

DISTRICT 7 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, 6 MARCH 2017

D/C Eileen Rickard, SN, called the meeting to order at 2010 (8:10 pm).

Roll call was taken.

All members of the Council were present, except Rules Com Chair Cdr Mike Thal (Clev), Cdr Jim Kranz (Kan), Cdr Lynn Fortman (Mans), Cdr James Philpott (MOV), Cdr Tom McFate (So Hills), Cdr Charles Schury (Ten Mi), and Chair of Audit Com P/C Roland Figure.

The Secretary reported that there was a quorum present.

The Secretary presented/read the Consent Agenda. Item #2 regarding the final report of the Fall Conference and Item #7 regarding the final report of the Boat Show East were pulled for further discussion under New Business. It was moved and seconded that the remaining items of the Consent Agenda be approved.

Executive Officer's Report- D/Lt/C Jane Brandenstein, SN, stated that both boat shows shared the virtual trainer and that Akron Squadron participated in an Akron Boat Show 3-5 March. Akron got several leads on members using a raffle for free classes. Co-op Charting Awards were presented at the Annual Meeting in Orlando. She congratulated Tom & Joanne Hancock. USPS is recommending a "Legislative Affairs" representative per state; names to be forwarded to the National Committee. VSC stickers are going to the Commanders of each squadron. There is a need to train more vessel examiners. Jane announced that, although the VSC trophy has been misplaced, a new one will be presented at the Spring Conference.

Educational Officer's Report- P/R/C Barb Spraggins, SN reported that Seamanship is the first of the Educational Courses to be rewritten. Each squadron will have the choice of teaching Seamanship as one class that lasts for 8/9 weeks, and test as normal. The Second choice is to teach each chapter as a separate seminar, if your student/students don't feel they have the time to come to class for the entire 8 weeks. The students taking the Seamanship Course as seminars must take all 8 seminars to get credit for the class.

At this time. there have not been any changes to the present Piloting Course.

Squadrons can teach any USPS courses with a printed book or an e-book in the same class. This is up to the individual squadrons and individual students. If a squadron orders 5 e-books and only four students show up to the class. The squadron will not be billed for the 5th book.

National is strongly recommending that we all use Facebook to promote our educational courses. There are many of us that have Facebook pages. If each of us share the information regarding our USPS classes, we will reach more prospect students than we will putting an ad in the local newspaper and it is a lot cheaper.

Administrative Officer's Report- D/Lt/C Jim Holcepl, SN, reported that we entered 3 posters in the Youth Poster contest in Orlando. None were National winners. He stated that the deadline is past for the D7 Photo Contest and the voting is complete per Irene Rodriguez.

Secretary's Report- D/Lt/C Lynda Leque, SN, reported on a recent meeting that she and D/1st/Lt Janice Vitucci-Ehrman had with Brian McNeill of Print-to-Promote, who prints our D7 News. It was reported that no sorting, tabbing, or permit fee is needed as it is included in their service. Postage per item is \$0.18. P-to-P credited us \$183.00 due to an overcharge on a past printing. Cost continues to decline due to declining membership. The secretary also stated that squadrons wishing to enter the D7 Newsletter Contest need to submit 3 best issues to the Admin, PR officer, and Newsletter Editor, currently Jim Holcepl, Dave Rickard, and Jim Mason.

Treasurer's Report- D/Lt/C Tom Hancock, P, stated that he has not found record of a postal permit fee for the past 6 years. Revenue is down 7.7%, 38% from 2009. The letter soliciting donations from Life members generated over \$500. USPS license fee revenue has been distributed to Ohio squadrons. Forms 9-90 and TR-1 need to be completed by squadrons. Squadrons need to follow the proper procedure when submitting new member fees to National. Tom urged Bridge members to submit expenses by March 31st.

Committee Reports-

Audit-No report

Nominations- Chair V/C Craig Fraser, SN, read the report of the Nominating Committee and stated that he will not be attending the Spring Conference, but that P/D/Cs Mike Siwek or Dave Bialorucki will read the report at the Conference meeting.

Planning – P/R/C Wayne Spraggins, SN, stated that the committee needs to be updated on what National is planning and on rules that need to be reviewed.

Rules- No report

Commander's Report- D/C Eileen Rickard, SN, reminded the Council that the usual Commander's Cocktail party will now be a "Meet and Greet" with Chief Louie Ojeda and all in attendance are welcome. Beer, wine, and pop as well as food will be offered. Bridge Officers were reminded of the Saturday morning Officer's Meetings at 8 am. Teacher Recertification will be available on Sunday from 1000-1200 (10-12:00). All names for the "Crossing the Bar" ceremony must be submitted by 17 March. Seat packet deadline for articles is 10 March. She urged squadrons to bring awards/trophies from last spring. P/D/C Liz Glassell interjected that, in addition to the National Chief, Past Chief Robert Baldrige, SN, and his wife Nancy will be attending the Spring Conference.

Unfinished Business- ASPS Cdr Lynne Jones reported on the upcoming Spring Conference. Currently 78 registrations. Hotel reservations due 10 March. There will be a "Clue" game during the Ice Breaker.

P/D/C Liz Glassell reported on the 2017 D7 Rendezvous stating that the Mardi Gras themed event will be 4-6 August at Middle Bass Island. Information should be in all squadron newsletters. She potentially has 85 docks reserved through the state.

New Business- Consent Agenda item #2: Vermilion Cdr is to speak to Fall Conf chair Barzyk regarding question & report back to D/C. Item #7, attachment 6 was wrong report; secretary will present correct report in seat packet. D/C Eileen reported that on 14 February South Hills Power Squadron voted to close their squadron. After an explanation from Eileen that described the steps that South Hills has properly followed to accomplish this, the Council was asked to make a motion. D/Lt/C Jane made the following motion: *I move that the Council approve South Hills decision to give up their charter and dissolve their squadron.* The motion was seconded and passed.

Commander's Reports-

Akron-participation in the Akron Boat Show got 50 leads for classes or further information. There was a raffle each day of the Show for a free class or seminar. There were 6 winners.

Pittsburgh- Fall Conference will be 3-5 November at the Airport Marriot in Pittsburgh. The theme is Halloween.

North Coast- C.O.W. will be 2 April and will be a brunch at Merwin's on the River. Their Kentucky Derby Party will be 6 May at the Kinkaid's home in Bratenahl. Their 50th Anniversary will be celebrated 13 May with a brunch at Lakeside Yacht Club. Past Chief John Alter will be the guest speaker.

Stark- C.O.W. was 4 March. The Launch Party will be at Price Park 4 May.

The meeting was adjourned at 2100.

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

Approved by:

D/C Eileen Rickard, SN date: 3-11-17

D/Lt/C Jane Brandenstein, SN date: 3-12-17

D/Lt/C James Holcepl, SN date: 3-10-17