



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: boshkong2022@gmail.com

Minutes of the District 2 Spring Conference 25 June 2022

During the break between the Winter Council and the Spring Conference, an offline discussion took place about the Nominating Committee Report. William Gratz and Donald Peterson both offered to remain on the Auditing Committee; Virginia Schmidt-Gedney offered to serve as Executive Officer and, ultimately, Commander down the road. Joseph Lynch offered to serve as District Education Officer.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1002 by D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN. P/D/C Jeffrey C. Gerwig, AP delivered an Invocation, following which Staff Commander Alexandria Digilio-Feldberg, P, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Memorial Service: P/D/C Jeffrey C. Gerwig, AP, led a memorial service for those we have lost in the past year. Those who have taken their final voyage are as follows: Stephen D. Parker and Leo Robillard (Berkshire); Ann Fuller, William Myers, and Grace Pederson (Darien); Ralph Kravitz, Neil Thomas, Harry Twitchell, and Reinhold Vogel (Greenwich); Charles M. Puckette and Steven Snyder (Lake George); James D. Pratt and Jerry L. Toepfer (Mid-Hudson); Jack Cohen, Anthony Mobilia, and Donald Relyea (Norwalk); Edwin Collins, Louis F. Fernous, Walter Flynn, Joan Pappas, and MaryEllen Thompson (Penfield); John Luscombe, Hugh Sebastian, and Albert Stauderman (Saugatuck River); and Nettie Goldstein and Peggy Howland (Westchester).

Following the Memorial Service, Staff Commander Alexander Digilio-Feldberg led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Guests: The following attendees were introduced as guests: District Guests: C/C Craig D. Fraser, SN – D7 – Akron Sail and Power Squadron; D/C Theodore O. Wallace, AP D4 – Watchung Sail and Power Squadron; Cdr Joseph Balbo AP – D4 – Shrewsbury Power Squadron; and P/C Alexandra Digilio-Feldberg, P – D23 – Harris Chain Sail & Power Squadron. Governing Board Emeritus Members: William F. Gratz, SN – Greenwich Sail and Power Squadron; Edward V. Weber, SN – Mid-Hudson Power Squadron; Jeffrey C. Gerwig, AP – Darien Sail and Power Squadron; and Donald Gladstone, P – Mid-Hudson Power Squadron.

Welcoming Remarks: After welcoming folks to the Spring Conference, D/C Susan Darcy introduced Chief Commander Craig Fraser, SN to deliver the **Chief Commander's Message**. Among the highlights:

Our Mission and Vision Statements were discussed. Membership is "job one." Commander Fraser spoke about marketing USPS and education and our new Tri-fold brochures. Other marketing tools discussed include the America's Boating Club app. Slide presentations are also available. We have a new digital campaign targeting either new boaters or experienced boaters.

For education, he spoke about the virtual classroom opportunities, the Learning Management System (LMS), and recent price restructuring. Seminars can be offered at no cost to the student unless a student wants credit for the course.

Squadrons can teach ABC3 until 12/31/2022. There are 10 new videos featured on America's Boating Channel. The Basic Boating Skills virtual trainer is available in a PC version.

There will be a new Marine Navigation course, which will replace the Piloting course.

The plan to dissolve Districts has been taken off the table.

Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum: It was determined that a quorum was present.

Approval of 2021 Fall Conference Minutes: Cdr Darcy asked if any corrections or additions were needed for the Fall Conference Minutes. Fred Mangelsdorf offered the same observation that he made about the 2021 Summer Council Minutes. The same corrections were made to the statement about the budget. A motion to approve the Fall Conference Minutes as amended was made and passed.

Educational Update: This was delivered by D/Lt/C Andrew M. Cummings, JN. The highlights of his presentation included the America's Boating Channel. Final submissions for the Chapman Awards are due to National by September 1, 2022. New 2022 student and instructor manuals are available, as well as a revised ED-17 form for administering exams. The Fall Governing Board will take place in Raleigh, NC from September 11-18, 2022 and an Instructor Recertification course will be offered. Andy also talked about new fire extinguisher rules. Extinguishers now include a UL label regarding their capacity; must not be more than 12 years old; and must be serviceable.

Committee Reports: Rules: Our bylaws need to be updated. Auditing: All appears to be in order. Law: No report. Councils and Conferences: No events planned for the immediate future. Public Relations: National is now communicating directly with Squadrons. Membership: Our numbers are down.

Officers' Final Reports: Treasurer – Thank you for your input. Education Officer – No report. Secretary – no report. Executive Officer – no report.

Treasurer's Financial Report: Martin Feldberg asked why we had so much money in our checking account. D/Lt/C Pedersen commented that officers do not seek reimbursement for expenses on a regular basis to date. A motion was made to accept the report of the Auditing Committee. The motion passed. Cdr Darcy expressed sincere thanks to D/Lt/C John Pedersen for all his hard work.

Individual and General Awards: New Life Members (25 Merit Marks) Lt/C William J. Burgage, AP – Storm King Power Squadron; P/C John B. Hess, AP – Darien Sail and Power Squadron; and P/Lt/C David T. Stafford, AP – Lake George Power Squadron. Distinguished Communication Awards – Publications: Greenwich Sail and Power Squadron (*Harbor Light*); Saugatuck River Sail and Power Squadron (*Dredgings*). Distinguished Communication Awards – Websites: Darien Sail & Power Squadron; Greenwich Sail & Power Squadron; Lake Candlewood Power Squadron; Mohawk Hudson Sail & Power Squadron; Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron; Sacandaga Power Squadron; and Stamford Power Squadron. Educational Fund Honor Squadrons: Berkshire (28 years); Lake Candlewood Power Squadron (34 years); Lake George Power Squadron (51 years); Mid-Hudson Power Squadron (36 years); Mohawk Hudson Sail & Power Squadron (36 years); Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron (40 years); Penfield Power Squadron (51 years); Saugatuck River Sail & Power Squadron (39 years); Stamford Sail & Power Squadron (39 years); and Westchester Sail & Power Squadron (48 years).

Unawarded District Awards: The award for Outstanding Squadron was not awarded for 2021. The Past District Commander's Award was also not awarded for 2021. The Richard Moore Operations Training

Award is presently to be determined, as is the Vessel Safety Check Examiner's Award. A discussion followed about the status of these awards.

Nominating Report: P/D/C Vincent J. Evans, P, presented the report from the Nominating Committee. A motion was made and passed for the District Secretary to cast one vote for the proposed slate. The present District Officers, with the exception of the Secretary were dismissed, following which any nominations from the floor were solicited. Martin Feldberg was nominated to serve as Executive Officer. He accepted and the motion was seconded. Joseph Lynch was nominated to serve as District Education Officer. He accepted and this motion was seconded. Virginia Schmidt-Gedney withdrew her interest in serving as Executive Officer. The position of Assistant Treasurer will remain open. The present members of the Auditing and Rules Committee will continue in these roles.

A motion for D/Lt/C David Wilkinson, S, District Secretary to cast one affirmative ballot for the proposed slate. This motion was seconded and carried and Mr. Wilkinson did so cast a vote as directed, following which the new officers were sworn in. Commander Darcy then thanked all those who had offered to serve the District.

New Business: The resolution submitted by Susan Ryan and Howard Sklar regarding the dissolving of USPS District 2 was withdrawn. Fred Mangelsdorf also withdrew his proposed resolution regarding this same issue. A discussion took place about the standing resolution regarding restructuring of USPS. Commander Darcy suggested that this item be tabled and forwarded to the National Planning Committee for their review and input.

Closing remarks and questions: Discussion about future in-person meetings under the new structure. Will folks be encouraged to attend? Perhaps a hybrid meeting i.e. in-person with a remote option, which has been done before.

The District Secretary** was asked to include, in the minutes from today's meeting, a list of attendees. Mr. Wilkinson responded that he would do so to the best of his ability.

P/D/C Jeffrey Gerwig observed that this has been a great conference.

P/D/C Howard Sklar thanked Susan for leading such a well-organize meeting.

Benediction: As there was no further business to discuss, P/D/C Jeffrey C. Gerwig, AP offered a benediction. Following the benediction, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at **1227**.

Respectfully Submitted

D/Lt/C David J. Wilkinson

District Secretary

**** - Action item**