



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
SAIL AND POWER BOATING
DISTRICT 9



Mission: To promote recreational boating skills and boating safety through education, hands-on training, and civic activities while providing fellowship for members.

Fall District Conference
 1 November 2008 - Battle Creek, Michigan
Minutes

Call to Order

D/C Denise Brooks, AP

District Commander Denise Brooks started the meeting with a slide show of events that have occurred during the past year in District 9 to the tune of "We are Family". The meeting was called to order at 1325

Presentation of Colors

Color Guards of VFW 6252 of Comstock, Michigan presented the colors.

US & Canadian National Anthems

Everyone

Pledge of Allegiance

P/R/C Patricia Johnston, SN

Invocation

D/Lt Douglas Rocho, P

Welcome & Order of Business

D/C Denise Brooks, AP

D/C Brooks welcomed everyone to the Fall Conference and thanked Kalamazoo Sail and Power Squadron for hosting the conference. She also, recognized that this is KSPS's 60th anniversary this year, and it was CDR Harold Hladky's birthday.

D/C Brooks requested to change the order of business in order to expedite business.

Recognition of Departed Members

D/C Denise Brooks, AP
D/Lt/C Bryan Bartlett, JN

The following departed members were recognized and the District Bell was tolled for each:

Lt Stanley G. Anderson, JN	Detroit	Lt William W. Evans, P	Detroit
P/C James D. Bobb, JN	Kalamazoo	Alvin R. Grafton, AP	Anchor Bay
P/C Allen V. Buskirk, SN	Kalamazoo	P/Lt/C Henrietta Kasinec, AP	Anchor Bay
P/C Phillip Faustman, SN	Kalamazoo	1 st /Lt Richard E. Munroe, AP	Grosse Pointe
P/C Harry Harvey, SN	Kalamazoo	P/D/C Richard C. Rateich, SN	Grosse Ile
Donald E. Conlin	Port Huron	P/C Lawrence A. Reif, AP	Grosse Pointe
James O. Cross, SN	Grand Traverse Bay	Diana J. Roney	Grand Traverse Bay
Lt Donald Endres, AP	Grosse Pointe		

Prayer

D/Lt Douglas Rocho, P

A prayer was given for the departed members.

Alpena Anchor Bay Ann Arbor Birmingham Dearborn Detroit Flint
 Grand Rapids Grand Traverse Bay Grosse Ile Grosse Pointe Kalamazoo Lansing
 Mt. Clemens Muskegon Port Huron Rogers City Sable Point Saginaw Bay
 St. Clair Shores St. Joseph South Bend Tip of the Mitt Wyandotte

Introductions of National Officers & PDC's

D/Lt/C Bryan Bartlett, JN

D/Lt/C Bartlett introduced Past District Commanders and National Officers that were present.

Past District Commanders

1984	P/C/C Theodore Smith, SN	Grosse Pointe
1986	P/R/C Gene Van Rhee, SN	Sable Point
1988	P/N/F/Lt Dick Jarmon, SN	Birmingham
1990	P/D/C James Leonard, SN	Lansing
1999	P/D/C Gert Baldwin, JN	Muskegon
2001	Stf/C John Bennett, SN	Grosse Pointe
2004	P/D/C Michael Rachuk, SN	Anchor Bay
2005	P/D/C Jack Knaggs, SN	Flint
2006	P/D/C Denise Samu, AP	Birmingham
2007	P/D/C Jerry Stephan, AP (junior)	Grand Traverse Bay

National Officers

Stf/Cdr Sally Lemus, JN	Detroit Sail & Power Squadron
V/C Joseph Mesenburg, SN	USPS Treasurer
P/R/C Patricia Johnson, SN	Dearborn

Introduction of Guests

P/D/C James Leonard, SN

P/D/C Leonard made the following introductions of District guests:

D/C Joan Hicks, AP	Canada	
V/C Karen Conner	Canada	
V/C Joe Gatfield, AP	Detroit/CPS	
Chief Ronald Smith	U.S. Border Patrol	
John Otterbacher	Kalamazoo/Grand Rapids	presenter
Barbara Craft	Kalamazoo/Grand Rapids	presenter
Cindy Spiess-Malmstrom	Kalamazoo	presenter

D/C Hicks offered thanks for the opportunity to attend our conference. She is proud to be a new member of Birmingham Power Squadron. D/C Hicks thanked all those who attended their National conference in Windsor and helped them celebrate their 70th anniversary with USPS. She attended the dinner cruise at the National USPS Fall Governing Board meeting in Detroit. It was very enjoyable.

Review of Voting & Floor Privileges

D/Lt Laddie Hudson, SN

D/Lt Hudson reviewed and explained voting privileges and procedures for the meeting, citing sections: 4.1, 3.1, 2.9, 2.9.12, 2.9.13.

Determination of a Quorum

D/Lt/C Robyn Levene, AP

D/Lt/C Robyn Levene confirmed there was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes of 2008 Spring Conference

D/C Denise Brooks, AP

Minutes of 2008 Spring Conference were approved with changes as proposed.

Chief Commander's Message

V/C Joe R. Mesenburg, SN

V/C Mesenburg is from District 29 and is celebrating his 20th anniversary in USPS. This is the 30th district out of 33 districts that he will be attending. He probably knows more people from District 9 than any other district. He stores his boat in Cheboygan and has cruised the Michigan

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and Canadian waters often. He was on the Operating Committee when Ted Smith was Chief, along with many other D/9 members. He and his wife Karen really love Michigan.

V/C Mesenburg has been on the Operating Committee and on the National Bridge for six years; three years on the Operating Committee and three years on the National Bridge. It has been a lot of fun for him. Especially, being the Chief's representative, as well as, teaching safe boating.

V/C Mesenburg gave a little background about himself and how it lead him to USPS. He valued his financial background in helping turn USPS around from operating in the red to operating in the black. For the last couple of years it has been operating in the black and most likely will this year too.

Chief Creighton Maynard's message will be forwarded to D/C Brooks. V/C Mesenburg summarized the Chief's report. He stated that USPS education is doing a great job. USPS University needs members in their classes. Regarding Membership Retention: It is easier to retain members then it is to recruit new members. 70% of new members will be lost in the first two years if nothing is done to motivate them. However, if new members get involved the retention rate goes up to 84%. This is a loss of 16%. Don't be afraid to ask new members to do things and get involved. He spoke about a new program titled, "On the Water Helmanship." What better way to express USPS's latest trademarked motto, "Boating is Fun. Let Us Show You How.", expressed V/C Mesenburg. This program will be promoted more in a month or so.

USPS has changed their activity (not personal boating) insurance carrier from Traverse St Paul to Chubb Insurance Group. Part of this insurance coverage, covers on the water Power Squadron activities.

There is new edition of the ABC course. When ordering you will be sent the 3rd edition. Ask #0373110 for the student kit and #0373111 for the instructor kit.

V/C Mesenburg and the National Bridge recognize that our membership is aging. Their recommended target age group for recruiting is 45 years of age.

Awards Ceremony

**D/C Denise Brooks, AP
V/C Joe R. Mesenburg, SN
D/Lt/C Bryan Bartlett, JN
D/Lt Frank Muylaert, P**

Fifty years of membership

Robert P. Erickson	Birmingham
Arthur F. Dundon Sr.	Grand Traverse Bay
Herbert R. Davidson	Lansing
Robert L. Couto	Mt Clemens
Kenneth M. Gawlak	Saginaw Bay
Lee A. Leppien	South Bend
Robert E. Spencer	Tip of the Mitt

Twenty-five Year Award

Inadvertently missed at the 2008 spring conference, this award goes to:

Sally Lemus	Detroit
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Membership Growth Award

3 rd place	Grand Traverse Bay	3.6%
2 nd place	Tip of the Mitt	13.3%
1 st place	Alpena	18.2%

Membership Involvement Award

3 rd place	Kalamazoo	98% retention
2 nd place	Port Huron	99.2% retention
1 st place	Alpena	100% retention

District Safety Award

None

Sailor of the Year Award

Lt/C Gerald Major AP Birmingham

District Predicted Log Award

Dave Charvat Grosse Pointe Power Squadron 1.01% error

District 9 Novice Predicted Log Award

Robert Malicki Grosse Pointe Power Squadron 3.45% error

East Side Predicted Log Winner

Dave Charvat Grosse Pointe Power Squadron 1.01% error

West Side Predicted Log Winner

Paul Goetcheus Grand Rapids Sail & Power Squadron 11.50% error

Teaching Aid Award

3 rd place	Shaft Alignment	Grand Traverse Bay
2 nd place	Valve Adjustment	Grand Traverse Bay
1 st place	Effect of wiring on the Compass	Lansing

R/C James E.Ryan, SN Advanced Grade Trophy

3 rd place	Tip of the Mitt	14.81% increase
2 nd place	Grand Rapids	23.88% increase
1 st place	Kalamazoo	30.34%

R/C Glenn H.Howell, SN Elective Course Trophy

3 rd place	Lansing	9.64%
2 nd place	Tip of the Mitt	12.96%
1 st place	Kalamazoo	20.00%

P/R/C George P (Bud) A. Richardson SN Total Squadron Educational Performance Award

3 rd place	Tip of the Mitt	27.78%
2 nd place	Grand Rapids	30.37%
1 st place	Kalamazoo	50.00%

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Certificate of Educational Achievement

Gary L. Harkins	Grand Rapids
Emma A. McGraw Watson	Grand Traverse Bay
James McIntyre	Grand Traverse Bay (08/09)
Margaret McIntyre	Grand Traverse Bay (08/09)

Educational Proficiency

Danny R. Woody	Anchor Bay
P/D/C Denise Samu	Birmingham
Frank Muylaert	Dearborn
Ralph E. Rotando	Grosse Ile
Diane R. Hanson	Kalamazoo
Dawn L. Flynn	Lansing
Richard L. Kane	Lansing
Robert M. Eggers	Saginaw Bay
H. Jay Stevens	South Bend

The Donald C. Beran, SN, Squadron Educational Achievement Award

3 rd place	Saginaw Bay	
2 nd place	Dearborn	
1 st place	Grand Rapids	0.49%

Boating Course Award

3 rd place	Grand Rapids
2 nd place	Alpena
1 st place	St Clair Shores

The District Teacher of the Year Award (Certificate)

Sidney A. McKnight Jr.	Sable Point
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Prince Henry the Navigator Award (Trophy)

2 nd place	Grand Rapids	0.50%
1 st place	Grand Traverse Bay	0.52%

Excellence in Recreational Boating Education Award

3 rd place	Sable Point
2 nd place	St Clair Shores
1 st place	Grand Rapids

Regional Leadership Development Workshop Graduates

Robert Landeros (Regional Workshop Presenter)	Kalamazoo
Jerry J. Williams	Grand Traverse Bay

District Cooperative Charting Award

1 st place	Saginaw Bay
2 nd place	Sable Point
3 rd place	South Bend

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District Cooperative Individual Award

1 st place	Howard Deal	Saginaw Bay
2 nd place	James Acheson	Port Huron
3 rd place	Shirley Van Rhee	Sable Point

National Co-op Charting Honor Roll

H. Stevens	Ranking:	64
Hazel Stevens	Ranking:	142
Rudolph Jarvi	Ranking:	166
Bob Figi	Ranking:	172
Virginia Jarvi	Ranking:	193
Gene Van Rhee	Ranking:	200
Ernest Wenger	Ranking:	201
Phyllis Thompson	Ranking:	224
Roger Thompson	Ranking:	225
Cindy Marcoux	Ranking:	269

D/Lt/C Bartlett congratulated everyone who received recognition during this ceremony and thanked those squadrons and members who contribute to the success of USPS.

D/C Brooks requested Dick Jarmon to come forward. At the CPS Annual General Meeting, Dick Jarmon was awarded one of the highest honors/awards by a C/C. He was given a C/C citation for his continued efforts as a USPS/CPS Liason and for fostering excellent information flow and relations between USPS and CPS.

Report of the Planning Committee

D/Lt David Brooks, AP

He reported there are four outstanding items to report on. They are: PlanCom 14, 15, 19, 20.

PlanCom item 14: A review of SOP 7 Secretary's Department has been requested to assure it reflects current operating procedures. This is under review by PlanCom and the District Secretary. It will be brought to the Spring 2009 Council Meeting.

PlanCom item 15: A review of SOP 35 District Publication. A revised SOP for the District Publication (Interlaker) has been completed. D/Lt Brooks moved that **the revision be accepted as published in the seat packets**. The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

PlanCom item 19: Work in conjunction with the District 9 Rules Committee to review the District meeting process in response to separate requests regarding Council and Conference meetings. These have been grouped together as one item. PlanCom and Rules will be working on this. Complete details are in D/Lt Brooks report in the seat packets.

PlanCom item 20: Add a requirement to Council and Conference SOP's that a meeting room be reserved during both Council and Conference meetings to be utilized by the Nominating Committee to facilitate their interviewing process. SOP 42 Council Meetings has been revised to include this requirement, but an SOP for conferences currently does not exist. PlanCom recommends that the District Conference Coordinator's guidebook be revised to verify this requirement exists there. Please note in Section 1.B.1 the addition of "**and past district educational officers**" to the Council composition. This is in anticipation of the passing of a bylaw amendment later in this meeting (see complete report in seat packets) D/Lt Brooks moved that **this SOP be accepted as published in your seat packets with the restriction that this**

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addition be removed from the SOP if the bylaw amendment is defeated. The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Report of the Rules Committee
No report.

D/Lt Leonard LaPorte, AP

Report of the Nominating Committee

P/D/C Jerry Stephan, AP

D/C Brooks reported for the nominating committee per P/D/C Stephan request. They are still interviewing individuals for the 2009 District ballot.

Report of the Conference Coordinator

P/D/C Mike Rachuk, SN

P/D/C Rachuk applauded Kalamazoo Sail and Power Squadron for doing an outstanding job coordinating and running this conference. He announced that South Bend Sail and Power Squadron will be hosting the Spring 2009 D/9 Conference. It will be held at the South Bend Marriott 13-15 March 2009. 23-29 October 2009 Mt Clemens Sail and Power Squadron will be host of the D/9 Fall Conference. P/D/C Rachuk reviewed the Conference schedule. His complete report is in the seat packets. There are a lot of open dates between Fall 2010 and Fall 2012. He is in the process of exploring alternative avenues for future conferences, possibly a combined conference with one or two other districts. He also announced the wrap up meeting for Sunday morning at 0900.

Report on 2008 Gov Board Meeting

P/D/C Mike Rachuk, SN

P/D/C Rachuk reported on the Fall 2009 Governing Board meeting. It was a giant success. He expressed his gratitude for all the excellent work everyone did to make this event successful. It was a great team effort! His complete report is enclosed with this conference report.

D/9 Department Reports

Treasurer

D/Lt/C MaryAnn Jensen, AP

D/Lt/C Jensen announced that her report is in the seat packets at each table.

Secretary

D/Lt/C Robyn Levene, AP

D/Lt/C Levene announced that her report is in the seat packets at each table.

Administrative

D/Lt/C James Draper, JN

D/Lt/C Draper addressed his concern about and seriousness regarding membership. His Membership Coordinator, D/Lt Linda Lalonde, P believe and recommend that including a one year membership as an integral component of our new public boating course will stop our membership slide and enable us to start getting some fresh blood and new leadership into our organization. D/Lt/C Draper urged squadron commanders to take this recommendation to their executive committees for review. He has confidence that this will work. His complete and important report has been included in the seat packets at each table.

Educational

D/Lt/C William Stewart, SN

D/Lt/C William Stewart was not able to attend this meeting due to a family emergency. ADEO D/1st/Lt Donald Fiander reported in his place. D/1st/Lt Fiander thanked all the hard work that the educational department members have done this year. Many courses have been rewritten and distributed this year. Everyone has done a wonderful job. He reported on the new boating course. It has combined all the three boating courses; we have had in the past, into one course. It can be taken in class, on line, or it can be subdivided into a short 8 hour course.

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Teaching aids will be submitted to National in 2010. There will not be teaching aids submitted in 2009.

The BOC program is now in full swing and in need of Advanced Certifiers and Squadron Certifiers.

USPS has resolved the insurance issue and as of 1 July 2008 the organization has on-the-water insurance. This allows the BOC program to operate as it is intended.

The DEO complete report is in the seat packets at each table.

Executive

D/Lt/C Bryan Bartlett, JN

D/Lt/C Bartlett mentioned as of 20 October 2008, National has a total 2141 VSCs being conducted by the 185 Vessel Examiners of District 9. Detroit is the squadron with the largest number of examinations completed so far this year, with 22 registered examiners completing 601 checks. Following next are Saint Clair Shores, Sable Point, and Saginaw squadrons. His complete report has been placed in the seat packets at each table.

Commander

D/C Denise Brooks, AP

D/C Brooks complete report was placed in the seat packets at each table. She thanked everyone who hosted her and Dave over the past several months. She, also, shared a couple of thoughts. She encouraged everyone to think positive thoughts. It is easy to think negative. Being positive is contagious. We make choices on how we choose to accept other's perspectives. We, as an organization can make a difference by encouraging those around us, to take advantage of opportunities to make everyone a winner. Promoting how we save lives by encouraging life jackets, doing VSCs, and encouraging people to take our classes. D/C Brooks challenged everyone to go back to their squadrons and find something to celebrate at each meeting. It doesn't need to be huge. It can be as simple as thanking someone for a job well done.

Unfinished Business

D/C Denise Brooks, AP

D/C Brooks stated that the dissolution of St Joseph Power Squadron was brought up at the Fall Council meeting. The National Secretary has been notified of this request. They have no Bridge. They have not had a class in two years. Conversation has occurred with both Kalamazoo and South Bend Power Squadrons commanders to accept current St Joseph members as active members in their respective squadrons. D/C Brooks moved **that the request to dissolve St Joseph Power Squadron be accepted.** The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Bylaw changes: At the Fall District Council Meeting it was voted to change the Bylaws so that Past DEOs would be part of the Council and would have voting privileges. The Bylaws have been reviewed and updated to reflect the change. Copies of the recommended Bylaw changes were resent out prior to this Conference. D/C Brooks requested **to accept these changes to the Bylaws as recommended.**

Laddie Hudson made a Point of Order. Under article 7 section 7.2. He made a motion **to delete shall be resolved by the parliamentarian (as recommended), to read shall be answered (as recommended) then insert "by the parliamentarian."** Motion seconded. Motion carried.

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A question on the format of elected officers in section 2 was raised. A motion was made not to change the format, to leave the format as originally stated so that they all appear uniform with each other. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

A motion was made to accept the changes of the Bylaws as proposed and amended. The motion was seconded. Motion passed

New Business & Resolutions

D/C Brooks asked for any New Business and/or Resolutions. squadrons to pick up their teaching aids.

D/C Denise Brooks, AP

P/C Bob Cox reminded

Educational Fund Report

No report

D/C Denise Brooks, AP

For the Good of the District

Spring Conference

Cdr Stevens announced that the theme of the Spring D/9 Conference in South Bend will be "Celebrate the Boater." That's what boating is all about, having fun. But what is really fun is the boaters.

Cdr H. Jay Stevens, JN

Other Business

V/C Mesenburg swore in new member of Birmingham Power Squadron; Canadian Power Squadron D/C Joan Hicks. D/C Hicks thanked everyone for having her.

2 February 2009 is Founders Day. District 9 will be celebrating their 70th anniversary in 2009. It was encouraged that everyone plan an event in honor of District 9's anniversary on Founders Day.

Benediction

D/Lt Douglas Rocho, P

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1530.

D/C Denise Brooks, AP

Respectfully Submitted,

ROBYN D.M. LEVENE

D/Lt/C ROBYN D.M. LEVENE, AP

Secretary

District 9