**Adjournment**

D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN