

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

MINUTES OF THE SPRING DISTRICT CONFERENCE AND COUNCIL

**29 MARCH 2008
ANDERSON, SC**

D/C John Powers convened Conference at 0900.

D/Fl/Lt Thomas Courneya led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The District Chaplain, P/R/C John Wilson offered the invocation, and also remembered those members of D/26 who passed away since the 2007 Fall Conference.

P/D/C Archie Trawick introduced the Past District Commanders and guests attending the meeting.

D/Lt/C Ronald Osburn gave information on breakout sessions.

Conference was adjourned at 0907 for breakout sessions, and was reconvened at 1018.

A quorum was present for the meeting.

D/Lt/C Edwin Kridler explained voting procedures for Conference and Council.

Minutes from the 2007 Fall Conference were approved as corrected.

D/Lt/C Kridler noted that first timer pins were given to the members attending their first district function, and asked those first timers in attendance to introduce themselves.

D/C Powers introduced the Chief Commander's Representative, V/C David Hinders, SN, National Secretary. V/C Hinders presented the Chief Commander's message. (The Chief's message is attached to these minutes.)

The North Strand Sail and Power Squadron made a presentation for the D/26 Cruise and Rendezvous.

The following awards were either presented or recognized:

- ? USPS Environmental Committee Clean-up Recognition Award – Lake Murray
- ? USPS Educational Fund Award of Merit – All squadrons in District 26 and the district

- ? USPS Distinction in Journalism Award –
 - ✍ District 26
 - ✍ Beaufort
 - ✍ Charleston
 - ✍ Golden Corner Lakes
 - ✍ Hilton Head
 - ✍ Lake Hartwell
 - ✍ Lake Murray
 - ✍ Long Bay
 - ✍ North Strand
 - ✍ Savannah River
 - ✍ Swamp Fox
 - ✍ Tybee Light
 - ✍ Thurmond Lake

- ? USPS Power of One Award -
 - ✍ For 10 or more new members:
 - ✍ Audie Holmes
 - ✍ Archie Trawick
 - ✍ Andy Hyman

 - ✍ For less than 10 new member
 - ✍ Wilford Ross
 - ✍ Elizabeth Lynch
 - ✍ Richard Eler
 - ✍ Joseph Pannasch

- ? USPS Boating Safety Award Honor Role – District 26
- ? USPS Web Site Award –
 - ✍ Charleston
 - ✍ Hilton Head
 - ✍ Lake Murray
 - ✍ Golden Corner Lakes
 - ✍ Beaufort
 - ✍ Long Bay

- ? USPS Teaching Aid Awards (from USPS Annual Meeting) –
 - ✍ Morse-Dreher Award – District 26
 - ✍ Tybee Light – First and Second Places, Engine Maintenance; Second Place, Electronic Aid for Boating

- ? Educational Proficiency Awards –
 - ✍ Wendy Walsh, Charleston
 - ✍ Charles Bruce, Lake Murray
 - ✍ Patricia Senkow, North Strand
 - ✍ David Ecklund, Savannah River Susan Ecklund, Savannah River

- ✍ John Ivanhoe, Savannah River
- ✍ Tim Tate, Savannah River
- ✍ Robert Galbraith, Thurmond Lake

Lake Murray made a presentation on the 2008 Fall Conference and Change of Watch.

Conference was adjourned for lunch at 1138.

Conference was reconvened at 1300.

Officer Reports:

- ? Treasurer, D/Lt/C Robert Boal
 - ✍ D/Lt/C Boal discussed the financial status of the district.
 - ✍ D/Lt/C Boal discussed the importance of each squadron filing a tax return using the appropriate 990 series of federal tax forms.

- ? Secretary, D/Lt/C Edwin Kridler
 - ✍ Historian, Robert Gulbrandsen reported that Historian's Reports for the district and for all squadrons have been filed with national.
 - ✍ All squadron secretaries were asked to keep their squadron DB2000 data up to date so as the District Directory is updated, it will contain up to date information.

- ? Administrative Officer, D/Lt/C Betty Walton
 - ✍ We have lost our District Auxiliary Advisor, P/C Dee Retew due to her passing.
 - ✍ Boating Activities Chairman, Charles Borrmann reported that 9 squadrons have reported their boating activities to him. He would like to receive reports from all squadrons.
 - ✍ The new District Membership Chairman, Wendy Walsh, was introduced.
 - ✍ Membership Benefits Chairman, J. B. Thornton asked that all squadrons appoint a Membership Benefits Committee. Long Bay and North Strand websites have good links to member benefits websites, probably better than the USPS website.
 - ✍ National Meetings Coordinator, Barbara Pearson thanked all who helped with the joint hospitality suite (D/26 and D/27) at the USPS Annual Meeting in Dallas. She thanked Paula LeMond for assuming the position of editor for the district publication.
 - ✍ Operations Training Chairman, Lowell Ward reminded squadrons that the goal of both national and the district is to have all squadron bridge members complete the USPS Operations Training Course. Three squadrons reported having taught Operations Training Courses.

- ? Educational Officer, Eric Pearson

- ✍ District 26 is reflective of national trends with declining course enrollments and course completions; however, more members are taking and completing new and revised courses.
- ✍ National Educational Department is providing up to date courses and seminars through its program of USPS University.
- ✍ An Instructor Symposium for Junior Navigation will be held at the 2008 Fall Conference. Symposiums for other courses are planned for future district activities.

? Executive Officer, Ronald Osburn

- ✍ Cooperative Charting Chairman, Donald Funderburk noted that the Co-op Charting year ends each year on 31 March. Each squadron in the district has participated in the program this year.
- ✍ Legislative Committee Chair, Verna Clayton has served on the USPS National Government Relations Committee, and serves on the legislative team for South Carolina.
- ✍ Squadron Development Chairman, Frank Clayton said that since national has begun the provisional squadron program, 31 new squadrons have been charted, 4 included in D/26. Unfortunately, more squadrons have been lost than new squadrons are being formed. Districts need to be aware of “at-risk” squadrons and take action to help these squadrons before they are lost.
- ✍ Safety Committee Chairman Thomas O’Neill reminded everyone that National Safe Boating Week is 17-25 May, and encouraged cooperation with the Coast Guard Auxiliary in working on a program for this event.
- ✍ Vessel Safety Check Chairman Peter Stevenson indicated that there is a difference between national and district records on vessel safety checks. Pete will look into this discrepancy, but since he is not copied on reports to national, each squadron ultimately needs to correct discrepancies.

? Commander, John Powers

- ✍ An item discussed at the D/C meeting at the USPS Annual Meeting concerned failed squadrons. Since it is difficult for national or district officers to identify problem squadrons, it is imperative that squadron bridge officers recognize problems and ask for help in solving squadron problems prior to having a squadron fail.
- ✍ National would like all squadrons on national billing.
- ✍ National would like to standardize squadron dues.
- ✍ The district is making a concerted effort to winning a Bowsprit Award. It is important that all squadrons report all activities where that reporting is required. This allows both the squadrons and the district get credit for functions completed. The prime reason for pushing for the Bowsprit Award is to help the squadrons improve and to thusly strengthen the squadrons.
- ✍ National has formed a committee as a liaison on homeland security. Louis Hohenstein is heading up these activities for the district.

- ✍ Paul Soucy made a presentation on Long Bay's efforts to get marine dealers to purchase certificates for a boating course from the squadron and including the certificate to purchasers of new boats.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- ? District is establishing a calendar for report submissions by squadrons including where to find forms for the various reports.
- ? D/Lt/C Walton is in the process of making district assignments for squadron changes of watch.

Conference was adjourned at 1433.

Council was convened at 1433.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Information on the evening banquet was given by Golden Corner Lakes, the host squadron for the weekend.

P/R/C Wilson gave the benediction.

Council adjourned at 1433.

The following awards were presented at the evening banquet:

- ? Richard E. Rettew Co-op Charting Award – Temple A. Meek
- ? Robert A. Peters Boating Activities Award - Lake Murray
- ? Membership Award - Thurmond Lake
- ? Prince Henry the Navigator Award - Savannah River
- ? Wolfe-Ewing Educational Achievement Award – Savannah River
- ? Carol McVey Educational Leadership Award – Paulette Harris Holmes
- ? Spark Plug Award - Andy C. Hyman III
- ? Ed Fetner Award – Michael D. Kirk
- ? Commander of the Year Award - Not presented, recipient not in attendance
- ? Life Member Award – John P. Wilson

Charles W. Schuler

Respectfully submitted,
D/Lt/C/ Edwin G. Kridler, SN
D/26 Secretary

