

**United States Power Squadrons**  
**District 9**  
**For Boaters by Boaters**  
**Minutes of the 2019 Spring Conference**  
**And**  
**Change of Watch**  
**13 April 2019**  
**Crowne Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI 49546**

**Call to Order:** The conference was called to order at 1220 by D/C Michael Babiarz, AP

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by D/F/Lt Carolyn Knaggs, P

**Invocation:** Led by D/Lt Fredrick Hoitash, SN

**Recess for Lunch:** 1235

**Reconvened:** 1330

**Welcome Comments:** By D/C Michael Babiarz, AP D9,  
Lt/C Michelle Reurink, P Lansing SPS.  
Lt/C Greg Heath, Grand Rapids SPS.

**Recognition of Departed Members:**

Marilyn Estap Koerber, Ann Arbor  
Robert Abele, Detroit  
Arthur Pinsak, Ann Arbor  
Barbara Bailiff, South Bend  
James Sproat, South Bend  
John Columbo, Grosse Pointe  
James Leonard, Lansing  
E.J. Ohler, Lansing

**Introduction of Guests:**

From CPS:  
P/C/C/ Joe Gatfield, JN  
P/D/C Karen Connor, AP  
P/D/C Larry Hicks, AP  
P/D/C Joan Hicks, AP  
D/Lt Nick Baratta, JN  
D/Lt Alice Baratta, JN

Other Guests:

Gerard Goulette DNR Conservation  
Jackie Miskovich DNR Conservation  
CWO Bobby Douglas USCG  
Spouse Jessica Douglas USCG  
NAC-P Joe Chenevert President of Commodores USCG AUX  
Spouse Judy Chenevert USCG AUX  
Sandy Willhoit, Isle Royale

**P/D/C Attending:**

P/D/C Anthony Lewandowski AP 2016  
P/D/C Dawn Flynn, JN 2015  
P/D/C William Stano, JN 2013  
P/D/C Linda LaLonde, AP 2012  
Stf/C Mary Ann Jensen, SN 2011  
P/D/C James Draper, JN 2010  
P/D/C Bryan Bartlett, SN 2009  
Stf/C Denise Samu, AP 2006  
P/D/C James Knaggs, SN 2005  
P/D/C John Bennett, SN 2001  
P/N/FI/Lt Richard Jarmon, SN 1987

**Determination of Quorum:** Confirmed. 108 members attending, 73 members voted, 15 Squadron Commanders, 7 SEO's and guests.

**Minutes of the 2018 Fall Conference:** The minutes of the 2018 Fall Conference were accepted With one correction as presented in the Seat Packet.

**Presentation of Emeritus Awards:**

Lt/C David Brinks, AP Grand Rapids  
Lt/C Laddie Hudson, SN Mount Clemens  
P/R/C Ronald LaPlante, SN Mount Clemens  
Lt LeRoy Strey, P Detroit  
Lt George Tyler, JN Lansing  
P/C Richard Synowiec, SN Wyandotte

**Chief Commanders Message:** V/C Harry Hebb, SN National Secretary delivered the C/C message highlighting the National Branding Effort, thanked us for supporting Phase One of the America's Boating Club introduction and stressed the importance of keeping Squadron and District Websites up to date.

**Awards:**

Special Recognition to P/Stf/C Sally Lemus P – Years of support to D9 Hospitality Room and as Photographer.  
Special Recognition to Cdr Jack Draper, S for a Lifesaving accomplishment.

**Life Members:**

Lt Curtis Campbell, AP Grand Rapids  
Stanley Denek, AP Mount Clemens  
P/D/C James Draper, JN Flint  
Lt Dennis Dudley, JN Lansing  
P/C John Kendrick, AP Port Huron  
Lt/C Dennis McHugh, SN Wyandotte  
Lt John Niebiezczanski, S Anchor Bay  
PC Howard Theibert, N Dearborn  
P/C Alfred Tondreau, JN Dearborn

**Education Proficiency:**

P/C William Smethells, AP Grand Traverse Bay  
Lt/C Julian Fiander, N Birmingham  
John Hurtubise, AP Birmingham

**Distinctive Communicator: (WEBSITE & PUBLICATION)**

Ann Arbor, Web & Pub  
Birmingham, Web & Pub  
Dearborn, Pub  
Detroit, Pub  
Grand Rapids, Web & Pub  
Grand Traverse Bay, Web & Pub  
Grosse Pointe, Pub  
Kalamazoo, Pub  
Lansing, Web & Pub  
Mount Clemens, Pub  
Port Huron, Web & Pub  
South Bend, Web  
District 9, Pub

**Vessel Safety Check Individual:**

5<sup>th</sup> James Stenfelt, Lansing  
4<sup>th</sup> Lt Maureen Smith, Detroit  
3<sup>rd</sup> P/C William Smith, AP Detroit  
2<sup>nd</sup> P/C Mitchell Gawrysiak, JN Detroit  
1<sup>st</sup> Terry Grotemat, P Grand Rapids

Century Club – Terry Grotemat, P Grand Rapids (4<sup>th</sup> year)

**D9 VSC Squadron:**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Ann Arbor
- 4<sup>th</sup> Saginaw Bay
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mount Clemens
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Detroit
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Rapids

**Sailor of the Year:**

Lt/C Martin Wykes, AP Mount Clemens

**Member Acquisition:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Flint 100%
- 1<sup>st</sup> St Clair Shores 121%

**Commander's Cup:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Flint & Grand Rapids 53%
- 2<sup>nd</sup> St Clair Shores 72%
- 1<sup>st</sup> Anchor Bay 83%

**Committee Reports:**

- Audit Committee approved as in Seat Packet
- Attached Bob Miller letter
- Budget Committee approved as in Seat Packet
- Attached budget
- Planning Committee approved as verbal report from P/D/C Stano, JN
  
- Rules Committee
  - SOP for Debit Card Use approved as in Seat Packet
  - SOP corrected was for credit card in seat packet
  - SOP for Squadron Dissolution approved as in Seat Packet
  - SOP was amended, was not correct in seat packet
  - SOP for Americas Boating Club Name approved as in Seat Packet
  - Attach approved SOPs
- Report of the Conference Coordinator
  - Fall 2019 Double Tree Detroit 1-3 November
  - Spring 2020 Shanty Creek 1-3 May

**D9 Department Reports:** Attached

Treasurer, Secretary, Administrative, Educational, Executive and Commander all accepted as in Seat Packet.

**New Business:**

Dissolution of the South Bend Squadron. Approved by D9.

Port Huron 75 Anniversary in June.

**Review of Nominating Committee:** Attached

Approved as in Seat Packet.

Lynn Draper and Wendy Caldwell were listed, but not approved by council, both were not announced as committee nominees

**Relieve present D9 Officers: by D/C Michael Babiarz**

**D/C Michael Babiarz Farewell Address:**

Thanked 2019-2019 Bridge for their support and help. Thanked D9 Members for supporting his rise through the various offices.

**Election of 2019-2020 District Commander:**

D/Lt/C Ralph Ziegler, JN given oath by V/C Harry Hebb, SN

**Oath of Office to 2019-2020 Bridge:** given oath by V/C Harry Hebb, SN

Assistant Secretary	D/1 <sup>st</sup> /Lt Darlene Weber, AP
Assistant DEO	D/1 <sup>st</sup> /Lt Judy Delargy, SN
Treasurer	D/Lt/C Chester Dunbar, AP
Secretary	D/Lt/C Albert Schwaller, JN
Administrative	D/Lt/C Alanna Harvey, P
Educational	D/Lt/C David Kowalski, SN
Executive	D/Lt/C Jan Hartesvelt, P

**Introduction of Appointed Officers & Committees:** given oath by V/C Harry Hebb, SN

As noted in the Seat Packet Nominating Report.

Lynn Draper and Wendy Caldwell were listed, but not approved by council, both were not announced as committee nominees

Appointed Officers and chairs announced by District officers; given oath by V/C Harry Hebb, SN

**D/C Ralph Ziegler, JN Inaugural Address:**

Thanked host squadrons and committees for successful conference and seminars. Thanked Lansing and Grand Rapids PS for their support.

Thanked V/C Harry Hebb, SN for being the C/C Cheney's representative.

Will be working on growth of D9, reminded that we are all membership chairmen, and have everyone enjoy their experiences of safe boating.

Adapting the DBA of Americas Boating Club into all squadrons accomplished. Stressed Educational Classes and Seminars.

**P/D/C Jr Michael Babiarz, AP recognition:**

P/D/C Flag and P/D/C plaque, welcomed to the P/D/C table.

**Old Business:** NONE

**New Business:** Tall Ships arriving in Bay City 18-21 July. Flint PS host with help from D9.  
Port Huron 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 8 June, Port Huron Yacht Club.  
Fall Conference at Double Tree Detroit on 1-3 November.

**Benediction:** D/Lt Frederick Hoitash, SN

**Adjournment: 1614 (4:14pm)**

Respectfully submitted,

D/Lt/C Al Schwaller, JN-CN  
District 9 Secretary  
United States Power Squadrons  
5610 Folkstone Dr  
Troy, MI 48085-3151  
248.245.6979  
[www.d9-usps.org](http://www.d9-usps.org)  
We are America's Boating Club  
*For Boaters, By Boaters*

