

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING CONFERENCE  
11 MARCH 2006  
CHARLESTON, sc**

**The Spring Conference for District 26, a member of the United States Power Squadrons, convened at the Town and Country Conference Center on 11MAR06. Cdr. Dick Erler called the meeting to order at 9:00AM . P/D/C Ed Bush, SN, Hilton Head Squadron, led the assembly in the Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America. Bryant N. Blakeslee, P, Lake Murray Squadron, gave the invocation followed by P/C Bob Dorn, Beaufort Squadron, who introduced the P/D/C's and guest.**

**Cdr. Erler thanked the Charleston Squadron for the wonderful time had at the dinner on Friday Evening. He then introduced the Chief Commander's Representative to our Conference, V/C Creighton C. Maynard, SN, from the great state of Texas. V/C Maynard was asked to present his Leadership Program at this time. The main emphasis of this seminar was to point out ways that each of us can help promote and encourage leadership in each district and squadron. Our goal is to bring out the best in our membership, set an example for them to follow and make believers out of all of us.**

**V/C Maynard immediately followed the Leadership Seminar with his Message from Chief Commander, Ernest G. Marshburn, SN. The highlights of his message were:**

**A. Promoting our Educational Courses with emphasis on revenue from the sale of USPS educational materials and life-long learning that keeps new and existing members engaged in squadron activities.**

**B. National Safe Boating Week, National Boating Course Initiative – Encourage every squadron to offer a Boating Course close in time with NSBW and take advantage of the seminars available (i.e. GPS)**

**C. USPS University Initiative – designed to steer the boating public toward USPS.**

**D. Reginal OCOM Meeeting Special Initiative – Objective: couple OCOM Meetings with district conferences where the entire National Bridge and members of the Operating Committee would be available to the district rather than just the C/C’s representative.**

**E. NY GovBd Member Breakout Session Special Initiative – Objective: to promote increased interest in National Meetings by designing them to provide interested Squadron and District members with an opportunity to become a featured speaker/presenter during a national meeting. These are broken down into 3 Categories – Boating, Technology and Potpourri.**

**F. Administrative Department – working on means to promote membership from boating classes and member Retention.**

**G. Leadership Development Seminars**

**H. Century Fund – request that DC’s create a Century Fund coordinator position at district level.**

**I. Power of One – alive and continues to show increased participation.**

**J. National Marketing Program – focusing on getting USPS in print (i.e. articles written by USPS members).**

**K. National Committee on Nominations – submit a resume if interested in serving on national committee.**

**L. Squadron Development – a Continuous success story. 28 new squadrons since inception of the committee.**

**M. Cooperative Charting – will continue in spite of NGC dropping the Geodetic work from USPS.**

**N. VSC – Less than last years. Reporting process has been streamlined including a web-based reporting sys.**

**O. Government and Partners Relations Committee – need state legislature reps who are willing to interact with State officials to monitor existing MOU's.**

**Other areas mentioned are USPS Environmental Committee, Planning Committee, Challenges and Opportunities, Reduction of Paperwork and Program Scheduling during National Meetings.**

**Cdr. Erler thanked V/C Maynard for such an informative report and reminded him that we, D/26, have a 5-year plan in action and that is our vision for the future. He requested that the squadron level be give the praise they deserve for keeping the USPS on track. Cdr. Erler put major emphasis on the paper work required and it is his wish that this can and will be minimized in the near future. He also stated that if National needs any help in implementing any of the above that it can count on D/26 for help.**

**At this point the group was given a 10 minute break.**

**The Conference reconvened after a few minutes break and Cdr. Erler called for officer reports. Betty Walton, secretary, report on the progress of the 2006 roster. She pointed out that Debra Allen and Lew Ward were assisting her to hopefully speed up this task and get it on the web site as quickly as possible. She also gave Bob Peters, d/26 Historian, report. He is asking that the squadron secretaries keep their reports up-to-date as events occur so that when his report is due for National it will be much easier to compile. Barbara Pearson, Publications Chairperson, reported the deadline for articles to be published in the 026 True is March 15. The next deadline will be June 15. She reminded the group that we now will only have 3 issues of the 026 True so we must meet each deadline promptly.**

**John Powers, Administrative Officer, reported that d/26 is trying to follow up on Operations Training and Leadership Development. These are two closely related topics although they are different in subject and direction.**

**Materials for both are on the National Website. He is concerned that some of us are not submitting results of these two courses to National. The award year is DEC 1 through NOV 30 of each year and we should get all reports in during this time period. He suggested that each squadron put more emphasis on these two areas.**

**Tom Courneya, Membership Chairman, reported that in addition to John's report on Operations Training and Leadership Development, he would like to place greater emphasis on improving membership and minimizing the losses that USPS has been experiencing. The goal now is to make up all the non-renewal losses plus 1% growth. The 33 districts are close to 90% goal attainment and d/26 is doing very well. We have 95% of our district goal . Only two districts have done better than this. The focus of all involved in Membership will be to minimize the losses.**

**Boat insurance was a major discussion at this point. V/C Maynard suggested that all get a copy of V/C Dvorak's recent letter which may clear up some of the misconceptions at this time.**

**Paula Courneya gave a report on the "last" Summer Cruise and Rendezvous to be held at Lake Thurmond, 2-4 JUN. The squadron is taking the challenge of making this one of the best. Rooms have been set aside at the Savannah Village Resort near McCormick, SC at a rate of \$75.00 per night. She outlined the activities which will occur during the weekend.**

**Ron Osburn, District Treasurer, presented his report in print, He pointed out that there was a \$250.00 error in the report (council meeting in Columbia cost was not included). AT this time only 3 squadrons are yet to get on the Headquarters Annual Billing for dues. The deadline for switching over is 31 DEC 2006. Dues increase this year are \$1.80 for active members, additional Active**

**\$.90, family \$.45. Junior membership is \$5.00 initially and \$3.00 per year thereafter.**

**Carol McVey, Educational Officer, reported that the numbers are significantly better on the ed 27 reports for Boat Smart courses. Use Boater's World to get equipment you need. The 6 seminars to come out in June are open to the public. Excellent way to get new members eventually. She stated that the Chapman Award will be coming up soon – deadline will be July 15 – and would like to see all 13 squadrons submit a candidate for this award. Mail your recommendations to Eric Pearson, assistant DEO. Carol gave three Educational Proficiency Awards to the following : Don Redford, Benjamin and Ed Lashly, all from Golden Corner Lakes**

**Cdr. Erler gave a power point presentation on New York, site for the National Conference in August. He painted a rather pretty picture of places to see and things to do. Supposedly, the sessions will end each day around 1PM so there would be time to really see NY in the afternoon hours. He asked that those planning to attend the Conference send him an e-mail so that he can begin to make plans for us in NY as a group(such as plays, etc.).**

**Break for Lunch.**

**Again, conference was reconvened and at this time Cdr. Erler called on Bob Boal, Liaison D/27, to give his report on the cooperation between the two squadrons. In addition to sharing some courses, emphasis is being placed on d/27 joining d/26 for the cruise to National in February, 2007 at Jacksonville, FL.**

**Cindy Kridler gave the report from the Auditing Committee stating that everything is in order for the 2005 year.**

**Archie Trawick, Executive Officer, gave his report. His department is fully staffed. Pete Stevenson reported on the VSC . He stated that he would help any squadron reconcile the discrepancy with National. The reporting system is going directly on line. He says it is easy...use it. RSBVP is starting quite slowly. This program is designed to have people go to the marine industry**

**(marinas, marine dealers, banks, insurance companies, etc.) and establishing communications on a friendly basis leaving safe boating information in their place of business and regularly servicing the display you leave behind. Only one person is needed to work this; however, there are two hurdles, the exam which is very difficult and at times the squadron rep is bumping heads with the Coast Guard Auxiliary.**

**Archie reminded us about Safe Boating Week. Get the reports in as quickly as possible after SBW. Everyone should be using db2000. Norton Security is available for \$15 or less. Change of Watch is the least attended program in our squadrons. Let's work to make these more involving.**

**Archie introduced Charles Barreras, Public Relations Chairman. He announced the Scrap Book Award. Lake Hartwell was the winner. He talked at length about marketing what we do in USPS, who we are and what do we have to offer prospective members. Recruiting is almost the sole functioning of marketing. We are looking at membership problems. What are we going to do about it? John Kern, Assistant PR Chairman presented a marketing plan. He outlined some of the things we are going to do, how we are gong to do these, and how we will follow up on the plans. Charles handed out a CD that he had prepared and one from National for each squadron to use during the SBW. He described other "handouts" that he has for each squadron. He explained that these are all supplements to the other things that National has done for SBW.**

**Archie states, "If you are doing something let you PRO be involved."**

**Cdr. Erler convened Council. There was no old business nor any new business. The meeting was adjourned.**

**Respectfully submitted by:**

**Betty Walton, D/26 Secretary**