

Call to Order: Date/Time      May 1, 2025 / 8:02 PM

**Bridge Officers & Assistants (6)**

|                                    |                           |                                    |           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Commander - 2025                   | ☆ <a href="#">E236934</a> | D/C* Robert A. Hlubin, <u>JN</u>   | Ft. Worth |
| Administrative Officer - 2025      | ☆                         |                                    |           |
| Educational Officer - 2025         | ☆ <a href="#">E258837</a> | D/Lt/C Alan W. Cross, <u>JN-IN</u> | Houston   |
| Executive Officer - 2025           | ☆ <a href="#">E286447</a> | D/Lt/C* Amy L. Taylor, S           | Houston   |
| Secretary - 2025                   | ☆ <a href="#">E233435</a> | D/Lt/C Allison Rothermel-Browne, S | Ft. Worth |
| Treasurer - 2025                   | ☆ <a href="#">E224573</a> | D/Lt/C* Linda F. Lopez, S          | Ft. Worth |
| <b>Past District Commander (1)</b> |                           |                                    |           |
| Past District Commander - 2025     | ☆ <a href="#">E255808</a> | D/C Susie Becvar, <u>JN-IN</u>     | Ft. Worth |

**Squadron Commanders in District 21 (7)**

|                           |                           |                                       |                         |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Squadron Commander - 2025 | ☆ <a href="#">E216378</a> | Linda F. Lopez, S                     | Ft. Worth               |
| Squadron Commander - 2025 | ☆ <a href="#">E227178</a> | Cdr Richard T. Robinson, <u>JN</u>    | Galveston Bay           |
| Squadron Commander - 2025 | ☆ <a href="#">E307814</a> | Cdr Roger H. Runnels, <u>PC</u>       | Houston                 |
| Squadron Commander - 2025 | ☆ <a href="#">E309178</a> | Cdr Fredrick Werquin                  | Lake Charles            |
| Squadron Commander - 2025 | ☆ <a href="#">E181960</a> | Cdr Christine G. Rakestraw, <u>AP</u> | Lower Rio Grande Valley |
| Squadron Commander - 2025 | ☆ <a href="#">E171023</a> | Cdr Mike Ellis                        | Oklahoma City           |
| Squadron Commander - 2025 | ☆ <a href="#">E176891</a> | Cdr Tony Gobernatz Jr., P             | San Antonio             |
| Squadron Commander - 2025 |                           | William Burger                        | Shreveport              |

**Others in Attendance**

Charles Scott, E162009

Jim Hammond, E143814

Mailin LaPlace, E283417

Shreya Satish Youth – 15 minute discussion to adults, explained what Sea Scouts, how ABC can help and why she is presenting – speech was well received

**General Committee Chairs:**

**Nominating:**

1 Year P/D/C Glenn C. Snell, SN

2 Year P/D/C Steve Baker, JN

3 Year P/D/C Susie Becvar, JN-IN

**Rules:**

1 Year Lt/C Monica Cross, AP

2 Year Vacant/TBD  
3 Year Vacant/TBD

**Audit**

1 Year Cdr Christine Rakestraw, AP  
2 Year P/D/Lt/C Hilton Dickerson, AP-IN  
3 Year Cdr Linda Galle, AP

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Completed

**Invocation:** Roger

**Determination of quorum for Council Meeting, Section 5.7:**

- $6+1+8+3=18/2=9$  Total Council Members- requires  $\frac{1}{2} = 9$  Yes/No

**Approval of Minutes of Preceding Meeting:**

- The April Minutes were posted to D 21 Webpage, and reviewed by Board Members, no quorum so not approved

**Administrative Department D/Lt/C Open**

Open any suggestions EX is taking over

**Executive Department D/Lt/C Amy Taylor, S**

D21 Rendezvous was a huge success, Amy Taylor was asking if we should plan on having one in 2026. The consensus was yes; however, it was suggested not during Spring Break or Holy Week. Some people suggested sending out the Schedule of Events earlier and some said they never received it. I think we should confirm that Smallwood has a list of everyone's email address

**Treasurer's Department: D/Lt/C Linda F. Lopez, S**

Not on call.

Educational Department D/Lt/C Alan Cross, JN-IN



May 2025  
D21 Executive Committee Meeting

**Report from the District Education Officer**

*"Take talented people on their own terms and treat them fairly and with respect, no matter who they are or where they come from." - Quincy Jones*

• **Active Class List for District 21 Sorted by Squadron**

|               |    |               |
|---------------|----|---------------|
| Galveston Bay | P  | Closed        |
| Galveston Bay | AP | Open          |
| Houston       | N  | Exams Pending |
| Houston       | BH | Graded        |
| Houston       | SA | Graded        |
| Oklahoma City | P  | Exams Ordered |

**Austin**, No Class data, add data using the 800 Form

**Ft. Worth**, No Class data, add data using the 800 Form

**Lake Charles**, No Class data, add data using the 800 Form

**Lower Rio Grande Valley**, No Class data, add data using the 800 Form

**San Antonio**, No Class data, add data using the 800 Form

**Shreveport**, No Class data, add data using the 800 Form

• **Active Boating Course List for District 21 Sorted by Squadron**

|                         |               |        |       |         |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|---------|
| Houston                 | Sat 11 JAN 25 | ABC-08 | 35/35 | Rptd    |
| Houston                 | Sat 01 FEB 25 | ABC-08 | 35/35 | Rptd    |
| Houston                 | Sat 01 MAR 25 | ABC-08 | 35/35 | Rptd    |
| Houston                 | Sat 05 APR 25 | ABC-08 | 35/35 | Rptd    |
| Houston                 | Sat 03 MAY 25 | ABC-08 | 35/35 | Open    |
| Houston                 | Sat 07 JUN 25 | ABC-08 | 35/35 | Open    |
| Houston                 | Sat 12 JUL 25 | ABC-08 | 35/35 | Open    |
| Houston                 | Sat 02 AUG 25 | ABC-08 | 35/35 | Open    |
| Houston                 | Sat 06 SEP 25 | ABC-08 | 35/35 | Open    |
| Houston                 | Sat 04 OCT 25 | ABC-08 | 35/35 | Open    |
| Houston                 | Sat 01 NOV 25 | ABC-08 | 35/35 | Open    |
| Houston                 | Sat 10 JAN 26 | ABC-08 | 35/35 | Open    |
| Lower Rio Grande Valley | Sat 13 JAN 24 | ABC-08 | 40/40 | NotRptd |
| Lower Rio Grande Valley | Sat 07 MAR 20 | ABC-08 | 40/40 | NotRptd |

- **Progress at the National Level**

- New *Battery* seminar is developed. I have not (yet) been able to get a copy. When a copy is available, it will go to the DC's and SEO's. The inquiries to get a Beta copy have not reached the correct person – I'll keep trying.
- The National Education Department reduced the in-person delivered seminar pricing to \$10 per student. This makes it cost effective for a Squadron to deliver seminars to a local audience for a reasonable price and make a few dollars to support the local Squadron.

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- **Focus at the District and Squadron Level**

- The focus this year will still continue with the BoC (*Boat Operator Certificate*) process. This certification process has a focus:
  - There are specific classes, seminars and skills for each level,
  - This provides a guided course of study suitable for a newer boater,
  - Progress is reported to the individual, and
  - There can be a 'friendly' competition among Squadrons
- Many members of your Squadron are already qualified or nearly qualified for any one or more of the four (4) levels of certification. Squadron Education Officers and/or Commanders can go to the National website at **Info Center -> Other Tools -> BOC Tools** and run a query for an individual. You will use the Candidate Review selection.

- **Issues With Program Delivery of On-The-Water Training and Activities**

- The insurance issue has limited a Squadrons ability to deliver training
- Several Squadrons are evaluating options to get people on-the-water
- There is some almost good news, and Squadrons can back to on-the-water programs, with some caveats. Click this link on the National website to read all the details, but some of the highlights are listed here:

*Insurance Update (April 24, 2025):*

*ABC/USPS Law Officer Ruth Witztum advises that our Marine Liability policy language now adequately covers our On-Water Guides, Hands-On Training, and Boat Operator Certification programs.*

*If you are planning an on-water training or certification event, you must use coaches and certifiers who are listed by name on the Marine Liability policy for the waters on which your event will be conducted.*

- There are some seemingly unsurmountable issues, to include:
  - ✓ Marine waiver forms
  - ✓ A certificate of insurance document to be completed by the boat owner's insurance company and submitted to National for each boat prior to its use in training/certifications events. This document must show that "USPS and its instructors" are named as "additional insured" on the policy.
  - ✓ Certificate of Insurance Request for Venues
  - ✓ Medical record for each trainer/certifier
  - ✓ No trainer/certifier over the age of 80 is allowed.

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- **Progress at the National Level (continued)**

- All SEOs and Squadron Bridge members are invited to the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month teleconference with the NEO/DEO/SEO's. The meeting begins 7PM local time, and lasts exactly 60 minutes.

- **Good News**

Steve Baker (Ft. Worth) and Frank Amsler (Houston) are two of 3 persons who've submitted their examination papers and calculations for the Navigation course. We are all waiting patiently for the results. If the scores are based upon the number of sheets, the weight of the papers, the amount of graphite used, and the number of white erasers used – then they will pass!

- **Bad News**

The Houston Squadron delivered a course, exams were taken and returned, but the course "disappeared" from the HQ-800 database system. There were other issues, but everything was turned over to USPS HQ staff to figure out what happened and to correct all the issues. This is not a good way to keep new members in a Squadron.

- **Ugly News**

Old Website vs. New Website = Issues Across the Board

This addresses a major issue for every Squadron – it must be addressed by your Squadron

- There is a serious disconnect between the old website data and the new iMIS site, to include:

- Many students' historical information is not transferred to the new website
- Different "E" numbers are generated, and HQ can correct, but you have to discover that there is an issue
- All based off of the Membership issues
- EACH SQUADRON MUST HAVE AN SEO because without an SEO on the record (and this is also a major disconnect as just discovered) to

- Setting up classes

- Entering students

- Ordering examinations

- Getting the results of the examinations

No matter what method that your Squadron used to report new Bridge Officers for 2025, assume that the information at USPS HQ is not correct. You must check iMIS and if the right Bridge Officers are not listed – THEY DO NOT EXIST.



D/LtC Alan W Cross, IN-JN

**Secretary's Department: D/Lt/C Allison Rothermel-Browne, S**

Pasted April Minutes on the District 21 Web Site, several people have read them  
Added everyone's position to the iMis System

**Commander's Department: Cdr Robert A. Hlubin, JN**

- 1) If you need name tags contact Bill Galle,
- 2) Need to find commanders in iMis
- 3) Fall District Conference what is Status – Jim said Galveston Commander on the road and they will discuss at next meeting
- 4) Asking for volunteers for the next 2 conferences
- 5) Houston confirmed they would host D21 Spring Conference in 2026
- 6) Chris Rakestraw will send list of Squadron Commanders

**Audit Committee**

**New Business**

**Action Items**

Galveston Bay to setup a flare event and invite D21 members to attend, may request District cover indemnity insurance at around \$300, Bill Galle requested Galveston Bay provide budget and quotes

**Adjourn:** 905 PM