



Ahoy there, Fellow District 28'ers!

I'm back recently from the Annual USPS/ABC Fall Governing Board (GB) meeting, and have a few updates for you – as well as some other flotsam for your evening reading.

This was my first GB meeting and I have to say, I really enjoyed it. Yes, it might have been just the getting together with others who share my love for boating, or it may have been the post-COVID re-kindling of friendships that I've made online over the past two years. Either way, it was enjoyable and well worth the nominal travel hassles I endured getting to and from the meeting from our summer home on Lake Champlain.

Governing Board Votes

As I noted in my last LeadLine column, our District Council, as well as District 30's District Council, had approved the transfer of our Phoenix Sail and Power Squadron out of D28 and into D30. However, this was not official until voted and approved by the GB. This was done in Raleigh when the National Executive Officer put the transfer request to a vote. It was approved unanimously. The Phoenix Sail & Power Squadron will officially become part of District 30 on November 1, 2022. We all wish our friends of many years the best, as they raft-up in a very big way with the other inland squadrons in D30. (*I ask that any District 28-specific documents, trophies, and other physical assets held by any of the Phoenix SPS be sent to me for storage.*)

(See section below about the upcoming change in voting processes for both the Governing Board and Annual National USPS/ABC Meetings below.)

There was one other vote at the GB, and that addressed the modifications developed and proposed by the Rules and Bylaws committee, and presented at the GB by the Planning Committee. Rather than putting all of the changes in this note, USPS/ABC Members can click on the following link to see *all* of the changes, with the old bylaw on the left and the new bylaw on the right, at the following URL:



<https://www.usps.org/national/rules/Reports/PODIUM%20ComRules%20Report%20to%20the%20Fall%202022%20Governing%20Board.pdf>

Like the PSPS transfer to D30, this motion was approved and passed unanimously. The District 28 Rules/Bylaws Chair, **P/D/C Adriaan Veldhuisen, SN-IN**, the District 28 Law Officer, **D/Lt Michael Wales, AP**, and our District 28 Policies & Procedures Chair, **P/D/C Richard Cross, JN**, have already begun working on draft

updates for the District 28 Bylaws. The Officers responsible for your Club Bylaws should begin to do the same (focus on Section 7 of the new model bylaws).

Ad hoc Committee on Reorganization

You are all aware that I have been involved in the Chief Commander's ad committee on Reorganization. The committee submitted its report to the National Bridge at the GB meeting, and made several summary presentations in Raleigh (Board Advisors, Communications Committee, District Commanders and Executive Officers, and the Marketing Committee. Here is a link to the presentation:

<https://americasboatingclubd28.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/DC-DXO-Presentation-to-the-GB-220915-ab.pdf>

I am happy to repeat this presentation at your upcoming General Membership meetings or Changes of Watch if desired.

If you are *really* interested in learning more, below is a link to the full written status report from the *ad hoc* Committee on Reorganization which provides an up-to-date review of activities of the committee as well as each department at the National level. Within the document is a comprehensive set of recommendations that National leaders, departments, and committees should undertake to strengthen our organization and improve support to clubs and members.

Our local clubs are where USPS life centers, and clubs are key to member satisfaction and thus to our overall success. The ad hoc Committee on Reorganization recognizes the importance of local clubs and advocates on their behalf for the National organization to improve club support and service. Everyone can review the full written report by clicking on the following link:

<https://uspowersquadrons.sharefile.com/share/view/s626b2792afed447895edb763837a53d8>

Education

One of the afternoon sessions at the GB involved a great presentation by the Assistant National Education Officer, Andy Sumberg, on virtual classrooms. There was a general consensus among the attendees that our organization might be better served by concentrating on Boat Handling (thank you **P/D/C Shawn Goit, JN-ON**) and our higher-level courses as they are updated rather than expending so much effort with the basic boating course. We have a LOT to offer, as I can attest taking Anchoring, Rules of the Road, Emergencies on Board, and Mariner's Compass seminars recently. Let's face it, we really cannot compete with free courses in the public space. This is something to think about and discuss at our upcoming squadron meetings, working with our DEO Shawn and the Club Educational Officers ("CEOs"). Let's see how we can define ourselves and better meet the needs of boaters in our communities and District.



Voting Update

There were also discussions at the GB regarding doing away with proxies and going to online electronic voting. Plans to implement this are currently on track to happen by the upcoming Annual meeting in Orlando. A test live stream of the Governing Board was conducted

at the meeting Board with a limited audience, we are waiting to hear how that worked. The plan is to stream the future Governing Board and Annual meetings once the logistics are worked out.

[*Flash update:* The beta-test of voting at the GB was very successful, and will be implemented in full for officers not attending the Annual Meeting in person will now be able to vote directly on any issue that comes to the floor. There will also, in accordance with North Carolina law, be the ability to discuss as per Robert's Rules of Order. Stay tuned for pre-meeting instructions on how to access this new feature.]

Hurricane Ian

Most of you have heard about the devastating impact of Hurricane Ian on many of our east coast Members. You will recall that **P/C/C MaryPaige Abbott SN** and her husband **P/D/C Steve Abbott, SN-IN** joined us for our District 28 post Change of Watch Mexican Riviera cruise last March. MaryPaige and Steve are winter residents of Sanibel Island, FL and have allowed me to share this note that I received from them the other day:

We are safe. Evacuated on Tuesday. Spent Wed at a friend's home (on mainland) watching the storm pass until power cut abt 2pm. At abt 4pm with a slight lull we drove to airport area hotel...nothing like checking in with 100-150mph winds! Stayed 2 nights at hotel without power or water. Now, that doesn't mean we didn't have them with us...had ditch bag and standard "powerless" kit...portable power station, portable solar panel charging things, 5gal min of water, and survival foods.



Friday, was that just yesterday? We drove up to Dunedin FL (north of Clearwater) to take a break and enjoy power, water, and open restaurants.

I just came out of a spa so my attitude continues to improve even if just temporary. This is a Life Changing Event.

Thank you for reaching out. Feel free to share.

*Best,
Mary Paige*

[Note: I have been told that the Abbott's home was spared, but has sustained substantial damage.]

Merit Marks

Merit Marks are on your immediate horizon! **Commanders**, please take time to recognize those in your Squadrons who have worked tirelessly to make it all work! Members, if you have been actively supporting your Squadron (e.g., teaching classes, conducting VSCs, extensive committee work, arranging and managing meetings, and so forth), let your Commander know. A simple listing of the activities performed and hours associated with that will usually suffice.

In the old west, they would mount a lantern on their horse for traveling at night. It was the 1st form of saddle light navigation.

For those submitting the merit marks, the Member Services Committee can help you complete your squadron tasks on time—the first time. With Merit Marks due to Area Monitors by Nov. 15, now is the perfect time to start working on your list. Submitting Merit Mark information is a great way to tell members you appreciate all they do. What better way to say thank you than by copying your Merit Mark submission into an email and sharing it with your member?

Take time to contact members you haven't heard from over the summer.

Check your roster for members marked "Address Unknown." Your goal is for all members to have valid email addresses. Members without a valid email won't receive important information from headquarters. However, not everyone enjoys emails, so phone, write or plan a quick in-person or video visit. It just might be a perfect way to share an autumn evening.

If you need help, just give us a call or look at the Member Services webpage for more information. Contact your Member Services rep or email us directly at memserv.questions@gmail.com. Don't forget to check the [Member Services webpages](#) for tips and tricks.

As a final note, USPS/ABC's **Chief Commander Craig Fraser, SN-IN** has enthusiastically accepted our invitation to join our March 25th District Conference and Change of Watch at Southwestern Yacht Club in San Diego. Let's do all we can to make Craig and Liana welcome. (With Bill Bridge with us in spirit only, who do we ask to provide good weather?)

Respectfully,

Allan T Bombard, SN-IN
Commander, District 28
District28ABC@gmail.com



The Admiral and I visited Quebec City recently. This is a photo of Le Chateau Frontenac at night, from the St. Lawrence River
(Did you know that 'Quebec,' in Algonquin, means "where the river narrows"?)