



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
SAIL AND POWER BOATING



District 2 Bridge

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Minutes of the District 2 Fall Conference
17 October 2020 via Zoom videoconference

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 0910 by D/C Andy Papademetriou, N. Participants in the call included David Wilkinson, Katherine Smogyi; Frank Palmieri; Susan Darcy; Leo Robillard; Geoffrey Axt; George R. Hallenbeck; Susan Ryan; Peter Adler; Frank Kemp; Jeffrey Brown; Mark Dam; Martin Feldberg; Alexandra Digilio; Robert Terry; William Vernon; Vince Evans; Norman Marcilious; Virginia Schmidt-Gedney; Donald Peterson; Howard Sklar; Anne Peskin; Andrew Cummings; Marc Cohen; Jeffrey Gerwig; Gino Bottino; Karl Wagner; John Pedersen; Robert Kelly; Victoria Malara; and Fred Mangelsdorf. It appeared that a quorum was present.

Invocation: Once the meeting was called to order, P/D/C Jeffrey C. Gerwig, AP, was called upon to deliver the invocation.

COVID-19: D/C Andy Papademetriou asked that we observe a moment of silence for all those who have suffered losses as the result of the pandemic.

Introductions: D/C Andy Papademetriou welcomed all guests including Past District Commanders, Past District Educational Officers; Governing Board Emeritus members, and National Representatives.

Fall Conference Call to Order: Once the Fall Conference was called to order, D/C Andy Papademetriou offered congratulations to those who had earned 25 merit marks, which qualified them for Life Membership: Richard Malloy; Robert Kelly; Diane Supple; and David Wilkinson. Congratulations were then offered to those who had achieved fifty years of membership: Harold Collins (Greenwich); Frank Frost (Greenwich); Myron Carter (Mid-Hudson); and Harold Kemp.

Spring Conference Minutes: Since the 2020 Spring Conference was canceled due to the pandemic, there were no minutes that needed to be approved from this event.

Approval of Winter Council Minutes: D/C Andrew Papademetriou made a motion that the minutes from the D2 Winter Council, as previously distributed, be approved. Seconded. Motion passed.

Educational Update: D/Lt/C Andrew Cummings, JN, presented his report. Notable highlights include the online presentations available from Raleigh, available virtual learning platforms for ABC and Boat Handling (formerly known as Seamanship), Instructor Development, and America's Boating Channel, along with many seminars. Andy also noted that the NASB certification has been extended through 12/31/2021 and the Connect DEEP Allowance for the virtual course has been extended through 12/31/2020. Andrew also offered tips for conducting virtual courses, such as reminding the students about the course the day prior to the course date, and having a second Instructor who can serve as a backup in case of unexpected technical and other glitches. Andrew also talked about how the on-line Instructor Development course works and noted that **this course is open to any active or expired certified Instructor.** He also noted that information about planned course updates was available on the web site and that many courses are available using e-books. Squadrons are not charged until the student downloads the book from the link for these. A question was raised about the possibility of reduced fees for on-line platforms. This is not possible at this time. Anne Peskin asked if samples of course material could be made available to potentially interested students. George Hallenbeck confirmed that this was presently being discussed.

Financial/Treasurer's Update: D/Lt/C John Pedersen, SN presented and discussed his report (attached).

Bridge Reports: **Secretary** – no report; **Treasurer** – no report; **Administrative Officer** – no report; **Educational Officer** – no additional report; **Executive Officer** – No Report. **Commander:** D/C Andy Papademetriou reported that he attended Change of Watch meetings at various squadrons, which he enjoyed and is looking forward to attending more of them. He also worked on the potential dissolution of the Lake Champlain squadron which, sadly, is down to very few members. He is also working on potential updates to the District 2 bylaws, which is currently a work in progress. P/D/C Susan P. Ryan, JN thanked Andy for all that he has been doing on behalf of the District.

Committee Reports:

P/D/C Vince Evans, P reported that the **Nominating Committee** recently met and is working to develop a slate of candidates. Please contact the Committee if you know anyone who might be interested in serving in a position on the Bridge.

Robert Terry reported that certificates from last season's **Vessel Safety Checks** that could not be passed out due to the Pandemic would be mailed.

P/D/C Susan P. Ryan provided a **Marketing** Committee report. Susan provided a demonstration of newly created APP: *America's Boating Club*, which is available for download from Google and I-Phone for your device. Users will need to create an account using your Certificate Number. The APP offers a whole range of useful and fun boating information at your fingertips.

P/D/Lt/C Robert P. Kelly presented a report from the **Law Committee** (attached) about a slip and fall that occurred at a boating class site. The matter has been turned over to USPS' insurance carrier, which, in turn, has appointed local counsel to defend. The plaintiff has engaged her third attorney and depositions will most likely be held in early 2021. No liability on the part of USPS is expected.

Other Committee Reports: **Council & Conferences** (no report); **Sea Scouts** (no report).

D/C Andy Papademetriou spoke about awards presented to squadrons whose activities have improved **membership**, which were presented at the Governing Board meeting in Minneapolis. He also made a presentation in which he pointed out some disturbing membership trends. We seem to have a large number of “cyber members.” Unfortunately, he does not envision a turnaround in the dropping membership levels and suggested that summertime is the best time to gain new members by offering fun events and educational excellence. Both members and their friends should be invited to these events and encouraged to take advantage of courses. Furthermore, squadrons are encouraged to increase efforts to develop their local brand. Andy feels it is difficult to tell the impact that the COVID-19 virus has had on membership. Anne Peskin asked if we were reaching out to new boaters and their families?

Awards: P/D/C Susan Darcy presented the Shipping Over Awards relative to member retention. First Place was awarded to *Lake George* (96.0%); there was a tie for second place at 91.9 % between *Berkshire and Saugatuck River*. Third place was awarded to *Penfield* (90.9%) and Honorable Mention was awarded to *Darien* (89.2 %). Other ratings included Mohawk-Hudson (83.7%); Lake Candlewood (82.5%); Greenwich (80.9%); Westchester (78.0%); Stamford (77,2%); Mid-Hudson (75.9%); Sacandaga (69.2%); Storm King (68.3%); Norwalk (68.1%); and Champlain (25.0%).

P/D/C Susan Ryan reported that the Mel Cohen safety award would not be given this year. Educational awards were presented to Norwalk, Mohawk-Hudson; Penfield, and Greenwich, with Honorable Mention going to the Don Peterson and the Penfield Power Squadron.

Education Fund: D/C Andy Papademetriou noted that the Education Fund is still active and is accepting contributions.

Lake Champlain Power Squadron: D/C presented a resolution relative to the dissolution of the Lake Champlain Power Squadron (attached) which has ceased to function and no longer has any members. After the resolution was presented, a vote was called for. None present opposed the resolution and all were in favor. The resolution passed as presented.

A question was raised as to what should happen with any remaining funds of a dissolved squadron. Should any funds follow members from the dissolved squadron who transfer to other squadrons? It has not yet been determined what funds, if any, remained with Lake Champlain and this question was tabled for the time being and the Fall Conference was suspended for a brief period.

D2 2020 Summer Council: The Secretary was asked if he could confirm that a quorum was present for both the Summer Council and Fall Conference. This was confirmed.

A motion was made to accept the proposed 2020-2021 Budget and present it for discussion at the Fall Conference. Motion passed. The summer council was thereby closed and the Fall Conference resumed.

Unfinished/New Business: A discussion took place about the proposed 2021-2022 District 2 Budget, as presented by D/Lt/C John Pedersen (attached). Following the budget presentation, D/C Andy Papademetriou presented a resolution drafted by Frank Kemp (attached) who had concerns about potential deficit spending and potential impacts. Howard Sklar noted that people entitled to vote at a conference *might* not be entitled to vote at a council. At the council it was proposed to present the proposed Budget for review at the Conference. One goal of the proposed budget is to make it easier to recruit potential Bridge officers by allocating funds to be available for modest travel reimbursement for attendance at official and/or National meetings. To achieve this, the presented budget shows an anticipated loss of \$5,000. Jeffrey Angst opined that we should reconsider what he felt was a dangerous precedent with potential for considerable problems in the future. Howard Sklar responded that the budget represents a yearly examination of our finances and it is not necessarily dictated that future spending will perpetuate a planned deficit. Susan Darcy proposed changes in the allocation of funds distributed for travel reimbursement to add \$300 to the amount proposed for the reimbursement of the DEO's travel. This would increase total disbursements to \$9,452 and would result in an overall loss of \$5,550 instead of \$5,000.

Frank Kemp proposed that District 2 should *not* adopt a budget that depends on deficit spending and suggested that the final paragraph of his original resolution (attached) be adopted instead. Discussion followed.

Karl Wagner proposed including Squadron Education Officers as well as Squadron Commanders when calculating the two-thirds majority as described in Frank Kemp's resolution. This item was defeated.

Howard Sklar noted the lateness of the hour and proposed to table the resolution and proposed budget at this time. Second by David Wilkinson.

Susan Ryan asked if, alternatively, a designated amount be allocated in the Commander's Discretionary Fund to assist with travel and related expenses.

It was noted that the *Motion to table must be voted on first*. None opposed. The motion to table passed and the resolution and budget discussion *was tabled*.

Following some very brief concluding remarks, P/D/C Jeffrey Gerwig offered a benediction and the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

D/Lt/C David J. Wilkinson

District Secretary

** - Action item-