



Minutes of Voyageur District Annual General Meeting

June 01, 2008

Riverside Inn
Bracebridge, Ontario

D/C Jack McIrvine, who took the chair, called the Annual General Meeting of the District Council to order at 1109. Caven Ford was the secretary at this time. Jack introduced Harry Cole, C/C to those assembled.

ROLL CALL:

District Officers:	D/C	Jack McIrvine
	D/E/O	Terry Lang
	D/T/O	Cam Quesnel
	D/Sec	Caven Ford
	D/PRO	Bill Ramsay
	D/Hist	Earl Bryant
	P/D/C	Horst Mattern
Squadron Cdr's:	Bracebridge	Ken Holland
	Sudbury	Terry Polkinghorne
Officers and Guests:	Harry Cole	C/C
	Marilyn Cole	
	Ian Willmott	
	Britt McIrvine	
	Red Bows	
	Bill Fee	
	Keith Shantz	

The chairman stated that there were 10 voting members present which constituted a quorum and therefore the meeting was properly constituted and in order.

Notice of Meeting:

The chairman advised that the notice calling the meeting had been delivered at the last District Meeting.

Minutes of Meeting:

The chairman advised that the minutes of the **May 27, 2007** AGM were available from the secretary or at the back of the room.

The chairman asked if there were any errors or omissions.

The chairman asked that someone make a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last AGM presented, and that these minutes be signed by the chairman and the secretary.

Motion #1 moved by **Camille Quesnel** and seconded by **Horst Mattern**:

That we dispense with the reading of the minutes and that they be accepted as amended and be signed by the chairman and secretary.

Carried unanimously

Business arising from the minutes:

The chairman asked the meeting if there was any business arising from the minutes of the meeting of **May 27, 2007:**

- There have been a variety of emails regarding the revival of the Manitoulin Squadron and the meeting to form a bridge. As there are only a small number of people interested in the marina at Kagawong, there is little chance of a joint venture. The interested group proposes to leave things as is until the fall where they will give us an update at our next General Meeting. Jack urged more action if possible in the meantime. Since the meeting, June Edwards has been in contact with a 4th person interested in training. Camille indicates the 2 RP's are busy doing Boat Pro courses. Kagawong has a family to be dock master and the Manitoulin Squadron asked Camille to go do a VHF course for them
- There is a prospect for a new Squadron to hold courses etc. in Rouyn Noranda. The current status is there have been 8 students take the course and 7 have passed. There will be a graduation with Tri-Towns squadron in 2 weeks. Serge St. Martin says they are not quite ready to form a squadron as they do not have enough people yet. They do have enough interested people to warrant putting on another class. It is likely 3 or 4 years before they can form their own squadron. Currently they have someone to be assistant Training Officer with Tri-Towns to continue the French training.

District Officers Reports: presented and copies attached to official minutes.

- D/C – Jack McIrvine – report filed
- D/E/O – Terry Lang – report filed (D/Web/Master report filed as well)
- D/T/O - Camille Quesnel – report filed
- D/A/O – Elizabeth Appleton – absent, no report filed
- D/Sec - Caven Ford – report filed
- D/Treas – Ivan Gough – absent, report filed

Motion #2 moved by **Horst Mattern** and seconded by **Bill Ramsay:**

That we accept the report of the District Treasurer as presented

Carried unanimously

- D/P/R/O – Bill Ramsay – verbal report – nothing much to report
- D/Marep - John Mason – absent, no report filed
- D/Port/C - Doug Hay – absent, no report filed
- D/Memb – Warren Ginson – absent, no report filed – Jack presented the renewal numbers for the District.
- D/Youth - vacant
- A/D/T/O - Garry DeCourcy – absent, no report filed
- D/Enviro – vacant
- D/Comm - Gilbert Desjardins – absent, no report
- D/Hist - Earl Bryant – no report filed
- P/D/C – Horst Mattern – no report except for Nominating Committee

Squadron Cdr Reports: presented and copies attached to official minutes.

- Bracebridge – Ken Holland – report filed
- Huntsville - Paul McKinnon – absent, no report
- Manitoulin - Francois Legault – absent, no report
- North Channel - Bob Boudreau – absent, no report
- North Bay - Doug Hay – absent, report filed by Caven
- Parry Sound – Estelle Montpellier – absent, no report filed
- Sault Ste Marie – Garry Decourcy – absent, no report filed
- Sudbury – Terry Polkinghorne – report filed
- Tri Town – Lorne Hilcoat – absent, verbal report given by Bill Ramsay – Bill mentioned an issue with readability in the Boat Pro tests and C/C Harry Cole indicated that Transport Canada is creating a database of questions that everyone must use and this is expected in a couple months.

Motion #3 moved by **Earl Bryant** and seconded by **Horst Mattern:**

That we accept the Squadron Commander's reports.

Carried unanimously

LUNCH BREAK 1215 to 1300

NEW BUSINESS:

- Camille Quesnel presented trophies as follows:
 - Most Advanced and Elective Courses – North Channel Squadron
 - Huffman Trophy – highest % passes of the boating course – Tri Towns Squadron
 - Highest % Average – Parry Sound - Tri Towns Squadron who have misplaced the trophy.
 - Greatest % increase in Membership – not presented
 - Commander's Choice award for the most improved Squadron – not presented
 - Outstanding Squadron Member award for contribution for Boating safety – not presented.
- At this point in the meeting, Chief Commander Harry Cole spoke to the members present:
 - Harry thinks the North Bay Squadrons Annual bust trip to the Toronto Boat Show is a fantastic idea. He is going to take the idea to National and see about getting other districts to do it.
 - Harry touched on Associate Member renewals and what can be done to encourage them to renew. Currently Boat Pro graduates receive associate memberships and Boating grads receive regular memberships for one year. National is looking into anniversary billing allowing for new members to be billed for their membership on the date they joined and not just once a year as is done now. This spreads out the income flow and the effort involved. A question was raised by Kieth Shantz about what contact these associate members get from National. Harry indicated they get Porthole for 4 issues plus newsletters from squadrons that include them. Harry noted they need to be told what they are getting into and squadrons need to include them more in what we do.
 - Harry noted that Sudbury states a minimum of 6 students to put on a course and asks if it is not possible to find another squadron that could provide more students.
 - Tri Towns squadron's focussing on youth is a good idea and is a great way to get parents involved as well. Kieth suggests that Porthole does not provide much for youth. Harry says they are working on providing more youth oriented articles. He also notes that if everyone wrote an article, Porthole would always be full! Bill suggests something like Trailer Boating magazine would be a better choice for Associate members.
 - Harry thinks Tri Towns' weather message sponsored by the squadron is a great idea and suggests perhaps changing the message to reach those that are not yet CPS members.
 - Harry is pleased to hear that Voyageur is using tele-conferencing as a way to maintain contact and save money.
 - National is changing renewal methods. Currently the renewal notice is sent by mail and a second reminder is sent if required. Where possible the reminder is being sent by email and with renewals online counting for 31% of all renewals, it equates to 10 or 11,000 people and a total saving of \$5.00 per person.
 - The marketing committee now has CPS on YouTube and is looking into i-tunes. Promotional materials can be obtained from Headquarters. These can be customized and an electronic copy sent to the squadron for their use. They are also looking at a cost price to produce them for the squadrons.
 - Mentors are necessary, especially for Squadrons at Risk; a process that works.
 - District and Squadron websites can be hosted on the national site with portals for free websites linked to the National site. There are many resources available to squadrons and we just have to start learning how to use them.
 - A new WBAS help system is being created to explain everything about the Web Based Administration System.
 - CPS is in a state of change and we have to embrace it and do everything we can to make it work.
 - We are hoping for 5 to 10% retention of the associate members after their first year of free membership.
 - CPS is still looking at operational effectiveness. Governing Board, for instance, costs over \$100,000.00 to get together for meetings so they are looking at different ways to do business to save money. Changes are still a year or so away. National AGM's are going to switch to major hubs only in a few years.
 - See the Member's Moorings for the electronic version of the Officer's Manuals.
 - Harry is sending out a survey next week about the proposed PFD legislation that will see the wearing of life jackets in vessels 6m or less mandatory. CPS wants to know what member's opinions are on the subject so they can send the details to Transport Canada. There will also be a Safe Boating Week questionnaire that will seek to determine how many squadrons actually take part. There is a question as to who should get the credit for this activity as the Safe Boating Council takes the credit but CPS seems to be doing all the work. There is a proposal afoot that will move the Safe Boating Week to the 3rd week

in June to put it more in line with most of the countries actual boating time.

- Transport Canada has opened a security department as security has become a big issue. This department is similar to the Office of Boating Safety. Currently there is no legislation pertaining to pleasure boating, but there is going to be a requirement for an ALS system on some boats.
- Transport Canada and CPS are working together on the Pleasure Craft Courtesy Checks and it is going well.
- Cowan Insurance covers you for in-boat training purposes under National's insurance as long as your boat is also insured by them.
- Harry discussed some awards given out by National. The Howard Peck Award is given to the country's top volunteer. The G. William Bowman Volunteer Instructor award is given to the top nominated instructor. The ICom Canada Electronic Course Instructor of the year Award has 3 recipients throughout the country. The SPOT award goes to 4 of the top nominated Squadron or District officer.
- Mid Canada District is going to stay under the National District instead of becoming part of Voyageur or some other District at least for another year. There are 4 squadrons in the district and they are all doing well.
- Harry thanked everyone for their hospitality and for inviting him to the meeting. John McIrvine presented Harry and Marilyn with a burgee from the district and a large jug of local Maple Syrup. Their real jug is being fedex'd to British Columbia for them.

- Ivan Gough raised the question of a stipend for the financial reviewer.

Motion #4 moved by **Camille Quesnel** and seconded by **Terry Polkinghorne**:

That we pay a stipend of \$75.00 to the financial reviewer.

Carried unanimously

- Nominating Committee Chairman Horst Mattern presented the report of the nominating committee (attached) and asked if there had been any new nominations forwarded to the secretary. There were no new nominations mailed to the secretary, **Caven Ford**, so he cast one vote to close the election of the nomination committee.
- Terry Lang was pledged in as District Commander by Harry Cole and the new Bridge was then pledged by Harry.
- Terry Lang presented the Past Commander's flag to Jack and Jack in turn presented the Commanders flag to Terry at which point Terry took over the meeting.
- Proposed dates for District Meetings were discussed and the following decided:
 - September 21, 2008 – Sudbury - this will be a meeting the STO's should attend as well
 - January 25, 2009 – conference call format
 - April 19, 2009 – Sudbury
 - May 24, 2009 – AGM – Sudbury
- Terry thanked all for their confidence in him as District Commander and spoke a few words on his intentions and complimented Jack on his term as D/C. Terry noted that Squadron data flows up towards National and Squadrons have a say in how things are to be.

Invitation to terminate:

There being no further business, the chairman requested a motion to terminate.

Motion #5 moved by **Bill Ramsay**:

That there being no more business, this meeting is adjourned.

Carried unanimously

Termination: 1400

D/C Jack McIrvine_____

D/Sec Caven Ford_____

P/D/Cdr Horst Mattern_____