

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS
DISTRICT 31 CONFERENCE MEETING
15 MARCH 2008
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
(Approved 10-25-08)

District Commander Bill Miller, P called the District 31 conference meeting to order at 0930 on the 15th of March 2008.

Squadron Commander Richard Dayringer, P gave the invocation.

District Administrative Officer Louis Persons, SN led the pledge to allegiance.

The Acting District Secretary reported that there were 31 voting members present. There was a quorum. The roll call list will be attached to the minutes.

District Bridge members were: The Chief's Representative Frank Dvork and his wife, Vivian, as well as guests for this conference. The District Commander announced that Marilyn Goss from Oklahoma City will take over the District Secretary's duties at the summer District meeting and that D/1st L Margaret Miller, S would be taking the minutes for this meeting.

P/C Jackson Dean, AP moved that the Conference Minutes in Rogers, Arkansas on 27 October 2007 be approved as posted on the web site. Administrative Officer Lou Persons, SN seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

P/C Jackson Dean, AP moved to approve the Banquet Minutes at Rogers, Arkansas, on 27 October 2007 as posted on the District web site. P/C Ron Roeseler, SN seconded the Motion. The Motion was approved unanimously.

Chief's Representative Frank Dvork, SN was introduced to the Conference. His report was:

- Major change in governing USPS. Now seven people can make decisions for this organization.
- National Operating Committee follows through to see things get done.
- Trying to have shorter National Meetings. Will split partner talks between the annual meeting and the governing board meeting.
- National was almost broke several years ago. Ensign was cut to six issues, cut five people from the staff. Travel was cut for the Chief's Representatives. Other significant staff cuts at Headquarters were also implemented. This has resulted in significant savings and the organization is now operating in the black.
- USPS University very successful. 9,000 people taught last year.
- More seminars will be presented.
- Membership is still at a 4 per cent annual loss for National USPS

- 60 squadrons have not taught a boating course last year. Charter requires each squadron should teach at least one boating course a year or the charitable exemption for National might be put in danger.
- To gain members, people will be able to sign up on the Internet to join USPS. National will take them as members and squadrons can decide whether or not to accept these people as members of their squadron.

Communications

The District Commander requested again to have a reply when he sends out a communication. You can just say, "got it" from the computer. The computer can't be set up to know if the email has been delivered. The newsletter editors have been very cooperative and have every communication in their newsletter.

Use of Database 2000 Program

Many forms and reports that go back to National can go through this database. By the end of this year, this will be the only way reports can be sent to national.

District Commander Bill Miller, P and District Educational Officer Tom Unger, SN are willing to answer questions about the Database 2000 program.

Request for Ideas for programs, seminars or tours for Fall Conference

Squadron officers need to send in ideas for the agenda for the Winter Conference in Oklahoma City. This request was given at the winter council in Broken Arrow. No one from District has sent any ideas as of this meeting.

District Executive Officer Marilyn Rose, P

Merit Marks – The National Monitor for District 31 Merit Marks became ill. Because of that not all members in the District have received their merit marks. It is being taken care of and a new monitor has been appointed for the District.

Boat show in Tulsa put on by the District went well. Four members of the Tulsa Sail and Power Squadron gave seminars. The boat show next year will be in February. Participants working the boat show had suggestions that moving the booth might be good. District Brochure was developed and was very successful.

The District Executive Officer would like to know when the squadrons are participating at boat shows in their area. Helps with the report that needs to be filled out for the year.

New email address for the District Executive Officer is MBR1925@sbcglobal.net.

The D/E/O has not had any reports from squadrons about coop charting.

Legislative issues have not come up so far.

Vessel Safety Check information also goes to D/L Jay Spicer, District Chairman at Grand Lake and to District Executive Officer Marilyn Rose, P for her report.

D/L Jay Spicer, S collects the number of inspections through the year and sends in the information to National on the computer. His email address is cfsjas@grandsavingsbank.com.

Each squadron does send in their information about the inspection but Jay needs a copy as well. If there is a problem, Jay can trace it back to the squadron.

The Vessel Examiners were contacted. Jay would have had a meeting at district but he had no response from his inquiry.

District Administrative Officer Lou Persons, SN

There is a bill pending in the Oklahoma Legislature related to boating. The bill relates to intoxication of the boater. This would have the same impact as a driver in an automobile. If a boater is caught inebriated, the boater could lose his driver's license.

The email address for D/L/C Lou Persons, SN is lousblues@cox.net.

Fall Conference Oct 24 and 25 in Oklahoma City.

Membership has gone from 440 to 380 members from May 2007 to Feb of 2008. National has opened the availability of USPS membership. They are trying to help the squadrons gain members. It is important to acquire new members, but as important is keeping the members we have now.

District Educational Officer Tom Unger, SN

A written report outlined what is happening in this department was printed. Several new seminars will be coming from National shortly. Boater Operator's certification is being held up because of insurance.

Check out the National's educational home page. There is a lot of information there.

Several seminars were cut down and can be used at squadron meetings and boat shows. District Executive Officer thanked Tom for his work. A CD was given to each squadron education officer that contained the seminars on them.

District Treasurer Susan Unger, N

District Education Officer reported for the District Treasurer.

Money came due from a CD. It was moved to the National investment account. Interest rate was about 1.2 percent higher. If District needs the money, it is fairly easy to get.

The District is on track with the budget. The only thing pending is to see how much money will be given to squadrons through the Public Relations account. The squadrons can use up to \$500.

Each squadron treasurer should have received a letter notifying them they should post an "e postcard" to the IRS to continue to keep the squadron's non-profit status.

General Committees

Planning Committee – No Report

Rules Committee – If there is anything that should be looked at for the District, please contact D/1st/L Byron Lake, AP of Beaver Lake Sail and Power Squadron. The District Commander suggested that the rule concerning the anniversary billing be changed.

Appointed Officers

Public Relations Officer – P/C Elsie Rolandelli, AP reported that District has \$2,935.00 to give away. The squadrons must apply for this money before 1 August 2008 showing receipts. A letter should be sent to her with a signature from the Squadron Public Relations Officer.

Nominating Committee – P/D/C Bruce Albertson, SN is chairman of this committee. P/D/C Julian Rolandelli, AP was appointed to this committee. P/D/C Mary Lou Charlton, AP had resigned before this meeting. The members on the committee are P/D/C Julian Rolandelli, AP, P/D/C Earl Rose, SN and P/D/C Bruce Albertson, SN.

This Committee will be looking for people to fill District positions for 2009. Marilyn Goss, from Oklahoma City has accepted the position of secretary for the remainder of 2008.

Environmental Officer – D/L Denise Winn, S made packets for the three squadron environmental chairmen. Grand Lake, Beaver Lake and Oklahoma City have chairmen for this area.

Educational fund and Century fund – P/D/C Julian Rolandelli, AP reported that he had received one check from Tulsa.

Squadron Commander's Reports

The paper copies of the commanders' reports were placed on the table for distribution. The District Commander asked that the squadron commanders fill out the self-evaluation form for their squadrons and asked the commanders to review the points that were not very strong in the self-evaluation form. The squadron commanders were to tie in membership retention and membership involvement with the self-evaluation sheet.

Each commander was to bring 15 copies of their roster to be used by each squadron and the district nominating committee.

Acting Commander for Norman is Mike Ellis, S. His email address is Mellis54@cox.net.

Summer Council

The District Commander reported 19 July 2008 is the date of the summer council in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma at the Forest Ridge Country Club facility. The meeting will start at 1030.

The District Committees, chairman and members, were asked to be at the summer council.

The District Commander would like to have the squadron commanders and Executive Officers meet to talk about common problems. Come up with some ideas for solutions would be helpful.

Fall Council and Conference October 24 and 25 2008

The Oklahoma City squadron Executive Officer Al Gainer, AP reported on the fall conference in Oklahoma City. A suggested location was the Brick town Brewery in Oklahoma City with a \$50 charge based on a 65-member attendance. This would be the break-even point.

Check the Oklahoma City web site. The District Commander asked for an \$800 indemnification for a \$40 registration fee.

Commander John Fairchild, AP was asked to bring an accounting of last Year's conference so Oklahoma City would have some idea of expenses for the last conference.

District Administrative Officer Lou Persons, SN moved that the District pick up the loss of up to \$800.00 for the fall conference. District Executive Officer Marilyn Rose, P seconded the motion.

District Educational Officer Tom Unger, SN amended the motion to base the \$800 loss on a \$40 registration fee. P/D/C Julian Rolandelli, AP seconded the motion. The Motion passed with 6 members opposing the motion.

The main motion passed with one objection.

Schedule of dates for 2009

Winter Council will be 31 January 2009
Spring Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma will be 27 and 28 of March 2009
Summer Council will be 25 of July 2009
Fall Conference listed as 23 –24 of October 2009.

The District Awards Chairman, Susan Unger, S called for the members of the district committee to meet before lunch.

Meeting was recessed.

Meeting reconvened.

District Commander Bill Miller, P gave out the following **national awards**.

Life Member ship plaque, Pin and certificate to
P/D/C Bruce Albertson, SN

Distinction in Journalism Certificates were presented to:

The District Newsletter, The Daymark, Editor P/C Ron Bopp, AP

Beaver Lake Bearings, Editor

Grand Lake, The Pelican, Editor D/L Denise Winn, S

Oklahoma City, The Dinghy Painter, Editor

National Teaching Aid Award, 1st Place – Navigation 2008
P/D/C Tom Unger, SN from Beaver Lake, recipient

USPS Web Site Awards
District 31 Web Site
Grand Lake Sail and Power Squadron Web Site

USPS Recreation Boating Safety Committee Honor Roll

Received by District 31

Awards presented by D/L Susan Unger, S to squadrons or District members

P/D/C Robert W. Baker or Squadron Growth Award

Grand Lake Sail and Power Squadron received this award

District 31 Member Involvement Award

Stf/C Steve Johnson, AP
Norman Sail and Power Squadron

District 31 Attendance Award

First Place

Norman Sail and Power Squadron

Second Place

Beaver Lake Sail and Power Squadron

Third Place

Oklahoma City Sail and Power Squadron

Helmsman Award

Recipient was P/R/C Sandra Johnson, P
Norman Sail and Power Squadron

Respectfully Submitted

P/D/Lt/C Margaret Miller, S
Acting Secretary