



Welcome District 7 “First Timers”

Welcome to your first DISTRICT CONFERENCE.

Please take a few moments to read this information. It will help you get the most out of the Conference.

A District Conference is organized by the District Conference Committee, who plans the theme, arranges for the hotel, and is in charge of the registration for the conference.

The OBJECTIVE of this sheet is to :

1. Help you, the “First Timer,” feel more comfortable and less intimidated by the scope of a District Conference
2. Allow the “First Timer” to learn what is available to you at these meetings and help you determine how to meet your expectations.

WHO ATTENDS THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE?

- The District Commander and District Bridge. They will preside over most of the meetings.

It's a chance for District Officers to get together with the Squadron Officers (for instance, the District Educational Officer meets Squadron Educational Officer) and discuss important aspects of their jobs. The Educational officers, for instance, may want to discuss new courses, or compare notes with other Squadrons.

- The Chief Commander or his Representative.

The District Conference is usually attended by the National Chief Commander (C/C) or his Representative – usually a National Officer – who can pass on the latest information about the National organization. Since the Chief Commander can't attend all the district conferences, a member of the National Bridge or National Committee can attend in the

C/C's place. The C/C will prepare a message for the Representative to present at the meeting, so that every District in USPS gets a similar message about current issues and ideas at the National Level

- Boating Officials from the state or Coast Guard. Typically, the ODNR or Coast Guard Representative will have a brief message for squadron members.
- Squadron Commanders and the Squadron Bridge. They come to meet with their counterparts at the Squadron and District Level – and to meet the National Officer attending.
- Squadron members who are active in Squadron committees. There is often a meeting or seminar of interest to members on specific committees, like membership or Vessel Safety Check. These are open to all members. Members meet their counterparts from other squadrons, learn more about their Committee responsibilities, and get good ideas from other squadrons.
- Squadron Members who want to learn more about National, District, or local programs
- Squadron Members who enjoy a great social time and wish to meet other boaters with similar interests

What Happens at a District Conference:

Friday night is a “social” night. Dress is casual. There is usually a theme for the Conference, like “Winter Wonderland” or “Tropical Island”. In this case, you might want to wear your Christmas Sweater or your Hawaiian shirt – but that’s up to you.

- There is an “Ice Breaker” party, usually from 7 – 9 PM. Food is served and drinks are available. It is a chance for members of different squadrons to “mix”, see old friends and make new ones. There is usually music for dancing, and other activities at the Ice Breaker.
- Sometimes, squadrons can put on “skits” at the Ice Breaker. These are planned in advance and squadrons are notified of the “skit” criteria.
- Following the Ice Breaker, some Squadrons may have hospitality rooms where members of all squadrons can gather and talk.

Saturday

- In the morning, many of the District Officers have a breakfast with their Squadron counterparts. For instance, the District Administrative Officer will meet with Squadron Administrative Officers, to discuss important issues in their area of responsibility.
- There are generally seminar sessions or Expositions of general interest to Squadron members at large.

These may be a presentation on techniques for Member Involvement, or new educational material, for instance. There might be a presentation of general interest, for instance, a cruise on the Great Loop. Sometimes there is an Exposition of Teaching Aids, so squadrons can get ideas they can use for their own courses.

- There is a luncheon Saturday. Often there is a short program. Sometimes awards are given, to reduce the length of the Awards Ceremony Saturday night.
- Following the luncheon, there is often a program for those attendees who are not planning to attend the District Conference. It is arranged by the host squadron, and could be a tour of a local attraction, or a program of general interest.
- The District Conference Meeting is Saturday Afternoon. The meeting is conducted under standard parliamentary procedure. At this meeting, District officers give their reports. Any business to come before the district is addressed. Any voting issues, such as Amendments to the by-laws, are debated and decided at the meeting.
- Any squadron member can attend the Conference Meeting. However, only designated delegates can vote on issues. Squadron Commanders and SEO's can vote, and Squadron Commanders can appoint one delegate for each 25 members in their squadron.
- Following the District meeting, there is usually a break of 1-2 hours, where members can relax.
- Saturday night is the awards banquet. This is a "formal" event. Members who have uniforms usually wear them. Other members wear cocktail attire – jacket and tie, cocktail dresses or similar outfits.
- Key awards at the District and National level are presented following the dinner.

- At the Spring Conference, we hold our District “Change of Watch,” when we install the new District Officers.
- After dinner, most hospitality rooms are re-opened, and members are free to visit other rooms.

Sunday

- Often, the District Bridge or District committees will have a breakfast meeting on Sunday morning.

We hope that this information will help you enjoy the District Conference, and encourage you to return and become “2nd timers”!

If you have any questions, please contact:

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