

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS[®]

DISTRICT 9

FALL COUNCIL MEETING

11 October 2008

**Crowne Plaza Hotel
Grand Rapids, Michigan**

**Host Squadron:
Grand Rapids Sail and Power Squadron**



MINUTES



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
SAIL AND POWER BOATING
DISTRICT 9



Fall Council Meeting
MINUTES
October 11, 2008

Call to order

D/C Denise Brooks, AP

D/C Brooks called the District 9 Fall Council meeting to order at 0900.

Invocation

D/Lt Douglas Rocho, P

D/Lt Rocho gave the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

P/R/C Patricia Johnston, SN

P/R/C Johnston lead the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome & Comments

D/C Denise Brooks, AP

D/C Brooks welcome everyone and thanked them for coming to the meeting.

Order of Business

D/C Denise Brooks, AP

D/C Brooks requested to change the order of business in order to expedite the meeting's agenda.

Introduction of National Officers & PDC's

D/Lt C Bryan Bartlett, JN

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

National Officers: P/R/C Patricia Johnson, SN; P/R/C Gene R. Van Rhee, SN

Past District Commanders: Dick Jarmon, John Bennett, Mike Rachuk, Jack Knagg, Denise Samu, Jerry Stephan.

Review of the Voting and Floor Privileges

D/Lt Laddie Hudson, SN

Lattie Hudson sighted the voting and floor privileges according to the District 9 by laws.

Determination of a Quorum

D/Lt/C Robyn Levene, AP

Confirmation of a quorum was verified by Secretary, D/Lt/C Levene.

Approval of Minutes – 2008 Spring Council

D/C Denise Brooks, AP

D/C Brooks asked if there were no changes to the minutes that they be excepted as printed.

District Calendar

D/Lt/C Bryan Bartlett, JN

D/Lt/C Bartlett distributed the current District Calendar.

Report of the Planning Committee

D/Lt David Brooks, AP

D/Lt Brooks reported that there are three outstanding items on the Planning Committee agenda. These are PlanCom Items 14, 15, and 18. He thanked D/Lt/C Draper for his assistants with SOP 7; review of the Secretary's Department to assure it reflects current operating procedures. They will be presented at the Spring Council 2009 meeting. D/Lt Brooks complete report is in the packets at each seat.

Report of the Nominating Committee

P/D/C Jerry Stephan, AP

Chair of the Nominating Committee, P/D/C Stephan reported that the nominating committee has met. They are currently interviewing potential candidates for the Rules Committee, Auditing Committee, Assistant Secretary, Assistant District Educational Officer, and Treasurer.

P/D/C Stephan was asked about the District 9 Directory. He responded by acknowledging that he is working on it. The roster is complete and will be going on the website. He hopes to have it set up so members can sort it in various ways.

Report of the Conference Coordinator

P/D/C Mike Rachuk, SN

P/D/C Rachuk congratulated everyone for doing an outstanding job for the 2008 Governing Board meeting in Detroit. He was so impressed with the hard work everyone did, he volunteered District 9 to do the another Governing Board Meeting in five years, same place, Actually, National made the decision. There are extra shirts available for sale for anyone who would still like one. He also requested everyone to have expenses to him by Monday, 13 October 2008, if possible. D/C Brooks said we got a lot of Wows! She thanked everyone for an excellent event.

The question on why the Canadian Anthem was not played at the Governing Board meeting was asked. P/D/C Rachuk explained that it is not protocol to play the National Anthem from other countries at USPS National meetings. We as District 9 play the Canadian Anthem at our conferences as a courtesy and respect to our neighbor Canada.

P/D/C Rachuk announced that the registration for the D 9 Fall Conference in Battle Creek has been extended to 17 October.

The Spring 2009 D 9 Conference will be held in South Bend, 13, 14, 15 March. It will be a St Patrick's Day celebration in South Bend. Fall 2009 D 9 Conference will be in Sterling Heights. The theme is *Share the Knowledge – Share the Fun*. Flint will host the 2010 conference. Date and place TBA. Birmingham will host the 2013 conference with information TBA.

D9 DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Treasurer's Department

D/Lt/C Mary Ann Jensen, AP

D/Lt/C Jensen announced that her report was in the seat packets.

Secretary's Department

D/Lt/C Robyn Levene, AP

D/Lt/C Levene announced that her report was in the seat packets

Administrative Department

D/Lt/C James Draper, JN

D/Lt/C Draper expressed his concern about the decline in membership. He stressed the importance of developing alternative ways to increase and maintain membership. His complete report is in the seat packets.

Education Department

D/Lt/C William Stewart, SN

D/Lt/C Stewart summarized the 2007-2008 Educational year. The Boating Classes match national statistics. Overall participation for the Boating Classes is down by 21%. New course material for advance grade and electives are arriving daily. Navigation-08 Beta Course has been shipped to participating squadrons. Marine electronics has been divided into three courses. Advanced Powerboat Handling and Partner in Command are the newest mini courses. USPS has a new comprehensive insurance program. On the water, liability, and professional liability are covered. "America's Boating Course" 3rd edition has been delayed until next year. The DEO's complete report is in the seat packets.

Executive Department

D/Lt/C Bryan Bartlett, JN

D/Lt/C Bartlett's complete report is in the seat packets. He reported that Detroit has the largest number of examinations completed so far this year. Twenty-two examiners have completed 599 checks. Saint Clair Shores, Sable Pointe, and Saginaw squadrons follow. The USCG has provided 2900 inflatable life vests to be worn by Vessel Examiners while performing VSCs. District 9 placed 11th out of 33 districts in Cooperative Charting ending March 31, 2008. Saginaw Bay, Sable Point, and South Bend were awarded Honor Roll status. Members in District 9 earning Honor Roll status were: Howard Deal, James Acheson, and Shirley Van Rhee. An updated version of the PRO-LOG has been added to the National Web Site. The program provides information and ideas for squadrons to use in their PR programs. District 9 has two outdoor advertising boards. The contracts will expire in November 2008. These posters are reusable. They are available for squadrons to use in their areas. D/Lt/C Bartlett hopes to develop a contact information site that will provide squadrons with Outdoor Advertising agencies and what squadron currently has the posters. Movements of the panels between squadrons will be done in coordination with the District PRO, with squadrons responsible for transport and display. The XO/CDR Seminar will cover training and knowledge needed to be successful as an Executive Officer and as Squadron Commander. The Coast Guard Parade at Grand Haven was successful. The member turnout representing District 9 was good. Old parade supplies were evaluated. Some items were discarded, others were redesigned and new ones added.

District Commander's Report

D/C Denise Brooks, AP

D/C Brooks thanked everyone for hosting them in the last several months. She has enjoyed getting to know District 9 members and spending time with them. She emphasized the common bond we share with each other. That is the love of boating, the pull of the water and the realization that "boating is fun...and we (USPS) will show you how." Every part of the USPS triangle needs "caring and capable members of the Power Squadrons...and I have seen many of those members over the past few months who promote recreational boating skills and boating safety through education, hands-on training and civic activities while providing fellowship for members". D/C Brooks thanked P/D/C Mike Rachuk, SN, P/D/C Dick Jarmon, SN, their committees and the many volunteers that worked to make the Fall 2008 Governing Board in Detroit successful and a wonderful experience for USPS from around the country. D/C Brooks reminded everyone that Merit Marks are due by 15 November 2008. She encourages everyone to look in their squadron areas and see what other organizations support areas of boating and enjoyment of the water. She asked squadrons to investigate how they and those organizations can group together to educate or promote safe boating practices. D/C Brooks complete report is in the seat packets.

Unfinished Business

D/C Denise Brooks, AP

Council members requested that the Executive Officer and Commander's conference meeting be moved to Friday afternoon so that those individuals could attend other conference seminars that are pertinent to their areas. D/Lt/C Bartlett will discuss this idea at the commanders meeting in the Fall.

Members would like to see District and National go to one meeting each per year. P/D/C informed the Council that the National by laws require two meetings/year. He requested that the Planning Committee investigate this further.

New Business and Resolutions

D/C Denise Brooks, AP

D/C Brooks informed the Council that St Joseph Power Squadron does not have a current Bridge of Officers, they have not held boating classes for several years, and currently there are only 4 members. She asked approval from the Council to go forward with the dissolution of St Joseph Power Squadron with existing members referred to new squadrons. The resolution passed.

P/D/C Gene Van Rhee proposed to investigate changing District 9's Council Meetings from a month before District 9 Conferences to either Saturday morning or meet on Friday late afternoon or early

evening before the hospitality rooms are open. He suggested that business could be expedited if proposals and resolutions were transmitted to council members a month prior to the meeting. He feels that much of the business could be conducted by e-mails. This issue has been referred to the Rule Committee. P/D/C Van Rhee's complete consideration is attached to this report.

For the Good of the District

D/C Denise Brooks, AP

D/Lt Chet Dunbar requested more pictures and information for the website. District 9's website is only as good as the information that is provided for it.

Benediction

D/Lt Douglas Rocho, P

In closing D/Lt Rocho delivered the Benediction

Adjournment

D/C Denise Brooks, AP

D/C Brooks thanked everyone for attending today. The meeting was adjourned at 1050.

Respectfully Submitted,

D/Lt/C Robyn D.M. Levene, AP

Secretary

District 9