



A COMMITTEE ON RULES REPORT

2007 ANNUAL MEETING

The National Bylaws were amended at the Annual Meeting in three areas. The first of them deals with the authority of the Operating Committee to make financial changes between governing board meetings. This entailed the addition of a new “subsection” to section 5.3.1 (underlined as 5.3.1a below) so that the section now reads:

5.3.1 The Operating Committee shall carry on such routine business of USPS between meetings of the Governing Board as the Governing Board itself might transact in regular session, except that the Operating Committee shall not: (1) Change the composition of the Governing Board or of the Operating Committee; or (2) amend these bylaws.

5.3.1a The Operating Committee may authorize budget reductions and transfers between budget accounts, and may approve supplemental appropriations of not more than \$10,000 after receiving a report from the Finance Committee (see section 5.7.2a.)

The Rationale for this addition to the bylaws is that the Operating Committee must carry on the routine business of USPS. Most of that routine business involves the financial affairs of our organization. Appropriations in the annual budget cannot anticipate every need, and line items in the budget may need to be added or increased. Other items may need to be reduced to stay within projected income.

The second area concerned the establishing of “Corporate Memberships.” A new section (3.11) was added and two other sections were modified to adjust their wording to accommodate the additional class of membership. After the amendments were approved, the three sections now read as follows (changes italicized and underlined:)

3.1 There shall be five classes of members, namely, active members, family members, apprentice members, corporate members and honorary members. Active members shall have all the privileges of membership in USPS while the other classes of members shall have limited privileges as noted below.

3.4 An application for active, family, associate or apprentice membership must be endorsed by one or more active members before being presented to an Executive Committee for final action. Admission to membership shall require a majority vote of Executive Committee members present at a duly constituted meeting thereof.

3.11 Corporate members shall be entities having an interest in boating safety or recreational boating. Corporate members shall pay such dues and entrance fees as may be set by the Governing Board. Corporate members may not vote, hold office, participate in local

activities or enroll for member courses. A corporate representative may wear the member's pin. Corporate members may be admitted by majority vote of the Operating Committee.

The additions to 3.1 and 3.4 are “housekeeping” additions to accommodate the changes. It should also be noted that corporate members are admitted only by the Operating Committee, not by either squadron or district.

The third change merely reflects the shift of numbers to make all of Section **3.11** and its subsections as section **3.12**, (ff.)

A fourth action relates to the 3 year waiver of the boating course examination as a prerequisite for membership. This was passed after lengthy discussion, by a greater than 2/3 majority vote.

*For a thorough study of the rationale behind this waiver we suggest you link to
< http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/messages/exam_waiver.htm >*