

D-7 District Commander's Challenge – 2015

D-7's District Commander's Challenge is meant to recognize squadron excellence. It is based on the USPS Bowsprit criteria, adapted to the squadron level. It compares squadron performance for the calendar year, Jan 1 - Dec 31, to the previous year. This packet summarizes final results for 2015.

The District Commander's Challenge compares each squadron's performance in six different areas: Membership, Member Retention, Public Boating Class Registrations, Member Education (both Advanced and Elective Grades), VSC, and Coop Charting.

Past winners were Stark County (2006), Kanawha (2007), Akron (2008), Mid Ohio Valley (2009), Berea (2010), Rocky River (2011), and Akron (2012, 2013, 2014).

Details of the award and criteria are on the D7 web site.

Congratulations to winner Vermilion, second place Akron, third place – a tie – Stark County and Mansfield, and fifth place Pittsburgh. Only one point separated Akron, Stark, and Mansfield.

I encourage each squadron to review this summary of their performance for 2015, and use it to set goals for improvement in 2016. Please refer to the spreadsheet summarizing this data in the seat packet.

Category 1. Membership

Comparing December 31, 2015 to the previous year, **Vermilion** had membership growth of 22%, Pittsburgh 9%, and Mid Ohio Valley, 6%. **Akron** continues to be the largest squadron in D7, and is one of the largest in USPS.

On the downside, D7 lost about 8% of its members. Two squadrons did not recruit a new member in 2015 – in fact, they have no members who've joined since 2007. **Here is a summary of new members recruited in 2015.**

- Akron – 21
- Berea - 6
- Cleveland - 0
- Kanawha River - 4
- Mansfield - 4
- Mid Ohio Valley - 1
- Pittsburgh - 11
- Rocky River - 4
- South Hills - 0
- Stark County - 2
- Ten Mile - 1
- Vermilion - 10

Category 2. Boating class registrations

Squadrons exceeding their 2014 performance were **Stark County** (enrollment increased to 300% of 2014), **Mansfield**, (200%), **Vermilion** (88%), and **Akron** (3%). **Akron** taught the most ABC students. **Overall**, however, D7 had about 12% fewer students than last year.

There were four squadrons who did not teach an ABC class in 2014. Of these, one hasn't taught ABC since 2009, and another since 2011.

The ABC class should be a major source of new members for your squadron – scheduling ABC is an important strategy for membership growth.

Category 3. Member Education, both Advanced and Elective grades

Akron had the most AG graduates, and represented over 60% of D7 AG grads. **Akron** also had the most EG graduates. Overall, D7 taught fewer AG students, but 50% more EG students.

On the negative side, three squadrons haven't had an advanced or elective class completion since 2011. If 90% of our members join for Education, these squadrons are missing an opportunity.

Category 4. Member Retention

Member Retention is one of the most important statistics for a squadron. It is an indicator of "**Member Satisfaction**". If our classes and activities are effective, we would expect members to show their approval by renewing.

Three squadrons had 100% retention – Vermilion (62 members), South Hills (29 members), and Mid Ohio (18 members). Nine squadrons surpassed 90% for member retention. On the whole, D7 had 92% retention, three percent better than last year.

Category 5. Vessel Examinations (VSC)

Pittsburgh led D7 with a 91% increase in VSC's over last year, with Vermilion increasing by (33%). Overall, however, D7's VSC's decreased by 36% vs 2014.

South Hills continues to lead the District in VSC's for 2015. **Nationally, South Hills was 2nd among all USPS squadrons.**

Category 6. Cooperative Charting

It was a good year for D7 in Coop Charting. **D7 more than tripled its credits over last year, and was 5th among all USPS districts.**

Stark County, Akron, Mansfield, Vermilion, South Hills, Kanawha, Berea, and Cleveland increased their performance over 2014. **Stark received more than four times the credits of 2014. Stark, Akron, Mansfield, and Vermilion** achieved "Honor Roll" status from NOS. **Stark County Power Squadron** continues to lead D-7 in Co-op Charting, and was 2nd in USPS. **Akron** was 30th in USPS.

The summary for the D-7 Commander's Challenge for 2015:

Ranking, Final 2015					
rank	points		rank	points	
1	45	Vermilion	7	16	South Hills
2	30	Akron	8	11	Cleveland
3	29	Mansfield	8	11	Rocky River
3	29	Stark County	10	8	Berea
5	25	Pittsburgh	11	6	Kanawha River
6	23	Mid Ohio Valley	11	6	Ten Mile

*Compiled by P/D/C Brian Logan, SN
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