

## D7 Spring Conference Meeting Minutes Special Circumstances 5 April 2020

D/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN called the meeting to order at 1605. She asked all to keep devices on mute unless speaking; R/C H Eileen Rickard, SN explained how to do that. She asked members to hold any questions which do not require a vote-address the reporter at a later time. She noted there is a plan to have a D7 dinner at a later time to present all awards and recognize contest winners.

D/Lt Jon Paulus, AP gave the invocation.

D/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN introduced C/C Mary Paige Abbott, SN, the District Bridge, and Parliamentary Advisors P/V/C Robert Brandenstein, SN, and P/R/C Wayne Spraggins, SN. A moment of silence was observed as D/Lt Jon Paulus, AP announced the names of members who passed away since Fall Conference. The bell rang, followed by P/D/C James R Holcepl, SN introducing P/D/Cs present.

C/C Mary Paige Abbott, SN gave her Commander's Message, emphasizing the focus is Membership. To coin a phrase from Ford Motor Company, Membership is Job 1. She stressed the importance of evaluating every activity, seminar, what have you, toward gaining or retaining members. Question everything's ability to be a benefit to a member or gain a member. She noted that our organization is in Phase 2 of a national ad campaign. Revisions to the Operations Manual are underway to better show what we really do. The Merit Mark system is being revised, as well. The Fall Meeting will be in Raleigh NC 09/08/20-09/13/20. She quoted Henry Ford "Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right."

D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P conducted a roll call and verified a quorum was present.

P/R/C Wayne Spraggins, SN read the voting rules.

D/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN stated the obligatory: **Approval of Minutes**

In accordance with a motion adopted in Fall 2014, the designated committee approved the minutes of the D7 Council Meeting held on 7 March 2019 and no further action is required. The minutes are included in the seat packet.

### D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P read the Consent Agenda **2020 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 final report of the 2019 Fall Conference hosted by the District. (item A)
4. That the Conference approve the final report of the Boat Show East 2020. (item B)
5. That the Conference approve the final report of the Boat Show West 2020. (item C)
6. 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.

And moved that it be adopted. R/C H Eileen Rickard, SN second. The motion passed.

## Department Reports

Treasurer: D/Lt/C Liana Mihalca, SN reported District revenue has decreased primarily due to declining membership. In mid-March 2020 the balance was \$22372.22 along with a small amount of money in the postal account. In addition, she presented the D7 2020-2021 budget (Item G in Seat Packet) and moved to approve the budget. R/C H Eileen Rickard, SN second. The motion passed.

Secretary: D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P paraphrased her seat packet report by thanking hard working squadron members for updating addresses and emails-keep up the good work. It will not be long before the District Newsletter will not need to do bulk printing and mailing.

Administrative: D/Lt/C Lawrence Spraggins, JN encouraged squadrons to not forget about squadron members; attempt to engage them in the squadron. He briefly mentioned member benefits; check website periodically for updates. In our rapidly changing pandemic environment, remember to check with squadrons directly about any scheduled events. He specifically spoke of details within the Membership report compiled by P/D/C Brian M Logan, SN. He emphasized the importance of fact that the district gained 52 members via ABC class and to promote the 18 month membership deal. He spoke to a very human element that it's important to reach out to members during this Covid 19 situation. He stated that due to the economic impact, it may be very helpful to members to consider having less expensive events.

Education: D/Lt/C James E Mason, SN said his primary report was in the Seat Packet. He did give congratulations to two members who have achieved Educational Proficiency within the past year, Jay Wells of Mansfield, and Robert Thompson of NCO.

Executive: D/Lt/C Lynda C Leque, SN referred to Item E – Assessment Motion in the Seat Packet and withdrew her motion. She reported that plans are proceeding as planned for the District 7 Rendezvous on Middle Bass Island and for the Fall PENTA conference; she is hopeful both will go forward despite pandemic concerns. She noted that the PENTA conference is a multi-district event which will not have any registration fee and no specific District 7 budget that must be reviewed or approved. She referred members to Item D – Budget for 2020 D7 Rendezvous to MBI within the Seat Packet. She moved that the budget be approved. R/C H Eileen Rickard, SN second. The motion passed.

## Committee Reports:

Auditing: P/D/Lt/C Beverly Sams, P was not able to attend this meeting, however the Auditing Report was shown in the Seat Packet. R/C H Eileen Rickard, SN moved that the report be accepted. P/D/C Jane Brandenstein, SN second. Motion passed.

Planning: No report

Rules: P/C Jan R Holmes, SN presented the following:

### **By Laws change for District 7 USPS**

In order to comply with the National By Laws; Section 5.1 shall read:

**Section 5.1** There shall be at least one regular meeting of the Conference in each calendar year. Any Conference meeting shall be scheduled in accordance with the policy and authority of USPS and care shall be taken that the dates do not conflict with national events.

Submitted by:

District 7 Rules Committee

P/C Jan R Holmes, SN (2 years)

He so moved to accept this by-laws change. D/Lt/C Lynda C Leque, SN second. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: none

Commander's Report: D/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN briefly thanked many members for their efforts during this past year. She then dismissed the Bridge.

Nominating Committee Report: Stf/C H Eileen Rickard, SN read the report. C/C Mary Paige Abbott, SN received confirmation from the Secretary that the Nominating Committee report had been received and distributed to all District members. She then stated she would entertain a motion that the Secretary be directed to cast one ballot for the slate of officers as presented by District Nominating Committee and circulated throughout the district in accordance with the bylaws of the district. P/C Thomas McFate, AP so moved. P/D/C Garry Schroeder, SN second. There was no discussion. Motion passed.

C/C Mary Paige Abbott, SN proceeded to swear in new D/C Lynda C Leque, SN and 2020-2021 Bridge Officers.

She also installed R/C H Eileen Rickard, SN as R/C Educational Outreach Committee, and R/C S Thomas Hancock, P as R/C Cooperative Charting Committee.

New Commander's Remarks: D/C Lynda C Leque, SN expressed thanks and appreciation to now P/D/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN and numerous others for efforts during this past year and for participating in the meeting. She noted that in lieu of the typical Sunday morning after Change of Watch meeting, there will be a conference call on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 2000 hours for Bridge Officers and Squadron Commanders. Details will be emailed shortly.

D/Lt Jon Paulus, AP gave the benediction.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1720.

Respectfully submitted,

D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P

Approved by:

D/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN Date: 04/10/20

D/Lt/C Lynda C Leque, SN Date: 04/11/20

D/Lt/C Lawrence Spraggins, JN Date: 04/10/20

