



United States Power Squadrons® We Are America's Boating Club®



District 7 Fall Conference 2018 Seat Packet 2-4 November 2018

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Agenda for Fall Conference Meeting 3 November 2018

Call to Order - D/C Jim Holcepl, SN

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of Past Commanders

Introduction of Guests and Bridge

Explanation of Voting Rules & Role of Conference

Verification of Quorum

Approval of Minutes

In accordance with a motion adopted in Fall 2014, the designated committee approved the minutes of the D7 Council Meeting and no further action is required. The minutes are included in the seat packet.

Presentation of the Consent Agenda - D/Lt/C Jan Vitucci-Ehrman, P

Reports of District Officers

District Executive Officer

District Administrative Officer

District Education Officer

District Secretary

District Treasurer

District Commander

Reports of the General Committees

Nominating committee

Auditing committee

Rules committee

Planning committee

Unfinished Business

New Business

Boating Skills Virtual Trainer - P/D/C Jane S Brandenstein, SN

If there is no further business to come before the conference, this meeting is adjourned. We will reconvene at tonight's dinner.

2018 Fall Conference Consent Agenda

1. That the agenda be adopted.
2. That the District Commander may alter the agenda as needed to expedite business.
3. That the Conference approve the final report of the 2018 Spring Conference hosted by Berea Sail and Power Squadron. (item 1)
4. That the Conference approve the final report of the 2018 District 7 Rendezvous at Rock and Dock in Cleveland. (item 2)
5. That the Conference approve the 2019 Boat Show East budget. (item 3)
6. That the Conference approve the 2019 Boat Show West budget. (item 4)
7. That the Conference approve the proposed budget for the 2019 Spring Conference hosted by District 7. (item 5)
8. That the Conference accept the dissolution of Kanawha River Power Squadron in accordance with the USPS Operations Manuals Section 15.8.
9. That the Conference accept the dissolution of Cleveland Power Squadron in accordance with the USPS Operations Manuals Section 15.8.
10. That a committee of the following: the District Commander, Executive Officer, and the Administrative Officer, approve the minutes of the Council meetings held 1 October 2018 and 21 October 2018.

D7 Council Meeting Minutes, 01 October 2018

D/C James R Holcepl, SN called the meeting to order at 2006.
Roll call was taken.

Attende

es: D/C James R Holcepl, D/Lt/Cs Barb Spraggins, Jim Mason, Lynda Leque, Liana Mihalca, Janice Vitucci-Ehrman; D/1/Lts Tom Hancock, Wayne Spraggins; Cdrs Margo Holmes, Brian Redmond, Mike Siwek, Elliott Manke, Cathe Radebaugh; General Committee Chairs P/D/C Dave Biarolucki and Lt Roger Hall, and P/D/C Jane S Brandenstein, SN. P/D/C Liz Glassell present as guest.

Unable to attend: Maureen Burdette (Kanawha), Jim Philpott (MOV), Vincent Manetti (Pitts), Kathy Russell (Stark) and Chuck Schury (Ten Mile).

The Secretary verified a quorum was present.

The Consent Agenda was shown. Cdr Cathe Radebaugh moved to accept the Consent Agenda, Cdr Margo Holmes seconded the motion. It was agreed #7 and #8 (correspondingly with items 5 and 6) would be removed for further discussion. The motion was then approved.

Discussion then ensued over numbers 7 and 8 on the agenda which related to rolling over deposit money from the Fall to the Spring Conference, and the Spring Conference Budget, itself. Concerns were raised regarding the price of the Spring Icebreaker and moving certain costs to other line items to reflect where the costs lie. Liz agreed to review the issues with her team and present a revised budget for 2019 Spring Conference. This will then be reviewed in a future call prior to Fall Conference.

Department Reports:

Executive: D/Lt/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN announced that Finn Monnett, a relative of a Berea member, won at the National level for a poster from 6-8 year olds. She will invite his family to Fall Conference but warns they are unlikely to attend as they live in Indiana.

Educational: D/Lt/C Jim Mason, SN reported he has been focusing on getting his department awards together for Fall Conference. He is working with the trophy chairperson.

Administrative: D/Lt/C Lynda C Leque, SN encouraged all officers to attend departmental meetings at the upcoming conference. She also reminded us of obtaining all relevant committee reports, as well as department reports, to submit them to the Secretary by Oct 15 deadline for the Seat Packet.

Secretary: D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P ditto the comment about needing Seat Packet materials. Also inquired about lack of receipt of first electronic issuance of D7 News. Only 1 of the Council members present had not received it. She stated she would follow up.

Treasurer: D/Lt/C Liana F Mihalca, SN had no report.

Commander: D/C James R Holcepl, SN noted that it was time for Merit Marks. Janice stated the deadline for those was 11/01 due to her schedule. Also reminded officers that only those who did not have enough to earn a merit mark within his/her own squadron, would need to be submitted for a District merit mark. So the burden of merit marks should not be too great. He encouraged officers to attend the Fall Conference Saturday meetings in their departments. He noted that Akron won 3rd Place for the Roger Upton Award for video presentations. He reported 3 members will receive 50 year membership awards: Walter May (NCO), James Adelman and Gerald Roeder (Pittsburgh). He hoped they may be encouraged to come to conference to accept their awards. Regarding Cleveland and Kanawha squadrons disbanding, he stated that Cdr Maureen Burdette (Kanawha) has disbursed remaining funds and sent in all the transfer forms for members. She next expects to hear from National a request for return of the charter. He noted that Cleveland members had voted in August to disband. Janice reported she would submit the transfer paperwork for remaining members submitted within a week.

General Committee Reports:

Auditing: none

Nominating: P/D/C Dave Bialorucki said his committee is already working on lining people up. He encouraged current officers to give thought to those who may be well suited to follow in their footsteps.

Planning: not present

Rules: not present

Squadron Commander Comments:

Akron: Margo Holmes noted 1 Seamanship is underway and the new “Seamanship” course is soon to begin this week.

Berea: Brian Redmond said they had a very successful Clambake and they have their Fallclass underway.

Mansfield: Mike Siwek sadly reported that despite advertising and delaying, no one signed up for either of their basic boating class offerings. On a fun note, though, he said they will have a dinner event at a local restaurant on 10/27.

North Coast: Elliott Manke reported they have 2 basic boating classes in progress with 11-15 students each. There are also 5 students in an AP class.

Pittsburgh: Jane Brandenstein reporting for Vince Manetti stated they are having a seminar at a Brunswick dealer in Fox Chapel including anchoring, beaching a boat and tying off on a wall.

Vermilion: Cathe Radebaugh noted they currently have one basic boating class going on at a local library. They are also hoping to garner enough students to have an AP class.

Other Business:

D/C Jim Holcepl stated D7 website hosting fee is up for renewal. Plans offered were for 1, 2, or 3 yrs and costs were stated. There is a \$62 annual fee for domain renewal, ID protection, and malware monitoring. Tom Hancock said there is \$200 allotted annually in the budget for the website. **Liana moved that D7 pay for the 3 year plan (\$302 + \$62 annual fee) and then \$62 for each of the 2 years remaining (annual fee) as it was the most economical. Jane seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

Brief reminder that there will be a future call necessary for the items removed from the Consent Agenda. There may also be a call for the Bridge regarding the details of the Fall Conference, itself.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2110.

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

Approved by:

D/C James R Holcepl, SN Date: 10/05/18

D/Lt/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN Date: 10/05/18

D/Lt/C Lynda C Leque, SN Date: 10/05/18

D7 Council Meeting Minutes, 21 October 2018

D/C James R Holcepl, SN called the meeting to order at 2002.

Roll call was taken.

Attendees: D/C James R Holcepl, D/Lt/Cs Barb Spraggins, Jim Mason, Lynda Leque, Liana Mihalca, Janice Vitucci-Ehrman; D/1/Lts Tom Hancock, Wayne Spraggins; Cdrs Margo Holmes, Maureen Burdette, Elliott Manke, Cathe Radebaugh; General Committee Chairs Lt Roger Hall and P/C George Davalla, and P/D/C Jane S Brandenstein, SN. Stf/C Liz Glassell present as guest.

Unable to attend: Cdrs Brian Redmond, Mike Siwek, James Philpott, Vince Manetti, Kathy Russell, Chuck Schury; General Committee Chairs Dave Bialorucki and Garry Schroeder.

The Secretary verified a quorum was present.

The proposed budget for the 2019 Spring Conference hosted by District 7 was shown on screen. P/D/C Jane S Brandenstein, SN moved to approve the budget. D/Lt/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN seconded the motion. Discussion revolved around whether an estimate of 100 attendees to the conference was a realistic estimate. Several said yes. P/D/Lt/C Thomas Hancock, P reported statistics on the previous 3 Spring Conferences, noting that the numbers have been 117, 114, and 121. P/D/C Liz Glassell said that 62 are currently signed up for the Fall Conference. The vote was taken. Motion passed.

Comments and clarification was attempted regarding dress attire for the upcoming Fall Conference. Conclusion was to convey this to members via a Conference flyer with the agenda and advance blast email.

P/D/C Jane S Brandenstein, SN asked to be put on the Agenda at the Business Meeting under New Business regarding the Boating Skills Virtual Trainer. All accepted this and that will be on the agenda for the meeting.

D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P clarified that this newly approved budget would become item 5 in the Consent Agenda to be placed before the members at the Fall Conference.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2017.

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

Approved by:

D/C James R Holcepl, SN

Date: 10/23/2018

D/Lt/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN

Date: 10/24/2018

D/Lt/C Lynda C Leque, SN

Date: 10/23/2018

Commander's Department - Jim Holcepl, SN

It was my pleasure to officiate at Mansfield Power Squadron's and North Coast Sail and Power Squadron's Change of Watch earlier this year. I am truly grateful to both squadrons for their continuing support of the America's Boating Club marketing campaign and all they do to promote boating education.

The District has been busy with each squadron completing vessel safety checks and, having taught successful spring and early summer boating classes, now gearing up for the Fall offerings. We had a nice D7 cruise to Cleveland with 49 in attendance. The weekend weather was wonderful. Unfortunately, we did not get as many boats to come as expected. However, by all accounts, those who did come by boat were happy with the facilities and the helpful and polite staff of Rock and Dock. The Goodtime III cruise was well attended and we enjoyed dinner, music and the sights of Cleveland at night.

In early August, Sam Insalaco SN and I were invited as Cuyahoga River stakeholders, to participate in a Ports and Waterways Safety Assessment workshop. Myself, along with a member of Old River Yacht club, represented the recreational boating concerns. This 2 day

workshop (PAWSA) was led by USCG personnel, who are based at USCG HQ, Washington DC.

The stakeholders (about 30 of us) representing commercial and recreational interests focused on how to make the Cuyahoga river safe for all users. We focused on the first segment of the river and the old river channel, as being primary areas of concern with the remainder of the federal navigational channel/river to a lesser extent. There was much discussion about the Norfolk and Southern bridge #1 and the railroad had two representatives at the meeting to hear from the stakeholders. While the official report will come out in about six months, my take away from this is that more needs to be done to educate the users of the river how to be safe boaters and a bigger presence of law enforcement is needed. By boaters, I mean power and sail, PWCs, SUPs and other paddle craft. It was quite glaring to us that the SUPs, PWCs and Kayaks were a big safety issue. This is especially true due to the location and access to rental outlets on or near the river where these users get very little training prior to taking these craft out on this very busy waterway. I hope that District 7 squadrons will continue, and in all ways possible, increase their outreach to educate all boaters, but especially those of hand powered vessels.

Speaking of education and training, I need to mention the great job that our District's DEO Jim Mason, SN has been doing to get the JUMP START program moving. This has led to new members for some of the squadrons by showing the "student" what a great organization we are, where we share our passion and knowledge of boating and become good friends in the process. If your squadron has not been active in this program, please consider doing so. Jim is more than willing to help you get the program in place in your squadron. Contact Jim for details.

Julie and I attended the "Fall" Governing Board meeting in Minneapolis, MN. It was an interesting trip and the sessions that I attended were very informative. America's Boating Club has a lot of positive momentum as more and more squadrons adopt and promote the "club" aspect. Please refer to the Marketing Manual that National has on the website so that your squadron will take full advantage of this momentum while using the new marketing name correctly in your publications and with your squadron's name. The National Education department, led by our very own, V/C Craig Fraser SN, has really been busy revising and creating educational programs to meet the needs of current and future boaters. The new Boat Handling course looks really good and the pilot class will be available this fall. This course replaces the Seamanship course. I think it is better aligned to the needs of our students, especially after taking the ABC class. There are also two new on line courses to be offered as well: RADAR and PROPANE SYSTEMS. Check these out!

In order for each squadron and the district to function we need volunteers to step up to make it all happen. If you are new to the organization, we need you! If you've been around for a awhile, we need you! If you are a life member, we need you! Please help us continue our mission of educational outreach to the general public, self growth by taking our great boating courses and gaining new friendships along the way. When your squadron or the district's nominating committee contacts you to help, please, please. say YES!

I am proud to be a member of "America's Boating Club"

Respectfully submitted,
D/C Jim Holcepl, SN

D7 District Commander's Challenge – Fall 2018

D-7's District Commander's Challenge recognizes squadron excellence. It compares squadron performance for the calendar year, Jan 1 - Dec 31, to the previous year. Because it compares a squadron's improvement over its prior year, large squadrons and smaller squadrons are evaluated on a level playing field.

The Challenge evaluates each squadron's performance in six different areas: Membership, Member Retention, Public Boating Class Registrations, Member Education (both Advanced and Elective Grades), VSC, and Coop Charting.

This packet summarizes the Commander's Challenge so far this year, from 1 Jan through 1 Aug, 2018. **Some categories, like membership, retention, and classes, can change considerably by the end of the year. Co-op Charting results are not in this report, but will be included in the final report Dec 31, 2018.**

Details of the award and criteria can be found on the D7 Website. **As always, each squadron should evaluate their performance, and use this to set goals for improvement.**

Past winners were Stark County (2006), Kanawha (2007), Akron (2008), Mid Ohio Valley (2009), Berea (2010), North Coast (2011), Akron (2012-2014), Vermilion (2015), Berea (2016), and Ten Mile (2017).

PLEASE REFER TO THE SPREADSHEET IN THIS PACKET FOR THE DETAILS FOR EACH CATEGORY.

Category 1. Membership

District 7 has lost 10% of its membership so far in 2018, and is down to 707 members. **All squadrons have lost members this year.**

Akron, the largest squadron in D7, and **Stark County**, are at 97% and 96% of last year's membership.

Category 2. America's Boating Class student registrations

Stark County, Pittsburgh, and Mansfield have taught the same or more students than last year.

Note that there are **three squadrons that did not yet teach an ABC class** in 2018. Since this is a good source of new members, squadrons should put effort into teaching this class.

Category 3. Member Education, both Advanced and Elective grades

Akron has had the most Advanced and Elective graduates so far in 2018. Berea, Vermilion, Pittsburgh, Mansfield, and North Coast have also taught member classes in 2018.

Category 4. Member Retention

Member Retention is a measurement of "Member Satisfaction". Many members who do not renew feel they are not getting their "money's worth".

At this point, Stark County has had 100% of their members renew. Berea, Mid Ohio, and Cleveland all have renewal rates above 90%.

In the next few months, 107 D7 members are due for renewal, so this ratio may change by the end of 2018.

Squadrons who wish to see current non-renewal status, should look at the USPS dues reporting system, <http://www.usps.org/dues/reports/districtsummary.php>, for Squadron and District reports.

Category 5. Vessel Examinations

So far, Cleveland, Stark County, North Coast, and Vermilion have exceeded last year's VSC's. On a District Level, VSC's have increased 7% over last year.

Category 6. Cooperative Charting

Coop Charting results are not included in this report, but will be included in the 2018 Final Report, given at the Spring Conference.

Respectfully Submitted,
P/D/C Brian Logan, SN
District Commander Challenge Chair

Preliminary Ranking, Fall 2018			
rank	points		
1	12	Pittsburgh	
2	10	Stark County	
3	8	North Coast	
4	7	Mansfield	
4	7	Vermilion	
6	6	Cleveland	
7	5	Akron	
8	3	Berea	
9	0	Mid Ohio Valley	
9	0	Ten Mile	
9	0	Kanawha	

**District 7 Commander's Challenge
Fall 2018**

Total Active Membership					Boating Class Students				Educational Program Graduates						Member Retention (12 months)			
Goal # 1					Goal # 2				Goal #3			Goal #3			Goal #4			
Squadron	12/31/2017	8/1/2018	%	Pts.	12/31/2017	8/1/2018	%	Pts.	12/31/2017	8/1/2018	Pts.	12/31/2017	8/1/2018	Pts.	2018	12 mo	Ret.	Pts.
	Total	Total	Goal		ABC	ABC	Goal		AG	AG		EL	EL		Paid Mbr	Non renewal	%	
Akron	215	209	97%	-	43	35	81%	-	20	17	4	24	10	1	215	24	89%	-
Berea	119	103	87%	-	59	12	20%	-	6	3	2	7	6	1	119	6	95%	-
Cleveland	36	31	86%	-	0	0	0%	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	3	92%	-
Kanawha River	20	11	55%	-	0	0	0%	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	13	35%	-
Mansfield	89	80	90%	-	6	6	100%	5	6	2	2	7	0	0	89	12	87%	-
Mid Ohio Valley	15	14	93%	-	0	0	0%	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	1	93%	-
North Coast	95	85	89%	-	66	41	62%	-	7	2	2	1	0	0	95	16	83%	-
Pittsburgh	76	64	84%	-	18	21	117%	8	5	6	4	3	0	0	76	11	86%	-
Stark County	53	51	96%	-	0	28	>120%	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	0	100%	-
Ten Mile	25	19	76%	-	61	10	16%	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	5	80%	-
Vermilion	43	40	93%	-	9	8	89%	-	4	3	2	6	4	1	43	5	88%	-
D7	786	707	90%		262	161	61%	23	48	33	16	48	20	3	786	96	82%	0

Vessel Safety Checks					Coop Charting							Ranking, Fall 2018		
Goal # 5					Goal # 6									
Squadron	12/31/2017	8/1/2018	%	Pts.	12/31/2017	8/1/2018	%	Pts.	Tot. Pts.	Overall Rank	rank	points		
	VSC	VSC	Goal		Credits	Credits	Goal							
Akron	306	293	96%	-	76.7	-	-	-	5	7	1	12	Pittsburgh	
Berea	141	114	81%	-	0	-	-	-	3	8	2	10	Stark County	
Cleveland	6	13	217%	6	0	-	-	-	6	6	3	8	North Coast	
Kanawha River	0	0	0%	-	0	-	-	-	0	9	4	7	Mansfield	
Mansfield	19	6	32%	-	53	-	-	-	7	4	4	7	Vermilion	
Mid Ohio Valley	0	0	0%	-	0	-	-	-	0	9	6	6	Cleveland	
North Coast	151	174	115%	6	0	-	-	-	8	3	7	5	Akron	
Pittsburgh	73	71	97%	-	0	-	-	-	12	1	8	3	Berea	
Stark County	102	206	202%	6	4147.7	-	-	-	10	2	9	0	Mid Ohio Valley	
Ten Mile	39	0	0%	-	0	-	-	-	0	9	9	0	Ten Mile	
Vermilion	122	131	107%	4	24.7	-	-	-	7	4	9	0	Kanawha	
D7	959	1008	107%		4302.1	0	0%		58			58		

Merit Marks D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P

Just a reminder that the deadline for submission of Merit Marks to National is November 15th. Thank you to all who have submitted relevant District merit mark information to me timely so that I may meet that deadline. More than that....we appreciate all the hard work that so many of you do. THANK YOU!

Executive Department - D/Lt/C Barbara Spraggins, SN

Executive Departmental Mission Statement

"To enable USPS squadrons and districts to achieve national visibility and name recognition, cultivate sustainable membership growth, and create new opportunities for member development and life-long learning through innovative and motivational approaches.

To enhance the capabilities of squadron and district leaders through enhanced communication, productivity aids, and opportunities to offer valuable membership benefits.

To identify and implement practical national initiatives and incentives supporting recreational boating safety."

America's Boating Club Business Cards

Vistaprint Corporate America's Boating Club business cards can be ordered at a discount rate by visiting the USPS members main page, the Member Benefits page or the Safety Committee DAP page.

Abandoned Vessels

Responsible boaters should make sure they remove any manmade items they place in or bring near the water. Keep paper, plastics and similar items out of the water while mopping up any fuel or oil spills from our boats with oil absorbent pads. When using portable toilets or holding tanks, discharge them in proper locations. When we are done with boating, we must remove the boat or vessel from the water, making sure not to abandon any vessels in the water. Abandoned boats sink and discharge fuel and oil that foul the water. When you're done with boating, make arrangements for others to purchase or take over your vessel to keep the water a better place.

BoatUS Distinguished Civic Service Award

The BoatUS Civic Service Award is sponsored by the BoatUS Foundation as recognition for a squadron's and district's outstanding contributions to the communities they serve. This award includes not only the boating classes and VSCs but has been expanded to include public seminars and workshops, scholarships, courtesy marine patrols, media interviews, children's safety programs and more.

Legal Forms

The USPS Law Committee recently made available three new intellectual property forms: a photographer's release form, a model release form and a copyright transfer form. Two, the photographer and model release forms, are available as fillable PDFs. You can download all the forms at <http://bit.ly/USPS-licensing>.

Changing Squadron Names

The America's Boating Club brand is being endorsed by many squadrons and districts. The organization is moving forward. In fact, some squadrons have asked about changing their squadron name. The Marketing Committee, in conjunction with the Law Committee and Rules Committee, caution against changing the LEGAL name of a squadron and instead recommend that squadrons may pursue registering a TRADE name such as "America's Boating Club of _____" with their city. You can find some information in the Marketing Guidebook on registering a trade name or doing business as (DBA). The guidebook will be updated with more information in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, if you need information now, feel free to contact me via email.

Member Services Committee

We're all about service! Your member services rep is ready and able to help you navigate the USPS members website and answer those tough questions. Can't seem to find that #?#& form? No problem! Log on to the USPS Member Services Committee webpage and contact one of the knowledgeable member services representatives. We know that lots of members head to warmer locations each year and miss out on important mailings from HQ. You can alleviate that problem by logging in to the USPS members website and proceeding to the Membership Committee webpage under the Administrative Department. Then click on [Manage My Records](#), and insert your winter address in the second address space. Perhaps you would prefer to contact your rep, so he/she could establish that second temporary address for you. This way there will be no interruption of mail.

Cooperative Charting News

At the Cooperative Charting Committee meeting, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, a lengthy discussion developed concerning our newly revised Nautical Program report process (effective 7/1/2018). Simply stated, the requirement to fill out a Form 7054 on each reported item has been replaced with a required photo of each item. Also discussed were details of nautical reports on rivers and lakes, which led to a clearer understanding of the reporting requirements. For specific information on these programs log in as a USPS member, and then visit <http://www.usps.org/index.php/departments/12000/12200>. Our Geodetic Program was also discussed with a focus being placed on report correctness. Geodetic marks can be located almost anywhere, like highways and bridges. Always remember safety first! One way to increase your safety is to wear a cooperative charting Safety Vest.

Cooperative Charting

2018 Fall D7 Co-op Charting Report-effective 10/05/18

Co-operative charting is strong in D7. We are actively participating in geodetic marker recoveries and nautical survey outings. If your squadron wants to conduct either a geodetic marker recovery and/or nautical survey outing, feel free to contact us for guidance and support.

Nautical work

District summary

Member participation: 23

Ranked 1st nationally, 5250 points

Squadron participation: Akron (2), Berea (15), North Coast Ohio (3), Stark (2), Vermilion (1)

Geodetic work

District summary

Member participation: 16

Ranked 2nd nationally, 4934 points

Squadron participation: Akron (2), Mansfield (6), Stark County (8)

Respectfully submitted by:

D/Lt Joanne Hancock, SN

D/Lt/C Tom Hancock, P

VSC 2018 fall report

The District has 55 examiners, same as last year. We are progressing nicely and that is Great! The District Examiners have performed 975 exams to date. We have performed 140 more exams to 8/13/2018 than last year at this same time and we still have a couple months to do more. I congratulate each of the examiners and ask them to

1. Get their exams posted on the web site so they can be counted and
2. Go out and do more before the season is over. Use up those decals!!! To date we have already exceeded last year and minimum 2 months to go in the season.

To show the district members how the examiners have done over the past couple of year, I submit the following:

Year	Examiners	Total VSC's	Decal Awarded
18	55	975 (8/13/2018)	852 (8/13/2018)
17	55	959	850
16	60	894	797
15	64	1,013	953
14	76	1,578	1,429

The current VSC Manual is on line and can be downloaded from the National Web site at your convenience.

The Coast Guard Safety App is available on line. Visit the Safety Committee Web site to read up on it.

This article is from the web site: "Vessel examiners should be aware of the capabilities and approvals of the SIRUS SOS C-101 electronic distress light. This light is acceptable as a nighttime visual signal.

SIRIUS has included a daytime distress flag in the SOS C 1001 packaging so that it can market the package as a solution for a combination day/night signal, and as a replacement for flares. As long as the SIRIUS Signal Model SOS C-1001 is carried in conjunction with an acceptable daytime distress signal, this satisfies the anytime/nighttime signaling requirement"

The following is an article from the Safety committee's website on Life Jackets. "We are always told as a Vessel Examiner to wear our life jackets to project the idea of safety to the boating public." I am sure that most VE's have done so over the past 8 years that we have had them.

Now as we head into the boating season and all the associated activities, I would suggest that the first thing a VE should do is examine and test his/her Mustang inflatable life jacket. This operation is suggested to be performed every 2 to 3 months. I bet you have not even done it in the 8 years you have had the jackets. I am suggesting this exercise because we have found a few jackets that won't hold air. If one of these defective jackets are found, I suggest that it be destroyed and disposed of because the total life expectancy is only 10 years.

So how do we test our jacket? Open it up along the Velcro seams..... Then remove the cap on the oral inflation tube and inflate the Life Jacket orally.

Then keep the jacket inflated over night. If it fails to hold air all night it is defective. If it holds air ok, then reverse the oral inflation cap and compress the jacket to remove all of the air. Once deflated, replace the cap to its original position and fold the sides back and press the Velcro seams to hold the jacket together.

Examiners must visit the USPS website and review the extensive article on the Fire Extinguishers that have been recalled. Log in to the website using your Membership number and your password, go to the National Executive Officers page on the website and then to the Safety Committee. Once there: you will see the USCG Recommendations for Vessel Safety Check Decal awarding with Recalled Kidde extinguishers. This will show the examiners which fire extinguishers and smoke detectors are being recalled. The following paragraph is from that web site:

"Even if the fire extinguisher is part of the recall, it's still a CG approved extinguisher and counts towards any cg carriage requirement. Assuming the fire extinguisher criteria (see VSC Manual, chapter 3, paragraph B5) is met, continue to issue a decal even if the VE finds a recalled extinguisher filling a carriage requirement. In the event that a VE encounters a recalled extinguisher, it is recommended annotating the VSC form with an asterisk next to item 5, Fire

Extinguishers and writing the word recall in the space to the right. The VE should also discuss the implications of the recall and issue a paper copy of the recall with the completed VSC form.”

I want to thank all squadrons for their participation in the program. Squadrons have been submitting their exams to Headquarters as noted on the web site in a timely manner. In reviewing the figures to date, we have a few examiners who normally have many exams, still not reporting them? Vessel Safety Chairman, please put out an email to all examiners to get them to you for submittal. The final date to get them in so they count toward the VSC awards is around November 1st.

We can educate more boaters and have fun doing it as well. The boats are back. Now let's go get them.

Respectfully Submitted:
P/D/C Garry Schroeder
District 7, Safety/VSC Chairman.

Education Department - D/Lt/C Jim Mason, SN

Educational Officer's Report---from District 7 Council Meeting Minutes -- D/Lt/C James E. Mason, SN-IN stated that there will be a SEO meeting at the Fall Conference at 8:00am. All the SEO's have been sent an invitation to this meeting with copies to the Commanders so that they can encourage their SEO to attend.

At the Conference Luncheon, Educational Achievement Awards will be passed out and any new "N" Awards.

We will be presenting the usual full array of Saturday night Educational Awards.

Additional Saturday night award will be: Any new SN Members & D/7 Award for Teaching Excellence.

Full Education Department Report for Seat Packet:

New “Boat Handling Course” to Debut Sept 10th in a Pilot Program. It will eventually replace the “Seamanship 2016” Course. I encourage all SEO's to contact National and be part of this Pilot Program. The students will get the same credit as if they took Seamanship. National would like to hear the feedback from the instructors.

Boat Handling will debut as a single course, comprised of six two-hour sessions:

- Rules of the Road – A Practical Approach
- Confidence in Docking and Undocking – Slow-Speed Maneuvering
- Boating with Confidence – Handling Your Boat Underway
- Anchoring with Assurance – Don't Get Carried Away
- Emergencies on Board – Preparation for Handling Common Problems
- Knots and Line Handling – The Knots You Need to Know

Jump Start Program Notes.

At the last Fall Conference, NEO Craig Fraser, SN promoted the On-The-Water Training with emphasis on the new Jump Start Program for Boaters. There are “On-The-Water” Guides, Hands on Training pamphlets, Boater Operator Certification. The emphasis of the Jump Start Program was having hands on training for NEW BOAT OWNERS. To use the stored-up wealth of life long experiences and knowledge from our boating members to improve the boating ability of recreational boaters.

As the District Chairman of the Jump Start Program I have tried very hard over the past several months to encourage squadrons to participate in this program. Through the grapevine I did

hear that a couple squadrons managed to complete one or two classes, but officially, I have not gotten any feedback. As the NCO Jump Start Program Chair, I just wanted to say that our program was an overwhelming success. As of when I had to submit this article, NCO at 28 requests and completed 21 of them. Our program got so busy, I had to recruit instructors from Cleveland, Mansfield and Vermilion to keep up. All the boaters that participated only had very high praise and the instructors that agreed to perform a class, immediately came back and wanted to do more of them. These classes are a lot of fun and it does seem that we can make a difference with the boaters. I have sent one enthusiastic couple from one Jump Start Class to Akron for membership. In the end, NCO will probably get 2 couples to join. We will discuss this program again in greater depth at the Spring Conference. I just encourage all squadrons to give the Jump Start Program a try.

New, On-Line ED80 Forms.

As the D7 Conference gets closer, it will be time to start thinking about filling out the ED80 for your Educational Department for next year's bridge. Note that this year, all ED80 forms will be completed on line. I will have a copy of this procedure for you at the SEO Meeting, Saturday morning.

Location of ED 80 Form:

www.usps.org , then log in

Go to Departments , Education Department, SEO / DEO Tools

On left side click on SEO tools,

Under the "Administrative Function" (at the bottom) select SEO/DEO Tools

Log in

The blue square buttons – click on "SEO / DEO Specific Tools"

Select the line: "Nomination of SEO/ASEO or DEO/ADEO" – online ED80

The form will come up with the current information.

Fill in COW date, then SEO, ASEO and Chair of Nom Com Members' Number

When done click: "Generate Form" and that should do it.

The form will automatically be sent to the DEO, who will then sign it.

Once the DEO Signs it, it will automatically be sent to the NEO.

Final Notes:

We do have a Chapman Award candidate this year and their information has been sent onto National.

List of Certified Instructors that have been approved to teach ABC Courses will be available at the Saturday Morning SEO Meeting.

We do not want to forget about one of our greatest resources: The USPS Digital Media Library (USPS DML) which made its debut last year on 1 October 2016. It has a wealth of information and it is continually being added to. You can find it at: uspsdml.org.

SEO's must make sure that your instructors and Local Board Chairman enter in your student's information into the HQ800 system. Capturing the information off the ED26 Boating Course Registration Forms is the only way your squadron will get credit for teaching the ABC Course.

I would like to thank, Assist DEO, P/R/C Wayne Spraggins, SN, and all the squadron SEO's for their dedication and hard work to promote continued education in USPS.

Administrative Department - D/Lt/C Lynda Leque, SN

Welcome to the 2018 D7 Fall Conference. Membership is the foundation of USPS. We need members to staff and attend our educational courses. We need capable, involved and dedicated members to form and chair our committees and provide the leadership needed to ensure a bright future for our squadrons, District, and USPS. In other words, WE NEED YOU! Every member of USPS is a member of the "Squadron Membership Team" and shares the responsibility for recruiting new members and retaining current members. We need to engage our members. Each of us should be committed to welcoming new members aboard and involving them in the squadron and District. Personally, remind them of upcoming meetings and events. Provide interesting speakers and themes along with your meetings. Allow for some social time before or after meetings and events. Appeal to all boaters-power, sail, and personal water & paddle craft when planning events. It's up to US to be the best boating club in America- AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB!

A special "shout-out" to the chairs of the Administrative Department for their time and dedication to D7. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Rendezvous Report D/Lt/C Jim Mason, SN

District 7 held their annual Summer Cruise behind the "Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame" at the "Rock & Dock Marina" on July 27-29. As hoped, many members took in the sights. Some went to the Casino and got rich, others visited the "Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame". Some members rented kayaks and others enjoyed the live bands that the Rock Hall had on their front lawn. The afternoon Commander's Cocktail Party was a great success with much of the credit going to Akron SPS, who prepared much of the food and all had a good time. We had 9 boats that arrived with a total of 51 in attendance.

Member Benefits USPS Membership Advantages P/C Larry Spraggins, AP

There are many advantages to membership in USPS besides the educational and friendship activities through our squadrons. The National office secures discounts and programs that are available to our membership that may not be open to the general public. I encourage you to look at all the benefits available on the USPS website, www.usps.org. Log in with your member number to see the over 50 programs available. Let me summarize three of them for you here:

- Vessel Safety Check - Under the category of Opportunities for Members, you will see information about the Vessel Safety Check program. While most of you are familiar with this free program to ensure your boat is equipped with the appropriate safety equipment, another component of the program is that Boat US offers a discount on all safety-related equipment that you purchase when you show the VSC exam form, whether you pass or fail. Next time you replace the flares or have to buy a new flotation device, make sure you bring your VSC form with you for this discount.
- Vacation Discounts – the National office of USPS has a Vacation Center that offers many discounts on cruises, hotels, high demand destinations and transportation. These discounts include many programs for the Orlando, Florida area where many boaters vacation, especially over the winter months. Go to the website and click on "USPS Vacation Center" for more details and promo codes needed to get more information about these discounts.
- Office Products – Early this year, District 7 sponsored its Spring Conference in Independence, Ohio. The conference organizers were able to take advantage of the 15% discount Office Max / Office Depot offers on printing, copying and other office products. The discount for selected products is much higher and will be awarded at the

store or online. The service received from their staff was also outstanding. When you need to print or copy material, programs or invitations, don't forget to take advantage of the discount at all Office Max / Office Depot stores.

2018 Boating Activities Report

There were fewer boating activities during 2018 than years past at the squadron level. Akron posted the most with 9 activities followed closely by Mansfield with 6 activities. Berea had 3 and Stark had 2.

There were 9 total on-water activities and 11 social events, land based activities.

Some events occurred early in the season before boat launches occurred and were not recorded or posted to the District website.

The boating activities committee endeavors to correct the shortfall for 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Dylan Serrage
Boating Activities Chair

Membership - America's Boating Club®

As of August 2018, D7 Membership was down 10% from Jan 1. A more troubling trend is that we have less than half the members we had ten years ago.

What does this say about our squadrons?

Certainly, younger members are not joining to make up for the loss of older members, as has happened in the past. There are generational studies that show younger generations are not "joining" traditional clubs, unlike older generations. Regardless of those trends, **if your squadron wants to survive, you must appeal to more boaters – including younger boaters.**

Is your squadron "**America's Boating Club®**"? Are you a club for all boaters? If you don't have activities, programs, and classes that appeal to all ages and boaters, you can't expect to grow. And you won't be able to stop your membership decline. PERIOD.

If you don't personally think membership recruiting is your job, then your membership will continue to slide. There are many ways **YOU** can contribute – teach a class or seminar, chair or help out at an event, volunteer to help at a meeting. Sure, this may be a lot of work – so get two or more members to work on it. And then two more, and two more.

The table below summarizes membership in 2018, and ten years ago. Looking at the last column, all squadrons except Akron have lost about half – or more – of their membership in the last ten years. **Will you be on the list in 2028?**

P/D/C Brian Logan, SN,
D7 Membership Chair

D7 Membership, August 1, 2018

7/31/2018	total	vs	vs	% of
	members	31-Dec-17	31-Dec-07	31-Dec-07
Akron	209	-6	-10	95%
Berea	103	-16	-92	53%
Cleveland	31	-5	-83	27%
Kanawha River	11	-9	-51	18%
Mansfield	80	-9	-114	41%
Mid Ohio Valley	14	-1	-12	54%
North Coast	85	-10	-80	52%
Pittsburgh	64	-12	-50	56%
Stark County	51	-2	-63	45%
Ten Mile	19	-6	-32	37%
Vermilion	40	-3	-40	50%
Mountaineer, S Hills			-92	
D-7 Total	707	-79	-719	50%

Updated ABC Membership Procedures for 2018-2019!

While National eliminated the “6 month trial membership” last year, you can still offer the ABC grad “18 months membership for the cost of 12 months.” In other words, they give you the check, and they are not billed for renewal for 18 months – six months of membership for free. This is something you can promote at your ABC classes!

National has re-vamped membership entry to make this program easier. If you have any ABC graduates who want to join as 18 month members (for price of 12 months), here is the latest process, which works really well:

A – Enter student records in ED800 – you should already do this for your ABC classes

B – After the exams are graded, enter exam score in the ED800 record – passing is 80

C – For students who want to join, go to -

<http://www.usps.org/php/membership/membership.php> - Use on-line processing “18 month membership” option.

D – At top of the on-line membership form, there is a drop down list of all students who are eligible, ie, who passed the exam, based on the score entered in step B above

E – Select the student, and the application populates the form, based on ED-800 data. You may have a few fields to fill in, like spouse, boat type or name, etc.

F – Don’t forget to collect their dues (see credit card option below)!

The 18 month offer “expires” when National archives your ABC class records, which may be a few weeks after the exam results are entered. Of course, you want them to join that night. Remember the words of wisdom from the retail business, “Be-Backs” aren’t Green Backs!

Of the twenty-one D7 members who have joined since Jan 2018, only four have taken advantage of the 18 month program. Give it a try – maybe you’ll get some ABC students to join!

Credit Card Payments

DON’T FORGET, National will process credit card payments for new members. Contact Lena Padro, HQ Manager of Membership Services, USPS, 888-367-8777 x212, padrol@hq.usps.org. She will send you the “Anniversary Billing Credit Card Voucher”, and you

can write the member's card information (just like you did in the '70's) and mail it in! We have used this form successfully in Akron.

If you have questions about membership and the ABC classes, give me a call (330-864-2820) or email me at bats_wings@sbcglobal.net.

Happy recruiting!
P/D/C Brian Logan, SN
D7 Membership Chair

Secretary's Department - D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P

District 7 released the Fall edition of the D7 News primarily by email. This was the first issue delivered by email. We are moving toward electronic delivery of the newsletter in an effort to lower expenditures for the District. We hope you enjoyed the first e-edition! If you did not receive the colorful electronic edition, please advise myself or your squadron secretary of your updated email address. We'd like to ensure you receive all relevant District 7 news and email blasts.

Before the next e-edition and Spring Conference, squadron roster chairs will be asked to fill in a spreadsheet for Irene Rodriguez as she works toward completing the D7 roster. As current roster chair for Akron, I often say "it's never too early to think about the roster". By that, I simply mean that if I'm able to keep member information updated throughout the year with any new addresses, member boats and such, then doing the roster sheet for Irene is a snap.

Treasurer's Department - D/Lt/C Liana F Mihalca, SN

As we approach mid-fiscal year 2018 for District 7, we see our primary source of revenue has decreased by 14.6% from the same period last year. With this decrease, our expenses will exceed our revenues for the current fiscal year.

As of September 30, 2018, D7 has a bank account balance of \$25,286.53 and a balance of \$79.43 in our postal permit account.

The D7 share of the Ohio USPS license plates for the first half of 2018 is \$86.66. This is a 23% decrease from the first half of 2017. These funds will be distributed to the Ohio Squadrons in February 2019.

All D7 squadrons have filed Form 990 and TR-1.

A copy of the first half financial report can be found in the Attachment section of this document.

District 7 - USPS 2018-19 Financial Report For the Six Months Ending September 30, 2018

Description	Actual
Membership Dues	3,540.00
D7 Cruise	459.33
Donations	335.00
License Plate Income	86.66
Boat Show	70.40
Total Income	<u>4,491.39</u>

Description	Actual
Advertising	125.00
Commander Allotment	563.00
DEO Allotment	243.28
Newsletter	808.04
Governing Board	364.68
Postage & Delivery	144.91
Printing & Copies	2.00
Supplies	42.84
Change of Watch	67.20
Boat Shows	124.09
Poster Contest	75.00
Misc/Unknown	25.00
Total Expense	<u>2,585.04</u>
Gain/(Loss)	<u>1,906.35</u>

Item 1 Final report of 2018 Spring Conference

**2018 Spring Conference
Report to District 7 Bridge**

			Totals
Income			
Aug. 2017	Seed money from BPS	\$500.00	
	Registration	\$7,118.00	
	Overpayment from Crowne Plaza	\$338.96	
	Guest Lunches (4 meals x \$22)	\$88.00	
4/8/2018	Raffle Proceeds	<u>\$977.00</u>	
		\$8,521.96	\$8,521.96
Expenses			
April 6 - 8, 2018	Printing - Programs	\$75.79	
	Raffle Expenses	\$18.78	
	Friday Night Band	\$450.00	
	Saturday Dinner Music	\$125.00	
	Guest Dinner (2)	\$90.00	
	Crowne Plaza Meals	<u>\$7,762.12</u>	
		\$8,521.69	\$8,521.69
	Ending Balance		-\$0.27

Submitted by P/C Larry Spraggins, AP
Berea Sail & Power Squadron

Item 2 Final report of 2018 District 7 Rendezvous at Rock and Dock

D 7				
GROSS REVENUE	\$ 820.00	\$ 820.00		
JIM HOLCEPL EXP	\$ (182.55)			
MARGO HOLMES EXP	\$ (67.16)			
JIM MASON EXP	\$ (40.98)			
BOB BALL EXP	\$ (40.09)			
JOY RICE	\$ (29.89)			
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 360.67		
NET REVENUE	\$ 459.33	\$ 459.33		

Item 3 2019 Boat Show East budget

2019 Boat Show East budget

Income

Pittsburgh Power Squadron	\$50.00
Ten Mile Power Squadron	\$50.00
<u>Amt. in D7 reserve</u>	<u>\$166.26</u>
Total income	266.26

Expenses

Shipping BSVT back to Raleigh	\$90.00
Printing fliers/labels	\$50.00
<u>New America's Boating Club sign</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$240.00

Amount back in D7 \$26.26

P/D/C Jane Brandenstein, SN
Chair Boat Show East

Item 4 2019 Boat Show West Budget

The Cleveland Boat Show will be held this year at the IX Center from Thursday 1/17/19 through Monday 1/21/19. This year the Boat Show will be back on Martin Luther King Day weekend and so will be five days long.

As the past few years, our Power Squadron booth will have a big draw. We will have the Power Squadron Boating Skills Virtual Trainer, a sophisticated simulator for training in handling a 21-foot outboard boat. The simulator will be shared with the Pittsburgh Boat Show at the Convention Center and a second Pittsburg show which will use it the following couple of weekends. As in the last few years, sign up for the Cleveland show will be on the internet. Look for the information about how to sign up to work the show in early November.

The simulator will be arriving on 11 January to give us time to train several members in how to provide attendees with a good experience. We will need one person at the booth at all times who knows how to work the simulator. If you would like to help in this role, please contact Dave Rickard at 440-452-4567 or daverick93@gmail.com.

2019 BOAT SHOW WEST BUDGET

Predicted Expenses

Exhibitor Parking Permits(6@\$40)	\$240.00	
Electric	150.00	
Misc. Office Supplies and Copies	70.00	
West Share of BVST Shipping	90.00	
Setup	<u>50.00</u>	
TOTAL		<u>\$600.00</u>

Predicted Income

\$85.72 contributed by each of 6 squadrons (Akron, Berea, Mansfield, North Coast Ohio, Stark County and Vermilion)	\$600.04
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Respectfully Submitted,
Cdr Elliott Manke, JN
P/R/C Dave Rickard, AP

Item 5 Proposed budget for 2019 Spring Conference hosted by District 7

D/7 Spring 2019 Conference
Independence Holiday Inn
5-7 April 2019
Proposed Budget

Expenses

Ice Breaker	\$27X 100	\$2700.00
Entertainment		\$500.00
Saturday Lunch	\$21.54X 75	\$1615.50
Saturday Dinner	\$30.60 X 100	\$3060.00
Guest Meals		\$300.00
Name Tags		\$50.00
Printing		\$150.00
Return D/7 Advance		\$200.00
Bartenders	Ice Breaker & Sat Dinner	\$150.00
TOTAL		\$8725.50

Income

Ice Breaker	\$20 x100	\$2000.00
Registration Fee	\$10 x 100	\$1000.00
Saturday Lunch	\$24 x 75	\$1800.00
Saturday Dinner	\$35 x 100	\$3500.00
Raffle		\$1000.00
D/7 Advance		\$750.00
TOTAL		\$10050.00

Gain/Loss **\$1324.50**