



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
SAIL AND POWER BOATING



District 2 Bridge

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Minutes of the District 2 Fall Conference
27 October 2018

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 0923 by D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN.

Invocation: Chaplain D/1st/Lt Melvin Goldstein, AP gave the invocation.

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

National Anthem: P/D/C Harrison R. Valente, SN, led the singing of the National Anthems.

Introductions:

The District's National Officers and their Squadrons were introduced by P/D/C Jeffrey C. Gerwig, AP as they were shown. **Berkshire** – D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN; R/C Carl E. Filios, SN; **Darien** – P/D/C Jeffrey C. Gerwig, AP; P/C Frank B. Kemp, JN; **Greenwich** – P/D/C Susan P. Ryan, JN; **Lake Candlewood** – P/D/Lt/C Joseph A. Lynch, JN; **Mid-Hudson** – P/D/C Frederick E. Mangelsdorf, SN; D/Lt Linda Mangelsdorf, JN; **Norwalk** – P/D/C Denise A. Filios, AP; D/Lt/C Karl M. Wagner, JN; **Stamford** – P/D/C Gino C. Bottino, AP; P/R/C George R. Hallenbeck, AP; **Storm King** – Stf/C Martin E. Feldberg, AP, **Westchester** – P/D/C Howard A. Sklar, AP

In addition, P/D/C Jeffrey C. Gerwig, AP read the **Governing Board Emeritus Members and their Squadrons** as they were listed: **Champlain** – P/C Robert I. Ward, SN; **Greenwich** – P/C Harry G. Twitchell, AP; **Mid-Hudson** – P/C Donald Gladstone, P; P/D/Lt/C Edward V. Weber, SN; **Mohawk Hudson** – P/C Clarkson B. Farnsworth, JN; **Norwalk** – Lt Jack Cohen, P; **Saugatuck River** – P/D/Lt/C Hubert J. Sebastian, SN; **Westchester** – P/C William F. Gratz, SN. The **Governing Board Members** are: P/D/C Jeffrey C. Gerwig, AP; P/D/C Howard A. Sklar, AP; D/C Susan Darcy, JN, D/Lt/C Karl M. Wagner, JN and all the Squadron Commanders.

The list of **Past District Commanders** was introduced by P/D/C Vincent J. Evans, P

The list of **Past District Educational Officers** was introduced by P/R/C George Hallenbeck, AP.

The **District Guests** in attendance were introduced by D/FI/Lt Alexandra Digilio-Feldberg, P. R/C Carl E. Filios, SN (D2/Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron); P/D/C Denise A. Filios, AP

(D2/Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron); R/C Chris Windeler, SN (D4/Lackawanna Sail & Power Squadron); and herself, D/FI/Lt Alexandra Digilio-Feldberg, P (D22/Crystal River Power Squadron).

Introduction of Guests from District 3: D/FI/Lt Alexandra Digilio-Feldberg, P introduced the District 3 members present: D/C Frederick Smith, AP; D/Lt/C Luann Kazanecki, SN; P/R/C Gene Molteni; Lt/C Sharon Molteni, SN; Stf/C Ann Peltier, SN; R/C Thomas Peltier, SN; Lt Diane Sherman, P; Stf/C Glen Sherman, P

Rearrangement of the agenda: D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN, reserved the right to rearrange the agenda as needed.

Chief Commander's Message: R/C Carl E. Filios, SN, introduced the Chief Commander's message. Highlights are as follows: The next phase of our advertising campaign is beginning, i.e. "America's Boating Club". The Chief Commander also spoke about "Changing our 100K." There also appear to be issues with squadron web sites. Some squadrons do not have one; others are not maintained properly. The IT Committee has developed a standard squadron web site for squadrons to follow, similar to the new public web site. Some squadrons are changing the name they go by (Doing Business As - DBA). You should keep your official (legal) name the same but you can change your DBA name. Education programs are being modernized and updated. Also gave a "plug" for the upcoming National Meeting in Orlando on February 18-24, 2019. Attendees are encouraged to come early in order to enjoy the fun activities arranged by P/D/C Denise Filios. Options include dinner theatre, a performance by Blue Man Group, a downtown tour including gators; and a luncheon. Also talked about dual branding and creating a national brand. P/D/C Harrison R. Valante, SN asked a question about budgeting and membership. Sadly, it appears that we are losing more members than we are gaining new ones. We have 17,000 paid members as of last week; about 28,000 members total. Squadrons are encouraged to work on keeping the members you have. Don't forget paddle and pontoon boaters as potential new sources of members. A question was also asked about when we would hear about the results of our new marketing campaign. Most likely we will hear about this at the National meeting in Orlando. It was announced that the area Merit Mark monitor for D2 has changed to **P/V/C Robert Miller, SN**. Squadrons were reminded to include hours information when submitting merit mark nominations. Send Merit Mark nominations using DB2000. A question was raised about HQ800 forms: Can they be "modified" to include more instructor information? Also good news – there will not be a dues increase from National next year.

Stamford Power Squadron was celebrated on its 90th anniversary and a group photo of members present was taken. They were presented with a letter from the Chief Commander and a Certificate of Achievement. Congratulations.

Recognition of 50-year memberships was also offered. John P. Lynch, P (Penfield); John E. O'Hern, Jr., SN (Lake Candlewood); David Sexton, JN (Lake George) were among those so honored.

Educational Workshops. R/C Chris Windeler, SN led the Educational Workshop and spoke about the new Seamanship or Boat Handling Course. Piloting was also discussed. We are working to remove redundancy of Seamanship with previous courses. Course has been reduced from 8 chapters to 6 and seminars have been added, including one for marlin spike. Also, the order of presentation of the course material has been changed. Student manuals will be available in electronic form to start with. Feedback is welcome from both instructors and students. The Instructor Manual will be free. A squadron will only be charged when a student downloads a course manual using a provided key.

A discussion of on-line versus classroom instruction took place. Face-to-face instruction seemed to be regarded as superior. Students must take exams to earn credit for courses completed.

D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN offered hints, tips, and secrets from her leadership experience. Highlights of her presentation included: "Why won't they do what I want?" and other obstacles to success including an isolationism culture; consumerism (everyone wants to be a star); "ME-ism" i.e. "satisfy me now"; why do people volunteer (or why not); and using phone committees to motivate participation. Also you should try to get to know the people in your squadron. What types of people do you have? Remember that folks cannot read your mind. In the words of Maya Angelou: *"People will forget what you did; they will forget what you said; but they will never forget how you made them feel."*

Think about how to attract people to your squadron and to your squadron's events. For example: What attracts you to your favorite web sites? You need to understand your audience. Finally: "If you serve food, they will come." Ask folks to bring something for the meeting. For example, "can you pick up a couple bottles of soda?"

General Committee Reports:

Rules Committee: Fred Mangelsdorf presented an exercise about boating and weather. No other formal report presented.

Boat Operator Certifications and On The Water Training: Fred Mangelsdorf and Karl Wagner presented a report, which was included in the seat packet. During 2018, several D2 members completed steps leading to certification in the Boat Operator Certification (BOC) program. Several folks also taught the Basic Power Boat Seminar and/or the Certifier Seminar and conducted on-the-water training and certification. In addition, it was noted that the Norwalk Power Squadron provided classroom and on-the-water instruction to 22 students through the Basic Power Boat Handling Program, previously known as POTW.

Other Committee Reports:

Audit: No report.

Law: No report

Planning: No report (committee has been dissolved.)

Membership: No Membership Status Report (No committee chair). P/D/C Susan Ryan asked if anyone was working on membership issues. D/C Susan Darcy responded that several prospects were asked and they each declined. This is something we are still working on.

Sea Scouts: In the Seat Packet

Marketing: P/D/C Susan P. Ryan, JN – Spoke about exponential marketing, i.e. marketing that goes viral. Suggestions included promoting boating classes to non-squadron members involved in other boating-related groups. For example: yacht and boating clubs.

Financial: D/Lt/C John P. Pedersen, SN presented his financial report and the D2 proposed budget. which was noted to be a balanced budget. Discussion followed. P/D/C Jeffrey C. Gerwig, AP, made a motion that said budget be accepted. As presented. Motion seconded by Anne Peskin. Motion passed. D/C Susan Darcy made a motion that the Treasurer move an amount of money, at his discretion, from the checking account to a money market account. It was further suggested that the amount be at least \$7,500. Motion was called. Seconded, and passed. A question was raised as to whether next year's Treasurer will need to go through this exercise again. It was determined that this was not the case.

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

Approval of the Spring Conference Minutes: A motion to accept said minutes, as presented, was made by Virginia Schmidt-Gedney. The motion was seconded and passed.

Bridge Reports: The members of the D2 Bridge (Commander; Treasurer; Secretary; Administrative Officer; Educational Officer; and Executive Officer) were asked if they wished to offer any comments about their reports. None were offered.

Awards: D/C Susan Darcy presented the **Shipping Over Award** which recognize Squadrons who do a fantastic job retaining their members. Honorable mention was earned by both Saugatuck River (87.8%) and Sacandaga (88.2%). Third place was awarded to Penfield (95.5%); Second place to Berkshire (97.4%); and first place was awarded to Mohawk-Hudson (100%).

The **Mel Cohen Safety Award** was presented by P/D/C Harrison Valante, SN who awarded third place to Lake George submitted by P/C Armand Canestraro (☺); second place to Stamford submitted by Cdr Alvin Hebert; and first place to Greenwich submitted by D/1st/Lt Andrew Cummings. Honorable Mention was also awarded to Saugatuck River submitted by P/D/C Harrison Valante, Penfield submitted by Cdr Donald Peterson, and Mid-Hudson submitted by Cdr Kathryn Somogyi. Harrison also took the opportunity to speak to the Designated Skipper program and the potential problems of boating under the influence (Boating Under the Influence - BUI).

P/R/C Anne Peskin, SN presented the **Mel Ochs Children's Safe Boating Award**, which was presented to *America's Boating Club of Greenwich*.

P/D/C Fred Mangelsdorf, SN was presented with a **Certificate of Appreciation** for his contributions to the **Boating Operator and Instructor Program**.

Educational / Squadron Awards were presented by R/C Carl E. Filios, SN and R/C Chris Windeler, SN. Educational Proficiency Awards were presented to: Geoffrey Axt, Darien; Joseph Spinella, Darien; Joseph Pucciarelli, Greenwich; William C. Vernon, Greenwich. The **Carl L. Plock Memorial Award** was presented to the Greenwich squadron. Sacandaga received the **Greenwich Piloting Award**. The **P/R/C Frank Gratz Memorial Award** was presented to Norwalk. The **D2 Past District Educational Officer Award** was awarded to Storm King. The Greenwich Squadron was presented with the **Prince Henry Award** while the **Stanley Stevens Memorial Award** was presented to the Norwalk Squadron. The **Stamford Doolittle Award**, which recognizes teaching aids, was not presented as there were no teaching aids submitted.

Education Fund Awards: Nothing to report. Squadrons are reminded that the suggested contribution is \$1.00 per member.

Announcements: Merit Marks for Squadron Commanders should be sent to D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN. Susan Darcy also announced that Robert Terry has seat packet folders available for Squadrons to take back for their members who were unable to attend today's meeting. Robert also has some remaining 2018 Vessel Safety Check Materials available. D/C reminded the conference attendees to complete and submit the conference evaluation sheets, which were included in their seat packets.

Concluding Remarks: D/C Susan Darcy thanked all the folks that came today to participate and congratulated all on their accomplishments. She also thanked R/C Carl Filios, SN and R/C Chris Windeler, SN who served as National Representatives. Following her concluding remarks, Fred Mangelsdorf solicited and received a round of applause for District Commander Susan Darcy. (☺)

A motion to adjourn was made by D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN, which passed. This was followed with a benediction offered by P/D/Lt/C Melvin Goldstein, AP. The meeting was adjourned at 1510.

Respectfully Submitted

David J. Wilkinson

District Secretary

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