

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS
DISTRICT 31 FALL CONFERENCE MINUTES
27 OCTOBER 2007
ROGERS, ARKANSAS

District Executive Officer Bill Miller, P called the District 31 Conference meeting to order at 0900. Commander Earl Rose, SN was ill. He was unable to attend this meeting.

Invocation

R/C Sandra Johnson, AP gave the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

District Executive Officer Bill Miller, P led the Pledge of Allegiance.

QUORUM

District Secretary Margaret Miller, S verified that there was a quorum. The Conference has 51 voting members. Thirty voting members signed in and the sign-in sheet will be attached to these Minutes.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Commander Bob Baureis, AP announced some changes in the conference schedule. 1350 was a meeting with the new 2008 District Bridge and Conference. 1400 was the educational seminar and 1530 was seminar for squadron educational officers.

CHIEF'S REPRESENTATIVE

Stf/C Steve Johnson, AP was introduced as the Representative for the Chief Commander of the United States Power Squadrons.

- District 31 is the only District that has a non-denominational service on Sunday.
- USPS is sending Chief representatives who live close to the District they will attend representing the USPS Chief Commander.

- Power of One is an important program for all the squadron members. If each member brings in one new member the district would grow.
- There was an introduction of members attending the conference for the first time. District 31 members started the First Timers Program at National

CONFERENCE GUESTS

Alan Long from Memphis, Tennessee was the guest attending the Conference.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, SPRING CONFERENCE IN TULSA, 2007

District Educational Officer Tom Unger, SN moved to approve the District Minutes as posted on the District web Site. P/D/C Julian Rolandelli, AP seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

BRIDGE REPORTS

District Executive Officer

District Executive Officer Bill Miller, P reported that the National Meeting in Norfolk, Virginia was the busiest one that he has attended. There was something for everyone. There was an extensive VIP series; there were seventeen different subjects covered. Three different USPS seminars were presented. The expo was set up at this meeting and all the USPS committees were represented.

One of the subjects presented at the National Meeting was about the water ballast problem. This will have a major effect on recreational boaters. Members need to write their legislators. Recreational boaters were exempt until now. This would include bilge water and water from holding tanks. You would have to buy a permit to run your boat if this legislation passes. Look at house bill 2550 on Google.

Three Districts grew. There were three presentations by the District Representatives.

605 Members attended the National Meeting. This was an increase in attendance.

Squadron treasurers now have an electronic form they must fill out. To find the new form the treasurers can go to tax information on the law committee web site. The web site is www.USPS.org/national/lawcom. The squadron treasurer has three years. If the form is not filled out in three years the tax-exempt status of the squadron will be lost.

Public Relations Officer P/C Elsie Rolandelli, AP

P/C Elsie Rolandelli, AP congratulated Grand Lake for the first place trophy they won at National USPS for their scrapbook, completed by Sandra Stone.

Tulsa, Grand Lake and Beaver Lake spent all the coop advertising money. There were five districts out of thirty-three districts that spent all the coop advertising money and District 31 was one of the districts. Sixteen districts did not spend any money. These same districts lost more than ten percent of their membership. **The District 31 deadline is 30 September 2008 to request coop money. \$435 has been allocated to this district for the year 2008.** Right now Norman is the only squadron that does not have a public relations officer.

Vessel Safety Check Program D/L Jay Spicer, S

District Chairman Jay Spicer, S reported that there were not as many vessel safety checks this year as last year. 324 VSCs this year as compared to 370 in 2006. Oklahoma City did 24 inspections this year as compared to 10 from last year. They were the only squadron that increased their inspections from last year. Beaver Lake inspected 24 boats, Grand Lake checked 266 boats, and Norman did 10. There is still two months to get their inspections in to Jay Spicer.

Environmental Committee D/L Denise Winn, S

District Chairman Denise Winn, S reported that USPS and the Ocean Conservancy Organization have become partners. The Ocean Conservancy Group has suggestions for clean up and have a contest for squadrons to enter. Information is on their web site.

Squadrons can be involved in many types of clean up. Shoreline clean up, recycling, picking up litter, becoming part of National Earth Day are all suggested activities and can be entered in the Ocean Conservancy contest.

Beaver Lake and Oklahoma City are already working on clean up projects with other organizations. The people participating are a committee of sorts so these squadrons need to appoint a Chairman and they will have a committee to work with the District Environmental Chair.

Squadron Development Committee – P/R/C Marilyn Rose, P

A report was in the packets. At boat shows people, not USPS members, from different areas might indicate they would like to get involved with USPS. This information should be forwarded to P/R/C Marilyn Rose, P.

District Educational Officer Tom Unger, SN

A written report was in the packet. District paid \$400 for the incentive program encouraging squadrons to teach the Seamanship class. \$20 per student was returned to the squadron for each member who took the Seamanship Class. Grand Lake taught Seamanship to 15 members and received \$300. Beaver Lake taught 5 members and received \$100. The 5 members of Beaver Lake received a certificate that indicated \$20 could be used at the Ship's Store or toward another course.

District Administrative Officer Ron Roseler, SN - No Report

Training Program – P/D/C Bruce Albertson, SN

In September Leadership Development workshop was offered in Atlanta to 18 members of USPS. In this district there are 21 people that have completed Leadership Development. It was decided to have this workshop at the next council/conference in Tulsa.

District Treasurer Susan Unger, N

The actual income was \$7,351.61. The expenses are listed as \$6,752.23. We had a profit of \$599.38. The checking account has \$9,192.07. Investment account with USPS has \$7,684.63 and a second investment account at Arvest Bank of \$3,218.55. Total funds listed for the District is \$20,095.25.

District Secretary Margaret Miller, S

Assistant Secretary – None

Computer Systems – District Executive Officer Bill Miller P

The District mail list was mentioned last time. The DEO asked members to sign up for the District 31 mail list. Three people signed up. The mail list is a way for the District to communicate with the members at no cost but the members must sign up. There will be information about the mail list in the newsletter.

The District web site is up. If you need to know anything about the District 31 go to the web site. *The Daymark* will be on the web site and that is the only way a member will receive that newsletter.

P/D/C Bruce Albertson, SN remarked that there is a wealth of information on the Database 2000 and all the squadrons should be using it. P/D/C Tom Unger, SN said that he was handing out information to all squadron SEO's and the latest version of the Database 2000 will be on the CD.

***The Daymark* – Editor P/C Ron Bopp, AP**

As District editor, P/C Ron Bopp, AP has been the editor for several years. He and his wife, Mary Jo, are moving to Florida. Ron will continue to be the Editor of *The Daymark* until they move. The information for the next *Daymark* should be sent to Ron by 15 January 2008. The conference thanked Ron for all his time and effort.

P/D/C Tom Unger, SN and D/Lt/C Susan Unger, N have copied, stamped, folded and mailed the newsletter for six years. They have additional responsibilities now and are giving up that part of the *Daymark* job. The conference thanked Tom and Susan Unger for their terrific job working with the newsletter. Anyone interested in helping with the *Daymark* needs to contact the District Commander Bill Miller, P.

Members of District 31 who would like to have a printed copy of *The Daymark* need to talk with their squadron commander.

District Directory – P/D/C Tom Unger, SN

The information that goes into the District directory is taken from Database 2000. Squadrons need to keep their information up to date.

You must have the “Acrobat Program” on your computer to read many of the programs on the district and national web sites. The program is free. On your computer go to www.adobe.com.

All the members of District 31 representing a National Committee were called on. The members either wore their national committee shirts or held them for the conference to see.

Ship’s Store

R/C Sandra Johnson, AP explained their job at National. Some of the products were showed at this time. Purchase of items can benefit the squadron and the district.

District Commander Earl Rose, JN

District Commander Earl Rose, JN (not at the conference) asked P/R/C Marilyn Rose, P to thank the bridge and all the District 31 members for their help this year.

General Committee Reports

Auditing Report – P/C Larry Shade, AP

His report indicated that as of 31 August 2007 all the District Books were in order. The bank statements and the District books were in agreement. Auditing report was filed with the District Secretary and District Commander.

Nominating Committee – P/D/C Bruce Albertson, SN

It is reported that the District is in trouble if they can not find a full bridge.
The slate presented was:

District Bridge

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Commander P/C William A. Miller, P | Grand Lake |
| Executive Officer P/R/C Marilyn Rose, P | Tulsa |
| Educational Officer P/D/C Thomas Unger, SN | Beaver Lake |
| Asst. Educational Officer P/C Larry Stout, AP | Grand Lake |
| Treasurer D/Lt/C Susan Unger, N | Beaver Lake |
| Asst. Treasurer P/C Mariellen Boren, JN | Oklahoma City |
| Administrative Officer | |
| Secretary | |

General Committees

Auditing Committee

| | | |
|--------------------|------|---------------|
| P/C Paul Keller, P | 2008 | Oklahoma City |
|--------------------|------|---------------|

Rules Committee

| | | |
|---------------------|------|-------------|
| Connie Spicer, S | 2008 | Grand Lake |
| P/C Byron Lake, AP | 2009 | Beaver Lake |
| P/C John Morgan, AP | 2010 | Okla .City |

Planning Committee

| | | |
|--|-------------|-------------------|
| Stf/C Steven Johnson, AP | 2008 | Norman |
| P/D/C Jules Lachance, JN | 2009 | Okla City |
| D/ 1 st /L Carol Chalupnik, S | 2010 | Grand Lake |
| D/1st/L Margaret Miller, S | 2011 | Grand Lake |

Nominating Committee

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------|-------------|
| Chair: P/D/C Bruce Albertson, SN | 2008 | Okla City |
| P/D/C Mary Lou Charlton, AP | 2009 | Beaver Lake |
| P/D/C Earl Rose, JN | 2010 | Tulsa |

The Slate was presented by the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, P/D/C Bruce Albertson, SN.

Planning Committee – P/R/C Marilyn Rose, P

The pages added or changed for the Policy and Procedure Manual were in the voting members' packets. P/R/C Marilyn Rose, P presented the changes.

CONFERENCE – SQUADRON CONFERENCE ROTATION

Section A – Section No. 140 (corrected page will be on web site)

CO-OP ADVERTISING FINANCING AVAILABLE

Section B – Section No. 211 (corrected page will be on web site)

HISTORY – GENEALOGY CHART – ALL SQUADRONS

Section B – Section No. 250 (corrected page will be on web site)

DIRECTORY, ROSTER, E-MAIL LISTING

Section B – Section No. 253 (corrected page will be on web site)

PROPERTY – TANGIBLE – REPORTS

Section B – 290 Page 3 of 3 (corrected page will be on web site)

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

Section B – Section No. 291 (corrected page will be on web site)

AWARDS – SQUADRON & INDIVIDUAL

Section D – Section No. 400 Page 1 of 2
(corrected page will be on web site)

UNIFORM OF THE DAY

Section E – Section No. 500 (corrected page will be on web site)

CONFERENCE – SPRING AND FALL CONFERENCE FORMATS

Section A – Section No. 140 Page 2 of 2
(corrected page will be on web site)

The Committee motion was to accept the changes. It was seconded and the Motion passed unanimously.

Standing Committee

Rules Committee – No Report

Finance and Budget

The Budget was discussed by members of the Council last night, 26 October 2008. Changes were made and the Council passed the amended proposed budget this morning. The amended proposed budget is balanced by taking funds from the checking account and adding the money to the income side of the budget. (The budget will be an attachment to these minutes)

P/C Jackson Dean, AP moved the budget be accepted as printed. P/D/C Mary Lou Charlton, AP seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Educational Fund – P/D/C Julian Rolandelli,

The District 31 squadrons each donated \$1.00 for all the squadron members to the USPS Educational Fund. The Little Rock Squadron donated \$1,000 when it dissolved.

Old Business

New Dues Structure

District Treasurer Susan Unger, N reported that National USPS has simplified the dues structure. After prior discussion, it is now recommended that District 31 simplify its dues assessment, by charging an active member \$8 and a family unit \$12.

P/D/C Julian Rolandelli, AP moved that the dues assessment of District 31 be changed to \$8.00 for a single active member and \$12 for a family unit. P/C Jackson Dean, AP seconded the Motion. The Motion Passed unanimously.

Election of new 2008 District Bridge

P/C Jackson Dean, AP moved that the slate of officers presented by the District Nominating Committee be elected for the year 2008. The motion was seconded. District Executive Officer Bill Miller, P asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the question was called. The slate of officers was accepted unanimously.

The meeting was recessed until 1350.

The District Conference was reconvened on the 27th of October in Rogers, Arkansas at 1350.

The District Executive Officer Bill Miller, P called the meeting to order at 1350.

National Meeting in Dallas, Texas

The National USPS Meeting will be from the 19 to the 24th of February 2008. Reservations need to be made quickly. There will be another convention in the same hotel.

The fall National Meeting will be in Detroit, Michigan. It will be September 2008. The next annual meeting will be in Anaheim, California 2008.

District Challenge to Squadron Commanders

The squadrons were challenged by the District Executive Officer Bill Miller, P to bring their ideas as to what District could do for them to help the squadrons increase membership.

- 1). Public Relations should be a large part of the squadrons' energies. Contact the District Public Relations chairman if ideas are needed for writing articles.
 - a) squadrons can canvas their real estate offices
 - b) Give out USPS literature and squadron brochures.
 - c) List education classes such as sailing and GPS courses.
 - d) Sponsor sea scouts and that might interest parents
Host luncheon with parents and scouts
 - e) Teach water safety to children – use animals
- 2) Squadron meetings and activities should be enjoyable. Meetings can be social as well as taking care of business. Meet in different places.
- 3) The District Bridge needs to talk by phone to their counterpart officers in the squadrons.
- 4) Have conference calls from District to squadron officers. Might use Skype as a phone conference call to squadron officers. Computer to computer for Skype is free.
- 5) District is a vehicle with which ideas are exchanged at meetings.
- 6) Squadrons must help district become more fun but make the meetings worth going to. Again an exchange of ideas. Have squadrons come up with agendas or seminars for district meetings and have squadron put it on.

- 7) Have packet information for conference passed out two weeks ahead of time through squadron commanders. Have schedule and agenda sent to squadrons ahead of time. Commanders of squadrons need to send agenda items to District Commander for winter council. D/C needs ideas by 15 December.
- 8) Squadrons need to respond to Districts requests in a timely fashion. Officers taking positions need to take the responsibility of communicating.
- 9) Give seminars for free. One in the morning and one in the afternoon would be good. Who will be teachers? Suggest squadron education officers meet together and have lunch; squadron executive officers have lunch together. This would have to be planned. Squadrons need interaction.
- 10) Mix the squadrons at dinners. Learn ideas from mixing groups.
- 11) Continuity and consistency are necessary. Officers should consider staying in their office for more than one year. Two years is a good idea for officers. Administrative Officer needs to know what he wants to accomplish and follow through with his plan as he proceeds through the District Bridge offices.
- (12) Bridge (squadron and district) needs to have goals.
- (13) Squadrons need to “report” ideas that work that are different.
- (14) Facilitate communication by district.
- (15) Have Winter Council but break up into groups not a council meeting as such. Have Commanders and Executive Officers get together, secretaries and treasurers meet as well as committees. Suggested a day in January. Suggested there be a set agenda.

District Executive Officer said that District will have a “winter meeting” and the he would like to have the Squadron Officers send agenda items, to him, by December 15.
- (16) Have a legitimate survey company go to USPS members who have dropped to find out why they have left the squadron.
- (17) Why do members not come to district meetings?

TULSA BOAT SHOW

28 JANUARY THROUGH FEBRUARY 3

Each squadron should have members working the booth for two days.

There will be seminars Friday and Saturday in a separate area near the powerboats at the boat show.

Meeting was adjourned at 1430.

Respectfully Submitted,

D/Lt/C Margaret K. Miller, S
District Secretary

