

Minutes
District 31 Spring Conference
09:00 Saturday, March 28 2009
Clarion Hotel, Tulsa, OK

Commander Marilyn Rose called the meeting to order at 09:05

Mark Lobo gave the invocation and Larry Stout led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Terry Chastain reported that a quorum was present.

The fall 2009 Conference minutes were approved.

Bridge Reports:

Secretary:

Terry Chastain reminded us that the Daymark deadline is 8 May. Denise Winn, D/31 Daymark editor was commended for her efforts. The newsletter has been mailed to each member. Cost: \$389.29

Treasurer:

Susan Unger reported:

Total Funds: 13, 518.77

Checking: 1,907.08

Investment Account: 11,611.69

Administrative Officer:

Larry Stout distributed his written report. D31 membership is down. Currently there are 372 members. He would like to set a goal of 387 active memberships by 31 May 09. Beaver Lake was the only squadron to have shown an increase for 2008.

He reminded squadrons to report to National after completion of Operation Training.

Summer Council is planned for Lake Texoma in August.

Fall Conference will be held in Tulsa on 23-24 October.

DEO Tom Unger presented a written report. He reminded us to encourage our squadrons to submit teaching aids. The main public boating safety course is the 3rd edition America's Boating Course and it is available online. Several seminars are available. We are encouraged to use our best instructors for these courses. These seminars have demonstrated an ability to attract new members. New courses are being written including: Navigation, Weather, Marine Electronics, Marine Electrical Systems, Marine Communication Systems and Sail. They should be available this spring. Seamanship is available as an online course.

Boat Operator Certification is currently active and kits can be ordered from headquarters. There was discussion from members indicating frustration with National shipping and distribution of materials.

Executive Officer

Lou Persons distributed written VSC report from chair Bill Sherman.

Last year the District completed 421 Vessel Safety checks. This put D31 in 27th place of the 33 USPS districts. Each Squadron VSC Chair is responsible for electronically submitting information. The inflatable life jackets given to each VSC must be accounted for by 15th of December. Forms are available on the National VSC website.

Peggy Miller submitted a report from the National Environmental Committee. District 31 Chairman Denise Winn reports that Oklahoma City, Grand Lake and Beaver Lake have active Environmental Committees. Activities include shoreline clean up, tree plantings, recycling, aquatic planting, Earth Day Education to

school children, and development of monofilament recycling bins. Earth Day is 22 April and squadrons were encouraged to check with their cities or schools to see if you can become a part of their activities.

Commander

Marilyn Rose said that there was no National representative at this meeting in a effort to reduce expenses at the National level but one would be present at the Fall Conference in Tulsa. Steve Johnson reported the Chiefs Message, Spring 2009. Comments regarding membership, Ensign, educational courses being opened to the public and possible cuts in services to members were compiled by Steve who will report D31 thoughts back to National Commander.

Sandy Johnson was the D31 table hostess at the Shipmates Luncheon at the national meeting.

General Committee Reports

Auditing: Paul Keller, no report

Nominating: Earl Rose, The committee is continuing to work on the slate of officers for 2010.

Planning: Peggy Miller, no report

Rules: Byron Lake, no report

Unfinished Business:

D/31 Proposed USPS Operations Manual Awards Proposal

USPS Bylaws: Meetings, Notices, and Quorums

Section 9.5 District Conferences

This proposal is to change the current Bylaws to require that each district hold one conference per year and they have the option to hold a second district conference or a district Rendezvous each year.

The Bylaw will read:

9.5.1 Each district shall hold one district conference per year between 1 March and 1 May or between 1 October and 1 December, to accommodate their District Change-of-Watch.

After much discussion the motion to accept the proposal died for lack of a second. This is a national by-law change and it will go to the law committee.

8.25 Social Activities

Revised to read: One of the functions of a district conference is to bring together members of the squadrons. It is therefore urged that a conference be accompanied by social gatherings such as a dinner and dance, to attract squadron members and guests.

A motion was made by Bill Miller and seconded by Gene Pett. Motion passed unanimously.

Awards Presentation:

Julian Rolandelli for John Fairhead., Awards Chairman. Julian read a letter from John addressing the concerns he has for District Awards. He challenged each squadron to target two awards that they have the resources to earn and develop strategies, tactics and programs to attain the awards.

Squadron Growth Award Robert Baker Award 1 March – 1 March 2009

1st Place; Norman 31.6 %

2nd Place Beaver Lake 8.6%

Member Involvement Award: Charles Plant

P/R/C Marilyn Rose, 2006 Involvement Award

D/Lt Denise Winn, 2006 Environmental Concerns

P/D/C Steve Johnson 2007 Involvement Award for Children's Safety

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Lt. Les Cummings 2008 Involvement Award
Lt. Roger Elliot 2008 Involvement Award

Attendance Award: Don Read
1st Place: Norman
2nd Place: Grand Lake
3rd Place: Beaver Lake

Vessel Safety Check Award
Top VSC D/31 Jay Spicer 2006, 2007, 2008
Jay Spicer was also awarded The Century Club from National. He had 112 VSC's
1st place: Grand Lake #339
2nd place Beaver Lake #42
3rd place Oklahoma City #40

Chapman PRO Award
Grand Lake won 1st place nationally for its Scrapbook
National Awards were also presented to The D/31 Daymark newsletter.
OKC, Beaver Lake and Tulsa also received recognition for their squadron newsletters.
Bill Miller was recognized for the work he has done for maintaining the Squadron Website as well as the Grand Lake Squadron website.

The USPS Educational Fund Certificates were awarded to all District squadrons.
Continue to send to same address even though Estelle Abrams is deceased.
The meeting was adjourned at 11:50
Lunch and an informative presentation by Three Rivers Marina managers, Rhonda and Wayne McMannis followed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry L. Chastain, AP
D/31 Secretary