

## V/C Ben Coons, JN-CN

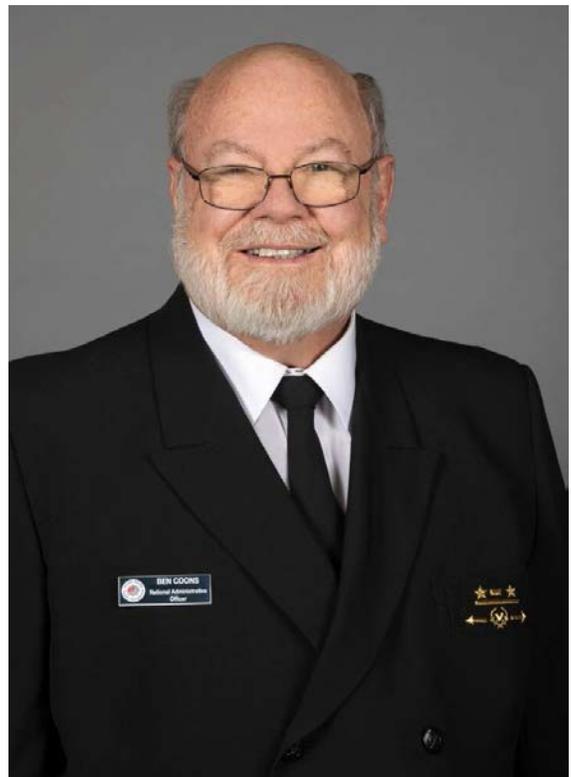
V/C Coons joined the Board of Directors as National Administrative Officer in February 2018. Ben and his wife Marie make their home in Prior Lake Minnesota (30 minutes south of Minneapolis). P/D/C Marie Coons, P is also very active in USPS having served as both squadron and district commander. Ben and Marie purchased their first boat in 1993 and joined USPS shortly after that. With his aviation background, Ben expected to take some sort of written exam and associated “check ride” before taking delivery of their 34-foot, twin screw 700 hp, five-ton boat. They were relieved to find the St. Paul Sail and Power Squadron and its boating courses and have been “true believers” ever since Ben and Marie currently are boating on Lake Michigan, where they put their USPS training to good use cruising the “Inland Seas.” Prior to that, they spent 22 years exploring the Mississippi River out of Red Wing Minnesota. Their current boat is a 42-foot Ocean Alexander named Oh! My Marie.

Ben has served District 10 as Administrative Officer, Executive Officer and District Commander. At the National level, Ben has served on the Squadron Development Committee, the Committee on Nominations and the National Meetings Committee. Most recently Ben chaired the National Finance Committee.

Ben was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. He served in the US Navy as a aircrewman on an anti-submarine aircraft, which included being involved in 85 carrier missions. Ben has held a commercial pilot license for 50 years with multi-engine and instrument endorsements; he also holds flight and ground instructor certificates.

Ben’s professional life has been in the radio communications arena, working for Motorola, and starting his own family owned business in 1988, which he passed on to his son in late 2013.

Ben helped establish Hiawatha Valley Sail and Power Squadron as one of the first Provisional Squadrons chartered in 2000. At his Squadron, Ben currently serves as Education Officer and previously served as Commander. Ben was also the first Commander and a charter member of Chippewa Valley Sail and Power Squadron in Eau Claire, WI (Squadron is retired).



Ben and Marie have attended more than 40 National Meetings and have 27 consecutive Merit Marks.