

**District 31 Spring Conference
March 29, 2014
Bass Pro, Tulsa, OK
Conference Minutes**

Attendees: D/C Pete Zurhorst, AP, D/LT/C James Sweeten, SN, D/LT/C Steve Bryant, JN, D/LT/C Susie Holden, P, D/LT/C Marilyn Goss, CDR Gene Pett, P, CDR Bob Hlubin, S, Stf/C Margaret Miller, S, P/D/C Danny Goss, JN, P/D/C Denise Winn, P, P/D/C William Miller, P, P/R/C Bruce Albertson, SN, GL Delegate Marcia Pett, P, OKC Delegate, Linda Zurhorst, S, and National Representative, P/C/C Frank Dvorak, SN.

Meeting was called to order at 0900 by D/C Zurhorst, Invocation given by D/C Zurhorst, Pledge of Allegiance led by P/D/C Goss, and quorum verified by D/Lt/C Goss.

D/C Zurhorst, called for motion to approve the 2013 Fall Conference Minutes as posted on website. Motion to approve made by D/LT/C Holden, seconded by Stf/C Miller. Motion carried.

D/C Zurhorst introduced and welcomed P/C/C Dvorak, District 16 as the National Representative. P/C/C Dvorak gave a quick report on behalf of C/C Robert Baldrige, SN.

P/C/C Dvorak discussed the National 2014 National Meeting, celebrating the wrap up of the 100 Year Anniversary Celebration of the USPS. He also wanted recognized National Committee Members from D-31 and stated if anyone would be interested in becoming a Nat'l Committee member please let him know. He discussed the on-line courses already available and those that will become available in the near future and the On-the-Water training. He also discussed the District availability of the Boat Simulator and Fire Extinguisher, stating these are great items to use for Boat Shows and even District COW. At this time there are 27,000 on-line students. Boat U S and the USPS is working together on this training, Boat U S provides the technical help and USPS provides the materials.

District Bridge Reports:

D/Lt/C Peter Zurhorst, AP

- **Executive Officer**

D/Lt/C James Sweeten, SN

As your Executive Officer it's been an interesting few months. Within the scope of that position New Squadron Development is a primary mission. For several Council Meetings the future of the Three Forks Provisional Squadron in Muskogee, OK has been a topic of discussion. Using the provisions of the New Squadron Development guidelines several years ago this provisional squadron was developed. Organizational meetings were held and training was conducted by members of several district squadrons. Furthermore the district contributed five hundred dollars to provide initial start-up costs and procured a number of America's Boating Course (ABC3) texts and materials for the provisional squadron's membership. Although the initial numbers of members was very small, because of its location at a marina, there were expectations that membership would grow and could develop into an accredited squadron. Such was not the case. A provisional squadron has 3 years to gain a minimum of 25 members for full squadron status. This number was not even close despite the best efforts of P/R/C Steve Johnson, AP, P/D/C Larry Stout, SN, P/C Bob Hunt, N, and others. At the March, 2014 Council Meeting it was decided to cease all further attempts to re-vitalize the Three Forks Provisional Squadron, considering all remaining, very few members, have not continued their membership with United Power Squadrons. The District 31 has asked for a full financial accounting of funds and the return of all unused monies and instructional materials. This was acknowledged by a former member of the Three Forks unit but funds and/or materials as of this writing have not been received.

With all of the above now digested, on to step two; where do we go next? We tried Joplin, Mo a few years ago and despite the best efforts of P/D/C Larry Stout, SN and others it never got off the ground. Future preferences would include an area with a larger population of boaters, adjacent or near a larger lake, marinas, and willing to work with us. How about trying to reactivate the Tulsa Squadron? The initial plan was (1) work with marinas to allow VEC to inspect boats and talk up a squadron soliciting interest, (2) contact previous Tulsa Squadron members for their input and possible assistance, (3) develop a list of seriously interested individuals that expressed an interest during boat inspections, (4) schedule an organizational meeting, and (5) recruit instructors to offer America's Boating Course (ABC3) and

Operations Training. But this time we were going to do our homework and test the water before we jumped in.

P/C Baxter Thorman, JN volunteered to do some of the initial groundwork. He is a Tulsa resident and a past member of the Tulsa Squadron and current member of the Grand Lake Squadron. His findings were not encouraging. The marinas were at best neutral in having our VECs come down as the Oklahoma Highway Patrol officers currently do that and the marinas have a good working relationship with them. Additionally the officers give all the save boating classes (Oklahoma Boating) free of charge and in a one day session. (I know the ABC3 course is far superior but it takes a minimum of 3 sessions and there is a cost attached) A few of the former Tulsa Squadron members were contacted, including a past commander, and reminded Baxter that most of the former members were sailors and members of a very active sailing club there. Their opinion was it would be a "tough sell" to try to revitalize Tulsa. One said he would be willing to try but didn't want to have any responsibilities in trying to organize it. That took care of 1, 2 and 3 from above and there was no need to go further. At the March, 2014 Council Meeting it was decided to drop the Tulsa plan and put our efforts toward strengthening our current four squadrons.

If there are a few good souls out there that would be interested in forming a New Squadron Development Committee and one who would take the chairmanship and all be willing to put the time and effort into making it successful, call me, email me, text me or write me a letter. I'm out of ideas for right now.

D/Lt/C Jim Sweeten, SN
D-31 Executive Officer

- **Homeland Security –**

D/LT/C Dana Tischer, P

Just What Is Homeland Security and What Does It Mean To You and I?

Homeland Security is an American umbrella term referring to the national effort to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, reduce the vulnerability of the U.S. to terrorism, and minimize the damage from attacks that do occur. The term arose following a reorganization of many U.S. government agencies in 2003 after the September 11 attacks.

Homeland security is officially defined as "a concerted national effort to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism, and minimize the damage and recover from attacks that do occur".

Within Homeland Security there are many departments, one of those being Ready.Gov, which is where this spring report is focused.

The *2014 Resolve to be Ready* campaign is focusing on "Family Connection" to reinforce the importance of including children in preparedness conversations in advance of potential disasters. Here is where you get involved; when talking to your family, children, and grandchildren make sure they know: **who to call, where to meet, and what to pack/grab**. The campaign includes age appropriate tools and resources to introduce in conversations with your family (www.ready.gov/kids). Below are checklists to help both for parents and kids.

Are You READY!

Some disasters strike without any warning. Have you thought about those supplies you'll need the most? They will usually be the hardest to come by. Enlist your children to help gather supplies for your family's emergency kit. It'll bring you a sense of relief, and your kids a feeling of empowerment.

Make sure you have enough supplies to last for at least **three days**. Think about where you live and your needs. Consider having a large kit at home, and smaller portable kit in the car or your workplace.

If a big storm is coming...

- Fill your car with gas
- Fill plastic bags with water and place them in the freezer
- Get extra cash out of the bank
- Fill prescriptions

Emergency Supplies List

- 3-day supply of non-perishable food (dried fruit, canned tuna fish, peanut butter, etc.)
- Can opener
- Paper plates, plastic cups and utensils, paper towels
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Water - at least a gallon per person, per day for drinking and hygiene
- First aid kit
- Prescription medication and glasses
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for everyone in your family
- Change of clothes to last for at least 3 days, including sturdy shoes (consider the weather where you live)
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap and other personal items
- Feminine hygiene supplies
- Fire extinguisher
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Dust mask, and plastic sheeting and duct tape, to help filter contaminated air
- Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio and extra batteries
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Cell phone with charger, extra battery and solar charger
- Whistle to signal for help
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper (when diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners)
- Local maps
- Cash or traveler's checks
- Emergency reference material such as first aid book or information from www.ready.gov
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, ID, and bank records in a waterproof, portable container
- Pet supplies
- Infant formula and diapers
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games or puzzles (let your kids pick these out themselves)
- Four child's favorite stuffed animal or security blanket
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Water - at least a gallon per person, per day with extra batteries
- Battery powered or hand-cranked radio with extra batteries
- Cell phone with charger, extra battery and solar charger
- Flashlights with extra batteries
- Cell phone with charger, extra battery and solar charger
- Local maps for help
- Pet supplies
- Baby supplies
- Books, games or puzzles
- A favorite stuffed animal or blanket

BE A HERO! <http://www.ready.gov/kids>

Are You READY!

Electricity lights up our world!

Think of all the ways we rely on electricity: keeping food fresh, cooking meals, and getting information through the internet or TV. It keeps us warm in the winter, cool in the summer, and connected with each other year round. Oftentimes, we use electricity to play and have fun. Are you and your family ready if disaster strikes and your home is without power?

How would we see at night without power?

Help your family build an emergency kit! Collect these items and keep them together in a safe place that you can find easily. Make sure you have enough supplies to last for at least **three days**.

Emergency Supplies List

- 3-day supply of non-perishable food (dried fruit, canned tuna fish, peanut butter, etc.)
- Can opener
- First aid kit
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for everyone in your family
- Change of clothes to last 3 days, including sturdy shoes, consider the weather where you live
- Matches in a waterproof container (let a grown up handle these)
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap
- Paper plates, plastic cups and utensils, paper towels
- Water - at least a gallon per person, per day with extra batteries
- Battery powered or hand-cranked radio with extra batteries
- Flashlights with extra batteries
- Cell phone with charger, extra battery and solar charger
- Local maps for help
- Pet supplies
- Baby supplies
- Books, games or puzzles
- A favorite stuffed animal or blanket

Remember, traffic lights will not work!

Go on a quest with your family! Create a scavenger hunt! Make planning fun!

BE A HERO! <http://www.ready.gov/kids>

- **Safety Officer** - Vacant, no report Vacant
- **Public Relations** - Vacant, no report Vacant
- **Safety Vessel Chairman** – P/C Laurie Hestand, P

2014 VSC Re-Certification Information

IMPORTANT, PLEASE READ: This year the CG/CG Aux has mandated the 2014 VE Workshop for all VE's regardless of time in the program. You may go to the VSC page and pull the power point presentation, which MUST be taught in a classroom setting. No individuals taking it at home and submitting completion paperwork.

The workshop for Aux/USPS must be completed by 30 June 2014 or our VE's go into a REWK status. This means that they cannot conduct VE's in that status, until they complete the workshop, and are placed back in a current status.

If they don't complete it by 31 Dec 2014, then they will be placed in REYR status. They will not be certified to conduct VSCs in 2015, until they take the workshop, complete 2 supervised VSCs, and are recertified as current.

In a class room environment, the power point should be given to certified VE's only, not trainees. At the end of each section, address each quiz to the class and open discussion for the answer. Insure there is a common answer which matches the answer in the quiz.

When all 3 quizzes have been reviewed, and students agree on all quiz answers, you may add their names and information to the VSC-2R form and send it to HQ USPS Attn: Lena Padro for their record to be annotated they completed the recertification training.

If you have any questions, please contact me by email at hestand@gmail.com or my cell phone at 405-596-1861.

2014 VSC DECAL INFORMATION

In response to recent changes to decal distribution, the National Vessel Safety Chairman offered the following:

Unless a need is an emergency, USPS Safety/VSC will work with Squadron Commanders and Squadron VSC Chairs ONLY effective 01 January 2014. To obtain decals to fill urgent requests and maintain accountability, requests will contain:

- A. District Number & Squadron VSC Chair Name
 - B. Full Squadron Name and Squadron VSC Chair Name
 - C. Full Mailing info i.e., name, street, city, zip
 - D. Number of decals requested.
 - E. A note certifying that the Squadron/VE has utilized 50% or more of their decals as of request date.
- NOTE:** Decals for individual VEs requesting additional decals will first be verified via VSC reports submitted that the VE has utilized at least 50% of their issued decals at time of request. Your request, if approved and filled, will be annotated for future reference/accountability. Individual VE's should contact their Squadron VSC Chair for additional decals.

DON'T FORGET TO REPORT YOUR ACTIVITIES

Once a VSC has been completed, U.S.P.S. needs your assistance in reporting your activities. Reporting your activities serves multiple purposes. The first is that it proves to the U.S. Coast Guard that the U.S.P.S. is actually doing the examinations, and failure data is used by the Office of Boating Safety to direct efforts to reduce boating accidents and fatalities.

The second is our decal sponsor uses this data to determine the quantity of VSC decals to print for the following year. The more VSC visits that are reported using this system the better case we have to justify the quantity of decals we request.

Lastly, it determines qualifications for the following year. If you do not report your VSC examinations, even if you participate in the program, next year you will be listed as a non-qualified examiner.

As a reminder, this data is in no way shape or form reported to any National, State, or Local Law Enforcement entity. The data collected here is strictly for statistical purposes.

Please follow the simple VSC Online Submittal Instructions: This is a 24/7 system – your reports can be sent any time, day or night. We ask that you submit your VSC online reports as soon as you have completed your activity for the day. It takes very little time to submit your report.

Your VSC completion data, via this process, will be merged & posted to the online VSC Reports pages on Friday each week.

P/C Laurie Hestand, P

- **Environmental** - See Squadron Reports D/Ltc/C Linda Zurhorst, S
- **Squadron Development** – See Executive Officer Report Vacant
- **Legislative** - Vacant, no report at this time. Vacant

D-31 Squadron Report

- **Beaver Lake Sail & Power** **Cdr Dale Rice, P**

No Report submitted and no BL Representative available.

- **Grand Lake Sail & Power** **Cdr Gene Pett, P**

To: DExO James Sweeten, SN

Date: March, 22, 2014

From: Cdr. Richard Pett, P

Squadron: Grand Lake

This report covers USPS activity since the last FALL Conference

Boating Courses:	# of Students Enrolled	# of Students Passed	Dates
ABC 3	16		In Progress
Seamanship	7		Starts 4/21
Piloting	5		Starts 4/15

Current Membership:	Active: 111	Add'l Active:	Family:	Junior:
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Delegates to this meeting: Number 5

Names:	Rank and Grade	Names:	Rank and Grade
1. Marcia Pett	P/C P	4.	
2. Scott Cox	S	5.	
3. Debra Cox	S	6.	

Meetings	Number	App. Average Attendance	Dinner
Social/Business	5	45	Yes
Executive	5	20	No

Educational Classes:

	Course	# of Students	# Completed	Planned	Dates
Special:				Y/N	
Advanced Grades:	Nav	1	1	Y	Jan 2014
	AP	5		Y	Mar 4, 2014
Elective:	Eng Maint	4	2	Y	Nov 2013
	Inst Recert	11	11	Y	Feb 2014

Outstanding Squadron Accomplishments During This Reporting Period:

Received a grant from Sea Tow Foundation for a loaner PFD station. It will be placed at the City of Grove ramp at Wolf Creek.

Squadron Commander Activities: participated in all squadron activities – Monitors FB posts

Meetings Attended: Governing Board N USPS Annual Meeting N
 Grand Lake was represented by P/D/C Bill Miller, P; Peggy Miller, S; P/D/C Larry Stout, SN and Mary Ann Stout, S

Remarks:

Successful Marketing Strategies

The Squadron had nearly 30 people sign a form expressing an interest in taking the ABC3 course at the Grove Boat Show. Currently 16 of those people are taking the ABC3 class and another class will begin in the near future.

Problems or Constructive Criticisms to be addressed by the District?

I have a concern with the way ABC 3's free six month membership is accounted for by USPS. The students are added to the squadron after completing the course and before they have paid their first dues. If they decide not to join USPS they are counted as a non-renewal which hurts the squadron and the district's retention rate. There should be another way to account for them until they have paid their first year dues.

- **Norman City Sail & Power** **Cdr Janie Davis, S**

No Report submitted and no Norman Representative available.

- **Oklahoma City Sail & Power** **Cdr Bob Hlubin, S**

To: DExO James Sweeten, SN

Date: March, 22 , 2014

From: Cdr.Bob Hlubin

Squadron: OKC

This report covers USPS activity since the last FALL Conference

Boating Courses:	# of Students Enrolled	# of Students Passed	Dates
ABC 3	3	3	completed 3/6/14

Current Membership:	Active: 41	Add'l Active: 15	Family: 15	Junior: 0
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Delegates to this meeting: Number 4

Names: Rank and Grade

1. Linda Zurhorst D/Lt/CS
- 2.

Names: Rank and Grade

- 3.
- 4.

Meetings	Number	App. Average Attendance	Dinner
Social/Business	6	29	Yes
Executive	5	20	NO

Educational Classes:

	Course	# of Students	# Completed	Planned	Dates
Special:	CPR/1 st Aide			y	Spring 2014
Advanced Grades:					
Elective:	Eng Maint	13	waiting on scores		completed 3/18/14
	Weather			Y	4/8/14

Outstanding Squadron Accomplishments During This Reporting Period:

Have gained 2 new members.

Squadron Commander Activities: Participated in all squadron activities.

Meetings Attended: Governing Board - N - OCK represented by P/R/C Bruce Albertson, SN/CN; Stf/C Susan Albertson,S; D/C Pete Zurhorst, AP; P/D/C Danny Goss, JN; P/C Dave McGhee, SN; P/C Sandra Stratton, S; D/Lt/C Marilyn Goss, P; Lt/C Linda Zurhorst, S

USPS Annual Meeting N- OCK represented by D/C Pete Zurhorst, AP; P/R/C Bruce Albertson, SN/CN; Stf/C Susan Albertson,S; P/C Dave McGhee, JN; P/C Sandra Stratton, S; Lt/C Linda Zurhorst, S; P/R/C; LT/C Jim Young, S; Lt/C Michelle Young, S; Lt/C Irv Dodson, S; Lt/C Pat Gant, S.

Remarks: None

Educational Department - D/Lt/C Steve Bryant, JN, Education Officer

Discussed distribution of promotional materials for the On-the-Water to promote the course. At the time of the meeting Grand Lake and OKC were the only ones that had conducted an ABC3 Course. Beaver Lake had offered the course with no takers. No record of Norman offering the course. Norman offered GPS and Hurricanes with no takers. P/R/C Albertson presented the Rules of the Road Seminar for the District this year.

Also reminded everyone of the deadline for submitting awards.

Administrative Department:

D/Lt/C Susie Holden, P

D/Lt/C Holden stated Grand Lake Scrap Book is being completed and will be submitted to National for vote.

Everyone was reminded Youth Posters will be judge at the Fall Conference and winners will be submitted to National. Be sure to bring them.

Committees:

- Membership/Membership Involvement (need volunteers)
- Boating Activities " "
- Operations Training " "
- Conference Preparations " "
- Leadership Development " "

Secretary:

D/Lt/C Marilyn, Goss, P

• **Historian**

Stf/C Margaret K. Miller, S

The District history report for 2013 was filed in January. Grand Lake History report was filed in February. The electronic reports located on the National Web site have not changed. The National web site was changed from New York to Raleigh. This created some problems. New programs were also installed and that is creating new issues. I don't foresee the new web site to be ready any time soon so the History reports will stay the same for a while. However, squadrons sending in their reports will have them saved and will not have to keep paper reports from years back.

• **Daymark**

P/D/C Denise Winn, P

P/D/C Winn has been having computer issues, but should have the Day Mark within the next week or so.

• **D-31 Website**

P/D/C Bill Miller, P

Provided Bridge with 12 pages of By Law Updates that have been approved, will update website. Districts, Squadrons, and Highway Mariners have 30 megs available on website.

• **Ensign Correspondent -**

P/D/C Denise Winn, P

P/D/C Winn reminded anyone send correspondence to her for action.

Treasurer

R/C Steve Johnson, AP

R/C Johnson was sick and unable to attend. Report was provided by former District Treasurer, P/C Dave McGhee and presented by D/C Zurhorst.

USPS DISTRICT 31 BANK BALANCE 2014

D31 Checkbook Register/Journal for 2014

Date	Check #	Memo	Amount	Balance
9/30/2013				\$10,177.93
10/21/2013	784	USPS 9/30/13	\$ (44.43)	\$10,133.50
10/21/2013	785	Danny Goss-Governing Board	\$(250.00)	\$ 9,883.50
10/21/2013	786	Steve Bryant-Governing Board	\$(250.00)	\$ 9,633.50
10/21/2013	787	Danny Goss-P/D/C Awards	\$(234.45)	\$ 9,399.05
11/1/2013	EFT	HQAB 2014 Annual Meeting	\$ 116.00	\$ 9,515.05
12/11/2013	788	Hospitality	\$(435.60)	\$ 9,079.45
12/2/2013	EFT	HQAB	\$ 32.00	\$ 9,111.45
01/31/14	EFT	HQAB	\$ 24.00	\$ 9,135.45
2/22/2014	789	VOID	\$ 00.00	\$ 9,135.45
2/22/2014	790	USPS Educational Fund	\$(263.00)	\$ 8,872.45

General Committee Reports

- **Auditing Chair** – P/C Susan Unger, N, was unable to attend.
- **Nominating Chair** – P/D/C Larry Stout, SN

The nomination committee is actively looking for members willing to serve in various positions at the district level. We have bridge positions open for executive officer, treasurer and secretary. Opportunities to serve the district are also available on the Planning Committee, Rules Committee, Nomination Committee (Will need a member from Beaver Lake or Norman squadrons per the Bylaws.) and Audit Committee. The time required for these positions is normally minimal but still important to the district.

The District needs your help. Please call or send an e-mail to Denise or Danny letting them know of your interest. Their contact information is as follows:

P/D/C Denise Winn, P
918.791.9337
E-mail: kdwinn@att.net

P/D/C Danny Goss, JN
405.376.0678
E-mail: dannygoss@earthlink.net

As the current nomination committee chairman, I want to apologize for a mistake made a couple of years ago. A member recently brought to my attention that a previous appointment to the nomination committee did not comply with the District Bylaws. The section reads as follows:

- 2.9.1 The NOMINATING COMMITTEE shall consist of three (3) members with not more than one (1) member from any squadron. One (1) shall be elected each year for a term of three (3) years to fill any vacancies occasioned by the expiration of a term of office. This committee shall be so constituted that the members considered for this committee will be Past District Commanders, Past District Lieutenant Commanders, or Past Squadron Commanders. No member shall succeed himself on the committee or be nominated by this committee for any elective Bridge Office (Commander, Executive Officer, Educational Officer, Administrative Officer, Secretary, and Treasurer) of the District for one year after his term on this committee. The Nominating Committee shall select and nominate an eligible candidate for each. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be mailed first class or hand delivered, or sent by electronic transmission, to the District Secretary not less than forth-five (45) days prior to the date of the Fall Conference.

Denise Winn and I are both members of Grand Lake which violated our district Bylaws. Since this year concludes my third year, and I served as chairman last year, I am submitting my resignation from the nomination committee. This will allow Denise Winn to continue serving along with Danny Goss, both of whom are both past district commanders. Denise would be the senior member of the committee.

A third member will need to be nominated from either Norman or Beaver Lake to comply with the Bylaws.

I am sorry that I am unable to attend the council and conference meetings this year, the first that I have missed in several years but Mary Ann and I have a family commitment.

Report submitted by:

P/D/C Larry Stout, SN-IN, Chairman

Planning Chair –

D/Ltc/C Davis was not in attendance and no report submitted

D/Ltc/C Janie Davis S

D/Lt/C Sweeten stated we went through the District Bylaws in 2011 and 2012 we voted to keep the Planning Committee under a voting Committee so the Chairman could be a voting member of the Council and Conference. We determined that the District has very few people voting now and it would behoove us to keep Planning as a voting committee. We did not follow the model bylaws and it was approved by National Rules Committee to keep the committee on the council and conference. See following message.

From: Pegymiller74344@aol.com [mailto:Pegymiller74344@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 12:00 PM
To: DRLSTOUT@YAHOO.COM; WMMILLER@aol.com; jdsweeten1@suddenlink.net
Cc: pegymiller74344@aol.com
Subject: Planning committee - Preliminary D/31 /bylaws

I went into the preliminary bylaws sent to me by national and the planning committee was still listed as a committee on our council. Previously 2012 model bylaws changed the planning committee to a standing committee and no longer part of the council. We wanted the planning committee chairman to still get a vote.

If Nancy Gibson is asked to become Chairman of the committee do we have to have a vote by council and then conference to change her to Chairman so she can vote. I would think so????

I will attached the preliminary bylaws to you. I sent them to Pete and really did expect him to send them out to council and I expected him to call an electronic vote before the conference so we could pass the bylaws and have them presented to the conference. That was not done so I expect it will be at the next council now that the bylaws might be passed.

2.9.4 The Planning Committee shall consist of three (3) members, with preferably not more than one (1) from any squadron. One (1) shall be elected each year for a term of three (3) years to fill the vacancies occasioned by the expiration of a term of office. This committee shall be so constituted that members from the following categories may be considered for this committee: past district commanders, past district lieutenant commanders, past squadron commanders and other past lieutenant commanders. The Planning Committee shall make recommendations for proposed changes benefiting the District in response to queries from the Council, the Conference, or from within the committee. It shall file an annual report at the Fall Conference.

Danny Goss made the motion to change D/Lt/C Janie Davis as Planning Committee Member and change D/Lt/C Nancy Gibson AP as Planning Committee Chairman. GL Cdr Gene Pette seconded, motion carried.

- **Rules Committee Chairman**

The Amended District Bylaws have been accepted as preliminary Bylaws for 2014 . As soon as the District Council and Conference accept them they will become a reality.

Stf/C Margaret K. Miller, S District Rules Chairman

Standing (Appointed) Committee Reports:

- Budget and Finance Committee Chairman – Stf/C Margaret K. Miller, S

Stf/C Miller would like to have two more people on the committee so we could present some ideas to the Fall Conference.

- Membership – Vacant
- Law – Vacant
- Personnel – Vacant
- USPS Educational Fund - P/R/C Steve Johnson, AP, was ill and unable to attend.

Old Business:

Stf/C Miller stated as per the bylaws, only one person per squadron can be members of the Nominating Committee. Nomination from floor was made for P/D/C be the Nominating Committee Chairman, seconded by P/D/C Goss, motion carried.

Commander's Report:

D/C Zurhorst thanked everyone for all the efforts extended to the District and for attending today's Spring Conference. He stated his concerns for our lack of attendance and what appears to be weakening Squadrons. He asked anyone having ideas and/or recommendations of how the District can reach out and help to please contact him.

New Business:

It was discussed due to the shrinking District the bylaws should be changed from preventing only one Nominating Committee Members from the same squadron. P/D/C Winn will contact Beaver Lake and Norman for input and recommendation for a third person.

Stf/C Miller, Rules Committee Chair discussed Norman's lack of Squadron Bylaws. D/C Zurhorst stated he has contacted Norman regarding this issue and at present has not had a response.

The subject of inactive squadrons and how it should be handled was discussed at great length.

D/Lt/C Holden stated rather than just deciding to close a squadron, we develop a working committee to contact each Squadron and ask HOW CAN WE HELP. What can we do to rejuvenate our squadrons? The suggestion was well taken and the consensus was all our squadrons are equally important. D/C Zurhorst and Stf/C Miller readily volunteered to work with D/Lt/C Holden in this endeavor and will attempt to have possible solutions by the Summer Council in September.

D/C Zurhorst stated he would like to see a District 31 Ensign developed. Discussion from floor determined we would use the existing D31 emblem with dark blue trim. D/Lt/C made a motion to move forward with it, seconded by P/D/C Williams, motion carried.

GL Cdr Pett reminded everyone about the upcoming Change of Watch to be held October 24, 25, & 26. This year's event will also include the Grand Lake COW as well and stated more information would be forth coming.

D/C Zurhorst thanked P/C/C Dvorak for his attendance, information and recommendations.

P/D/C Goss made motion to adjourn and seconded by GL Cdr Pett seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted
District Secretary,
D/Lt/C Marilyn Goss, P