

## D7 Spring Conference Meeting Minutes

06 April 2019

D/C James R Holcepl, SN called the meeting to order at 1402.  
D/Lt Jon C Paulus, AP gave the invocation.  
D/Lt/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
D/C James R Holcepl, SN introduced the Chief's Representative, and Bridge officers.  
P/D/C Jane S Brandenstein, SN introduced Past District Commanders present and D/C James R Holcepl, SN introduced immediate P/D/C Jane S Brandenstein, SN.  
Chief's representative, P/V/C Robert Brandenstein, SN proceeded with the Commander's message regarding Marketing and continuing to use/endorse the "America's Boating Club" logo. He presented sample ads being developed at the National level.

D/7 Photo Award: D/Lt/C Lynda C Leque, SN and P/D/Lt/C Irene Rodriguez, SN showed the beautiful pictures and announced the Honorable Mentions: Don Albanese (3 pictures), Lt/C Gilbert Lorenzo, AP and P/C Daniel A Fortman, N. The Winner of the contest was Lt/C Gilbert Lorenzo, AP.

D/Lt Jon C Paulus, AP read the list of names of those Crossing the Bar, noting that some may have passed away some time ago, yet we only recently learned of it.  
D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P verified a quorum was present.  
P/C Daniel A Fortman, N read the voting rules.  
D/C James R Holcepl, SN noted that in accordance with a motion adopted in Fall 2014, the designated committee approved the minutes of the D7 Council Meeting held 03 March 2019 and no further action is required. The minutes are included in the Seat Packet.

D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P read the Consent Agenda and moved to accept it. P/D/C David Bialorucki, SN seconded. Discussion-P/D/C Donald R Stark, JN noted a correction needed to be made for #2 to say Conference, not Council. Agreed. There were no other corrections and the motion was approved.

### Department Reports

Executive: D/Lt/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN

She thanked all Boat Show Chairs and volunteers especially because of the snowstorms that occurred during the shows. She also thanked all who had helped her this past year.

P/D/C Donald R Stark, JN presented a flyer and information regarding the Tall Ships America® partnership with USPS.

P/V/C Robert Brandenstein, SN gave recognition to D/Lt Joanne Hancock, SN and Stf/C S Thomas Hancock, P for attaining 1<sup>st</sup> rank nationally in Nautical Co-Op Charting and 2<sup>nd</sup> rank nationally in Geodetic work. P/D/C Garry Schroeder, SN gave the VSC report. He noted our district came in 5<sup>th</sup> nationally with two Century Club awardees, P/D/C Dave Bialorucki, SN and Lt Robert E Mosey, S. In addition, Lt Robert E Mosey, S reached the Millennium Club (1000 VSCs) for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time!

District VSC Award: This reflects the number of exams VSCs completed / number of VSEs per squadron. 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Akron 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Vermilion 1<sup>st</sup> place: Stark County

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

He named and thanked a number of people who had helped him this year. He also provided an update of the Junior Navigation Award, noting that the newly approved Gordon Richard Dunbar

Offshore Navigation Award is being designed by Stark County. It will be presented at our Fall 2020 Conference.

He heavily promoted the Jump Start program as a way to have fun, get new members, and promote educating boaters. He offered to assist all squadrons in whatever way possible and hoped to share Jump Start instructors across squadrons within the district.

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

P/Cs Margo Holmes, AP and Susan Harris, S did a skit to promote Fall Conference 2019. It will have a College Sports theme. Reminder that the conference will be 1-3 November 2019.

P/D/C Brian M Logan, SN gave the Membership Report as noted in pages 14-15 of the seat packet. He strongly urged squadrons to offer education and activities that many prospective members want.

D/Lt/C Lynda C Leque, SN encouraged squadrons to submit their boating activities to the District's boating activities chair, Cdr Harry Barnes, AP. This may allow for members across squadrons to participate in activities throughout the district.

P/C Susan Harris, S reported that the new Operations Training class is a new module that is supposed to take only 3 hours to teach.

D/Lt Lawrence Spraggins, AP with wife, Peggy Spraggins, performed a skit to promote the D7 Rendezvous on 3 August aboard the Goodtime I. He also emphasized checking out all the Membership Benefits available on USPS site.

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

She noted that some members may not have received the electronic D7 News as some internet service providers may block such bulk emails or it lands in a spam folder. She encouraged members to inform their squadron of any change in email or other contact information so that the member receives all information.

Treasurer: Stf/C S Thomas Hancock, P filling in for D/Lt/C Liana Mihalca, SN

He reminded squadrons to complete the necessary Federal and State tax forms to ensure compliance with regulations. He explained that the money the State receives for the USPS license plates is distributed equally to the 4 Districts that have Ohio squadrons. From there, our District then distributes its share equally out to all the Ohio squadrons within the district.

Commander: D/C James R Holcepl, SN

After thanking all those who had helped the district, and citing events he had attended, he encouraged members to participate in various ways to embrace change, contemplate new concepts, build new relationships, and evolve in ways that reach newer/younger boaters while also sharing the wisdom we all have.

He recognized V/C Craig Fraser, SN, who received the Award of Excellence from the United States Coast Guard Boating Safety Division. He also gave kudos to Stf/C S Thomas Hancock, P and P/C Joanne Hancock, SN for their Cooperative Charting accomplishments, noting that Tom is now the National Assistant Chair for Cooperative Charting. He noted that North Coat Sail and Power Squadron received an Honorable Mention in recognition of outstanding membership growth and retention among squadrons of similar size.

He encouraged squadrons to reach out to D/Lt/C James E Mason, SN to best utilize the Jump Start Program as a way to share knowledge and have fun.

In closing, he noted that the district needs each and every member in unique ways and hoped that each would say Yes if asked to help out.

### **Committee Reports:**

Auditing: D/Lt Roger Hall, AP stated an audit of the D7 treasury, as maintained by D/Lt/C Liana Mihalca, SN and presented by Stf/C S Thomas Hancock, P was performed 18 March 2019. All records were found to be accurate and in good order. The committee had no recommendations for changes.

Planning: no report

Rules: no report

### **Unfinished Business:**

Kanawha River Power Squadron has been officially dissolved by the USPS Board of Directors. All remaining members transferred to the Cyber Squadron. All properties of the squadron have been distributed. The squadron funds have been disbursed according to the by-laws.

Cleveland Power Squadron has been officially dissolved by the USPS Board of Directors. All remaining members transferred to other squadrons or the Cyber Squadron. All properties of the squadron have been distributed. The squadron funds have been disbursed according to the by-laws. We are saddened by the loss of these two squadrons, but the task is completed.

P/D/C Jane Brandenstein, SN provided an update regarding the opportunity to house one of the Boating Skills Virtual Trainers (BSVT) within District 7. She stated that unfortunately, many of the units need repairs and the unit slated for our district needs a new power supply. Once it is repaired, P/D/C Robert A Ball, SN will store the unit. Hopefully, it will be housed within District 7 before the Tall Ships arrive in the summer. She advised members to continue to reserve the BSVT as usual via USPS website.

**New Business:** none

### **Election of Officers:**

Current officers, with the exception of the Secretary, were asked to clear the floor for the election of officers for 2019-2020.

P/V/C Robert Brandenstein, SN inquired, and received confirmation from the Secretary that the Nominating Committee report had been received and distributed to all District members. P/D/C Dave Bialorucki, SN, Chair of the Nominating Committee, thanked his fellow committee members and read the Nominating Committee report. The Secretary reported no nominations by petition were received for any of the elective offices. *P/D/C Wayne Powers, SN moved to accept the list of nominees as read. Stf/C H Eileen Rickard, SN seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion approved. (Please see the seat packet for the full slate of officers.)*

D/C James R Holcepl, SN congratulated those elected and gave reminders for the evening activities.

Meeting adjourned 1545.

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

Approved by:

D/C James R Holcepl, SN	Date: 05/05/19
D/Lt/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN	Date: 05/07/19
D/Lt/C Lynda C Leque, SN	Date: 05/06/19