

District 31, 2008 Fall Conference and COW Minutes October 25 – 26, 2008

Saturday, 25 October 2008

The 2008 District 31 Fall Conference was called to order at 0906 AM at The Bricktown Brewery in Oklahoma City, OK.

Cdr Richard Dayringer gave the invocation. AP.

D/Lt/C Louis Persons, AP, led the Pledge to the flag.

The quorum was verified by a count of the signatures on the delegate sign-in sheet.

Cdr Danny Goss, JN, of the Oklahoma City Sail and Power Squadron, the host squadron, gave a welcoming speech.

The out going District 31 Bridge members, R/C Noel McKeown, SN, and guests were recognized.

P/C Kenneth Whittington, SN, made a motion, made the motion to approve the Spring Conference minutes as previously posted on the District 31 website. It was seconded by P/D/Lt/C Margaret Miller, S, and passed unanimously.

R/C McKeown gave the report as the Chief Commander's Representative. R/C McKeown was P/C of the Daytona Squadron and P/D/C of District 24. His report covered many topics.

Improve member retention:

Involve new members. 84 % of those that become involved in squadron activities tend to stay on as members.

Of those new members that don't become involved in squadron activities, less than 70 % are retained.

Insurance:

St. Paul Insurance no longer covers USPS. The Chubb Group is now the company of record.

By the end of November there should be a summary of benefits posted on the USPS web site.

Directors and Officers will have full coverage, all the way down through local squadrons.

Coverage increased from \$7 million to \$15 million.

Coverage will include land, shore, docks, and on the water activities.

There will be liability coverage for professional services, i.e. for instructors.

There will be coverage for on the water activities, such as USPS University.

Seminar System:

Offering more USPS Advanced courses to the public.

Pro-Log:

Instruction on how to get the USPS message out to the public.

The National Message - "Help Us Do More For You".

That was followed by comments from the District Commander, William Miller, P.

Annual Meeting in Detroit:

The shortest meeting he had attended. The Conference was over before lunch.

District 31 members attending were: Steve & Sandy Johnson, Tom

Unger, Marilyn Rose, Bill & Peggy Miller, and Jane Montgomery.

A major item covered was the new insurance coverage being offered to all squadrons.

We were successful in getting the Clean Water Act amended to exempt recreational boaters

The long rumored inflatable PFD's have been shipped to all squadrons, one for each registered

Vessel Examiner, plus one.

Merit Mark information needs to be submitted by all squadron commanders for their members. It has already been done for the squadron commanders by the district commander.

The "Become A Member" feature of the USPS website is now up and running.

The next USPS meeting is the Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA, February 17-22, 2009.

DB 2000 has been further refined with many new features added for squadron and district membership management. The new features can be downloaded from the USPS website.

The District/Squadron Investment Fund will be discontinued effective January 10, 2010. It is suggested that effected units make arrangements to withdraw their funds before that date. A

letter has been sent to all squadron and district treasurers and commanders.

A new addition to the USPS website is a link to the PR department's website, called ProLog. The link is on the front page of the USPS website and will take you to an outstanding presentation of what can be done by squadrons to promote their unit.

Regional Happenings:

Thanks to the OKCSPS for inviting District 31 and District 21 to their annual Texoma Rendezvous.

Thanks to Peggy Anglin for helping with the Daymark.

Thanks to Lt. Denise Winn, S for taking over the editorship of the District 31 publication, the Daymark.

And last, but by no means least, thanks to my wife, Peggy Miller, for all of her assistance.

X/O Comments from D/Lt/C Marilyn Rose, P:

The Tulsa Boat Show – Marilyn Rose - In February. The Tulsa Squadron will be setting up and taking down. Each squadron should supply volunteers. Each squadron can also supply brochures advertising their squadron. This boat show is the 5th largest in the interior part of the county.

The Winter Council Meeting will be Saturday, February 7, 2009.

The Dist. 31 Spring Conference will be March 27 & 28, 2009, in Tulsa, at the Clarion Hotel.

The Summer Council will be July 25, 2009.

The D 31 Fall Conference and COW will be October 23-24, 2009 in Tulsa.

Vessel Safety Check – Jay Spicer, Grand Lake Sail & Power Squadron – Only 3 of 5 District Squadrons have V/E's.

Those examiners performed 412 vessel safety exams in 20078.

Grand Lake – 335

Beaver Lake – 35

Oklahoma City – 42

PRO – Elsie Rolandelli

\$500.00 allotted per squadron, for PR reimbursement.

Beaver Lake - ???

OKC - \$325.00

Grand Lake - \$1210.. – banners

Tulsa - \$648.00 spent

Norman - \$1,200.00 spent, including \$599.00 for a new laptop computer.

\$435.00 was received from National, \$1.00 per member.

Increasing from \$500.00 to \$700.00 for squadron PR reimbursements. Requests for PR reimbursements must include the squadron PRO's signature and a receipt marked "PAID". There is no specific form. Just send a letter. All requests must be turned in by August 15th.

Environmental Report – D/Lt Denise Winn, S – Thanked Beaver Lake, Grand Lake, and OKC for their efforts.

OKC had an actual clean up day at Lake Hefner.

Nothing from National.

DEO – P/D/C Tom Unger, SN – Explained the teaching aids his squadron had provided.

Admin Officer – D/Lt/C Louis Persons, AP – Report for Laurie Hestand on the OKCSPS annual Lake Texoma Rendezvous. There were 3 boats that participated. Saturday night was the catfish fry, compliments of Laurie and Dana. Sunday morning the breakfast was prepared by "chefs" Danny Goss, Mark Anglin, and Ron Huff, and what a meal it was. Members also attended from the Grand Lake and Dallas squadrons.

D/Lt/C Persons declared, "We are bleeding members." We really need to work on new member retention. New members need to be nurtured carefully. They are the source of more new members and future leadership. There needs to be a mentoring system and a calling committee. The calling committee can call and remind everybody of events and maintain contact with the membership.

Treasurer's Report – D/Lt/C Susan Unger, N – Provided copies of the USPS Dist. 31 Income

statement, 1 September 2007 through 31 August 2008, and the USPS Dist. 31 Proposed Budget, 1 September 2008 through 31 August 2009. (Copies attached) Elsie Rolandelli proposed the two budgets be accepted as presented. The motion was made by P/C Steve Pierce, AP, to approve the Income Statement. It was seconded by Lt/ Denise Winn, S and passed unanimously. The motion was made by D/Lt Denise Winn, S to accept the Proposed Budget as presented. It was seconded by P/D/C Julian Rolandelli, AP, and it passed unanimously.

Cdr John Fairhead, JN, proposed that a committee be formed to study alternative methods of raising revenue and ways to decrease expenditures without decreasing services.

Reports from Committees:

Planning Committee – Peggy Miller

Rules Committee – Byron Lake

Education Fund – P/D/C Julian Rolandelli, AP - Still \$1.00 per member to go to National

Daymark Editor – Denise Winn – No Report

Squadron Commanders Reports:

Beaver Lake – Cdr John Fairhead, JN – 7 members at the conference.

Grand Lake – Cdr. Richard Dayringer, P – 107 members, 14 at the conference. Year of the Hat. 335 vessel safety checks, 3 V/E's made more than 50 each. 4 issues of the "Pelican" mailed. 3rd yr. of the "Nautical Flea Market" fund raiser. PR – ordered new banners. COW. – 11/01/08. Jane Montgomery will be the new commander.

Okla. City – Cdr Danny Goss, JN – Membership – No gains, but no losses. We man the OETA Fund Raiser twice a year. We have a Lake Hefner clean up twice a year. We are part of the "Friends of Lake Hefner". We joined the OKC Southside Chamber of Commerce. We have a good attendance at events. We have 3 Oklahoma Boating Instructors. We give free Boat Ed courses. We have an annual Lake Texoma Rendezvous, and a couple of yearly Lake Thunderbird rendezvous. We have two Arkansas River Runs, one in the spring and one in the fall. Merit Marks are almost ready to go.

Tulsa – D/Lt/C Marilyn Rose, AP – Increased email to members that have it and regular mail to those that don't. Money from PRO was used to set up a new website. Newsletter – Sending it by email and regular mail. We had a couple of events cancelled due to problems at event sites. Teaching classes, and will start at Muskogee when they are ready. Merit Marks – Deadline – 10/20/08.

Norman – No report. No representatives present.

Merit Marks – New DB 2000 on the internet. They must be entered electronically.

Old Business –

Proposed changes to Article X of the District Bylaws were approved by the Law Committee at the Detroit GB. Motion made to approve made by Jim Chastain. It was seconded by Julian Rolandelli and passed unanimously.

Nominating Committee – P/D/C Julian Rolandelli, AP – No write-in nominations.

The slate of nominations is as follows:

COMMANDER – P/R/C Marilyn B. Rose, P (Tulsa)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER – P/C Louis D. Persons II, AP (Oklahoma City)

EDUCATION OFFICER – P/D/C Thomas Unger, SN (Beaver Lake)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER – P/C Larry E. Stout, AP (Grand Lake)

TREASURER – D/Lt/C Susan Unger, N (Beaver Lake)

SECRETARY – Open

AUDITING COMMITTEE:

Chair – P/C Paul Keller, P (Oklahoma City)
P/R/C Sandra Johnson, AP (Norman)

RULES COMMITTEE:

Chair – P/C Byron Lake, AP (Beaver Lake)
D/Lt Connie F. Spicer, S (Grand Lake)
P/C John P. Morgan, AP (Oklahoma City)

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Chair – P/D/Lt/C Margaret Miller, S (Grand Lake)
D/Lt Carole Chalupnik, S (Grand Lake)
P/D/C Jules P. Lachance, JN (Oklahoma City)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Chair – P/D/C Earl E. Rose, JN (Tulsa)
P/D/C William A. Miller, P (Grand Lake)
P/C Kenneth W. Whittington, SN (Oklahoma City)

Election of Officers for 2009:

Cdr. Richard Dayringer, P made a motion, to accept the nominations as listed. It was seconded by P/C Steve Pierce, AP, and passed unanimously.

New Business – None.

Laurie Hestand, P, made the motion to adjourn for lunch. It was seconded by Denise Winn and passed unanimously.

D/C William Miller, P, recessed the meeting at 12:05 PM

Spousal Events – Saturday, October 25, 2008:

9:45 AM - Tour of the OKC Museum of Art

11:30 AM - Lunch at the OKC Museum of Art

1:00 PM - Nutritional Seminar – Presented by Angela Kasbom, RD, in the Hospitality Suite.

After lunch (12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM) there were several seminars and other events prior to the meeting re-convening:

1:30 – 2:00 - VHF/DSC - D/Lt/C Tom Unger, SN

2:00 – 3:00 - VHF, HF, marine and amateur, and digital communications on board -
P/C Steve Pierce, AP, W5BIV and Larry Kerr, SN, K5ERR

3:00 – 3:45 - On water instruction, and USPS insurance - D/Lt/C Tom Unger, SN

3:45 – 4:15 - Cold water boating – DVD presentation

1800 – 1900 - Reception, with cash bar, in the Bricktown Brewery Banquet Room

1900 – 2130 - Banquet, Awards Ceremony, and COW.

The meeting was re-convened at 1900 (7:00 PM) by D/C William Miller, P.

Invocation – Cdr Richard Dayringer, P

Pledge of Allegiance – Lt Laurie Hestand, P

Welcome – Cdr Danny Goss, JN

DINNER

Introduction of guests – D/C William Miller, P

>From Dist. 14, Atlanta, Ben and Janice Owens

>From National, Noel and Marilyn McKeown

Greetings From USPS – R/C Noel McKeown, SN

Presentations to the McKeowns –

D/C William Miller, P - Marilyn – Oklahoma Territory Cookbook

R/C McKeown – National Century Club donation
Cdr Danny Goss, JN – R/C McKeown – Bricktown Brewery baseball cap
First Timer Recognition - Lt Laurie Hestand, P

Started in 1997

10 First Timer - Angela Kasbom – OKC, Sandy Straten – OKC (visitor),
Steve Bryant – OKC, Al Gainer – OKC, Marion Gainer – OKC, Ben Owens – Atlanta, Janice
Owens, Atlanta, Noel McKeown – Daytona, Marilyn McKeown – Daytona.

Presentation of Awards - Cdr John Fairhead, JN, & Sally Bowen, S - The awards presented are
for achievement, not competition.

Vessel Safety Check Award – Grand Lake

Meritorious Service Award (Given every 3 yrs.)

Dist. 31 USPS Youth Poster Contest

6-8 yrs.: 1st – Joshua Ledbetter – OKC

2nd – Jamie Diaz – Norman

3rd – Brennan Lacey – Norman

9-11 yrs.: 1st – Savannah Waddell – Also 3rd Nationally – OKC

2nd – Lauren Lacey = Norman

3rd – Will Blaise – Beaver Lake

12 – 14 yrs.: 1st – Hudson Lacey – Norman

2nd – Jennifer Rice – Norman

3rd – Joe Henson – Norman

Attendance Award – Grand Lake

Shipping Over Award (Retention - % of members) – Norman (100 %) All squadrons had
at least 83 %

Chapman Award For Excellence In Teaching – P/C Mike Musholt, JN – Beaver Lake,
accepted by Nancy Gibson, S

Prince Henry Award (Squadron with the most JN & SN advancements) – Beaver Lake

Training Aid Award – Beaver Lake

Squadron Growth Award – Beaver Lake

Certificates of Achievement – Presented by D/C William Miller, P

Journalism Award to Beaver Lake, Oklahoma City

Web Award to D31 web site

Final Words – D/C William Miller, P -

Vessel Safety Inspections greatly increased this past year.

There was a general re-organization of the National Organization.

Peggy Anglin, Editor of the OKSPS “Dinghy Painter”, was recognized for assisting the D/C in
communication efforts to the squadron members.

Ron Bopp – The editor of the “Daymark” moved to Florida, and D/Lt Denise Winn, S agreed to
take over. That included publishing the official call to meeting for the Spring and Fall
conferences.

Terry Chastain – Volunteered to accept the Secretary’s post for 2008-2009.

Peggy Miller – Wife – Commander’s Aide. Couldn’t have done it without her.

Installation of Officers - R/C Noel McKeown, SN

Dismissed the 2008 Bridge.

Dismissed D/C William Miller, P

Welcomed the 2009 Bridge and Swore in D/C Marilyn Rose, P (Tulsa)

Swore in the rest of the 2009 Bridge.

Cdr Marilyn Rose, P, presented P/D/C William Miller, P, with his P/D/C’s flag and
a Plaque of recognition.

P/D/C Miller presented D/C Rose with her stripe of rank, “You’re In Command,
District Commander’s Guide Book for 2009”, District Commander’s Flag, and
Expense Report forms for trips to National Conferences

Remarks from the new District Commander - D/C Marilyn Rose, P announced a Bridge Meeting

at 10:00 AM Sunday morning at the hotel meeting room.

Visit from the P/D/C's = The "Past Discarded Commanders" Club assembled to welcome their latest member. Present and accounted for were Tom Unger, Julian Rolandelli, Earl Rose, and Bill Miller. P/D/C Earl Rose was taken off of probation, and P/D/C Bill Miller was given his "coat of membership" and put on probation. Said probation to be lifted at the next COW, if the other members deem him "worthy".

Cdr Danny Goss, JN, made some final announcements:

The Hospitality Suite would re-open about 9:30.

Trolley to the River Boat Ride - 10 cents if you're under 60, & 5 cents if you are 60 or older.

Drawings were held for the door prizes.

Painting by Janet Smith-Pierce: Sally Bowen

White gift basket by Janet Smith-Pierce: Dana Tischer

Picture to Painting certificate by Ann M. Wilson: Ken Whittington

Movie Night basket by Marilyn Goss: Earl Rose

Basket of candles: Mary Wright

Necklace: Jane Montgomery

Green basket: Ken Whittington

P/D/C William Miller, P, made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. It passed unanimously.

D/C Marilyn Rose, P adjourned the meeting, at 2120 / 9:20 PM

Respectfully Presented,

Lt/C Bonnie J. Mitchell, AP