

D7 Fall Conference Meeting Minutes 03 November 2018

D/C James R Holcepl, SN called the meeting to order at 1419.

D/Lt Jon C Paulus gave the invocation.

D/Lt/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN led the Pledge of Allegiance.

P/D/C Jane S Brandenstein, SN introduced Past District Commanders present and D/C James R Holcepl, SN introduced immediate P/D/C Jane S Brandenstein, SN.

D/C James R Holcepl, SN introduced Chief's representative V/C Ben Coons, JN-CN, and Bridge officers.

P/R/C Wayne Spraggins, SN explained the voting rules and the role of the Conference.

D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P verified a quorum was present.

D/C James R Holcepl, SN noted that in accordance with a motion adopted in Fall 2014, the designated committee approved the minutes of the D7 Council Meetings held on 01 and 21 October 2018 and no further action is required. The minutes are included in the Seat Packet.

D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P read the Consent Agenda. **P/D/C Robert A Ball, SN moved to accept the Consent Agenda. P/C Thomas McFate, AP seconded. There was no discussion. Motion approved.**

Department Reports

Executive: D/Lt/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN reported Berea Sail and Power Squadron had presented two "Boating/Water Safety Classes for Kids". Happily, one of the posters done in the class won First Prize in the National competition for 6-8 year olds. The proud winner was Finn Monnett, grandson of member Gary Adkins and his wife, Theresa.

VSC Report: P/D/C Garry Schroeder, SN reported 2019 decals will be sent out on 12/1/2018. Current year report final submission deadline date is 11/30/2018. He reminded members that any examiner who has completed 10 VSCs is deserving of a merit mark. The District has completed 1138 VSCs this year; last time the District was over 1000 was back in 2015. There are two Century Club members, Lt Robert Mosey, S with 110, and P/D/C Dave Bialorucki, SN with 101. He also reminded members that the Sirius SOS C 1001 now has an added daytime distress flag and thus satisfies the anytime/nighttime signaling requirement. As a further note to pass up to National, he noted that the online VSC test is very difficult to take and pass; a number of competent examiners have not been able to pass it.

Boat Show West: P/D/C Eileen Rickard, SN stated the show will be 17-21 January at the IX Center in Cleveland. There should be availability for online sign up to work the show within 2-3 weeks.

Boat Show East: P/D/C Jane S Brandenstein, SN stated there will be a show 18-20 January in Pittsburgh and another show in the area 1-3 February. The BSVT will be at all the boat shows.

2019 D7 Rendezvous: P/C Larry Spraggins, AP announced a new idea for a rendezvous as many members no longer have boats. The Rendezvous will be Saturday, August 3 as a cruise on the Goodtime I. The boat will depart Sandusky and cruise to Kelleys Island and Put-in-Bay before returning to Sandusky in the evening.

Administrative: D/Lt/C Lynda C Leque, SN

She noted members are invited to participate in other squadrons' activities and she encouraged participation across squadrons. Members can find such information on the Boating Activities page on D7 website. She thanked organizers of the D7 Rendezvous and this current Fall Conference; she hinted that the Spring Conference will have a Mystery theme. She passed out a half-sheet survey and asked for feedback on the current conference for future conference planning.

Membership Report: P/D/C Brian Logan, SN referred members to information in the seat packet as to how to encourage 18 month membership sign-ups.

Education: D/Lt/C James E Mason, SN

He emphasized the new Boat Handling course that came out September 10, 2018 and briefly reviewed the modules within the course. He strongly promoted the Jump Start program, providing ideas to promote the program via leaflets given out at VSCs. He noted that instructors and students alike seemed to very much enjoy the program.

Secretary: D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P

She noted that requests for information for the D7 roster would occur in December and if squadrons are able to keep up with posting updated member information throughout the year, completion of the roster form is not difficult.

Treasurer: D/Lt/C Liana F Mihalca, SN

She plainly stated that decreasing membership equals decreasing funds and decreasing license plate fees. The District is still in the black. She reminded members that this is the first conference organized by the District, noting that we'll soon learn how well it turned out and what needs to be adjusted.

Commander: D/C James R Holcepl, SN

He thanked all who had helped with this conference.

He noted that in his previous position of Commander of a squadron and now the District Commander, he is concerned about the organization's ability to change. He asked several pointed questions about embracing change, the new logo and newer programs like Jump Start. He encouraged squadrons to encourage VSCs by noting how that's an opportunity to get on "cool boats". Also encouraged squadrons to reach out to P/D/C Brian Logan, SN in an effort to maintain/increase membership.

Committee Reports:

Nominating: P/D/C Dave Bialorucki, SN thanked fellow committee members and stated that although there are a few more positions to fill, they are well on their way regarding nominations for the new Bridge.

Auditing: no report

Rules: no report

Planning: no report

Unfinished Business None

New Business

P/D/C Jane S Brandenstein, SN reported D7 has an opportunity to house one of the Boating Skills Virtual Trainers (BSVT). She suggested that if the District were to house it, it should be within driving distance of all the squadrons. She reported that shipping costs to squadrons

outside of the District are covered by a grant. There is a stipulation is that wherever the BSVT is housed there must be the availability us United Parcel Service (UPS) pick-up from that location. P/D/C Robert Ball, SN moved that D7 host a BSVT within D7 to be housed in an indeterminate location. Lt/C Gilbert Lorenzo, AP seconded.

Discussion ensued. Lt/C Shirley Fort, SN and P/D/C Robert Ball, SN offered to house the BSVT as they both have UPS pickup availability. P/C Lynn Fortman, JN questioned if additional insurance would be necessary for whomever houses the BSVT. P/D/C Eileen Rickard, SN noted it would be important for D7 squadrons to coordinate scheduling of the BSVT so that we could ensure it would be available for D7 activities. Cdr Margo Holmes, AP stated that if D7 didn't house it, someone else would. Without definitive answers to any of the issues raised during the discussion, the vote was called for. **Motion passed.**

D/Lt/C James E Mason, SN agreed to coordinate scheduling of the BSVT (once it is finalized where it will be housed within D7) with squadron SEOs.

P/C Thomas McFate, AP asked about obtaining a challenge coin from V/C Ben Coons, JN-CN. He will follow up and pursue this directly with the V/C.

There being no further business to come before the conference, the meeting adjourned at 1531.

Respectfully submitted,
D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P

D/C James R Holcepl, SN	Date: 11/12/2018
D/Lt/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN	Date: 11/14/2018
D/Lt/C Lynda C Leque, SN	Date: 11/13/2018