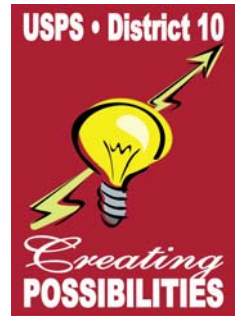




AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

DISTRICT 10



D10 2006 Fall Conference Commander's Fall Conference Report

29 September 2006

Overview

A large portion of what might ordinarily go into a conference report will be included in my "State of the District" presentation on Saturday afternoon. I will be placing District activities in the context of the changes being made at National. At the time of this writing, that presentation is still under development. The presentation will be posted on the District website immediately after the conference.

Progress towards objectives:

Goal 1 – Create an innovation friendly environment by encouraging local experimentation, providing opportunities for sharing of results, and honoring all contributions.

This subjective goal is inherently un-measurable, but is what this watch year is really all about. Too often we permit the measurable to drive out the important. I am determined not to allow that. Most of my communications, and communications from other bridge members encourage local experimentation; the commander's workshops and the workshops of other officers encourage the sharing of results; and all efforts are recognized as valuable.

Goal 2 – Incorporate the achievement of Local Squadron Goals and other major updates into the Star Squadron Program.

The Star Squadron program is used to primarily measure progress in meeting National and District requirements in measuring success in the program. This year, local squadron goals account for 25% of the scoring, and achievement of the membership goal another 8%, for a total of 33% of the program.

This is not an easy addition. First, Squadron commanders have to come up with the goals, which are then agreed to and weights negotiated with the D/C. Finally, an individualized Excel workbook is developed to automate the scoring process. This is a large job, but each squadron has a comprehensive map on what it takes to have a great year.

There are some changes necessitated after the workbooks were issued, when the Winter Council meeting was eliminated at the Spring Conference. Primarily, the points associated with this event will be eliminated, and the scoring readjusted. This will be discussed at the Commander's workshop.

Goal 3 – Incorporate lessons from the 2005 “Something’s” initiative into District 10 planning and operations.

- Objective 6 below is a direct result of the something's program, Commanders also rely on District to run down certain issues or problems they are having trouble resolving.
- We provided substantial assistance to one squadron to straighten out a serious financial problem.
- Officers are encouraged to put out 90-day outlooks on a monthly basis, and have been reminded to keep it up.
- Award sessions have been shortened, with many certificates being awarded in workshops, in keeping with squadron requests.
- Drawings are limited, with only top prizes individually awarded, others posted on AV screen.
- Squadrons have also been solicited as to what additional, specific, tangible activities they would like to see from District, so far, the response has been light. Another solicitation will occur at the conference.

Goal 4 – Utilize Squadron input at Winter Council in developing a coherent set of workshop mini-seminars for training squadron leadership on a range of disciplines.

This was rolled out at the spring conference and continues to be built. The current curriculum is:

- Admin
 - Elements of Planning for Squadron Officers
 - Marketing for Squadron Officers
- Executive
 - Situational Leadership
 - CEO of a Non-Profit

- Commander
 - Effective Meetings
 - Results Tracking
- Education
 - Marketing for Education Officers
 - Recruiting for Member Courses
- Treasurer
 - Audits
 - Credit Card processing
- Secretary
 - Minutes the USPS Way
 - Making Stationary and creating a style

The line officers, Administrative, Executive & Commander receive training on “Process” topics that will better prepare them for squadron leadership. As these are short topics, the goal is to have some exposure to the techniques of leadership. The Education Officers, Treasurers, and Secretaries will eventually develop a larger stable of mini-seminars, as there is only partial turnover each year in personnel. It’s also likely that these topics will be more task oriented.

Goal 5 – Improve Standing in the Bowsprit Award

The award year is in the early stages at this point; we do not yet have much data.

Goal 6 – Ask all district officers to attend three meetings or events outside of their home squadrons.

Your Commander has been quite busy, attending 10 of 11 Changes of Watch across the district, the D20 Rendezvous in Dubuque, the Oshkosh 50 Year Anniversary party, Tri Squadron Predicted Log (Hosted by Hiawatha Valley). Other officers are attending / planning to attend events.

Goal 7 – Continue developmental work on a squadron in the Dubuque area.

A Boat Smart Class has been held this summer and discussions are continuing to form a nucleus of a squadron.

Goal 8 – Continue Work of Predecessors

We keep the traditions alive and humbly follow in their footsteps.