

District 4 Fall Conference
The Westin Governor Morris Inn
Morristown, N.J.
Saturday October 21, 2006

DC Harold Oslick, SN called the meeting to order at 0905.
The colors were presented by the Past District Commanders.
D/F/Lt Richard Swackhammer, AP led the Pledge of Allegiance.
R/C Henry G. Griffin, SN delivered the Invocation.

Head Table and Guests - DC Harold Oslick, SN introduced VC Robert Baldrige, SN representing CC Ernest Marshburn, SN, D/Lt/C Kathleen Bisogno, JN District Executive Officer, D/Lt/C Anne McQuade, JN District Educational Officer, D/Lt/C Richard Zucci, AP District Administrative Officer, D/Lt/C Donald Kadlac, AP District Treasurer and P/D/C David Drummond, SN who was standing in for D/Lt/C Richard V. Fiorentini, SN District Secretary.

Guests- From District 3

Stf/C Angelo Giovanniello, SN, D/c Ron Friedman, AP, D/Lt/C Jay Solow, AP, D/Lt/C Richard Bradle, SN, D/FI/Lt Lawrence Postel, SN, p/R/C Nina Anastasio, SN

From District 15 Nancy Baldrige

Past District Commanders – P/D/C William Delahunty, JN introduced R/C Henry G. Griffin, SN, P/D/C William G. Chefalas, N, P/R/C Francis J. McHugh, AP, Stf/C Anthony J. Aquilato, AP, P/D/C Carlton E. Lee, Jr., AP, P/D/C David I. Drummond, SN, P/D/C David J. Meshulam, AP, P/D/C Joseph F. Balbo, AP

D/C Harold Oslick, SN introduced VC Robert Baldrige, SN with a short Bio. after which VC Baldrige related the Chief's message.
(See attached under reports)

D/C Oslick, SN reminded everyone to sign in.

Secretaries Announcements.

P/D/C David Drummond, SN, Acting Secretary, reminded all to make sure they signed both the Attendance Sheets and the Delegate Sheets that were in the folders and to turn them in to D/Lt Harry Wagner, JN whom he introduced.

District Educational Officers Announcements.

DEO Anne McQuade, JN introduced the P/DEO's present. P/R/C Thomas Brinka, SN, P/R/C Kenneth J. Bolt, SN, R/C Patricia Governale, SN, and Stf/C Florence E. Smith, SN.

Also introduced was D/F/Lt Christopher Windeler, Sn A/DEO.

Various announcements were made regarding scheduling changes. Reminder that workshop minutes, 32 copies, were to be sent to the DEO within 10 days of the Conference.

Reminder to all Squadron Commanders that Nominations for the Squadron Educational Officer had to be submitted 60 days prior to the Squadron Change of Watch for approval.

District Administrative Officer Announcements.

D/Lt/C Richard Zucci, AP invited all to attend the Administrative Workshop that would be discussing Membership.

Reminder about the European cruise being planned by D4.

Reminder that there would be a Tri District Rendezvous and an Atlantic City Rendezvous scheduled this year by the District.

General Announcements

Emergency Procedure during the Conference:

Medical emergency—Use hotel phone to Dial 'O' and 911

Then call the District "FAST" team at 908-202-8434.

Any Resolutions coming out of the workshops are to be given to P/C Les Eslinger, AP of the Planning Committee.

D/C Oslick, SN thanked D/Lt Vincene Aquilato,S and her committee for all the work they did to make this Conference a success.

D/Lt Joseph Miciak, AP announced that only 4 squadrons had responded with information for the Civic Service Grant and that the information had to be to him by Nov. 15th.

V/C Baldrich, SN would be in the Membership Workshop initially but would be attending all workshops with D/C Oslick, SN during the morning.

Conference was put into recess.

Conference is reconvened after lunch by D/C Harold Oslick, SN.

General Announcements

Announcement made that someone has left a jacket on the sixth floor.

District 5 will be sponsoring the Fall Governing Board in Norfolk, Virginia. Check our website and theirs for further details.

District 3 is having their Fall Conference on Saturday November 18th in Farmingdale, Long Island. Since they always have a strong attendance at our Conference we would like to reciprocate in kind and members are strongly urged to attend.

The Boat Show booth while not yet complete has been used successfully in a few shows. All that is needed to finish is to complete the artwork.

Grant Hobson reported on the upcoming New York Boat Show and the need for volunteers. D4 will also be participating along with D5 in the Atlantic City Boat Show scheduled for Jan.30-Feb.4, 2007.

Again a request for volunteers is going out.

VC Baldrige, SN presented a list of D4 members who serve on National committees. There were a total of 37 members. All were asked to stand and be recognized.

D4 Executive Officer Kathleen Bisogno, JN continued the program with the introductions of the Squadron Commanders.

It was decided to have the 50/50 drawing at this time in deference to our guests who had to leave shortly. D/Lt Harry Wagner, JN had overseen the Raffle and the winning ticket was drawn by Jennifer Bisogno, Junior Aide to the Exec. The winner was P/R/C Nina Anastasio, SN from D3.

P/D/C David Meshulam, AP Thanked all those who have helped with the publication of the Mark IV.

He is currently working on a MOU with the Blue Gavel Organization.

Encourage all Squadrons who can to work with Yacht Clubs to teach our courses.

Requested a Motion to proceed to start to Incorporate the District. This would also require a change to the D4 By Laws to set 3 trustees in place that would be the Current District Commander, Executive Officer and the Administrative Officer. Motion was moved, seconded, discussed and passed unanimously.

Executive Officer Kathleen Bisogno, JN continued with the presentation of awards.

Presentation of 50 Years Membership awards to;

Sidney Green--City Island
Robert W.Montgomery--Northern New Jersey
Howard J. Schrenk--Northern New Jersey
Kenneth R. Poillon--Staten Island

National Boating Foundation Excellence in Recreational Boating Education Award

Lake Hopatcong

Bowsprit Award

This was awarded to District 4 and a certificate was awarded to each Squadron.

Membership Growth Award

Lake Hopatcong
Northern new Jersey
Somerset

Honorable Mention
New York

D4 Members who will receive pins for influencing 10 members:

Gregg J. Manjorin--New York
Vincent Savage--Palisades
Brian J. DeVito--Staten Island
Donald Bake--Raritan Bay

D4 Members who will receive pins for influencing 20 members:

Anthony J.Pisano--Lackawanna

Attendance Awards Presented by Vincene Aquilato

Frank R. Corrado Award for highest percentage of attendance:

- 1st Place--Barnegat Bay
- 2nd Place--Liberty Harbor
- 3rd Place--Staten Island

Total Attendance Awards

- 1st Place--Barnegat Bay
- 2nd Place--City Island
- 2nd Place--Watchung
- 3rd Place--Raritan Bay

108 in attendance

D/Lt/C Kathleen Bisogno, JN Presented an award to Vincene Aquilato for her hard and diligent work to make the Fall '06' New York Governing Board a success.

D/C Harold Oslick,SN presented a gift of appreciation to Nancy and Bob Aldridge from D4.

Conference adjourned at 1505 and the D4 Council meeting is convened.

Secretary verifies Quorum is present.

All Officers reports are filed

P/C Les Eslinger, AP reported there were no resolutions presented to him.

Cdr. Carolyn Markham, P presented a motion to dissolve the Long Valley Power Squadron due to lack of sustaining growth in the

geographical area. All members will be transferred to a Squadron of their own choosing. All funds will be distributed to qualified 501C3 organizations as per the rules.

Motion moved, seconded, discussed and passed unanimously.

D/Lt/C Don Kadlac, AP Submitted Treasurers Report.

D/Lt/C Kathleen Bisogno, JN, representing D/Lt Frank Spera, AP presented the 2007-2008 Budget for approval.

Motion moved, seconded, discussed and approved unanimously.

D/Lt/C Anne Mcquade, SN DEO

Reminder to submit SEO nominations 60 days prior to the squadron Cof W.

Introduced Squadron Educational Officers in attendance.

Peggy Morton, A--City Island

J. Arlene Maresca, A--Liberty Harbor

Michael D. Friedman, --New York

George Zsamba, P--Raritan Bay

Henry Keller, JN--Shrewsbury

Norman I. Condit, SN--Staten Island

(see attached report for further awards)

Teaching Aids Award is presented to:

D/Lt Gary Mandarano, JN—City Island

Seamanship—Dynamic Stability

D/C Oslick continued;

Old Business—None

New Business

Vincene Aquilato advised that an “identify the person from the baby picture” contest is planned for the Spring Conference.

D/Lt/C Richard Zucci, AP reported that an application has been made for a gaming permit for a “Night at The Races” to be held Friday night at the Spring Conference.

Motion made to adjourn the conference.

Made, seconded, passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Chief Commander's Message

D/C Oslick, members of the D/ 4 Bridge, fellow members, & guests:

I bring you greetings from C/C Ernie Marshburn, SN.

This message marks a change in the presentation style for C/C's Reps. It represents an effort to listen more and talk less. As a part of that effort, you are encouraged to leverage this session as a town-hall meeting and to ask questions that you feel are important. I will do my best to respond to them.

For those that I am unable to answer, I will do my best to follow-up with you by communicating a response through your D/C.

Since the 2006 Annual Meeting, national efforts have focused primarily on three primary objectives all designed to more effectively Reach Out and Touch both our membership and the public by:

**REVITALIZING & CONSOLIDATING THE USPS
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM THROUGH THE "USPS**

**UNIVERSITY” INITIATIVE: WITHOUT QUESTION,
EDUCATION IS OUR MOST IMPORTANT PRODUCT!**

In addition to enabling public outreach through the Boating Course, the promotion of advanced/elective courses for our members, and much needed revenue from the sale of USPS educational materials, our educational program creates a broader foundation for a lifelong learning that keeps new and existing members engaged in squadron activities.

USPS University

USPS University is designed to mimic the breadth and scope of modern education systems by significantly and immediately expanding the range of courses on topics of interest to USPS members and to the general recreational boating public. More importantly, these courses will span the range from traditional to modern navigation techniques, from sextants to GPS, from VHF to Ham Radio, and beyond. The goal is to offer a full featured and diversified curriculum in boating education that is tailored to meet the needs of the basic boater while building advanced skill levels for experienced boaters. Modeled on a principal similar to the U.S. Coast Guard Captain’s license, the envisioned (for credit) courses, mini-courses, and short seminars will lead to

boat operator certification in four increasingly complex levels of competency; i.e. Inland, Coastal, Advanced Coastal, and Offshore navigation. When coupled with anticipated accreditation by a number of our recreational boating partners, it is anticipated that USPS certification will lead to documented credentials that are nationally recognized. The idea is to more rapidly bring relevant and modern boating education to the marketplace.

For existing USPS members, the new program will permit broader selection and flexibility in designing an educational curriculum. With an expanded coverage of educational topics and a number of certificate options, the reason for the label USPS University is apparent; broader selection with more flexible choices.

USPS Seminar Series. The seminar series will be offered to both members and the public thus offering a great opportunity to recruit new and retain existing members. It allows us to reach out to a wider audience within the boating community including yacht clubs, marine stores, boat shows, and basically anywhere that boaters gather. Each seminar is roughly two hours in length and focuses on a single topic. There will be six new seminars available by the end of September: GPS, VHF Marine Radio, Boat Handling, On-

Board Weather Forecasting, Reading your Chart, and Marine Knots. Five additional seminars will be available by year's end, with a total of 18-20 planned by the end of 2007.

Boat Operator Certification. This program is our entry into structured on-the-water training as well as a number of equivalency demonstrations. It will provide four types of certification based on your type of boating: Inshore, Coastal, Advanced Coastal, and Offshore. Each certification requires you to complete certain courses and seminars and to demonstrate those skills on-the-water.

Enhanced Elective Courses. USPS will be adding more elective courses. The first step is converting Marine Electronics into three separate courses; marine electrical systems, marine communications, and marine electronics, adding two additional electives; Offshore Weather and Advanced Seamanship, and partnering with other organizations to provide in-depth training for specific types of boats. Within the USPS University program, the requirements for Senior Navigator will consist of the five advanced grade courses plus any six electives of your choice. This allows the individual to tailor a curriculum to their boating needs.

Closely related to our educational program revitalization efforts is the Power of One Program.

Power of One and Experienced Boaters. The 'Power of One' program will continue for one more year. The program really ties in well with the 'Experienced Boater' program and if the exam waiver passes then there will be a push to emphasize that fact. The Experienced Boaters Exam program offers squadrons a way to expedite the membership process for friends and new acquaintances who have boating experience by providing them with an opportunity to bypass the boating course by taking a pocket boating course exam.

The “Reach out and Touch” campaign will reach new heights as we more effectively reach out to experienced boaters and also ask squadrons to partner with their local yacht clubs. Developing alliances with yacht clubs by teaching courses to their members is an outreach program promoting the benefits of reaching out to experienced boaters interested in enhancing their boating skills with modern electronic navigation courses, etc.

We want to use the new seminar series as a vehicle to attract and directly admit new members, particularly experienced boaters that otherwise might be missed. It also

represents and attempt to addresses a comment voiced by many SEOs, “if we can get them in the door, we can enroll them in the revitalized educational program and teach them what they WANT to know”.

**REDUCING ORGANIZATIONAL EXPENSES,
SIMPLIFYING BUREAUCRACY, AND INCREASING THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS
IS THE TRUE COURSE**

USPS has endured the equivalent of “financial hard times” during the past several years. Does that imply the end of USPS? No, but it does mean that serious responsible steps needed to be taken to put USPS back on the right track. In response, the National Operating Committee and GovBd have implemented a number of fiscal measures to help move USPS back into a strong financial position. Some of the steps taken include:

- Publish THE ENSIGN on a bi-monthly basis (6 issues) and supplement with a volunteer-produced electronic newsletter between issues,
- Request that life members voluntarily contribute to USPS; rework USPS Dues notices to request donations,
- Simplify the award of merit marks by allowing Squadrons to submit information via the Web

- Allow more exams to be graded at the squadron or district level,
- Reduce the expenses associated with HQ operations
- Increase use of teleconferencing/video conferencing and reduce the number of in-person Operating Committee meetings.
- Increase the initiation fee so that it is more in line with actual processing costs
- Waive reimbursement for all C/C's Reps. attending the 2006 Fall Conferences.
- MM Monitors, Life Members, many organizational officers, and others have voluntarily either contributed dues, made donations directly to the financial deficit, or personally waived expense reimbursement to help keep this organization health and vibrant.
- Century Fund: Thanks to everyone who has donated in the past to the Century Fund. The earnings from donations are helping USPS in these financially difficult times. Please remember the fund during the upcoming giving season. Also, when you consider creating or modifying your will, think of USPS and Planned Giving through the Century Fund.
- **USPS financial gains have not been a one person**

show as large numbers of members have found individual ways to contribute and each and every way is GREATLY appreciated.

In short, USPS began this year with a substantial financial deficit. In the last six months, steps taken have reduced that deficit to a zero balance base. Is it time to celebrate - NO; however, these efforts have created the foundation for a new beginning, i.e. one whose premise is founded on working from a balanced rather than subsidized budget and one that contributes funding back to our financial reserves on a regular basis. If we work together, we can reach that goal.

A number of steps have also been taken since the Annual Meeting to simplify organizational bureaucracy. Selected examples include:

- Launching a forms crusade to significantly reduce the number of USPS forms needed to administer squadron activities. Work in this area is currently underway and we hope to demonstrate progress by the USPS Annual Meeting in February 2007.
- Simplify the USPS dues structure to two categories: single and family unit. A single member would pay full dues; a family unit (including all family members/household) would pay full dues plus 50%.

- Created a simple, easily navigable, intuitive USPS website including an enhanced ability to electronically shop through a new USPS Ship's Store web site: www.shopusps.org.

INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES TO REACH OUT AND TOUCH THROUGH INNOVATIVE ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO PROMOTE MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION, INVOLVEMENT, AND PUBLIC OUTREACH REPRESENT A COURSE MADE GOOD

USPS Cookbook: The USPS Cookbook 'By Land or by Sea' is a great way to celebrate and simultaneously showcase USPS. Available in case lots of 12 for a price of \$18 per book and in lots of 6 for \$19 per book allow squadrons can resell these books to members at \$25 making the sales of these cookbooks a squadron fundraiser.

Leadership Seminars: Squadrons should be encouraged to present the Leadership seminars to their members. The second in a series of seminars entitled '10 ways to get the best out of your Squadron' will be presented at the fall conferences. We have embarked on a two-fold campaign to enhance our leadership development efforts. Each C/C's

Rep now has a short PowerPoint based leadership program that can be presented during district conferences. Special efforts should be made to encourage squadron administrative officers to attend district and national meetings. To that end and beginning with the NY Governing Board, a new D/AO Meeting (that all squadron officers may also attend) is being held. The focus will be to establish an officer's forum similar to the current D/C-D/ExO Meetings that is designed to promote leadership skill building, more informed district and squadron officers, and interactive discussions promoting organizational growth and prosperity. Squadrons and Districts have been encouraged to develop similar programs at the district level.

Regional OCom Meeting Special Initiative: “Regional OCom Meetings” are designed to “Reach Out and Touch” USPS members, especially those who may never attend a national meeting to establish closer connections between national and local members. This program is to couple OCom meetings with district conferences where the entire national bridge and members of the Operating Committee (OCom) has been available to districts rather than just a single C/C's representative. This project began with Tri-District Conferences in D/7, D/11, and D/29 in Cleveland,

OH this spring and D/13, D/25, and D/28 in Phoenix, AZ this fall. We're now looking for Districts interested in reaching similar levels of distinction in 2007. Would your district be interested?

Member Breakout Sessions at National Meetings: To promote increased interest in national meetings, USPS launched a series of concurrent breakout forums during the NY Governing Board. This special initiative was designed to provide interested squadron and district members with an opportunity to become a featured speaker/presenter during a USPS National Meeting. In addition to the personal satisfaction of sharing special expertise or knowledge, those presenters received speaker's ribbons and had their names publicized in the Governing Board Program. The intent is to continue this special initiative at future national meetings offering general members a chance to take center stage at a national meeting.

National Committee on Nominations: ComNom is our link to human resources that can be broadly shared across the organization. To make the process of volunteering easier, ComNom is working on an enhancement to a web-based resume system that should make submitting and retrieving information simpler than ever.

Coop Charting and Geodetic Markers: There appears to be a lot of confusion related to the Geodetic Marker Recovery portion of the Cooperative Charting program. While still a part of Coop Charting, there have been a few changes with the most significant being that geodetic marker recovery is no longer part of what NOAA sponsors. This is because geodetic markers have no direct benefit to the National Ocean Service (NOS). The Coop Charting Committee determined that this section of the program is still important and should be continued. As a result, USPS will assume responsibility for this portion of Coop charting program and develop a web site resembling CCWEB.

USPS Environmental Committee: The USPS Environmental Committee continues to work on grant applications to fund a national “Unsplash That Trash” campaign, and for mass printing of the USPS ” *Best Environmental Practices for Boaters* “ brochure, which is now available for download from the EnvCom web page and demonstrates 49 best practices for on-the water environmental stewardship, can be printed locally, has space for individual squadron contact information and is a great hand out at boat shows

The USPS environmental posters are also available for download, and good PR tool for boat show booths and boating classes.

EnvCom would also encourage all members to help with the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers campaign, in which USPS is a partner. The recent discovery of a colony of zebra mussels in the Lake of the Ozarks has reinforced the need for recreational boaters to assist in the efforts to limit the damage caused by invasive species. USPS members can get more information and materials through the campaign link on the EnvCom web page.

The summary message today is "**RELEVANCE**". One of our organizational problems is that we have appealed to boaters using programs and services that they judge to be irrelevant. More recently, USPS leadership has become aware and has transitioned the organization in ways to make it more relevant to the needs of the contemporary boater. While we're not there yet, we can say: 1) "**We now get it**", and 2) "**We are doing something about it.**"

This is particularly evident to those involved in revitalizing the USPS education program and the enormous strides that

R/C Bob Potter and the Curriculum Development Committee have been making with respect to creating "more relevant" courses.

Please Make Plans To Attend the USPS Annual Meeting on 20-25 February 2007 at the Hyatt Regency, Riverfront in Jacksonville, FL

In short, "Keep the faith, USPS has a long life ahead and a bright future".

Respectfully Submitted (on behalf of)

C/C Ernest G. Marshburn, SN

District Education Officer
D/Lt/C Anne McQuade, SN

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning Everyone.

I am your DEO Anne McQuade, JN . I would like to introduce our Assistant DEO Chris Windeler, SN, Aids to DEO& ADEO CDR. Carrie Markham,AP and SEO. Arlene Maresca, AP.

Welcome to V/C Robert A. Baldrige, SN, National Secretary
Introduction of the Past District Educational Officers.

Thomas J. Brincka, SN Barnegat Bay 1992-1995

Kenneth J. Bolt, SN	Staten Island	1995-1998
S. Patricia Governale, SN	Somerset	1998-2000
Christine E. Zitniak, SN	Raritan Bay	2000-2003
Florence E. Smith, SN	Staten Island	2003-2006

I am looking forward to each one of you experiencing our workshops. These workshops are informative and up to date with the latest information.

Boating Course Workshop-D/Lt Donald Baker, SN

Boating Class Workbook- R/C Patricia Governale, SN

Seamanship New Course- P/Sf/C Florence Smith, SN

Navigation & Junior Navigation- P/R/C Thomas Brinka & D/Lt Robert Fahey

Marine Electronics-D/Lt Gary Mandarano, JN

There is one change in the workshop line up,Power Point Instruction - P/R/C Kenneth Bolt, SN & D/Lt Michael Glanci ,JN is now combined with Instructor Re-Certification- D/Lt Barbara Ritomsky,JN Go to the re-certification room

Teaching Aids - D/Lt Robert Gorman, SN

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Workshop Chairman please make sure that you have sign in sheets. If you do not have a sign in sheet Please see Carrie before your workshop starts.

The sign in sheets are used to record each person who attends your workshop. Carrie and Arlene will be around to each workshop to collect these sign in sheets. If by chance your sign in sheets are not ready. Please have them to the Ships Store table by noon today.

Will each workshop chairperson please send 32 copies of the minutes from your workshop to my self by 5th NOVEMBER 2006,

Please get the copies yo me as quickly as possible so I can sent them to the national committees.

IMPORTANT NOTE- please send your nominee for Squadron Education Officer to myself sixty days before your Change of Watch. Your SEO for the new Watch must be approved NEO and Myself 60 days before your Change of Watch as per our National Charter. **Do put this on the Top of your TO DO List.**
***(CLOSE) - SEE YOU AT OUR WORKSHOPS!**

FALL CONFERENCE MEETING (AFTERNOON)

Good afternoon everyone .
A District Educational Officer must be dedicated to the Educational process. It includes the commitment to providing the best boating safety education to the public and the furtherance of education of our members. I have the honor of introducing District 4's Educational Officers, whom are present this afternoon.
(get List)

Charles F Chapman Award is the most prestigious honor that may be bestowed on an instructor. Of the eight squadrons that sent in nominations. Only one can be chosen to represent our District. After a number of hours reading, rereading and thoroughly considering each candidates information. Our discussion was difficult. As all the candidates had excellent qualification.

Please allow me to introduce each candidate submitted . Will candidate once their name is called, come forward to the podium -
(Last candidate is District Nominee)

P/C Joe Peck, AP	Shrewbury
Lt/C William R. Bodwell, AP	Long Valley
Lt/C James DiMeo, AP	Staten Island
CDR. William J. Stephens,P	Palisades

P/C Michael A. Fabrizi, SN	City Island
Lt/C Arnold J. Knadle, SN	Northern New Jersey
Lt/C Richard T. Aiken, JN	Lackawanna
District Chapan Nominee to National:	
P/Lt/C Stanley Seibert,SN	Saddle River now Northern New Jersey

EDUCATIONAL PROFICIENCY AWARDS is presented to members who have successfully completed Seamanship, Piloting, Advanced Piloting and any three current electives. Educational Proficiency brings with it a sense of accomplishment. I am pleased to recognize those whom have recently reached this level. V/C Baldrige would you assist with the presentations. (14)

Jerry G. Simotas	City Island
Robert V. Fahey	Lackawanna Sail & Power
Lawrence I. Haber	Lackawanna Sail & Power
Thomas C. Yeager	Lake Hopatcong Sail & Power
Hunt J. Herrigel Jr.	Long Valley
Joel M. Rosenfeld	New York Sail & Power
Robert K. Parangi	Northern New Jersey
Christe Ilias Preftes	Palisades Power Squadron
Leonard Kalb	Raritan Bay Power Squadron
John Anthony Quinn	Raritan Bay Power Squadron
Harry E. Childs	Raritan Bay
Thomas L. Craig	Raritan Bay
Clark Woodworth	Shrewsbury
Gary Ralph Mitchel	Somerset Sail & Power

Announce the winner of the Teaching Aids.

Chris and I would like to Thank Each SEO, Chairpersons and their Squadron for supporting the Educational Department.

**D/4 TREASURER'S REPORT
21 OCTOBER 2006**

FALL DISTRICT CONFERENCE

**MEETING HELD AT
"WESTERN GOVERNOR MORRIS INN", MORRISTOWN, NJ**

UPS RESERVE	\$ 20,000.00	
MONEY MARKET	\$ 17,228.77	
CHECKING ACCOUNT		\$ 10,456.69

ALL BILLS AND INVOICES, WHICH WERE PROPERLY SUBMITTED, HAVE BEEN PAID.

ALL DEPOSITS RECEIVED HAVE BEEN DEPOSITED IN BANK OF AMERICA ACCOUNT, MARKED CHECKING.

ALL TRANSACTIONS WITH NATIONAL HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND RECORDED TO DATE.

THE CHECKING ACCOUNT AND MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT HAVE BEEN RECONCILED TO SEPT. 30, 2006.

ANY SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR DETAILED ACTION, BY THE TREASURY DEPT., WILL BE ANSWERED.

END OF REPORT.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

D/4 TREASURER DON KADLAC, P

CORRECTION ADDITION:
AS PER CDR OSLICK, SN,
DIRECTION-A \$25.00 CONTRIBUTION WAS MADE TO THE USPS
EDUCATIONAL FUND IN MEMORY OF
"OSWALD HOLT 'PETE' MARSHBURN".

D4 Fall Conference
Administrative Workshop

D/Lt/C Kathleen Bisogno, JN convened the workshop immediately following the Conference morning recess.

Main Topic--- Membership

Ch. D/Lt Marie Hughes, P
Assisted by:
D/Lt Jill Drummond, P
Lt/C Tom Smith, AP
D/Lt/C Richard Zucci, AP

Marie started the workshop with a brief revue of what the committee's responsibilities are.

This workshop will be in three parts;

- 1) VC Baldrige will present Nationals proposal to waive the exam requirements for membership
- 2) Jill and Tom will discuss membership challenges
- 3) Rich Zucci will discuss preparations for Bridge Organization and Squadrons.

VC Baldrige reported basically as follows. This is not his report but one from VC Dick Kyle which is similar.

White paper – Why waive the 'exam' requirement?

By V/C Richard E. Kyle, SN – National Educational Officer
R/C Robert J. Sweet, SN – Asst. National Educational Officer

Based on conversations with many of you, we have concluded that this Operating Committee recommendation to the Governing Board is not well understood. This white paper addresses the recommendation, its rationale, its advantages and perceived disadvantages, and how its effects will be measured.

What are the specifics?

The USPS by-laws have a provision (Section 3.6) which describes the three conditions under which a person *may* be considered for membership. Condition (1) states the core criteria for membership: "Any person who is able and willing to contribute time, energy and skills to the objectives of USPS" and it is up to the discretion of the squadron to determine that. Condition (2) requires the candidate to have "passed an examination approved by the Operating Committee".

There is NO educational requirement, just an exam requirement that is at the discretion of the Operating Committee to select. It is this exam requirement that we seek to waive for a period of three years, after which time, the condition will be restored in full force unless otherwise amended by two-thirds vote of the Governing Board.

Even with the waiver of condition (2), condition (1) remains in full effect – there is no automatic route to membership.

Why waive the requirement?

Many ask, “Why waive the requirement?” There are several factors that critically impact the health of USPS:

- 1) We have a membership that is in a slow, steady decline – with each year, our image and effectiveness as an organization will continue to diminish unless we revitalize USPS with fresh members.
- 2) We have historically used our public boating safety courses as our primary means of attracting new members – we now face considerable competition in this area, even free state-sponsored courses (some 256 current NASBLA approved courses vs. a handful a decade ago). Thus, even with superior material, our enrollment has been in slow, steady decline which has produced the corresponding decline in membership.
- 3) There is a substantial base of experienced boaters that could significantly benefit USPS. We would like to attract them to our programs and membership. It is clear that the vast majority of these boaters are disinclined to take a very basic exam before joining USPS.
- 4) We have developed the USPS University – Seminar Series of short programs to be offered to the public and members. This seminar series demonstrates the core capability of USPS and takes us in a direction without peer or competition to attract both new and experienced boaters to USPS.

We want to use the new seminar series as a vehicle to attract and directly admit new members, particularly the experienced boater we have otherwise missed. While this is just a segment of boating safety, we have the opportunity to attract them to other programs and to membership where they will benefit from a well rounded program. Many SEOs say, “once we get them in the door, we’ll get them into the educational program and teach them what they need to know.” – let’s give them the chance.

Are we abandoning our role to educate the boating public?

Certainly, not – in fact, we want to increase our education of the boating public. Teaching boating safety courses to the public is mandated in the charter of every squadron and is the basis of our status as a not-for-profit organization – we want to reinforce that responsibility.

First, we are strengthening our basic boating safety program and are developing campaigns to promote it. Since many states are going to mandatory boating education, this means a substantial percentage of students will want the certificate and nothing more. There is a tendency to water down the requirements as can be seen in many competing programs – that is not boating safety. Our approach is to continue to offer a recognized quality program. At least we want to hold our own on numbers and go for quality.

Second, we will be using our seminars as a means of raising public awareness and education, and encourage attendees to get solid boating safety training.

Third, we are developing *Boat Operator Certification* as a program that will build a demand for more and advanced boating education and draw boaters to membership.

Are we watering down our standards and educational mission?

Quite the contrary, we are building a robust program via our USPS University program. We will be adding seminars, more elective courses, mini-courses, and *Boat Operator Certification*. The latter will include skill demonstrations including on-the-water demonstrations and certification.

Based on presentations of this program in the boating safety community, we have become recognized for taking the lead in advanced recreational boater certification. This has become a priority identified need and the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety has the task to figure out how to promote and track advanced boater education. We are paving the way, and we want ways for experienced boaters to get to us and become members, so they can further their education.

The exam requirement as currently defined by the Operating Committee can be satisfied by completion of any NASBLA approved course or equivalent exam. Unfortunately, this is but a marginal indicator of an individual's boating skills. In short, fulfilling this requirement is not truly meaningful. We would rather have boaters join and engage in quality courses and programs.

Does the proposed waiver mean that anyone can join?

No – Membership is not automatic. We believe that during the seminar experience, we will have the opportunity to get to know the participants and have a basis for selecting those we choose for membership. We are including membership applications with the student notes book, but the application still needs approval by the squadron.

How do we know if we have succeeded with the waiver?

This is an important question. We maintain very detailed statistics on our course and program utilization. We will consider this temporary waiver to have been a success if our aggregate number of courses completed per year has risen. In addition, we track the percentage of members who have completed courses and we expect that to rise as well.

Currently, we educate some 25,000 individuals in basic boating safety and 7,100 in USPS courses per year, plus an estimated 10,000 more in various seminars. 59% of all current members have completed Seamanship and 47% have completed Piloting. The waiver will affect the course attendance plus seminars. We expect both the total number of annual completions and the percentages to rise and that is what we will consider to be a success. We will track the number of public attendees and the composite of boating safety courses and seminars, but that is independent of the effects of the waiver.

Where does this lead us?

Since most states are moving toward mandatory boating safety education, our current requirement may be a mute point within five years as more and more of the boating public will be required by law to complete an approved course – thus satisfying our current entry requirement.

In the meantime, USPS will benefit by garnering more of the experienced boaters who are likely to be exempt from many of these new state laws anyway. Our standards and image should be based on our quality programs and building attendance, not on an arbitrary entry level exam.

Part II D/Lt Jill Drummond, S and Lt/C Thomas smith, AP Identify Membership Challenges

The topic of the discussion was “Why do people join USPS.

Some of the observations are as follows.

- 1) Some will join to follow family members or friends who have become members.
- 2) Education. This was found to be on different levels such as classes but also from personal interrelationships with other members when advice or physical help was needed. An example was the need of a member to move a boat from one state to another when he had no experience in doing this. A few phone calls provided all that was needed to make a safe trip. There is a wealth of untapped expertise in our members.

3) Personal relationships. The relationship between a table proctor at a boating course has alone brought in members. These people are “Ambassadors” and have a great influence on what the public’s perception of USPS is.

4) Some look for new ways to experience boating. When every trip is a repeat of the last it will get boring to many of the crew. Joining a group such as a Squadron will present many different ways to enjoy boating.

An interesting point brought out was that we inadvertently put obstacles in the way of people who want to join. Identifying these people is the hard part but a little creative thinking can remove these obstacles resulting in a new member that would have otherwise been lost.

Noted also was that 67% of the people that take the Educational Cruise will join USPS and that the Social aspect of Squadron activities was a VERY important factor for prospective members.

How to get/keep members involved.

One on One initial contact from the proctor or another member inviting them to the next function.

Make the new member feel welcome. Introduce them to other members. Utilize a New member committee approach.

Have the new member enrolled in the next Seamanship course and/or get them to start on some committee work. Try not to have them become Chairpersons immediately as this has a negative effect.

Reminder that Membership Manuals are available to all squadrons.

Part III D/Lt/C Richard Zucci, AP

Difficulty filling Bridge Positions.

Poll taken showed that of the Commanders present 50% had served twice in that position.

Discussion continued regarding the problems encountered when new and relatively inexperienced people were put into Bridge positions. Often this leads to problems having to do with Squadron Traditions, tasks not being completed on time or at all, and many small housekeeping affairs not being performed as they should to ensure the smooth operation of the Squadron.

Suggestions were to have backups or assistants for these positions so as to have informed people ready to step in should the need arise. It was also suggested to extend from one year to two year the term of certain offices. It was also seen as a need to maintain continuity for any programs that were started by someone who would be moving on before the program was firmly up and running.

PRIDE in USPS was also touched upon and was seen as a very important aspect of all of the forgoing for without members pride in their organization USPS will eventually just disappear.

The topics mentioned here will be further discussed at the Spring Conference.

Part IV

USPS University D/1st/Lt Chris Windeler, SN

Topic of Discussion

Update on educational dept. and USPS University

Status and Changes to courses:

Seamanship is a totally new course

Junior Navigation has been rewritten and is now 12-13 weeks in length and only sun sights will be taken

Engine Maintenance has been rewritten and will be available next Spring

Marine electronics has been rewritten and should be available at the end of the year.

USPS University program

A brief description was then given of each of the seminars to be offered to both the Public and Squadron Members.

These are designed to be 2 hours in length and can be taught in Marinas and Boat stores. There are different certifications that may be obtained as per the individual preference.

D/Lt Harry Wagner, JN reporting on the VSC program observed that last year the District had 740 reports submitted and this year only 440. This is a large drop and a poor showing. He feels part of the problem may be that the reports are now submitted on line. This may be a problem to some who are unfamiliar with the procedure. He requests any who are experiencing this problem contact him and he will file the reports.

Meeting adjourned.