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6097 HELLENBRAND ROAD  
WAUNAKEE, WI 53597



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## THE COMMUNICATOR

Spring 2009 Volume 5, Issue 1  
Official Newsletter of District 10  
A unit of United States Power  
Squadrons®



*The District 10 Communicator is the official newsletter of District 10, a unit of United States Power Squadrons®, and is published two times per year, Spring and Fall.*

*Please send submissions to the editor at [jklungen@aol.com](mailto:jklungen@aol.com). The editor, Jeff Luengen, can also be reached at (414) 791-1004*





**D/C Al Harmon, JN**

[harmon.al@comcast.net](mailto:harmon.al@comcast.net)

This is my last article as your District Commander. Where did the time go?

Well I'll tell you where it went. Ready, Set, Grow was much more than a slogan. It was the beginning of a journey we started a year ago. It was an announcement of the beginning of a 3 year process to "steady the ship". My "Ready" year was a year dedicated to proper metrics, alignment and process improvement.

Remanufacturing the Star Squadron Program to make sure we were measuring the right stuff was our first step. We believe we have the proper elements to view the health of a Squadron. Kathy has tweaked it a bit for 2009, but the simplicity spirit of the program remains the same. This program will provide the necessary exposure for a Squadron to assess its readiness. For a Squadron to survive it has to know where it is and admit where it needs help. This redesigned self assessment tool will provide that clarity.

Promoting the Leadership Development Workshop was our next major initiative. This initiative will develop our next generation of leaders and solidify our future. But the Leadership Development Program needs your help. Join me in supporting this important initiative. Drive attendance from your Squadron members. I've personally seen the plans that come from the attendees regarding Squadron improvement and they are excellent. I've also seen the "aha's" as a moment of enlightenment happens. Our Leadership Development Program is one of the finest I've ever seen.

We've also spent a great deal of time modifying our District events. While the Spring and Fall Conferences

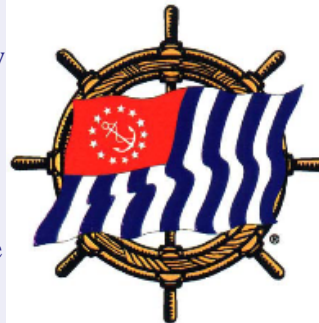
have a certain "formula" to them, the upcoming Summer Rendezvous will be very different. Your entire District Bridge – and specifically your DAO – have come up with ideas to make this one the best ever. Remember "nearly free" in 2009!

To conclude, it's been a great year for me personally. I've enjoyed working with a talented District team. From my vantage you are in good hands. Traveling to your Changes of Watch last year and the hospitality you showed Kris and me was appreciated and will not be forgotten. We renewed old friendships and made new ones.

I look forward to better times with the USPS. District 10 made an important first step in 2008 and I know we are on a good course to "Set" and "Grow."

Great boating and best of luck to you all,

Al



## GET READY FOR SPRING 2009!

**Great boating is just ahead. Have fun!**

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**D/Lt/C Kathy Schult, AP**

As the year ends for the Executive Department, we can look back at our accomplishments.

- We have 2 squadrons active in Cooperative Charting.
- All squadrons responded positively on their Safety Reports and submitted them in a timely manner.
- We were able to distribute the entire allocated funds for Cooperative Advertising.
- Eighty four Vessel Safety Examiners performed 1056 Vessel Safety Checks.
- To date, we have one squadron scrapbook and one PowerPoint presentation to submit in National competition.

My sincere thanks go out to all the squadron Executive Officers for their participation. They managed to meet the deadlines, help out other squadrons and many took the time to contribute in the conference workshops. It looks like five squadrons will receive the Civic Star in the newly revised D/10 Star Squadron program.

My gratitude extends also to those members who so eagerly accepted committee positions within the Executive Department. Thanks to:

Cooperative Charting:	Stf/C Jeff Hamilton, AP
Homeland Security:	P/D/Lt/C Bill Dohr, SN
Legislative Officer:	MN Stf/C Greg Korstad, AP
	WI P/D/C Ron Kraase, SN
Liaison Officer:	P/D/Lt/C Judy McMillin, P
Public Relations:	P/C Bernadette Dohr, AP
RBSVP:	R/C Art Mollica, SN
Squadron Development:	D/Lt/C Dick Baker, P, AP
Radio Technical Officer:	Stf/C Mike Wiedel, AP
Safety Officer:	P/D/C Donald Schult, Sr., AP
Vessel Safety Check:	P/R/C Neil McMillin, SN

As we move into 09, looking forward to a magnificent boating season, let's remember to "Expand those Opportunities".

Thanks All!  
Kathy

**D/Lt/C James Pahl-Washa, JN**

## Administrative Dept Update

### National Meeting in Anaheim Can't Stop Cupid

Several of us traveled to California for the National Conference and Change of Watch that was held February 18-22, 2009. Julie and I actually left on Saturday prior to the conference (Valentines Day) to take advantage of better airline rates. Of course, not even a long day of travel was going to exempt a guy from making a reasonable attempt to make Valentines Day a special occasion.

Knowing that chocolate or flowers weren't going to survive the trip, I called ahead to make special dinner reservations at our final destination in Las Vegas for Saturday night with two tickets to the closing performance of Elton John the next day. It's hard to believe, but our first "Big" date was to see Elton John at the old Chicago Bulls Stadium in the summer of 1976. He's still going strong, 33 years later, as we are. That's enough romantic nostalgia for now.

### Focus on Membership and Member Retention

Our focus throughout the conference in California centered on membership and member retention. Membership continues to dwindle across the country, and we can expect that to continue unless we become more attentive to our existing members and can be successful at recruiting new members. Many of you are doing well with the limited resources available. Some of you continue to struggle. Be bold, try something new this year. As our new Commander would say, look for a new opportunity.

I'm convinced that USPS education programs are undervalued assets, and that we need to promote the value of the new seminars and on-the-water certification accordingly. We're going to try an experiment in Madison this year with building boat smart course fees into the cost of an adult membership.

There have been some great events throughout the District this year. The Spring Conference in Burnsville, the Summer Rendezvous in Dubuque, and the Fall Conference  
(continued on page 4)



## ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

(continued from page 3)

in Sturgeon Bay were all first rate. However, there were even more Squadron activities and cruises across the District that border on the spectacular. Don't forget to visit the web pages and newsletters of all D10 squadrons to learn of the fun and cruise opportunities.

### Come to Winneconne for Summer Rendezvous

One special event in the near future will be the 2009 Summer Rendezvous. To all skeptics, this "almost free" even will be scheduled in late June to avoid the summer cruising season. Holding the rendezvous earlier and the fall conference later should give us all more time on the water this year. The details of the Winneconne Summer Rendezvous will be unveiled in Wausau, but registration fees for all activities will be folded into a modest \$50.00 household registration fee. We also plan to reimburse most of that to you if you show up for a weekend of great food and fun in the park and on the water.

### No One Does it Alone, It takes a Team

Finally, I want to thank all District Admin Department Committee Chairs, the Squadron Admin Officers and their respective Chairs for making 2008 a very special year. Join me in Wausau during the March 27<sup>th</sup> D10 Spring Conference, so I can thank each of you in person.

### Sweets in the Suites

Don't forget to stop by the DAO Suite Friday night and of course all the other Bridge Officer suites to sample the entries in the District Bridge Dessert Challenge. Desserts will be served after the Council Meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor, and I look especially forward to the event as a way of saying Thanks.

I've had the great honor to serve you over the past twelve months as your District Admin Officer, and hope that we met your needs and expectations. I have nothing but admiration for the great friends we've made across District 10 and throughout USPS. Friendship and the memories we collect during our life's voyage last forever. I will always treasure this year's cruise

D/Lt/C James Pahl-Washa, JN



## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



D/Lt/C John Winger, DEO



For 2009, the Educational Star goals have been updated to crisply align our district effort to the most critical national initiatives. The

3 goals for each squadron are: Boat Operator Certification: Qualify an Advanced Certifier and 2 Inland Navigators

- On-Water Courses: Offer on-water Seamanship, Sail, Piloting or Paddle-smart.
- New Members in Class: Increase % of new members completing classes in 1<sup>st</sup> twelve months. Each of these goals is critical to membership growth and retention.

#### • Boat Operator Certification:

- o *The national vision is to expand recognition and membership growth by demonstrating USPS capability to implement a broad-based BOC program responsive to emerging USCG needs.*

- o *The first 3 levels of operator certification are applicable to local D10 waters:*

Inland Navigator (small lakes and rivers), Coastal Navigator (Mississippi River system and Great Lakes along shore) and Advanced Coastal Navigator (Great Lakes crossings). Progression requires Certifier verification of course/seminar completion and Advanced Certifier verification of demonstrated on-water skills.

- o *Here's the 2009 D10 plan for Certifier/Advanced Certifier Development:*

Prospective Certifiers & Advanced Certifiers must attend Certifier training. This was offered at the 2008 Spring Conference and will be offered again at this year's Spring Conference. § Prospective Advanced certifiers must be qualified on Safe Powerboat Handling skills. This qualification will be accomplished during multi-squadron spring events to be led by Art Mollica for Minnesota squadrons and Bill Dohr for Wisconsin squadrons. Both Certifiers & Advanced Certifiers must be qualified instructors. A re-certification seminar will be offered at the Spring conference. (Continued Page 5)





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o **Here's the 2009 D10 plan for Inland Navigator Development:**

After spring training, Advanced Certifiers can begin local qualification of members on Safe Powerboat Handling and Fire Extinguisher skills. A major portion of the Summer Rendezvous program will be devoted to member qualification on these skills (All Advanced Certifiers in support). SEOs are to structure 2009 courseseminar offerings to help prospective Inland Navigators to fill open course or seminar requirements (S, EM, ME 101, Chart, Onboard Weather, GPS, VHF).

- o **Key point:** Each squadron needs an Advanced Certifier. To be an Advanced Certifier, individuals need Certifier training and Instructor Re-certification (both offered at Spring Conference) and safe Powerboat Handling skills qualification to be offered prior to the Summer Rendezvous on dates to be specified by Art Mollica and Bill Dohr.

• **On-water course:** Squadrons in other districts have found that use of on-water courses has significantly increased membership recruiting results.

• **New member course completion %:** Clearly, prompt involvement of new members in squadron programs is a key to retention. Here's an example calculation:

- o If a squadron had 12 new members in 2007 (completed their 1<sup>st</sup> twelve months in 2008) and 4 of these completed a class by their 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary, the 2008 metric would be 33%.
- o If that same squadron then had 4 new members in 2008 (completed their 1<sup>st</sup> twelve months in 2009) and 2 of these completed a class by their 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary, the 2009 metric would be 50%.
- o In this case, the squadron would meet the Ed star requirement because the % increased (even though the number declined).

Striving to meet these goals should help add excitement to being a D10 USPS member. Good luck with your squadron programs and with your individual BOC efforts! Let's take this opportunity to lead the way.

John Winger, DEO



**D/Lt/C Dick Baker, AP**

This will be my last article as district secretary. It's been a very rewarding three years, or four, if you count my year as assistant secretary. When I try to look back on what has been accomplished in this department, the really big things were done by others. My own involvement was mostly due to the fact that I recruited good people. D/Lt Leo Loeb has brought the district web site back to award winning status. D/Lt Jeff Luengen has gotten the Distinction in Journalism Award for the Communicator again. P/D/C Jeff Hamilton has produced a roster that will rival any in all of USPS for quality and usability.

At the squadron level, excellence is also the rule. Our squadron newsletters are produced by a group of talented editors, and the results show it. The same is true of our webmasters, the producers of some high quality websites. And the squadron secretaries- what a group! If you think your squadron could function very long without a secretary, I'm here to tell you that, you probably don't want to go there.

It's also been a pleasure to work with all of the members of the district bridge for the last four years. Without exception, they have all been professional, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic supporters of USPS.

Lastly, I need to mention the squadron commanders. I know I've probably been a bother to them from time to time, and for that I apologize. I would also like to tell them that, yes, someone actually does read the reports you write! What I took away from those reports, was that if we can continue to recruit leaders like we have in the past, USPS will thrive going forward. (continued page 6)



(continued from page 5)

I would like to close by giving a short bit of advice to those of you who haven't taken the chance to help lead our organization yet: Go for it! Do it for two reasons. First, because our mission to help save lives is important; and secondly, it will make you feel good, I guarantee it.

*See you on the water.*

**District Secretary  
D/Lt/C Dick Baker, AP**



## ***Call To The 2009 Spring Conference Meeting***

To: All District 10 Members

In accordance with the bylaws of District 10, Section 5.6, the District 10 2009 Spring Conference (to which all members are cordially invited) has been called. The Council meeting will be held on 27 March 2009 at the Jefferson Street Inn, 201 Jefferson Street, Wausau Wisconsin and will convene at 1830; and the Conference meeting will be held on 28 March 2009 also at the same location, and will convene at 1330 for the purpose of acting on matters set forth below:

1. To receive and act upon reports of officers and committees.
2. To elect officers and committee members. Please refer to the report of the Nominating Committee attached hereto.
3. To consider and act upon any other business that may properly come before this meeting.

**D/Lt/C Richard Baker, AP  
District 10 Secretary**

Note: Official Call to the Meeting was sent to the District Council and all Past District Commanders per Section 5.6.



**D/Lt/C Bud Broekema  
TREASURER, AP**

Greetings D10 members!

The Minneapolis boat show, a sure sign of spring, has come and gone. Around here that means about 10 more weeks until ice out. And this year's outlook for gas prices sure looks better than last seasons.

I just wanted to pass along a brief update of the districts financials. As the watch year winds down we have slightly passed our budgeted income and our expenses are under budget. Prudent spending by the district's bridge coupled with the sustained member numbers for the past year got us to where we are at. The challenge for all of us going forward is to keep our squadrons strong by renewing our own memberships and bringing in new people who share our enjoyment of boating and community service. With the state of the economy this will be a challenge for all of us. Let's do what we can to get through these tough times and keep our squadrons vigorous.

**Have a safe and enjoyable  
boating season!**





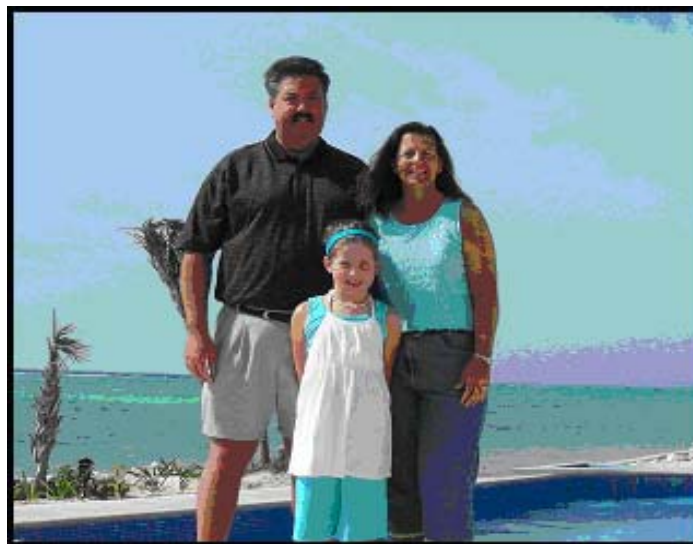
## A Tale of Future Past

Little do we know how our future is influenced by the waypoints throughout our lives or the course we have plotted for ourselves. Growing up, I never imagined being Commander of a nearly 500 member Squadron like Minnetonka, nor being asked to hold positions at the District and National levels of an organization like USPS, yet, here “we” are. I say “we” because I feel we’re all in this together, our past experiences influencing the future of our Squadrons, D-10, and the National organization.

I cannot claim to be a native Minnesotan or spending my childhood on our lakes in D-10, my course was a little different. My family moved around the country quite a bit and my first experience with boats was deep sea fishing as a child in Clearwater, FL. After a move to Seattle, WA, I enjoyed watching the ships enter Puget Sound and pass through the locks in the area. But I have to say that my tale of future past started when Rebecca and I were on our honeymoon. We decided to rent an 18 foot speed boat for the day and when we returned it I was informed by the attendant after refueling “you must have had fun.....you used three times the fuel that most people do!” Needless to say, I was hooked.

Since then, we have owned three power boats, but have chartered sailboats a number of times while on vacations in the Caribbean. Over the years we have enjoyed power, sail, and paddle watercraft. Actually, anything in, on, or around the water makes me happy, but that’s only fitting since I’m a Pisces. My quest for education and boating comradery brought me to the Power Squadron in 1996. Since then I have held numerous Squadron offices, including SEO and chaired many committees. During my watch year as Squadron Commander, I was elected to the District Nominations Committee, where I served for four years, chairing the committee my last year.

This year, as your incoming District Administrative Officer, I am looking forward to sharing my passion for all boating activities with current, new, and future



members of our organization. Together, we can build on D/C Kathy Schult’s theme of “Expanding Opportunities” by creating new ways for our members to get involved and participate in more civic, educational, and fraternal local Squadrons. Having fun and providing opportunities for our members to get involved will be my primary goal.

To accomplish this, I’m fortunate to have a great team joining me in the Administrative Department. D/Lt/C Richard Baker AP joins me as Assistant Admin. Officer, D/Lt Julie Pahl-Washa P will serve as Conference Chair, P/C James Crowley P will serve as Membership & Member Involvement Chair, I will continue as Member Benefits Chair, and D/Lt Suzanne Carman will continue as Safe Boating Activities Chair. I know we have some great ideas planned for the Summer Rendezvous and the Fall Conference.

I would like to thank D/Lt/C James Pahl-Washa for his help in preparing for the coming year. I am looking forward to working with him in the future and I will continue to seek his advice and the advice of other Committee Chairs during the upcoming year. We have to look at our past as a foundation built to support our future. With that in mind, I know that USPS is a great organization, but we need to be proactive in addressing the needs of our current members and work together to create an environment that will

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attract new members. We are competing with all sorts of other activities that families contend with on a daily basis. We need to let others see the passion within each of us for this organization and boating in general. "Boating is Fun" is the theme for this year's youth poster contest and I think there is a child in each of us who wants to share that enthusiasm. I need to look no further than my daughter Jessica to see where my tale of future and past meet the future of USPS.

I look forward to serving the District and working with Squadron Admin. Officers and Committee Chairs to make 2009/2010 a great year.

Let's get involved, have fun, and plot a course together for a great year!

D/1<sup>st</sup> /Lt Mike Skelley, AP

***IT'S TIME TO GET  
READY FOR SPRING !***



## Two D10 Members receive Recognition from the National Membership Committee As "Top Recruiters"

The final awards for the "Power of One" membership campaign were distributed to District Commanders and individual recipients during the 2009 National Change of Watch in Anaheim, California on Friday, February the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Only seventeen USPS members received this individual recognition from nearly 38,000 members for their outstanding recruiting efforts, and two of the seventeen come from District 10. The awards acknowledge those who recruited; ten, twenty, or thirty new members.

D/C Nominee Kathy Schult, AP, serving as District 10's Bridge Representative accompanied P/D/Lt/C Bill Dohr, SN, from Central Wisconsin, who accepted his award for recruiting ten members.

District 10 accepted another award on behalf of Lt Fred Petillo, JN, from the Madison Sail and Power Squadron for recruiting thirty new members. Fred was one of only two USPS members recognized in Anaheim for achieving this level of recruitment.

Each recipient received a "Dangle" that attaches to the Power of One pin. Chief Commander Creighton Maynard, SN, was on hand to make the presentations.

D/Lt/C Jim Pahl-Washa,  
D10 National Membership Rep



# YOUR DISTRICT STAFF

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# SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR ELECTION 2009 - 2010

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**COMMANDER**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**EDUCATIONAL OFFICER**  
**ASSISTANT EDUCATIONAL OFFICER**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**  
**ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**  
**SECRETARY**  
**ASSISTANT SECRETARY**  
**TREASURER**  
**ASSISTANT TREASURER**

D/Lt/C Kathy Schult, AP  
**D/Lt/C Jim Pahl-Washa, JN**  
 D/Lt/C John Winger, SN  
**D/1<sup>st</sup>/Lt Bob DeNoto, JN**  
**D/1<sup>st</sup>/Lt Mike Skelley, AP**  
 D/Lt/C Dick Baker, AP  
 D/Lt Jeff Davis, AP  


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 D/Lt/C Bud Broekema, AP

**Rules Committee (3-year term)**  
*Geoff Carman leaving*

Stf/C Mike Wiedel, AP	2010
P/D/Lt/C Bill Dohr, SN	2011
R/C Alan Wentworth, SN	2012

**Planning Committee (3-year term)**  
*Jeff Hamilton and*  
*Wes Koplitz leaving*

P/D/C Bob Stierna, SN	2010
Stf/C Greg Korstad, AP	2010
Lt/C Kim Wiedel, S	2011
P/D/C Maury Rice, JN	2011
D/C Al Harmon, JN	2012
	2012

**Audit Committee (3-year term)**  
*Jeff Davis leaving*  
**Lt Dale Anderson, S**

P/D/C Ben Coons, AP	2010
P/C Glen Deedon, AP	2011
	2012

**Nominating Committee (3-year term)**  
*Don Schult, Kris Harmon*  
*and Nancy Hamilton*  
*leaving*

P/D/Lt/C Ted Smyczek, SN	Milwaukee	2010
	Green Bay	2010
R/C Art Mollica, SN	St. Paul	2010
P/C Carole L Biddick, AP	Door Cty	2010
P/D/Lt/C Dave Carlson, SN	Duluth	2011
D/Lt Julie Pahl-Washa, P	Madison	2011
P/C Wesley Koplitz, AP	Oshkosh	2011
Cdr Lyle Peschke, P	Sheboygan	2011
P/D/Lt/C Bill Dohr, SN	Central WI	2012
D/C Al Harmon, JN	Hiawatha	2012
Stf/C Jeff Hamilton, AP	Minnetonka	2012

## Nominating Committee Alternates (1 year term)

§ Central Wisconsin	_____
§ Door County	_____
§ Duluth	_____
§ Green Bay	_____
§ Hiawatha Valley	_____
§ Madison	_____
§ Milwaukee	_____
§ Minnetonka	_____
§ Oshkosh	_____
§ St. Paul	_____
§ Sheboygan	_____



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Hosted By Minnetonka Power Squadron



## November, 6, 7, & 8, 2009

Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport Mall of America  
Bloomington, Minnesota



*The theme of the conference is going to be “That’s Entertainment!” This will be a unique opportunity for all of us to shake, rock, boogie, and be just plain silly! Isn’t that what life’s all about? Boating and partying! Let’s Go and strut our stuff!*

### *The conference has numerous great features:*

- \* Indoor swimming pool to help us remember the great times of being in the water!
- \* Shopping at the Mall of America (*complimentary shuttle services to and from hotel*)
- \* A great bar and lounge area (Blue Water Grill and Lounge) to relax and kindle with our dear friends and meet new ones!
- \* Beautiful, elegant sleeping rooms with excellent group rates.
- \* The new light rail system is steps away from the hotel so you can visit/explore Downtown Minneapolis
- \* Superb culinary for those of us that love to eat!
- \* Play at the Mall of America Water Park.

***Come attend the conference, see the sites, stay awhile longer, and make this a terrific vacation!***

**Elegant Rooms - \$99 per night**

**MOA (Mall of America) Package - \$129**

**Registration Form and Fall Conference Agenda to follow soon. Watch for it!**

For more information, contact:

LuAnne Opstedal, Co-Chairperson

opstedal2@hotmail.com

or Joel Saunders, Publicity Chairperson

sjksaunders@aol.com

**SPRING CONFERENCE AGENDA  
JEFFERSON STREET INN  
WAUSAU, WI  
27-28-29 MARCH 2009**



[www.usps-d10.org](http://www.usps-d10.org)

**Friday, 27 March**

1500-1900	Registration-Silent Auction-Raffle	Stevens Reception Area
1600-1730	District Planning Committee	McClellan
1600-1730	District Nominating Committee (Closed meeting)	McIndoe
1600-1730	Dinner Option (Informal as you arrive)	Washington
1830-2030	District Council	Jefferson
2030-2200	"Dessert Challenge" Meet & Greet	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Guest Rooms

**Saturday, 28 March**

0800-0930	Registration	Stevens Reception Area
0730-0800	First Timer's	Terrace
0800-1000	Commanders' Workshop	Madison
	Executive Department Workshop	Washington
	Administrative Department Workshop	Jefferson
	Education Department Workshop	Bistro I
	Secretary Department Workshop	McIndoe
	Treasurer Department Workshop	McClellan
0900-1130	Shipmate's Hospitality	Terrace
	0930-1015 TBD	
	1030-1130 TBD	

0930-1130	Youth Activities	Hotel Lobby
1000-1030	Break	Stevens Reception Area
1015-1200	USPS University Seminar "Trailerling" (\$25.00)	Jefferson
1015-1200	Instructor Recertification	Madison
1030-1115	Membership Seminar	Washington
1120-1200	DB2000 Seminar	Washington
1215-1315	Shipmate's Lunch	Bistro I
1215-1315	Lunch	Lincoln
1330-1530	District Conference Meeting	Jefferson
1330-1500	Youth Activities	Madison
1730-1830	Reception	Lincoln
1800	Group Picture....EVERYONE	Lincoln
1830-2200	Dinner - Change of Watch - Post Installation Reception	Grant

**Sunday, 29 March**

0800-1000	BOC-Certifier Training	Jefferson
0900-1000	LDW "10 Steps to an Effective Meeting	TBD
1005-1030	Coffee with the Commander, Bridge & Chief's Rep	TBD
1035-1230	District 10 Bridge Meeting	McIndoe

**Uniform of the Day**

Friday	USPS Golf / Polo Shirt
Saturday	USPS Golf/Polo Shirt (Bridge will wear Cdr Al's shirt)
Sat Evening	Uniform A with Bow Tie or Appropriate Evening Attire
Sunday	Casual Attire (Bridge will wear Cdr Kathy's shirt)

