



Membership is Number One!

Contents

	Pages
Host Grosse Pointe Invitation	2
Meet National Education Officer	3
D/C Schwaller's Report	4 - 5
Canadian Power Squadron	6
2023 Fall D9 Conference	7 - 9
D/Lt/C Dunbar's Report	10
Boat Show	11
D/Lt/C Delargy's Report	12
Stf/C Stano's Report	13 - 14
America's Boating Channel	15 - 16
National Safe Boating Week	16
D/Lt/C Fisher's Report	17
D/Lt/C Babin's Report	18
Miscellaneous	19
P/D/C's & P/D/Lt/C's	20
Thank You Host Port Huron	21
NOM COM Report	22
Conference Reservation	23
Hotel Reservation	24



District 9 Spring Conference and Change of Watch 12-14 April 2024

**Host:
Grosse Pointe**



Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel

21111 Haggerty Road
Novi, Michigan 48375

District 9 Spring Council Meeting by Zoom
Saturday, 23 March 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

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



Grosse Pointe hosts the 2024 Spring District 9 Conference

Country Western Theme



Photo by Connie Hallenbeck

Greetings and Welcome fellow members of District 9. As the Commander of the Grosse Pointe Power Squadron, I invite you to the Spring 2024 District 9 Conference at the Sheraton Novi Hotel. The theme for the weekend is Country Western.

In the past hotels allowed us to bring in our own District bar and food on Friday night. Due to state liquor laws and labor contracts, we are finding it impossible to do that. This year we needed to make a change. Food and drinks must be purchased directly from the hotel for Friday Night Hospitality. Therefore, Friday Night Hospitality will look different than previous years.

Just as we've adapted and changed to the many new things over the years, I'm sure that we'll adapt to this as well. I encourage you to not let these changes ruin the fun: Remember that it's the time spent with others that is really the important part of the weekend. There will be complimentary food selections thanks to donations by D9 and squadrons, a cash bar and plenty of good conversation. So be sure to join us for the Fellowship of other members on Friday Night for the traditional Hospitality Night.

Saturday morning is for business with classes and seminars. Our scheduled National Rep will be National Educational Officer V/C Charles J. Wells, SN-CN. The Conference Meeting and Member Lunch follows along with the Change of Watch as we swear in our new District Commander Chester Dunbar and say, "job well done" to District Commander Al Schwaller. Saturday evening we encourage you to dress in your best western attire and kick up your boots and join us for a Country Western Evening and Dinner Dance.

On behalf of the Grosse Pointe Power Squadron and the GPPS Conference Planning Committee, we are looking forward to seeing everyone in District 9 joining us April 12-14 at the Sheraton Novi. So Giddy Up and come join your fellow D9 members for a chance to learn something new and to enjoy the fellowship with friends new and old.

Fraternally,

Michael

CDR Michael Babiarz, AP

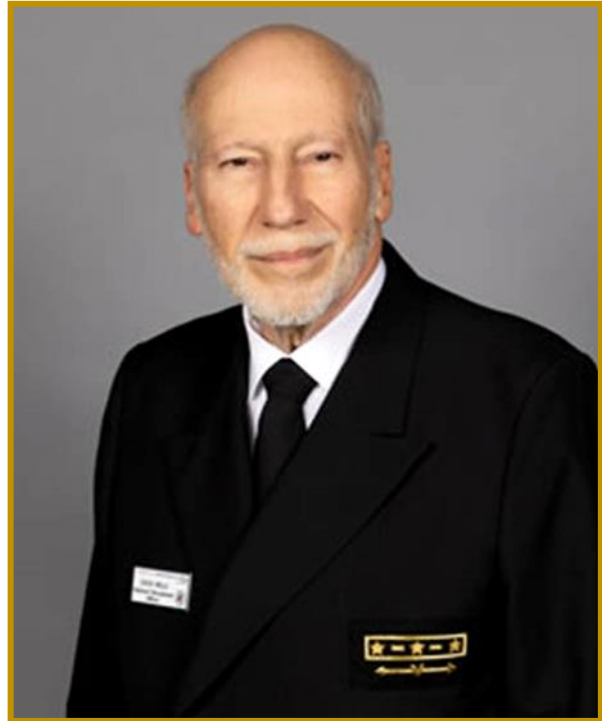




**Meet Our National Educational Officer
at the 2024 District 9 Spring Conference**

V/C Charles “Chuck” Wells, SN

After retiring as an intelligence officer in 2005, Chuck joined USPS® and volunteered to teach all facets of boating. He has Chaired the Marine Environment Com, the Instructor Development Com, and the Navigation Committee. Also, in the Administrative Department, he chaired Member Benefits. He has taught many of our courses and seminars, but most enjoys teaching Weather and Inland and Coastal Navigation. Chuck has held leadership positions at the squadron and district levels. He also served as an instructor with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Department of Natural Resources in Maryland. He holds a Coast Guard captain’s license.



Chuck was born in Baltimore, Maryland and was raised on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. He has crewed, owned, and leased power, sail, and paddle craft here and abroad. With over fifty (50) years of experience on the water, he understands the importance of education in the safe operation of recreational vessels.

Chuck holds a BS in Geography, an MPA (Master of Public Administration), and an MS in Economics with undergraduate work in Climatology. He also completed work towards a certificate of Ocean Education from the University of Virginia.

Since 2019, Chuck and his wife, Deany Blades, have enjoyed living on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Their daughter, and previous crew member for Chuck, resides in New York.





District 9 Commander
D/C Al Schwaller, JN-CN



Thanks for the memories! It's been fun!

I have had a very enjoyable and rewarding year as the District 9 Commander. In just weeks at the 2024 District 9 Spring Conference Change of Watch, I will become one of many Past District Commander's. Thank you to the members who volunteered to fill the many appointed positions under the Commander's Department. You have been very helpful to me and the district. Thank you to all the elected members on the District Committees. Your assistance on various matters this year has been appreciated. I am very grateful. Thank you again. More importantly, the district needs you.

Photo from the 2023 D9 Spring Conference and Change of Watch in Bay City, MI

Host: Saginaw Bay

by D9 Photographer Bob Blau, SN

I would especially like to thank the D9 Bridge: D/Lt/C Chet Dunbar, Jr., AP; Stf/C Bill Stano, JN; D/Lt/C Judy Delargy, SN; D/Lt/C Tom Fisher, SN and New to the Bridge, D/Lt/C Ron Babin, P. You all bring boating knowledge, talent and professional skills to the leadership of District 9. You have been a joy to work with throughout the year. Your dedication, enthusiasm, camaraderie, and eagerness to joyfully represent D9 at squadron changes of watch and balls have made the year pleasant for each of us on the Bridge and the squadrons. We each shared and accomplished a lot this year. I wish you all the very best in your future positions in the United States Power Squadrons® District 9 or National.



2023 District 9 Spring Conference in Bay City, MI
C/C Craig Fraser, SN-CN administered the Oath to myself and the D9 Bridge. A very special day!
District 9 photographer Bob Blau, SN

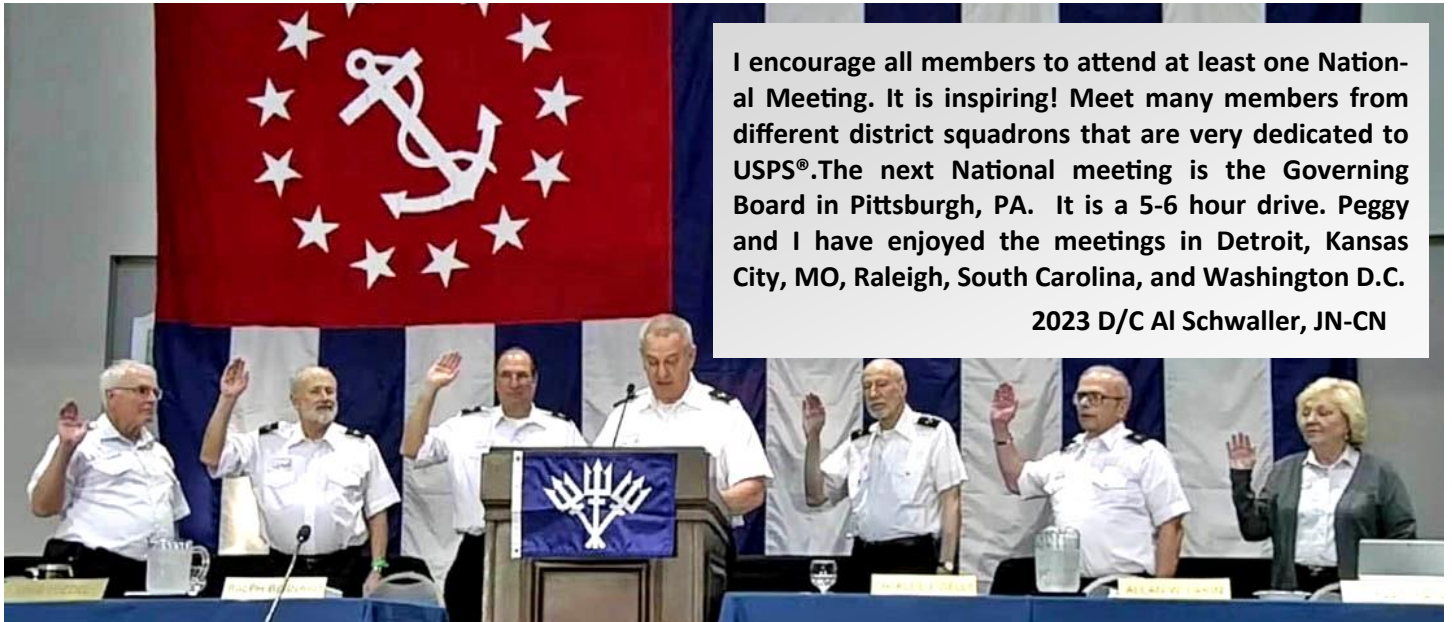
Decades before becoming District Commander in 2023, I enjoyed helping my squadron by participating at events and holding Bridge positions. I have been a USPS® Squadron Administrative Officer, Executive Officer and the Commander three times plus an Instructor teaching public boating classes and volunteer performing VSC's. In 2018-2020 I became District 9 Secretary for three years because of Covid prior to my position as 2021 District 9 Administrative Officer, 2022 District 9 Executive Officer and 2023 District Commander.

Throughout the years, officers or not, P/C Peggy Schwaller, AP and I have enjoyed many years of fun and fellowship at National Meetings, District 9 Spring and Fall Conferences and Squadrons' Changes of Watch, Commander's Balls, Christmas Parties, Cruises, Classes and Picnics held at locations from the north, south, east and west in Michigan and Windsor. Peggy and I have always been interested in all the squadrons in District 9. I would like to thank all the members for your hospitality and fellowship.

Sincerely, D/C Al Schwaller, JN-CN



2024 United States Power Squadrons® National Meeting - February 2-12, 2024 - Orlando, FL



I encourage all members to attend at least one National Meeting. It is inspiring! Meet many members from different district squadrons that are very dedicated to USPS®. The next National meeting is the Governing Board in Pittsburgh, PA. It is a 5-6 hour drive. Peggy and I have enjoyed the meetings in Detroit, Kansas City, MO, Raleigh, South Carolina, and Washington D.C.
2023 D/C Al Schwaller, JN-CN

United States Power Squadrons® Bridge Officers at the 2024 National Change of Watch in Orlando, FL
(Center) New **Chief Commander Ralph A. Bernard, AP** (Absecon Island/5)

(L to R) Executive Officer V/C Michael Wiedel, JN (Milwaukee Sail/10) Administrative Officer V/C David L. Allen Jr., SN (Lake Murray/26) Executive Committee P/C/C Craig Fraser, SN-CN (Akron/7) Educational Officer V/C Charles J. Wells, SN (Kent Narrows/5) Secretary R/C Allan W. Lakin, SN (The Valley Sail/13) Treasurer V/C Shirley Heald, AP (Houston/21)



D/C Schwaller, JN-CN with V/C Ralph Bernard
2023 Governing Board Meeting, Kansas City, MO
Seminar for district D/C's and DXO's
Photo by Editor D/Lt Peggy Schwaller, AP



Fall Governing Board
September 24 - 29, 2024
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Plan to attend the 2024 Fall Governing Board in Pittsburgh, PA. It's drivable. Meet C/C Ralph Bernard, the National officers and enthusiastic squadron members who are very committed to the success of their squadron and the United States Power Squadrons® plus the excitement of being involved at all levels.

Did you miss the 2024 USPS® Annual Meeting in Orlando? It was recorded.

The link for the replay is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9rn0htd-Tk> -- it will not run directly. Copy and paste the link into a browser window and run it that way. Also, view National Photographer Steve Erickson's many photos.

Informative Seat Packet Reports are available from the USPS® 2024 Annual Meeting and previous Annual and Governing Board meetings in 2022 and 2023. Very interesting!



Canadian Power Squadron Annual General Meeting at Caesar's Windsor, October 18-20, 2023



Hi Peggy. Attached is my photo taken at the AGM when I was elected Chief Commander for CPS-ECP, and here is a short resume:

In the summer of 1979, my husband and I were invited by a friend to spend a week on his sailboat. It was a major revelation! Until then, we had been closer to airplanes than boats, both with private pilot's licenses.

I then enrolled in the CPS-ECP *Plaisance* course (Boating Course) and became a member in 1980. I followed the curriculum and completed the certificate to reach the senior navigator degree (SN) in 1987.

After sailing for some time on rented boats, we bought our first sailboat in 1982, a Kelt 7,6 (25 feet), on which we explored the St. Lawrence River from Kingston, Lake Ontario, to Gaspé on the Atlantic coast and the Saguenay Fjord. In 2003, we moved to a larger boat, a CS 40, which allowed us to explore further east, first to the Maritime Provinces and then across the Atlantic to Europe.

Within my squadron, I am an instructor for the Celestial Navigation 1 and 2 courses and a tutor/proctor for the other courses. In 1985, I held the position of Educational Officer for the Estuaire St-Laurent District and then that of District Commander. In July 2020, I agreed to take over the position of National Educational Officer after the former NEO had to leave due to health issues. In October 2021, I was asked to take the National Executive Officer position to complete the mandate of my predecessor, who had resigned.

Even as busy as a Chief Commander can be when asked, I keep translating course materials into French.

Lise Blais Huot
Chief Commander CPS-ECP

I was fortunate to meet C/C Lise Blais Huot at the 2023 USPS® Fall Governing Board in Kansas City. I requested the photo and bio.

Editor, Peggy Schwaller, AP



Left to right: P/C/C Joe Gatfield, JN; Ralph Ziegler; Mary Ann Jensen and P/C/C Robert Pepin, AP attending the Annual Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons (CPS-ECP) AGM and Conference hosted by the Western Ontario District and held in Windsor, Ontario — celebrating the 85th Anniversary of CPS-ECP . . . in the city where CPS first started in 1938.

Several Members of USPS® National attending included C/C Craig Fraser, SN with Aide P/D/Lt/C Liana Mihalca, SN; P/C/C Mary Paige Abbott, SN and P/C/C Robert Baldrige, SN with Aide Nancy Baldrige.

Submitted by: CPS-ECP P/C/C Joe Gatfield , JN at the Editor's request.



2023 Fall District 9 Conference traditional Hospitality Night on September 29 at Port Huron Sail and Power Squadron's headquarters



District 9 had a very light turnout despite a lovely location and complimentary refreshments.

Attitude Adjustment District 9 bartender's D/Lt/C Chet Dunbar, Jr., AP and P/C Natalie Dunbar, AP poured drinks.
District 9 Hostess, P/Stf/C Sally Lemus, P decorated the table and served a variety of foods



D/C Al Schwaller, JN-CN presented the **USPS® Lifetime Membership Award to Howard Sherman, AP**
25 yr. member of Port Huron squadron



D/C Al Schwaller, JN-CN presented the **USPS® Lifetime Membership Award to P/C Dave Brooks, AP**
25 yr. member of Port Huron squadron

All Hospitality Photos by Editor Peggy Schwaller



2023 Fall District 9 Conference Meeting at the Great Lakes Maritime Center in Port Huron

A seminar for SEO's in the morning followed by the meeting with a lunch break. No evening event.

Photos by D9 Photographer Bob BlauBau, SN



DEO Judy Delargy, SN - Instructor
Morning Seminar for SEO's

Catered buffet then back to business.

**Planning Committee Chair
P/D/C Bryan Bartlett, SN**
having a discussion with
**Rules Committee Chair
R/C Mary Ann Jensen, SN**
(seated)
Membership Committee
P/D/C Dawn Flynn, JN
NOMCOM
P/D/C Ralph Ziegler, JN



*Discussion prior to Vote
on the changes to the D9 Bylaws*



**Members Voting
With the Red Card**



2023 Fall District 9 Conference Meeting at the Great Lakes Maritime Center in Port Huron
District Meeting Continues after the buffet lunch break with D/C Al Schwaller at the Helm. No evening event.



DXO D/Lt/C Chet Dunbar, AP and D/C Al Schwaller, JN-CN
Future and Present Leadership



District 9 Awards Chair It Delphine Cooley, S
Prepares the awards and trophies and
Power Point Presentations for Conferences.
Cdr of Detroit Power Squadron



DEO Judy Delargy presented the R/C James E. Ryan Award
(highest % of Advanced Grades earned) to Grosse Pointe
Cdr Natalie Dunbar, AP

**Many Certificates and Trophies
are presented to recipients
at the Conference. A few samples.**

50 Years of Membership

Birmingham	Frederick W. Krey, SN
Dearborn	Desi A. Strakovits, AP
Grand Traverse Bay	P/C Ward Kuhn, SN
Grand Traverse Bay	Clark D. Phelps, AP
Grosse Pointe	P/Lt/C Patrick A. Beard, AP
Grosse Pointe	Howard E. Riley Jr., AP
Lansing	Edward P. Welter, P
Saginaw	Leroy M. Wurst, AP



D/C Al presented the Membership Commander's Cup
(highest active members and highest number of MM
earned) to Lansing Cdr Michelle Reurink, P



**District 9 Executive Officer
D/Lt/C Chester Dunbar, Jr. AP**

Past Commander of
America's Boating Club Grosse Pointe

I would like to thank everyone who assisted me this year in the Executive and Treasurer Departments. Special thanks to the aids and committee chairpersons; your hard work was very much appreciated! Thanks D\Lt\C Ron Babin P for accepting the call for Treasurer Pro Tem. I'm confident that you will be a great D9 Treasurer and I look forward to working with you during the upcoming year.

Natalie and I have enjoyed attending the squadrons events and change of watches. Thanks to everyone for making our journeys memorable. We look forward to attending more squadrons events this year.

Americas Boating Club District Nine is financially solvent. All checks received were deposited and all bills due were paid. Please send payment requests within one week of all events for payment consideration. Requests received after year end closing may be denied.

It's been an honor serving as Treasurer for the past four years. I hope I have exceeded your expectations. I look forward to the next phase of my D9 career. I promise to continue the great works D/C Al Schwaller JN has done this year. He is a hard act to follow! I thank him for his guidance on my D9 Bridge journey! Thanks to all D9 Bridge Officers for your support this year and I look forward to working more with you!

Stay Safe, Stay Well and GOD BLESS!

Wishing You Safe Waters

Chet



DXO Chet represented D9 and administered the Oath at the Flint Change of Watch at Zehnder's of Frankenmuth Friday, January 5, 2024

Photo by Cdr Connie Hallenbeck, JN



**Chet at the 2024 National Meeting
Orlando, FL - District 9 Row**

Bridge L to R: DXO D/Lt/C Chet Dunbar, AP with P/C Natalie Dunbar, AP and DAO Stf/C Bill Stano, JN - Grosse Pointe

Photo by P/C Rose Stano. AP



BOAT SHOWS

Metro Boat Show at Lake St. Clair Metropark - Sept. 12-15, 2023

Detroit Boat Show at Huntington Place - Jan. 27- Feb. 4, 2024

**Boat Show Reports
at Conferences**



**Boat Show Chair
D/Lt Bill Smith, AP**

P/C of Detroit

Photo from Spring 2024
Conference, Port Huron



Boat Show Chairs

**D/Lt Bill Smith, AP & Lt Maureen Smith
with D/C Al Schwaller, JN-CN**

Photo from Grand Traverse Bay 2023 Lobster Roast
by Editor Peggy Schwaller

**Boat Show Display
Set Up, Break Down and Storage**



**Boat Show Display Team
D/Lt Bob Krieg, Sr., AP and
D/Lt Bonnie Krieg, AP**

P/C's of St. Clair Shores

Photo from Spring 2023
Conference, Bay City
by Editor Schwaller

Many District 9 squadron-club members volunteer to work the Boat Shows.

**Boat Show Simulator
Demo and Storage**



**Boat Show Simulator Coordinator
D/Lt Bob Blau, SN**

P/C of Birmingham

Photo taken at the 2024 Detroit Boat Show



America's Boating Club Birmingham Squadron volunteers

L to R: P/C Betty Torres, JN; Cdr Julian Fiander, SN

P/R/C Don Fiander, SN; and P/C Bob Blau, SN

Photo by D9 Photographer Bob Blau



D9 Educational Officer
D/Lt/C Judith Delargy, SN



Past Educational Officer of Birmingham Power Squadron

No Report

Judy and D/1st/Lt Tom Geggie, SN presented a seminar for Instructor Recertification on Zoom on Tuesday Evening, March 19, 2024

Instructor Recertifications was offered at the 2024 National Meeting in Orlando, FL

**D/L/C Judy Delargy, SN
will present a Seminar
for Squadron Educational Officers
at the
2024 Fall District 9 Conference**



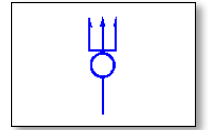
**District 9 Administrative Officer
D/Lt/C Bill Stano, JN**



**America's Boating Club Planning Committee
Stf/C Bill Stano, JN**

Past Commander of Grosse Pointe Power Squadron

Bill will present a VSC workshop at the Conference



**Rose and I began an adventure
we have dreamed about for many years.**

In March of 2023 Rose and I purchased a new home in Port Charlotte, Florida and we officially became "Snowbirds." After I recovered from my October back surgery, Rose and I packed every square inch of our car and headed to Florida during Christmas week, leaving a day after a snowstorm. We made it to Port Charlotte just days before Christmas.

We arrived with no furniture, a few clothes and household goods. In our new home, we had four lawn chairs and a 24-inch television. We were like newlyweds in our first home. We had a great Christmas.



Over the course of two months, we purchased new furniture (couches, bed, dresser and a dining room table and chairs). Lamps, end tables and other items we obtained from resale shops. We now have a comfortable home to enjoy warmer winters days.

However, this winter in southwest Florida experienced its coldest, wettest winter in many years. Just south of us, the weather service issued "Falling Iguana Alerts." When the temperature falls below 50 degrees, iguanas go into a hibernation state and fall from the trees.

The first two weeks of February 2024 were busy for us. The first week we attended the 2024 USPS Annual Meeting and the second week we went aboard the Celebrity Ascent; with other Power Squadron members for a relaxing week-long cruise.

(continued)



D9 Administrative Officer

(continued)

The Annual Meeting at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, Florida consisted of many committee meetings, workshops, seminars, and fun events. Some highlights of the meeting included:

- Docs Workshop
- An Instructor Re-certification Seminar
- A How Membership Affects Your Squadron Seminar
- Safety Committee Seminar which focused on a preview of a mandatory Vessel Safety Check Update and how vessel examiners are ambassadors for our organization.
- Marty Lafferty previewed the nine new Inlet Drone Videos and provided an update about America's Boating Channel.

At the Meeting we celebrated the retirement of our National Executive Director Mary Catherine Berube who retired after 46 years of service at our National Headquarters. The Keynote Speaker was Captain Cliff Schmidt who shared his "war stories" as a marine surveyor investigator. At the Annual Meeting on 10 February 2024 a new National Bridge was elected and Ralph Bernard, SN become our organization's new Chief Commander. The meeting had no significant items or changes needing a YES or No vote.

Rose was busy with making sure the attendance at the luncheons and dinners went without a hitch. I spent the week working with the National Planning Committee.

I attended the Safety Meeting which focused on the Vessel Safety Check Update. Every vessel examiner MUST complete this workshop by 30 June 2024. If a vessel examiner does not complete the "Vessel Examiner Workshop" by June 30, 2024, he/she will no longer be qualified to do VSCs until the workshop is completed and recorded. I will be presenting this workshop at the 2024 Spring Conference. You can also complete the VSC Update online by going to the VSC Update Page on the National Website.

The Annual meeting is not only a way to get relief for the frigid winter and enjoy Florida sunshine, but it is a time to re-connect with Power Squadron friends from around the country and learn about how your organization functions and provides service to each member and squadron. If you could not attend the meeting in Orlando but would like to attend a national meeting, the Fall Governing Board Meeting will be 22-30 September in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Hope to see you in Pittsburgh.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Stano

Stf/C Bill Stano, JN



Fall Governing Board
September 24 - 29, 2024
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



America's Boating Channel Goes International and Wins Further Awards

What started as a simple suggestion to film a video on Border Crossing turned into so much more when the US Coast Guard loved the idea.



Foreground Group L to R Debra Allen, Rose Stano, Liana Mihalca & C/C Craig Fraser, P/C/C Joe Gatfield, Sari Lafferty holding award and Marty Lafferty.

The script was written and approved, with the Canadian and US Border Patrols initially open to participate but were unable due to limited staff. Travel time across the Detroit River between countries became tricky, with cold wet weather further hampering us. Marty and Sari worked their filming magic and with help from Birmingham, St. Clair Shores, Mount Clemens, Grosse Pointe, Detroit, and Black Women on the Water, we were able to complete the project.

America's Boating Channel also expanded across to Canada by including Water Ways videos by Steven Bull, 10 episodes, exploring lifestyles, adventures and history found on and near the water in Canada. This led to being recognized by Canadian Safe Boating Council for Best Boating Safety Initiative at the 25th Annual Award Show, National Boat Club, Toronto at the start of the Toronto Boat Show, January 2024. Steve Bull, Marty, and Sari Lafferty took it one step further and live streamed video at the Toronto Boat Show in January and the Miami Boat Show in February 2024.

P/C/C Joe Gatfield from CPS/EPC attended ABC/USPS Annual Meeting in Orlando 2024 to present the CASBA Award once again to America's Boating Channel - Marty and Sari Lafferty, C/C Craig Fraser, including Rose Stano and Debra Allen — Field Producers, for their contribution in receiving this award.



**America's Boating Channel
Goes International and Wins Further Awards**
(Continued)

Season Eight

All Boaters are invited to participate in Field Production as Producers or On-Screen Talent in Season Eight videos. June 2024 is open for video shoots.

Scripts for 2024 include Animated Navigations Rules, Boating Under the Influence Prevention, Center of Gravity, Chart Plotting Apps, Cordless ECOS, Electronic Locator Beacons, Fueling a Boat, Go-No-Go decisions, Hunting & Fishing in Boats, Launch Ramp Etiquette, Real Life Lessons, Weather Awareness. The Channel is also looking for Smart TV Category Management Assistance with Internship Programs available.

Help us by **Liking** and **Sharing** America's Boating Channel on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, & Instagram, & following/ subscribing on YouTube, Roku, Fire TV, or Sports.TV app on Apple TV.

Check out americasboatingchannel.com website for a list of all the videos & programs you can access for use in Boating Classes and information on participating in all aspects of America's Boating Channel.



Marty Lafferty and P/C Rose Stano, AP

You can also contact marty.lafferty@americasboatingchannel.com

P/C Rose Stano, AP Grosse Pointe
D9 Public Relations Officer

Drowning is the leading cause of death in boating accidents.



Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day – May 17, 2024

National Safe Boating Week – May 18-24, 2024

Almost 85% of people were NOT wearing a life jacket, according to the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.



District 9 Secretary
D/Lt/C Tom Fisher, SN



**Past Commander of
America's Boating Club Mount Clemens**



Photo by Editor Peggy Schwaller

Tom at the Registration Table
2023 Fall Conference General Membership Meeting
D9 Fall Conference - 30 September 2023
Great Lakes Maritime Center, Port Huron, MI
Host: America's Boating Club Port Huron

For the spring conference I will making some changes to the voting cards and registration cards at the table. We will start using a preprinted sheet of paper to replace the white registration cards. I will also be removing much of the information on the voting cards as much of it is unnecessary. Please download or print your seat packets. I will make sure there is one printed seat packet at each table.

Any events and/or rendezvous that you have please forward them to me and I will make sure it appears on the District 9 Calander and distribute to the Squadron Commanders. You might be amazed at who might show up regardless of distance.

I'm looking forward to this new year and meeting more members at the Conference and events.

Since the Fall Conference I have had the privilege of representing District 9 for the following Changes of Watch:
Birmingham Power Squadron Christmas Party/Change of Watch and Saint Clair Shores Sail and Power Squadron.

I also had the privilege of representing District 9 and administering the Oath of Office for the following squadrons:
Mount Clemens Power Squadron
Grand Traverse Bay Sail and Power Squadron
Saginaw Bay Sail and Power Squadron

D/Lt/C Thomas J. Fisher, SN
Secretary



2023 Distinctive Communicator Awards from USPS®

USPS Advisors

Interlaker: P/R/C Angelo Giovanniello, SN
Squadrons' Newsletters: R/C Barbara Pearson, AP
Websites: P/C James Haglund



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*
- Port Huron - *Splash*

D9 Website

- Anchor Bay Power Squadron
- Ann Arbor Power Squadron
- Birmingham Power Squadron
- Detroit Power Squadron
- Grand Traverse Bay Sail and Power Squadron
- Grosse Pointe
- Lansing Sail and Power Squadron
- Mount Clemens Power Squadron
- Port Huron Sail and Power Squadron



District 9 Treasurer
D/Lt/C Ron Babin, P
Member of Port Huron



**Ron administering the Oath to
Cdr Michelle Reurink, P
at Lansing Sail and Power Squadron's
Change of Watch
at Dusty's Cellars in Okemos**

Port Huron Sail and Power Squadron's lovely Headquarters on the Black River





Miscellaneous

I thought twice about writing this article; but as District 9 editor for the last ten years, I have decided to step down and let our new 2024 D/C Chet Dunbar, Jr., AP assign his Editor as stated in the D9 SOP's.

Why the Amtrak picture? D/C AI and I have had wonderful and unusual adventures traveling to the United States Power Squadrons® meetings on Amtrak, relaxing in the comfort of our bedroom and enjoying hot meals in the dining room. Some of our favorite Governing Boards were held in Washington D.C. and Kansas City, MO.



National Meetings

At National meetings, D/C AI and I have met many dedicated, friendly officers who seem very upbeat including **D/C Susan Darcy, JN**. I personally found Susan to be quite an amazing officer and member. After I checked the **USPS Information Center**, I learned that Susan is involved at all levels. In 2023 Susan held 9 squadron jobs and 7 district jobs plus and in 2024 3 National jobs. D/C Susan reminded me that it is election time again in her squadron, Berkshire Sail and Power Squadron/D2.



Back to the Future

On February 12, 2005 AI and I attended the festive Port Huron

Power Squadron Commander's Ball at the vintage Edison Inn in Port Huron. We met the Squadron Commander and the District Commander. Being a fairly new, I took several pictures. Posted is a photo from my collection, L to R: Cdr Leonard LaPorte, AP and Judy LaPorte, Joanne Rachuk and **2004 D/C Mike Rachuk, SN**.

Cdr La Porte & Judy - Joanne & D/C Rachuk

Who would have imagined that twenty years later D/C AI Schwaller, JN-CN would be administering the Oath to P/D/C, Mike Rachuk, now Cdr Mike Rachuk, SN of Anchor Bay Power Squadron.



**Cdr Mike Rachuk, SN and D/C AI Schwaller, JN-CN
Anchor Bay Power Squadron Change of Watch
Photo by P/C Chris Beck - Anchor Bay**

Interlaker, the District 9 newsletter

Long Time Members of the District 9 Communications Team

D9 Webmaster
Stf/C Jay Stevens, SN
USPS Asst. Chair IT

D9 Ensign Correspondent
P/C Sue Rayburn, SN
Dearborn Editor



Posted Interlakers are on most Squadron Sites

**Jay has archived Interlakers for Members
Posted on the District 9 Website**



Past District 9 Commanders

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

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 the National Educational Department.

Past District 9 Educational Officers

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



**D9 2023 Fall Conference in Port Huron
September 29 -September 30**

**Host: Cdr Dale Lashbrook, AP
and members of
Port Huron Sail and Power Squadron**

Friday Hospitality at Squadron Headquarters & Saturday Meeting at Great Lakes Maritime Center



Commander Dale Lashbrook, AP and P/C Teena Lashbrook, AP

*Thank You from
United States Power Squadrons District 9*



Report of the Committee on Nominations to the Council

March 21, 2024

Pursuant to Bylaws Section 2.1 – 2.9.5 and SOP 11,13, 14 and 15 of District 9, the Nominating Committee by unanimous vote hereby submits to the Council the following nominees for the District Bridge, Audit Committee, Nominating Committee, Planning Committee, Budget/Finance Committee and Rules Committee to serve during the 2024-2025 operational year.

District Bridge Officers

District Commander	D/Lt/C Chester Dunbar, AP	Grosse Pointe
District Executive Officer	D/Lt/C William Stano, JN	Grosse Pointe
District Educational Officer	D/1 st Lt Tom Geggie, SN	Birmingham
District Administrative Officer	D/Lt/C Thomas Fisher, JN	Mount Clemens
District Secretary	OPEN	
District Treasurer	D/Lt/C Ron Babin, P	Port Huron
District Ass't. Educational Officer	OPEN	

District Audit Committee

Year three of three year term	D/Lt Ronald Utz, AP	Grosse Pointe
Year two of three year term	OPEN	
Year one of three year term	OPEN	

Nominating Committee

Year three of three year term	P/D/C Janet Hartesvelt, P	Grand Traverse
Year two of three year term	P/D/C Alanna Harvey, P	Lansing
Year one of three year term	D/C Albert Schwaller, JN	Detroit

Rules Committee

Year three of three year term	OPEN	
Year two of three year term	P/C Curtis Campbell, AP	Lansing
Year one of three year term	P/D/C Mary Ann Jensen, SN	Lansing

Budget and Finance Committee

Year three of three year term	D/Lt Kim Ratcliff, AP	Wyandotte
Year two of three year term	OPEN	
Year one of three year term	OPEN	

Planning Committee

Year three of three year term	P/C John Sulkowski, AP	Grosse Pointe
	P/C Gary Jialanella, JN	Birmingham
Year two of three year term	P/D/C Bryan Bartlett, SN	Detroit
Year one of three year term	OPEN	

2024 DISTRICT NINE SPRING CONFERENCE AND CHANGE OF WATCH 12-14 April 2024

CONFERENCE THEME IS NAVIGATING THE DIGITAL WORLD

FRIDAY NIGHT HORS D'OEUVRES SPONSORED BY DISTRICT 9 SQUADRONS AND A CASH BAR

SATURDAY NIGHT THEME IS COUNTRY WESTERN



Conference Hosted by: **AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB GROSSE POINTE**

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

RANK	LAST NAME	FIST NAME	GRADE	CERTIFICATE NO.	SQUADRON
------	-----------	-----------	-------	-----------------	----------

RANK	LAST NAME	FIST NAME	GRADE	CERTIFICATE NO.	SQUADRON
------	-----------	-----------	-------	-----------------	----------

ADDRESS:	CITY	STATE	ZIP
----------	------	-------	-----

_____ Check if you are a Conference First-Timer

TELEPHONE	E-MAIL
-----------	--------

Saturday Business Lunch
 Love from Tuscany Lunch Buffet _____
 (Includes vegetarian choices)

Saturday Evening Dinner
 Filet of Beef _____
 Dijon Crusted Salmon _____
 Vegetarian Option _____

Total Lunches ___ @ \$42 ea. = \$ _____ **Total Dinners** ___ @ \$80 ea. = \$ _____
Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Make Check Payable to:
Grosse Pointe Power Squadron
D/Lt/C CHET DUNBAR
17522 Muirland
Detroit, MI 48221-2711

Dress Code:
 Morning & Conference-Uniform F
 Saturday Evening:-Country Western Attire

NO MEALS RESERVATIONS AFTER 25 MARCH 2024

Attending Friday Night Hospitality: YES _____ NO _____
 Attending Saturday Meeting: Meeting: with lunch _____ without lunch _____
 Attending Saturday Night Dinner Dance YES _____ NO _____

**SHERATON DETROIT NOVI HOTEL
21111 HAGGERTY RD, NOVI, MI 48375**



The Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel is offering District 9 members a group rate of \$119.00 USD per night plus, state, and local taxes. King Beds

[CLICK THIS LINK TO MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATION](#)

Or call **1-866-837-4180** to make room reservations. Inform the reservation specialist you are with District 9 Sail & Power Squadrons.

Directions to the hotel are on the reservation web site.

Make your room reservation NO LATER than March 22, 2024.