



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
SAIL AND POWER BOATING



District 2 Bridge

D/Lt/C David J. Wilkinson, S - Secretary
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Minutes of the District 2 Spring Conference 7 April 2018

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 0914 by D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN.

Invocation: P/D/C Jeffrey Gerwig, AP gave the invocation.

Pledge: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by D/Lt/C Andrew Cummings, JN.

National Anthem: The singing of the National Anthem was led by P/D/C Harrison Valante, SN, following a lively discussion of the song's history.

Memorial Service: P/D/C Jeffrey Gerwig, AP and Lt/C Robert Terry, P led the memorial service for those members who have taken their final voyage. Those remembered were: Donald Wilson, SN – Lake Candlewood; P/D/C Cliff Schoonmaker, JN and Sharmen Fitchett, AP – Mid-Hudson; P/C Deborah Benedetto, AP – Stamford; P/C Harvey Fink, SN and P/C Charles FitzRandolph, AP – Westchester. As the service concluded, the musical selection known as “Taps” was played.

Introductions of Past District Commanders, Committee Members, and District Guests: P/D/C Jeffrey Gerwig, AP, introduced National officers present: Law Committee Chair R/C Michael D. Friedman, N; Information Technology Chair, Carl E. Filios, SN; and Educational Fund Trustee, Susan Darcy, JN. P/D/C Denise Filios, AP introduced Past District Commanders present: P/D/C Harrison Valante, SN; D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN; P/D/C Frederick Mangelsdorf, SN; P/D/C Jeffrey Gerwig, AP; P/D/C Susan Ryan, JN; and P/D/C Denise Filios, AP and Past District Education Officers present were introduced by R/C Carl Filios, SN. Past DEO's included P/D/Lt/C Edward C. Weber, SN and P/R/C George Hallenbeck, AP and R/C Carl Filios, SN. District guests introduced were R/C Michael D. Friedman, N; Ruth Witztum, JN; and R/C Chris Windeler, SN. All were from District 4. R/C Friedman, National Law Officer was serving as the Chief Commander's Representative. Although the Governing Board Emeritus members were not present, because of the honor of their having obtained at least 50 Merit Marks, their names were listed in the presentation: Clarkson Farnsworth, JN; Donald Gladstone, P; William Gratz, SN; Hubert Sebastian, SN; Harry Twitchell, SN; and Robert Ward, SN. Governing Board members present were introduced: Jeffrey Gerwig, AP; Karl Wagner, JN; and Susan Darcy, JN.

Chief Commander's Address: R/C Michael D. Friedman, N, National Law Officer delivered the Chief Commander's address. His remarks included a history of the United States Power

Squadron, from its formative days and outgrowth from a northeast yacht club, to its present designation as “America’s Boating Club,” complete with new trademarks and logos. (Squadrons are reminded that the new logos are to be used as-is and not changed.)

Determination of a quorum: D/Lt/C David Wilkinson, S called the roll and affirmed that a quorum was present.

Minutes from the 2017 Fall Conference: P/D/C Susan P. Ryan, JN made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2017 Fall Conference as revised. Motion was seconded by Lt/C Virginia Schmidt-Gedney, AP. Motion passed. This was followed by a question and discussion concerning District policy of approving minutes from two meetings ago at conferences and council meetings. Going forward, we will endeavor to publish meeting minutes within 30 days after a meeting has been concluded.

Education Department Report: D/Lt/C Karl M. Wagner, JN presented his report. Karl suggested that Instructors report courses taught so that they receive credit for courses taught. Also, they are encouraged to upload a copy of their course syllabus as a PDF to HQ800. Instructors should contact Karl if they have any questions. Karl likes to keep his instructors busy.

Presentation: D/1st/Lt Andrew M. Cummings, JN was presented with a Certificate of Achievement.

General Presentation: D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN offered a presentation involving a group exercise. In her scenario, participants are passengers on a sinking ship due to a fire aboard and must rank, in order of importance, the items from a given list that they would need. Rationale for the chosen correct answers followed with spirited discussion. Susan also offered a squadron internal review take-back exercise, as well as a presentation on how to retain new members, a technique she referred to as “E-4.” The Four E’s she referred to were: Enlightenment, Education, Empowerment, and Entrepreneurship. She also talked about ten ways to get the best out of your squadron. She then distributed CD’s with forms, information, and other valuable resources to squadron representatives.

Meeting Report: P/D/C Fred Mangelsdorf presented a petition he had received from P/D/C Robert Zimmerman which would enable “distinguished” squadron members (as recognized by National), to receive a silver star to be worn as a lapel pin. This item was discussed by Past District Commanders and Past District Education Officers and it was decided not to send this petition on to National but that it may be appropriate to recognize such members at the District level instead. In other words, the motion “died on the floor.”

Announcement: It was announced by the host District that 50/50 raffle tickets would be sold during lunch and attendees were encouraged to purchase tickets.

Past District Commanders’ Award: This award is presented for achievement in the area of member involvement. Third place was awarded to Storm King Power Squadron; second place to Berkshire Sail and Power Squadron; and first place to Sacandaga Power Squadron.

Bridge Reports:

Treasurer: Motion to accept provided report. Motion seconded and passed.

Secretary: *No Report*

Administrative Officer: No Report aside from the seat packet.

Educational Officer: No Report

Executive Officer: No Report.

Commander's Report: D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN thanked all who came to the conference and for their hard work during the year. She spoke about the next summer council meeting and she is interested in the possibility of combining a meeting with a cruise, for example, on the Hudson. Having a meeting during a cruise may not be the best plan since there is no way for people to leave once the boat departs. May be better to meet on land and then those that wish can participate in an on-the-water event. During the meeting, we could address areas that officers feel they need help with or skills that they wish to improve. Susan is looking for input and ideas about a summer council. Also, reach out to her if you would like to know more about National positions. Finally, Susan thanked the District for placing their trust in her for the past year.

Reports of Committees:

General Committee Reports: There were no reports at this time from the Rules, or Law Committees. The Auditing and Nominating Committee provided reports and the Nominating Committee's report was included in the seat packet. The Auditing Committee indicated that they were satisfied with the Treasurer's report and it was noted that D/Lt/C John P. Pedersen has done an excellent job. A question was raised about what percentage of the Capital Reserve is being used for operations. It was confirmed that none of these funds were being used as such.

Other Committee Reports:

Councils and Conferences Committee: No report.

Membership Status: P/D/C Susan P. Ryan, JN noted that the Membership Awareness Committee was started in 2016 and was pleased to report that Squadrons are really doing a great deal of work on membership. Members are being lost due to death, aging, disabilities, burnout, relocation, economics, and competition from on-line classes. Suggests we charge different course rates for members vs. non-members. Other suggestions included building a list of boaters who are not yet members for targeted communications and holding fun events in addition to classes.

Sea Scouts: No report

VSC Committee: No report.

Education Fund: No report.

PRO/Marketing: P/D/C Susan P. Ryan, JN noted that the new marketing guidebook is available, and it is included on the CD's distributed today. She also noted that refrigerator magnets, with the new logo, are available to be used as a marketing tool. New nametags are available from CPDean.com. Banners are available for \$56 plus shipping. There was also a discussion about the "Marketing Fund" and the "National General Fund" references that may appear on the renewal form.

We have been solicited to invest \$650 to establish a presence on “Wind Check “ (sp ?) as a means to recruit new members. Susan felt that this should not be pursued, as there are more cost-effective methods available, especially when this rather pricey proposal was not included in our budget in the first place.

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

Governing Board Emeritus (50 merit marks) – P/D/Lt/C Edward V. Weber, SN – Mid-Hudson Power Squadron

“Distinguished Past Commanders”: - Awarded for Service (40+ merit marks); Leadership (Past Commander); and Education (Full Certificate):

Leo O. Robillard, SN – Berkshire Sail and Power Squadron

John A. Lucchesi, SN – Lake Candlewood Power Squadron

Michael A. Brown, SN – Norwalk Sail and Power Squadron

Stephen H. Raffel, SN – Saugatuck River Sail and Power Squadron

Harvey Fink, SN – Westchester Sail and Power Squadron (*posthumously*)

“Distinguished Past District Commanders” – Awarded for Service (40+ merit marks); Leadership (Past District Commander); and Education (Full Certificate):

Richard P. Rutland, SN – Mohawk Sail and Power Squadron

Robert F. Zimmerman, SN – Mohawk Sail and Power Squadron

Outstanding Squadron Awards

Overall Outstanding Achievement Award: This award is given to the squadron with the best overall performance of all the objectives being judged including administrative functions. **A three-way tie** for the overall position: Darien Sail and Power Squadron; Greenwich Sail and Power Squadron; and Mid-Hudson Power Squadron. **Most Improved Category Award** presented to Westchester Sail and Power Squadron. **Outstanding Civic Service Award** was presented to Storm King Power Squadron; **Outstanding Educational Award** presented to Norwalk Sail and Power Squadron; and Saugatuck River Sail and Power Squadron received the **Outstanding Squadron Award for the Fraternity** category. Squadrons receiving **Honorable Mention** were Berkshire, Penfield, and Stamford.

Distinctive Communicator Awards:

For publications: Dredgings (Saugatuck River); Harbor Light (Greenwich); Windjammer (Sacandaga); and District 2News.

For web sites: Berkshire; Darien; Greenwich, Lake Candlewood; Mid-Hudson; Norwalk; Sacandaga; Stamford; and District 2.

Richard Moore/Operations Training: Storm King, Mid-Hudson; Stamford; and Westchester.

Vessel Safety Checks/Examiners:

Squadron Awards:

Highest number of examinations: 1st place: Lake Candlewood – 72 examinations
2nd place: Norwalk – 58 examinations
3rd place: Sacandaga – 42 examinations

Individual Awards:

Highest number of examinations: Brian Barnier, Lake Candlewood – 72 examinations
Second highest number: Jack Cohen, Norwalk – 40 examinations
Third highest number: Philip H. Roeber, Sacandaga – 28 examinations

National Membership Growth Awards – Honorable Mention:

Division 1 – Squadrons with more than 114 members:

Westchester Sail and Power Squadron

Division 3 – Squadrons with 45 – 74 members:

Mid-Hudson Power Squadron

Stamford Sail and Power Squadron

Division 4 – Squadrons with 44 members or fewer:

Storm King Power Squadron

Life Member (25 Merit Marks):

Lt George A. Friend, P – Greenwich Sail and Power Squadron

Educational Fund Honor Roll:

Berkshire; Darien; Greenwich; Lake Candlewood; Lake George; Mid-Hudson;
Mohawk-Hudson; Saugatuck River; and Westchester.

A brief discussion took place about the use of Education Funds for “marketing” activities. D/C Susan Darcy indicated she would let the Fund Trustees know we felt that the D2 Educational Funds should not be used for non-educational purposes.

Nominating Committee Report: P/D/C Denise A. Filios, AP (Norwalk) presented the report from the Nominating Committee. The slate for Bridge year 2018 is as follows:

District Commander:	P/R/C Susan L. Darcy, JN – Berkshire
Executive Officer	D/Lt/C Andy Papademetriou, N – Westchester
Educational Officer	D/Lt/C Karl M. Wagner, JN – Norwalk
Administrative Officer	P/C Robert J. Terry, P – Sacandaga
Secretary	D/Lt/C David J. Wilkinson, S – Lake George
Treasurer	D/Lt/C John P. Pedersen, SN – Darien
Assistant Treasurer	P/D/C Martin E. Feldberg, AP – Storm King *
Assistant Education Officer	Lt/C Andy M. Cummings, JN – Greenwich

General Committees:

Rules:

Lt Robert P. Kelly, SN – Westchester (2019)

Stf/C Carl E. Filios, SN – Berkshire (2020)

Stf/C Howard A. Sklar, AP – Westchester (2021)

Auditing:

P/C William F. Gratz, SN – Westchester (2019)
P/C Edward V. Weber, SN – Mid-Hudson (2018)

Nominating:

P/D/C Denise A. Filios, AP – Norwalk (2019 – Chair)
P/D/C Gino C. Bottino, AP – Stamford (2020)
P/D/C Vincent Evans, P – Storm King (2021)
Cdr Craig R. Burry, P – Saugatuck River
Lt/C Frank W. Isele, N – Mohawk-Hudson
P/D/C Harrison R. Valante, SN – Saugatuck River

* This nomination was made from the floor during the conference.

Submitted by:

P/D/C Howard Sklar, AP – Westchester (Chair)
P/D/C Denise A. Filios, AP – Norwalk
P/D/C Gino C. Bottino, AP – Stamford
P/C/C Harrison R. Valante, SN – Saugatuck River (Advisor)
Cdr Craig R. Burry, P – Saugatuck River

R/C Michael Friedman, N, National Law Officer, made a motion for the D2 Secretary to cast one vote for the proposed slate, as amended by nomination from the floor. D/Lt/C David J. Wilkinson, S, Secretary, did affirm that no other additional nominations had been received and did so cast a vote in the affirmative for the proposed slate.

Following brief break, P/R/C Susan L. Darcy, JN (Berkshire) was sworn in as D2 Commander by R/C Michael Friedman, N. The D2 Officers were subsequently sworn in, following which D/C Susan Darcy offered a few brief remarks. Susan promised that things were going to be fun this year but indicated to her officers that they would have to do a good job.

Susan also stated that she could use help packing equipment and related conference materials into her car, following which anyone interested could meet and discuss going out to dinner later that evening.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1515.

Respectfully Submitted

D/Lt/C David J. Wilkinson, S

District Secretary

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