USPS Board of Directors
Jacksonville, Fla.
15 Jan. 2013

Called to order at 0830

Attendees:

C/C John T. Alter, SN
V/C Robert A. Baldridge, SN
V/C Louie Ojeda, SN
V/C Bob Brsndenstein, SN
V/C Jean Hamilton, SN
V/C Gary P. Cheney, SN
P/C/C Frank A. Dvorak, SN

Guests present:

Mary Catherine Berube
Tom Kemp

Action items approved:

Ratification of electronic votes:

Upon motions to approve, which motions were seconded, discussed and voted upon by the Board of Directors, United States Power Squadrons, each of the following was approved:

Motions:

1) A motion approving an updated Corporate Resolution.

2) A motion approving an updated memorandum of understanding with NOAA.

3) A motion approving a policy to allocate 5 percent of the beginning balance of the USPS Investment Fund to the general fund annually.

Discussion:

1) Mary Catherine Berube reported that USPS would submit four grant proposals to the United States Coast Guard in 2013:

   1) On-the-Water Rollout – Phase III - $242,690. Funds will be used to continue training instructors and students, to integrate USPS courses with on-water components, marketing initiatives and data analysis.
2) Partnering 2013 – $45,390. Continuation of partnering efforts with various boating-related organizations.

3) USPS Boat Handling Simulator - $275,360. Funds will be used to develop and demonstrate the use and viability of a prototype simulator in small boat handling training and to purchase ten simulators.

2) Berube reported that USPS would resubmit a grant application for a FEMA Fire Protection and Safety Grant for $206,019. Funding will be used to acquire 16 Bullex units and to cover shipping and maintenance costs and travel costs. The units would be used to supplement practical on-the-water training seminars.

3) Tom Kemp reported that the Ford Member Benefits Program would go live on 22 Jan. 2013. Details are available on the Member Benefits Committee website at www.usps.org/national/admin_dept/membenefits.htm.

4) Kemp reported on a new member benefit where members will receive discounts on purchases at Office Depot.

5) Kemp reported that he met with Thom Dammrich, executive director, National Marine Manufacturers Association. He noted that NMMA is interested in pursuing a closer relationship with USPS. Mr. Dammrich recommended that USPS participate in National Marina Day on 8 June 2013. Districts and squadrons would work with a local marina or launch site to promote USPS, conduct vessel safety checks and to present short seminars on topics such as docking, trailering and anchoring.

6) Kemp reported that Abbott Uniform is now an official provider of USPS uniforms. Information can be found on the Abbott Uniform website at http://www.abbottuniforms.com. Click on "Shop" tab on their homepage and select "US Power Squadrons."

7) Kemp reported that he will send a survey to all Expo participants to solicit feedback on what they liked, disliked, and suggestions for improvements.

8) V/C Gary P. Cheney, SN, reported that unaudited 2012 figures show that operating expenses were down approximately $43,000 from 2011 and under budget by $290,000.

9) V/C Cheney reported that a revised expense report for the Detroit Governing Board Meeting showed a net cost of $82,000, including hotel and travel reimbursement costs.

10) V/C Cheney discussed cost reduction ideas for 2014 that were submitted by the Budget Committee.

11) V/C Jean Hamilton, SN, updated the BOD on the USPS Website redesign project. She noted that the content outline had been approved and guidelines were developed for content creation for two sections. Headquarters generated a database of USPS instructors to solicit input for expert tips content.
12) V/C Hamilton reported that the need to move the USPS web server from its current location was postponed for a year due to the efforts of P/R/C John Bradley, SN.

13) V/C Hamilton discussed the national meeting CD. She noted that with faster internet downloads the CD had become outdated and that content was not up to date due to deadlines for submitting content. The BOD agreed to discontinue producing meeting CD’s and to post meeting reports and materials on the USPS website in a format similar to commander’s kits.

14) V/C Hamilton reported that 262 districts and squadrons will receive the 2012 Distinctive Communicator for websites and 254 districts and squadrons will receive the 2012 Distinctive Communicator Award for newsletters.

15) The Information Technology released a new version of DB2000 (9.6.5) and a new version of BCA (7.0.9).

16) V/C Ojeda reported that the Leadership Development training seminars were re-branded to contain content applicable to all officers. The BOD agreed to charge $99 for Leadership Development training seminars taught at national meetings and $75 for regional training seminars, effective after the 2013 Annual Meeting.

17) V/C Ojeda reported receiving $5,169 in sponsor donations for the 2013 Boy Scouts Jamboree. He noted that the USPS Educational Fund approved a $15,000 grant to offset expenses not covered by donations.

18) The Member Benefits Committee is working on an updated Member Benefits Brochure. Avis, Budget and prescription drug benefit fliers are available at headquarters at no charge, plus shipping and handling.

19) V/C Ojeda reported that the Squadron Development Committee is working on a squadron revitalization video.

20) V/C Ojeda discussed Corporate Membership and levels of giving. He reported that McGriff, Seibels and Williams will become USPS’ first Corporate Member in 2013.

21) V/C Bob Brandenstein, SN, reported that unaudited figures show that 2012 educational course sales totaled $711,000 compared to $756,000 in 2011. ABC3 sales were down 7.5 percent in 2012 compared to 2011.

22) V/C Brandenstein reported that there will be an increase in the selling price to squadrons for educational courses and seminars effective 1 April 2013.

23) V/C Brandenstein reported on USPS’ partnership with the Brunswick Dealer Advantage Program. He noted that Brunswick plans to finalize the matchup of willing squadrons and willing dealers in mid-January. Brunswick will distribute a press release to its dealers in early January.
24) V/C Brandenstein reported that initial steps have been taken to sell the Mariners Learning System USCG Captain’s License software through the Ship’s Store. The Educational Department will work with squadrons to proctor Captain’s License exams.

25) V/C Brandenstein reported that USPS has been invited to participate in the Tall Ships Challenge Great Lakes 2013. Squadrons will likely have the opportunity to set up displays where the Tall Ships will be in port in exchange for volunteer services to the port organizing committees. A map and schedule of events is available at www.sailtraining.org/tallships/2013greatlakes/index.php.

26) V/C Robert A. Baldridge, SN, reported that the Law Committee had approved the DepthWiz agreement.

27) V/C Baldridge reported that the Environmental Committee is working on a position paper “Disposal of Marine Safety Flares.” The committee encourages squadrons to participate in annual beach litter clean-up programs. The committee also continues to inform members on governmental actions that may have environmental consequences for boaters. Environmental grant opportunities can be found at www.usps.org/national/envcom./

28) The Government & Partner Relations Committee is working with the Law Committee on developing memorandums of understanding with SeaTow.

29) V/C Baldridge reported that the Marketing & Public Relations Committee is working on a manual to promote seminars, which will be available on the committee website at www.usps.org/national/pr/.

30) The Safety Committee reported that 2,014 vessel examiners performed 29,412 vessel safety checks in 2012.

31) V/C Baldridge reported that he would ask the Governing Board to charter Nanticoke River Sail & Power Squadron/5.

32) V/C Baldridge reported that East Hampton/3; Manhasset Bay/3; Oak Orchard/6; Grosse Ile/9, and Columbia Bend/16 are in the process of dissolving.

33) V/C Baldridge stated that he would ask the Governing Board to defeat the District 22 Resolution seeking clarification for vessel safety check data security. He noted that the BOD approved a Policy for Protection of Vessel Safety Check Vessel and Owner Data at its December 2012 meeting.

34) C/C Alter invited P/R/C Gene Molteni, SN, to make a presentation on the scope, results and potential action plans of the USPS member demographics survey by Dr. Ed Mahoney, director of the recreational marine research center at Michigan State University. Survey results can be downloaded at http://35.8.125.11/USPowerSquadrons/report/index.html. The password is grandhaven.

Adjourned 1600.