

United States Power Squadrons Districts 13, 25 & 28
Tri-District Conference Minutes - 30 September 2006
Airport Hilton Hotel
Phoenix, AZ

- 0903 The joint meeting was called to order by D/C William A. Johnson, AP, of District 28.**
D/C Johnson called for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the USA, which was led by him.

On behalf of District 28 and the Phoenix squadron, D/C Johnson welcomed all attendants to the conference and announced that, without objection, he would be the presiding officer for the meeting, that D/Lt/C Katharine S. Law would serve as secretary, and P/D/C Frank Fitzgerald would be the parliamentarian. D/C Johnson declared that all members of USPS, Districts 13, 25 and 28 present, constitute a quorum and the membership of this meeting. He announced that, without objection, the Tri-Conference Meeting Minutes Approval Committee would be composed of: D/Lt/C Ronnie Mann, AP [District 13]; D/Lt/C David Beyer, SN [District 25]; and Stf/C Robert C. Schloeman, JN [District 28].

D/C Johnson asked that all motions be submitted in writing to the presiding officer and noted that paper was to be found on each table for that purpose. He also announced that, in the event a ballot vote were to be required, he would appoint a Tellers Committee. He stated that, without objection, he would vary the order of business to expedite the proceedings. Finally, D/C Johnson announced the locations of the restrooms and emergency doors, the sites of the various morning seminars, and the time and location of the members' luncheon.

D/C Johnson next introduced the other District Commanders present: D/C Marla Brown [District 13] and D/C Gary Smith [District 25], and the Chief Commander, C/C Ernest G. Marshburn, SN, and acknowledged other guests present at the meeting. He identified the Organizing Committee for the Tri-District Conference, with special recognition to P/C Connie J. Johnson, AP, who chaired the committee along with P/D/C Leland E. Whitehead, SN, of the Phoenix squadron. D/C Johnson then introduced the Chief Commander to address the group.

- 0909 C/C Marshburn began by offering birthday greetings to P/D/C Ingrid Fishbon, AP [Long Beach, D/13]. He then stepped from behind the lectern, noting that he had tried to make approachability a characteristic of his watch-year as Chief Commander. He offered thanks to all three districts for their "can do" attitude in bringing about the joint conference and commented that this was only the second of such gatherings [the first having been in Cleveland the spring of 2006]. C/C Marshburn complimented the districts and the organizers for their efforts which had proved so successful and should, he felt, be a source of pride for all concerned.

The Chief remarked that, rather than reading a prepared speech, he wanted to speak extemporaneously in order to emphasize certain things he deemed important. The first of these was that USPS has been struggling financially. When he and his Bridge had discovered the extent of the problem upon assuming command, they determined to forge a stronger organization in the "glass furnace" of adversity. The national leadership decided to convert a previously triple-digit deficit into a zero-balance budget, which had been accomplished. The Chief offered his thanks to the National Treasurer, V/C Joe R. Mesenburg, SN, and to R/C Michael Horowitz, Ch/Finance Committee, who had been the principal architects of these efforts. He asked them to stand and be acknowledged by the group, which offered their applause.

Next, the Chief emphasized the need to grow USPS, which had matured out of its original regimen of drill-and-maneuvers into a primarily educational organization. Although the educational program had not changed for many years, the needs of the public and of USPS members were not being as well served as they could be. Thus, the national leadership perceived a need to revisit and elevate the educational program to serve a new century. This, he felt had been accomplished as a result of the efforts of V/C Richard E. Kyle, SN, and his department, who have developed and are implementing "USPS University," with its flexibility and variety of choices of new subjects and courses for the

boating public. He noted that, although Dick Kyle could not be present because of a personal conflict, the Ed Department was ably represented at the conference by R/C Robert J. Sweet, SN, who was also recognized by a round of applause.

C/C Marshburn noted that, in line with the need to grow the organization, each USPS member needs to “reach out and touch someone.” While the *Power of One* campaign will soon end, the spirit behind it should continue to motivate all USPS members to offer one-on-one mentoring to new squadron members and to ask all our “boating buddies” to join the organization. In his view, there is no greater “buddy” organization in the United States.

Finally, C/C Marshburn recognized our headquarters executive director, Mary Catherine Berube, and expressed his thanks to her for her superb job in implementing the policies of the national leadership and her management of headquarters staff and operations. Ms. Berube received warm applause from the entire group.

In closing, the Chief noted that in any organization, there is bound to be some conflict; but that conflict is not necessarily a bad thing. It is through conflict, he stated, that will come the needed collaboration and cooperation to effect positive change.

0927 The Chief Commander, assisted by D/C Johnson, next presented several national awards including to:

District 13 awards:

25-year pins to P/C Helen Darby, AP and Marion Seaman [both of Redondo Beach]; P/D/C Ingrid Fishbon, AP [Long Beach].

50-year pins to Laurel Linn [Long Beach]; P/D/C Jerry Ervin, JN [Arrowhead]; P/C Allan Chisholm, AP [Pasadena]; Edward Stirling, AP [Pasadena].

Georgianna Lane received a special plaque for her 50 years of service in the auxiliary and to the San Fernando Valley squadron.

District 28 awards:

50-year pins to Kenneth Logan [Balboa, D/28]; Curtis Webber [Phoenix, D/28].

The 2006 P/C/C William D. Selden Award for Membership Involvement Retention, 3rd place, received by Lt/C Maria Diehl, D/28 Ch/Membership Involvement/Retention.

A Bowsprit Award for overall district achievement in 2005-2006, received by Junior P/D/C Adriaan Veldhuisen.

National Cooperative Charting Awards: 2005-2006 District Honor Roll recognition was given to District 28 [5th place]. The 2005-2006 Squadron Honor Roll awards honored a D/25 squadron, Santa Clara [35th place] and two D/28 squadrons: Phoenix [12th place] and San Luis Rey [113th].

2005-2006 Individual Cooperative Charting Honor Roll Awards. David A. Norris [Santa Clara., D/25] was among the top 100 people nationwide who participated in Cooperative Charting (26th place); and two D/28 members of the Phoenix squadron were also in the top 100: Chuck Peterson [28] and Jane Neva Peterson [36].

Others receiving special recognition for Coop Charting were (*squadron in italics*; [national ranking]):

District 25 -- *Diablo*: Phil de l’Etoile [328].

District 28 -- *Balboa*: Wolfgang Kutter [416];

Phoenix: Rose Werner [101]; William Johnson [147]; Ron Werner [172]; John Lusson [316]; Phil Doug Frazier [321]; Connie Johnson [331]; James Hill [336]; Terry Gray [474]; Jean Marie Gray [532].

San Luis Rey: E. Brian Smith [337]

A USPS Squadron Charter for the new Lake Mohave Power Squadron [District 28] was presented by C/C Marshburn and P/D/C Adriaan Veldhuisen to the squadron’s conference representative, Richard Tripp.

0940 The formal proceedings were suspended by C/C Marshburn in order that he, assisted by V/C Creighton C. Maynard Jr., SN, the National Executive Officer, could conduct a “town hall meeting.” Before accepting questions, the Chief introduced his wife Dianne, and all national officers and their spouses present in the room. He then indicated that he and V/C Maynard would attempt to respond to all written or oral inquiries to the best of their abilities. Some of the questions asked [in italics] and responses given are paraphrased below.

Will the proposed acceptance of new USPS members who are experienced but have not passed a Boating course [or the equivalent] require a change in the national Bylaws?

This issue (postponed from the August Governing Board meeting to the Annual Meeting next February) was characterized by the Chief as one comparable to “States’ Rights” in that, for a period of three years, local squadrons would have the opportunity to invite experienced boaters to become members without taking an initial qualifying test.

C/C Marshburn stressed that the proposal involved only a three-year suspension of the Bylaws, and the waiver would lapse automatically at the end of the trial period if the experiment did not result in membership growth. If growth were achieved, an affirmative decision by the Governing Board to change the Bylaws would be required. As a matter of local option, no squadrons would be required to participate if they decide not to waive the test requirement. Each potential member would still need to be approved by the Squadron Executive Committee. And squadrons desiring to participate in the experiment would bear the responsibility of assessing the candidate’s boating experience to determine whether he or she met the qualifications of basic knowledge otherwise demonstrated by passing an elemental boating safety test.

Will there be a “USPS University” website and, if so, how soon?

R/C David Hinders, SN, is currently occupied with obtaining a domain name and will be working with the Ed Department; it is hoped that the website will be operational in January 2007. [It was suggested that “usps.edu” would be a suitable name.] The Chief remarked that change is always difficult to achieve, but that the concept of USPS University would evolve as a supplement to --rather than an overhaul of--our traditional educational courses.

How will Squadron Educational Officers become qualified to teach the seminars of USPS University?

The Chief called on Bob Sweet to respond to this question. R/C Sweet noted that the present plan is to have DEO’s become qualified to “teach the teachers” and indicated that, in their PowerPoint form, the seminars are easy to present and should be able to be taught by any Instructor Development qualified teacher familiar with the subject material of the seminar.

Will there be media outreach to promote the USPS University seminars?

As with the Boating and Boat Smart courses, the local squadrons will have to do promotion of these seminars. R/C Darrell Allison, AP, and the National Marketing and Public Relations Committee will be happy to assist with promotional materials and will work with squadrons in getting the word out.

Will the proposed “On-the-Water” seminar to teach basic seamanship proficiency expose USPS and the local squadron members to legal liability issues?

National Law Officer, R/C James [“Bullfrog”] Richlak, SN, was asked by the Chief to respond to this inquiry. R/C Richlak indicated that he and his staff are exploring issues of liability and will be in close touch with the National Bridge and the Educational Department before this seminar is given.

Will squadron executive committee members be exposed to charges of discrimination if they reject potential non-test-taking candidates who apply for membership and are deemed to be less than qualified in basic knowledge and experience for squadron membership by the ExCom?

R/C Richlak also responded to this question and noted that a report on this issue will be forthcoming

at the February Governing Board meeting. C/C Marshburn remarked that we will need to be open and fair in our consideration of potential new members, which should go far toward forestalling any question of discrimination.

Will relaxation of the standard test requirement for membership result in membership growth?

The Chief remarked that nobody now knows whether this will be true, but that many potential members--particularly boaters with many years' experience--have been turned off by the requirement of having to take a qualifying test. The option of a three-year trial period would give USPS a chance to determine whether such action will yield positive results, and would not require changing the Bylaws without knowing whether it would help or not. If the results are positive, a Bylaws change would be brought before the Governing Board, but if there is no (or a negative) change in membership numbers, the experiment would lapse automatically.

Since many more states are requiring boaters to take minimal boating exams, would the squadron executive committees still be able to reject potential applicants deemed not eligible to join?

Local squadron ExComs will still be the final arbiters of membership qualifications. R/C Alan W. Lakin, SN, Chairman, Committee on Rules, was asked by the Chief to comment and stated that, as with squadron bylaws, the National USPS is trying to permit as much local choice as possible while adhering to certain national standards. The newly revised Model Squadron Bylaws are drafted in such a way that local squadrons can fill in the blanks in fewer than 10 minutes, omitting sections which do not apply in their case (such as Squadron Housing Committees). The goal toward which the Committee on Rules is working is to allow as much local choice as possible within the USPS frame.

Why have we not heretofore accepted all candidates who have passed a National Association of Boating Law Administrators {NASBLA} test as qualified for membership?

V/C Maynard noted that Boat Smart is recognized by all NASBLA states, many of which have only minimal boating education tests. Boat Smart and ABC are better than some of state tests, and USPS has thus far preferred to maintain the higher standard.

If a person fails the Boating Course, can he or she be accepted for membership?

V/C Maynard responded that the simple answer to that question was "No." But we can mentor the student until he/she passes the test.

In our symbol and mission statement, the tripartite description of USPS activities is "Educational, Civic and Fraternal." Since the word "fraternal" is derived from the Latin root for brotherhood, it implies discrimination against women. Is there any plan to change this wording?

C/C Marshburn complimented the questioner for her courage in bringing up this subject that stated that he was acutely sensitive to the issue but had been unable to come up with a comparable substitute. He promised that a search for a suitable replacement would be begun and asked that anyone with a suggestion should please make it known, since women are now in full membership in USPS and have been for 25 years.

Are we going to merge with the USCG Auxiliary?

V/C Maynard responded that certainly all USCGA members are qualified to be members of USPS, but that there are no plans to merge the two organizations. He urged all USPS members to ask their Auxiliary buddies to attend a squadron members' meeting and to join USPS.

Are we planning to institute courses to prepare for the Coast Guard "six-pack" and 100-ton exams?

The Chief stated that this is a possibility but remarked that the AP course actually prepared him for his Captain's license. He believes our courses are better than many of the \$400 school courses.

Why was the series of new seminars named "USPS University" instead of "College"?

In considering what to name the new "open to the public" courses, C/C Marshburn noted that the word "university" was chosen because it represents diversity and is understood as the hallmark of excellence, which more accurately describes what the new seminars are designed to be.

1034 At the conclusion of the “town hall meeting,” D/C Johnson thanked C/C Marshburn and V/C Maynard for sharing their knowledge and introduced P/C Connie Johnson, the chairman of the Phoenix Conference Organizing Committee, who listed the locations for the breakout seminars.

1037 The conference was recessed until after the luncheon.

1200 The invocation before the Members’ Luncheon was given by Stf/C Chester G. White, Jr., JN.

1251 D/C Johnson reconvened the meeting.

He introduced R/C Darrell Allison, who then introduced and paid tribute to the long service to USPS by 94-year-old Thol Ogden Simonson, a USPS member since 1939. While spending 46 years as a special effects expert in the motion picture industry, P/C Simonson [Long Beach, D/13], taught navigation and seamanship courses at night school and has received USCG recognition for having saved seven lives at sea. He is a dedicated predicted log cruiser and has won 16 trophies for predicted log contests along the Pacific Coast from Alaska to Southern California. P/C Simonson rose to receive a standing ovation.

1256 D/C Johnson then passed the microphone to P/D/C Leland E. Whitehead, SN, who introduced Kevin Bergerson, Arizona Boating Law Administrator for the Department of Game and Fish. Mr. Bergerson expressed his pleasure at being among USPS members, who share his passion for boating safety. He noted that, while in 2005 there were only 5 Arizona boating fatalities, there had already been 14 in 2006, the majority of which had been alcohol-related and/or the result of not wearing PFDs. He also reported that, since 1993, fully half the boating fatalities in Arizona involved Californians, which made him doubly glad to be able to address the Tri-District Conference. He urged all in attendance to continue and increase their educational efforts among the boating public.

1308 P/D/C Whitehead thanked Mr. Bergerson for his remarks, and then introduced Ed Huntsman, Regional Vice President of the National Water Safety Congress (NWSC). Mr. Huntsman expressed his thanks to USPS members for their efforts in educating the boating public and related an amusing historical tale of a voyage by the *U.S.S. Constitution*, which set sail in August 1797 to promote the causes of the newly liberated United States, sailed to the Caribbean, Europe and the Mediterranean and, upon her return to Boston, achieved a 92 percent re-enlistment rate. He then presented a special award to Stf/C Robert Schloeman, thanking him for his cooperation with NWSC, as a valued and most appreciated partner in boating safety.

1320 Ed Huntsman then introduced Cecilia Duer, Executive Director of NWSC, who described the work of her organization, which includes promoting water safety, water safety organizations, boater education and the dissemination of water safety information. Some of the initiatives with which they had been involved included the promotion of legislation to require lighting on barges being towed, and education about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning. Ms. Duer briefly noted some of their other programs, including an awards program to recognize individuals and entities which have made significant contributions to water safety, and their grants program, distributing small grants to organizations for the promotion of water safety. She reported that the Phoenix SPS had been the recipient of a small grant and indicated that nomination forms for these two programs may be found on their website [www.watersafetycongress.org]. Ms. Duer encouraged USPS members to submit applications for worthy candidates before the December 1st deadline. She also invited all who are interested to attend the annual International Boating & Water Safety Summit, to be held on 4-7 March 2007, in San Antonio, TX.

Ms. Duer then presented a NWSC “Letter of Commendation” to Bruce Rowe, a member of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council. As a partner with Nevada Department of Wildlife and through his special efforts for boating safety on Lake Mead in both Nevada and Arizona, Mr. Rowe

has worked diligently with state and federal agencies to understand the causes of boating fatalities, and thus to reduce them. Mr. Rowe thanked Ms. Duer and NWSC for the recognition.

1336 D/C Johnson expressed appreciation to all speakers for their comments. He again recognized C/C Ernie Marshburn. The Chief thanked the organizers of the conference and stated that he and his wife, Lt Dianne Marshburn, AP, really appreciated all the courtesies extended to them and to the many National officers in attendance. He noted his pleasure at being among so many like-minded people and again congratulated the three districts for their efforts in achieving a joint conference.

1400 D/C Johnson enumerated the room locations and content of the afternoon seminars, following which **the meeting was recessed.**

1940 **Return to Order**

The conference was reconvened by D/C Johnson and was begun with the introduction and procession of the honored guests narrated by Conference chairman, P/C Connie Johnson, including:

R/C Michael J. Horowitz, JN, Ch/Finance Committee, and P/C Lucile R. Horowitz, SN [Shrewsbury, D/4]

R/C Alan F. Wentworth, SN, Ch/Planning Committee, and Lt/C Ruth C. Wentworth, AP [Green Bay SPS, D/10]

R/C Allan W. Lakin, SN, Ch/Committee on Rules [Valley Ho, D/13]

R/C James D. Richlak, SN, National Law Officer, and P/Lt/C Paula Richlak, SN [Painesville, D/11]

R/C Darrell G. Allison, AP, Ch/Marketing & Public Relations, and P/C Patricia Allison, P [Tres Rios, D/13]

R/C Shirley Y. Van Rhee, JN, Ch/Committee on Nominations, and Lt Gene Van Rhee, SN [Sable Point SPS, D/9]

Mary Catherine Berube, Executive Director, USPS Headquarters

V/C Joe R. Mesenburg, SN, National Treasurer, and Karen Mesenburg, P [Columbus SPS, D/29]

V/C Robert A. Baldrige, SN, National Secretary [Baton Rouge SPS, D/15], and Nancy Baldrige

V/C Frank A. Dvorak, SN, National Administrative Officer, and Vivien Dvorak, P [Bellevue, D/16]

R/C Robert J. Sweet, JN, Asst. National Educational Officer (representing V/C Richard Kyle) [Buzzards Bay, D/14]

V/C Creighton C. Maynard Jr., SN, National Executive Officer, and Glenda Maynard [Ft Worth, D/21]

C/C Ernest G. Marshburn, SN, Chief Commander, and Lt Dianne Marshburn, AP [Tar River, D/27]

1955 D/C Johnson then introduced the commanders of the other two districts:
D/C Marla C. Brown, JN [Redondo Beach, D/13]; and D/C Gary W. Smith, AP [Diablo SPS, D/25], for the purpose of recognizing members of their commands.

D/C Brown introduced the members of her District 13 Bridge, including: Executive Officer, D/Lt/C Kenneth J. Boyd, SN; Educational Officer, D/Lt/C Darrell A. Sausser, JN; Administrative Officer, D/Lt/C Victor Sam, AP; Secretary, D/Lt/C Veronica A. Mann, AP; Treasurer, D/Lt/C Harold W. Hoadley, AP; Asst. Educational Officer, D/1st /Lt Gail S. Nachman, SN; Asst. Secretary, D/1st/Lt Richard Nachman, SN; Asst. Treasurer, P/C Joan W. Faircloth, SN; Junior P/D/C John F. Brown, JN, and all past district commanders of District 13 present at that time.

2015 D/C Smith then introduced the members of the District 25 Bridge, including: Executive Officer, D/Lt/C Milton R. Entwhistle, AP; Educational Officer, D/Lt/C Mark B. Gathings, JN; Administrative Officer, D/Lt/C Ralph M. Price, AP; Secretary, D/Lt/C David V. Beyer, SN; Treasurer, D/Lt/C Judy Pennington, P; Junior P/D/C Norman Pennington, AP; Flag Officers: Betty Dysart, David Beyer and Norman Pennington; and all past district commanders of District 25 present in the room. D/C Smith recognized all squadron commanders from D/25 in attendance. He noted that the next scheduled Tri-District Conference would occur in the fall of 2008 and invited all to join District 25 in Reno, NV, for that event.

2040 D/C Johnson next introduced the members of the District 28 Bridge, including: Treasurer, D/Lt/C Wesley S. Heusser, AP; Secretary, D/Lt/C Wanderley Diehl, SN; Administrative Officer, D/Lt/C Katharine S. Law, SN; Educational Officer, D/Lt/C Joseph C. Komlance, SN; and Executive Officer, D/Lt/C Charles E. Peterson, SN. D/C Johnson recognized squadron commanders in the district, as well as all past district commanders in attendance.

2055 D/C Johnson relinquished the microphone to the Chief Commander, who presented a USPS 25-year pin to P/D/C Elaine C. Keller, AP [Balboa, D/28]. C/C Marshburn also read a citation and presented the "USPS Life Saving Award" to Cdr Russell C. Kaiser Jr., P [Sacramento; D/25], for his actions in rescuing a man from the Sacramento River.

The Chief recognized the members of the Operating Committee and their spouses, and thanked the host district and the Phoenix squadron on behalf of himself, his wife Dianne, and all members of O/Com and their guests for the exemplary hospitality extended to them.

2110 New Business: There was no new business.
Announcements: D/C Johnson noted that the Conference raffle would be conducted immediately after the meeting, following which Lt/C James Chavez, P [Balboa; D/28] would provide DJ services for dancing. D/C Johnson thanked his wife Connie, who served as Conference Chairman, as well as Cdr Doug Frazier of the Phoenix SPS, and extended thanks to Jean Gray, Nancy Frazier and all other members of the Phoenix squadron who had worked tirelessly to make the conference a success. He also offered his special appreciation for the work done by P/C Joan Faircloth, of District 13, who served as conference registrar.

2115 D/C Johnson declared that, if there was no further business to come before the meeting and without objection, the 2006 Great Southwestern Tri-District Conference was adjourned *sine die*.

Minutes submitted by: *Katharine S. J. Law* 29 Nov 2006
D/Lt/C Katharine S Law, SN, Acting Secretary Date:

Approval Committee: S/----- 29 Nov 2006
D/Lt/C Veronica Mann, AP [District 13] Date:

S/----- 21 Nov 2006
D/Lt/C David Beyer, SN [District 25] Date:

S/----- 21 Nov 2006
Stf/C Robert C. Schloeman, JN [District 28]. Date: