



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
SAIL AND POWER BOATING



District 2 Bridge

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Minutes of the District 2 Spring Conference 10 April 2021

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 0912 by D/C Andy Papademetriou, N.

Invocation: D/C Andy Papademetriou offered an invocation. Following the invocation, Commander Papademetriou led the Pledge of Allegiance, following which Recording Artist Whitney Houston was featured performing the National Anthem. Commander Papademetriou then led a moment of silence for those who have suffered the loss of family and friends, noting that District 2 is here for you and we come together to offer support. Finally, Commander Papademetriou welcomed folks to the conference.

Attendance: Participants in the conference included: D/Lt/C Andrew Cummings; D/Lt/C William Vernon; D/Lt/C David Wilkinson; D/Lt/C John Pedersen; D/1st/Lt George Hallenbeck, D/1st/Lt Martin Feldberg; P/D/C Howard A. Sklar; P/D/C William Gratz; P/D/C Vincent Evans; P/D/C Susan Darcy; P/D/Lt/C Karl Wagner; P/D/C John Supple; P/D/C Fred Mangelsdorf; P/D/C Susan P. Ryan; P/D/C Gino Bottino; P/D/C Jeffrey Gerwig; David Malogne (Greenwich); Virginia Schmidt-Gedney (Lake Candlewood); Cdr David Hawthorne (Lake George); Cdr Kathryn Somogyi (Mid-Hudson); Cdr Robert Terry (Mohawk-Hudson); Donald Peterson (Penfield); Cdr Craig Burry (Saugatuck River); Al Hebert (Penfield); Victoria Malara; P/D/Lt/C Joseph A. Lynch; and P/D/C Robert P. Kelly.

D/Lt/C David Wilkinson, Secretary, confirmed that a quorum was present.

Introduction of guests: D/C Andy Papademetriou, N, noted that Past District Commanders John Supple; Vince Evans; Susan Ryan; Gino Bottino; Fred Mangelsdorf; Susan Darcy; and Martin Feldberg were participating. Past District Educational Officers present included Joseph Lynch; Karl Wagner; Robert Kelly; and George Hallenbeck. A special welcome was offered to the Chief Commander's Representative, Vice Commander Bill McManimen, SN.

Chief Commander's Message: Vice Commander Bill McManimen offered best wishes from Chief Commander Mary Page-Abbott, SN, and presented her recorded message. The highlights noted are: The virtual Annual Meeting was a great success. Nearly 435 people attended the various sessions offered. We made our 2020 budget and online course sales have doubled. As we all know, we have not experienced "business as usual." I.T. is an essential element now and going forward. Online courses are here to stay. We need to be visible in the boating world. Volunteers are our secret weapon. Membership is job one. Our goal is to reduce non-renewals by 15%. Members are more likely to renew if they are kept

active. Other resources for membership are the free app: America's Boating Club, and our Vessel Examiners who double as ambassadors. Cooperative charting is another tool for recruitment/retention. Also discussed was the ABC-3 emergency virtual classroom. 20 free ABC Student Manuals are available for each squadron, with no charge for shipping or handling. Also noted were Hands-on training, Jump Start, and On-the-water training *Remember – if at first you don't succeed, try try again.*

The Fall Conference and Governing Board meeting will take place from August 29 – September 5 in Raleigh, NC.

Vice Commander William McManimen also delivered a report on the 2021 virtual annual meeting for the Education Department. He talked about challenges such as the pandemic and its impact on classroom taught courses. He also talked about successes including the NASBLA Emergency Virtual Classroom; the Learning Management System; the online boat handling course; the recruiting initiative for team members; the forgiveness of the loan we received for the Payroll Protection Program; and the three new recipients of the Chapman Award. What's coming up: An increase in the availability of online courses, Ebooks, and an update to the ABC-3 web site.

D/Lt/C Andy Cummings asked if membership can be encouraged of students and cyber squadron members and if efforts were being made to encourage these folks to join a nearby squadron. Ways to reach out were discussed. Donald Peterson asked if we could offer courses without an instructor. Vice Commander McManimen clarified the difference between online and virtual courses. Specifically, virtual courses include an instructor. Also available are Power Point presentations with pre-recorded narration. For example, Boat Handling (formerly known as Seamanship) and Cruise Planning are offered online. The students can take these courses at their own pace.

Fred Mangelsdorf asked about "Asynchronous courses," i.e. courses which anybody can take anytime and anywhere. There is no instructor involved and students have up to a year to complete the course. Synchronous courses, feature blended learning, where an instructor speaks to the students and presents a course online live. William Vernon suggested involving an instructor for asynchronous courses could offer a welcome from a nearby squadron – a "friendly face" so to speak. Susan Ryan noted that the Greenwich squadron contacts every cyber member and has gained members as a result. William Vernon suggested courses be offered at reduced rates for members versus non-members. Vice Commander McManimen noted that tiered pricing is being looked at for the future.

Approval of 2020 Fall Conference Meeting Minutes: Following a brief break, the meeting resumed and Commander Papademetriou asked if any corrections needed to be made to these minutes. Susan Ryan observed that 50-year members' names needed to be changed from Harold Collins & Frank Frost to Harold Frost and Fred Collins. Since there was no further discussion, a motion was made (William McManimen) and seconded (Fred Mangelsdorf) to approve these minutes. Motion passed.

Officer's Reports: D/Lt/C John Pedersen presented his Treasurer's Report. D/Lt/C Andrew Cummings, SEO, reminded the squadrons to reach out if they need help. Also, the ED-80 forms should be submitted in a timely fashion. He is available if you have questions. D/1st/Lt George Hallenbeck reminded folks to keep their passwords current. P/D/Lt/C Karl Wagner noted that is happy to help with online courses. D/Lt/C William Vernon noted that he has reviewed the last two years. We have learned a lot and his fellow District officers have been helpful. Finally, D/Lt/C David Wilkinson reported that he had no report to make in addition to the minutes and related items.

General Committee Reports:

Auditing: P/C William Gratz reported that the Treasurer's books have been approved.

Rules: P/D/C Howard Sklar reported that proposed by-law changes have been submitted to National for review. P/D/Lt/C Robert Kelly noted that National wants to see how our by-laws differ from the model by-laws. P/D/C Jeffrey Gerwig thanked the Rules Committee for their submissions. Jeff has previously served on the National Rules Committee. A discussion also took place out which officers need to attend conferences and the ability to obtain a quorum at these events. P/D/C John Supple asked if we could adjust our rules and requirements about the number of people needed for a quorum. P/D/C Gino Bottino observed that it should be easy for folks to participate if the meetings are conducted virtually.

Councils & Conferences: No additional report.

Public Relations: P/D/C Susan Ryan mentioned two items: National is putting together an award, which will be given to districts and squadrons with the highest percentage of members who have downloaded the mobile app, which is called America's Boating Club. Secondly, Susan stressed the value of relationships in the boating community. It is valuable to invest time in making close partners with related entities. For example, if you hold a class at a local yacht club, police or fire department, or marina – use *them* to promote the class to their members. Finally, Susan encouraged us to get to know our own members and learn what organizations they belong to and ask them to promote your squadron and activities.

Salute to P/D/C Mel Goldstein: P/D/C Susan Darcy delivered a tribute to P/D/C Mel Goldstein for his 31 years of service to District 2, the Cross County and Westchester squadrons, and to USPS overall. We wish Mel fair winds and following seas as he has relocated to an assisted living facility and is "retiring" from District 2.

New Life Member: P/D/Lt/C Robert Kelly, SN was recognized as a new Life Member.

Individual & General Awards:

Vessel Safety Awards – Presented by Robert Terry:

For 2019 21 Examiners performed 196 examinations

- Squadron Awards: 1st Place – Sacandaga (35 exams)
2nd Place – Lake Candlewood (31 exams)
3rd Place – Lake George (26 exams)
4th Place – Darien (23 exams)

Honorable mention: Mid-Hudson (21) & Penfield (21)
Individual Awards 1st Place – Phillip Roeber, Sacandaga (32 exams)
2nd Place – Brian Barnier, Lake Candlewood (31 exams)
3rd Place – Armand Canestraro, Lake George (26 exams)
4th Place – Donald Peterson, Penfield (21 exams)

For 2020 14 Examiners performed 113 examinations

Squadron Awards: 1st Place – Lake George (26 exams)
2nd Place – Lake Candlewood (19 exams)
3rd Place – Mid-Hudson (17 exams)
4th Place – Greenwich (13 exams)
Honorable Mention: Penfield (12); Norwalk (10); and Sacandaga (10)

Individual Awards 1st Place – Armand Canestraro, Lake George (26)
2nd Place – Brian Barnier, Lake Candlewood (19)
3rd Place – Susan Ryan, Greenwich (13)
4th Place – Bruce Michael LoPresti, Mid-Hudson (12)
4th Place – Donald Peterson, Penfield (12)
Honorable Mention: Phillip Roeber , Sacandaga (10 exams)

2019 Outstanding Squadron Awards (Presented by P/D/C Susan Darcy):

Best overall performance in all categories: Darien Sail and Power Squadron
Squadron with the greatest improvement: Berkshire Sail and Power Squadron
Best overall performance in the Civic Service category:
(Tie) Darien Sail & Power Squadron / Penfield Sail & Power Squadron
Best overall performance in the Education category: Greenwich Sail & Power
Best overall performance in the Fraternity Category: Darien Sail & Power Squadron
Honorable Mention: Lake George and Storm King power squadrons for participating in the award process.

National Communication Awards:

For squadron publications:

Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron - "Berkshire Log"
Greenwich Sail & Power Squadron – "Harbor Light"
Saugatuck River Sail & Power Squadron – "Dredgings"

For district web sites: District 2

For squadron web sites:

Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron	Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron
Darien Sail & Power Squadron	Saugatuck Sail & Power Squadron
Greenwich Sail & Power Squadron	Stamford Sail & Power Squadron
Lake Candlewood Power Squadron	
Mohawk-Hudson Sail & Power Squadron	
Westchester Sail & Power Squadron	

Education Fund Honor Roll Recognition Awards:

Berkshire – 27 years

Darien – 37 years

Lake Candlewood – 33 years

Westchester – 47 years

Mohawk-Hudson – 35 years

Norwalk – 39 years

Penfield – 50 years

Commander's Concluding Remarks:

Commander Papademetriou thanked his wife for her support and for challenging him to be more efficient and to find better ways to do things. Andy also thanked his Bridge Officers, and the District Flag Lieutenants, along with Robert Kelly, Howard Sklar, Susan Darcy, Susan Ryan, and John Supple for their support. Commander Papademetriou thanked the attendees for participating in District meetings and said he learned something from every interaction he had. Andy also spoke of the value of branding when your name becomes synonymous with what you do; for example, Xerox. Andy said that USPS should be synonymous with boating education and told a story about P/D/C Susan Ryan's award, which was published in the local media. A brand cannot be created overnight. It takes time and effort, Andy noted.

Andy proudly shared what he feels his accomplishments during his tenure: Meeting logistics were simplified, we communicated with each other well as District Officers; the enhanced travel budget for the District Commander and other officers; and the completed dissolution of the Lake Champlain squadron. We have achieved much but there is always room for improvement.

Going forward, he hopes the District Commander can have more direct communication with squadron officers and the ability to offer online courses via ZOOM or other platforms.

Commander Papademetriou thanked the District for the opportunity to serve and said he would cherish the experience. After he formally thanked his District Officers and Committee Heads, the Bridge was dismissed, with the exception of the Secretary.

Change of Watch:

P/D/C Vincent Evans presented the latest report from the nominating committee. Vice Commander William McManimen asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were not. Commander McManimen then asked if there were any nominations by petition, to which the secretary answered in the affirmative. The proposed slate for 2021-2022 is presented as follows:

District Commander – P/R/C Susan L. Darcy, JN (*nominated by petition*)

District Executive Officer – P/D/Lt/C Joseph Lynch, SN

District Administrative Officer – Cdr Craig R. Burry, P (*nominated by petition*)

District Educational Officer – D/Lt/C Andrew Cummings, JN

District Secretary – D/Lt/C David J. Wilkinson, S

District Treasurer – D/Lt/C John P. Petersen, JN
District Assistant Treasurer – D/1st/Lt Martin Feldberg, AP
District Assistant Educational Officer – D/1st/Lt George Hallenbeck, AP

General Committees:

Nominating: P/D/C Vincent J. Evans, P (Chair)
Stf/C Gino C. Bottino, AP
Lt/C Frank W. Isele, N
P/D/C John Supple, AP
P/D/C Andrew Papademetriou, SN

Rules: P/D/C Howard Sklar, AP (Chair)
P/D/Lt/C Virginia Schmidt-Gedney, AP

Auditing: P/C William F. Gratz, SN
Cdr Donald Peterson, JN

A motion was made and seconded for the District Secretary to cast one vote for the proposed slate. There was no further discussion or opposition. The Secretary cast an affirmative vote for the proposed slate. The elected officers and staff were then relieved and the oath of office was administered by Vice Commander William McManimen to District Commander-Elect Susan Darcy. Commander Darcy then administered the oath office to the newly elected District Officers and Staff.

Commander Darcy then recognized the efforts and achievements of P/D/C, with a very amusing Power Point presentation, and asked him if he could share anything about his future plans.

The oath of office was then administered to the newly constituted Nominating Committee.

Following the awards, D/C Susan Darcy, KN, made announcements, and P/D/C Jeffrey Gerwig offered a benediction.

As there was no further business to discuss, P/D/C Jeffrey Gerwig made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded, and the conference adjourned. The conference was followed by an informal “cocktail hour” with musical host D/Lt/C David Wilkinson providing musical entertainment. 🎵

Respectfully Submitted

D/Lt/C David J. Wilkinson
District Secretary

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