



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
SAIL AND POWER BOATING



District 2 Bridge

D/Lt/C David J. Wilkinson, S - Secretary
1368 Belmont Avenue Schenectady, NY 12308
Phone (518) 393-5394 Cell: (518) 428-2576
Email: boshkong@aol.com

Minutes of the District 2 Special Conference
12 November 2020 – via teleconference

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2012 by D/C Andy Papademetriou, N. At this time, a quorum appeared to be present. Participating in the call were: D/C Andy Papademetriou, D/Lt/C William Vernon, DAO, D/Lt/C David Wilkinson, Secretary; D/Lt/C John Pedersen, Treasurer, P/D/C Susan Darcy, Mark Dam, Peter Adler, Geoffrey Axt, Jeffrey Brown, Marc Cohen, P/D/C Jeffrey Gerwig, Frank Kemp, Victoria Malara, D/Lt/C Andrew Cummings, DEO, Karen Armstrong, Robert Henry, David Leisten, P/D/C Susan Ryan, Michael Ryan, Virginia Schmidt-Gedney, Joseph Lynch, Kathryn Smogyi, Janice Bell, Frank Isele, Donald Peterson, Craig Burry, Alvin Hebert, George Hallenbeck, ADEO, P/D/C Gino Bottino, Anne Peskin, Vincent Evans, P/D/C Martin Feldberg, Kory Breitel, William Gratz, D/Lt/C Robert Kelly, Law Officer, and P/D/C Howard Sklar.

P/D/C Jeffrey Gerwig offered an invocation.

Commander Papademetriou confirmed that we would only address two items of unfinished business leftover from the 2020 Winter Council: The proposed budget for 2021-2022 and the related resolution proposed by Frank Kemp, which was tabled at the Winter Council.

Resolution:

RESOLVED, that an annual budget for 2021-2022 that relies on deficit spending (i.e. utilizing funds from the financial reserves to fund current operations) shall only be recommended to the Fall Conference by the District Commander with the prior approval of 2/3 of the current Squadron Commanders as polled by the District Commander. The Conference shall not consider adopting a new deficit budget before considering the Commander's recommendation or lack thereof.

Frank Kemp spoke about his proposed resolution as it related to the proposed budget. As he sees it, the proposed budget depends on pulling money from our reserves to continue business as usual. District revenues are down; however, travel and other expenses remain the same. This resolution assures that squadron commanders are given the chance to offer input on spending money from our reserves. The resolution only affects one budget year. Frank proposed to send a copy of the resolution to the participants of this meeting. In addition, Frank clarified that the resolution requires the DC to poll the Squadron

Commanders prior to recommending the proposed budget to the conference but his recommendation did not have to be approved by the Squadron Commanders.

Law Officer Robert Kelly noted that this resolution runs afoul of District bylaws. We would need to amend the bylaws to adopt his resolution. Robert opined that it was not Frank's intent to initiate a bylaws amendment.

P/D/C Howard Sklar, from the Rules Committee, noted that he was not sure what was the reason that Frank proposed this resolution. Frank responded that squadron commanders' approval is needed in order to spend reserve funds. This would encourage communication between squadron commanders and the conference. Under normal (i.e. pre-pandemic) circumstances, meetings take place on a regular basis over a period of time and proposed budgets are distributed in advance of meetings so that people have the opportunity to review them.

Commander Papademetriou noted that the resolution dictates that approval by a *percentage* of commanders, specifically two thirds, is required to approve spending funds from reserves. This conflicts with our bylaws. If this sentence is removed, it makes approval from commanders a recommendation. Not sure if we need a resolution or just a recommendation. Frank Kemp indicated that he was intending that this be an actual resolution. Commander Papademetriou proposed tabling the resolution for further review.

P/D/C Howard Sklar noted that a (second) vote would be needed to table the resolution and proposed that the resolution be referred to the Bylaws and Rules Committee for further study and a report at the next District meeting. The motion to table and the accompanying second were withdrawn. Further discussion continued.

According to the resolution, input from squadron commanders is to be sought regarding drawing funds from District reserves. Two thirds (2/3) of the squadron commanders should agree to such a proposal in order for the District to proceed. It is up to the District Commander to seek input from squadron commanders. Ultimately, it is his or her decision on how funds are allocated and spent.

P/D/C Jeffrey Gerwig confirmed that the proposed resolution only affects next year's proposed budget.

A consensus was reached to conduct a roll call vote regarding the proposed resolution. Since this resulted in more "no" than "yes" votes, **the proposed resolution was defeated.**

Commander Papademetriou noted that, prior to this meeting, he spoke with twelve other district squadron commanders about the budget proposed at the Winter Conference on 10/17/20. 11 of the 12 were okay with the proposed deficit budget. Andy found that talking to the commanders was a valuable experience. Going forward, it would be best if proposed budgets could be presented well in advance to facilitate review.

P/D/C Jeffrey Gerwig made a motion to approve the proposed budget. Second by Virginia Schmidt-Gedney. A roll call vote was taken, which resulted in **twelve (12) no votes and nineteen (19) yes votes. The budget passed.** Commander Papademetriou thanked everyone for their participation in the discussion, and the call was concluded shortly thereafter.

Future scheduled District meetings are as follows:

March 6, 2021 – Winter Council in Fishkill, New York April 10, 2021 – Spring Conference – Venue TBD by incoming Bridge

Respectfully Submitted

D/Lt/C David J. Wilkinson
District Secretary

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