

## D7 Spring Conference Meeting Minutes

10 April 2021

D/C Lynda C Leque, SN called the meeting to order at 1401 and introduced the Chief's Representative, V/C Craig Fraser, SN. D/Lt/C Lawrence Spraggins, JN led the Pledge of Allegiance. D/C Lynda C Leque, SN introduced the District Bridge Officers; P/D/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN introduced all Past District Commanders present. The Parliamentary Advisors, P/R/C Wayne Spraggins, SN and P/D/C Robert Fish, SN were introduced.

Chief Commander Mary Paige Abbott SN presented her message via power point. She noted the 108<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of this organization was the first one held not in-person. Anywhere from 100-435 persons participated in the online sessions which are available on the national website. In 2020 the national budget was met, online sales doubled and the new ABC app is out. Current goal is to reduce non-renewals by 15%. Squadron knowledge and outreach to members is essential to reach this goal. Via an Educational Fund Grant, squadrons may receive 20 free ABC3 manuals with free shipping; she urged squadrons to take advantage of that offer.

D/Lt/C Lawrence Spraggins, JN introduced guest speaker Lt Col J Michael Howard (Ret) who gave a presentation discussing GPS and the need to know where you are/where you have been/and where you are going without electronic means.

D/Lt Robert Winter, SN conducted the Crossing the Bar Ceremony.  
D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P verified a quorum was present.  
P/C Jan R Holmes, SN read the voting rules.

D/C Lynda C Leque, SN noted that in accordance with a motion adopted in Fall 2014, the designated committee approved the minutes of the D7 Fall Conference held 7 November 2020 and the D7 Council Meeting held 15 March 2021 and no further action is required. The minutes from the recent Council meeting are included in the seat packet.

D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P read the Consent Agenda

### 2021 Spring Conference Consent Agenda

1. That the agenda be adopted.
2. That the District Commander alter the agenda as needed to facilitate the meeting of the Conference.
3. That the Conference approve the budget for the 2021 District 7 Rendezvous to Middle Bass Island. (item A)
4. That the Conference approve the proposed District budget for 2021-2022. (item B)
5. That the Conference approve a committee of the following: the District Commander, Executive Officer, and the Administrative Officer, to approve the minutes of this meeting.

Please note that due to Covid-19 there was either no live event or no District participation in either Boat Show East or West. Therefore there are no "Final Reports" regarding them. Due to same issue, the Fall Conference was held virtually-thus no "Final Report" for that event. **And moved that it be adopted. Cdr Fred Nolte III, AP second. The motion passed.**

## Department Reports

Commander: D/C Lynda C Leque, SN reported planning for Fall PENTA Conference 8-10 October includes a full slate of activities including a Sunday activity for families. The fee to participate is \$85 and the Kalahari Resort room rate will be \$139/conference night with a reduced rate if members arrive a day early or stay a day late. 4 passes to the water park are included in the price.

P/D/C Brian M Logan, SN presented Commander's Challenge information (full report in the seat packet). He noted that while Covid noticeably reduced squadron activity across the board, some squadrons did well in certain areas. He congratulated overall winner, Akron Sail and Power Squadron and 2<sup>nd</sup> place to Vermilion Sail and Power Squadron.

D/C Lynda C Leque, SN announced and congratulated new Emeritus member (50 Merit Marks) P/R/C Thomas Etzweiler, SN. New Life Members are P/D/C Robert Fish, SN, Lt/C Karen Long, and P/C Jerry Nagy AP.

P/Lt/C Irene Rodriguez, SN presented the Mid-Ohio Valley Sail and Power Squadron Award for Excellence in Photography. Via power point, she showed the honorable mentions and the grand prize winner's "Good Morning Cincinnati" photo submitted by David Van Dyke of Ten Mile Power Squadron.

D/C Lynda C Leque, SN presented the District Commander's Award for Excellence to D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P.

Executive: P/D/C Garry Schroeder, SN noted that while his full report was in the seat packet, he emphasized training will soon be out regarding VSCs and keeping safe while conducting them. He noted there are brochures, forms, and plenty of helpful information available on USPS site. The USCG is moving to 2 life jacket categories-wearable and throwable. He noted the Akron VSC Award is not being presented this year due to Covid drastically affecting this activity. Co-Op Charting report compiled by R/C S Thomas Hancock, P and P/C Joanne Hancock, SN showed 40 D7 participants; 5 of the top 11 achieved national ranking. All squadrons within the District participated this year and we are the only District with 100% squadron participation. D/Lt/C Lawrence Spraggins, JN explained the Reverse Raffle event for 5/20/2021-Grand Prize \$2000; only 200 tickets will be sold-\$50 each. All squadron Commanders have been given 20 tickets to sell. He reported the winner need not be present at the time of the drawing on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds be used toward district education programs, conference expenses, and other approved projects.

He promoted the D7 Rendezvous at Middle Bass Island July 30-August 1. Event cost \$67/person; members must contact the State Marina separately to reserve a dock.

Education: P/R/C Wayne Spraggins, SN announced congratulations to 5 new full certificate holders - new SN grade to : Michael Krebs (Akron), Lynn and Dan Fortman (Mansfield), Dennis and Denise Tenison (Mansfield). In addition, Kenneth Conger (Akron) attained Educational Proficiency. He then stated the rest of his report is within the seat packet.

Administrative: D/Lt/C Roger Hall, JN referred members to his full report with the seat packet and emphasized the need to focus on member recruitment and retention while embracing diversity in these efforts.

P/D/C Brian M Logan, SN also referred to full seat packet report. He noted there were record boating sales thus potentially many new people needing education-thus presenting opportunities to educate and recruit new members. He gave reminders about looking for cyber members and reaching out to those near one's particular squadron.

He presented the Dobler Trophy – based on membership from one year to the next – to Vermilion Sail and Power Squadron who also won a National member growth award within their divisional category.

Secretary: D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P congratulated and announced all winners of the Distinctive Communicator Award for Websites and for Newsletters (see separate Awards document). She also presented the D7 Outstanding Publication Award to Akron Sail and Power Squadron Scuttlebutt newsletter. It was a very tight race with NCO's Currents and Berea's Mooring Post tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

Treasurer: D/Lt/C Liana Mihalca, SN stated most of her statements were within the seat packet. She emphatically stressed that the last time the District had a balanced budget was 2015-2016 and noted this has to be addressed for the future existence of the organization. It was clarified that the higher rate now being seen on dues notices is due to a \$3.00 processing fee on the invoice. Noted the automatic \$1.00 for the Educational Fund has been removed while the processing fee added, thus creating an overall \$2.00 hike on the amount without an official dues increase.

### **Committee Reports:**

Auditing: P/C Dave Barber, SN reported the committee has not met due to covid, but hopes they will be able to meet for the audit in the not too distant future.

Planning: P/D/C Robert Fish, SN said he would comment during Unfinished Business.

Rules: P/C Jan R Holmes, SN stated this committee had no report.

Unfinished Business: D/C Lynda C Leque, SN reported: **At the Council meeting, it was moved to recommend an increase in District dues, effective at the Spring Conference 2021. That will not be possible as National has to be informed of changes in the dues structure by January of each year. Therefore, I suggest that the District dues be increased by \$2.00 per member beginning with the next dues year after Spring Conference 2022. Cdr Harry Barnes, AP stated he so moved exactly what D/C stated. R/C S Thomas Hancock, P second.**

P/D/C Robert Fish, SN stated the Planning committee had met to discuss this issue and recommended this \$2.00 not be earmarked for any specific purpose, like conference costs, for ease of bookkeeping and for being able to use it as the district needs it. He reported the Planning Committee recommended this motion be approved.

R/C H Eileen Rickard, SN requested clarification as to how this would impact Family memberships. R/C S Thomas Hancock, P clarified an individual cost would go from \$10 to \$12 and family from \$15 to \$18. **Motion passed.**

New Business: none

D/C Lynda C Leque, SN gave her final remarks, thanking all, specifically naming P/D/C Brian M Logan, SN; D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P; P/D/C Robert Fish, SN; and her aides, P/D/C Jane Brandenstein, SN; P/D/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN, and P/D/C Ken Leque, SN. She expressed confidence in the future and congratulated the new bridge before dismissing all of her current bridge officers, except for the Secretary.

P/D/C Jane Brandenstein, SN read the slate of officers as named in the Nominating Committee report and moved they be accepted. The Secretary confirmed no nominations by petition were received for any of the elective offices in District 7. Then P/D/C Jane Brandenstein, SN stated; Nominations closed, thereby electing these nominees. Congratulations to all of those just elected.

Installing officer, V/C Craig Fraser, SN reminded members there are many new boaters due to recent increase in outdoor activities and how this relates to potentially educating many boaters to be safe as well as gaining new members. He spoke highly of D/C Lynda C Leque, SN and how well she did during such a trying year to move District 7 in a forward direction. He stated he was deeply honored to be the installing officer for Larry and Peggy Spraggins, as he considered them a great team. He then installed D/C Larry Spraggins, JN and his 2021-2022 Bridge Officers.

D/C Larry Spraggins, JN thanked his new bridge, all attending, his installing officer, and all who helped, as well as his appreciation to his keynote presenter.

He stated he had 3 goals for this year.

1. Membership---goal is for each squadron to gain 3 members.
2. Increase education via classes—goal is for each squadron to sponsor 1 more ABC class than they had done in the prior year.
3. VSCs—goal is for each squadron to increase their number of VSCs by 10 over 2019 numbers.

D/Lt Robert Winter, SN gave the benediction.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1655.

Respectfully submitted,  
D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P

Approved by:	
D/C Lynda C Leque, SN	Date: 04/13/2021
D/Lt/C Lawrence Spraggins, JN	Date: 04/14/2021
D/Lt/C Roger Hall, JN	Date: 04/30/2021