Minutes of the Governing Board Meeting
Held on 8 Sept. 2007
At the Marriott Waterside, Norfolk, Va.

Chief Commander Ernest G. Marshburn, SN, convened the meeting at 0815.

USPS Chaplain Herbert M. Groce, P, delivered the invocation, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by N/F/Lt Jamie McCurry, AP, and the singing of the national anthem.

District 22 members gave a special flag ceremony presentation on the history of the American flag.

**Introduction of Past Chief Commanders**

P/C/C G. Leslie Johnson, SN, introduced the other past chief commanders who were present in order of their terms:

- P/C/C Raymond A. Finley Jr., SN, 1982-1983 (Lackawanna/4)
- P/C/C Richard W. Miner, SN, 1986-1987 (Birmingham/9)
- P/C/C L.M. Barnes III, SN, 1996-1997 (Rocky Mount/27)
- P/C/C Lance J. Jensen, SN, 2000-2001 (Bellevue/16)
- P/C/C Theodore H. Smith, SN, 2002-2003 (Grosse Pointe)

R/C Bill Husted, SN, introduced honored guests:

- Stanley Stein, assistant city manager of Norfolk, who presented a proclamation from Mayor Paul D. Fraim
- Steve Chealander, National Transportation Safety Board
- Capt. David Lersch, United States Coast Guard
- Jeff Hoedt, chief, United States Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety
- Ken Forster, senior cartographer, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service, Office of Coast Survey
- Lt. Mark Wetzler, NOAA
- Lt. Cmdr. Shep Smith, NOAA
- Duane Morrison, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Vice Commodore Nicholas Kerrigan, USCG Auxiliary
- Raphael Kozolchyk, Personal Watercraft Industry Association
- Diana Rubin, Personal Watercraft Industry Association
- Kathryn Novak, Ocean Conservancy
- Jimmie Homburg, national commodore, Boy Scouts of America, Sea Scouts
- Doug Bowman, national boatswain, BSA, Sea Scouts
- Serge St-Martin, JN, chief commander, Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons
- Harold Cole, national executive officer, CPS
- Doreen Hinksman, past chief commander, CPS
- Peter Trogden, president, Weems & Plath
- Jake Hill, director of sales and marketing, McGriff, Seibels & Williams Insurance Co.
- Joe Grenzebach, St. Paul Travelers Insurance
- Cdr Per Knudsen, Tokyo Sail & Power Squadron
The national secretary declared a quorum present.

The chief commander announced an attendance of 605.

**Report of the Committee on Rules**

R/C Allan W. Lakin, SN, explained the voting rules.

**Approval of the Minutes**

C/C Marshburn asked for questions or comments to the minutes of the Operating Committee meetings held on 14 April and 9 June 2007. The chief entertained a motion to ratify the actions of the Operating Committee reflected in the minutes of its meetings held 14 April and 9 June 2007. The Governing Board ADOPTED the motion. (2007-GB-4)

The Governing Board ADOPTED a motion to approve Governing Board meetings on 29 Aug.- 4 Sept. 2010, Hyatt Hotel, Bellevue, Wash., at $139/night plus tax, and on 11-17 Sept. 2011, Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel, Greensboro, N.C., at $145/night plus tax. (2007-GB-5)


**Report of the Committee on Nominations**

R/C Anthony J. Aquilato, SN, reported that in accordance with the USPS Bylaws, Section 5.5.1, the Committee on Nominations recommended the election of the below listed members.
For General Members of the Governing Board:

John A. Belkengren, AP  Key West Sail &/8
Charles M. Burger, SN  Fox Valley/20
Robert E. Canfield, JN  Rockford/20
Malischka M. Dunlap, AP  Port St. Lucie/8
H.E. Greenbacker, SN  Meriden/1
Harvey E. Haag, JN  Bald Eagle/11
Jerry H. Hall, AP  Cape Fear/27
William C. Hall, AP  Port Clinton/29
Mary Ann Jensen, AP  Lansing/9
Carl H. Johnson, AP  Cape Cod Sail &/14
Michael J. Kovalcin, SN  Sarasota/22
Janet U. Lane, SN  Naples Sail &/22
Suzanne Nentwich, AP  Cross County/2
Lena J. Parsons, AP  Coral Ridge Sail &/8
Richard L. Remski, AP  Dayton Sail &/24
Kathy M. Schult, AP  Central Wisconsin Sail &/10
David Schulz, AP  Utica/6
Douglas James Scott, AP  Portland Head Sail &/19
Richard Swackhamer, AP  Watchung Sail &/4
Peter TenBrink, JN  Jones Beach/3
Betty Walton, AP  Hilton Head Sail &/26
Joanna K. Webster, AP  Poverty Bay/16

The Governing Board ADOPTED the motion. (2007-GB-7)

R/C Aquilato continued by saying that in accordance with USPS Bylaws 5.3.4, the Operating Committee can fill vacancies created between governing boards and the term will
expire at the next governing board meeting. Accordingly the Committee on Nominations recommended the following to be elected:

Assistant chairman of the National Government and Partner Relations Committee
D/Lt/C Dick Gercak, AP, Fort Walton Beach Sail & Power Squadron

The Governing Board ADOPTED the motion. (2007-GB-8)

Assistant chairman of the Environmental Committee
D/Lt Samuel E. Insalaco, AP, Berea Squadron, D/7, assistant chairman

The Governing Board ADOPTED the motion. (2007-GB-9)

**Report of the National Law Officer**

R/C Noel K. McKeown, SN, reported that the Law Committee reviewed several agreements relating to national activities including governance. The committee will continue to provide support to districts and squadrons relating to risk management, insurance coverage and other issues.

R/C McKeown reported that LawCom reviewed USPS insurance coverage required to implement USPS University and on-the-water boating skills certification.

LawCom filed an application to register the name “USPS University” in Canada; reviewed a grant application that resulted in the award of a $195,000 grant from the USCG to fund printing and distribution costs for Phase III of the Watersmart from the Start Program; continued to provide support to defend USPS in a lawsuit resulting from a former member’s boat loss in a named storm; and is reviewing a highway sign proposed by the Marketing and Public Relations Committee.
R/C McKeown stressed the importance of all squadrons filing subordinate unit letters with headquarters so that members benefit from USPS’ 501(c)(3) status.

R/C McKeown reminded squadrons that as of the 2007 tax year all nonprofit corporations—not just those with more than $25,000 revenue per year—are required to report their existence and earnings to the IRS. He said that this new filing requirement contains serious consequences for non-filers. If a charitable nonprofit corporation—which includes districts and squadrons—fails to file for three years, the IRS will automatically terminate that entity’s capacity to receive tax-deductible contributions. He noted that additional details will be posted on the committee’s website.

**Report of the Planning Committee**

R/C William M. Bellinger, SN, stated that change may be evolutionary or sometimes revolutionary, but change never ends. He said that USPS must change to succeed in its mission. He said the Planning Committee is continually working toward accomplishing USPS’ vision by focusing on strategies and opportunities that will improve USPS.

He reported that the Planning Committee developed a Leadership Development Workshop. He noted that additional information is on the USPS website at *USPS News*, on the link from *What’s New?* and on the PlanCom homepage.

R/C Bellinger reported that the revised Planning Committee Manual and the revised USPS Strategic Plan are posted on the committee’s website.

Members can contact the District Planning Network by e-mailing *d-plan-net@usps.org*. This mail list is used to communicate with district commanders and district planning committee chairmen.
R/C Bellinger reported that the Planning Committee is studying how to achieve financial stability, member recruiting and retention, public awareness of USPS, further simplifying communications, and seeking outside support through corporate memberships, contributing memberships, educational memberships, and by creating a Development Committee.

R/C Bellinger closed by reporting that the Planning Committee polled members on the value of their membership at its Expo booth in Norfolk. He noted that results will be sent to districts via the District Planning Network.

**Report of the National Treasurer**


V/C Mesenburg noted some of the major variances compared to previous years that contributed to the present bottom line positive numbers:

**Revenue**

a) Dues and Fees - $853,700 in 2007 versus $824,652 in 2006; $808,496 in 2005; and $895,651 in 2004. He noted that the approved $1.80 dues increase that began in 2006 contributed positively to revenue, considering declining membership numbers;

b) Educational Sales - $303,704 in 2007 versus $255,168 in 2006; and

c) Total Operating Revenue - $1,261,908 in 2007 versus $1,228,371 in 2006; $1,248,780 in 2005; and $1,322,398 in 2004.

**Expenses**

d) All departments and committees - $376,300 in 2007 versus $423,085 in 2006;
e) Headquarters - $468,061 in 2007 versus $575,886 in 2006;
f) The Ensign magazine - $230,869 in 2007 versus $244,641 in 2006; and
g) Total Operating Expenses- $1,079,440 in 2007 versus $1,244,256 in 2006; $1,395,438, in 2005; and $1,460,315 in 2004.

The national treasurer said that cost-cutting initiatives during the last two years did not happen without sacrifice, fiscal restraint and in some instances negative ramifications. He thanked everyone for their understanding, contributions, and assistance during these cost-cutting endeavors.

He closed by stating that USPS’ financial alarm test parameters are improving and USPS’ overall financial foundation is sound.

**Report of the Finance Committee**

R/C Michael J. Horowitz, JN, reported that as of 31 July 2007 investments managed by the Finance Committee totaled $3,122,638.43. These investments are divided into three major portfolios.

As of 31 July 2007, the USPS investment portfolio totaled $1,009,343.94; the Endowment Fund totaled $1,096,683.20 and the district and squadron funds totaled $1,016,611.20.

R/C Horowitz reported that in FY2006 the financial alarm test totaled $2,619,821, or $380,179 below the $3 million control limit. He reported that as of 31 July 2007 the total was $2,810,389, which is $189,611 below the control limit. He noted that the financial health of USPS, as measured by the level of undesignated, unrestricted funds, remains a serious concern.

R/C Horowitz reported that at its 14 April 2007 meeting the OCom approved spending up
to $10,000 for emergency repairs to the headquarters building roof. At its 8-9 June 2007 meeting, the OCom moved to spend $400 to investigate trademark registration for use of the name “Compass” for the e-newsletter. He reported that the Finance Committee subsequently approved these expenditures, with funds to come from the 2007 budget.


R/C Horowitz stated that at the 2005 Fall Governing Board meeting in Portland, Ore., Governing Board members approved a five-year nominal dues increase that would be equal to the annual Consumer Price Index, or CPI. This was equal to an annual increase of $1.80 for active members, $0.90 for additional active members, and $0.45 for adult family members. In August 2006 the Governing Board simplified the dues categories to two: Single and Family Unit. A single active member pays dues as set by the Governing Board for their status (regular, sustaining or life). A family unit pays dues equal to the single rate for the primary member plus 50 percent of the single active rate, regardless of the number of family members.

He noted that the motion below will set the dues rate for a regular active member to $35.40, the dues rate for family units headed by a regular active to $53.10, and the dues rate for family units headed by a life member to $17.70. Accordingly, in keeping with USPS Bylaws section 5.7.2b, which requires that annual dues increases be presented at the Governing Board, R/C Horowitz proposed the following:

That the dues for a single regular active member total $35.40 (a $1.80 increase),
effective in the spring of 2008 for the 2009 dues year.

- 9 - Governing Board 8 Sept. 2007
The Governing Board ADOPTED the motion. (2007-GB-11)

R/C Horowitz noted some expenses occurred since the proposed 2008 budget was mailed to Governing Board members in July 2007. The headquarters roof had to be replaced and a headquarters accounting position was upgraded. He reported that these increases, which totaled $38,000, were added to the proposed 2008 budget.

He continued by saying that the national treasurer, Budget and Finance committee members, the chief, the national Bridge, the Operating Committee, department heads and the headquarters director contributed countless hours and careful consideration to the preparation of the 2008 budget. He noted that it is still necessary to use income generated by investments to balance the budget. R/C Horowitz presented the 2008 budget, and the Governing Board ADOPTED a motion to approve it. (2007-GB-12)

Report of the Marketing and Public Relations Committee

R/C Robert A. Green, N, reported on the 2007 Marketing and Public Relations awards: the Charles F. Chapman Scrapbook Award; the Carl Mahnken Commander’s Cup Award for an outstanding squadron PowerPoint presentation; and the Roger Upton Award, which goes to the squadron with the best video presentation.

Charles F. Chapman Scrapbook Award winners
3rd place - Cincinnati Sail/24
2nd place - Manatee Sail/22
1st place - Grand Lakes Sail/31

Carl C. Mahnken Commander’s Cup Award winners
3rd place - Milwaukee Sail/10

- 10 - Governing Board 8 Sept. 2007
2nd place - Crystal River/22
1st place - Lower Rio Grande Valley/21

Roger Upton Video Award winners
2nd place - Austin/21
1st place - Winooski Valley Sail/20

R/C Green announced that the first recipient for the Juan Sebastian Del Cano Award was Lt John Gage, JN, Shrewsbury/4. This award recognizes members who complete circumnavigation, transatlantic and transpacific navigations.

R/C Green presented a new road sign similar to those used by Rotary and Kiwanis clubs that can be displayed highways or waterways to promote USPS and the local squadron. LawCom is reviewing the vendor agreement to manufacture the signs. The cost will be approximately $132.

R/C Green referred members to the committee’s website at www.usps.org/national/pr for press releases; Cooperative Advertising coordinators; public service announcements; and information on boat shows, yacht club programs, fishing groups and public relations awards.

He reported that the Public Relations Officer’s Log Book is being revised and will be posted on the committee’s website. The log book will contain sample press releases, artwork and district and squadron success stories.

R/C Green reported that the Marketing and Public Relations Committee assisted in external promotion for the Norfolk Expo and educational seminars. The committee developed and distributed posters, a three-minute phone message, developed a website and published print ads in local newspapers.
R/C Green reported that the committee will present “How To Market and Publicize Your Local Squadron” during the 2008 Annual Meeting in Dallas.

**Report of the Committee on Rules**

R/C Allan W. Lakin, SN, reported receiving a request from Cedar Rapids Power Squadron to change its name to Four Rivers Sail & Power Squadron. He said that the squadron bylaws are in order and that the Committee on Rules proposed that the Governing Board adopt the following motion:

“That Cedar Rapids Power Squadron be renamed Four Rivers Sail & Power Squadron.”

The Governing Board ADOPTED the motion to rename Cedar Rapids Power Squadron to Four Rivers Sail & Power Squadron. (2007-GB-13)

R/C Lakin stated that the rationale for a new governance structure was presented to the 2007 Annual Meeting in Jacksonville and at the spring district conferences. He stated that the Committee on Rules, with the concurrence of the Operating Committee, recommended that the Governing Board revise the governance of USPS by adopting new *Bylaws* effective at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Dallas and then moved that the Governing Board take the recommended action.

R/C Lakin then moved to amend the motion on the floor by striking “and approve” from Section 5.2.11 so that it would read:

*Section 5.2.11 Fix all national dues and modify the national budget.*

The Governing Board ADOPTED the amendment to Section 5.2.11. (2007-GB-14)
There was a motion from the floor to amend Section 5.3 so that the Board of Directors shall also include no less than five independent members, three USPS and two nonmembers to be selected from among those nominated by the districts. Such directors would be elected by the Governing Board at its annual meeting. A motion was then made to include Article 11 sections to this amendment. These amendments were withdrawn with consent of the Governing Board.

The motion was then restated to add Article 11 sections.

A motion to table the amendment was DEFEATED. (2007-GB-1)

The motion to amend was DEFEATED. (2007-GB-2)

The Governing Board ADOPTED the new Bylaws as amended to take effect upon convening the 2008 Annual Meeting in Dallas. (2007-GB-15)

Report of the National Secretary

V/C Robert A. Baldridge, SN, reported that the Secretary’s Department was working hard to support members and squadrons.

V/C Baldridge reported that a “What’s New” link was added to the USPS website. The link contains a drop-down list of new and updated items. He noted that a Squadron Officer’s Guide is available at www.usps.org/x/x.pl/x/x.cgi?natsec/officers.html.

The national secretary reported that many squadrons are entering new member data online at www.usps.org/php/membership/memberprocess.php. He noted that this system speeds member processing so that new members can enroll in educational courses sooner.
V/C Baldridge encouraged squadrons to access “USPS News” and to e-mail the ITCom Help Desk for information on how to link their websites to USPS News. He reminded squadrons that “Storm Central” is a bulletin board where displaced members can post and retrieve information.

The national secretary reported that a Norfolk Governing Board CD-ROM that contains documents, handouts, tools and presentations from the committee meetings is available from headquarters.

V/C Baldridge reported that USPS Compass, the new USPS electronic newsletter, was launched in January 2007. He said that Compass is targeted to members, partners and the boating public. He reported that the fourth issue was e-mailed to about 19,800 members. Members and nonmembers who do not receive Compass can sign up at www.usps.org/newpublic2/compass.html.

V/C Baldridge reported that all squadrons can submit merit marks electronically beginning in 2007.

The Ship’s Store presented a VIP seminar during the Norfolk Governing Board. V/C Baldridge noted that when members purchase items online or at 888-FOR-USPS, 5 percent of the purchase price will be split between the member’s district and squadron.

The Operations Manual Committee maintains an up-to-date copy of the Operations Manual on the committee website.

The Historian Committee announced that district and squadron history forms can be submitted online at www.usps.org/national/historian.
The Information Technology Committee announced that DB2000 and the Boating Class Administrator software is Microsoft Vista compliant.

V/C Baldridge reported that 75 percent of members were invoiced through headquarters anniversary billing in the most recent dues cycle. He reminded squadrons that several thousand members now have anniversary dates other than 1 June and will receive their renewal notices throughout the year. He encouraged squadrons to regularly check their member status reports at www.usps.org/dues/reports to ensure that these members are contacted and personally asked to renew. He noted that squadrons can access a demo at above link to view samples of HQAB reports.

The national secretary reported that as of 31 July 2007 headquarters had collected and distributed $739,256 to squadrons, districts and the Educational Fund. HQAB members contributed $51,149 to the Century Fund during the most recent dues cycle.

V/C Baldridge reported that Tom Kemp joined the headquarters staff as manager of headquarters marketing and development services. Kemp is responsible for providing headquarters’ resources and support for USPS marketing and development. He will work closely with and support the USPS Marketing & Public Relations Committee and lead other efforts. His focus for the first 18 months is member sales, including the Ship's Store and educational products, membership recruitment and retention, and development, including targeting contributions to the general, Century and Educational funds.

V/C Baldridge stated that the Flag and Etiquette Committee reviews squadron burgees, district flags and 50- and 75-year recognitions. He stated that the Flag and Etiquette Committee had recommended and he approved a burgee and pre-approved a 50th anniversary burgee effective 2008 for Two Rivers Sail/30; a burgee for Colonial Provisional/5, and 50th anniversary burgees for Milford/1, Mountaineer/7, Vermilion/7 and Waukegan Sail/20.
The Ensign Committee reported that this year’s online photo contest received 158 entries. Final judging took place during Expo. V/C Baldridge announced the winners of the online photo contest:

1st place - “Trio” by Kathy Kempson, P, Syracuse Sail/6
2nd place - “Iceberg” by Ann Wilder, S, Skagit Bay Sail/16
3rd place - “Grandchildren” by Patricia Cavanagh, SN, Marco Island Sail/16
4th place - “Water Lily” by Robert Flint, AP, Seminole/23
5th place - “Squadron 70th Anniversary” by Sharen Reichard, S, Hampton Roads/5

The winning photos will appear in the Nov/Dec 2007 issue of The Ensign

V/C Baldridge introduced the headquarters staff present: Mary Catherine Berube, headquarters director; Lena Padro, manager, membership services; Kathy Kesterson, manager, administrative services; Tom Kemp, manager, headquarters marketing and development services; and Yvonne Hill, editor, The Ensign.

Report of the National Administrative Officer

V/C Frank A. Dvorak, SN, reported that the Leadership Development Committee presented the newest leadership seminar, “The True Essence of Leadership,” during the Norfolk Governing Board. He noted that squadrons have shown great interest in the leadership seminar, “Ten Ways to Get the Best out of Your Squadron.” The committee is updating the “District Job Descriptions” and “Squadron Job Descriptions” manuals and will include guidelines on how to encourage members to accept leadership and management roles.

The Member Benefits Committee is working with the Secretary’s Department on an incentive program in which renewing members will receive a 20 percent discount coupon for Ship’s Store purchases. The committee concluded an agreement with Kittery Trading Post to provide member discounts. An agreement was signed with Soundings Magazine that allows USPS members to purchase the magazine at a discounted rate.
V/C Dvorak reported receiving a $195,000 USCG grant to fund printing and distribution costs for manuals and CD-ROMs for Phase III of the WaterSmart from the Start Program.

The Membership Committee is working with the Planning Committee to implement the new Corporate Membership category.

The Membership Committee reported that the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary sent a letter on behalf of USPS to auxiliarists who chose not to continue their membership due to a security check requirement. These individuals can visit www.usps.org/php/membership/uscgaux.php to sign up and receive squadron contact information. They reported receiving approximately 20 inquiries to date.

The Membership Committee will provide member recruiting material for the 2008 Squadron Boating Course manual. The committee reported receiving an ongoing pledge from Superior Metal Products to fund the Boarman USPS National Youth Poster Contest.

The Membership Committee reported that as of 31 May 2007, 98 squadrons reported membership growth of more than 1 percent; District 16, District 27 and District 28 had a gain of more than 1 percent since 1 May 2006. For a complete list of Annual Membership Growth Award winners go to www.usps.org/national/membership/2006-2007_Success_Recognition_Growth.html.

The Squadron Activities Committee developed frequently asked questions for amateur radio, cruises and rendezvous, port captains, the Speaker’s Bureau and the educational cruise. FAQs will be published in the Compass.

The USPS Amateur Radio Club reported attending the 18-20 May 2007 Dayton Ham Radio Convention to promote amateur radio and recreational boating in conjunction with the American Radio Relay League.
The Government and Partner Relations Committee is requesting permission from USPS port captains to provide their contact information to the Marine Retailers Association of America.

V/C Dvorak reported a $1,125,000 balance in the Century Fund as of 31 July 2007. He thanked all members who had contributed to the Century Fund and noted that the Train the Trainer Program was funded by a Century Fund grant.

The national administrative officer reported on a District 21 resolution calling for USPS to open the boat insurance program to quotations and negotiations from qualified brokerage firms and property and casualty carriers or establish a fund similar to the Educational Fund that could be used to offset or help underwrite claims incurred by members. He reported that the national Bridge and R/C Luis Ojeda, SN, chairman, Member Benefits Committee, met with senior management of St. Paul Travelers Insurance during the 2007 Annual Meeting. St. Paul management explained that they were told by their reinsurers to reduce their risk in the Gulf region because they had too much exposure. V/C Dvorak reported that he met with representatives from the Insurance Co., of North America, the CEO of BoatU.S. and representatives from Zurich Insurance, who all said they were not interested in insuring boats in the Gulf region.

V/C Dvorak explained that these are individual polices and that USPS does not have a group policy with St. Paul Travelers. This means that USPS cannot move these policies to another insurance company.

The national administrative officer reported that the District 21 resolution called for establishing a fund that could be used to offset or help underwrite claims incurred by members. He stated that this would be illegal and is considered inurement. It could also adversely affect USPS’ 501(c)(3) status.
He also noted that St. Paul Travelers added a disclaimer to its ads in The Ensign stating:

In certain Atlantic and Gulf coastal states we are limited to quoting business for boats less than 10 years of age, and not more than 30' in length and $100,000 in value. As an alternative we can quote coverage excluding Named or Numbered storm damage.

V/C Dvorak stated that in light of these considerations the Operating Committee recommended that the Governing Board reject the District 21 resolution. The Governing Board DEFEATED the District 21 resolution. (2007-GB-3)

V/C Dvorak invited P/R/C Priscilla Clarke, AP, to present the 2007 P/C/C William D. Selden IV Member Involvement Retention awards. These awards are given to three districts and squadrons that submitted membership success stories:

Squadron Awards
3rd place - Patapsco River/5  
2nd place - Raritan Bay/4  
1st place - Cape Fear/27

District Awards
3rd place - District 5  
2nd place - District 28  
1st place - District 8.

V/C Dvorak invited P/D/C Lee Popham, AP, who, assisted by P/C/C Raymond A. Finley Jr., SN, and Jimmie Homburg, national commodore, BSA, Sea Scouts, presented the 2007 P/C/C Raymond A. Finley Jr., SN, Sea Scout Service Award to Lt. j.g. Katie Hagen, past national Sea Scout Service Award.
Scout boatswain, Doug Bowman, national Sea Scout boatswain and P/C Jack Cummins, AP, Fort Macon/27.

Report of the National Educational Officer

V/C Richard E. Kyle, SN, reported that member course attendance increased in the 2006-2007 educational year. He noted that the increase is due largely to the new Seamanship, Engine Maintenance and Junior Navigation courses and the continued interest in the revised Piloting and Advanced Piloting courses. V/C Kyle stated that these courses offer the latest in recreational boating technology and an opportunity for members to refresh their USPS educational knowledge.

V/C Kyle noted that squadrons reported teaching 5,000 fewer boating students in the 2006-2007 educational year. He stated that market conditions, the lack of promotion and fewer boating course classes being held had a direct impact on attendance. Squadrons taught 291 fewer classes, and 62 squadrons did not teach a boating class.

The national educational officer reported that sales of the new Seamanship course have tripled. The new course includes an appendix on combining the Seamanship, Piloting and Advanced Piloting courses to self-study for the USCG Captain’s License exam.

V/C Kyle reported that the new Engine Maintenance course is available at headquarters. The course covers the diagnosis of modern systems, the basics of engine layout and operation, basic repairs, how to diagnose problems, and how to describe engine problems to mechanics.

The national educational officer reported shipping more than 340 student kits and 160 instructor kits of the revised Junior Navigation course since April 2007. The course covers celestial navigation while focusing on obtaining running fixes from sun sights, how to use a
sextant to check global positioning in the event of a GPS failure, planning offshore voyages, and using electronic and navigator tools for offshore cruising.

V/C Kyle reported that the revised Weather course will be consolidated into one course. It will include weather graphics from the National Weather Service and from university meteorology departments.

He reported that two new seminars were released in July 2007: Boat Handling Under Power and Sail Trim. Boat Handling Under Power teaches how to handle and dock boats in and around harbors and how to trim and handle the boat under way. Sail Trim covers rigging and adjusting sails for optimum performance under way. Three more seminars should be available in fall 2007: Anchoring, Paddle Smart and Using Radar.

V/C Kyle reported that the Boat Operator Certification Program will offer four certification levels: Inshore, Coastal, Advanced Coastal and Offshore. He noted that the first level, Inland Navigator, will be available soon. He reported that eight members have completed a U.S. Sailing Safe Powerboat Certified Instructor Course to become USPS advanced certifiers. The advanced certifiers will train squadron certifiers who will observe and document skill demonstrations and help members with other aspects of the program. Squadron certifiers are qualified to teach the U.S. Sailing Safe Powerboat Handling on-the-water course, which will be offered to USPS members.

V/C Kyle reported that The Squadron Boating Course can be used to teach the 8- and 12-hour course formats. He said that this approach is a precursor to the 2008 Squadron Boating Course, which will contain both the short and longer courses in the same book. The new course will be released when current inventory is depleted, which is expected to be in April 2008.

V/C Kyle reminded squadrons that teaching aids are an essential element of USPS courses. He said that the “old-fashioned” teaching aid often gets the idea across when electronics
don’t. There are two general classes of teaching aids – electronic and traditional. National judging for electronic aids must be submitted by 1 Dec. 2007. Traditional aids must be delivered to the 2008 Annual Meeting in Dallas. Additional information is available at www.usps.org/national/eddept/id/idta.

The national educational officer reported that approximately 6,000 certified instructors have begun the recertification process. He said that USPS instructors are the base of the educational program.

V/C Kyle reported on the District 11 resolution, which states that USPS Piloting and Advanced Piloting courses (and) chart labeling always be in true degrees. He said that the compass used by most boaters for headings and bearings responds to magnetic north, and magnetic labeling reduces the chance of error by eliminating the need to perform real-time conversions between true and magnetic in coastal situations. V/C Kyle then made a recommendation that the Governing Board defeat the District 11 resolution. The Governing Board DEFEATED the District 11 resolution that USPS Piloting and Advanced Piloting Courses and Chart Labeling always be in True Degrees. (2007-GB-4)

Report of the National Executive Officer

V/C Creighton C. Maynard Jr., SN, reported that in accordance with the USPS Operations Manual, sections 12 and 5.10, the Governing Board dissolve Fairhope Sail & Power Squadron. The Governing Board ADOPTED the motion. (2007-GB-16)

The national executive officer called on R/C Robert A. Keller, SN, to present the 2007 Bowsprit awards. R/C Keller stated that these awards are given to qualifying districts that experience yearly growth in total active membership, boating course registration, squadron educational program graduates, vessel safety checks, Cooperative Charting and active member retention. members. Four districts received the 2007 Bowsprit Award: districts 19, 21, 27 and
V/C Maynard reported on a District 2 resolution to 1) modify in wording the USPS Mission Statement to include the development of boating skills in members as one of the objectives; 2) modify the wording in the Educational Goal of the Strategic Plan so as to include the development of boating skills in members as one of the objectives; 3) modify the wording in Article 2, Objects, of the USPS Bylaws, so as to include the instructions of boating safety as one of the Objects of USPS; and 4) establish as policy that all USPS publications include the development of boating skills and boating safety. He said that the resolution was presented to the Governing Board during the 2007 Annual Meeting and was assigned to the Operating Committee. V/C Maynard moved that, with the concurrence of the District 2 commander, the Operating Committee be allowed additional time to consider the resolution and to report back to the Governing Board during the 2008 Annual Meeting in Dallas. The Governing Board ADOPTED the motion. (2007-GB-17)

The Government and Partner Relations Committee reported that the Operating Committee approved a USPS Position Statement Regarding the Water Ballast Issue. The committee is working with district liaison officers on the additional responsibilities of Homeland Security assignments. Committee members represented USPS at the National Watch Groups Summit, the Citizen Corps Annual Meeting and the USCG Small Vessel Security Conference.

The Squadron Development Committee reported that four provisional squadrons are working toward receiving their charter: Colonial Provisional Squadron/5, The Valley Sail & Power Provisional Squadron/13, Kankakee Valley Provisional Squadron/20 and South Bay Provisional Squadron/28.

The Recreational Boating Safety Committee reported that PFD showboards were distributed to districts to display in local marine stores. The committee is continuing to work with the USCG on the America’s Waterway Watch Program. Squadrons are encouraged to
submit their Squadron Safety Officer’s Reports to achieve 100 percent participation in the 2007 Safety Honor Roll Status.

The Cooperative Charting Committee reported that CCWeb is up and encouraged members to submit their reports to achieve Honor Roll Status. A PowerPoint presentation on Depth Wiz is available on CCWeb at www.ccweb.noaa.gov/ccweb.

The Vessel Safety Check Committee reported that vessel safety checks are ahead by 22 percent compared to one year ago. The committee announced a contest to mark the 60th anniversary of the Vessel Safety Check Program. For every 20 inspections a vessel examiner reports he or she will be entered in a contest to win a berth on board the USCG Eagle. The drawing will be held at the 2008 Annual Meeting. Details are available on the committee’s website at www.usps.org/national/vsc/eagleberth07.html.

The Vessel Safety Check Committee reported on an inflatable life jacket loaner program in conjunction with the USCG Office of Boating Safety. Squadrons will be loaned inflatable life jackets for wear by boating course instructors and vessel examiners. Additional details will be posted on the committee’s website.

The Environmental Committee reported receiving an Educational Fund grant to publish 55,000 copies of the Environmental Best Practices for Boaters brochure and to distribute 100 copies to each squadron. These brochures include information on best practices, how to address trash and sewage, fueling and spills, vessel maintenance, aquatic environmental awareness, and marine environment stewardship. Additional copies are available at headquarters and can be ordered free plus shipping and handling fees. At the 2008 Annual Meeting, the committee will recognize participating squadrons with awards for the largest piece of debris recovered, the most unusual debris recovered, the most disgusting debris recovered, the funniest debris recovered and the most participants. The USPS Environmental Poster is available for download at www.usps.org/national/envcom. For updates on federal and state marine aquatic laws go to
Report of the Past Chief Commander

P/C/C G. Leslie Johnson, SN, reviewed the actions taken by the OCom during its meetings held from 5-8 Sept. 2007.


2. A motion approving the minutes of the 14 April and 8-9 June 2007 OCom meetings. (2007-OC-44)

3. A motion to accept a $68,425 bid from Baker Roofing to repair the USPS headquarters building roof. (2007-OC-45)

4. A motion to finance the headquarters building roof repairs with a loan from Wachovia, no prepayment penalty, for five years at a fixed rate of 7.56 percent. (2007-OC-46)

5. A motion to increase the 2007 headquarters’ budget salary line item by $10,000 to upgrade a vacant accounting position, contingent on obtaining a satisfactory replacement. (2007-OC-47)

6. A motion authorizing obtaining bids and negotiating contracts to fulfill the conditions of the USCG Office of Boating Safety Watersmart from the Start Grant in the amount of $170,000 in direct costs and $25,000 in indirect costs in accordance with USPS procedures for obtaining bids. All contracts are subject to final approval of USCG Office.
of Boating Safety based upon those figures shown in the revised budget estimates and USPS LawCom approval of the final contract. (2007-OC-48)

7. A motion to sign a corporate resolution to authorize purchasing a certificate of deposit at First Trade Union Bank and State Farm Bank. (2007-OC-49)

8. A motion amending the 2008 budget mailed to Governing Board members to increase other revenue by $28,000, to increase the headquarters payroll/contract work line item from $698,500 to $708,500, and to increase the building and grounds maintenance line item from $27,000 to $45,000. (2007-OC-50)

Governing Board members ADOPTED P/C/C Johnson’s motion to ratify the action items of the 5-8 Sept. 2007 Operating Committee meetings. (2007-GB-18)

Report of the Chief Commander

C/C Ernest G. Marshburn, SN, reported that since the 2007 Annual Meeting national efforts have focused on several primary objectives, including restructuring governance, maintaining good stewardship of finances, increasing membership through a more aggressive Reach Out and Touch campaign, and increasing exposure through USPS University.

C/C Marshburn noted that one of the most significant challenges USPS faces is modernizing organizational governance to successfully and effectively compete for membership, core product utilization and product development resources. He noted that the current governance structure as described in the USPS Bylaws and Operations Manual is cumbersome, resistant to change, expensive to administer and inefficient in dealing with the competitive pressures in today’s nonprofit world. He said that USPS must take steps toward a leaner and more efficient governing structure to maintain its position as America’s recreational boating leader.
The chief reported that USPS finances are improving thanks to the continuing efforts, sacrifices and financial contributions of USPS members. He noted that 2007 will be the second consecutive year ending with a balanced budget and with revenues exceeding expenses. He also noted that the dues simplification strategy – reducing the complexity of USPS membership to two categories - is operating smoothly and effectively, and more importantly the number of early renewals was greater this year than last.

C/C Marshburn stated that the Reach Out and Touch initiative focused on the personal touch when interacting with both members and the public. He said that national leaders have stopped preaching from behind the podium and instituted interactive town hall meetings to facilitate broader group discussions. He stated that the goal remains one of being more responsive to member concerns, questions and interests.

He reported that whenever practical Operating Committee meetings will be held in conjunction with district conferences to enhance the communications flow between local members and national leaders.

The chief reported that USPS leadership continues to focus on the educational waiver and the Experienced Boaters Exam programs, which offer squadrons expedited pathways for organizational growth. He encouraged members to invite their friends to join the USPS family-oriented community. He encouraged squadrons to teach more public boating classes and USPS University seminars and to offer advanced grade courses to new members.

C/C Marshburn noted that USPS’ greatest strength is its squadrons. He noted that a series of concurrent breakout sessions were first held during the 2006 Governing Board Meeting in New York and continued at the Norfolk Governing Board Meeting. He said these sessions provide local USPS members an opportunity to share their special expertise or experiences with others at national meetings.
The chief reported that USPS University offers courses on topics that are interesting to both members and the recreational boating public. These courses teach traditional to modern navigation techniques tailored to meet the needs of the beginning boaters while building advanced skill levels for experienced boaters. He noted that USPS University is recognized by an increasing number of recreational boating partners and is laying the foundation for documented USPS credentials that will be nationally recognized.

C/C Marshburn closed by saying that USPS is and continues to be relevant. He noted that the challenge was to find new ways to appeal to and meet the needs of today’s boaters through new educational programs and services.

Report of the USPS Educational Fund

Russell K. Gray, chairman, reported that the USPS Educational Fund assets totaled $2.75 million. He reported that the trustees approved grant requests totaling $185,000 during the previous two years to fund USPS University, the *Environmental Best Practices for Boaters* brochure and certification training.

Report of the National Boating Federation

P/V/C Robert P. David, SN, USPS’ representative to the National Boating Federation, reported that NBF and USPS partnered again to present the 12th annual Excellence in Public Boating Education Award. He noted that beginning in 2007 presentation certificates will be awarded to the top three squadrons in each district that meet the 90 percent ratio of students examined to active membership totals. He reported that 53 squadrons would receive certificates.

P/V/C David reported that NBF participated in the Small Vessel Security Summit sponsored by the USCG. NBF is also working to resolve the water ballast discharge issue, which mandates that recreational vessels be treated the same as large commercial ones. NBF also
continues to support LORAN as a backup to GPS.

P/V/C David reported that he attended the European Boating Association General Assembly in April 2007, which focused on the International Certification of Competency, small vessel’s security concerns, a proposed change to the International Regulations for Avoiding Collisions at Sea, traffic separation schemes in major ports, offshore wind farms and their impact on recreational boat navigation, marine litter, and the disposal of old boats.

**Report of the National Safe Boating Council**

R/C William E. Husted, SN, presented a report on behalf of USPS’ NSBC representative, P/R/C Joyce F. Shaw, AP.

P/R/C Shaw announced that NSBC will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2008. Festivities will begin at the 2008 International Boating and Water Safety Summit and special activities are planned in conjunction with the Congressional Reception and the North American Safe Boating Campaign. NSBC is also producing a book, *A History of Recreational Boating Safety*, scheduled to be released in September 2008 during the NASBLA Annual Meeting. Information on USPS’ contributions to recreational boating will be included.

P/R/C Shaw reported that the Recreational Boating Safety Grant Program will not be offered in 2008 due to lack of funding. The Boating Education Advancement Award is seeking a new sponsor for 2008.

The Boating Safety Youth Program Award sponsored by BoatU.S. rewards the program that most successfully targets youth. The award carries a $2,500 prize and includes an all-expense paid trip to the International Boating and Water Safety Summit.
The OMC “Take ‘em Boating” grant is sponsored by Outboard Marine Corp. This $5,000 grant is presented to a worthy recipient that promotes on-the-water activities and instruction for children.

For additional details on NSBC grants, contests, and the 2008 IBWSS in San Diego, Calif., visit the website at www.safeboatingcouncil.org.

USPS Jewish Lay Leader Gail Nachman, SN, delivered the benediction; the colors were retired; and C/C Marshburn adjourned the meeting at 1430.

V/C Robert A. Baldridge, SN
National Secretary
ADOPTED

1. A motion to ratify the actions of the Operating Committee reflected in the minutes of its meetings held 14 April and 9 June 2007. The Governing Board ADOPTED the motion. (2007-GB-4)


4. A motion to elect general members of the Governing Board. (2007-GB-7)

5. A motion to elect an assistant chairmen of the National Government and Partner Relations Committee. (2007-GB-8)

6. A motion to elect an assistant chairmen of the Environmental Committee. (2007-GB-9)


8. A motion that the dues for a single regular active member total $35.40 (a $1.80 increase), effective in the spring of 2008 for the 2009 dues year. (2007-GB-11)
9. A motion to approve the 2008 budget. (2007-GB-12)

10. A motion to rename Cedar Rapids Power Squadron to Four Rivers Sail & Power Squadron. (2007-GB-13)

11. A motion to amend the motion on the floor by striking “and approve” from Section 5.2.11 so that it would read: Section 5.2.11 Fix all national dues and modify the national budget. (2007-GB-14)

12. A motion to approve new Bylaws as amended to take effect upon convening the 2008 Annual Meeting in Dallas (2007-GB-15)


14. A motion authorizing the Operating Committee additional time to consider the District 2 resolution that would modify the USPS Mission Statement, Educational Goal of the Strategic Plan, Article 2, Objects, of the USPS Bylaws, and establish as policy that all USPS publications include the development of boating skills and boating safety. The Operating Committee will report back to the Governing Board during the 2008 Annual Meeting in Dallas. (2007-GB-17)

15. A motion to ratify the action items of the 5-8 Sept. 2007 Operating Committee meetings. (2007-GB-18)

DEFEATED

1. A motion to table the amendment to proposed USPS Bylaws, Section 5.3. (2007-GB-1)
2. A motion to amend proposed USPS Bylaws, Section 5.3 as previously approved. (2007-GB-2)

3. A District 21 resolution calling for USPS to open the boat insurance program to quotations and negotiations from qualified brokerage firms and property and casualty carriers or establish a fund similar to the Educational Fund that could be used to offset or help underwrite claims incurred by members. (2007-GB-3)

4. A District 11 resolution that USPS Piloting and Advanced Piloting courses and Chart Labeling always be in true degrees. (2007-GB-4)