

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

MINUTES OF THE SPRING CONFERENCE AND COUNCIL

MEETING

**10 MARCH 2007
MYRTLE BEACH, SC**

The D/26 Spring Conference Meeting, hosted by Long Bay Sail and Power Squadron, was called to order Saturday, March 10 at the Crown Reef Hotel Conference Room, Myrtle Beach, SC at 9 AM by D/C Archie Trawick,SN. D/C Trawick called on N/Lt David Allen, JN, to lead in the Pledge to the United States Flag followed by P/R/C Jack Wilson, AP, who gave the invocation. P/R/C Wilson then named those members in D/26 who passed away during the '06 year –the bell was sounded in memory of each. D/Lt/C Joe Warren gave an update on the health of Father Will. He remains in Pennsylvania but is doing very well. Next, P/D/C Jim Rakes introduced the P/D/C's who were present (total of 8). Our guest representing the Chief Commander, N/F/Lt James McCurry, was also introduced at this time.

The group was dismissed to go to the Seminars at this time (9:15 AM).

D/C Trawick reconvened Conference at 10:30AM.

D/Lt/C Betty Walton stated that a quorum was present and she explained the voting procedure for Council. The minutes of the Fall Conference/Council Meeting were approved as distributed.

The Chief Commander,s Representative, N/F/Lt Jamie McCurry, was again introduced by D/C Trawick. He brought greetings from C/C Ernie Marshburn. He emphasized C/C Marshburn's request that this speech should follow the "town-hall" format by asking questions that are important to the assembly. He stated that national efforts have focused on several primary objectives, each designed to more effectively "Reach Out and Touch" USPS members and the public.

These objectives are:

REVITALIZING USPS EDUCATION THROUGH -

USPS UNIVERSITY – New for credit courses – six new seminars added in 2006 and six new ones planned for 2007

New nationally and internationally recognized certification program beginning with INLAND CERTIFICATION.

Offer a full-featured and diversified curriculum in recreational boating education tailored to meet the needs of the basic boater while building advanced skill levels for experienced boaters.

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK (NSBW) INITIATIVE –

Each Squadron to offer a Boating Course in close proximity to NSBW(May 19-25, 2007)

NEW USPS COURSES FOR MEMBERS

SEAMANSHIP

JN

ENGINE MAINTENANCE

AWARDS PROGRAM FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

INSTRUCTOR RECERTIFICATION

POWER OF ONE AND TEACHING EXPERIENCED BOATERS

**USPS FINANCES/OPERATIONAL
EFFICIENCY/EFFECTIVENESS –**

We are back on solid ground due to the efforts, financial contributions, and sacrifices of numerous USPS members and HQ personnel.

To summarize the Chief's message we are encouraged to continue to think "RELEVANCE" – continue to find new ways to appeal to boaters using programs and services that are relevant.

D/Lt/C Osburn presented the new district 26 shirts. 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 flags are available.

BRIDGE OFFICERS' REPORTS

TREASURER – D/Lt/C Ron Osburn. JN, reported that copies of the treasurer's report are on the back table. Attached in the new reporting procedure to the IRS. Each squadron commander is asked to take one of these back to the appropriate person. The IRS wants to take a little closer look at non-profit organization.

He presented the power-point presentation on dues structure which will go in affect on June 1, 2007. He explained the various plans for membership – active, family, sea scouts, etc. There were some questions but it appeared that the majority understands the structure, cost, etc.

SECRETARY –D/Lt/C Betty Walton thanked the squadron commanders for their timely response to her form for reporting delegates to the conference. She then called on Barbara Pearson, editor of our 026 TRUE, for her report. She reminded us that the deadline for our articles for the April issue is due on March 15th. She encouraged the bridge to find some way to coordinate their reports to avoid duplicity. Debra Allen, d/26 Web Site Coordinator, reported that the roster/directory for d/26 should be ready for your use by the end of next week. Bert Baxter, d/26 Historian Chairman, reported that he had received Historian Reports from only 7 squadrons and he is asking that the other six get their reports in as soon as possible so that

he can get his report finished up and off to national. Ed Bush, d/26 Publications Chairman, reported that all newsletter editors are doing a great job. He stated that at times there appears to be some confusion as to what meetings were held. We currently have one Annual National Meeting per year (FEB), one National Governing Board Meeting per year (SEP). two D/26 Conferences (Fall and Spring) and one Cruise and Rendezvous(Summer) w/Council Meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER – D/Lt/C Carol McVey reported that the District has only one Auxiliary, Lake Hartwell Sail and Power Squadron, operating at this time. Other squadrons are doing some things for the spouses but are not reporting these to Dee Rettew, Auxiliary Chairman for d/26. Beaufort Sail and Power Squadron provided a skit/power point presentation to inform us of the up-coming Cruise and Rendezvous June 1-3. Kay Summers gave an outline of the plans for the entire weekend – sounds like much fun in the brewing. Tom Courneya gave his report on the District Membership. He stated that, “we are looking good with an increase in our membership for the year”- currently 1922 members. Carol insisted that each squadron name a membership chairman so that all records will be reported accurately and timely to Tom..

The Administrative Department presented two awards. The first was the Robert A. Peters Boating Activities Award for 2006 which was won by Lake Murray Sail and Power Squadron. This is a highly competitive award presented to the Boating Activities Chairman of the d/26 squadron amassing the most points for participation in district, squadron, and inter-squadron activities-on-the-water. The second award was the d/26 Membership Award presented to the squadron having the highest percentage of increase in membership for the past calendar year. This was presented to Golden Corner Lakes Sail and Power Squadron.

EDUCATIONAL OFFICER – D/Lt/C Eric Pearson gave a most impressive report of Education courses completed in D/26. He also reported on the plans for Safe Boating Week May 19-25, 2007. Last year we had 75% of the 449 squadrons participating by putting on some kind of activity during the week. Hopefully, we can match that percentage and surpass it this year by putting on a seminar or some event that publicity can be aired. It is

suggested that we hold the boating course until June (after Memorial Day). Eric discussed the new courses, the new seminars, and boater certification. Each SEO has been given specifications for these so they in turn will update the squadrons.

The Chapman award nominee from each squadron will be due in June. Please take the time to nominate someone from your squadron – the award and rewards are great.

Eric awarded certificates for Educational Proficiency to those member in each squadron who have completed Seamanship, Piloting, Advanced Piloting and any three (3) elective courses.

We had three winners in the Teaching Aids Contest – Long Bay 3rd place for Seamanship, North Strand 2nd place for their Piloting teaching aid, and Lake Murray 1st place in the boating category.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER – D/Lt/C John Powers introduced his entire committee chairs and gave a special recognition to D/Lt Ed Zeaser who was honored at National by being awarded the Golden Eagle Award for his activities in Co-Op Charting. It is certainly an honor to all of d/26 to have a man of his caliber among us. Ed presented the Honor Roll Certificates to those who earned them in each squadron. D/26 placed 3rd in the nation out of 33 squadrons for the 2006 year. As of this date we are 2nd in the nation for the current year.

Cdr Trawick adjourned the meeting for a lunch break.

The meeting reconvened at 1PM. Cdr Trawick asked that D/Lt/C Powers continue with the Executive Officer's report.

John introduced Joyce Shaw, Secretary of National Safe Boating Council for USPS and a member of the d/26, who gave us a run-down on National Safe Boating Week. She gave an outline of the various things that the council is involved in and opportunities for grants, etc.

John reported on the plans being worked on for a joint Cruise and Rendezvous with D/27 in summer of 2008 hosted by North Strand. He called on Linda Boyette, Commander of North Strand Sail and Power Squadron, to

give specific details that have been or must be worked out prior to this event. We will all look forward to this great event.

John called for a motion to state that we are in full agreement for this joint meeting with d/27 in the summer of 2008 sponsored by the North Strand Squadron. It was moved and seconded. The membership was unanimously in favor of the plans.

COMMANDER'S REPORT – Cdr Trawick thanked each person in attendance and emphasized that he wanted this to be a meeting to meet the needs of the members and requested that each squadron representative let the bridge know what these needs may be. He pointed out some things that squadrons are doing that may be different from others – every squadron has unique ideas, take advantage of these. He voiced his opinion that we have the best district in the USPS, so let us continue to do our best for our squadron, district, and national.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – Lake Hartwell announced that their squadron will hold its 7th annual Poker Run on May 19th. Everyone who would like to participate in this event is welcomed to come join in the fun. Debra Allen presented the list of Web Sites earning the Certificate of Excellence. They are D/26, Beaufort, Golden Corner Lakes, Lake Hartwell, Long Bay and North Strand.

Conference was adjourned.

Cdr Trawick convened COUNCIL.

No Old Business

New Business - VSC – wear your inflatables – more comfortable, when issuing the VSC decal to the boat owners be sure to mention USPS to them.

Council was adjourned.

85 Members Present

Respectfully Submitted by:

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