



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
SAIL AND POWER BOATING



District 2 Bridge
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Minutes of the District 2 Fall Conference **16 October 2021**

Call to Order: The meeting, which was conducted via ZOOM, was called to order by D/C Susan Darcy, JN, shortly after the conclusion of the Summer Council meeting.

Invocation: P/D/C Jeffrey C. Gerwig, AP offered an invocation, which was followed by a moment of silence for all those that had passed away during the past year. D/FI/Lt Alexandria Digillio-Feldberg, P then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: D/Lt/C David Wilkinson, S, Secretary, conducted a roll call and determined that a quorum was present.

Approval of 2021 Spring Conference Meeting Minutes: After it was confirmed that no additions or corrections were need, besides the changes that had previously been submitted and already incorporated into the published minutes, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the 2021 Spring Conference Minutes.

Chief Commander's Message: Chief Commander Mary Paige Abbott delivered her Chief Commander's Message. The highlights are: Membership is job one. There are many new boaters out there; most with boats under twenty-six feet. The Coast Guard looks at things differently. There has been a 25% increase in accidents and deaths over the past years. Most victims had no boating safety instruction little boating experience. The Coast Guard is not happy about this. Bottom line: We are relevant. Let's celebrate the progress we made in 2021. Membership retention is on the rise and we are on track with our budget. Also, our technology is up to date and we are looking ahead towards the future. DB2000 will slowly fade into the sunset due to compatibility issues. We can celebrate the marketing efforts we have made as well as our many innovations. There is also a new Ship's Store 20% discount program available. Commander Paige Abbott is looking forward to seeing folks at the upcoming National meeting in Florida.

Recognizing 50 year members: Congratulations to Alfred Burbank (Berkshire), Robert Smart (Lake Candlewood), Ernest Klopping (Mid-Hudson) and to Richard Hollahan (Storm King).

Educational Update: D/Lt/C Andrew Cummings, JN presented his Educational Update. The process for the filing of the ED-80 form may be revised, there are new rules for seminars, and the Education Department's newsletter is available on the District web site. For

seminars, a kit is available for squadrons to purchase, for \$67, which contains everything they need. Squadrons are not required to charge for seminars. Andy also noted that the presentations from the Governing Board meeting are available on Sharefile, and he would be happy to help you get to those if you are interested. Andy also noted that the virtual boating course is approved for use in New York and Connecticut but not in Massachusetts. Concerning Instructor Development, re-certification can be accomplished on-line. Plans are underway to make our navigation courses available virtually. Finally, Andy led a discussion on kill-switch requirements for boats twenty-seven feet or less in length.

Regionalization: Commander Darcy led a discussion about this idea, which National is exploring and obtaining feedback about. Under the proposal, Districts would be eliminated and, instead, a series of regions would be created. What is now District 2 would be part of the Northeast region, for example. Squadrons are grouped geographically. Another region includes, for example, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. There would be four officers in a region: Commander; Education Officer; Marketing and Membership; and Social. There would *not* be a Secretary or Treasurer. Other issues discussed included the distribution of district assets and how to fund regional operations. National wants our input.

Harrison Valente expressed concerns about, for example, travelling extraordinary distances to attend regional meetings. Harrison is not sure what this process will really accomplish.

Chief Commander Paige Abbott noted that this will not happen overnight. There could be benefits to squadrons and USPS in terms of marketing. It will also be an opportunity for us to maximize our volunteer time. The impact to individual squadrons should be minimal. The region will act as an umbrella over the squadrons. At this point, this is strictly in the development and discussion stage.

General Committee Reports: Rules Committee (P/D/C Howard Sklar, AP) – no report. The committee could use more personnel. Nominating Committee (P/D/C Vincent Evans, P) – no report but this committee could also use more personnel. Auditing Committee (Cdr Donald Peterson, JN) – No “red flags” have been identified. The committee is also looking into sustainability issues and succession planning.

Standing Committee Reports: Law Committee. No report; however, it was confirmed that there has been no recent action in the lawsuit we are facing from a plaintiff who injured her ankle while attending a class in the wintertime. The suit is “on the back burner” at present.

Other Committee Reports: Marketing Committee/PRO – Lt/C David Leisten for P/D/C Susan P. Ryan, JN. Many new promotional materials and ideas are available for squadrons to use. Consider quality over quantity. “Do what you can do” and promote activities for success. Other ideas to consider are making a wellness check (for older members) and conducting virtual events.

Financial Report: D/Lt/C John Pedersen, SN presented his Financial Report and entertained any questions, of which there were none.

Bridge Reports: Treasurer D/Lt/C John Pedersen (No report); Secretary D/Lt/C David Wilkinson, S (No report); Administrative Officer D/Lt/C Craig Burry, P (No report); Executive Officer D/Lt/C Joseph A. Lynch, JN (No report).

Proposed Budget 2022-2023: D/Lt/C John Pedersen, SN presented the proposed budget for 2022-2023. District dues will remain the same at \$7.50 per family. P/D/C Martin Feldberg expressed concern that we may need to consider raising dues and/or tapping into our reserves in order to properly fund travel expenses for District leadership. It was suggested that a committee be created to further examine the budget. People interested in serving on this committee should reach out to Commander Susan Darcy.

Martin Feldberg also made a motion to approve the proposed budget, as presented. The motion was seconded by Anne Peskin. Motion passed.

Awards: Shipping Over Awards for member retention: Awards were made, from bottom to top to Lake Candlewood; Mid-Hudson; Westchester; Sacandaga/Stamford (tied); and Storm King.

Educational Awards These have been delayed for the time being.

Chapman Award: No nominee, which is unfortunate.

Educational Awards – Squadron Awards: These are also delayed.

New Business: Commander Darcy observed how nice it was to see everybody and it gave folks an opportunity to catch up and see how folks were doing.

Concluding Remarks: Commander Darcy thanked all the participants and offered a special thanks to Chief Commander Mary Paige Abbott.

Benediction: Following Commander Darcy's concluding remarks, P/D/C Jeffrey C. Gerwig, AP offered a benediction, following which Commander Darcy entertained a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded and passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

D/Lt/C David J. Wilkinson

District Secretary

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