

DISTRICT 7 FALL CONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES, 4 NOVEMBER 2017

D/C Jane Brandenstein, SN, called the meeting to order at 1410 (2:10 pm).

Roll call was taken.

All members of the Council were present, except D/Lt/C James Holcepl, SN, (EXO); Asst Secretary Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P; Cdr Maureen Burdette, AP (Kanawha); Cdr James Philpott, SN (MOV); and Cdr Paul Hammel, S (Vermilion). Also, not in attendance were General Committee Chairs P/C Dylan Serrage, SN (Audit); PDC Michael Siwek, SN (Nom); and William Bartilson, SN (Rules).

The secretary, D/Lt/C Lynda Leque, reported that there was a quorum present. (16 Council members, 19 delegates, 10 PDCs)

Voting Rules were explained by P/C Michael Thal, SN.

The secretary presented/read the Consent Agenda. It was moved and seconded that the Consent Agenda be approved. No discussion. Motion passed.

Officer's Reports: Note: see attached seat packet for full reports.

Executive Officer's Report- D/C Jane Brandenstein, SN, reported for EXO Holcepl in his absence. Jane called on Boat Show West Chair David Rickard, AP to report on the show. It is to be held 17-21 January 2018. Sign-up to work the booth will again be on-line. The Simulator will again be there. Laptops will be used to register guests. Door prizes will be given. The "Boating Primer", containing basic boating information, will be available to present/discuss with guests. P/D/C Brian Logan suggested that a free ABC boating class can be given as a door prize.

Public Service Announcements will be done by a friend of D/Lt/C Holcepl. Ray Davis, program director of WTAM, will promote boating classes and events and link to www.beyondboating.org. Information should be sent to D/Lt/C Holcepl. Vessel Safety Checks numbers are up. 2016-894. 2017-941. 56 examiners. There is a need to train more examiners.

Educational Officer's Report- D/Lt/C James Mason, SN, forwards HQ800 information to D/Lt/C Holcepl for PSAs. There are 2 entries for the Teaching Aides competition. He explained that the Marzzarella AP Award was given by South Hills, which has disbanded and the Deed of Grants expires at this conference. The Marzzarella family has agreed to extend the deed of grants/trophy for one more year to allow time for a new AP trophy and Deed of Grants to be established. North Coast Ohio will take over this award.

Administrative Officer's Report- P/R/C Barbara Spraggins, SN, asked PDC Brian Logan, SN, to report on Membership. Brian reported that membership is down by 50 members from last year. There are currently 20 memberships due and 64 past due. He encouraged each squadron to go on the on-line membership reports and contact those members due/past due. He commended Ten Mile for teaching 61 students with a squadron of 25 members. In general, ABC students is up 35% in D7. Trial membership program is being eliminated by National. Credit card forms for membership are now available from National. Let members know what they are getting for their money!

Barb asked P/D/Lt/C Irene Rodriguez, SN, to report on the photo contest and District roster. Irene explained the rules for the Spring Conference photo contest. Entries will be accepted electronically by Irene between 1 January and 15 February 2018. Forms for the District Roster will be sent to current Commanders by mid-December and are due by 31 January 2018.

Barb reported that it was announced at the 2017 Governing Board Meeting in Dallas that Akron Sail & Power Squadron earned the Member Involvement and Retention Award (MIRA).

Barb asked D/Lt Larry Spraggins, AP, to report on the 2018 Spring Conference to be hosted by Berea. It is to be held at the Crown Plaza in Independence, Ohio on 6-8 April 2018. The theme is "Celebrating Our Past...Propelling D7 Into the Future". There will be a buffet meal & 3-piece band at the Icebreaker Friday evening. This will be our annual Change of Watch. Packets are to be distributed to all squadron commanders.

Secretary's Report- D/Lt/C Lynda Leque, SN, discussed the D7 cover feature, kayaker Tracy Martin, and the fact that she is currently in Lake Erie and has kayaked over 3,000 miles since 1 March 2017. Lynda also mentioned the savings to be had by using the Office Max discount. Cost of the seat packet went from \$77 to \$25 with the USPS discount.

Treasurer's Report- D/Lt/C S. Thomas Hancock, P, reported that revenue continues to decline due to decline in membership. He also reported on the USPS license plate program. Funds will be distributed to Ohio squadrons in January or February.

District Commander's Report- D/C Jane Brandenstein offered thanks to Stf/C Liz Glassell and committee for the D7 Cruise to MBI, Pittsburgh & Ten Miles members for helping with the Fall Conference, and members of D7 for all they do.

Committee Reports:

Auditing No Report

Nominations No Report

Planning Chair, PDC Robert Ball reported that a report will be available at the Spring 2018 Conference.

Rules No Report

A motion was made & seconded to approve the reports. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business:

DC Brandenstein reported on the low attendance at the 2017 Governing Board in Dallas. There were concerns that there wouldn't be a quorum. With a few changes in required numbers, business was held with a quorum.

USPS Bylaws state that each District shall have a Conference & Council meeting each year. It was voted to change to this to "have a Conference & may have a Council Meeting". At this time D7 will continue as is. D7 has already changed the Council meeting from face-to-face to a conference call.

District 15 Resolution: to decrease some of the requirements to continue to be a viable squadron. The motion was voted down & sent to the National Rules committee, to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

New marketing plan has received positive response. A power point on this will be made available.

District 11 joined D7 in our Hospitality room in Dallas. Plans are to continue this trend for the Annual Meeting. VC Gary Cheney, most likely to be new National Chief, is from Ohio & plans are being made to honor him with a "Buckeye" themed D7-D11 Hospitality room in Orlando.

DC Brandenstein asked Stf/C Liz Glassell, AP, to give a report on the "Conference Re-organization Committee". Liz reported the following:

- Contracts have been signed with the Holiday Inn-Independence for Fall 2018 through Spring & Fall 2019.
- An evaluation will be made to decide whether to continue in 2020.
- Room cost per night will be \$95 Fall of 2018 and \$97 for Spring & Fall 2019. This is \$30-40 less than most rates.
- Creative team will look to re-use squadron properties & decorations for themes for the conferences.
- Entertainer is signed for Fall 2018.
- P/R/C Wayne Spraggins & his team will look into sponsorships.

New Business:

P/R/C Dave Rickard suggested that volunteers at the Boat Show promote the new marketing slogan "America's Boating Club". PDC Brian Logan reminded all to share their activity & class schedules.

DC Brandenstein introduced V/C Craig Fraser, SN, to give Education Department updates. V/C Fraser presented a power point on this.

A motion was made and seconded that the Conference meeting be adjourned. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1540 (3:40 pm) to be continued at 1900.

Note: Lunch Presentations

Co-Operative Charting Award- presented by D/Lt Joanne Hancock, SN to Stark County Power Squadron

Guest Speaker- John P. Dilla, US Army Corp of Engineers

Certificates of Appreciation to speakers- Eileen Rickard, Barb Spraggins, Lynda Leque, John P. Dilla

2017 FALL CONFERENCE DINNER, AWARDS, AND SPEAKER

The Fall 2017 Conference meeting was called back to order at 1915 (7:15 pm).

Following the Pledge, Invocation, introductions and dinner V/C Craig Fraser, SN presented the Chief's Message from Chief Commander Luis Ojeda, SN.

Awards for the Youth Poster Contest were announced by P/R/C Barbara Spraggins. The winner in each age category will receive a check for \$25.00 from D7 and the winning posters will be taken to the 2018 Annual Meeting in Orlando.

DEO James Mason presented the Education Awards. A list of these award recipients is attached.

D/C Brandenstein presented PDC Dave Bialorucki, SN, with a 50 Year Member plaque and pin. Additional 50 year members, not in attendance, are: Richard Kemp (Akron), Vincent Mallen (Cleveland), James Christman (North Coast Ohio), and Tom Etwiler (Mansfield).

D/C Brandenstein announced the winner of the "Best" Hospitality Room, based on a vote of the members present. Winner- Berea Sail & Power Squadron.

D/C Brandenstein presented a gift to the Chief's Rep and thanked Pittsburgh & Ten Mile members and Conference Lynn Brockman.

The D/C gave her final remarks. The benediction was given by D/Lt Robert Winter, SN.
The meeting was adjourned at 2100. (9:00 pm)

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

Approved by: D/C Jane Brandenstein, SN	date:
P/R/C Barbara Spraggins, SN	date:
DEO James Mason, SN	date: