

MINUTES OF DISTRICT 18 CONFERENCE & COUNCIL MEETINGS

**21 MARCH, 2009**

**Starboard Galley Restaurant, Newburyport, MA**

D/C Ronald Mason, SN called the Council Meeting to order at 1308 on Saturday March 21, 2009. D/Lt/C Edward Libby, AP led the pledge of allegiance. Cdr Mason welcomes 24 members and guests present. Secretary P/D/C Bruce Theriault, AP, noted that a quorum was present.

**ATTENDENCE: D18 Bridge:** D/C Ronald Mason, SN; D/Lt/C Arthur Yarranton, SN; D/Lt/C Dexter Hyland, SN; D/Lt/C Edward Libby, JN; P/D/C Bruce Theriault, AP.

**General Committee Chairmen: Nominating:** P/D/C Linda Seal, SN, **Planning:** P/D/C James Curran, AP, **Rules:** P/D/C Richard Winskowicz, SN.

**Squadron Commanders:** Cdr. Dan Himes, AP;

**Past D/C's:** Jim Curran, AP; Stephen Jerome, AP; Linda Seal, SN; Herb Ryan, SN; Richard Winskowicz, SN; Paul Flagg, JN; John Graves, JN

**Other Attendees:** Alexander Arcisz, JN; Karen Arcisz, JN; Joan Mason; Robert S Martin; Bob Manning; Charles Morris, AP; Virginia Osman, SN; Peter Devlin; Carol Backman; Ken Backman; Barbara Bergin, AP; Bobbie Yarranton S; and our **National Guest:** V/C Dave Hinders, SN;

**Secretary:** Bruce Theriault reported that the minutes of the Council Meeting of 21 Jan. 2009 had been distributed electronically and paper copies are available if needed. There were no errors or omissions reported so the minutes were approved as distributed

**Treasurers Report:** Written report submitted by Barry High, who was unable to attend. The cash balance on 21 March 2009 is \$11,289.40. A complete report is attached.

**Education Officer: DEO** Dexter Hyland reported that only two boating reports have been received thus far this year. Beverly has 40 in Boating Course being administered by Dick Winskowicz. Boating class information is requested from all Squadrons. Navigation Instruction is in stock at HQ. Instructor Development Recertification is being held on 27 April at the Jubilee Yacht Club in Beverly. The full ID course (6 weeks) will start on May 4, 2009. Booklets are available on teaching aids.

**Administrative Officer Report:** Edward Libby called on:

**Boating Activities:** no report.

**Membership and Membership Involvement:** Steve Jerome reported membership numbers for the District that show we are at 85.5% of our goal. Beverly was at 174, Broad Sound at 22, Marblehead at 148 and Merrimac River at 62. The District membership was at 406 as of 1 March 2009.

**Executive Officers Report;** Arthur called on the squadron Commanders

**Squadron Commander Reports:**

**Broad Sound:** no representative.

**Marblehead:** Cdr. Daniel Himes submitted a written report. Change of Watch was held in February. There are 180 members and a General Meeting is planned at C.Y.C. Class results: Piloting 4 students, Marine Electronics 1 & 2 with 3 students, Sail 2 students and 2 student teachers, Advanced Sail 2 students and 1 student teacher, and SBC 12 students. Seminars in 2009 include Sail Trim, VHF and on-board Weather forecasting.

**Merrimac River:** Charles Morris reported for Cdr. Charles Boddy who was not present. A successful Founders Day Dinner and COW was held in February. AP and JN courses are underway with seminars in weather and Boating.

**Beverly:** Alex Arcisz reported for Ray Tilton who will be the new Commander. Several education classes are in progress including Basic, Navigator, 4 in Piloting and 10 in Seamanship. The Gloucester merge is completed and all members are now part of the Beverly Squadron.

**Government Relations:** Bruce Theriault reported that a thank you was in order for the last round of legislative activity that members got involved with. We are safe for one more legislative session.

**Vessel Safety Check & Public Relations:** Jim Curran reported that we are continuing to work with the Coast Guard Auxiliary on Co-op advertising. We need more VSC's and members can be certified on line. We need to improve our relations with local press.

**Safety:** no report.

**The next Council Meeting will be on 17 June at Calitri's.**

Cdr Mason Adjourned the Council at 1340.

He immediately convened the D18 **Conference**

Secretary Theriault stated that there was a quorum present and that the minutes of the Fall 2008 Conference had been distributed electronically and approved with no errors or omissions.

**Treasurers Report** by Linda Seal for Barry High. Cash balance of \$11,289.40 as of March 21, 2009. The budget projects that expenses will exceed revenues by \$455.00. Current variance is favorable by \$2,491.66 Year-to-date.

**National Meeting** attended by Linda Seal. Highlights include: disbanding of Audit Committee, All squadrons now must use anniversary billing, budgetary loss of \$84,000 in 2008. Noted that failure to submit form 990 to IRS could lead to loss of non-profit status. Merit Marks being considered to be approved by D/C's (12 hours of service the benchmark). NEO promoting educational materials to non-members as a means to improve revenues.

**Commanders Message** Gloucester merge into Beverly Squadron complete as of 3/5/09.

**Awards: Marblehead** received Excellence in Journalism and Website design certificates. **Beverly** received for Hannah's Banner. **Life Member** Plaques to Steve Jerome and Ed Walsh

**Historian Report** by Mark Cohen referred us to the District Website for details.

**NomCom Report:** For Commander – Arthur Yarranton, Executive Officer – Edward Libby, Education Officer – H Dexter Hyland, Admin Officer – Alex Arcisz, Secretary – Bruce Theriault, Treasurer – Barry High. No floor nominations; **Motion** by Steve Jerome and seconded by Dan Hines to cast ballot to elect as presented. **Motion passed.**

**Change-of-Watch**, conducted by V/C Hinders, Bridge dismissed and above slate of officers installed.

**District Commander**, Arthur Yarranton swore in his new bridge and appointed the following officers:

Assistant DEO Virginia Osman Assistant Secretary Stephen Jerome

Assistant Treasurer Richard Winskowicz

Committees: **Audit:** Chair – Theophillis Kuliopolos, 2yr – Dan Shea, 3 yr – John Hagar

**Nom Com:** Chair – Charles Morris, 2 yr – Virginia Osman, 3 yr – John Graves

**Planning:** Chair – Jack Micklovich, 2 yr – Alex Arcisz, 3 yr – John Bedrossian

**Rules:** Chair – Bruce Theriault, 2 yr – Alexander Falk, 3 yr – Richard Winskowicz

**Budget:** Chair – Herbert Ryan, 2 yr – Linda Seal, 3 yr – Richard Winskowicz

**Chief's Message:** delivered by V/C Dave Hinders. Highlights include membership form now on-line zip coding to local squadron(s). There is a current backlog of educational orders (about 3 weeks). Financial woes for 08 – 09 projected to continue: Reduction in membership and low educational sales. Good news: 15 new seminars with 6 more in the works. Educational waiver for new members. Teaching of courses on line (e.g. University of West Florida) will help financially, seeking other online universities to expand this avenue. Noted 40 plus guests at National Meetings, usually leaders. Change in direction for USPS from dues based to marketing based organization. E-mail address at National is now critical. Urge Squadrons to teach at least one more Basic class a year. Q&A session opened: Offering of online courses to non-members. The members present were unanimous in limiting the level of attainable education to non-members. Cost cutting at National, considering only 4 hard copy *Ensigns* per year. No one favored eliminating completely. Move to more electronic newsletter (Compass online still there). Bundle membership fee with education class got a yes vote. Extending waiver on education requirements got a unanimous yes.

**Commander** Yarranton requested meeting of past D/C's as a Directional Review of organization.

**Next Meetings:** set for June 17 at Calitri's and October 17 at Jubilee Yacht Club

Commander Arthur Yarranton closed the Meeting at 1557

Respectfully submitted by P/D/C Bruce Theriault, AP Secretary for District 18.