



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
SAIL AND POWER BOATING



District 2 Bridge

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**Minutes of the District 2 Fall Conference
14 October 2017**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1003 by D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN.

Invocation: Chaplain P/D/Lt/C Melvin Goldstein, AP gave the invocation.

Pledge: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by D/FI/Lt Alexandra Digilio-Feldberg, P

Determination of a quorum: D/Lt/C David Wilkinson affirmed that a quorum was present.

Boating Activity Survey: A survey was conducted, by a show of hands, as to the number of times those present ventured onto the water this past season.

Approval of the Spring Conference Minutes from 1 April 2017: Motion was made to approve the minutes. One question was raised about the result of a motion made by Robert Zimmerman intended to get younger people more involved with the Governing Board.

Introduction of The National Representatives: D/C Susan Darcy introduced R/C Chris Windeler, SN-ON from District 4's Lackawanna Sail and Power Squadron, as well as R/C Paul Mermelstein, SN-IN – of District 5's Rockville Sail and Power Squadron.

Chief Commander's Message: R/C Paul Mermelstein presented the Chief Commander's video message, which is available from the National web site. Notable highlights are that membership is on an upswing following a period of decline and that our finances are ship shape; we presently have no debt and are experiencing a surplus. Discussion and questions followed.

Marketing Video Presentation: A new video to be used to market the Power Squadron was presented for review. Also presented was a membership recruiting video tool, which was prepared by P/D/C Marty Lafferty, JN – (D5 - Kent Narrows Sail & Power Squadron) is expanding efforts to market the squadron through the use of dual branding and new logos and videos, which are available for individual squadrons to use. We are "America's Boating Club."

A discussion followed about the issue of uniforms which may go against our warm and welcoming/fun approach to recruitment. Uniforms should not be worn, for example, when representing USPS at boat shows.

Bridge Reports:

Secretary: No Report

Administrative Officer: No Report

Educational Officer: No Report

Executive Officer: Merit Marks are due November 15th. Commanders need to get their recommendations to the Merit Mark reviewer, P/C/C Robert Woods, SN as soon as possible. Consider everyone in your squadron who has done something for you. Squadron Commanders should be sending their own accomplishments to D/Lt/C Martin Feldberg immediately so that the District is able to submit recommendations for them to the reviewer.

Reports of Committees:

General Committee Reports: There were no reports at this time from the Rules, Nominating, or Auditing Committees.

Standing Committee Reports: D/EO Wagner delivered a report from the Planning Committee, which met via conference call. Consensus reached that we need to reduce the number of meetings and there is a concern about low attendance at district meetings. Discussion ensued. We used to offer seminars after meetings. Issue of value of seminars versus cost was discussed. It also would be helpful to know what is currently going on more in advance of meetings. What would encourage someone to come to a meeting? Might be helpful if more training was offered to individual squadrons. Also, it would be helpful if "the rules" were more widely shared. Finally, the Planning Committee will need to add two new committee members going forward.

Other Committee Reports:

Councils and Conferences Committee: No report.

Membership Status: No report. D/Lt/C Andy Papademetriou from the Westchester Squadron offered a presentation about the "last mile" of the recruiting process. He noted that some squadrons are experiencing significant membership gains.

Sea Scouts: No report

VSC Committee: Robert Terry presented a report to be included in the next D2 News and provided a copy to the Secretary.

Education Fund: P/D/C Fred Mangelsdorf (for Ed Weber) noted that the deadline for contributing to the Education Fund is the end of November. The suggested contribution is based on squadron membership as of November 30, 2016. Contributions can be made either on-line or by check. A lively discussion took place. A question was raised as to why a grant from the Education Fund was made to support advertising efforts. P/D/C Mangelsdorf noted that the role of the United States Power Squadron is to teach boating skills. In order to teach skills, you need to have students to teach them to. The Trustees of the Education Fund deemed it appropriate to put funds toward advertising with the goal of increasing membership and hence, providing more potential students. P/D/C Mangelsdorf recalled a similar occasion in the past where it was deemed appropriate for the Education Fund to be used for the purchase of

education-related equipment, for example, a digital projector. Concern had been expressed as to whether the removal of the check-off option on dues collection forms had impacted the level of contributions from squadrons to the fund. Analysis revealed that the impact was significant as many squadron members, such as life members were not included in the solicitation for contributions, and it was decided that a return to prior methods was in order, whereby squadrons were “assessed” based on their membership size. Susan Ryan suggested it might be prudent to change the name of the Education Fund to perhaps more closely represent what the funds have been used for, as of late. Further, she asked if data was available about what proportion of squadron dues payments go towards the education fund. This information did not seem to be available at this meeting. Kathy Somogy asked for clarification as to whether squadrons need to vote as a group to contribute to the fund. Fred noted that it was intended that contributions to the fund come from squadrons, and not from individual members. Another opinion expressed was that it may be a question of language/semantics. We are marketing an educational organization, i.e. using the fund to support an organization which has education as one of its goals. Finally, it was suggested that a more positive way to encourage contributions from squadrons would be to remind them of what the education fund is used to accomplish, as opposed to “shaming” squadrons into not being dropped from the honor roll.

PRO/Marketing: P/D/C Susan P. Ryan, JN suggested distributing flyers where boaters tend to go at least once a week, such as the local coffee shop. Other suggestions included a stuffer in West Marine’s newsletter and street signs/sandwich boards. Offer activities to keep people who are no longer boating meeting together. If you need any help on marketing courses, contact P/D/C Ryan.

Proposed 2017-2018 Budget: D/C Susan Darcy asked if there were any questions about the proposed .2017-2018 Budget. None were asked.

A blessing was offered just before suspension for lunch by Chaplain Goldstein.

Fall Conference reconvenes.

Awards: Following a social time and lunch, the Conference reconvened at 1400, at which time the following award presentation were made:

Youth Poster Contest: No entrants.

Shipping Over Awards: Honorable Mention: Lake George (91.1%) and Mid-Hudson (91.5%); 3rd Place: Saugatuck River (94.1%); 2nd Place: Storm King (95.7%); 1st Place: Sacandaga 100%).

Mel Cohen Safety Award: Honorable Mention: Mid-Hudson, Norwalk, and Stamford. 3rdPlace: Westchester; 2ndPlace: Darien; 1st Place: Greenwich. Also discussed was the Designated Skipper program and the disposal of expired marine flares.

Mal Ochs Childrens’ Safe Boating Award: -- Greenwich Sail & Power Squadron

Educational Awards:

Educational Achievement Award (SN): – Lt/C Vingie Gengo, SN-- Storm King Power Squadron

Carl L. Plock Memorial Award–Champlain Power Squadron
P/R/C Frank Gratz Memorial Award– Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron
Lake Candlewood Award– Greenwich Sail & Power Squadron.
D/2 P/DEO Award – Champlain Power Squadron
Prince Henry Award– Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron
Stanley Stevens Memorial Award– Greenwich Sail & Power Squadron
Greenwich Piloting Award– Sacandaga Power Squadron
Stamford-Doolittle Teaching Aids Award– Mid-Hudson Power Squadron –Lt/C
Robert P. Reilly, AP Submitter
“N Club” Sextant Award– Greenwich Sail & Power Squadron

D2 Charles Chapman Award Nominee: P/Lt/C Frank B. Kemp, JN -- Darien Sail & Power Squadron

50-year Membership: 50-year of USPS Membership awards were presented to: P/D/C Jeffrey C. Gerwig, AP– Darien Sail & Power Squadron and posthumously to P/R/C Clifford Schoonmaker, JN – Mid-Hudson Power Squadron.

New Business:

Seamanship: R/C Chris Windeler, SN (D4 – Lackawanna Sail & Power Squadron) presented information about the pending revisions to the Seamanship course. Chapters 1 & 2 will be dropped as they tend to repeat material covered in Basic Boating. The course will consist of a power point presentation combined with videos to teach practical skills as opposed to only reading a textbook. The course will evolve into a series of seminars. E-books for the course should be available soon. No charge to the squadron until the student downloads the book.

The Darien Squadron may have the opportunity to acquire a vessel to be used for on-the-water training. Input on the pros and cons of this issue are needed.

Accessibility: D/C Susan Darcy shared an excerpt from a video presentation about accessible teaching facilities and conformance with the A.D.A. and local regulations. Good things to keep in mind as we plan future courses. Need to come up with “reasonable solutions,” not necessarily the absolute best solutions.

New York State Boater’s Guide: D/Lt Robert Terry advised those present, who teach courses to include NYS boating regulations. He is now responsible for procurement of the guides. Let him know how many you need.

General Discussion: Discussed was combining future council and conference meetings, whether to offer a training session at the Winter Council.

Agenda items: It would be helpful if proposed items for inclusion on the agenda at District meetings be submitted not later than 10 days before the meeting so that they may be placed on the distributed agenda and included in the power point

Winter Council Meeting: The Winter Council will take place at the I-84 dinner. Date is TBA.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1500.

Respectfully Submitted

David J. Wilkinson

District Secretary

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