



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 Winter Council
6 March 2021 via Zoom videoconference**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 0905 by D/C Andy Papademetriou. It appeared that a quorum of 20 people was present.

Invocation: Once the meeting was called to order, Commander Papademetriou delivered the Invocation. The Invocation was followed by a moment of silence for all of the members that passed away during this past year.

Approval of Minutes: John Supple made a motion, which was seconded by William Gratz, to approve the minutes from the 2019 Summer Council. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: D/Lt/C John P. Pedersen, SN, presented the Treasurer's Report.

Bridge Reports: None of the officers had anything additional to report beyond what was included in the seat packet or previously discussed.

Educational Update: D/Lt/C Andrew Cummings, JN, presented an Educational Update. Andrew brought our attention to the items that were discussed at the National meeting, which can be viewed on the web site. In addition, replays of all National meetings are available. Andy also reminded us that the ED-80 and ED-1 forms need to be submitted, especially as we move into Change of Watch season.

Andy talked about virtual ABC courses. A virtual course features a live instructor, as opposed to an online course, which does not. NASBLA approval of the virtual course is good through 2021, and the approval for Connecticut may be extended. He also noted that USPS requires that a proctored exam is given, and the instructor must be able to maintain visual contact with the students, who must appear on video. Squadrons have additional latitude for offering a proctored exam during the pandemic. Exams can be offered, for example, in a parking lot, in a large room to accommodate social distancing, or outside (weather permitting). Copies of exams should *not* be released to the general public. The Instructor must administer the Honor Code Oath to the students.

National has made a Power Point of the ABC-3 exam available. Andy noted that some squadrons are using "Class Marker" instead of the power point. Discussion followed.

Andy also spoke about course updates presently in progress. These include Instructor Recertification, Weather including a new chapter about forecasting, Sail, Cruise Planning, and Marine Systems (updated to include I-911). You can show the students how to determine latitude and longitude using a cell phone. Seminars have been updated to include the option of using Sonar for fishing.

All Instructor materials are now available to be downloaded. Advance Grade courses are now available in e-book format. Seamanship 2016 will be supported through the end of 2021. Free ABC books in hard copy form are available with no charge for shipping. Andy noted that the ABC course must be taught by a *certified* Instructor,

Andy spoke about America's Boating Channel, which is now in season five. Ten new videos have been added and new teaching aids library is being developed.

Andy also discussed the USPS mobile App, which features glossary and course descriptions. Additional features are under development. The App works on I-phone and Android devices.

Finally, Andy also spoke about the Virtual Trainer – a laptop based simulator. The software will soon be available for Instructors/squadrons to purchase.

Commander's Report: D/C Andy Papademetriou reported that all forms necessary to formally dissolve the Lake Champlain squadron have been filed with National and are presently under review.

Andy also spoke about bylaw changes, which are presently in progress.

Andy presented an update about D2 Newsletter Editor Mel Goldstein. Mel has moved to an assisted living facility and wants to retire from this position. We wish him the best and the Westchester squadron will host a farewell event for him in April. **Commander Papademetriou**** indicated he would share Mel's new contact information, when it becomes available.

Andy reported that the Lake Candlewood squadron is renovating/repairing their park facility and are looking to raise funds for this project. You can contact them directly if you wish to support their efforts. The property is actually owned by the power company and the squadron was granted permission to use it. The building was damaged by storms and the squadron plans to rebuild it in the spring. It is situated on Candlewood Lake, which is located on the border between New York and Connecticut.

Commander Papademetriou noted that he welcomes visits from fully vaccinated boaters. Finally, Andy also was pleased to report that he has achieved Senior Navigator status. Congratulations were offered.

Nominating Committee Report: P/D/C Vince Evans, AP, presented the following slate of candidates for consideration in 2021:

Commander – unfilled to date
Executive Officer – unfilled to date
Administrative Officer – unfilled to date
Education Officer – D/Lt/C Andrew Cummings, JN (final year)
Assistant Education Officer – D/1st/Lt George R. Hallenbeck, AP
Secretary – D/Lt/C David Wilkinson, S
Treasurer – D/Lt/C John Pedersen, SN
Assistant Treasurer – D/1st/Lt Martin Feldberg, AP
Rules Committee – P/D/C Howard Sklar, AP
Rules Committee – Virginia Schmidt-Gedney, AP
Auditing Committee – P/C William F. Gratz, SN
Auditing Committee – Donald Peterson, JN

The surprising number of unfilled offices presented cause for concern and discussion followed. P/D/C Susan Ryan asked about the results of the Nominating Committee's discussions with squadrons while they were searching for candidates and asked if the possibility of having (travel) expenses reimbursed had an impact. Apparently, reimbursement is not a major issue. Instead, leaders are focused on their own squadrons where they are having their own issues with securing candidates for bridge offices.

Commander Papademetriou noted that the Change of Watch for D2 would take place on April 10th, during the spring conference. Nominations may come from the floor. **Andy**** indicated he will ask Past District Commanders to return to office or consider filling another vacant Bridge position. If a suitable candidate for Commander is not found, he said he would remain until his replacement can be found. Commander Papademetriou further observed that he does plan to retire from the D2 Bridge, as he plans to move into the next phase of his retirement from work. Specifically, he plans to take a two-year sabbatical. He did note that he is looking forward to working on the upcoming Change of Watch and spring conference. He also added that he has reached out to National for someone to preside at our Change of Watch and that the spring conference will, like other recent meetings, be a virtual event.

P/D/C Gino Bottino opined that Craig R. Burry, P, from Saugatuck River Sail and Power Squadron might make a good Executive Officer. He also asked if anyone participating in today's meeting was interested in serving as either Executive Officer or Administrative Officer. No one expressed interest at the moment.

Concluding Remarks: Following his concluding remarks, Commander Papademetriou offered a benediction and the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

D/Lt/C David J. Wilkinson

District Secretary

** - Action item-