

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS
DISTRICT 31 WINTER COUNCIL MINUTES
2 FEBRUARY 2008
FORREST RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB
BROKEN ARROW, OKLAHOMA

District Commander Bill Miller, P called the Winter Council Meeting to order at 1035.

Attendees of the Council introduced themselves, their squadrons and their positions in USPS.

A quorum was present. The District Bridge members were Commander Bill Miller, P; District Executive Officer Marilyn Rose, P; District Educational Officer Tom Unger, SN; District Administrative Officer Lou Persons, AP; District Treasurer Susan Unger, N; Past District Commander Earl Rose, JN.

1st L Martha Mullis, S, was acting secretary for the morning council.

District General Committee Chairmen were Auditing Committee P/C Paul Keller, P; Nominating Committee Chairman Bruce Albertson, SN; Planning Committee Chairman Margaret Miller, S. Squadron Commanders attending were Robert Baurels, JN, from Beaver Lake; Richard Dayringer, P from Grand Lake; and Danny Goss, AP from Oklahoma City.

District Educational Officers in attendance were D/Lt/C Tom Unger, SN from Beaver Lake; Lt/C Richard Pett, S from Grand Lake; Stf/C Steve Johnson, AP from Norman; and P/D/C Earl Rose, JN from Tulsa.

Guests attending the winter council were P/D/C Julian Rolandelli, AP, Beaver Lake; P/C Elsie Rolandelli, AP, Beaver Lake; 1st/L Martha Mullis, S, Assistant Squadron Secretary, Tulsa; Lt/C Marcia Pett, S, Grand Lake; P/C Terry Chastain, AP Grand Lake; P/C Jim Chastain, AP, Grand Lake and P/C Jackson Dean, AP, Tulsa.

Squadron Commander Richard Dayringer, P gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Administrative Business

1st/L Martha Mullis, S, from the Tulsa Squadron, was thanked for taking the minutes during the morning session of this District meeting.

P/C Lou Persons, AP was suggested as the District Administrative Officer. Commander Bill Miller, P read that according to the District 31 Bylaws a vacancy could be filled by the District Council. **Squadron Commander Danny Goss, AP moved that P/C Louis Persons II, AP become the District Administrative Officer. The motion was seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.**

District Commander Bill Miller, P had received a suggestion that the luncheon for the Winter Council be paid for by the District. The room for the Council is \$50.

District Administrative Officer Marilyn Rose, P moved the lunch for the Winter Council be paid for by the District. Lt/C Gene Pett, S seconded the Motion. The Motion was passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

Corrections to the Fall Council Minutes were: "There was a net income of \$600. The total income was \$7,351."

D/Lt/C Susan Unger, N moved to accept the Fall Council Minutes as Corrected. Commander Richard Dayringer, P seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

District Commander's Comments

Communication

Communication is a two-way street in the District. A great deal of correspondence has been sent out but the Commander has received very little information back from the District. The District Commander asked that when a communication is received a reply should be sent back to him.

The District Commander has a letter going into each one of the squadron newsletters each time.

D/Lt/C Marilyn Rose, P has a new email. It is mbr1925@sbcglobal.net. D/Lt/C Lou Persons, AP email address is LousBlues@cox.net.

Database 2000

This helpful tool gives all the information about the District members. In this data base a member can find a squadron member's full name, rank, grade, address, email address, certification number and much more. However, this can only be kept updated if the squadron puts the corrected information into the database. The district can not update member information. All the squadrons have the ability of downloading the information for DB2000. Ask the District Commander for the password to allow that to happen.

Each squadron should have a Database Administrator. Only one person in the squadron should be able to upload material to national. All squadron members can feed information to that squadron administrator to keep the database current.

Time line for officers for year.

The District Commander gave a CD to each District Bridge Officer. The CD has a time line on it as to what the District Officer is expected to do at what time of the year. Squadron Commanders should have received a CD in the mail telling them what they should be doing each month.

Plans for the remainder of the District year.

Because of the good turnout of the Winter Council, the District Commander is encouraged that District 31 will continue to survive. Interest needs to be generated to keep present members and gain new members. When District 31 started there were about 300 members. Right now District 31 has about 330 members.

District still needs a secretary

There are no requirements to be a District Secretary other than the member needs to be at the meetings. The minimum requirement is to record the motions at the meetings and have a count of the vote. It can be a one-year commitment.

District Executive Officer Marilyn Rose, P

D/L Elsie Rolandelli, AP completed an excellent flyer about the District to be placed at the Tulsa Boat Show. The Council thanks her for her great flyer.

D/Lt/C Tom Unger, SN took the seminar, Boat Handling Under Power and broke it into two short seminars. He did the same thing with Docking. He took the VHF DHC program and shortened it. Tom also cut down the GPS seminar to about an hour.

Ten seminars were listed as being presented at the Tulsa Boat Show. The seminars have not been well attended and neither has the Boat Show.

Thirty-two squadron members from District 31 helped at the boat show. West Marine donated life jackets to be shown at the boat show. Anyone taking the boating test at the booth and passing will have a chance to win a life jacket donated by West Marine.

D/Lt/C Marilyn Rose; P was contacted by the National Safety Council. A grant was given by the Coast Guard to the Council to write a book about Safe Boating for people over 50. Marilyn was contacted to try to find 20 people over 50 to attend a meeting for the National Safety Council. Seven people attended and answered questions. A publication will be out in 2009.

The District Commander asked the Council to thank Marilyn for all her hard work setting up the boat show, arranging for workers, finding people to teach the seminars and arrange for tickets for the workers to attend the show.

District Educational Officer Tom Unger, SN

D/Lt/C Tom Unger, SN said that seminars will be provided to the squadron educational officers on CD at the next District Conference. There is opportunities to use some of the information on the CD's at boat shows or dinner meetings.

Squadron Commander Danny Goss of Oklahoma City reported that their squadron has four instructors certified by the State of Oklahoma to teach Boating Education. Books were given to each squadron commander and educational officer. The book provided by the state is basically the Boat Smart Book used by USPS. After the class is given, the test is graded locally and then the entire packet is sent into the state and certificates are issued by the state. It is all free.

District Treasurer Susan Unger, N

D/Lt/C Susan Unger, N reported that the District certificate of deposit with Arvest Bank has been closed and the proceeds transferred to the USPS investment account due to more favorable rates at USPS.

Old Business

Squadron Commanders' Reports

The District Commander commented that this report was to give the other squadron commanders and members a chance to hear what the squadrons are doing with their member involvement and member retention programs.

Each Commander gave a report as to what the squadron has been doing for the year.

Public Relations

District Public Relation Officer Elsie Rolandelli, AP reported that all the District Commanders received a letter from her. She asked the squadrons to spend the money District has allotted for publicity, equipment, stamps, printer cartridges, any thing to do with publicity. She suggested squadrons put stickers on squadron educational books and vessel safety check information.

Planning Committee

District Planning Committee D/L Margaret Miller, S presented five ideas to the council to consider. The ideas presented to the council and be accepted and sent on to the conference, rejected or tables.

The ideas that came in from the membership suggested that the conference should be shorter, less reports at the conference, more camaraderie, and agendas thirty days ahead of the meeting.

(1) Communication

The District Bridge should communicate with the squadron counterpart, once before the next council/conference or every month. Communication should go both ways from squadron to District and vise versa. The Planning Committee recommends the District Bridge and squadron bridge communicate to each other. How often is up for discussion. Council had no discussion.

(2) Programs

The programs can be round table discussions for large groups or split apart for officers. One program for squadron discussion should be member retention. Friday night mixer was mentioned several times.

In Policy and Procedure Manual, accepted by the council, it specified there would not be anything on Friday night. However, this does not go along with what the members of the district thought was important unless there could be some thing arranged Saturday afternoon.

(Suggestion) A Friday night activity or mixer would be a good idea. No one would be obligated to go.

(3) Length of Conference

There has been a policy set by the Policy and Procedure Manual for the District that the March Council/Conference will be one day. The problem is getting everything accomplished in such a short time. Should there be no verbal reports from District Bridge members and Committee Chairmen?

(4) Purpose of Conference

The District Council/Conference must decide the purpose of these meetings. Need more input as to what members want at the council and conference.

Squadrons must come up with the ideas. District should take the ideas and motivate the squadrons. (Suggestion) was to form an ad hoc committee to analyze ideas from squadrons. (suggestion) Might give a small monitory award for best idea from squadron membership for membership retention and membership recruitment. Have that squadron make a presentation. Suggest when a new award is created another award is taken out. Take away an award that is no longer viable for the present membership.

(Suggestion) Must have a program that will interest both spouses and advertise the programs ahead of time. Stop sending ladies off to the mall. Have a program that will interest the ladies in USPS.

(Suggestion) Bring people to the meetings to learn from one another.

(5) Combine Council and Conference Meetings

This would cut out having discussion on subjects twice. Voting can be done by cards and easily counted when Council or Conference needs to vote. District 21 is doing this successfully.

Discussion pointed out that District 21 has a regular meeting the same as this one and only a combined council and conference, if necessary, later in the day. Councils are smaller and can have more discussion than a large group such as a combination council and conference.

Discussion lead to the suggestion that the long council meetings continue in the winter and summer with short council meetings held with the conference, if needed. It was suggested that after the spring council/conference the officers meet to discuss the conference and what was accomplished and what was missing. Planning for the next meeting can occur.

Planning Committee is interested in having ideas from the membership. We would like to have new ideas presented. Send thoughts to D/L Margaret Miller, pegymiller74344@aol.com.

Spring Council and Conference in Tulsa

The Call to Meeting is out with the listed activities. There will be a Friday night mixer. The Americas Boat Race will give all participants a chance to race, mix and enjoy each other's company.

Saturday, the National Chief's Representative Frank Dvork will give a 30-minute presentation from Memcom (the National Membership Committee). For lunch there will be a buffet and awards will be presented at that time. After lunch P/D/C Bruce Albertson, SN will present the leadership training program.

P/D/C Bruce Albertson, SN went to Atlanta to train for this presentation. This program will show the members, taking the course,

how to apply their strengths. Good leaders attract people and squadrons will benefit from this training. The room will hold about 20 people.

Registration forms should be sent back to Bruce as soon as possible.

Goals of the District 31 Commander for 2008

- (1) Improve communication
- (2) Interaction among squadrons by having discussions at councils and conferences.
- (3) Provide opportunities for social interaction among squadron members

Discussion went toward classes for inland boaters and what National needs to provide for the inland boater. District (through squadron members) needs to come up with some positive suggestions as to what classes should be provide for the inland boater.

A second point was how the squadron educational officers can have members continue to progress with their ranks if the classes provided for their interest don't include upgrading the members' rank.

The District Commander appointed Squadron Commander Richard Dayringer, P of Grand Lake as the Chairman of a committee looking into and suggesting to the district what inland boaters would like to have taught. These suggestions should be brought to the District Council Meeting in July.

The members of the committee are all the squadron educational officers, assistant educational officers, the District and Assistant Educational officer to be chaired by Squadron Commander Richard Dayringer, P.

Fall Council/Conference in Oklahoma City 24 – 25 Oct. 2008

During this meeting, Affair of the Hearts craft show will be in Oklahoma City. That will create some interest in members coming to see this. The Oklahoma City Squadron is working with a hotel in Brick town. Norman had 64 members attend and 81 members attended Rogers. Those will be numbers to use when asking for rooms for a hotel in Oklahoma City. A budget needs to be presented to the next council meeting in Tulsa, 14 March, 2008.

Dates for future meetings for District 31.

14, 15, March 2008	Spring Council and Conference Tulsa, Oklahoma Holiday Inn Express
19 July 2008 Summer Council –	Forest Ridge Country Club Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
24, 25 of October 2008 -	Fall Council and Conference Change of Watch Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
31 January 2009	Winter Council
27, 28 March 2009	Spring Council and Conference Tulsa, Oklahoma
25 July 2009	Summer Council
23, 24 October 2009	Fall Council and Conference Change of Watch Tulsa, Oklahoma

District Executive Officer Marilyn Rose, P asked squadrons to bring two items for the hospitality room. The hospitality room will be open Friday evening and Saturday. There is a microwave in the hospitality room and refrigerator. Food items should be brought in a dish that can be thrown away.

There will be a boat race Friday night. Saturday night the Chief's Representative will be in the hospitality room for discussions. VC Frank Dvork is the National Executive Officer for the United States Power Squadrons for the next two years.

P/C Paul Keller, P moved to adjourn the meeting. Stf/C Steve Johnson, AP seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

1st/L Margaret K. Miller, S
Acting District Secretary
6 March 2008

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