



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
SAIL AND POWER BOATING



District 2 Bridge

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**Minutes of the District 2 Spring Conference Meeting
8 July 2023 – Conducted via Zoom**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 0930 by D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN. A quorum was present.

Invocation: P/D/C Jeffrey C. Gerwig, AP delivered an invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: D/FI/Lt Alexandra Digilio-Feldberg, P led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Memorial Service: P/D/C Jeffrey C. Gerwig, AP conducted a memorial service for those who had sailed their final voyage. Observances were held for:

Berkshire	<i>Leo O. Robillard, SN –</i>	<i>46 Merit Marks</i>
Greenwich	<i>Reinhold Vogel, AP –</i>	<i>19 Merit Marks</i>
Lake George	<i>Max Gollmer, AP –</i>	<i>25 Merit Marks</i>
	<i>Charles Puckette, S –</i>	<i>13 Merit Marks</i>
	<i>Elizabeth Williams, AP</i>	
Mid-Hudson	<i>Betty Gladstone, S</i>	
	<i>Donald Gladstone, P –</i>	<i>51 Merit Marks</i>
Stamford	<i>George Hallenbeck, AP –</i>	<i>44 Merit Marks</i>
Westchester	<i>Nettie Goldstein</i>	

A Memorial Service Prayer – P/D/C Jeffrey C. Gerwig, AP offered a memorial service prayer following the ringing of the bell for our fallen comrades.

Welcoming Remarks – Delivered by D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN.

Introduction of District Guests – The following guests were introduced:

DISTRICT 2 GUESTS

D/FI/Lt Alexandra Digilio-Feldberg, P - D23 - Harris Chain Sail & Power Squadron

NATIONAL OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Berkshire D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN Educational Fund Trustee
Chair – Membership Comm.
Governing Board Member

Darien:

P/D/C Jeffrey C. Gerwig, A
P/C Frank B. Kemp, JN

Governing Board Emeritus Member
Communications Comm.

Greenwich:

P/C William F. Gratz, SN
P/D/C Howard A. Sklar, AP

Governing Board Emeritus Member
National Safety Comm.

Mid-Hudson:

P/D/C Frederick Mangelsdorf, SN
P/D/Lt/C Edward Weber, SN

Instructor Development Comm.
Governing Board Emeritus Member

Mohawk Hudson:

P/C Ralph Karcher, JN

Governing Board Emeritus Member

Norwalk:

Stf/C Karl M. Wagner, JN

Asst. Chair Information Technology Comm.

Stamford:

R/C Gino C. Bottino, AP

Chair - Medical Officer –F.A.S.T
Safety Committee
Boat Handling Committee

Storm King:

Stf/C Martin E. Feldberg, AP

Governing Board Member
Ships Store Committee

Governing Board Emeritus Members

William F. Gratz, SN – <i>Greenwich Sail & Power Squadron</i>	60 Merit Marks
Edward V. Weber, SN – <i>Mid-Hudson Power Squadron</i>	54 Merit Marks
Jeffrey C. Gerwig, AP – <i>Darien Sail and Power Squadron</i>	53 Merit Marks
Ralph Karcher, JN – <i>Mohawk Hudson Power Squadron</i>	50 Merit Marks

George K. Williams, AP – 50 Merit Marks
Lake George Power Squadron

And Sadly We Lost

Donald Gladstone, P – 51 Merit Marks
Mid-Hudson Power Squadron

Past District Commanders Present and Introduced

2005 – 2006	P/D/C Frederick Mangelsdorf SN	Mid-Hudson
2007 – 2008	Stf/C Martin E. Feldberg AP	Storm King
2008 – 2009	P/D/C Jeffrey C. Gerwig AP	Rowayton
2015 – 2016	R/C Gino C. Bottino AP	Stamford
Many Years	R/C Susan L. Darcy, JN	Berkshire

Past District Educational Officers Present and Introduced

2004 – 2007	P/D/Lt/C Robert P. Kelly SN	Westchester
2007 – 2010	P/D/Lt/C Joseph A. Lynch JN	Lake Candlewood
2019 – 2022	P/D/Lt/C Andrew Cummings, JN	Greenwich

Approval of the Fall Conference Minutes (05 November 2022) Commander Darcy entertained any potential corrections to these minutes. None offered. Motion was made to approve the minutes. Second by Virginia Schmidt-Gedney. Motion passed.

Approval of the Fall Conference Reconvened minutes - Commander Darcy entertained any potential corrections to these minutes. None offered. Motion was made to approve the minutes. Second by Virginia Schmidt-Gedney. Motion passed.

Chief Commander's Message – Commander Darcy presented the Chief Commander's message, which was delivered electronically. Highlights are as follows:

- Working in unison we will succeed.
- We are improving our services and member satisfaction.
- Vessel safety checks
- By-laws change to allow electronic voting
- Boating Education
- Boating and social activities
- Education Department modernization

- We are working to improve product planning
 - Content improvement
 - Taking advantage of modern educational technologies
 - Instructor Development
 - Working to closely monitor attendance and raise public awareness of USPS
 - Encourage re-sales to and renewals for existing members (recruitment and retention) / marketing
 - We are developing a survey regarding what do our members want and need?
 - Working to promote our organization. VSC Examiners are ambassadors. Invite examinees to attend events as guests.
 - Cooperative charting program – perhaps organize a hunt
 - Reach out to cyber members
 - A dues increase is expected, due to inflation and other costs. The last dues increase was in the amount of \$2.00 back in 2017. National dues will be up to \$5.00 for a single active member; \$7.50 for an active member with a family; and \$2.50 for a life member with a family.
- *The 2023 Governing Board will take place in Kansas City from August 27 – September 4.*

Frank Kemp asked if a transcript of the Commander's Message was available. **Commander Darcy**** said that she might have access to one that she could share and would send an e-mail to the squadron commanders and also to Frank Kemp. Frank also asked if the National web site could be updated. **Susan**** noted that there were lots of videos available and that she would share link(s).

Frank Kemp made a motion to amend the agenda to include election of officers. Second by Virginia Schmidt-Gedney. Motion passed.

Educational Update – Presented by D/Lt/C Joseph Lynch, JN. Highlights are as follows:

- We plan to break up Junior Navigation and Senior Navigation classes.
- DEO meetings are advertised on the web site. You are welcome to participate and ask questions.
- Discussion about various electronic navigation tools which are available. New teaching methods are being discussed; for example, teaching classes via Zoom. Discussion followed about in-person versus electronic or hybrid meetings.

Law Officer – D/Lt/C Robert Kelly, Law Officer, had nothing significant to report.

Membership – It was announced that USPS is no longer collecting payments for Dan Boater insurance and it was recommended that you obtain this on your own. Commander Darcy shared the necessary link, which is <https://danboater.org/member/ABC> .

D2 Bridge Report – **Commander Darcy**** announced that she will go to the National meeting as chair of the Membership Committee.

Financial Report – D/Lt/C John Pedersen reported intake of \$4,200; dues income of \$3,282; and \$16,476 in our operating account as of March 31, 2023. We have not spent any money in the first three months of the year from April – June.

Auditing Report – D/Lt/C Donald Peterson reported that everything appears to be in order. We cannot do any better with respect to the interest rate that we are obtaining for our Certificates of Deposit. Better rates for CD's are supposedly not available to 501-C3's so we may wish to pursue other avenues.

Recognition of Member Milestones –

New Life Member

Lt/C Max Gollmer, AP

Lake George Power Squadron

(Sadly we lost Max in June)

Publication and Web Site Awards –

2022 Distinctive Communicator Awards for Publications

Berkshire – Publication Name: Berkshire Log

Greenwich– Publication Name: Harbor Light

Saugatuck River – Publication Name: Dredgings

2022 Distinctive Communicator Awards for Web Sites

Greenwich Sail & Power Squadron

Lake Candlewood Sail & Power Squadron

Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron

Educational Fund Honor Roll Report –

Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron -	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 and Power Squadron	40 Years
Penfield Power Squadron	51 Years
Saugatuck River Sail & Power Squadron	39 Years
Stamford Sail & Power Squadron	39 Years
Westchester Sail & Power Squadron	48 Years

Closing Remarks – Commander Susan L. Darcy, JN delivered thank you's and other related closing remarks, which was followed by the [*Change of Watch*](#).

The proposed slate of officers was as follows:

Co-Commanders:	Susan Darcy, JN & Frederick Mangelsdorf, SN
Executive Officer:	Martin E. Feldberg, AP
Educational Officer:	Virginia Schmidt-Gedney, AP
Administrative Officer	M. Bey Rutherford, Lake Candlewood Commander*
<i>Asst. Educational Officer:</i>	<i>Joseph A. Lynch, JN</i>
Asst. Educational Officer:	Joseph A. Lynch, JN
Secretary:	David J. Wilkinson, S
Treasurer:	John P. Pedersen, SN
Rules Committee:	P/D/C Gino Bottino
Auditing:	Donald Peterson (Chair)
Nominating Committee	D/Lt Frank Isele

**- Motion made, seconded, and passed to nominate M. Bey Rutherford for Administrative Officer.*

The Bridge Officers, with the exception of the District Secretary were dismissed. A motion was then made for the District Secretary to cast one ballot for the proposed slate. Seconded, this motion passed, and D/Lt/C David Wilkinson did so cast one affirmative ballot for the proposed slate.

Fred Mangelsdorf was then sworn in as Co-Commander, followed by the other Bridge officers.

Commander Darcy** thanked everyone for attending today/s meeting and noted that she will work with **Bey**** to create a face-to face meeting, along with an accompanying event. This was followed by a discussion about our future and competition that we are facing from BOAT-US.

Benediction – P/D/C Jeffrey Gerwig, AP then proceeded to offer a Benediction.

Adjournment – Commander Susan Darcy entertained a motion to adjourn, which was seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1144 (11:44 a.m.)

Respectfully Submitted
D/Lt/C David J. Wilkinson
District Secretary

**** - Action item**