

Minutes of the District 7 Fall Conference

24 October 2015

D/C David A. Bialorucki, SN, called the meeting to order at 1400.

In D7 Chaplain Robert Winter's absence, the invocation was given by Berea member Peggy Spraggins.

D/Lt/C Eileen Rickard, SN, led the conference members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

D/Lt/C Lynda Leque, SN, reported that there was a quorum present.

Rules Committee member D/Lt Michael Thal, P, explained the voting rules and the role of the conference.

P/D/C Robert Fish, SN, reviewed Parliamentary Procedure and Robert's Rules of Order.

D/C Bialorucki introduced the D7 Bridge.

D/C Bialorucki stated that the designated committee had approved the minutes of the 2015 Spring Conference Meeting and the 2015 Fall Council Meeting and no further action was required.

The Secretary presented the consent agenda which was passed by the Conference delegates.

Executive Officer's Report

D/Lt Joanne Hancock, SN, reported on the Co-operative Charting Program. She reported that all in the District were doing well. She & Tom are available for any squadron co-op charting program. The geodetic marker program has been reinstated.

D/Lt/C Eileen Rickard, SN, encouraged those in attendance to try the Virtual Trainer during the Conference. It will also be available at the Cleveland & Pittsburgh Boat Shows this winter. Shipping costs will be shared. There will be special training for those boat show volunteers who will man the trainer. Contact Jane Brandenstein for Boat Show East & Jeff Evans for Boat Show West.

VSC numbers are lower than last year. Numbers were impacted by the passing of D7 member Ken Campbell who completed 300-400 VSCs per year. There is a new VSC manual available to download from USPS website.

Tall ships will be touring Great Lakes again this summer. There will be some landings along the Lake Erie shore, but there is no certainty as to locations at this point. Depending on locations, we will need volunteers to man a D7 booth.

Educational Officer's Report

D/Lt/C Barb Spraggins, SN, thanked R/C Craig Fraser, SN, for his presentation to the DEOs. D/Lt Susan Harris, S, was thanked for doing instructor recertification. Teaching aides were to be turned in to Barb following the meeting.

Administrative Officer's Report

D/Lt/C Jane Brandenstein offered thanks to all those in the Administrative department. P/D/C Brian Logan, SN, was thanked for his membership program in the morning. Jane urged members to go after cyber members. A contact person in each squadron receives names of all students who have taken a class or seminar on-line. Jane reported that they put 75 youth through the virtual trainer at a Tall Ships event. Parents of these youth were given information about USPS.

Berea was thanked for their "kids boating class" which produces posters for the USPS Youth Poster Contest. Jane asked all members to vote for the posters.

The message from the USPS Governing Board Meeting was "More members = Better Financial Outlook".

Meetings and Programs Chair, D/Lt Greg Arnold, JN, is creating a data base of programs available for squadron and District meetings.

Jane commented on the success of the 2015 Middle Bass Island Cruise. She called on P/R/C Liz Glassell to report on the 2016 Cruise. This cruise will be held 29-31 July at the Huron Boat Basin. Dockage reservations must be made on your own beginning March 1. Tom & Joanne Hancock will handle Cruise reservations. More details will be available through D7 Blasts and newsletters.

Conference Chair Lynn Fortman thanked all those attending and those who helped with the Conference.

D/Lt Joanne Hancock, SN, and Cdr Jim Kosmos, AP, reported on the 2016 Spring Conference to be hosted by SCPS 1-3 April. It will be held at the Canton McKinley Grand Hotel. Room rates will be the same as in 2011. The theme is "Television's Greatest Hits of the 60's" which also relates to SCPS's 60th Anniversary. Packets are currently available.

Jane introduced Conference First Timers Steve & Janine Holekamp from Mid Ohio Valley.

Secretary's Report

Additions or corrections to the seat packet were distributed. Law officer D/Lt Michael Thal's report was omitted and was read to the members by the secretary.

Reminder that Historian reports are due 30 days after your Change of Watch. District merit marks are due to the secretary or assistant Janice Vitucci-Ehrman by the end of the following week. D7 News articles need to be received in a timely manner. Deadlines will be backed up in order to get the D7 News out earlier and on time. A request was made for anyone interested, to take over the duties of Scrapbook Chair. Request to submit pictures of events to webmaster Irene Rodriguez.

Treasurer's Report

D/Lt/C Tom Hancock, P, stated that his report can be found in the seat packet. He pointed out that money from the license plate program will be dispersed to 7 squadrons yearly. Note: this program only applies to Ohio squadrons.

Commander's Department

D/C Bialorucki thanked members for allowing him to be D7 Commander. He encouraged members to attend events of other squadrons. Thanks to the committee and members who attended the MBI Cruise.

P/D/C Brian Logan, SN, referred to p.10 in the seat packet to see status through September of 2015 of the Commander's Challenge.

DEO Barbara Spraggins announced the squadrons who contributed to the Education Fund. Those who have not at this point are Kanawha, Mansfield, and Vermilion.

D/Lt/C Eileen Rickard reported on the ODNR grant to purchase a Virtual trainer for the district which was submitted by 1 October. It may not be until late December before we get notice whether it was approved.

D/C Bialorucki asked that squadrons submit the dates of their Changes of Watch so a Bridge Officer can be assigned to the event. He reminded members of the conference to attend the Sunday morning meeting to be chaired by Jane Brandenstein to discuss the 2016 Governing Board Meeting to be held in Pittsburgh in August.

P/Stf/C Garry Schroeder announced that there is no longer a need to inventory the ODNR life jackets. However, he suggests that they be tested for damage and new cartridges be installed as needed.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

D/C Bialorucki called on P/R/C Liz Glassell, AP, to give a report of the Planning Committee. She named members of the committee: Wayne Spraggins, Robert Ball, Garry Schroeder, and Larry Novak (absent). She reported that the conference schedule is planned through 2018. Several squadrons on the schedule already have contracts in place. There is concern that some squadrons can no longer host or work on a conference. The Planning Committee is in discussion regarding 3 points to change the way conferences are done:

1. Put together a District Conference Committee to plan & put on a District Conference, possibly consisting of 12 members/volunteers based on their strengths/interests
2. Change the purpose of the conference; continue to have C.O.W. at Spring Conference; change Fall to 1 day, possibly lunch and educational meetings
3. Change Commander's cocktail party to an event for everyone to be held before the ice breaker

Liz stressed her need to work with squadrons who are currently in the process of planning a conference, but it will take time to form a committee of 12 for future conferences. Lynn Fortman asked if there is consideration of a registration fee. There was also a question regarding whether there might be a central location. Liz reported the need to work with a hotel that would give us a good deal and could be easily worked with. Barb Fish expressed concern about making a decision/motion in the near future. Liz thanked the members of the Planning Committee. D/Lt/C Jane suggested that these points be included in the Spring D7 News in order for members to have an opportunity to think about this before the conference.

D/Lt/C Jane explained the purpose of a USPS Governing Board meeting. The decision was made approximately 3 weeks ago that the 2016 Governing Board will be held in Pittsburgh. She explained that the USPS Board of Directors would like the local districts to have more of a part in planning a Governing Board meeting. D7 needs to decide what activities we can handle and what we need the National Meetings Committee to do. She reported that the purpose of the Sunday morning meeting is to work on these decisions. The dates are 23-27 August 2016.

Secretary Lynda discussed the proposal by D/Lt Irene Rodriguez on p.8 of the seat packet to add a USPS mobile app and a motion was made by Lynda and seconded by Cdr Jim Holcepl to approve initiating this mobile app. The motion passed.

Flag Lt Tom Glassell, AP, asked what should be done with the retired battle ribbons and 100th Anniversary Ensign. Following discussion, it was decided that the Flag Lt would continue to store the flag & battle ribbons until it was decided otherwise.

The meeting was adjourned at 1510. The meeting will reconvene at 1900 for dinner and awards.

2015 Fall Conference Dinner & Awards

D/C David Bialorucki, SN, reconvened the Conference meeting at 1900 and welcomed everyone. In D7 Chaplain, Robert Winter's absence, the invocation was given by Berea member Peggy Spraggins. D/Lt/C Eileen Rickard led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The D7 Bridge Officers and spouses were introduced. P/D/C Michael Siwek, SN, introduced the P/D/Cs present. The First Timers were introduced.

Co-operative Charting Awards were announced by D/Lt Joanne Hancock, SN. The Mansfield Co-op Charting Award for 2014 went to Stark County Power Squadron. NOAA Honor Roll certificates went to District 7; Craig Fraser & Liana Mihalca (Akron); Robert & Barb Fish (Mid-Ohio Valley); Pittsburgh; and Tom & Joanne Hancock and Jim & Cindy Kosmos (Stark County).

Six new 50 year members to be presented with plaques and pins:

Don Bell (Akron)

Richard Melkerson (Cleveland)

Rodney Allen (Mansfield)

W. Chandler Stevens (Mansfield)

Charles Palmer (Pittsburgh)

Edwin Koethe (Vermilion)

District Education Officer, P/R/C Barbara Spraggins, SN, presented the Fall 2015 Education Awards (see attached). Special recognition was given to the new Senior Navigators present, David M. Barber, SN (Berea) and Steve Holekamp, SN (Mid-Ohio Valley).

D/Lt/C Jane announced the winners of the 2015 USPS Youth Poster Contest. A winner in each age group will receive a check for \$25 and be entered in the National contest in Orlando.

D/C Bialorucki, SN, presented the Rocky River Tankard Award for the best hospitality room to Akron Sail & Power Squadron. The Mansfield-Berea hospitality room was not eligible for the award since Mansfield was the host squadron and appreciation was extended for their well-done room. D/C Bialorucki recognized Lynn & Dan Fortman for their fine work on chairing this Fall Conference.

Announcements:

Lynn Fortman announced winners of 50/50 and silent auction.

D/7 Bridge, squadron commanders, and all those attending the conference were encouraged to attend the morning meeting at 0900. D/Lt/C Jane Brandenstein, SN, will lead a discussion regarding the upcoming USPS Governing Board Meeting to be held within D7-Pittsburgh in August of 2016.

Benediction was given by Peggy Spraggins.

Meeting adjourned 2130.

Respectfully submitted, D/Lt/C Lynda Leque, SN

Approved by D/C David Bialorucki, SN.

Approved by D/Lt/C Eileen Rickard, SN.

Approved by D/Lt/C Jane Brandenstein, SN.