



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
SAIL AND POWER BOATING



District 2 Bridge

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Minutes of the District 2 Fall Conference
19 October 2019

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1016 by D/C Andy Papademetriou, N.
Invocation: P/D/Lt/C Melvin Goldstein, AP, led the invocation.

Introduction of guests: D/C Andy Papademetriou, N, noted that Alexandra DiGilio-Feldberg and P/D/C Susan Ryan had joined the meeting.

Roll call of Council Members and Determination of a Quorum: This was led by D/Lt/C David J. Wilkinson, S. It was determined that a quorum was present.

Chief Commander's Message: Presented by P/D/C Fred Mangelsdorf, SN. Summarized as follows: What is the mission of USPS? To promote recreational boating skills through education and fellowship. A new mission statement is being considered, along with other changes. Phase 2 of the National Branding effort is presently underway. Current focus is on education and training opportunities. Digital advertising and media outlets are being utilized. A "call to action" has been made for members to "make a sale," i.e. get folks to join. Get students into your boating course; get course graduates on the water and get them involved with your squadron. Extol the benefits of Dan Boating, which include comprehensive boating insurance for only \$25 per year. Speaking of on the water training, it has been made open to the public at various centers around the country. Fred also spoke about the Jump Start and BOC programs. Also, our web site is being updated and will have a very different look. Squadrons can get help to further develop their own web sites for a cost of \$600 up front and then \$35/month to maintain them.

Recognition of 50-year memberships: Recognized were Ward W. Miller – Mid-Hudson Power Squadron, Inman Stegall; Jeffrey Toepfer; Martin S. Burger – Penfield Squadron; and Robert J. Owens – Storm King.

Approval of Spring Conference Meeting Minutes: As presented in the Seat Packet and included with the Roll Call to the meeting. Motion to approve was made by Donald Pederson; second by P/D/Lt/C Virginia Schmidt-Gedney. Motion passed. Minutes were accepted as published.

Educational Update: Presented by D/Lt/C Andrew Cummings, JN. The consolidated Education Report is available on-line, as well as recordings of monthly briefings from National. Andy also noted that the ED-80 forms are available on-line. Completed forms are due prior to your squadron's Change of Watch. Regarding on-the-water training and the Jump Start program, you can take any student out on the student's boat to provide training. Squadron members cannot be charged for this training. You can use this as a way to attract new members. The On the Water Instructor should be familiar with the type of boat being used. Instructor manuals are available at no charge, along with On the Water Guides, which include a Power Point presentation and Instructor's Kit. **Andy**** agreed to share the link for these items. Instructors are covered by National's Insurance but meeting minutes should document that a course has been approved for a particular date and time. On the Water Learning Centers have been established and are staffed with Professional Instructors.

P/D/Lt/C Karl Wagner asked if these centers compete with squadron training. This should not be a concern. In fact, squadrons can donate their own instructors to participate. The centers should actually end up being self-supporting, as funds come from course students. P/D/C Gino Botino asked if there were set standards for On the Water Training. It was confirmed that there are.

Andy also spoke about the Women on the Water Program, which features training centers in Florida, California, and Texas. Boats used are typically center-console power boats.

Seamanship will be known, going forward, as *Boat Handling*, and will consist of 6 seminars. It was noted that there is presently a large supply of the current Seamanship books at National, which can be used until exhausted. The cost for the seminars is \$23 each or \$48 for all 6 (\$48 is the cost to the squadron). The exam is a proctored exam. Students must be enrolled via HQ800 in order to receive credit for the course.

Navigation – Where are we going? This includes the courses formerly known as Piloting, Advanced Piloting, Junior Navigation, and Senior Navigation. The use of electronic navigation tools can be taught, along with the still included use of traditional tools, such as dividers and plotters.

On-line or Remote Teaching was also discussed at the Louisville meeting. Discussion included the use of WebEx, Go-to-meeting, and related methods. Squadrons are encouraged to develop non-traditional teaching methods if it works for their students. P/D/C Jeffrey Gerwig asked about how to attract students. Suggested methods included graduation parties to get students interested in the ABC and other safe boating classes.

Also discussed were the *ABC Channel*, which offers a series of boating education videos available on YouTube, as well as mini-seminars. *Brianna's Law*, was also discussed. It requires NYS powerboat operators to take a boating safety course. This could greatly impact course enrollment in New York State.

Finally, it was noted that what we do, as members, matters in terms of boating safety, i.e. we should be setting a good example.

The Fall conference reconvened at 1:30 p.m., following a break at noon for lunch. After lunch, cookies, drinks, and snacks were offered by D/Lt/C William Vernon.

General Committee Reports:

Rules: P/D/Lt/C Robert P. Kelly, SN reported that everything was fine at present.

Nominating: P/D/C Gino Botino, AP reported that all positions have been filled.

Law: P/D/Lt/C Robert P. Kelly, SN reported that everything is under control.

Development: Donald Pederson thanked the folks who have assisted him with the Development Committee Award; specifically, Harrison Valante; Susan Ryan; Jeffrey Gerwig; George Hallenbeck, and Karl Wagner.

Councils and Conferences: D/Lt/C William Vernon asked attendees to complete and submit the conference evaluation forms. He also announced the planned upcoming meeting dates.

Vessel Safety Checks: Robert Terry noted that reports can be submitted until 11/30/2019. Awards will be presented in the spring. Robert presented his formal report and noted that in first place is Sacandaga; Lake Candlewood is in second; and Lake George is in third place.

Marketing: P/D/C Susan P. Ryan, JN spoke about competition for our Basic Boating Class. Unfortunately, we account for a very small percentage of folks who have successfully completed a boating course. Susan spoke about a “beyond the class” theme, which includes On the Water training, a new web site, and a mobile app. Susan also spoke about results from phase 1 of our national advertising campaign, the Dan Boater program. The cost for this program is free to members for the 1st year. After that, the cost is \$25, which will be added to our dues. A discussion followed. Bottom line – What should we do? *Teach classes and attract new members. Offer great parties and inspiring speakers. Get members out on the water.*

Financial and Treasurer’s Report: D/1st/Lt Martin Feldberg, AP suggested that there is presently too much money in the checking account and that we should perhaps acquire another certificate of deposit. It was noted that a CD’s moderate interest income should not adversely affect us as they typically earn about 2 ¼ percent annually. Martin made a motion that the Treasurer take \$5,000 and purchase a new CD. No second. This motion failed.

David Leisten suggested we leave this matter up to the Finance Committee. D/C Papademetriou made a motion that this item be reviewed by the Finance Committee, which was tasked to come back with a proposal. Motion seconded and passed.

Bridge Reports:

Secretary – No report.

Administrative Officer – No report.

Educational Officer – No report.

Executive Officer – D/Lt/C Anthony Reyes, JN noted that Merit Marks are due so please get them in. He also talked about a Spear Fishing Attack, which is a scam.

Commander – D/C Andy Papademetriou, N, spoke about several accomplishments, Among them that the District who's who directory has been updated and published, dates and venues for District Meetings for the next two years have been set and published, he attended the conference in Louisville which included representatives from 31 districts and 341 squadrons. Also noted that the tag line "For boaters by boaters" is now trademarked. Andy affirmed that USPS Districts are a vital component, which is here to stay. Andy also talked about DanBoater.org, which offers travel and trip insurance, along with his interests in respect for everyone; to simplify and improve productivity in all that we do; lean operations from our right-sized organization; and support of headquarters initiatives and of our squadrons.

Old Business: Jeffrey Gerwig suggested putting a flag or sign in front of the hotel for future meetings, to make the venue easier to find. Susan Ryan suggested we retrieve D2 equipment presently being stored by Howard Sklar. D/Lt/C Andy Cummings noted that he paid for an ad in the Connecticut Boating Guide, and will ask to be reimbursed.

New Business: Robert Terry asked that folks let him know, before the end of December, how many New York State Boating Guides they need. D/Lt/C John Pedersen made a motion to approve the proposed budget. Motion passed.

“Appendix A:” D/C Andy Papademetriou, N, spoke about “America’s Boating Club” going forward and the need to: Create a contemporary organization; meeting attire (i.e. eliminate uniforms); streamline the number of meetings. Andy further noted that the originally proposed “Appendix A” has been completely retracted and also discussed a proposed “Appendix B,” which features the idea that “you can _____.” This was followed by a discussion concerning how to cope with the issue that squadrons overall are shrinking. Ideas suggested included a review of the awards, including the number and frequency of. **Virginia Schmidt-Gedney; Fred Mangelsdorf; George Hallenbeck; and Karl Wagner**** agreed to further examine this. Also suggested was the possibility of doing the upcoming scheduled Winter Council meeting as a conference call. Further, the 2020 Spring Conference will be half-day event similar to the one held last year in Fishkill. An evening event for the purpose of socializing could be offered. We need to give people a reason to come to District meetings. Also discussed was the minimum number of officers needed to conduct District business. This was determined to be a Commander; Secretary; and Treasurer. **Donald Pederson**** also talked about organizing events or meetings for squadrons in Long Island Sound and said he could organize them.

P/D/C Fred Mangelsdorf, SN spoke about offering only advanced courses. We appear to be “irrelevant” in terms of basic boating; however, this proposal was essentially rejected.

Awards:

Shipping Over (for member retention: Honorable Mention: Darien; Greenwich; Sacandaga; Saugatuck River; and Lake Candlewood. 3rd place: Penfield; 2nd place: Mohawk-Hudson; 1st place: Tie between Storm King and Berkshire.

New Member Award (most new members): Darien Sail and Power Squadron

Mel Cohen Safety Award: 1st place: Greenwich Power Squadron; 2nd place: Darien Power Squadron; 3rd place: Norwalk Power Squadron; Honorable Mention: Lake George Power Squadron; Saugatuck River Power Squadron; Storm King Power Squadron; and Penfield Power Squadron. This award is based on vessel safety checks, children's education, parade, press and media, flare-up safety demonstrations, and other exemplary safety programs.

P/D/C Susan Ryan suggested we might want to change this to the "Harrison Valante Safety Award."

Education Awards:

Prince Henry – Champlain

P/R/C Frank Gatz – Greenwich

Past District Educational Officer – Mohawk-Hudson

Carl Plock – Berkshire

Stanley Stevens Memorial Award – Westchester

Greenwich Piloting Award – Lake George

Mel Ochs Award – To be Determined

Stamford-Doolittle Award – Norwalk

Congratulations to our achieving squadrons!

Following the awards, D/C Andy Papademetriou, N, made announcements and offered his concluding remarks, followed by which D/Lt/C David Wilkinson, S, offered a benediction.

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1600.

Respectfully Submitted

D/Lt/C David J. Wilkinson

District Secretary

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**** - Action item**