



## **What Your District Can Do for You**

What is the role of the District in this changing USPS® universe? The Operations Manual defines the role of a District in USPS as having three functions:

1. It oversees programs to educate and train members and the public;
2. It provides opportunities for social interaction among members and families; and,
3. It is in close contact with national and is thus a channel for communications between national and the squadrons.

There is no area of USPS which will be more impacted by the needs of the future than our education department. D/Lt/C Bill Dohr ([billdohr@charter.net](mailto:billdohr@charter.net)) is making sure that squadron education officers and their departments are well aware of all these changes. A good start is our adoption of USPS University program. This program offers a lot of possibilities including 5 experience based certification levels from Inshore to Offshore and many new seminars. These include an on the water skills examination, bringing new level of meaning and usefulness to our courses. Our traditional elective and grade courses are being retooled to meet the demands of our members and the use updated technological improvements in navigation. At each district conference the education department provides updates and seminars to make sure we are all aware of the most recent developments and the opportunities available for our members and the boating public. Our role in providing quality boating education is changing and so are the needs of our members and the public. We are obligated to give boaters who are really interested in more navigation knowledge quality products and courses. Remember “Learning is forever”.

The district has an important function in training the present and future leaders of the district’s squadrons, so they can better accomplish their duties and keep their squadrons healthy. Squadron officers are also a source of potential leaders for the district and eventually national organization. This effort is accomplished through conference workshops and providing useful material on the district web site. All members are encouraged to review the District web site and see what is available there. Call or email D/Lt/C Dick Baker ([Richard@tds.net](mailto:Richard@tds.net)) after you have reviewed our web site with any suggestions. National is developing a great two day leadership seminar, which will make really professional leadership training available for our district and its squadrons. Don’t forget that our Star Squadron program is a training and organizing tool for squadron bridge officers. The Star Squadron program for 2007-8 incorporates the changes at district and the new programs and activities which have been developed this past year at district and national.

The social activities provided by the district include the two district conferences and our summer rendezvous, but also it is the duty of the district officers to attend squadron functions. Another source of such activities occurs at the national meetings where all members of the district’s squadrons in attendance have a chance to mix and discuss common issues and problems. Developing fraternal relationships is one legs of the USPS triangle.

As a conduit between the national organization and the squadrons it is the role of the district bridge to communicate new USPS developments and share the concerns and ideas developed by our squadrons and

their members. Next year's incoming District Administrative Officer D/Lt Kathy Schult ([schultkm@verizon.net](mailto:schultkm@verizon.net)) is a person with whom you should discuss your good membership and retention ideas. We need new customers for our courses and ones who will join our squadrons. One stat that will have a large impact on our future if not lowered is the fact that the average age of members of the squadrons in our district is 56. We have to develop new programs which appeal to younger customers. There has been a lot of talk about the "younger generations" not wanting us, but maybe we need to know those generations better to gain them as members. D/Lt/C Al Harmon ([Al.Harmon@sick.com](mailto:Al.Harmon@sick.com)) has a lot of knowledge in this area, and will assist us in designing membership programs that appeal to these younger generations.

There are a lot of changes in the works at the National level, especially in the areas of corporate structure, education policies and courses, membership enhancements and recruiting and retention. It is important for each of us to participate in this process and keep informed as these developments occur. One program which is changing is Coop Charting. Geodetics have been dropped as a part of the program, but new initiatives are coming. Our incoming District Coop Charting chair, P/D/C Jeff Hamilton ([hamiltjc@visi.com](mailto:hamiltjc@visi.com)) will keep us up to date about these changes.

Our district has implemented fiscal policies which have put us on a very sound basis. The incoming bridge intends to continue this and keep the district on a responsible and stable footing. D/Lt/C Greg Holmen ([captgreg1@comcast.net](mailto:captgreg1@comcast.net)) has been a leader in this area and will continue in this role.

Using the USPS Triangle as a guide, each squadron has developed goals related to its legs: Fraternal, Civic and Educational. Those goals should lead your Squadron to a great year, one that will be of benefit to you, your squadron, your new members and the boating public. The execution of your goals will prove that it is "**Time to Make the Best Better.**"

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