

## **DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE AWARD AND PROGRAM**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the **District 7 Commander's Challenge** Award is to implement a program, which addresses the needs of the Squadrons and District 7, as they relate to increasing total membership, educational completions and member involvement. The award will recognize those Squadrons based on goal attainment, as outlined with the program rules. This recognition is patterned after the National USPS Bowsprit Program.

### **PROGRAM GOALS**

Each Squadron program goal is based on the actual performance results for the preceding twelve months, ending 31 December. The objectives of the program are to (A) Provide a measurable and acceptable standard of performance and (B) Provide meaningful and tangible recognition.

#### **GOAL #1 Total Membership (See Note A)**

Equal To Previous Year 100% earns FIVE POINTS  
Greater Than or Equal To 101% earns SIX POINTS  
Greater Than or Equal To 102% earns EIGHT POINTS  
Greater Than or Equal To 103% earns TEN POINTS

#### **GOAL # 2 Total ABC registrations (See Note B)**

Equal To Previous Year 100% earns FIVE POINTS  
Greater Than or Equal To 105% earns SIX POINTS  
Greater Than or Equal To 110% earns EIGHT POINTS  
Greater Than or Equal To 120% earns TEN POINTS  
A Bonus of FIVE POINTS will be awarded if the total registrations equal or exceed the Squadron's membership, i.e. one student per each member.

#### **GOAL #3 Educational Program Graduates Exceeding Prior Year (See Note C)**

TWO POINTS will be awarded for EACH Advanced Grade course, when the completions for the current year exceed the completions for the prior year, up to TEN POINTS.  
ONE POINT will be awarded for EACH Elective course, when the completions for the current year exceed the completions for the prior year, up to SIX POINTS.

Each course is considered separately (i.e., if you had 0 JN last year, and 2 JN this year, you get two points, even if the total number of advanced grades – S, P, AP, JN, N – is less than last year)

#### **GOAL #4 Total Membership Retention (See Note D)**

Greater Than or Equal To 85% earns FIVE POINTS  
Greater Than or Equal To 90% earns SIX POINTS  
Greater Than or Equal To 95% earns EIGHT POINTS  
Greater Than or Equal To 100% earns TEN POINTS

#### **GOAL #5 Total Vessel Safety Checks [VSC] (See Note E)**

Greater Than or Equal To 100% earns TWO POINTS  
Greater Than or Equal To 105% earns FOUR POINTS  
Greater Than or Equal To 110% earns SIX POINTS

#### **GOAL #6 Total Cooperative Charting credits (See Note F)**

Greater Than or Equal To 100% earns TWO POINTS  
Greater Than or Equal To 105% earns FOUR POINTS  
Greater Than or Equal To 110% earns SIX POINTS  
A Bonus of THREE POINTS will be awarded if the squadron(s) earns Honor Roll status from National Ocean Service, NOAA.

## **PROGRAM RULES**

1. The purpose of these rules is to measure each category, to the extent possible, in the way that Districts are measured for the Bowsprit. Membership numbers, Public Boating Statistics, and VSC's are taken from the published Headquarters reports. Advanced and Elective Grades are determined from course completion data in DB2000. Co-op Charting statistics are taken from the USPS / NOAA web site. Points are assigned for each goal as defined above.
2. The program inclusive annual dates are 1 Jan through 31 December, except as noted.
3. All percentage calculations are rounded to the nearest whole percent, i.e. 93.4%=93%, 93.5%=94%.
4. The **Commander's Challenge Award** goes to the Squadron with the greatest amount of points.

In the event of a tie for Trophy winner, the squadrons tied with the greatest number of points share the award.

## **PROGRAM NOTES**

Squadron officers can consult USPS Headquarters reports for specific data. For reference, these sources are summarized at the end of this document.

This data will be compiled and presented at the Fall and Spring conference. The Award will be made at the Spring Conference for the previous calendar year. USPS Headquarters statistics are used for Total Membership, Total Boating Course registrations, Total Educational Program graduates, and Vessel Safety Checks. Credits for Cooperative Charting will be compiled from statistics provided by National Ocean Service, NOAA. These totals, by squadron, become the basis upon which performance during the program period will be measured in relation to the next twelve month period, as specified in Notes A through F.

**Note A.** Under the "unification of membership" at National, all squadron members will be counted (except Women Certificates). Total Membership as of 31 December will be measured against the preceding twelve month period on USPS Headquarters records. Trial Members are included in this number.

**Note B.** The actual Total Boating/BoatSmart and ABC course registrations of the squadrons as of 31 December will be measured against the preceding twelve month period on USPS Headquarters records from the ED-800 reports.

**Note C.** The actual Total Educational program graduates of the squadrons as of 31 December will be measured against the preceding twelve month period based on USPS Headquarters records. Due to the change in Marine Electronics (ME) curriculum, we will offer credit for the Marine Electrical Systems (ES-000C) and Marine Communications Systems (CS-000C) as if they were stand-alone courses. If student has already received credit for ME, these classes will not be double-counted.

**Note D.** The percentage of "Non Renewals" will be determined as "the number of current paid members" / "the number of current paid members" plus "the number of non-renewals" for the period of Jan 1 to Dec 31. Life members are considered "current paid members". Trial members are not included in this statistic.

For purposes of this calculation, “6 Month Trial Members”, who have not paid their initial dues, are not considered as “non-renewals”. Since “trial members” have never paid any dues, we do not consider them “non-renewals”.

For example, in March 2013, one squadron had 40 “six month trial members” who did not renew – compared with only 32 “paid” members who did not renew. That would distort the true number of non-renewals.

**Note E.** The actual Total Vessel Safety Checks provided and submitted by the squadrons as of 31 December will be measured against the preceding twelve month period based on USPS Headquarters records.

**Note F.** The actual Total Cooperative Charting Credits earned by the squadrons from its Cooperative Charting submittals, as of 31 December will be measured against the preceding twelve month period based on National Ocean Service, NOAA Year End records.

As a practical point, the “NOAA year” tracks Co-op Charting credits from April 1 of one year (“xxx1”) to March 31 of the following year (“xxx2”). We calculate Cooperative Charting for calendar year “xxx2” by subtracting Dec 31 figure (year “xxx1”) from NOAA Year end total published March 31, “xxx2”. This gives Coop total for Jan – March of year “xxx2”. We then add April 1 – Dec 31 (year “xxx2”) to that level, to get the D7 total for the calendar year “xxx2”. It is important to record the statistics on or close to December 31.

If a squadron does not have “Honor Roll” status by Dec 31, “xxx1”, it does not get Honor roll credit for Cdr Challenge year, Jan-Dec, “xxx1”.

However, it is possible that a squadron would not have “Honor Roll” status by Dec 31, “xxx1”; but would achieve “Honor Roll” status in the last three months of the NOAA year (Dec 31, “xxx1” – March 31, “xxx2”). If that squadron was not recognized for “Honor Roll” status for Cdr Challenge the year “xxx1”, it should be recognized for “Honor Roll” status for the following Cdr Challenge year (“xxx2”).

The idea is that the squadron should be recognized at least once for having achieved the honor roll status.

### **Sources of data**

USPS National Records are the primary source of this data. Specifically:

**Total Membership** numbers are listed by month and year at:

<http://www.usps.org/x/x.pl/x/x.cgi?cgi-bin-nat/hq/list.cgi>

Historical reports are available back to the year 2000. This includes “6 month trial members”, in the count, even though they have not paid any dues, in order to give credit to squadrons that have recruited six month members.

**Membership status** (renewal vs. non-renewal) are listed in the “ONLINE DUES COLLECTION SYSTEM REPORTS - Member Status Summary” found at

<http://www.usps.org/dues/reports/districtsummary.php>. Historical data is not available, so this report must be downloaded on or about December 31.

The National report includes “6 Month Trial Members” who do not pay their initial dues as “non-renewals”. Since they have never paid any dues, we don’t consider them as true “non-renewals.” We “back out” the trial members who don’t pay dues by looking at their “join” date. If a specific non renewal was a “6 month trial member”, they are not included in the non-renewals in the

calculation below. For instance, in March 2013, one squadron had 40 “six month trial members who did not renew – which was more than 55% of their non-renewals that year.

The renewal calculation is:

$$\text{Retention} = (\text{“Paid”}) / (\text{“Paid”} + \text{“non renewal”})$$

The nominator is the sum of all who have paid, or are being billed for renewal (but are not yet overdue). The denominator is the total number of members you had during the year.

**Boating Class Registrations** Source of this data is from the ED-800 registrations, specifically the report: “Boating Course Reported (History) List for District 07” at [http://www.usps.org/cgi-bin-nat/eddept/800/hmk\\_list.cgi?::6412:Akron:07:C:D:H:::12:13:N:SQUAD](http://www.usps.org/cgi-bin-nat/eddept/800/hmk_list.cgi?::6412:Akron:07:C:D:H:::12:13:N:SQUAD)

**VSC Reports** are listed at: [http://www.usps.org/national/vsc/vsc\\_reports.html](http://www.usps.org/national/vsc/vsc_reports.html)  
This includes an annual summary, and a year-to-date, posted by district, squadron, and member.

**Coop Charting** annual summary is listed under “Squadron Summary Reports”  
<http://www.usps.org/national/coch/CoChPage60.htm>

Year-to-date summaries are accessible on the NOAA “CCWEB” reporting site, <https://www.ccweb.noaa.gov/ccweb/>. Historical data is not available, so this report must be downloaded on or about December 31, as explained above.

The source of Educational statistics DB2000, using the “Grade” option. By looking at each squadron, you’ll see when courses have been completed for each student. Each squadron is credited when a student is awarded credit for that class in the most recent calendar year.

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Revisions:

- Clarification March 2011 (Coop Honor Role)
- Revised Oct 2011 - Modification of Renewal and Membership calculations
- Revised Nov 2012 – Include “Trial Members” for Goal #1, exclude trial members from Goal # 4, Revise source of Boating Class registrations (Goal #2)
- Revised Mar 2014 – Retention = Paid/(Paid + non renewals)
- Revised Mar 2015 – Marine Electronics - Marine Communications Systems (CS), Marine Electrical Systems (ES), and Electronic Navigation (NS) courses are recognized as three separate EG courses, replacing the traditional ME course. So now there are 5 AG and 8 EG courses
- Revised Feb 2016 – Simplify Rule #4 – Squadrons who “tie” in total points share the award.