

## MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT 7 SPRING CONFERENCE

07 April 2018

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

D/7 Chaplain, D/Lt/C Robert A. Winter, SN, gave the invocation.

D/Lt/C Jim Holcepl, SN, led the Conference members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

D/C Brandenstein, SN, introduced Vice Commander Craig Fraser, SN, as the "Chief's Rep".

P/D/C Eileen Rickard, SN, introduced the Past District Commanders present. D/C Brandenstein introduced immediate Past Commander Rickard, SN.

D/7 Chaplain, D/Lt Robert A. Winter, SN, conducted the "Crossing the Bar" ceremony.

- P/C Richard Ahlers, P North Coast Ohio Sail and Power Squadron
- Hugh C. Arey, SN Berea Sail and Power Squadron
- P/C William Barber, JN Berea Sail and Power Squadron
- P/C Jerome Catalano, AP Cleveland Power Squadron
- P/Lt/C Gordon Griffin, AP North Coast Ohio Sail and Power Squadron
- P/D/C Thomas Husvar, JN Berea Sail and Power Squadron
- P/C Edward Kurzenberger, SN Berea Sail and Power Squadron
- P/C Patrick Verlotti, P Vermillion Sail and Power Squadron
- P/D/Lt/C John F. Whiteley, SN Kanawha River Power Squadron

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

D/Lt Michael Thal, SN, explained the voting rules and the role of the Conference.

D/C Brandenstein, SN, stated that in accordance with a motion adopted at the last conference meeting, the minutes of the D/7 Fall Conference held 8 November 2017 and the Council Meeting held 12 March 2018 were approved by the designated committee and that no further action was required.

The secretary presented the consent agenda and entertained a motion that the consent agenda be accepted. Motion passed.

### Executive Officer's Report D/Lt/C Jim Holcepl, SN

D/Lt/C Jim encouraged use of the new marketing strategies and to continue to promote membership.

National Century Club for VSC for the 11<sup>th</sup> year of 100 VSC's each year was presented to Robert E. Mosey of Akron Sail & Power Squadron.

National Geodetic Recovery Program awards were presented:

SCPS-3<sup>rd</sup> Nationally

District 7-2<sup>nd</sup> Nationally

D/Lt/C Tom Hancock, P and D/Lt Joanne Hancock, SN-tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> Nationally

Superior performance in reporting recovery of Geodetic Marks in 2017- D/Lt/C Tom Hancock, P and D/Lt Joanne Hancock, SN

### Educational Officer's Report D/Lt/C James Mason, SN

Advanced Piloting Award has been updated to new name "Advanced Marine Navigation". NCOSPS has re-named the former Mazzarella award in honor of P/R/C John "Jack" Hauck, SN (deceased) and will display this to his widow, P/D/C Twila Hauck, SN, at the Conference dinner. D/Lt/C Jim stated his support of the new "Jump Start" program, developed by National.

### Administrative Officer's Report P/R/C Barbara Spraggins, SN

Encouraged squadrons to present a "Water Safety for Kids" class. Presently there is only one squadron presenting this.

Membership report was presented by P/D/C Brian Logan, SN:

- Decline in membership continues/down 55 members over last year

- South Hills has disbanded
- America's Boating Club-good move by marketing committee
- Increase events and activities to build membership
- New guidelines for latest standards
- Add "doing business as America's Boating Club" to squadron logos
- Use "Meet Up" to post activities; ASPS has gotten 10 new members through this group
- "Membership boot camp" ideas available from Brian

District Cruise report was presented by D/Lt/C Jim Mason, Chair:

- Flyer has list of activities to participate in during the Rendezvous in Cleveland
- ASPS will host D/C cocktail party at "Rock the Docks" marina; then Goodtime III cruise planned
- Finalized plans will be sent to Cdrs and newsletter editors by the end of the month
- There will be a \$16.00 registration fee.

Conference Update was presented by P/C Larry Spraggins, AP:

- Attendance was larger than expected; total of 118 registered
- P/D/Cs were asked to serve as greeters at Ice Breaker and Cocktail hour

Secretary's Report D/Lt/C Lynda Leque, SN

- Beginning with Fall 2018 edition of the D7 News, issues will be sent via email
- National Rules Committee stated: As long as people have given us their email, that is tacit approval to send communications by email. Therefore, we do not need to ask for their approval, as they have already given it.
- We need to stress the need for current emails; those with no email on file need to contact their squadron updater.
- Lists of members of each squadron who do not have an email on record were given to squadron Cdrs

Treasurer's Report D/Lt/C Tom Hancock, P

- Tom provided an updated Treasurer's report as of 24 March.
- He reported a positive balance over last year.
- Membership revenue continues to decrease.
- Request for donations from Life Members helped off-set reduction in dues.
- Treasurers were reminded to submit IRS-990, State income form, and TR-1.
- Tom predicted a budget shortfall next year. (Budget is included in the seat packet)
- A motion was made & seconded that the proposed budget be accepted. Motion passed with 2 NO votes.

Commander's Report D/C Jane Brandenstein, SN

- It was moved and seconded that the Officer's Reports be accepted. Motion was passed.
- Ad Hoc Conference Committee, formed 2 years ago by P/D/C Eileen Rickard, SN, was discharged of their duties.
- Motion by P/R/C Barb Spraggins, SN: *I move that a District Committee be established to report to the District Administrative Officer, that will plan and implement District Conferences. It shall consist of members representing as many squadrons as possible. This Committee will plan, publicize, and execute the District Conferences to maximize interest, attendance, and efficiency of these meetings and reduce duplication of effort. The Committee chairs will be appointed by the District Administrative Officer.*
- The motion was moved and seconded. Motion passed.
- Regarding financial issue in fronting start-up costs for a Conference, the following motion was presented by P/R/C Barb Spraggins, SN: *I move that the District increase the Conference advance from \$500.00 to \$750.00 with repayment of all but \$200.00.*
- Motion was moved and seconded. Motion passed.
- Stf/C Liz Glassell, AP, and P/R/C Wayne Spraggins, SN, were appointed to continue as Chairs of this Committee for the coming year.
- Stf/C Liz was called upon to report on the Fall 2018 Conference to be held 2-4 November 2018:  
- Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn, Cleveland South in Independence, Ohio

- Hotel will be newly remodeled
- Sleeping Rooms will be \$95.00 plus tax; Hospitality rooms will be \$100.00 per night
- Theme: WINTER WONDERLAND; total registration fee will be \$87.00
- Packets were distributed to squadron commanders

Report of the Audit Committee An audit of the D7 treasury, as maintained by Treasurer D/Lt/C Thomas Hancock, P, was performed 6 April 2018. In attendance was assistant Treasurer D/1<sup>st</sup>/Lt Liana Mihalca, SN.

*The books were examined for the period 1 March 2017 to 31 March 2018 by Audit Committee Chair D/Lt Dylan Serrage, SN, P/Lt/C Roger Hall, AP and Lt/C Ralph Schaefer, SN. Dates of this audit are commensurate with ending date of last year's audit, a thirteen-month period. The financial books were found to be in an acceptable condition. The committee is pleased to report District 7 is solvent and demonstrated a small gain of \$394.27 after operations of the 2017-2018 bridge.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
The Audit Committee,  
D/Lt Dylan Serrage, SN Berea Sail and Power Squadron, Chair  
P/Lt/C Roger Hall, AP Cleveland Sail and Power Squadron  
D/Lt Ralph Schaefer, SN*

A motion was made & seconded to accept the report of the Audit Committee. Motion passed.

Report of the Rules Committee D/Lt Mike Thal, SN, reported on wind-powered units on the East Coast and whether the pylons are a hazard to navigation. He has contacted Washington, D.C. with no response.

Report of the Planning Committee No report

Chief Commander's Message V/C Craig Fraser, SN

The message was presented during a session before the general Conference Meeting, and is therefore, not included in the minutes of the Conference.

Unfinished Business

For the record, South Hills Power Squadron has been officially dissolved by USPS BOD. All members have transferred to Akron Sail and Power Squadron, Pittsburgh Power Squadron, the Cyber Squadron or have chosen not to renew their membership. All properties of the squadron have been distributed to other squadrons. Their funds have been sent to the Educational Fund. We are saddened, but the task is completed.

New Business none

Current Officers, with the exception of the Secretary, were dismissed and the floor was open for the election of Officers for 2018-2019. No nominations by petition for any elective D7 offices were received by the Secretary.

Election of Officers

The Nominating Committee Report was read by NomCom Chair P/D/C Mike Siwek, SN. A motion was made & seconded to accept the report. Motion passed. (Full slate of officers is contained within the seat packet)

A motion was made by P/D/C Eileen Rickard, SN, to fill the vacant assistant Treasurer's position by nominating P/D/Lt/C Tom Hancock, P. Motion was made & seconded. Motion passed.

Following D/C Jane's closing remarks, the meeting was recessed at 1555 (1:55 pm) to reconvene at 1900 for dinner, awards and Change of Watch.

## 2018 Spring Conference Dinner, Awards and Keynote Speaker

District Commander Jane Brandenstein, 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 Jim Holcepl, SN. D/C Jane made introductions. First Timers Debora & Harry Bigler from Berea were introduced.

### **AWARDS:**

#### **Dobler Trophy**

4<sup>th</sup> place, 100% retention-MOV

3<sup>rd</sup> place, 101% retention-Pittsburgh

2<sup>nd</sup> place, 102% retention-North Coast

1<sup>st</sup> place, 103% retention- Akron

#### **District Commander's Challenge Trophy**

Ten Mile (61 students, 100% increase)

#### **Outstanding D7 Publication Award**

3<sup>rd</sup> place-Mansfield, Yachtsman (37.66 pts)

2<sup>nd</sup> place-Akron, Scuttlebutt (40.66 pts)

1<sup>st</sup> place-Berea, Mooring Post (41.00 pts)

#### **District VSC Awards**

3<sup>rd</sup> place- Akron

2<sup>nd</sup> place -SCPS

1<sup>st</sup> place- Ten Mile

#### **Jack Hauck Award**

Formerly the Mazzarella Award, displayed to Twila Hauck, widow of Jack Hauck (no recipient in Spring)

#### **New Life Members**

P/C Sue A. Bell, P of Akron Sail and Power Squadron

P/C Lynn Brockman, AP from Ten Mile Power Squadron

P/D/C Twila Hauck, SN from North Coast Ohio Sail and Power

Robert M. Brown, N from North Coast Ohio Sail and Power

**DISTRICT COMMANDER TROPHY FOR EXCELLENCE** presented by D/C Jane Brandenstein, SN.

Awarded to D/Lt/C Lynda Leque, SN.

#### **Dinner Speaker**

LCDR Mickey Dougherty, Commanding Officer, Marine Safety Unit Cleveland, USCG

#### **D/C Final Remarks**

**Installing Officer's Remarks**- V/C Craig Fraser, SN

**Installation of New District Commander** James R. Holcepl, SN

#### **Installation of New Bridge**

- Barbara Spraggins, SN, Executive Officer
- James E. Mason, SN, Educational Officer
- Lynda Leque, SN, Administrative Officer
- Janice M. Vittuci-Ehrman, P, Secretary
- Liana F. Mihalca, SN Treasurer
- Wayne G. Spraggins, SN, Assistant Educational Officer

- Tom Hancock, P, Assistant Treasurer

**Presentation of Flags & Introduction of New Bridge**

**New Commander Remarks** D/C Jim Holcepl, SN

**Presentation of Past District Commander Flag & Plaque to Jane**

**Benediction**- D/Lt Robert Winter, SN

Meeting Adjourned at 2200.

Respectfully Submitted,  
D/Lt/C Lynda Leque, SN  
D7 Secretary

**Approved by:**

D/C James Holcepl, SN                      date: 4-19-2018

P/R/C Barbara Spraggins, SN              date: 4-19-2018

D/Lt/C Lynda Leque, SN                    date: 4-19-2018

**ADDITIONAL AWARDS PRESENTED DURING LUNCH:**

**Educational Awards**                                      D/Lt/C James Mason, SN

Proficiency Awards- P/Cs Dan & Lynn Fortman, Mansfield

**Educational Fund Awards**                                      D/Lt/C Barbara Spraggins, SN)

Akron	38 <sup>th</sup> year
Berea	25 <sup>th</sup> year
Cleveland	40 <sup>th</sup> year
Mansfield	29 <sup>th</sup> year
North Coast Ohio	33 <sup>nd</sup> year
Pittsburgh	19 <sup>th</sup> year
Stark County	27 <sup>th</sup> year
Ten Mile	25 <sup>th</sup> year
Vermilion	25 <sup>th</sup> year

**Distinctive Communicator Awards** D/Lt/C Lynda Leque, SN

**WEBSITES**

- District 7
- Akron
- Berea
- Mansfield
- North Coast
- Stark County

- Vermilion

#### **NEWSLETTERS**

- District 7 News
- Scuttlebutt – Akron
- The Mooring Post – Berea
- Yachtsman – Mansfield
- Currents – North Coast
- Soundings – Stark Co.

#### **Growth and Retention Awards 2016**

D/Lt/C Barb Spraggins, SN

Honorable Mention to Squadrons of 75-114 members to Pittsburgh Power Squadron

#### **D7 Photo Award Presentation**

P/D/Lt/C Irene Rodriguez, SN

Honorable Mentions- Lynda Leque (3), Marie McConnell (2), Dennis Boylan (1)

Winner-Andy Leffler, Akron

**Lunch Speaker** Author, Bob Adamov