AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
For Boaters, By Boaters™

District 9

Interlaker

Volume 78 Issue 1

FALL 2026

United States Power Squadrons

District 9

2026 Fall Conference

Hosted by

Dearborn Sail & Power Squadron

Double Tree Ann Arbor North
3600 Plymouth Road, AnnArbor, MI
734-769-9800

Thank You for all you do!

The 2026 Council Meeting
October 10,2026 at 10am
via Zoom, details to follow

See D9 Website for D9 Contacts

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Interlaker Editor: D/Lt Rose Stano

2025 DISTINCTIVE COMMUNICATOR AWARD NEWSLETTER

D9 Photographer
D/Lt Bob Blau, SN
ABC Birmingham

Thank You to all !
Contributors!

America's Boating Club® District 9

ANCHOR BAY - ANN ARBOR - BIRMINGHAM - DEARBORN
DETROIT - FLINT - GRAND TRAVERSE BAY
GROSSE POINTE - LANSING - MOUNT CLEMENS
PORT HURON - SAGINAW BAY
SAINT CLAIR SHORES - WYANDOTTE

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HALLOWEEN

FALL DISTRICT 9 CONFERENCE , 30-31 OCTOBER 2026, HOSTED BY DEARBORN SAIL & POWER SQUADRON

Hotel reservations, DoubleTree Ann Arbor,
3600 Plymouth Rd, Ann Arbor, MI , 734 - 769 - 9800,
Rate is $144 + tax and parking
Group ID – United States Sail and Power MI District.
Deadline is Friday 09 October 2026.
Reserve online:
www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/united-states-sail-and-power-mi-district/

Friday Night Hospitality

- Registration begins at 1500 - 1800.
- Large Hospitality room with individual squadrons bring tasty treats.
- Cash Bar; wristbands will be required.
- Hospitality room is open from 1800-2200 hours.
- Dress Code : Best Halloween attire .

Saturday Conference and Events

- Registration , Meeting Conference 0730 - 1200 hours.
- Morning dress code: USPS / Squadron logo wear, polo.
- Washtenaw Historical Society presentation in morning
- Hands on Computer training for SEO (bring your laptop}
- Country Deli Buffet Lunch: Coffee, ice tea, lemonade, dessert 1200-1300, Cash Bar
- Evening on your own.

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
For Boaters, By Boaters™

2026 D/9 FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

30 – 31 October 2026

Attention: All registration requests must be received, on this form, by 21 October 2026.
Hospitality theme is Halloween. Bring your tasty treats and spooky attire.
Attire for the Day: Seminars & Business Lunch: USPS Casual Polo

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	Rank	Last Name	First Name	Grade	Certificate #	Squadron	First Time Attendee? Yes	No
(1)								
(2)								

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State** _____ **ZIP** _____

Phone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Friday Hospitality
Number attending: _____ Wristbands are required for Hospitality event. Join your fellow members for a taste of Halloween. Cash Bar.

Lunch _____ **@$40.00 = $**_____
Country Deli buffet includes desserts, coffee, iced tea and lemonade. Cash bar.

Special Meal/Dietary Requests: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____ **Check #** _____
Make checks payable to: Dearborn Sail & Power Squadron

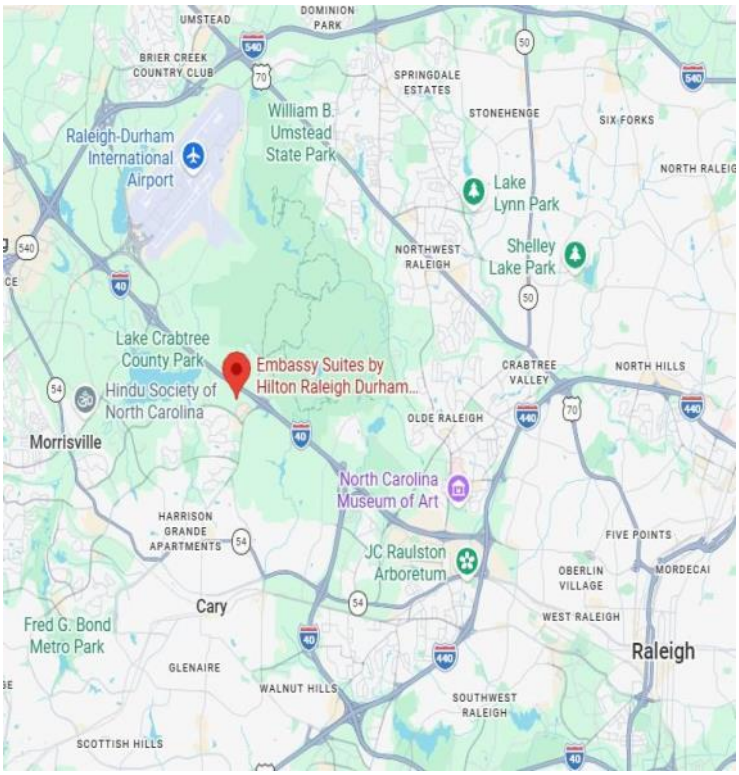
Mail checks and this form to: P/C Al Lord, SN, 8069 Balfour, Allen Park, MI 48101-2205

Hotel reservations. DoubleTree Ann Arbor, 3600 Plymouth Rd, A², 734-769-9800, Rate is $144 + tax and parking Group ID – United States Sail and Power MI District. Deadline is Friday 09 October 2026. Reserve online: *www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/united-states-sail-and-power-mi-district/*

About Ann Arbor: Many museums and sites. Here are a few links to plan your Saturday afternoon/evening, or stay the weekend and explore!

Depot Town Ypsi, *ypsilantidda.org/depot-town* Wiards Orchards & country Fair, *wiards.com*
Matthaei Botanical Gardens, *mbgna.umich.edu* Kerrytown, *kerrytowndistrict.org*
Zingerman's Deli, *zingermansdeli.com* Main Street, *mainstreetannarbor.org*
Ann Arbor Parks, *a2gov.org/parks-and-recreation*
Things to do in Ann Arbor, *annarbor.org*
Washtenaw County Historical Museum, *washtenawhistory.org* (Museum on Main St)
There will be a presentation from the Histroical Society on Saturday morning.

Fall Governing Board
September 20-27, 2026
Raleigh, North Carolina



Embassy Suites By Hilton Raleigh Durham 201 Harrison Oaks Boulevard Cary, NC 27513 UNITED STATES

No Resort Fee;
Room rate includes a
free breakfast, M-F 6-9am, Saturday 7-9:30am
daily cocktail party, 6-7:30pm in the hotel bar
$5 self parking/day,
free room and common area WIFI,
pool access, etc

Come join fellow members discuss the direction of our organization. Headquarter Tours and Warehouse Sale of available items.

Meals scheduled

Welcome dinner, Wednesday, 9/23
Keynote Lunch, Thursday, 9/24
Barbershop Quartet Dinner, 9/24
D/C and SEO Lunch, 9/25
Member and Social Lunch 9/26
Celebrate America's 250th Dinner Dance, 9/26

See National Website for Call to Meeting information.

District 9 Commander

D/C Tom Fisher,

Past Mount Clemons Power Squadron Commander

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. It's hard to believe how quickly the summer months seem to pass!

Martha and I had a very busy summer, especially with our son's wedding.

By the time all the excitement was over, it was already July!

We did manage to get out on the boat a few times,

although certainly not as often as we had hoped. As boaters always say, "Maybe next year!"

As a reminder to all Squadron Commanders, once you have selected a date for your Change of Watch, please forward that information to our XO, Bob Blaugh, so he can add it to the District schedule.

It is also important that you continue to keep the District Secretary informed of your upcoming events so they can be posted on the District calendar and website. Keeping the calendar current helps all of us stay informed and gives our members an opportunity to support one another's activities.

We have an interesting and, I believe, enjoyable Conference coming up. On Friday evening, we will have a Hospitality Night. The venue is allowing each squadron to bring in and set up a food table, which should make for a great evening of fellowship, good food, and an opportunity to visit with members from throughout the District. I

'm looking forward to seeing everyone and enjoying the evening together.

As we move toward the end of another year, I want to take a moment to thank all of our D9 Officers, Squadron Commanders, and Squadron Members for your continued support, hard work, and dedication.

Our District is successful because of the time and effort each of you gives to your squadron and to the organization as a whole.

It has been a pleasure working with all of you, and I look forward to continuing to work with and for you in the months ahead. I hope to see many of you at the upcoming Conference. Until then, enjoy the remaining days of summer, stay safe on the water, and keep the boating season going as long as you can!

Thank you again for all that you do for D9.

Tom Fisher, SN

District 9 Spring Conference Port Huron 2026

D/C Tom Fisher, SN being sworn in by V/C Larry Cole, SN

District 9 Spring Conference Port Huron 2026

D9 Educational Officer

D/Lt/C Thomas H Geggie, SN

Past Commander of Birmingham Power Squadron

Safe boating education is a part of the life blood of America's Boating Club® and a key tool in attracting new members.

We have been discussing how we can reach out to students across the District (and frankly across the country) and how squadrons can work together to reduce the burden on teaching those classes. This is especially important as many of our traditional instructors have moved on or aged out.

At the upcoming D-9 Fall Conference on Saturday, 31 October, we will be hosting a seminar to help us move forward. You might say, 26 years later, that we finally are moving into the 21st century.

We have reserved a conference room that the Double Tree promises will accommodate multiple simultaneous logins. We invite Commanders, SEOs and interested instructors to bring their laptops to the seminar. Login instructions will be provided for onsite participants at the conference. I do not know whether we can accommodate remote logins, but I will let all Commanders and SEOs know about a week before the conference.

We will demonstrate techniques for teaching a 100% remote class or a mixed in-person and remote class. We also will discuss and explain when a class may or may not be recorded to be offered in a future class. We will discuss the process and requirements for administering exams to all students.

Our goal is to encourage and enable squadrons to co-teach classes, thus reducing the burden on individual squadrons to provide instructors. My thought is that if two or more squadrons wish to co-teach a course, each will advertise the course using identical class details. Upon completion of the course, each squadron would "receive credit" for the students it had registered.

I hope to see you at the conference and at our seminar. Tom

D9 Executive Officer

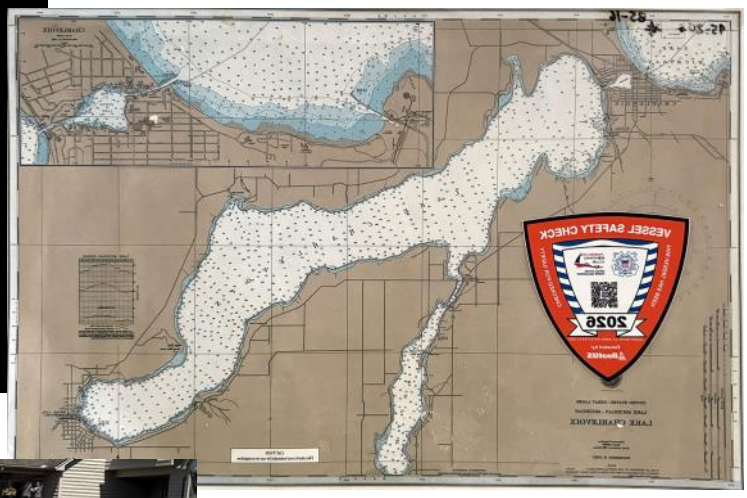
D/Lt/C Robert Blau, SN-CN

Past Commander of Birmingham Power Squadron

I have participated in lots of events since my last report. I went on a Caribbean cruise from Port Canaveral with several other power squadron members following the National meeting. The Sky Princess stopped at Nassau, Turks and Caicos, and Freeport, Bahamas. I took several land tours including a duck boat that drove like a bus down a launch ramp into the water and became a boat. I attended the the Spring district conference in Port Huron and provided hundreds of photos. I did a multitude of Vessel Safety Checks on Lake St. Clair and Lake Charlevoix. This was the first time I have examined boats with 3 or 4 Outboard motors. I was a waterfront counsellor at a camp on Lake Charlevoix in the 1950's and taught campers how to sail, canoe and water ski. We put on a Cyprus Garden type show with 5 water skiers pulled with our 40 Horsepower outboard. No need for 4 550 HP motors. Also for my first time I did a VSC on a 14 foot pontoon boat with an electric outboard. This one belongs to a friend who invited me to fly my Radio Controlled seaplanes on the lake. While in my home port, Charlevoix, I took celestial This is the third time I have taken Nav course. With all that water around I was able t to get lots of horizon for my 3 body fix. It was also great to see the Venetian Festival lighted boat parade and fireworks display. There are always many boats anchoring in Oyster Bay on Lake Charlevoix.

Many raft together an put out floating devices to enjoy the water. My Grand Daughters don't understand why my boat does not always point at the best angle for sun bathing while anchored. A few days ago there was a partial lunar eclipse and I stayed up late at night to photograph the sequence. I sent some into WDIV TV and they were shown on two weather reports. It has been my fun to photograph eclipses, auroras, rainbows, sunsets etc.. Hope to see you at the Progressive Metro Boat Show, Sept 17-20

D/L/C Robert Blau, SN-CN


VESSEL SAFETY CHECK
2026

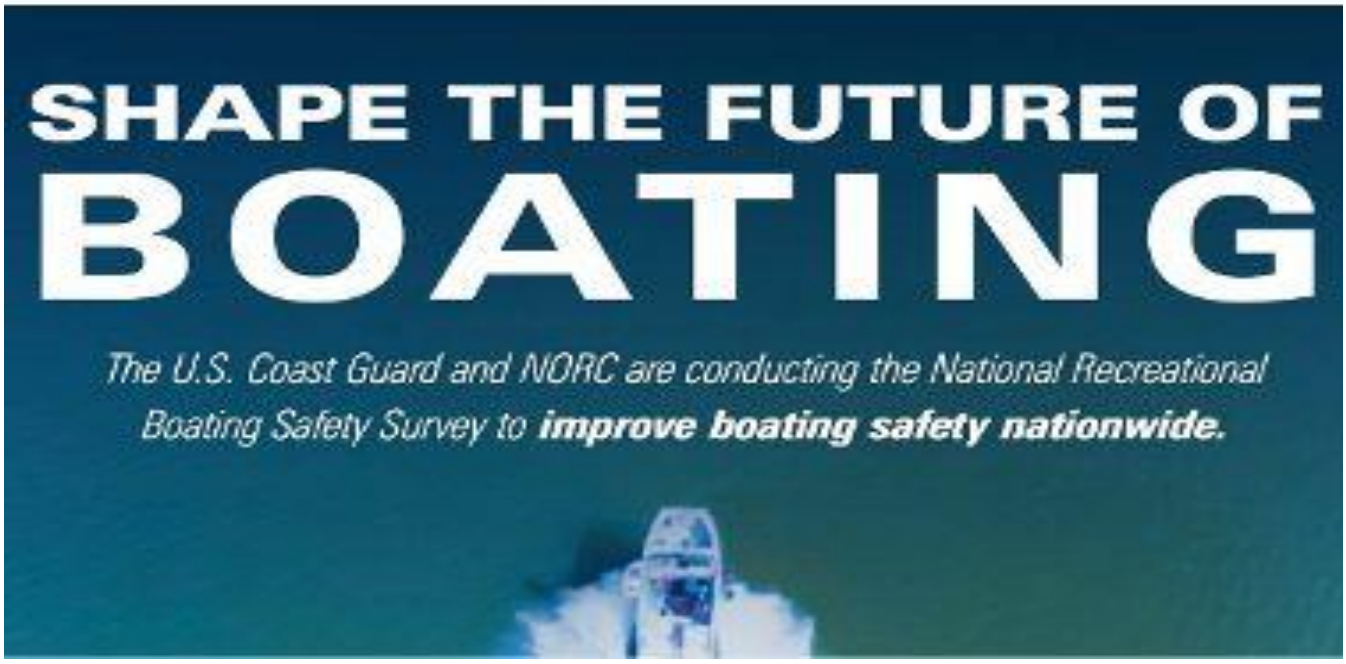
MINN KOTA

Volunteer for the 2026 National Recreational Boating Safety Survey!

The National Recreational Boating Safety Survey (NRBSS) is a nationwide survey sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard to understand how many people go boating, what types of boats they use, and how often they are on the water.

As part of the survey, we are asking for volunteers to complete a brief sign-up page asking about their boating habits and share their contact information with the Coast Guard so a wide range of boaters can be invited to participate in the larger NRBSS survey later in the year.

To volunteer, please go to: https://norcfed.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0ezfBlrTYxLdG4e



District 9 Secretary

D/Lt/C Debra Foley, SN

Past Commander Mount Clemens PS

Hello Friends,

Wow, it is hard to believe that we are in September already. Summer has just flown by since our spring conference in April. We unfortunately did not find a boat so were unable to get out on the lakes but we still had a great summer.

My sister-in-law turned 70 this year so my brother rented a multi-Millon dollar house on the water in Fort Myers, Florida and both families were invited for a long weekend. It was spectacular! A little modern for me but so awesome. It was three stores, 5 bedrooms, each with an ensuite. The kitchen island was about 14 feet long! But it was the outside that was perfect. There were teak loungers, teak dining tables with an outdoor kitchen. The door walls open wide to let the outside in. The pool was spectacular and the jacuzzi held 12 easy. Oh, and that all overlooked the bay, Fort Myers and Sanibal Island. It was really a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I'm attaching a couple of pictures so you can drool.

In August we went up north to Charlevoix and stayed at Fisherman's Island State Park. I love rock hunting, so we had a couple of beautiful days. Of course, you are supposed to find a Petosky stone, but No, not one! We then went into the UP and stayed in Paradise with more rock hunting in Whitefish Point. Breathtaking! Lake Superior is so crystal clear. And it was not that cold. It is unbelievable how big the Bay is. Saw a couple of freighters, the light house and museum. Then spent the day at Tahquamenon Falls. We lost two days when we had to change the batteries in the motor home and someone hacked my bank account. They froze my account and we had to go to Charlevoix to fix it. The funny thing is someone called the police when we pulled in to the bank parking lot and took up 5 spaces with the motor home which is 35 feet long. There was still plenty of room in the lot. The Bank employees came out to make sure we were customers coming in to use the bank. While inside another customer complained and then the police showed up. When we left and went to the Library to use the internet and their employees came out to question why we were there and how long we would be. We wanted to go to lunch but decided it was best to leave Charlevoix.

We are looking forward to sailing on the Tall Ships on September 22 with Grosse Pointe Power Squadron to finish off the summer. I hope you all had a wonderful summer and looking forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Conference, October 30-31, in Ann Arbor. D/Lt/C Debbie Foley, SN

District 9

D/Lt/C Roman Bier, P

Past Commander of
America's Boating Club

Boy, Has it been one heck of a summer. Three gremlins have been at work on my boat and I have been trying hard all summer to correct there mischief. First the frig was not working so I found a replacement and installed it. Then the vacuflush went on the fritz. Now I am having trouble with the fresh water tank. This has kept me busy all summer with little time to enjoy the boat. The topper was when I went to put bird seed in the new feeder at the boat and there was distressed baby skunk in the bag. When we could not find a rescue to I was able to take him, we had to let Mother Nature take over.

I was able to join Flint on the Rendezvous in East Tawas and had a great time visiting with them. Plus, Grosse Pointe had a wonderful New Member Picnic at Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park with Grill Master Dunbar working his magic and everyone bringing dish to share. I hope to make it to Ann Arbor for the Fall Conference but the way things are going, anything can happen. Roman

2023 Distinctive Communicator Awards from USPS®
USPS® Advisors
D9 Interlaker:
Squadrons' Newsletters: L/C Ronnie Mann, JN
Websites: P/C James Haglund

The District 9 *Interlaker* is judged on 2 seasonal issues. The squadron newsletters are judged on 4 monthly issues

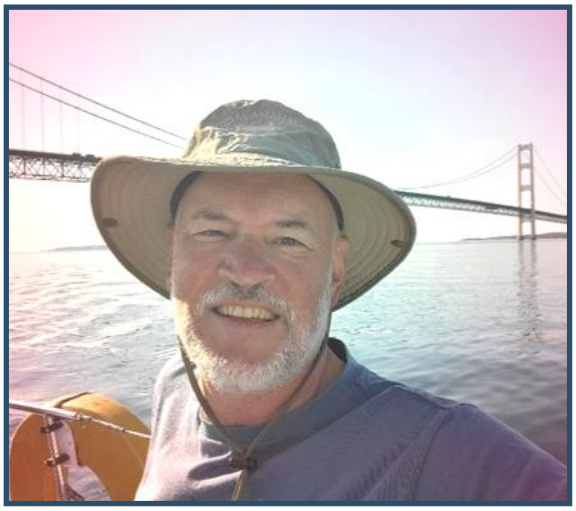
D9 - *Interlaker*
Anchor Bay - *The Porthole*
Birmingham - *Bilge Chatter*
Dearborn - *Anchor Lines*
Detroit - *Dumping Grounds*
Grand Traverse Bay - *The 45th Parallel*
Lansing - *Crow's Nest*
Mount Clemens - *Mooring Lines*

D9 Website
Ann Arbor Power Squadron
Birmingham Power Squadron
Detroit Power Squadron
Grand Traverse Bay Sail and Power Squadron
Grosse Pointe Power Squadron
Lansing Sail and Power Squadron
Mount Clemens Power Squadron
Port Huron Sail and Power Squadron
Saginaw Bay Sail and Power Squadron
St Clair Shores Sail and Power Squadron

District 9 Treasurer

D/Lt/C Ron Babin, P

Member of Port Huron



District Treasurer

The America's Boating Club , District Nine Treasurer's Report will be presented at Council and Fall Conference. It was a pleasure to see everyone at COW's and general membership meetings.

I retired at the end of 2025 and spent the summer travelling with my brother on my sailboat from Port Huron, through Mackinac, down to Grand Traverse Area and back to Port Huron. We traveled 585 nautical miles in August. Unfortunately we did not have favorable winds so we had to leave Grand Traverse just before the Lobster Fest. Perhaps next year.

Ron

COLD WATER BOATING

Cold-water immersion is the cause of many boating-related fatalities. The danger increases as water temperature decreases below normal body temperature (98.6° F).

Dos and Don'ts of Cold Water Boating

1. **Do make sure everyone is wearing a life jacket.**

   Even experienced swimmers will experience shock within one minute in the frigid water and lose muscle control within 10 minutes.

2. **Do file a float plan.**

   File a float plan with someone you trust that includes details about the trip, boat, persons, towing or trailer vehicle, communication equipment and emergency contacts. Download a free float plan template at www.floatplancentral.org.

3. **Do dress properly for the weather.**

   Always wear layers, and bring an extra set of clothes in case you get wet. Remember, dress for the water temperature, not the air temperature.

4. **Do use your navigation lights to alert other boaters of your presence in dark and/or foggy conditions.**

   Recreational boats operating at night are required to display navigation lights between sunset and sunrise.

5. **Do catch your breath.**

   A sudden, unexpected fall into cold water causes an involuntary gasp (or torso) reflex. It takes less than one-half cup of water in your lungs to drown. If you remain calm, you have a greater chance of self-rescue.

6. **Don't panic if you fall into the water.**

   Stay afloat with the help of your life jacket, regain control of your breathing and keep your head above water in vision of rescuers.

7. **Don't keep heavy boots on if you're in the water.**

   Look for ways to increase your buoyancy. If you're in the water with others, huddle together with everyone facing inward to help everyone stay afloat and keep warm.

8. **Don't apply heat to extremities like arms and legs of a rescued victim.**

   This sudden change in temperature could cause cardiac arrest.

Stages of Cold-Water Immersion

- Cold shock. You have one minute to adjust to the cold shock response – don't panic.
- Swimming failure. You have 10 minutes of meaningful movement to get help and get out of the water.
- Hypothermia. You have about one hour before you become unconscious from hypothermia.
- Post-rescue collapse. You "give up" and collapse after or right at the time of rescue.

safeboatingcampaign.com

Adventure READY WEAR IT

A program of the National Safe Boating Council

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
For Boaters, By Boaters™

Past District 9 Commanders

1940-41	Lee S. Nelson, N	Toledo
1942-43	Charles R. Austerbury, JN	Detroit
1944-45	Carl J. Florian, N	Toledo
1946	George N. Lilygren	Grosse Pointe
	Carl J. Florian, N	Toledo
1947-48	Richard Webber, JN	Detroit
1949	Eugene C. Swift	Saginaw Bay
1950-51	Keith E. Brooks, AP	Port Huron
1952-53	Fred L. Chalcraft, Jr. N	Detroit
1954-55	W. Kent Fenton, JN	Toledo
1956-57	Robert L. Davis, JN	Grand Rapids
1958-59	Charles L. Fead, AP	Port Huron
1960-61	William P. Ternes, JN	Detroit
1962-63	Ray C. Stevens, AP	Kalamazoo
1964-65	James D. Happle, JN	Wyandotte
1966-67	Robert E. Stanley, N	Detroit
1968-69	Elliott B. Spreen, AP	Kalamazoo
1970-71	John J. Wetzel, N	Grosse Pointe
1972-73	P/C/C Richard W. Miner, SN	Birmingham
1974	Frank R. Veit, JN	Grand Rapids
1975	Everett R. Clark, N	Toledo
1976	George A. Richardson, SN	Ann Arbor
1977	James L. Mitts, SN	Kalamazoo
1978	James C. Acheson, SN	Port Huron
1979	Richard C. Rateich, SN	Grosse Ile
1980	Robert L. McLravy, JN	Lansing
1981	Odell C. Mercer, SN	Wyandotte
1982	Don L. Bender, SN	Dearborn
1983	Marvin W. Warmels, SN	Grand Rapids
1984	P/C/C Theodore H. Smith, SN	Grosse Pointe
1985	William J. Morrison, SN	Saginaw Bay
1986	Gene R. VanRhee, SN	Kalamazoo
1987	P/N/F/Lt Richard H. Jarmon, SN	Birmingham
1988	Lewis W. Dance, SN	Dearborn
1989	William J. Bayer, SN	Warren
1990	James R. Leonard, SN	Lansing
1991	Fred C. Sellenraad, SN	Saginaw Bay
1992	Gerald Burpee, SN	Flint
1993	Stf/C Edwin R. Schwenk, SN	Grosse Ile
1994	Joseph F. VanBlerck, SN	Mt Clemens
1995	R/C E. Steven Jensen, JN	Lansing
1996	Rick Mack, SN	Port Huron
1997	James M. Gabocy, SN	Grosse Ile
1998	Michael M. Maziasz, N	Birmingham
1999	Gert A. Baldwin, JN	Muskegon
2000	P/R/C Allan F. Harold, SN	Ann Arbor
2001	Stf/C John Bennett, SN	Grosse Pointe
2002	W. Lyle Rea, SN	Kalamazoo
2003	Richard P. Gallop, SN	Mt Clemens
2004	Michael J. Rachuk, SN	Anchor Bay
2005	James G. Knaggs, SN	Flint
2006	Denise C. Samu, AP	Birmingham
2007	Jerry Stephan, AP	Grand Traverse Bay
2008	Denise Brooks, AP	Port Huron
2009	Bryan Bartlett, SN	Detroit
2010	James Draper, JN	Flint
2011	Mary Ann Jensen, SN	Lansing
2012	Linda LaLonde, P	Dearborn
2013	William Stano, JN	Grosse Pointe
2014	H. Jay Stevens, SN	South Bend
2015	Dawn Flynn, JN	Lansing
2016	Anthony Lewandowski, AP	Birmingham
2017	Janet Marie Klumpp, AP	Mount Clemens
2018	Michael J. Babiarz, AP	Grosse Pointe
2019-20	Ralph Ziegler, JN	Lansing
2021	Janet Hartesvelt, P	Grand Traverse Bay
2022	Alanna Harvey, P	Lansing
2023	Albert Schwaller, JN-CN	Detroit
2024	Chet Dunbar Jr , AP	Grosse Pointe
2025	William Stano , SN	Grosse Pointe

Prior to 1947 there were no district education officers. Initially the ranking educational officer, the chairman of education, served without rank and was appointed by the Governing Board. Later they became the DEO and was granted the rank of D/Lt/C in 1956. In 1962 an Asst. DEO was authorized. In 1974 the DEO and Asst. DEO were elected at the district conference, with prior approval of the director of education. Since 1967, every DEO who has served a full 3-year-term, except one, has been an officer of

Past District 9 Educational Officers

1947-48	E.C. Bogert, N	Detroit
1949	Avery T. Macklem, JN	Detroit
1950-55	Reed E. Maes, AP	Port Huron
1956-61	Fred L. Chalcraft, Jr., N	Detroit
1962-66	Lawrence Messersmith, N	Detroit
1967	Tracy B. Gardner, N	Dearborn
1968	Arthur A. Obel, N	Detroit
1969-70	Glen H. Howell, N	Grosse Pointe
1971-74	Raymond H. Crockford, N	Grand Rapids
1975-78	James E. Ryan, N	Toledo
1979-81	Donald C. Beran, SN	Flint
1982-84	John D. Alstetter, SN	Grosse Ile
1985-87	Herbert R. Davidson, SN	Lansing
1988-90	J. D. Westbrook, SN	Irish Hills
1991-93	Patricia A. Johnston, SN	Dearborn
1994-96	John P. Horan, SN	South Bend
1996-99	Nancy L. McCully, SN	Birmingham
2000-02	Marlys H. Vickers, SN	Birmingham
2003-05	Thomas Hyatt, N	Detroit
2006-08	William M. Stewart, SN	Dearborn
2009-11	Donald C. Fiander, SN	Birmingham
2012-15	Duane Carlson, SN	Mt. Clemens
2016-18	Thomas J. Smith, SN-CN	Birmingham
2019-21	David Kowalski, SN	Birmingham
2022-24	Judy Delarge, SN	Birmingham