

United States Power Squadrons®



District Seven Spring Conference Seat Packet 6-8 April 2018



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Agenda for the Conference

Call to Order- District Commander Jane Brandenstein, SN
Invocation
Pledge of Allegiance
Introduction of Past Commanders
Introduction of Guests & Bridge
Ceremony for Crossing the Bar
Explanation of Voting Rules & Role of Conference
Verification of Quorum

Approval of Council 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 Consent Agenda-D/Lt/C Lynda Leque, SN

Reports of District Officers

District Commander
District Executive Officer
District Education Officer
District Administrative Officer
District Secretary
District Treasurer

Reports of General Committees

Nominating Committee/Election of 2018-2019 Officers
Auditing Committee
Rules Committee
Planning Committee

Chief's Commander's Message- VC Craig Fraser, SN

Unfinished Business

New Business

If there is no further business to come before the conference, this meeting is adjourned.

We will reconvene at 1900.
Awards, Change of Watch
Benediction



Consent Agenda for the 2018 Spring Council Meeting

That the agenda be adopted.

1. That the Council allows the District Commander to alter the agenda as needed to facilitate the meeting of Conference.
2. That the Conference approve the final report of the 2017 Fall Conference as submitted by Pittsburgh Power Squadron. (See Item #1)
3. That the Conference approve the budget for the 2018 District 7 Summer Cruise as presented by Chair D/Lt/C Jim Holcepl, SN. (See Item #2)
4. That the Conference approve the proposed budget for the 2018 Fall Conference hosted by the District Conference Committee. (See Item #3)
5. That the Conference accept the final report of the East & West Boat Shows. (See Items #4 & #5)
6. That the Council authorizes a committee consisting of the District Commander, District Executive Officer and the District Administrative Officer to approve the minutes of this meeting.

D7 Council Meeting Minutes, 12 March 2018



D/C Jane Brandenstein, SN, called the meeting to order at 2002 (8:02 pm).

Roll call was taken.

Attendees: D/C Jane Brandenstein, D/Lt/Cs Jim Holcepl, Barb Spraggins, Jim Mason, Lynda Leque, Tom Hancock; D/1/Lts Liana Mihalca, Janice Vitucci-Ehrman; Cdrs Margo Holmes, Kathy Barber, Lynn Fortman, Elliott Manke, Kathy Russell, Paul Hammel and soon to be Cdr Cathe Radebaugh, P/D/C Mike Siwek, P/D/C Bob Ball, D/Lt Dylan Serrage, and immediate P/D/C Eileen Rickard.

Unable to attend: Cdrs Mike Thal (Cleve), Maureen Burdette (Kanawha), Jim Philpott (MOV), Carolyn Figure (Pitts), and Chuck Schury (Ten Mile).

Secretary D/Lt/C Lynda Leque, SN, verified a quorum was present. She read the consent agenda and moved that it be approved. P/D/C Bob Ball, SN, seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion was passed.

Department Reports:

Executive: D/Lt/C Jim Holcepl, SN, noted D/Lt/C Jim Mason, SN, is now the Chair of the D7 Rendezvous, 27-29 July at Rock and Dock in Cleveland. He stated that flyers are being developed and further information will be available to members at Spring Conference.

Secretary: D/Lt/C Lynda Leque asked squadron commanders to send her the names of their Conference delegates by 30 March. She also stated squadron newsletter editors should send 3 issues of their choice to her, Barb Spraggins, and Jan Vitucci-Ehrman, for judging for the District Outstanding Publications Award.

Educational: D/Lt/C Jim Mason, SN, reminded us that there will be an SEO meeting Saturday morning during the Conference. The focus will be on the Jump Start program and that V/C Craig Fraser, SN, may be interested in presenting information about that program.

Administrative: P/R/C Barb Spraggins, SN, announced that V/C Ben Coons from Minnesota is the new National Administrative Officer. She also noted that there will be an Administrative Officers meeting Saturday morning at Spring Conference.

Treasurer: D/Lt/C Tom Hancock asked that everyone submit receipts for reimbursement to him for this Bridge year ASAP so he can complete his report for the seat packet. He clarified that District dues are \$10 for single and \$15 for family membership.

Commander: D/C Jane provided reminder that Executive Officers and Commanders will meet together Saturday morning during the conference. She then provided the following informational updates from the 2018 USPS Annual Meeting recently held in Orlando, FL:

- Brunswick Gold Award - \$750.00 to Pittsburgh Power Squadron
- D/2 Motion to recognize members with 40 merit marks, full certificate and have been P/C or P/D/C by awarding them membership on the Governing Board. Amended by committee to delete the GB membership. Suggestion for 30 yrs. and same conditions was voted down. Suggestion for recognition to be determined by Flag and Etiquette Com. But no GB membership was granted.
- D15 resolution presented by Rules Com- A squadron may apply to its D/C and, with approval of the NXO, may obtain a waiver to conduct its affairs under such organization and operational structure as deemed appropriate by said D/C. The D/C will monitor said squadron and its activities and report to the Natl Exec Officer. This waiver may be withdrawn at any time by the D/C with approval of the NXO. This allows the D/C and squadron to work together to develop a squadron action plan to help the squadron to come up to speed rather than to dissolve. This resolution passed.
- Minutes of Annual meeting can be found on the National website.

General Committee Reports:

Auditing: D/Lt Dylan Serrage, SN, reported that only 2 members may be able to do the audit and he is hoping they are able to complete the audit prior to the Conference.

Nominating: P/D/C Mike Siwek, SN, announced that District 7 will have a complete Bridge except for the positions of Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer.

Planning: P/D/C Bob Ball, SN, stated this committee will meet during Spring Conference.

Rules: No report. Only a notation that we need to ensure P/C George Davalla, AP, will be present at Conference, since the chair of this committee will not be attending the Conference.

Squadron Commander Comments:

Akron: Cdr Margo Holmes, AP, thanked D/C Jane for presiding over Akron's COW.

Berea: Cdr Kathy Barber, AP, encouraged folks to attend future Annual Meetings as she met many helpful members. She noted that her squadron's COW is 14 April. She also provided a Conference update, noting that 40 reservations have been received to date.

Mansfield: Cdr Lynn Fortman, AP, promoted their upcoming St Patrick's Day get-together and other events. She also noted their COW will be 21 April when, once again, P/D/C Mike Siwek will become Commander.

North Coast: Cdr Elliott Manke, JN, reported they have 2 classes in progress. Some attendees are cyber members who they hope will be joining their squadron.

Stark County: Cdr Kathy Russell reported their COW was held 3 March and all members from prior bridge year had agreed to continue to serve this year in their current positions. She reported that they are collaborating with Atwood Yacht Club to teach a boating class in March.

Vermilion: Cdr Paul Hammel, S, introduced Lt/C Cathe Radebaugh, N, who will be their Commander effective 15 March. He sadly noted member Pat Verlotti had passed away. On a brighter note, they have 2 advanced classes and 1 ABC class in progress.

Other Business:

D/C Jane asked members to please bring any District trophies to the Conference to give to P/C Susan Harris, S. She also asked us to notify her of any members who have crossed the bar since last year's Spring Conference. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned was at 2040 (8:40 pm).

Respectfully Submitted,
D/1st/Lt Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P
For D/Lt/C Lynda Leque, SN

Approved by:

D/C Jane Brandenstein, SN

Date: 3-16-18

D/Lt/C James Holcepl, SN

Date: 3-15-18

P/R/C Barbara Spraggins, SN

Date: 3-16-18



COMMANDER'S DEPARTMENT D/C Jane Brandenstein, SN

There have been many busy bees making 2017-18 a productive year for District Seven. Thank you to all of you. They say, "It takes an Army..." Well, we have a great one here.

I am just back from the Annual Meeting in Orlando. I have several great things to report. As many of you know, Friday evening is reserved for District Meet and Greets. All the National Officers travel from room to room to meet as many District folks as possible. Ask Craig. This is an impossible task. This is the second time we shared a room with D/11 and it worked really well. We used an Ohio theme, congratulating incoming Chief Gary Cheney, who hails from Conneaut, Ohio. We had many guests to our room, including Gary. Working together defrayed expenses and allowed us to make new friends. I'm hoping someone will stop me if I volunteer to make Buckeyes again. They were a great hit! Thanks to the D7 helpers, P/D/C Dave Bialorucki, Barb and Wayne Spraggins, and Julie Holcepl as well as all who attended the event.

In addition to voting in the new National Officers, several pieces of business came before the group.

A resolution from D/2 was passed as amended to reward exemplary service to USPS by a life member, with a full certificate, who has served as squadron or District Commander and has 40 merit marks, by having special recognition determined by the Flag and Etiquette Committee. The second item that was passed that "A squadron may apply to its D/C and, with approval of the National Exec. Officer, receive a waiver to conduct its affairs ...as deemed appropriate by the D/C. The D/C will monitor the squadron and its activities and report to the NEXO. It may be withdrawn with approval of D/C and NEXO". This is an attempt for a troubled squadron and D/C to develop an action plan to allow the squadron to 'get up to speed' rather than dissolve.

There were many presentations at this meeting that you will or may have heard about. Several squadrons are jumping aboard the "Jump Start" program. Talk to Jim Mason or V/C Craig Fraser if your squadron is interested in this program. I would encourage all squadron Commanders, SEOs and members to try to attend the National "America's Boating Club" meetings, there is much to learn.

I was pleasantly pleased to accept the Brunswick Gold Award for my own Pittsburgh Power Squadron for our activities with our Brunswick dealer, Fox Chapel Marine. The trophy is really nice, but the \$750.00 that came with it will really help us continue these activities. We were pleased to take Youth Posters and a teaching aid to the meeting this year. We also brought home recognition for newsletters and websites, contributions to the Educational Fund, geodetic marker hunts, and vessel safety checks. Great job D7!!!

There will be a big change in Conference Planning and Execution as we shift from Squadron-run to District-run conferences. We will need your support and particularly your attendance for this to work. We may need to consider how we fund these conferences in the future. We hope this will make planning and execution of Conferences simpler. As the member of a small squadron, I know how difficult it is to put on a District Conference.

This has been a busy year for Bob and me as he chauffeured me to many squadron events, the District cruise, District Conferences and National meetings. I thank him for his support all year. We have been a team for many years. Thank you, Bob. I have tried to represent you well. There is much energy in our District and I hope you all take some of it with you.

Thank you to the leaders and members of Berea Sail and Power Squadron. You have put together a great conference so far, and I would expect it to continue the same.

As I prepare to pass the gavel to D/Lt/C Jim Holcepl, I must say my training as a Girl Scout taught me to leave things just a bit better than I found them. Following P/D/C Eileen Rickard, made this especially difficult, but with lots of help, I hope we have done exactly that.

Thank you all for your suggestions, help and support. Always wear your life jacket, get a Vessel Safety Check and thank you all for allowing me to be your District Commander for the past year.

D-7 District Commander's Challenge – 2017 Final Report P/D/C Brian Logan, SN

D-7's District Commander's Challenge is meant to recognize squadron performance. It compares each squadron's performance, compared to the previous calendar year, in six different areas: Membership, Member Retention, Public Boating Class Registrations, Member Education (both Advanced and Elective Grades), VSC, and Co-op Charting. Details of the award and criteria are on the D7 web site.

By looking at performance as a percentage of the previous year, the D-7 Commander's Challenge levels the playing field for both small and large squadrons. Past winners were Stark County, Kanawha, Akron, Mid-Ohio Valley, Berea, North Coast, and Vermilion.

Congratulations to winner Ten Mile, second place Akron, third place Mansfield and Pittsburgh (tie), and fourth place North Coast. There were only three points separating Akron, Mansfield, Pittsburgh, and North Coast.

I encourage each squadron to review this summary of their performance for 2017 and use it to set goals for improvement in 2018. Please refer to the spreadsheet summarizing this data in the seat packet.

Category 1. Membership

Comparing Membership December 31, 2017 to the previous year, **Pittsburgh** had membership growth of 4%, and **Mid-Ohio** equaled 2017. Akron lost one member, a drop of 0.5%. **Akron** continues to be the largest squadron in D-7 and is the twelfth largest squadron in USPS.

On the downside, District 7 is down 8% from last year. Three squadrons did not recruit any new members in 2017, and one squadron, South Hills, had to disband.

Here is a summary of new members recruited in 2017.

- Akron – 30
- Berea - 21
- Pittsburgh - 18
- North Coast - 8
- Vermilion - 3
- Ten Mile - 1
- Cleveland - 1
- Mid Ohio - 1

These numbers included seven transfers from South Hills – mostly to Pittsburgh. In addition, D-7 had 17 **“reinstated” members** in 2017. These are past members who had not renewed in at least one year. **Don’t overlook this source of members!**

Category 2. Boating class registrations

The big news here is that **Ten Mile’s ABC students increased 235%**. Even more noteworthy is that their squadron, with 25 members, taught 2.5 times more students than they have members. This is the first time that has happened since we initiated the Commander’s Challenge in 2006. Squadrons receive 5 bonus points when this happens.

Also, noteworthy, **North Coast** more than tripled, from 20 to 66 students and **Berea** increased from 34 to 59. **Overall**, D-7 had about 46% more students than last year. There were five squadrons who did not teach an ABC class in 2017.

The ABC class should be a major source of new members for your squadron – scheduling ABC is an important strategy for membership growth.

Category 3. Member Education, both Advanced and Elective grades

Akron had the most Advanced and Elective graduates in 2017. Overall, D-7 had fewer AG graduates, but nearly double EG grads.

Two squadrons haven’t had an advanced or elective class completion in six years and one hasn’t in five years. If 90% of our members join for Education, these squadrons are missing an opportunity.

Category 4. Member Retention

Member Retention is one of the most important statistics for a squadron. It is an indicator of **“Member Satisfaction”**. If our classes and activities are effective, we would expect members to show their approval by renewing.

Five squadrons, Mid-Ohio, Mansfield, North Coast, and Stark County had over 90% renewal. Last year, seven squadrons exceeded 90%. Overall, D-7 Member Retention was down 7% from last year. This may be a function of demographics – older members age and eventually don’t renew, and we are not replacing them with younger members.

Category 5. Vessel Examinations (VSC)

Ten Mile and Stark County led D7 with an increase of 50% over of 2016. **Akron, Pittsburgh, Mansfield, and Vermilion also increased VSC’s over 2016.** Overall, **D-7 did 7% more VSC’s than last year.**

Category 6. Cooperative Charting

In 2017, four squadrons participated in Co-op Charting, and only in the **Geodetic Survey**. **Mansfield and Akron increased credits, compared with 2016.** **Stark County lead D7 by a large margin and was 3rd in all of USPS.** As a District, D7 was second in USPS.

The summary for the D-7 Commander's Challenge for 2017:

Ranking, Final 2017					
rank	points		rank	points	
1	26	Ten Mile	7	12	Stark County
2	23	Akron	8	11	Mid Ohio Valley
3	21	Mansfield	9	9	Vermilion
3	21	Pittsburgh	10	5	Cleveland
5	20	North Coast	11	0	Kanawha River
6	16	Berea	11	0	South Hills

Compiled by *P/D/C Brian Logan, SN*
March, 2018

District 7 Commander's Challenge Final 2017																		
Total Active Membership Goal # 1					Boating Class Students Goal # 2				Educational Program Graduates Goal #3						Member Retention (12 months) Goal #4			
Squadron	12/31/2016	12/31/2017	%	Pts.	12/31/2016	12/31/2017	%	Pts.	12/31/2016	12/31/2017	Pts.	12/31/2016	12/31/2017	Pts.	2017	12 mo	Ret.	Pts.
	Total	Total	Goal		ABC	ABC	Goal		AG	AG		EL	EL		Paid Mbr	Non renewa	%	
Akron	216	215	100%	0	51	43	84%	0	27	20	2	19	24	4	215	31	86%	5
Berea	124	119	96%	0	34	59	174%	10	5	6	4	7	7	2	119	26	79%	0
Cleveland	41	36	88%	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	6	85%	5
Kanawha River	24	20	83%	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	4	83%	0
Mansfield	97	89	92%	0	7	6	86%	0	14	6	2	0	7	1	89	8	92%	6
Mid Ohio Valley	15	15	100%	5	0	0	0%	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	15	1	93%	6
North Coast	96	95	99%	0	20	66	330%	10	7	7	4	1	1	0	95	9	91%	6
Pittsburgh	73	76	104%	10	26	18	69%	0	4	5	4	1	3	1	76	15	79%	0
South Hills	27	0	0%	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	0%	0
Stark County	59	53	90%	0	6	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	6	90%	6
Ten Mile	27	25	93%	0	26	61	235%	15*	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	3	89%	5
Vermilion	56	43	77%	0	10	9	90%	0	2	4	2	0	6	1	43	16	71%	0
D7	855	786	92%		180	262	146%	20	60	48	18	29	48	9	786	152	82%	39

Vessel Safety Checks Goal # 5					Coop Charting Goal # 6				Tot.		Ranking, 2017		
Squadron	12/31/2016	12/31/2017	%	Pts.	12/31/2016	12/31/2017	%	Pts.	Tot. Pts.	Overall Rank	rank	points	
	VSC	VSC	Goal		Credits	Credits	Goal						
Akron	208	306	147%	6	68	76.7	113%	6	23	2	1	26	Ten Mile
Berea	180	141	78%	0	3.6	0	0%	0	16	6	2	23	Akron
Cleveland	0	6	0%	0	0	0	0%	0	5	10	3	21	Mansfield
Kanawha River	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0%	0	0	11	3	21	Pittsburgh
Mansfield	17	19	112%	6	0	53	>110	6	21	3	5	20	North Coast
Mid Ohio Valley	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0%	0	11	8	6	16	Berea
North Coast	163	151	93%	0	6	0	0%	0	20	5	7	12	Stark County
Pittsburgh	58	73	126%	6	0	0	0%	0	21	3	8	11	Mid Ohio Valley
South Hills	63	0	0%	0	3.6	0	0%	0	0	11	9	9	Vermilion
Stark County	68	102	150%	6	5158.1	4147.7	80%	0	12	7	10	5	Cleveland
Ten Mile	26	39	150%	6	0	0	0%	0	26	1	11	0	Kanawha River
Vermilion	111	122	110%	6	25.8	24.7	96%	0	9	9	11	0	South Hills
D7	894	959	107%	36	5265.1	4302.1	82%	33					

* 5 Bonus Points ABC students>Squadron membership

USPS Educational Fund P/R/C Barbara Spraggins, SN

Updates will be given during Conference meeting.

Law Officer Report D/Lt Michael Thal, SN NO REPORT

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S DEPARTMENT D/Lt/C Jim Holcepl, SN

As we conclude one Bridge year and move on to the next, let's take the time to appreciate our membership in America's Boating Club®. The boating activities this past year were great and everything planned for this year looks very promising. The participation of our District's Vessel Examiners this past year was outstanding with 959 safety checks completed and 850 passing.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to be the District's Executive officer this past year! We have an active membership willing to give of their time and talents to make this District one of the best in USPS. The various volunteers within this department have done everything they could to keep America's Boating club® in front of the boating public.

With our continued support of the marketing initiatives from National to reach out to new members, in new innovative ways to USPS, I am sure that we will be able to see a gradual increase in overall membership. Let's look to the future! Let's use the tools and take a "can do" positive attitude into this boating season. Doing so will have a positive impact on each of our squadrons in energy, opportunity and membership.

"The pessimist complains about the wind, the optimist expects it to change, the realist adjusts the sails."

- William Arthur Ward

Boat Show East Report D/Lt/C Jane Brandenstein, SN, Chair

What we call Boat Show East has really turned into three events close in time. The 'river' squadrons have supported the Pittsburgh Boat Show, now held at the Monroeville Convention Center, for many years. It is held on the last 2 weekends in January. It requires 2 days to set up and tear down and 6 days of volunteers to staff the event. The second show that has developed over the last 3 years is 3 events in one – The Pittsburgh Paddler's Show, The Pittsburgh Outdoors Show, and the Pittsburgh Boater's Show with the addition of a wine tasting event on Saturday. This occurs on the weekend following the previous event. This adds another set up/tear down time and 3 more days of volunteer staffing. For the last 2 years we have tacked on an Open House at the Fox Chapel Marine facility where they request that we set up and staff the Virtual Trainer. What this means to us is about 10 hours of set-up/tear down and 11 days of volunteer staffing and funding for printing, booth improvements and shipping of the BSVT which we share with Boat Show West. Volunteer coverage for these events is now by two Squadrons, Pittsburgh and Ten Mile. We have continued to provide this, but there are many time slots that are unfilled.

Annually we evaluate the result of our participation and have the same result. We wish we had more local volunteers and feel we would be missed if we pulled out of these shows.

Financially, we have been aided by sharing the BSVT and use of the Office Max discount for printing and use of space and power provided by Fox Chapel Marine. This year we added a new sign with the America's Boating Club logo to the booth display.

Boat Show West Report P/R/C David Rickard, AP, Chair

The Mid-America (Cleveland) Boat Show was held 18-21 January (Thursday through Sunday) at the IX Center in Cleveland. This was one day less than last year since it was not Martin Luther King weekend. The show was larger than last year. The weather was not great on Thursday and Friday but better on the weekend. The attendance for this year's show was 46,406, more than last year.

The Power Squadron booth was in a somewhat less travelled area than last year, but we had good traffic on both Saturday and Sunday. More than 200 people used the Boating Skills Virtual Trainer. We passed out over 300 flyers for ABC courses and the Jump Start program, 200 flyers for advances classes, seminars and on-the-water training and about 100 flyers for squadron activities. The effort to gain contact information through an automated quiz by offering prizes was not very productive. Only 27 names were gathered.

The booth itself had good extra features:

- The simulator was a big draw to the booth
- The booth had America's Boating Club branding both on the booth proper and on a pop-up banner
- The TV in the booth showed the America's Boating Channel promotional videos on a 10-minute loop.

This year we did a very good job of manning the booth. Most of the scheduled working times were filled by volunteers who had signed up prior to the show and we had a team of 5 people that opened the show in the morning, closed at night and filled in the few openings in the schedule.

We want to thank the 50 people who put in over 350 hours for this project.

Akron Boat Show Report Lt Lisa M Thompson, P, Chair; P/D/C Brian Logan, SN, Assistant Chair

The Akron Boat Show ran 2-4 March at the John S. Knight Convention Center in Akron.

Akron Sail and Power Squadron had an 8x10 booth, at no charge, from LEMTA. We had the "Boating Skills Virtual Trainer" from National. This was a newer unit (#19), with a single, curved screen. It was much easier to set up and much more reliable than the "first generation" trainer that Akron borrowed in 2015.

We borrowed the banners and table covers used for the Cleveland Boat Show as part of the decorations. Flyers and handouts included the color ASPS brochure, ASPS 2018 Calendar, VSC schedule, list of classes, PaddleSmart flyer, and Jump Start flyer. Nearly 20 ASPS members volunteered to work the booth over the weekend.

About 55 people stopped by to try the "Boating Skills Virtual Trainer," including Bryan Ralston, President of LEMTA, and Webster, the mascot for the "Akron Rubber Ducks" baseball team. The trainer was a hit, averaging 4.5 out of 5 for "Helping a New Boater Gain Confidence", and 4.3 of 5 for "BSVT is a realistic boating experience". USPS gives that feedback to the US Coast Guard, which financed development of the trainer.

Door prizes included a drawing for 3 "ABC" registrations and 3 "Boater Workshop" registrations. About 30 people registered for the drawing and are now on our email contact list. Two of the Boat Show attendees were "walk-ins" the following Wednesday at our ABC class.

See Facebook posts from the show at <https://goo.gl/GcJVb3> and <https://goo.gl/XPihs6> .

Co-Operative Charting Report D/Lt Joanne Hancock, SN & D/Lt/C Tom Hancock, P
2018 Spring

Nautical work: no participation

Geodetic work:

District summary

Member participation: 15

Ranked 2nd Nationally, 4302 points

Squadron participation: 4 (Akron, Mansfield, Stark County, Vermilion)



Vessel Safety Check Report P/Stf/C Garry Schroeder, SN, Chair

District 7 has had a good year in USPS. The District vessel examiners performed **959** VSC's and **850** passed. These numbers come from the National website, Final VSC Report dated 1/3/2018. I challenge current active members to continue to get involved in this program. I don't know of any other program in USPS that better allows the members to help serve the boating community by educating the public on safety issues and selling USPS. The VSC program is USPS's cheapest direct marketing tool. It is so gratifying. Give it a try. For a program to grow, the program needs to continue to attract new enthusiasm through new participants. We currently have **56** examiners.

There are two ways for a new examiner to come on board. Number 1, study and take the exam on-line. Visit the National Website, Executive Department, Safety Committee, on-line exam. Number 2, study and take a proctored exam through your local squadron. I'm sure if you were interested in becoming an examiner, talk to a current examiner and they would do anything in their power to help.

One member of D7 achieved Century Club status for 2017. That member is Robert Mosey (143) of The Akron Sail & Power Squadron. Century Club members must perform 100 VSC's in one year to qualify. Congratulation Bob on a job well done. Bob has received this award numerous times.

Decals for 2018 are Orange and have been mailed to the squadron Commanders and District. Squadron VSC chairs should have received their decals for 2018. If you have not, please contact USPS headquarters. Squadron chairs must ensure that they distribute decals and the decals be accounted for before requesting more from Headquarters.

There is a recall on Kidde fire extinguishers with plastic handles. Recall number 18-022 and recall date 11-2-17. If you should find this extinguisher on a boat you are checking, let the owner know so it can be checked. The information I have read says you can award a decal for the fire extinguisher even though it is in a recall status.

National Safe Boating Week is 19-25 May 2018. All squadrons are asked to hold an outing or event to promote safe boating. I suggest you check out the USPS Safety Committee Website for a multitude of free promotional material to support your event. See Brochure and VSC order form 07/14/2017. Please order materials at least 30 days in advance. A shipping cost and handling fee of \$4.00 will be charged on all orders.

While you are on the website, look at the Executive Department/Safety Committee page on Visitation Program "VP". Is any District 7 squadron participating or thinking about participating in this program? I keep mentioning the USPS website because it has a lot of good information for squadrons to use. If you should have any problems navigating the website, please get in contact with me and I will do whatever I can to help.

West Marine is providing discounts to refresh safety items in 2018. The coupon is worth \$15 dollars off purchases of \$100.00 or more. Coupons can be downloaded from the USPS website.

Who will win the D7 VSC Award? The award will be presented at the dinner Saturday night during the Spring Conference.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT D/Lt/C James Mason, SN

Winter is quickly becoming a memory and plans are in the works for spring and summer. As always, the educational departments of District 7 and the individual squadrons have a lot planned.

Some Updates:

- Your squadrons should have received their 2018 VSC Decals. If not, please contact P/Stf/C Garry Schroeder, SN. It is very important to plan ahead and be ready for the new VSC season.
- Celestial Tools V 5.6.5 is now available on the Education Website. It is a very useful tool for both instructors and students in the Offshore Navigation Courses.
- The links provided in the N15 Student Manual for the OpenCPN program and associated Pilot Charts no long apply. Go to the "Curriculum" page in the Educational Department and select "Advanced Grades/Navigation". Software links will be listed at the bottom of the page. I just recently worked my way through these links while I was teaching "N". If you need help, please give me a call for assistance. I would like to thank David Greene, SN, from District 16. Dave spent several hours on the phone with me and was able to clarify many grey areas.

- SEO's must make sure that your instructors and Local Board Chairman enter 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.
- Just finished working with Mansfield developing new instructors and recertifying others. All SEOs should be monitoring their instructor pool to make sure that they are all maintaining their certification to teach ABC Courses.
- Dan Bartell of the National IT Committee has been working on the On-Line ED80 Forms. Mansfield and Pittsburgh have both successfully used this automated process with great success. This fall all squadrons will be required to process their ED80 Forms through this automated system.

The SEOs that came to the Fall Conference definitely heard about the "Jump Start" Program. Since then I have emailed information to all SEOs and more information will be coming leading up to Spring Conference. On top of the excellent Jump Start Manual that was written by National, my ASEO Wayne Spraggins and I will be putting together an "In-other-words" type of "How to get started" short procedure. Our goal this summer is to have all squadrons in D7 involved in this program.

I look forward to seeing all the SEO's at our meeting on Saturday morning at 8:00am at the D/7 Spring Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel & Resort in Independence, Ohio on April 6-8th.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S DEPARTMENT P/R/C Barbara Spraggins, SN

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS HAS A NEW ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER **V/C BEN COONS, SN-CN**. Ben and his wife Marie are from the St. Paul Sail and Power Squadron in Minnesota.

DEPARTMENT NEWS: The NEW Membership (MEMCOM) and Squadron Development websites are open for business! Click on the committee, then click on everything, take a look around & get familiar with the layout and contents. It's user-friendly! (At least I am told it is user friendly.)

Did you know that your squadron gets a new membership lead every time someone nearby takes an interactive on-line seminar? Your public contact gets the name and contact information about each student living within 40 miles when the student registers for an online seminar. Make sure someone contacts these students to thank them for taking the online seminar and to find out how they boat and what they are interested in. Then you can encourage students to take part in your squadron's social, on-the-water and educational activities. Be sure to make it clear that you are contacting them because of the on-line seminar and that they are close enough to take advantage of your squadron's offerings. Take advantage of these leads!

The Member Benefits link should be explored often, because benefits change from time to time and provide great monetary value to all members. Members that utilize these benefits typically save more than the annual cost of membership.

The Squadron Activities Committee helps members network with other members in USPS. Their goal is to help members find a friend in every port by water or land. Through the Amateur Radio Directory, the Cruise and Rendezvous Listings and Guide, and the network of Port Captains, they are ready to serve you as your personal cruising guides and resources.

The Membership web pages are designed to help every member navigate through the member experience. The pages also assist squadron and District Membership and Member Involvement Chairs to provide that assistance. The links and tools are intended to make your USPS membership a vibrant and rewarding self-service experience.

I would like to encourage all squadrons in D/7 to put on a "Boating Safety Class for Kids". I only know of one squadron in D/7 that does this program each summer. Berea Sail & Power Squadron puts on 2 classes every year. This is a good way

to educate parents about USPS. Each class you teach, have the students make a poster. It is a fun way for the students and adults to interact. At the Fall D/7 conference we had a judging of the posters that were submitted. This year's winners for the Poster Contest for D/7 are: **age 6-8 Finn Monett, 9-11 Kevin Adkins, 12-14 Ashley Hauritz**. Each of these winners received \$25.00 from our District

A Big Thank You – To all the committee chairman of the D/7 Administrative Department – **Boating Activities – Dylan Serrage, SN; Cruise & Rendezvous – Liz Glassell, AP; Conference – Liz Glassell, AP; Meetings & Programs – Ken Leque, SN; Member Benefits – Larry Spraggins, AP; Membership – Brian Logan, SN; Operations Training – Susan Harris, S; and Sea Scouts Liaison – Sam Insalaco, SN.**

District Boating Activities Report P/C Dylan Serrage, SN, Chair

Boating activities for District 7 in 2018 include the District 7 Cruise in Cleveland. There are many events among the individual squadrons within the District inviting attendance by members of any and all squadrons. All events are posted on the District website and can be found under 'Activities' of the 'Main Menu' side bar. Please check often. Squadrons often include additional activities during the course of the boating season.

Cruise & Rendezvous Report D/Lt/C James Mason, SN

See Rendezvous flyer on the District 7 website. Further details to come.

New Conference Committee Report – Stf/C Liz Glassell, AP

The New Conference Committee is moving along in preparation for our first D/7 joint meeting in November of 2018.

D/7 CONFERENCE – WINTER WONDERLAND

2 – 4 NOVEMBER 2018

Your new D/7 Conference Committee is pleased to invite you to attend our first Conference the weekend of 2-4 November 2018 at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South which will be totally renovated just in time for our visit. Sleeping Rooms, Meeting Rooms and Ballrooms will all have a brand new look, all at the same low prices: Sleeping Rooms – \$95 plus tax & four Hospitality Rooms available at \$100 per night.

Our Committee chose the theme *SEASONS* and our first Conference will celebrate the beauty and fun of a WINTER WONDERLAND.

The ICE BREAKER will remind us of a Christmas Eve Open House with FOOD STATIONS serving everything from appetizers to entries to desserts, all at a cost of \$20 per person. Be sure to check out our Bar for holiday surprises. Enjoy conversations with D/7 friends and holiday guests. Meet a new star on Cleveland's horizon, CHAD HOFFMAN, a solo-acoustic musician for singing & dancing.

Saturday brings officer's meetings and presentations by guest speakers and D/7 members, lunch at *The Impulse Bar* and a SPECTACULAR HOLIDAY DINNER AT A SPECTACULAR PRICE OF \$34.00 per person. And yes, we will host another awesome D/7 raffle.

Watch your Squadron & D/7 Newsletters and Websites and your emails for Registration Forms and Conference Details. A Flyer with more details will also be available during the Spring Conference, 6-8 April 2018. We are looking for a few new members for our committee, so if you are interested in being a part of conference planning and execution let Wayne Spraggins or I know.

StfC Liz Glassell, AP
Committee Chair

Membership Report P/D/C Brian Logan, SN, Membership Chair
Be America's Boating Club®

At the end of Feb 2018, D7 Membership was 782, which is 55 fewer than February of last year. Only Akron (7), North Coast (2), and Pittsburgh (1) have increased over Feb 2017.

In the last ten years, District 7 has lost more than 650 members. A similar trend can be found in USPS squadrons overall. It is obvious that we cannot continue this trend.

Embrace "America's Boating Club®". Think about your squadron – do you have activities that appeal to club members? Do you have classes that will improve their boating knowledge? Are you "America's Boating Club®", or "America's **BORING** Club?"

Look at the "D7 Activities Schedule" that was prepared for this Conference. It's no coincidence that our larger squadrons also have the most activities. Now, you are correct to argue that larger squadrons have more resources and volunteers, so should have more events. However, why would a boater want to join a club that didn't have rendezvous, classes, or other activities?

Finally, take advantage of a **FREE MARKETING OPPORTUNITY**. Akron has sponsored a "Lake Erie Meetup". We use it to list classes, activities, and rendezvous – and it has resulted in new members and increased guests at other events. **All D7 squadrons are invited to use this website** – for free – to publicize your event. All you have to do is have one of your members post the event details on Meetup – contact me for more information.

D7 Membership, Feb 28, 2018

	total	vs	vs
	members	31-Dec-17	12 months
Akron	224	9	7
Berea	108	-11	-3
Cleveland	36	0	-5
Kanawha River	20	0	-2
Mansfield	89	0	-8
Mid Ohio Valley	15	0	0
North Coast	96	1	2
Pittsburgh	75	-1	1
Stark County	51	-2	-8
Ten Mile	25	0	-2
Vermilion	43	0	-11
D-7 Total	782	-4	-55



SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT D/Lt/C Lynda Leque, SN

The **Big News** in the Secretary's Department is the decision by the Bridge to be more fiscally responsible by sending the *D7 News* electronically via email beginning in Fall 2018. Members are urged to contact their squadron updater to add or update their current email address. Those remaining members without email addresses will receive their copy via bulk postal mail.

Annual Meeting News: The National Secretary's Department, is under the direction of V/C Howard Yoas, SN. Squadron secretaries are encouraged to peruse the National Secretary's web page. By now, newsletter editors and web site managers are to be using the new marketing standards and should update their materials accordingly. Please see <http://www.usps.org/national/marketing> for important guidelines. V/C Yoas can be reached at hyoas@yahoo.com. May I express my gratitude to the members of D7 for allowing me to serve as District Secretary for the past 3 years. My immeasurable gratitude goes to D/1st/Lt Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P, for her endless support and commitment to the Secretary's Department. My thanks, also, to P/D/Lt/C Irene Rodriguez, SN, for her many hours spent on the D7 website and National & District Roster. D/Lt Gilbert Lorenzo, AP, I thank you for your time as District photographer! I wish "smooth sailing ahead" to District 7 and the new 2018-2019 Bridge!

TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT D/Lt/C Tom Hancock, P

At the end of calendar year 2017, the District's primary source of revenue had decreased by 8.1% from the same period last year and by 43.4% since 2009. With this decrease, our expenses will exceed our revenue for the upcoming year. As of 15 March 2018, D7 had a bank account balance of \$24,119.17 and a balance of \$12.12 in our postal permit account.

The D7 share of the Ohio USPS license plate for the calendar year 2017 was \$229.04. These funds were distributed to the Ohio squadrons in February.

A reminder to the squadron treasurers to file IRS form 990, your state return and TR-1. A copy of the financial report and proposed budget follows.

District 7 - USPS
2017-18 Financial Report
For the Period April 1, 2018-March 15, 2018

Current Year				Proposed Budget 2018-19
Description	Actual	Budget		
Membership Dues	5,090.00	5,865	(775.00)	5,450
D7 Cruise	383.20	100	283.20	100
Merchandise	0.00	100	(100.00)	100
Conference Rebate	1,493.14	400	1,093.14	400
Donations	0.00	0	0.00	0
License Plate Income	229.03	0	229.03	0
Boat Show	572.22	0	572.22	0
Miscellaneous	0.00	0	0.00	0
Total Income	7,767.59	6,465	1,302.59	6,050
Description	Actual	Budget	Unused	2018-19
Advertising	0.00	150	150.00	150
D7 Conference	1,000.00	1,000	0.00	1,000
Council/Telephone	0.00	0	0.00	0
Commander Allotment	116.11	1,000	883.89	1,000
Exec Allotment	400.00	400	0.00	400
Admin Allotment	400.00	400	0.00	400
DEO Allotment	260.05	400	139.95	400
Treasurer Allotment	400.00	400	0.00	400
Secretary Allotment	400.00	400	0.00	400
Newsletter	808.04	1,400	591.96	1,400
Governing Board	796.39	800	3.61	800
Photography	0.00	25	25.00	25
Postage & Delivery	188.58	400	211.42	400
Printing & Copies	209.16	200	(9.16)	200
Sunshine Fund	0.00	75	75.00	75
Supplies	111.08	200	88.92	200
Website	44.00	200	156.00	200
Annual Meeting	493.30	800	306.70	800
Change of Watch	153.95	325	171.05	325
Membership	0.00	100	100.00	100
Roster	0.00	200	200.00	200
Boat Shows	517.35	0	(517.35)	0
License Plate Payout	229.04	0	(229.04)	0
Poster Contest	75.00	75	0.00	75
Bank Fees	0.00	0	0.00	0
Misc/Unknown	32.28	0	(32.28)	0
Total Expense	6,634.33	8,950	2,315.67	8,950
Gain/(Loss)	1,133.26	(2,485)	3,618.26	(2,900)

GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Auditing Committee D/Lt Dylan L. Serrage, SN

Planning Committee Report P/D/C Robert A. Ball, SN

Nominating Committee P/D/C Michael A. Siwek, SN

Report of the Committee on Nominations 2018-2019 Bridge Year

The Nominating Committee of District 7, as required by the bylaws of the District, does hereby place in nomination the following members who have been notified and, if elected, are willing to serve in accordance with the duties and responsibilities prescribed by the USPS® Operations Manual and the District 7 Bylaws. The term of office is for one year, unless otherwise indicated.

Bridge Officers:

Commander:	James R. Holcepl, SN	(North Coast Ohio)
Executive Officer:	Barbara A. Spraggins, SN	(Berea)
Educational Officer:	James E. Mason, SN	(North Coast Ohio)
Administrative Officer:	Lynda C. Leque, SN	(Akron)
Secretary:	Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P	(Akron)
Treasurer:	Liana F. Mihalca, SN	(Akron)
Assistant Educational Officer:	Wayne G. Spraggins, SN	(Berea)
Assistant Secretary:	Open	
Assistant Treasurer:	Open	

Standing Committees:

Nominating Committee:

Member 3 yrs (Term to 2021) Jane S. Brandenstein, SN (Pittsburgh)

Rules Committee:

Member 2 years (Term to 2020) Daniel A. Fortman, AP (Mansfield)

Member 3 years (Term to 2021) Jan R. Holmes, SN (Akron)

Audit Committee:

Member 2 years (Term to 2020) Beverly E. Sams, P (Vermilion)

Member 3 years (Term to 2021) David M. Barber, SN (Berea)

Planning Committee:

Member 5 years (Term to 2023) Thomas S. Hancock, P (Stark County)

The following members of the standing committees are continuing in office from previous elections to a multi-year term. Each has indicated a willingness to continue serving in accordance with the duties and responsibilities prescribed by the USPS® Operations Manual and the District 7 Bylaws. The number of years remaining in their terms of office are indicated.

Standing Committees: (continuing)

Nominating Committee:

Member 1 yr (Term to 2019) David A. Bialorucki, SN (Vermilion)

Member 2 years (Term to 2020) H. Eileen Rickard, SN (Berea)

Rules Committee:

Member 1 year (Term to 2019) George Devalla, AP (Berea)

Audit Committee:

Member 1 year (Term to 2019) Roger Hall, AP (Cleveland)

Planning Committee:

Member 1 year (Term to 2019) Garry S. Schroeder, SN (Mansfield)

Member 2 years (Term to 2020) Martin W. Beech, SN (Akron)

Member 3 years (Term to 2021) Robert B. Fish, SN (Mid Ohio Valley)

Member 4 years (Term to 2022) Bob Brandenstein, SN (Pittsburgh)

It is the recommendation of the nominating committee to the District 7 Conference that the following standing committee members be approved as the Chairman of their respective committees.

Nominating Committee:

Chairman David A. Bialorucki, SN (Vermilion)

Rules Committee:

Chairman George Devalla, AP (Berea)

Audit Committee:

Chairman Roger Hall (Cleveland)

Planning Committee:

Chairman Garry S. Schroeder, SN (Mansfield)

Respectfully Submitted:

Michael A. Siwek, SN

David A. Bialorucki, SN

H. Eileen Rickard, SN

P/D/C Michael A. Siwek, SN - Chairman

P/D/C David A. Bialorucki, SN

Stf/C H. Eileen Rickard, SN



Item #1

Fall Conference Pittsburgh 2017

Final Accounting

Expenses

Hotel Food and Beverage	4701.69
Banjo Band at Icebreaker	300.00
Return \$200. To D/7	200.00
Speaker's lunch	25.00
Rep. Gift	60.00
Misc. printing	23.78
Rep registration	170.00
Name tag blanks	36.77
AV costs	57.66
Total Expenses	5575.00

Income

Registration	
49@85.00 full package	4,165.00
6@60 dinner & icebreaker	360.00
1@70.00 dinner & lunch	70.00
2@15 icebreaker	30.00
Total Registration	4625.00
From D/7	500.00
Raffle	450.00

Total Income 5575.00

Note: Because registration was well below our prediction for budget, we had to be creative. We used Hotel decorations for tables at lunch for no cost, we used containers and no charge items for decorations at dinner and we utilized Squadron AV Equipment for meeting rooms. The 'life saver' was the items donated toward the auction.

Submitted by D/Cdr Jane Brandenstein, SN
Conference Chair for Pittsburgh Power Squadron

Item #2

District Seven Cruise at Rock the Docks, Cleveland OH. 27-29 July 2018

This cruise will be different from past cruises. I am trying to keep costs low and provide activities which individuals can choose from and buy individually at a discount rate. I will be looking at a couple of restaurants for a Saturday night group dinner. This would be off the menu, pay for what you want. I should have that place secured by end of April. Details on everything to be forthcoming as activities are firmed up.

I will charge a registration fee of \$16 per person

Revenue would be 45 people at \$16 = \$720; 55 people at \$16 = \$880

Expenses estimated to be:

Tent rental	\$150 / if needed, estimate
Paper products	75
Additional beverages	250
CDR cocktail foods	175
Ice and water	50
Raffle tickets	25
Name Tags	10

Total estimated expenses = \$735.00

Revenue projected between \$720 and \$880+ depending on attendance and actual expenses, does not include 50/50 proceeds

Total Expenses	\$735.00
Total Income	\$880.00
Projected + Balance to D7	\$145.00

Item #3

D7 Fall 2018 Conference-Independence Holiday Inn
2-4 November
Proposed Budget

Expenses:

Ice Breaker Food Stations	\$27 x 85	\$2295.00
Entertainment		\$400.00
Photo Booth		\$350.00
Saturday Lunch	\$21.54 x 60	\$1292.00
Saturday Dinner	\$29.24 x 85	\$2485.40
Guests Meals		\$200.00
Name Tags		\$50.00
Printing		\$125.00
Return D/7 Advance		\$200.00
Bartenders	Ice Breaker & Sat Dinner	\$150.00
TOTAL		\$7547.80

Income:

Ice Breaker Food Stations	\$20 x 85	\$1700.00
Registration Fee	\$10 x 85	\$850.00
Photo Booth		\$80.00
Saturday Lunch	\$23 x 60	\$1380.00
Saturday Dinner	\$34 x 85	\$2890.00
Raffle		\$1000.00
D/7 Advance		\$200.00
TOTAL		\$8100.00

Item #4

Boat Show East final report for Council and Conference

Income - \$150.00 (\$75.00 from Pittsburgh and Ten Mile Power Squadrons)

Money in D7 from 2017 \$195.81



Expenses

Shipping BSVT back to Raleigh NC	\$76.83
Labels for BSVT	\$17.39
Printing fliers	\$ 8.38
	\$ 8.40
	\$67.55

Total Expenses \$178.55

**\$28.55 taken from account in D/7 to balance

D/C Jane S. Brandenstein, SN

Chair of Boat Show East

Item #5

Boat Show West Final Report:

The expenses for the show were:

Exhibitor Parking Permits	\$180.00	
Electric	132.70	
Misc. Office Supplies and Copies	35.26	
Printing America's Boating Club Posters	22.71	
HDMI Cable for TV	22.59	
Mailing of Prizes	27.35	
West Share of BVST Shipping (1/2 \$124.09)	<u>62.05</u>	
TOTAL		\$482.66

In addition, there was a carryover cost of \$9.96 from last year for a total cost of \$492.62. There are seven squadrons that take part in this show – Akron, Berea, Cleveland, Mansfield, North Coast Ohio, Stark County and Vermilion. Each of these squadrons owes **\$70.37** (1/7 of the total.)

Prepared by P/R/C Dave Rickard, AP



2018 District 7 Spring Conference
Seat Packet prepared by
D/Lt/C Lynda Leque, SN
D/7 Secretary