

DISTRICT 7 FALL CONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES, 5 NOVEMBER, 2016

D/C Eileen Rickard, SN, called the meeting to order at 2005 (2:05 pm).

Roll call was taken.

All members of the Council were present, except Asst Treasurer Liana Mihalca, SN, Cdr Jim Kranz (Kanawha), Cdr Kathy Russell (SCPS), and Cdr Charles Schury (Ten Mile).

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

The secretary presented/read the Consent Agenda. The secretary moved and Cdr Barbara Fish seconded that the Consent Agenda be approved. No discussion. Motion passed.

(Note: see attached seat packet for full reports)

Executive Officer's Report- D/Lt/C Jane Brandenstein, SN, presented her report included in the seat packet. In addition, the following items were presented:

- Boat Show West, 12-16 January at the IX Center, will be chaired by Dave Rickard. Sign-up on-line. The booth will feature the Virtual Trainer. One trained person per shift is needed.
- Boat Show East will be 13-15 & 21-22 January. Booth to be set up both weekends, but manned only the 2nd weekend. The booth will be in the Fox Chapel Marine display area.
- Watch for updates concerning the merge of Parks & Watercraft. Grants may decrease.
- Reminder to get VSC reports in before the end of the year.
- Homeland Security monthly email is available. Ask Jane for address.

Educational Officer's Report- P/R/C Barbara Spraggins, SN, stated that her full report is in the seat packet and that Education Awards would be presented in the evening. She asked all to vote on the teaching aides. A trophy is to be awarded.

Administrative Officer's Report- D/Lt/C Jim Holcepl, SN, stated that membership is a big priority. He encouraged all members to invite new members to squadron events and classes and to share what is working. Member benefits brochures with many discounts are available. Voting for the Children's Poster Contest was encouraged. Reminder about 2017 D7 Spring Photo Contest.

District Conference Report: P/R/C Liz Glassell, AP, was called upon to read her report contained in the seat packet, and introduced her committee. The committee's first responsibility will be the planning of Fall 2018 Conference. The D/C cocktail party will change starting with the Spring 2017 Conference. All will be invited to meet the Chief's Rep. Food will be provided at the Ice Breaker. The D/7 Bridge and Commanders will be kept informed of ongoing developments.

Spring Conference Report: Members of ASPS presented a skit to name the theme of the Spring Conference, "Board Games", to be held 24-26 March, 2017 at the Clarion Hotel in Hudson, Ohio.

Membership Report: P/D/C Brian Logan, SN, stated that D/7 has lost one-third of its membership over the past ten years. A video/power point on the new USPS branding standards will be available on the D/7 website. He encouraged all squadrons to share this video with their members. Only 41 new members have been acquired in the past year. He offered several suggestions, including holding classes, 6-month free memberships, and asking "are our members getting their money's worth?".

Secretary's Report- D/Lt/C Lynda Leque, SN, mentioned the change in the D/7 News cover format, featuring information other than the Chief's Rep picture and bio, that was agreed upon by the Bridge. Also discussed was an email option for receiving the D/7 News and details of the cost of mailing the News.

Treasurer's Report- D/Lt/C Tom Hancock, P, reported an updated balance as of 31 October of \$25,785.91, reflecting a \$3,214.61 gain, thanks, in part to \$515 in donations from 24 Life members. He promoted USPS license plate purchases, proceeds of which are split between 4 Districts in Ohio. 58 plates have been purchased in the past year.

Committee Reports: No reports

Commander's Report- D/C Eileen Rickard, SN, presented her report. Comments were as follows:

- Liz Glassell was commended for an outstanding hospitality room at the Fall Governing Board Meeting.
- 800,000 attended the Fairport Harbor Tall Ship Festival where the D/7 Booth was set up with the virtual trainer.
- A registration fee will be in place for the Spring Conference to off-set food costs.
- Announced was the fact that North Coast Ohio (RRSPS) will not be renewing the Tankard Award after the 2017 Spring Conference.
- A name change from RRSPS to North Coast Ohio was approved at the Fall Governing Board meeting.
- The Squadron Development Revitalization form is to be used to evaluate how squadrons are doing in various areas.
- Incoming Commanders are to inform Eileen of their Change of Watch dates.

A motion was made & seconded to approve the Officer's Reports.

Unfinished Business

Final Governing Board Report- D/Lt/C Jane Brandenstein, SN, Chair, reported that she has received positive responses from all over the country regarding D/7's role as host to the 2016 Fall Governing Board meeting. Chair of the National Meetings Committee, Bob Holub, gave a positive response as well. Having no budget to begin with, D/7 has had all expenses covered through the silent auction and reimbursement from National. All those who had a role in the Governing Board meeting stood to be recognized.

New Business

D/C Rickard announced the passing of two very active members, past and present, of District 7.

- P/D/Lt/C Emogene Ericksson, SN, who passed suddenly 30 October following complications from surgery.
- P/D/C Marion Sewell, SN, who passed 3 November in Hospice Care.

A power point presentation was given by V/C Craig Fraser, SN, on the new "Digital Media Library" which includes 20 videos and will launch 31 December and is to be available to all members, as well as the public.

Adjournment: The meeting of the Conference was recessed at 2324 (3:24 pm) and is to reconvene at 1900 for dinner and awards.

Note: Lunch Presentations

Recognition of seminar presenters-Elaine Marsh, Conservation Director for the Friends of the Crooked River; P/R/C Wayne Spraggins, How to Use GPS; P/D/C Brian Logan, Marketing; P/D/C Garry Schroeder, VSC; and lunch speaker Jeff Hoedt, Chief of Boating Safety, USCG.

Educational Proficiency Awards & Excellence in Recreational Boating Education were presented by DEO, P/R/C Barb Spraggins, SN, and are attached.

Co-op Charting Recognition was presented by D/Lt Joanne Hancock, SN.

- Mansfield Co-op Award- winner SCPS
- Honor Roll Certificates: D/7 (ranked 2nd); Akron-Brad Colon, Greg Arnold, Craig Fraser, Brian Logan, Gilbert Lorenzo, Liana Mihalca, Kevin Miller, Dave Rice, Tom Vielhaber, Joe Weiland; Mansfield; Stark

Co (ranked 1)- Dave Guertal, Joanne Hancock (ranked 1), Tom Hancock (ranked 2), Cindy Kosmos, Jim Kosmos; Vermilion-Dave Bialorucki.

2016 FALL CONFERENCE DINNER, AWARDS, AND SPEAKER

D/C Eileen Rickard, SN, reconvened the Conference Meeting at 1900 and welcomed everyone. The invocation was given by D/Lt Robert Winters, SN. The pledge was led by D/Lt/C Jane Brandenstein, SN.

The Chief's Rep, V/C Craig Fraser, SN and D/1st/Lt Liana Mihalca, SN, were introduced. The District Bridge & Assistants and Past District 7 Commanders were introduced. P/D/Cs present were Wayne Spraggins, Garry Schroeder, David Bialorucki, Robert Brandenstein, Liz Glassell, Brian Logan, Robert Ball, Ken Leque, Wayne Powers, Craig Fraser, and Michael Siwek.

Conference Chair P/C Rich Barzyk, SN, and his wife Patti, of host squadron Vermilion, were introduced. Squadron Commanders were recognized.

Introduction of Guest Jeff Hoedt, Chief of Boating Safety Division, Office of Auxilliary & Boating Safety, USCG

Chief's Message V/C Craig Fraser, SN, presented the Chief's Message, a power point presentation by Chief Luis Ojeda, SN. Key marketing strategies are LEARN ENGAGE CONNECT.

Awards

Youth Poster winners were announced by D/Lt/C Jim Holcepl, SN. Age 6-8 Kevin Atkins; Age 9-11 Cameron Dzak; 12-14 Naomi Holcepl. Each will be awarded \$25 from D/7.

Educational Awards were presented by P/R/C Barb Spraggins, SN, and are attached.

D/C Rickard announced a Fifty-Year Award going to Jack F. Wheeler, member of RRSPS. Jack had recently passed away. North Coast Ohio Cdr Liz accepted this award on his behalf.

D/C Rickard presented special recognition to D/Lt/C Jane Brandenstein, SN, for her work on the Fall 2016 Pittsburgh Governing Board Meeting.

The Rocky River Tankard Award was announced.

- Honorable Mention- SCPS (Beat the Clock)
- 3rd place- ASPS (Let's Make a Deal)
- 2nd place- Berea (The Price is Right)
- 1st place- North Coast Ohio (Wheel of Fortune)

D/C Rickard presented a gift to the Chief's Rep and thanked Vermilion members and Conference Chair Barzyk. The D/C gave her final remarks. The benediction was given by D/Lt Robert Winter, SN. Dinner and awards ended at 2200.

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

D/C Eileen Rickard, SN
D/Lt/C Jane Brandenstein, SN
D/Lt/C Jim Holcepl, SN
Final Approval: November 2016