

**UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS  
SAIL AND POWER BOATS**

**MINUTES OF THE FALL COUNCIL MEETING  
21OCT2006  
AUGUSTA, GA**

**The D/26 Fall Council Meeting was called to order Saturday, October 21 at the Marriott Riverfront Hotel, Augusta, GA at 9 AM by DC Dick Erler. The purpose for having this meeting prior to the Fall Conference was to vote on two issues by council before being presenting to the conference representatives. D/C Erler called on P/R/C Ed Bush to lead in the Pledge to the United States Flag followed by P/D/C Bill Mullin who gave the invocation. P/D/C Mullin then named those members in D/26 who passed away during the '06 year –the bell was sounded in memory of each. Next, Bill introduced the P/D/C's who were present (total of 8) and recognized our guest representing the Chief Commander, P/C/C L.M. Barnes . R/C Richard Peoples, Assistant National Treasurer, visiting from the Banana River Squadron, Melbourne, FL was also recognized by our D/C.**

**D/Lt/C Betty Walton stated that a quorum was present and she explained the voting procedure for Council. D/C Erler called on D/Lt/C Ron Osburn, D/26 Treasurer, to present the budget for the 2007 fiscal year(the first of the issues that had to be voted on by Council before presenting to Conference later in the morning). A copy of this report has been attached to the minutes (see attachment #1). The vote was unanimous in favor of accepting the budget as presented.**

**D/C Erler explained the procedure for filling the vacancies created by the resignation of P/D/C Bob Dorn from the Nominating Committee, P/C Joe Warren from the Rules Committee and the passing of P/C Don Daly. He appointed Charlie Schuler to replace Bob Dorn, Ed Bush to replace Joe Warren and Ed Leibfarth to replace Don Daly during the interim period before the nominating committee chairman presented the slate of officers to be voted on at the Conference later in the day.**

**D/Lt/C Osburn presented the new district 26 shirt. These will be available for order in many colors and sizes at the price of \$26 each. He also reminded us that the new district flag is available for \$26.**

**The minutes of the Summer Council meeting were unanimously approved as distributed**

**D/C Erler once again thanked Thurmond Lake Sail and Power Squadron for the wonderful Summer Cruise and Rendezvous held on the lake in June.**

**Council was adjourned at this point.**

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**UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS  
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**MINUTES OF THE FALL CONFERENCE  
21OCT2006  
AUGUSTA, GA**

The Fall Conference, d/26, convened at 9:45 AM, October 21, at the Marriott Riverfront Hotel, Augusta, Georgia. The meeting was called to order by Cdr. Erler. He announced that the first thing would be to adjourn for the seminars giving instructions where each would be held. Comments that followed these seminars were positive in nature and most felt that they were worthwhile.

Conference reconvened. Betty Walton, Secretary, stated that a quorum was present and then explained the voting procedures for conference. The minutes for Spring Conference were approved as distributed.

Cdr. Erler introduced Past Chief Cdr. L.M.Barnes, the Chief Commander's Representative to our Conference. A copy of his message is attached to this document. Some highlights that he emphasized were as follows:

1. REVITALIZING AND CONSOLIDATING THE USPS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM THROUGH THE “USPS UNIVERSITY” INITIATIVE: WITHOUT QUESTION, EDUCATION IS OUR MOST IMPORTANT PRODUCT .
2. REDUCING ORGANIZATIONAL EXPENSES, SIMPLIFYING BUREAUCRACY, AND INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS IS THE TRUE COURSE
3. INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES TO REACH OUT AND TOUCH THROUGH INNOVATIVE ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO PROMOTE MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION, INVOLVEMENT, AND PUBLIC OUTREACH REPRESENT A COURSE MADE GOOD

In summary, he stated that this message was about “RELEVANCE”. It is imperative that we gear our programs and services to boaters that are relevant to their needs. We are not there yet but can we say , “We now get it” and “We are doing something about it.”

Cdr Erler called for the Bridge Officers’ Reports.

SECRETARY – Betty Walton reported that her chairs were all filled and each is ready for a good year, 2007. Bert Baxter, who is replacing Bob Peters as the D/26 Historian was welcomed as the only new member of the department. She added a word of encouragement to each commander to get their slate of officers and chairmen in as quickly as possible so that the roster committee can begin the update for 2007. Debra Allen reminded us that there will not be a printed roster but it will be available on line to all.

TREASURER – Ron Osburn had his report available in print. 11 squadrons are now on Anniversary Billing so that leaves only 2 squadrons who have not chosen to use this method for reporting.

John Campbell gave a report on the squadron contributions to the EDUCATION FUND (National). Only 4 squadrons have not made their contribution at this time but he is expecting d/26 to be 100% as usual.

Ron gave a power point presentation on the “new” dues structure adopted in New York at the National Annual Meeting. A lengthy discussion followed. (See attachment).

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER - – John Powers, in the absence of Billy Owens, Boating Activities Chairman for d/26, requested that each squadron get their report in just as soon as they complete a boating activity so that he can evaluate it for the awards to be given at the end of each year.

John announced that OPERATIONS TRAINING is becoming an integral part of each squadron with 7 squadrons reporting training sessions to date.

Tom Courneya, District Membership Chairman, gave a very positive report. He announced that D/26 was one of only two districts to exceed their membership for the year. He praised the squadron level chairmen who were responsible for this achievement. Even though we lost a little over 300 members we gained this back through new members and renewals plus some giving us a total of 1,792 as of September. Tom has agreed to stay on for another year as Membership Chairman. The renewal process will be entirely different now that we are almost 100% on Anniversary Billing. We must be thinking how we are going to encourage renewals each year.

John gave out the “Power-of One” pins to those who had brought in new members for the year. The Bow Sprint awards were passed out to the squadrons. The “Growth Awards” were presented to the District, to Charleston, Golden Lakes, Lake Murray, Thurmond Lake and Long Bay.

Cdr Erler brought us up to date on membership renewal district wise and pointed out that the people who are not renewing their membership are the “newest members” in the squadrons who need to be encouraged more. His philosophy is that we must begin working on these renewals now, not 30 days prior to the renewal date. He presented Tom Courneya the Bow Sprint award along with the trophy that he received at National in NY.

Cdr Erler adjourned the meeting for a lunch break.

The meeting reconvened at 1PM. Cdr Erler called on Beaufort Power Squadron Administrative Officer, Kay Summers, to give an update on the Summer Cruise and rendezvous to be held at Beaufort this summer.

The Audit Committee, chaired by Cindy Kridler, reported that everything was in order. A motion was passed to accept the report as presented.

EDUCATION OFFICER'S REPORT - D/Lt/C Carol McVey began her report by giving out some awards. Education Efficiency awards were presented to those members from each squadron who completed through AP and a minimum of 3 elective courses.

Assistant Education Officer, Eric Pearson, gave out the Chapman Awards to the nominees from the squadrons.

Carol reported on the seminars (4) that are currently available. She emphasized that these seminars are not replacing any existing courses.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT – D /Lt/Cdr Archie Trewick stated that we had a good year in '06. He called on Pete Stevenson to give his report on Vessel Safety Checks. He reported that d/26 increased the number of Vessel Safety Checks during the 2006 year while on the National level there was a decline. This was a very impressive report for d/26 as a whole.

Ed Zeaser gave the CoOp Charting report. D/26 again made the honor roll for CoOp Charting with every squadron making some effort to make this happen. We ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 33 squadrons. Golden Corner Lakes ranked 5<sup>th</sup> among the squadrons making up the national USPS, and Lake Hartwell ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Horst Beche placed 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation as an individual. To date we are 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for the current year.

Cdr Erler brought up the topic of “Eliminating the exam” for admittance in the USPS. This will be voted on at the National Meeting in Jacksonville in February. Many pros and cons were discussed at length but Cdr Erler encouraged the representatives to talk this over very carefully with their executive committee and be prepared to vote accordingly.

P/C Bob Larson gave the Order of the Mariners' report. This elite group is made up of members who have achieved a minimum of 15 merit marks with the rank of AP or better. In the 24 year history of the Order in d/26 we have had only 167 to qualify. At present we have 81 active members. We have two members to be inducted into the Order this year, They are Scott A. Bridges and Robert L. Grey, both from the Lake Murray Squadron.

Lt/Cdr Carol McVey announced the winners of the Teaching Aids.. 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to Lake Murray, 2<sup>nd</sup>s place went to Lake Murray and 1<sup>st</sup> place went to Tybee Light. All winners were from the Boating courses.

Cdr Erler dismissed his bridge, all elected officers and committee members. He thanked all for a good year. At this point he turned the program over to P/C/C L.M.Barnes, National Representative for the Chief Commander. The slate of officers was presented to the group for election by acting chairman of the nominating committee, P/C Jim Rakes. (see attachment).

The slate was elected by acclamation. The installation was postponed until the district Dinner Meeting held on Saturday evening.

At this point the newly elected Commander, Archie Trawick, took the podium, adjourned the conference and convened council. The Secretary, Betty Walton, reported that there was a quorum and explained the voting procedure.

New Business – Boating trip to National in Jacksonville February 20 thru 25 was presented by Archie. Lots of work to be done but be making your plans.

Meeting adjourned.

The benediction was given by Bill Mullin assisted by Jack Wilson

Respectfully Submitted by:

D/Lt/C Betty Walton, Secretary D/26