

## Minutes of the District 7 Spring Conference

2 April 2016

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

D7 Chaplain, D/Lt Robert A. Winter, SN, gave the invocation.

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

P/D/C Michael Siwek, SN, introduced Past District Commanders present.

D/C Bialorucki introduced the current Bridge.

D/C Bialorucki conducted the Crossing the Bar Ceremony.

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

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

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

The secretary presented the consent agenda, with removal of item #9 pertaining to the RRSPS name change to be referred to Council, and the agenda was passed by the Conference delegates.

### Executive Officer's Report D/Lt/C Eileen Rickard, SN

- Thanked chairs of her committees for their work this year.
- Thanked D/Lt Joanne & D/Lt/C Tom Hancock for their work on Co-op Charting & for acquiring National ranking for D7 and themselves.
- Recognized Morry Miller, South Hills, for achieving Century Club status for VSC.
- Addressed issue of getting enough VSC stickers & named contact person, R/C Mike Wiedel.
- Virtual Trainer has been well received at Boat Shows.
- Tall Ships to Fairport Harbor with D7 presence, July 8-10. Hope to have electronic sign-up to work the booth.

### Educational Officer's Report D/Lt/C Barbara Spraggins, SN

- Thanked Ken Leque & Bob Brandenstein for their help during morning SEO meeting.
- May 21-27 National Boating Week
- ED-80 forms are in, except Kanawha & South Hills.

### Administrative Officer's Report D/Lt/C Jane Brandenstein, SN

- Jane thanked members of the Administrative Department for their work over the past year.
- Boating Activities from each squadron should be sent to Dylan Serrage to be put on the D7 website.
- Jane called on D7 Summer Rendezvous Chair Liz Glassell. Information was shared from the published flyer. Noted the date, July 29-31 at Huron Boat Basin. Theme is "South of the Border-Down Huron Way". All were encouraged to make dock & hotel reservations soon. 33 docks are already reserved. Packages were to be given to all commanders.

- Jane mentioned the upcoming Conference schedule contained in the seat packet. She called on Rich Barzyk to present information on the 2016 Fall Conference to be hosted by Vermilion, November 4-6 at Sawmill Creek. The theme will be TV Game Shows.
- Jane mentioned USPS benefits to take advantage of.
- Jane stated the need to increase membership and shared that P/C Brian Logan, SN, is to be the new D7 membership chair.
- The Youth Poster Contest was discussed. Jane took the D7 winners in each age group to the Annual Meeting for judging. She stated that D7 had over 30 entries this year & thanked D/Lt/C Barb Spraggins, SN, for heading up this contest in D7. The theme for the coming year is “Make it Personal. It’s your life...it’s your lifejacket”.
- Jane shared that the group called “Senior Boaters of America” has been using JBBrandenstein in their email address and that is NOT Jane or Bob. The group sends many emails & won’t take names of their list. This group has been reported to the USPS law committee, Chief Baldrige, and the Coast Guard.

#### Secretary’s Report D/Lt/C Lynda Leque, SN

- An “opt-in” option for receiving the D7 News, D7’s bi-annual newsletter, by email. It was stated that the secretary and assistant secretary have been given the task of looking for ways to save money on this publication. It is currently costing nearly \$1,000 twice per year to send this via postal mail. This will be reported on in the Fall.
- It was also mentioned that Council members will be given the opportunity to “opt-in” to receive notice of Council meetings via email, instead of postcard.
- Historian reports are to be sent to National within 30 days of each squadron’s Change of Watch.

#### Treasurer’s Report D/Lt/C S. Thomas Hancock, P

- Balance in account as of mid-March: \$23,000
- Gain this year of \$7,000, largely due to funds from Mountaineer
- \$240 gain from USPS license plates in Ohio; funds have been distributed to Ohio squadrons
- Reminder that squadrons must complete Federal form 990 following the end of their fiscal year & send receipt to Tom
- Complete TR-1 forms for National
- File as non-profit organization
- Budget information is contained in the seat packet

#### District Commander Report D/C David Bialorucki, SN

- Thank you to Bridge & committee members
- Reported on activities during his Bridge year & congratulated D7 on the awards they have received
- Called on D/Lt/C Barb Spraggins, SN, for Educational Fund Report-\$1.00 per member: changes in how this is handled, contact Barb with questions
- Called on D/Lt/C Jane Brandenstein give report on District 7 Photo Contest:
  - First Place: Cdr Dan Fortman, P, Mansfield
  - Honorable mentions: P/D/C Robert Ball, SN, Akron; 1<sup>st</sup>/Lt Steve Holekamp, SN, Mid-Ohio; D/Lt/C Lynda Leque, SN, SCPS (2); Lt Jackie Covert, S, Vermilion
- Called on P/D/C Wayne Powers, SN, to give the report of the Nominating Committee (see seat packet). A motion was made & seconded to accept the nominations. Motion passed.
- Report of the Audit Committee: “The audit committee examined the treasurer’s books for 2015 March through 2016 February. We found the books to be in good order. The bank statements balanced with the books. Receipts were attached for checks written. We see the District finances as sound for the coming year of 2016-2017. Respectfully submitted, P/Lt/C Margo Holmes, AP, Chair; P/C Dylan

Serrage, SN, and P/C Roland Figure, JN.” A motion was made & seconded to approve this report. Motion passed.

- Report of the Rules Committee No report
- Report of the Planning Committee P/R/C Liz Glassell, AP  
Committee Chair Liz Glassell read the final report of the Planning Committee which is contained in the seat packet. A motion was made by Liz as follows:

1. **That by Fall of 2018 a District 7 Conference Committee will plan and execute all District Conferences. This committee will have a membership that represents district squadrons fairly.**
2. **That by Fall of 2018 all future District Conferences will be held at a single location.**
3. **That by Fall of 2018 Fall Conferences will be a single day event.**
4. **That the District Commander is hereby directed to, as soon as possible, appoint an ad hoc Conference Committee to complete the planning and other necessary efforts to meet these objectives.**

The motion was seconded. Discussion followed regarding the “central location”. It was stated that this may only be for a 2 or 3-year contract. This committee would possibly be appointed yearly. Brian Logan mentioned that USPS has contracted with a Conference Planning company, which D7 could take advantage of. Discussion was closed. Call for the question. 2/3rds vote was not required. Motion passed.

Chief Commander’s Message Chief’s Rep- Past Chief Commander Ernest Marshburn, SN  
Comments included admiration for the range, scope, and talent of D7 members serving on a National level. Briefly, two interesting comments were made- we are not an “older” group, but a group of long-term friends and the uniform represents “uniformity” and makes us recognizable as USPS. He also stated that USPS membership has stabilized.

Unfinished Business- none

New Business- D/Lt/C Jane Brandenstein, SN, announced a Governing Board planning meeting to be held Sunday morning. She encouraged all to attend the Governing Board in August.

The meeting was recessed at 1555 (3:55 pm) and is to reconvene at 1900 for dinner and awards.

### 2016 Spring Conference Dinner, Awards and Keynote Speaker

District Commander Dave Bialorucki, 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 Eileen Rickard, SN.

The Chief’s Rep, P/C/C Ernie Marshburn, SN, and his wife Lt Dianne were introduced. The District Bridge and Past District 7 Commanders were introduced. P/D/Cs present included Wayne Spraggins, Marion Sewell, Don Stark, Garry Schroeder, Liz Glassell, Brian Logan, Robert Fish, Robert Ball, Ken Leque, Wayne Powers, Mike Siwek, and Dan Stein.

Introduction of Guests: P/D/Commodore Al Knish, 9<sup>th</sup> District Eastern Region USCG Auxilary and Rear Admiral June E. Ryan, Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District, USCG

Rear Admiral Ryan gave her presentation. She stressed her command philosophy: Honor the member/Honor the Mariner/Honor the Memory. She stated that "there's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer".

The following Awards were presented:

Commander's Challenge Award-presented by P/D/C Brian Logan, SN

- 4<sup>th</sup> Place-Pittsburgh
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place (tie)- Mansfield & SCPS
- 1<sup>st</sup> runner up- Akron
- Winner- Vermilion

Dobler Award-presented by D/Lt/C Jane Brandenstein, SN

- Mansfield (100% retention)
- Mid-Ohio Valley (100% retention)
- Winner: Pittsburgh (110% retention)

Distinctive Communicator Awards-presented by D/Lt/C Lynda Leque, SN

- District 7 News
- Scuttlebutt-Akron
- The Mooring Post-Berea
- Yachtsman-Mansfield
- Rocky River Currents-Rocky River
- The Southwind-South Hills
- The Soundings- Stark County
- The Ball-Vermilion

District 7 Newsletter Award- presented by D/Lt/C Lynda Leque, SN

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place- Rocky River
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place- Akron
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place- Berea

Growth Award

- Division 4- Honorable Mention: Mid-Ohio Valley
- Division 3- Honorable Mention: Vermilion
- Division 2- 4<sup>th</sup> Place: Pittsburgh

New Senior Navigator Recognition- presented by DEO P/R/C Barbara Spraggins, SN

- Ed Mali, SCPS
- Lynn Jones, ASPS
- Jim Holcepl, RRSPS
- Dick Klespies, ASPS, (not present)

Chapman Educator Award- P/D/C Brian Logan, SN, was recognized for receiving this National Award; also recognized were past D7 Chapman Award recipients- P/R/C David Rickard, AP, and P/R/C Wayne Spraggins, SN

District Education Officer Award- presented by P/R/C Barbara Spraggins, SN- P/C Tom Glassell, AP

Life Member Awards (25 merit marks) –

- Jane Brandenstein, Pittsburgh
- James Brockman, Ten Mile
- Shirley Fort, Mansfield
- Mary Glassco, Rocky River
- Brian Logan, Akron
- James Mason, Rocky River
- Tom Stefanik, Berea
- Jan Stein, Berea

Vessel Safety Awards- presented by P/Stf/C Garry Schroeder, SN

- South Hills- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Nationally
- Morry Miller- 7<sup>th</sup> Year in Century Club
- D7 Award (number of VSCs divided by number of Examiners)  
4<sup>th</sup> Place- Rocky River  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place- Akron  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place-Vermilion  
1<sup>st</sup> Place- South Hills

District Commander's Award (for individual service to D7 & National)- P/C Tom Glassell, AP

Rocky River Tankard Award

- Honorable Mention- Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Ten Mile
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place- Rocky River (American Bandstand)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place- Berea (Addams Family)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place- Akron (Beverly Hillbillies)

District Commander Bialorucki recognized the SCPS Conference Committee & Chairs Joanne & Tom Hancock and the National Rep, P/C/C Ernie & Dianne Marshburn.

The D/C gave his final remarks. The dinner and awards ended at 2200.

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

Final Approval:

D/C Eileen Rickard, SN  
D/Lt/C Jane Brandenstein, SN  
D/Lt/C James Holcepl, SN

Date: 5-11-2016