**The District Meeting was called to order at 1306.**

Quorum

A quorum of at least 6 District Officers, plus at least 3 Squadron Commanders (or Representative), were present, as evidenced by the roll call.

Roll Call (19 in Total) \* = names listed elsewhere

Officers

Scott Homan, S Tracie Berekoff, P

Alice Baratta, JN Bob Parke, AP

Karen Connor, AP Harry Harris, S

Joe Gatfield, JN Peter Fuhry, SN

Nick Baratta, JN Mavis Colyer

Attendees:

Goderich

Cdr Shelley Reder Scott Homan, S\*

London

Cdr Alice Baratta, JN\* Nick Baratta, JN\*

Bob Parke, AP\* Peter Fuhry, SN\*

Karen Connor, AP\*

Sarnia

Cdr Pete Jones, SN P/D/C Jeff Evans, AP

Hazel Huffman P/D/C Chris Schooley, P

Tillsonburg - absent

Wallaceburg

Mavis Colyer\* Mike Croxford

Windsor

Cdr Peter Steeves, P Joe Gatfield, JN\*

Tracie Berekoff, P\* Gay Viecelli

Maurice Marwood

Past District Commanders

Mavis Colyer\* Joe Gatfield, JN\*

Bob Parke, AP\* Jeff Evans, AP\*

Karen Connor, AP\* Chris Schooley, P

Introduction of Guests & Other Acknowledgements

Sarnia – Hazel Huffman

Wallaceburg – Mike Croxford

Windsor – Director Maurice Marwood (Teams), Gay Viecelli

1. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Motion by Pete Jones and seconded by Harry Harris that we waive reading and approve the January 10, 2024 minutes as presented.

Vote: Carried

1. Business Arising From Minutes: None
2. Correspondence: None
3. Reports of the District Officers

D/C Scott Homan (District Commander)

Good Afternoon, everyone! Thank you to those that were able to attend today’s meeting!

I’ll start with a few reminders…

1. It’s not too late to submit merit hours for your squadron. If you are having trouble, let me know and I can add them on your behalf.
2. Squadron AGMs. They are fast approaching. You should have a date set or be setting a date soon. Please let me know as I need to block off time for this. I’ll need Date, time, and place if in person or virtual.
3. Courses. Currently only a ¼ of CPS ECP squadrons are listing/selling/hosting courses. Roughly 30 squadrons. This is not new. During COVID we had about the same numbers. However, the ¼ that were selling courses were selling virtual courses like hotcakes. That has dwindled. On Joe’s behalf I’ve asked that the Virtual class button be reinstated. Since its demise, there has been a noticeable decrease in virtual classes purchased. Bob has also recently spoken with Walley Wells and concurs that there is a trend similar now across Canada. We still need to do our part. We still need to try to sell courses. This is our main source of income. The well will dry up in a few years if this trend stays. Co-listing courses and sharing instructors is key here.
4. Which brings me to point number 4…. Stagnant Squadrons. This is something that the board and the national executive are grappling with. There are a great number across Canada that have not been educating and have gone somewhat dormant. Some have a lack of volunteers, and some have other reasons. Our mandate is to teach safe boating. I need you all to do that. There can’t be any wavering on this. If you are not fulfilling the mandate, then there needs to be thought put into whether your Squadron is viable. There is the potential that your warrant could be rescinded. While there is no clear course yet as to what will happen to these Squadrons, I am hopeful that we will be pre-emptive. Our District faces some of these challenges and I hope they can be overcome.
5. Awards. Please put your thinking caps on for our annual District Awards! It’s a great way to thank our many volunteers!
6. New tag line is coming!!! The reveal will be very soon!!!

At the meeting, mentioned that District is not in good shape and, just as it is for Squadrons, it’s getting tougher to find candidates for District bridge. Executive Committee is starting to ponder alternatives to our current structure and will bring suggestions forward. More will come on this in future.

Chris mentioned that since P/D/C’s no longer have a vote, the motivation to come out to meetings is no longer there.

Tracie Berekoff (Executive Officer) (Teams)

Just a friendly reminder that all District Award submissions are due this month. Please submit to me ASAP.

If you know of anyone that would like to sponsor one of these awards, please let me know and I will reach out to them.

At the meeting, indicated awards are due no later than March 31st. If you have someone or something worthy of an award, but you don’t know what category to use, please submit and Tracie will slot accordingly.

Alice Baratta (Educational Officer)

It is great to see that Windsor, Goderich and London are all teaching students in various courses.

I see a number of Education issues that need to be addressed.

1. The IT system is very frustrating to many SEO’s with student’s trying to register. They have their wallet open and then cannot complete the transaction. Some I’m sure give up and once more CPS-ECP loses.

“Print on demand” also is not working very well. After the order is placed a Squadron waits for at least 1 ½ months for material and the class has been in progress with no material for the student.

A Squadron cannot have students register and have another person or organization pay without the student seeing how much or pay in one lump sum. I would think that this could be done easily by using a code given to that group to enter when it is time to pay. That way the SEO does not have to register all the students when entering the passing mark for that course. It also would be less confusing for all parties involved. Right now, there is only one way to register, and the student cannot complete it without paying.

1. We need to have the category Online instructed, or virtual Classroom because students that see 2 headings (classroom and online) will choose online and then after the fact realize it is self study, but that is not what they had wanted. Many still want to be instructed and because of our virtual classes there are students who become members which in turn is revenue for National. These students being happy with their training will lead to a good chance of them taking another course and telling others of how much they learned from that Squadron and how interesting it was.

We do want CPS-ECP to succeed but they won’t if they do not listen to the Squadrons.

1. Our National Education Officer, Eric Phinney is having a meeting on Saturday April 6th, 2024. He wrote that we would have “a report from NEO and then discuss the next priorities should be we must double the number of courses that we are teaching in short order so it is time to think outside the box and perhaps do some things that will be challenging for some. The clock is ticking, and we must make some changes.”

Unfortunately, I am teaching an in Class Boating 1 at Hully Gully that day. I cannot change the date since it is advertised by Hully Gully, 98 radio and on the National site. I hope someone will represent District at this meeting and push some of the issues that will help CPS-ECP not hinder the organization financially as well as our mandate to educate.

I want to thank all the Squadrons that are working hard in looking after the students interested in education and thank you, SEO’s, for being patient with the problems.

At the meeting, emphasized that Squadrons need to co-list courses, so that if they don’t have an instructor, another Squadron can supply one for a virtual course (e.g., Goderich, London or Windsor are teaching). Co-listing is easy to setup and share your Squadron’s students with others to ensure they get the education they want and need. Alice asked everyone to work together and mentioned that Squadrons should look internally for someone to setup courses on National website if Education Officer unable to do this.

Joe mentioned how co-listing has worked in past. Recently, sent a student to Oakville as Windsor only had one registrant in a virtual course. Joe proctored the student and instructor told him the marks, which Joe entered. Feels National is failing Squadrons by pushing the virtual option aside.

Pete Jones asked if it was possible to have a hybrid class (virtual and in person). It is. Alice indicated Squadrons have to get courses setup and students registered and others in District will help them with the administration and instruction. Joe indicated you can service more easily small class sizes virtually and has found it hasn’t been hard to develop relationship with students. Good interaction can occur with students. Bob clarified instructor led (virtual) vs online (self study).

A discussion on other administrative and National Office issues ensued.

Bob indicated there will be a proposal that a staff member be given responsibility of assigning Teams ID and setting up volunteer permissions, as it needs to be done asap to retain new volunteers.

Chris, Hazel, Joe and Bob discussed financial reporting issues. Joe indicated financial reporting information is in Teams and he will help anyone having difficulties accessing it. He indicated Squadron Officers should go to their District counterpart first for assistance, rather than going directly to the National Office. Bob indicated new financial reports will be fixed and anticipates them being available, via National Website, to Financial Officers this year to deal with Membership and Course Revenue and Accounts Payable. Until that is done, Teams is where this information resides.

Bob Parke (Administration Officer)

I have not much activity since the January 10th District Council meeting.

Thank you to the Sarnia Yacht Club for again providing their facilities for the March in person meeting.

Thank you to the Sarnia Squadron for hosting today’s meeting and lunch.

This meeting will be our first hybrid meeting. There may be some glitches, but that is part of the learning experience. So ask everyone to be patient.

With regards to our Mail Chimp Program, it has been at no cost for the District to this point. But I was advised there may be some changes coming to the terms of use. I am having Drew Climie review the terms of use.

From National Membership Committee

A dedicated member of the National Membership Committee will now be receiving CC’s of all membership payments failures for Auto Renewal and Manual Renewals. There are numerous reasons for failures - expired credit cards, changed contact information that doesn’t agree with credit card, programming issues, etc.

**Upcoming Meetings**

**Date Time Activity Where Sponsor**

Apr 10/24 1930 Exec Meeting Teams

Apr 21/24 1100 District AGM WYC Windsor

May 08/24 1930 Exec Meeting Teams

May 15/24 1900 District Council Teams District

Jun 1/24 1930 Exec Meeting Teams

Jun 8/24 1000 Landezvous Joe‘s Cottage

At the meeting, Chris mentioned a new member that became an active volunteer because of Bob’s assistance in getting his membership record active.

Karen Connor (Secretary) Teams

I’m back from Panama! But, leaving again on Thursday for Cozumel, so I’ll be attending the District Council meeting via Teams.

Activities since our last meeting:

* Published notice of meeting for March’s District Council meeting, issued January’s draft minutes and drafted meeting script for March’s meeting.
* Will be attending District Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday and issuing minutes.

Many thanks to Jeanne Marchand for taking the January 10th minutes. I very much appreciated her filling in for me while I was hiking in January.

At the meeting, thanked Jean again for taking January’s minutes and apologized to Cdr Pete Jones for not updating on a couple more confirms for lunch. Hopefully lunch wasn’t too light!

Harry Harris (Membership Officer)

The National Membership Reports for January and February arrived Monday, and are as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | January | February |
| Paid Up | 360 | 366 |
| Paid Up Family | 53 | 52 |
| No charge | 63 | 63 |
| No charge Family | 7 | 7 |
| Outstanding | 41 | 9 |
| Outstanding Family | 6 | 2 |
| Total | 530 | 499 |

As of Mar. 5, the Total Membership was 667, consisting of 650 Active and 17 Inactive members. NOTE: These numbers are based on the “Subscription Status” from each of the 6 Squadrons, and does not include “cancelled”, “expired”, or “trash” notations.

Highlights from the Jan. 25 DMO Meeting, to which SMOs were invited.

1. IT Update

* correcting 456 non-member renewals
* rejoin date becomes one’s new renewal date
* rejoin occurs 30 days past renewal date
* auto renewal – 30-day notice prior to renewal date

1. 8 Memorandums of Agreement are in template form awaiting approval
2. Dual Membership

* member belongs to 2 or more Squadrons
* IT System accepts only 1 Squadron affiliation
* SMOs contact the member to ascertain their primary Squadron, and send a note to Liz Laverty with that information

1. Membership 2.1 version upgrades – credit card profiles, auto renewal, duplicate credit card, and auto renewal directed to your credit card on file.
2. Letter of Congratulations from National is sent to every student who successfully completed a course (PCOC, Maritime Radio etc.) with a sticker to affix to their Certificate.

At the meeting, Chris mentioned that a new member got a package from National and commented that he was happy with it. Bob mentioned that the member package is being reviewed by Liz Laverty, Membership Services Associate, at National Office, to give it a new fresh look and make sure everything is accurate.

Joe Gatfield (RVCC Officer)

This is just a quick update to advise that the 2024 RVCC materials are available from the online store at CPS-ECP. Decals and forms come in packages of 24 and are FREE. We had three Squadrons participate last year and it is an excellent way to develop relationships in your marine community.

Coming from Windsor, I know they already have set a tentative plan in place of the various harbours, clubs and marinas they plan on approaching to do RVCC’s with their boaters. You too can get that plan in place now for spring/summer action.

Also, there is a new brochure ‘Pocket Guide for Boaters’ available in the online store ($15 for 100) that makes a great handout to any of the boaters you interact with.

Questions on the program, please contact me.

At the meeting, Joe suggested Squadrons holding RVCCs provide some swag, such as that which he suggested in his report. He also mentioned that the Squadron entity (e.g., [Sarnia@cps-ecp.org](mailto:Sarnia@cps-ecp.org)) has to order decals and forms, not individual officers.

Peter Fuhry (Communications Officer)

The District website has been updated. The presentations made at the Jan 10/24 meeting have been posted on the website. The error reported at the last meeting has been corrected thanks to Mr. Parke and Janet Fraser. This is our 1st hybrid meeting.

At the meeting, thanked Sarnia for lunch.

N Baratta (USPS Liaison Officer)

USPS 09 Spring Conference is taking place at the Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel, 2111 Haggerty Rd., Novi, Michigan at the new date of Friday April 12th to Sunday April 14th. The hotel’s special rate is US$119.00 per night plus state and local taxes with reservations no later than March 22, 2024.

D/C Al Schwaller got back to me with the information clarifying that the hotel will not allow outside food or drinks to come into the conference but that the hotel will supply the food and a cash bar for the Friday night hospitality with District 9 paying the food bill. The hotel is providing the food trays to be sponsored by D9. D9 is supplying two trays and is asking Squadrons to donate a tray or two of their choice from a list of hot canapes or cold canapes or platter style items such as fresh fruit or raw veggie platter or cheese and crackers etc. with their identity on them.

I got the list of food trays with the prices for each tray based on 50 people with two pieces per person. The range is from $295 to $1,110 per tray.

Commander Al suggested some Squadrons are teaming up to supply a tray, so I contacted Birmingham Commander Julian Fiander to see if we could team with them. He got back to me to say that they are sponsoring two $370.00 trays, but we could team up on one, if we want, and, if we are working with a specific budget, it would not have to be 50/50.

At this point I need some input from the District bridge as to how far we can go with this expense.

I am following up on hotel reservation and Conference registration so that Alice and I can attend.

At the meeting, Nick made a motion that District share the cost of food trays with Birmingham Squadron. The cost would be $370US plus tax, or, approximately $550CDN. The motion was seconded by Alice. D/C Scott as for questions or comments and as there were none, called for the vote.

Vote: Carried

Drew Climie (Assistant Communications Officer)

Absent - No report

P/D/C Mavis Colyer

Present. No report.

Motion by Shelley Reder and seconded by Peter Steeves that the District Officers’ reports be accepted and filed.

Vote: Carried

Joe Gatfield (Financial Officer)

The attached internal Financial Report reflects the current cash position of the District accurately and the bank has been reconciled to February 29, 2024.

The following should be noted:

* National has released dues collected through to and including November, 2023. National also released the HST Payments payable for the fiscal year ends 2021 and 2022. This is the amount you will see deposited on February 2, 2024. The amount will be less than you reflected on your financials for those years as not all of the amount claimed is refundable by the Federal Government.
* The dues revenue information through to January, 2024 is now available and the receivable by WOD is $167.50 less S/C of $6.70 equals $160.80
* As this is the last District meeting left in this fiscal year prior to the AGM in April, please ensure any bills payable by the District are presented for payment at this meeting.
* March 31, 2024 is the fiscal year end for the District and all Squadrons. Please ensure you have your Financial Review in order as reviewed Financials must be remitted to National and the District Financial Officer (me).

The District is financially stable.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS** | | | |
| For the period April 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024 | | | |
|  | **Current Year** | **Budget** | **Previous Year** |
| **RECEIPTS** |  |  |  |
| Member Dues | 4,034.50 | 2,100.00 | 215.00 |
| CPS-ECP Courses conducted | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Meetings and Events | 460.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 |
| Advertising revenue | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Regalia sales | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Interest and HST recovery | 649.37 | 100.00 | 0.00 |
| Award Sponsorship | 1,000.00 | 1,250.00 | 1,250.00 |
| **Total Receipts** | 6,143.87 | 3,950.00 | 1,465.00 |
| **DISBURSEMENTS** |  |  |  |
| Meetings and Events | 1,195.91 | 1,510.00 | 888.35 |
| Travel and Accommodations | 300.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Advertising, PR and Awards | 791.08 | 1,000.00 | 963.86 |
| Office, Postage and Stationery | 77.84 | 300.00 | 196.79 |
| Telephone and Communications | 0.00 | 300.00 | 264.42 |
| Dues and Contributions | 450.00 | 450.00 | 250.00 |
| Interest and Bank Charges | 66.00 | 72.00 | 72.00 |
| Ntl Service Charges on receipts | 160.90 | 84.00 | 8.60 |
| **Total Disbursements** | 3,041.73 | 3,716.00 | 2,644.02 |
| **Surplus or (Deficit)** | 3,102.14 | 234.00 | -1,179.02 |
| **Cash in Bank (beginning)** | 17,862.07 |  | 19,041.09 |
| **Cash in Bank** | 20,964.21 |  | 17,862.07 |
| **HST Paid** | 137.39 |  | 174.59 |

At the meeting, Joe reviewed the Receipts and Disbursements statement. He mentioned that the Travel and Accommodations costs and some of the Meetings & Events include a nominal amount reimbursed to D/C Scott, covering 4 years of travel and attendance at National Conferences.

Joe indicated that National hasn’t contacted him regarding settling up on 2023 National Conference and AGM, so he will be following up with them shortly.

Motion by Mavis Colyer and seconded by Alice Baratta to approve the Financial Officer’s report as presented.

Vote: Carried

1. Reports of the Squadron Commanders

Goderich: Cdr Shelley Reder

Happy Almost Spring!

We have the following scheduled:

SEMINARS

Our team is working on some new seminars, revisiting some stellar ones to come back to. Brian and Colleen Keech presented our FIRST hybrid seminar on Saturday, January 13th at 11:00 (in person at Harbour Lights Marina Club House and ZOOM ) with 14 in person and 28 online. This led into the sailing course started in February. This seminar will be presented in person at the Goderich Yacht Club March 23rd, a few members of our team will be present to promote GPSS.

Fall 2024 will be Chris Thatcher – Marine Surveys

COURSES

Carolyn registered students for the ROC(M) course with Moodle access for self study. Some bugs worked out having our own team registered, it worked perfectly in the end.

Sailing Course is in session. We have 6 registered. This course was duplicated on other squadron sites to promote to a larger area and showing that other squadrons are active and providing courses throughout the year.

EVENT DAYS

We are planning a social for May 5, 2024 for wine and cheese 2-4 to recruit members and team members. Just light, no seminar or course. Barry Kay has offered to guide us through the RVCC in the spring. I have completed my training for it and will be following up with Wayne Scheifele with his. Wayne is going to be our RVCC officer.

Bayfield Marine is celebrating an anniversary this year, and would like to invite CPS volunteers to come out to celebrate all year long. They are wondering if anyone would be interested to come on a Saturday to promote CPS courses, membership, volunteer opportunities (not just from Goderich CPS, all are welcome)!

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership has increased by 4 and there are some more in the works to be signed up. With our activity this upcoming spring/summer we are sure to increase this. I am receiving the emails from Harry Harris and forwarding to David Bannister for the both of us to learn and take on the Membership Officer role.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20th at 1900 via TEAMS.

We have a tentative date booked for our AGM – Wednesday, May 1st via TEAMS. Prior to our AGM, our team will be looking for Commander and Treasurer roles to be filled.

I thank our amazing Volunteers of our Goderich Power & Sail Squadron! Continuously planning throughout the year.

At the meeting, mentioned that she thought ideal volunteers for the RVCC program would be their new members from C-Tow and Shelley will reach out to them. She also mentioned the May 5th social which is just a get-together to have fun and that Bayfield Marine is celebrating 40 years in business.

London: Cdr Alice Baratta

We had a very busy 2 months.

We enjoyed the Bus trip to the Toronto Boat Show with the Tillsonburg people. Thank you Tillsonburg, for sharing with us.

Between January 26-28, we manned a booth at the Lifestyle Home show and promoted our courses and CPS-ECP and what we do in general. It was good.

We ran a successful Radio Course with 12 students and 9 have successfully passed with 3 who have yet to write.

We have in progress Boating 5 with 6 students, Weather Course with 4 students, Boat and Engine Maintenance with 7 students, Extended Cruising with 9 Students, Sail Course with 4 students with Goderich teaching the course. Thank you, Goderich. We appreciate that we were able to co-list with you.

We have a Radio course in person at Hully Gully on March 23rd and 5 have registered to date.

We have a PCOC course in person at Hully gully on April 6th and 3 have registered to date.

On Feb 22-24 we participated in Hully Gully’s boat show open house. 980 radio was advertising us as well as others on site. We offered a free PCOC course as a prize offered on air for call ins. It was a great success.

On Feb. 11th we had Cam and Heather Stevens do a presentation on the Great Loop. It was very detailed and interesting. A wonderful Sunday afternoon.

We are having a RVCC event on June 1st at Kanagio Yacht Club in Port Stanley.

Our AGM has been scheduled for on May 9th at the Kinsmen Community Centre.

Thank you Squadrons and District for supporting and working together by co-listing, advertising, etc.

At the meeting, mentioned that the ballot for the ICOM radio prize drawn at the Hully Gully Boat Show came from Wallaceburg. It’s been entered into the final draw which takes place after all the spring boat shows are over.

Sarnia: Cdr Pete Jones

No report was submitted.

At the meeting, Pete indicated Sarnia wants to have more general membership meetings with members and other groups like Sarnia Yacht Club. The first one is at SYC next Saturday at 1pm, with Jeff Evans speaking about Cruising Ontario’s Historic Canals: The Trent Severn and Rideau Canals.

Mavis asked if Pete would share this information and he will.

Sarnia’s AGM is April 25th at 6:00 pm at SYC. Jeff presenting Cruising Ontario’s West Coast.

Sarnia is working hard to find replacements for their Acting Secretary, Chris Schooley and their Education Officer.

In late May, Sarnia has engaged Canadian and US customs to speak at SYC to Sarnia and SYC members. This presentation will also be offered to Bluewater Anglers Club.

As late April and May are better for PCOC and Radio courses, Sarnia will schedule then. Currently, waiting for their PCOC Officer, Ossie Ianni, to get back home in order to setup date. Scott suggested setting up the course on CPS-ECP website and changing date later on, if necessary, just to get it on the website and advertised.

Tillsonburg: Cdr Eric Hatzenbuhler

Absent. Report submitted.

I won't be able to attend today. Sorry for the short notice - it slipped my mind. Unfortunately, Joan and Larry are on a cruise for 2 weeks, so there is no one there to represent our Squadron today.

There is not a whole lot too report. We had our boat show trip on January 27th, it was a success, and I would like to thank the London Squadron for their support. We enjoyed having them along once again. Special thanks to Bev Miatello for being the liaison for London.

Our AGM is being held on April 24th.

Wallaceburg: Cdr Mavis Colyer

We are financially solvent.

We have 35 paid up members and 1 unpaid member.

There have been no classes for quite some time.

We are in the process of arranging an all members meeting to discuss the future of the Wallaceburg squadron with the likelihood of surrendering our Warrant. This is not something that has been taken lightly but has been under discussion for some time. All correspondence will be copied to the appropriate officers.

Windsor: Cdr Peter Steeves

I am back onboard and functioning, most days, at nearly 100%. Just have to watch those bumpy roads. Thank you all for waiting.

Windsor had a single student attend courses these past couple of months. Since teaching students one by one would be unsustainable, we arranged with Oakville Squadron to instruct him virtually.

As for our upcoming courses, March 13th's Boating 3 has no registrants but our March 19th ROC(M) has 11 with some attending in BC, NL, NS and Ontario. May 28th's ROC(M) is currenting awaiting registrations.

We are not offering courses in April, as we are currently preparing for:

* March 20, 2024, 6:30 p.m. – Cruising Ontario’s Historic Canals: The Trent Severn and Rideau Canals, with Jeff Evans
* April 21, 2024, 11 a.m. - Western Ontario District Annual General Meeting
* April 24, 2024, 7 p.m. - Windsor Power Squadron Border Crossing event
* May 14, 2024, 7 p.m. - Windsor Power Squadron Annual General Meeting with dinner before hand at 5:30 p.m. at WYC

Everyone is welcome to visit Windsor and attend these events at the Windsor Yacht Club. We are also in the process of contacting organizations and have scheduled tentative dates for our RVCC days. There may be lots of potential here.

Windsor Squadron is financially solvent with 146 members on record with the CPS-ECP membership database.

Motion by Alice Baratta and seconded by Mavis Colyer that the Squadron Commanders’ reports be accepted and filed.

Vote: Carried

1. Past District Commander’s Reports

At the meeting, P/D/C Joe, Chair CPS Foundation spoke about supporting the CPS Foundation. At this time of year, a lot of Squadrons do this via an Honour Roll donation and the formula is $1 per member as of last month-end. Joe mentioned that Squadrons can also do a catch-up Honour Roll donations. The paperwork to do all types of donations are on their website. Joe mentioned the various initiatives the CPS Foundation has supported and thanked everyone for their ongoing support.

Chris asked a question about the process of catching up on Honour Roll donations. Joe indicated a cheque was ok, but paperwork for each year is needed.

P/D/C Jeff Evans

Port Hole Magazine

I continue to write articles for The Port Hole magazine into 2024. National is looking for an editor to replace Paul Rellinger who stepped down last fall. If you wish to consider the opportunity, please contact Marie Dosso.

Toronto International Boat Show

For the 2024 TIBS, I once again provided seminars over the 10-day run for the show and CPS, this time promoting the ports of the West Coast of Ontario from Sarnia to Tobermory which was well received. As well, I manned the CPS-ECP booth in between seminars, again to promote WOD.

Ports Cruising Guide: Lake Huron, The North Channel and Georgian Bay

I recently accepted a position with Kerrwil Publishing as the managing editor of the upcoming 2025 Ports Cruising Guide for the areas above. To that end, I will be reviewing all content in the 2020 guide with an eye to update all details with current information as well as enhance the guide’s content. If you are aware of errors, omissions, or possible additions to the guide, please let me know. One area of focus for me is to strengthen the listing of potential anchorages in the region. Again, if you have recommendations, please let me know.

Seminar Presentations

I have been providing in-person seminars to a number of Squadrons and Districts over the past two years passed upon my TIBS seminars which have been well received. Currently I am providing two seminars:

* “Cruising Ontario’s Historic Canals; the Trent Severn & Rideau Canals” (from 2023 TIBS)
* "Cruising Ontario’s West Coast: Lake Huron Boating Destinations" (from 2024 TIBS)

Please contact me if you are interested in a seminar presentation at an upcoming squadron social event.

At the meeting, Shelley asked about hybrid presentation. Jeff indicated he hasn’t done one yet, but willing to try.

Jeff suggested Squadrons subsidize the cost of an event to encourage attendance and that seminars focussed on fun in a boat vs education would also do this.

Bob indicated the District will help a Squadron advertise an event by eBlasting it to the entire District – just need the information supplied to create the eBlast.

Motion by Peter Steeves and seconded by Mavis Colyer that the Past District Commanders’ reports be accepted and filed.

Vote: Carried

1. Committee Reports

**2023 National Conference and AGM – Tracie**

At the meeting, Tracie mentioned that committee just waiting for financials to settle before closing out last year’s conference, a date has been set for an event to thank the volunteers and eventually the conference guide needs to be re-written, but work on this is pending National’s guidance on the future of annual conference.

**2024 District AGM – Scott & Tracie**

Sunday, April 21 at the Windsor Yacht Club. Will be a one-day event. The AGM is scheduled to take place 1100-1300 followed by lunch from 1300-1400. District Awards will be presented at 1430 and there will be an optional dinner after. Joe has sent out the registration form.

At the meeting, Joe distributed registration forms and mentioned they are available on the District website.

**2024 District Landezvous – Scott & Tracie**

District Meeting and Potluck lunch will be at Joe’s cottage at Rondeau on Saturday, June 8. More details to follow as it gets closer.

At the meeting, Scott reiterated last year’s event was fantastic – great fellowship – and everyone is welcome. Pete wondered if we’ll ever for back to a marina and Scott indicated we might if we think we’ll get enough attendees to make it worthwhile holding at a marina.

Chris suggested holding a Landezvous at ????

**Nominating Committee – Mavis Colyer**

At the meeting, D/C Scott reviewed the committee’s work to date:

D/C – Joe Gatfield

XO – Shelley Reder

DEO – TBC

DAO – Bob Parke

Financial – Joe Gatfield

Secretary – Karen Connor

Membership – Harry Harris

Communications – Peter Fuhry

RVCC – Tracie Berekoff

Asst Secretary – Jeanne Marchand TBC

Asst Communications – Drew Climie

P/D/C – Scott Homan

Motion by Harry Harris and seconded by Bob Parke that the Committee reports be accepted and filed.

Vote: Carried

1. Unfinished Business

None

1. New Business:

None

**Reminder:**

Anyone with bills to be paid should provide copies and completed expense form to Joe Gatfield prior to April 21, 2024 meeting, so they can be authorized for payment at that meeting.

1. Approval for writing of cheques

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **How Much** | **To Whom** | **For What** |
| $250.00 | CPS Foundation | Annual Memorial Donation |
| $125.00 | Sarnia Power and Sail Squadron | District meeting lunch |
| $370.00US  (approx. $550CDN) | Nick Baratta | USPS Spring Conference - hospitality |

Motion by Joe Gatfield and seconded by Bob Parke that the approved cheques be issued.

Vote: Carried

1. Termination of Meeting

**Next District Meeting:**

**District Annual General Meeting**

**Where:** Windsor Yacht Club / Teams for those not able to attend in-person

**When:** Sunday, April 21, 2024

**Time:** 1100 Meeting, 1300 Lunch, 1430 District Awards

**Host:** Windsor/District

Moved by Mavis Colyer that we terminate the District Council meeting.

The District Council meeting was terminated at 1510.