

**UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS
SAIL AND POWER BOATING
DISTRICT 26**

MINUTES OF THE FALL DISTRICT CONFERENCE AND COUNCIL

**20 OCTOBER 2007
HILTON HEAD, SC**

The meeting, hosted by the Hilton Head Sail and Power Squadron, was called to order at 0900 by D/C Archie Trawick, SN. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by D/FI/Lt David Allen, JN followed by the invocation by the Assistant Chaplain, P/R/C Jack Wilson, AP.

Jack Wilson named those members who passed away since the last district meeting, and the bell was sounded in memory of each. P/D/C Richard Erler introduced the P/D/Cs who were present (total of 4) and guests. The Chief Commander's representative, P/V/C John Alter, SN was also introduced.

D/C Trawick convened Council. D/Lt/C Betty Walton, AP stated that a quorum was present and explained the voting procedure for Council.

The minutes of the Summer Council were approved as distributed.

Old Business

? There was no old business to come before Council.

New Business

? D/Lt/C Robert Boal, AP, presented the District Treasurer's report.

? D/Lt/C Boal presented the proposed budget for 2008, which was voted on later.

Further business of Council was postponed, and the attendees were dismissed to attend seminars.

Council was reconvened at 1030.

The budget discussed earlier was approved.

Council was adjourned and Conference convened at 1045.

The voting procedure for conference was explained by D/Lt/C Walton, who also announced that a quorum was present.

Minutes from the Spring Conference were approved.

Chief Commander's Message Presented by P/V/C John Alter

Having two national meetings instead of three per year has saved USPS about \$75,000.

At the Governing Board Meeting in Norfolk, the Operating Committee was given the power to make many decisions that previously had to be ratified by the Governing Board.

USPS has had financial stability the last two years, with income exceeding expenditures after several years of deficits. Some projects have been cut and budgets curtailed to make this happen.

In the past, squadrons with gross receipts over \$25,000 had to file either an IRS990 or 990EZ form. For receipts less than that amount, nothing had to be filed. This will change in 2008. There is a new form, 990N, that every non-profit organization must file, regardless of the amount of gross receipts. It is critical that each squadron file this form (it can be filed electronically). If the form is not filed for three years in a row, IRS will revoke the tax exempt status of a non-profit organization. National currently has the tax exempt certification from which the squadrons operate. To not endanger this tax exempt status, it is imperative that each squadron file the form each year.

Officers' Reports

? Secretary, D/Lt/C Betty Walton, AP

- ✍ P/C Debra Allen announced that she was stepping down as webmaster for the district website, and that Kathy Redford would be the new webmaster. She stated that it is not the webmaster's responsibility to find material to put on the website, and that the District Directory would continue to be posted on the website. She also said that she would be available to provide input and assistance with the site.
- ✍ D/Lt Barbara Pearson announced that she was stepping down as the editor of *026° True*, but said she would continue to edit the publication until a replacement was named.

? Treasurer, D/Lt/C Robert Boal, AP

- ✍ Bob thanked the members for approving the 2008 budget, and stated that expenses and receipts for 2007 should be within the scope of the budget. (The budget for 2008 and the treasurer's report are filed with the official copy of these minutes, but are not included with these minutes as distributed).
- ✍ The rate of return for funds invested with USPS is currently averaging six percent. Squadrons wishing to invest funds with USPS should contact Lena Pedro at national headquarters for information.

? Administrative Officer, D/Lt/C Ronald Osburn, SN

- ✍ Ron has district flags and shirts for sale.
- ✍ Ron paid tribute to the late D/Lt/C Carol McVey for her service to USPS and to District 26.
- ✍ D/Lt Charles Borrmann announced Boating Activities Reports for the year are due by 8 December. Notices have been sent to the squadron commanders. The Boating Activities Award period ends on 31 December, but squadrons holding functions between 8 December and 31 December can ask for a waiver to include events held during this time period. The award is based on membership records as of 1 January. Forms for filing for the award are posted on the district website.
- ✍ D/Lt Ed Kridler noted that the Beaufort and Golden Corner Lakes Squadrons have held Operations Training Courses since the last district meeting.
- ✍ D/Lt Tim Tate indicated that the district has about 30 more members than at the same date last year. Copies of the membership reports were distributed at the seminar.
- ✍ Membership growth awards were presented to the following squadrons:
 - Golden Corner Lakes
 - Thurmond Lake
 - Lake Murray
 - Charleston
 - Savannah River

- ✍ The schedule for squadrons hosting district events through 2016 was distributed.
 - ✍ Robert Candiano discussed the District Cruise and Rendezvous, hosted by the North Strand Squadron scheduled in May 2008. Packets are available for all squadron commanders.
 - ✍ The Spring Conference will be held in Anderson, SC 28-30 March 2008, Hosted by the Golden Corner Lakes Squadron.
- ? Educational Officer, D/Lt/C Eric Pearson, SN
- ✍ Attendance at public courses is down nationally. However, in District 26, all squadrons taught at least one course.
 - ✍ The USPS Educational Department has defined four missions:
Educate the boating public.
Attract boaters to USPS.
Keep members engaged and informed.
Keep USPS healthy.
 - ✍ The environment for boating and boating education is changing. Demographics, boat sales and competition for our courses are changing. We must accommodate the needs and time constraints of potential students.
 - ✍ After April 2008, USPS will offer only one public course.
 - ✍ The boat operator certification program has been launched. USPS is working with the United States Coast Guard in presenting this program. The long term goal of the program is to certify all recreational boaters.
 - ✍ The focal point of the Educational Department is USPS University, including public and member courses, seminars, and learning guides.
 - ✍ The Educational Proficiency Award was presented to:
Michiel Hix; Beaufort
Nelson Hicks and Ross Burgess; Charleston
Bryant Blakeslee, Michael Drake, Andy Hyman, and Michael Verdone; Lake Murray
Patricia Rodgers; Golden Isles
 - ✍ Squadron nominees for the Chapman Award were:
Stephen Kromer, Charleston
Robert Arneson, Lake Murray
Joseph Holladay, Savannah River
Patricia Rodgers, Golden Isles
- The winner of the district award will be announced at the banquet in the evening. (The winner of the District Chapman Award was Stephen Kromer.)

Conference was adjourned for lunch, and reconvened at 1330.

- ? Executive Officer, D/Lt/C John Powers, SN
- ✍ The District Planning Committee is going to get more active. P/D/C Ed Leibfarth is chair of the committee. The committee was asked to evaluate three items:
Awards and criteria for awards.
Meeting expenses and schedule.
District calendar in conjunction with national schedules.

- ✍ Vessel Safety Check Program; District 26 was eighth in the nation with 1121 examinations. The district was third in the nation with 142 examiners.
- ✍ Co-op Charting; The district is trying to establish a “buddy system” to add to its skills, increase efficiency, and get more members involved in the program. District 26 was ranked second in USPS. Three squadrons were ranked high nationally:
 - Golden Corner Lakes, ranked second.
 - Lake Hartwell, ranked eighth.
 - Lake Murray, ranked eleventh.

77 members of District 26 were honored nationally. Horst Boettge was ranked fifth in the nation as an individual.

Phil Higgins was honored for his work with geodetic marker recovery. The geodetic marker program in co-op charting is being discontinued.

Eleven squadrons were on the co-op charting honor role:

Golden Corner Lakes
 Lake Hartwell
 Lake Murray
 Charleston
 Savannah River
 Long Bay
 Thurmond Lake
 Tybee Light
 Swamp Fox
 Hilton Head
 Beaufort

- ✍ P/D/C Al Engleman discussed the Order of Mariners and the criteria used to induct members into the order. There have been 174 inductees in the last 25 years. This year’s inductees were:
 - James Hackett and Joseph Schady; Charleston
 - Magaret Epps; Long Bay
 - James McVey and Carol McVey; Swamp Fox
 - Robert Hastie and Donald Funderburk; Tybee Light

? D/C Archie Trawick, SN

- ✍ USPS now has a full time publications director, Tom Kemp. National is putting additional emphasis on recruiting, involving and retaining members.
- ✍ Golden Corner Lakes, Thurmond Lake, and Lake Murray Squadrons received the one percent growth award.
- ✍ The Power of One Program presents a pin to each member recruiting a new member. A member can earn a chain with the number 10 on it for the pin by recruiting 10 new members. Recipients of the chain were:
 - Kay Summers; Beaufort
 - Lee Ayers and Andy Hyman; Lake Murray
- ✍ Emphasize recruiting public course students for membership to help increase our membership numbers.
- ✍ DB 2000 is a very handy tool for many applications within the squadron. It was devised for the members of USPS.

Old Business

- ? There was no new business brought before Conference.

Old Business

- ? D/Lt/C Ronald Osborn made a motion that the name of the Educational Officer of the Year Award be renamed the Carol A. McVey Award for Educational Leadership. The motion received a second. The discussion of the motion included this being a way to honor her for her work for District 26 and USPS prior to her untimely passing. The vote on this motion was passed unanimously.

Election of Officers

- ? D/C Archie Trawick dismissed all bridge officers except the Secretary, D/Lt/C Betty Walton, and turned the meeting over to P/V/C John Alter. John asked for a report from the District Nominating Committee. The report was presented by P/C Charles Schuler, SN. Nominations for officers were:

District Commander: D/Lt/C John Powers, SN, Thurmond Lake

District Executive Officer: D/Lt/C Ronald Osburn, JN, Golden Corner Lakes

District Educational Officer: D/Lt/C Eric Pearson, SN, Lake Murray

Asst District Educational Officer: D/1st Lt Joe Warren, AP, Tybee Light

District Administrative Officer: D/Lt/C Betty Walton, AP, Hilton Head

District Secretary: P/C Edwin Kridler, SN, Charleston

Asst District Secretary: P/C Bill Woodward, SN, Beaufort

Treasurer: D/Lt/C Robert Boal, North Strand

Nominating Committee:

1 Year: P/C Charles W. Schuler, SN, North Strand

2 Years: P/D/C Richard C. Erler, AP, Hilton Head

3 Years: D/C Archie W. Trawick, SN, Lake Murray

Rules Committee

1 Year: P/R/C Ed Bush, SN, Hilton Head

2 Years: P/C Stephen Pietrowicz, JN, Golden Corner Lakes

3 Years: P/C Charles Borrmann, P, Beaufort

Audit Committee:

1 Year: P/C Donald H. Redford, AP, Golden Corner Lakes

2 Years: P/D/C Lloyd E. Pitts, AP, Lake Murray

3 Years: Lt/C Mary Ann Compher, P, Hilton Head

Planning Committee:

1 Year: P/C Edwin Kridler, SN, Charleston

1 Year: P/C Jim Olin, P, North Strand

2 Years: P/D/C James R. McVey, SN, Swamp Fox

2 Years: P/C Ray Stull, S, Long Bay

3 Years: P/D/C Edward Leibfarth, AP, Savannah River

3 Years: P/D/C Robert G. Larsen, SN, Lake Hartwell

Respectfully Submitted,

P/D/C James M. Rakes, SN, Lake Murray
P/C Charles W. Schuler, SN, North Strand
P/D/C Richard C. Erler, AP, Hilton Head

P/V/C Alter asked D/Lt/C Walton if any other nominations had been received. No additional nominations were received.

P/V/C Alter asked for a motion to accept the Nominating Committee Report. Motion to accept the report was made and seconded, and a vote on the motion passed. P/V/C Alter instructed the Secretary to cast one unanimous vote for the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee.

The new District Bridge was seated.

D/C John Powers, SN, adjourned Conference at 1405 and convened Council.

Old Business

? There was no old business brought before Council.

New Business

? There was no new business brought before Council.

Banquet Information

? P/D/C Richard Erler provided information about the evening banquet.

Council was adjourned at 1410

Respectfully Submitted,

D/Lt/C Edwin Kridler, SN
District Secretary