

D7 Fall Conference Meeting Minutes 2 November 2019

D/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN called the meeting to order at 1407; she introduced Parliamentary Advisors P/V/C Robert Brandenstein, SN, and P/R/C Wayne Spraggins, SN.

A moment of silence was observed as D/Lt Jon Paulus, AP announced the names of members who passed away since Spring Conference. The bell rang, then he followed with the invocation. D/Lt/C Lynda C Leque, SN led the pledge of allegiance.

D/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN introduced Chief's Representative V/C Ben Coons, JN and read his biography.

P/D/C Jane Brandenstein, SN introduced Past D/Cs present and D/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN introduced P/D/C Jane Brandenstein, SN.

V/C Ben Coons, JN presented the Commander's message. Topics included marketing strategies, promoting top member benefits on the website prior to member login, and the organization's Strategic Transition Plan.

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

P/R/C Wayne Spraggins, SN read the voting rules.

D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P read the Consent Agenda noting she would correct #9 to read: That a committee of the following: the District Commander, Executive Officer, and the Administrative Officer, approve the minutes of the Conference meeting held 2 November 2019. P/C Tom McFate, AP moved, P/D/C James R Holcepl, SN seconded. There were no other corrections and the motion was approved.

Department Reports

Treasurer: Stf/C S Thomas Hancock, P filling in for D/Lt/C Liana Mihalca, SN
Updated current balances in the postal account and other specific categories referenced the article in the seat packet.

Secretary: D/Lt/C Janice Vitucci-Ehrman, P
Referred members to her seat packet article, and reminded members that TechSoup is a great resource to purchase software at very reasonable prices.

Administrative: D/Lt/C Lawrence Spraggins, AP
Introduced P/D/C Brian M Logan, SN who discussed the Membership report in the Seat Packet, emphasizing that there is a bug in DB2000 when attempting to process a new 18 month membership.
D/Lt/C Lawrence Spraggins, AP reported he had participated in a conference call led by V/C Ben Coons, JN; he stated that membership discussion had been passed along to all squadrons-encouraging individuals to check their spam folders in case they had not received it. He summarized the recent D7 Rendezvous and expressed thanks to those who had contributed to this Fall Conference team. P/C Kathy Barber, AP announced Spring Conference would be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Independence, OH, 3-5 April 2020.
D/Lt/C Lawrence Spraggins, AP spoke about Member Benefits; National is looking for more vendors.
P/D/C Brian M Logan, SN noted specific areas within the Commander's Challenge report, reminding squadrons that there's always time to improve.

D/Lt/C Lawrence Spraggins, AP showed the Poster Contest pictures on the wall, noting who had been chosen as the winner (who would receive \$25), and the other four who would receive \$10.

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

Referred to his article in the Seat Packet. He gave strong emphasis to the Jump Start program, giving special recognition to 8 individuals who had helped out with the program.

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

Expressed thanks to Cdr Harry Barnes, AP, and his team for handling the D7 booth at Tall Ships in Cleveland. She expressed thanks to Stf/C S Thomas Hancock, P and P/C Joanne Hancock, SN for all their Co-Op Charting efforts, noting they put on a seminar at Governing Board and have been nationally recognized for their contributions to this program.

P/D/C Garry Schroeder, SN gave the VSC report, noting the District has completed more VSCs this year than last year. Expressed hope more VSCs will be recruited. He recognized new VSC Century Club members P/D/Lt/C Irene Rodriguez, SN and P/C Ric Rodriguez, SN, while also noting that P/D/C Dave Bialorucki, SN and Lt Bob Mosey, S continue to be Century Club members.

D/Lt/C Lynda C Leque, SN announced 2020 D7 Rendezvous will be held 07/31-08/02 on Middle Bass Island as a joint venture with Middle Bass Yacht Club. She reported there will be a pizza meal Friday and the club is having a Steak Fry on Saturday. More details will follow.

She also reported that our Chief's Representative at our Spring Conference will be incoming C/C Mary Paige Abbott, SN.

Commander: D/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN

Recognized those who had attended the recent Governing Board Meeting. She noted that one item that was passed at the Governing Board (GB) is giving the Districts the ability to have one (1) conference per year. This does NOT mean that D/7 has to have one conference or that we will have only one conference.

Before D7 could make any changes, the By-laws need to be examined, and any potential changes may require a change to them. She assigned this task to the Rules Committee.

Committee Reports:

Auditing: no report

Nominating: Stf/C H Eileen Rickard, SN stated things were going well yet there are still slots to fill. She asked if anyone was interested in helping the District, to please reach out to any member of the nominating committee, and/or please say yes if you are contacted by them.

Planning: P/D/C Bob Fish, SN stated his review of numbers indicated that in 01/2008 the District had 1250 members. In Spring 2019 there were 678 members. He stated that the membership loss rate is 6-7%/year and hopes that some of the \$25k balance in the district account could be used to avert this trend. Lastly, he made a personal comment that he felt having one conference/year could further reduce camaraderie and contact among district members.

Rules: no report

Unfinished Business:

BSVT report: P/D/C Jane Brandenstein, SN explained that although we now have a BSVT unit housed within D/7, you must still go through National site to complete their online request. Once it is confirmed, one should directly contact P/D/C Bob Ball, SN to make arrangements for pick

up and return of the unit. If there are any issues with the unit, please contact P/D/C Jane Brandenstein, SN or Stf/C H Eileen Rickard, SN. Thanks to Stf/C H Eileen Rickard, SN and Lt Neal Casbean, P for the latest repairs to the unit.

She stated there are some issues with the speakers and we should try to get new ones. She'll try to get them through a grant at headquarters, but if not **she moved for D7 to reimburse the purchaser for a new set of speakers up to a maximum of \$25.00. P/D/C Bob Fish, SN seconded. Motion approved.**

Lastly, she thanked all who attended the BSVT morning seminar and encouraged all to reach out for help with any questions regarding use of the unit in teaching classes.

New Business:

D/Lt/C Lynda C Leque, SN announced a proposed change to 2020 Fall Conference such that 5 Districts (PENTA) would be involved in planning and execution of a PENTA Conference in an effort to pool resources, promote attendance, and encourage collaboration among districts. **She moved that the D7 Commander, Executive Officer, and Conference Chair/s proceed with the planning and execution of the 2020 Fall PENTA Conference in partnership with Districts 9, 11, 24, and 29, to be held 2-4 October at the Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center in Sandusky Ohio. P/D/C Bob Ball, SN seconded. Motion approved.**

Photo Contest: P/D/Lt/C Irene Rodriguez, SN announced the rules for the D7 Photo Contest. She emphasized that the picture must be taken from a boat or on a boat. She estimated the deadline will be mid-February.

On a separate note-she stated she would send out an email to all squadron commanders in mid-December to requesting each squadron's information for compilation in district's roster.

D/Lt/C Lawrence Spraggins, AP gave a summary of upcoming DAN Boater benefits. DAN is Diver Alert Network. It provides travel insurance beyond 50 miles from home. The plan is for them to be free initially, then cost \$25 annually/person upon renewal with America's Boating Club. The ability to opt out is still being worked on. Hopefully it will be resolved shortly and this new benefit will then become available. Members can find out more at www.danboater.org/abc

D/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN reminded members of raffle tickets and the schedule for evening activities.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1549.

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

Approved by:

D/C Barbara A Spraggins, SN Date: 11/11/2019

D/Lt/C Lynda C Leque, SN Date: 11/10/2019

D/Lt/C Lawrence Spraggins, AP Date: 11/10/2019