

District 20 Planning Committee 2010

DISTRICTVALUE ADDED

Many members are unaware of the composition, purpose, function, and opportunities that exist within the district. The majority of district personnel are elected with some being appointed. These leaders are squadron members willing to give time and effort for the betterment of USPS. They serve as liaisons among the squadrons and between the squadrons and the national organization. They assist squadrons in facilitating national programs and activities

A strategic goal District 20 states: **"To create an environment which provides for and encourages communication of information to further the USPS and squadron objectives of education, civic service, and fellowship."** To achieve this goal, district strives to gather and disseminate information that will assist the squadrons in areas where it is needed.

DISTRICT MEETINGS and OTHER INTERACTION

- The district organizes and oversees business, educational, and fraternal meetings that are open to all members:
 - 2 Conference / Council weekends - Reports made by Council and Committees members.
 - 1 Operations Training - For officers, committee members, and interested members.
 - 1 Cruise and Rendezvous / Council - Reports made by Council and Committees members.
 - General Executive Committee Meetings - Reports made by Executive Committee.
- Communication is maximized as follows:
 - Business meetings are held for reports on the functions and events of the squadrons, district, and national.
 - Squadron commander and educational department meetings are scheduled.
 - Committees offer training sessions and seminars.
 - Keynote speakers are invited to present pertinent information on topics of interest.
 - National and district awards and photographs are made and published.
 - Various other communication opportunities occur with Committee EXPO booths, Teaching Aids displays, and hands-on safety demonstrations.
 - Friendship and hospitality rooms are often available; discussions usually center on USPS.
- District Bridge and Committees interact in various functions:
 - Oversee their squadron counterparts and offer continuous encouragement and support and impart pertinent information.
 - Attend and report on Governing Board Meetings.
 - The D/C represents and votes by proxy for absentee squadron commanders.
- Fraternal opportunities:
 - Members from all squadrons are invited to come together to meet and interact.
 - Casual and life-long friendships are formed.
 - Multi-squadron activities are created for fraternal and civic activities.
 - First-Time conference attendees are recognized and offered special activities.

DISTRICT INTERNAL / EXTERNAL OVERSIGHT and SUPPORT

- Representatives serve with outside civic agencies and report to the membership on current and pertinent information from the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and Waterways, Fox Waterway Agency, Homeland Security, Legislature, Safety Agencies, IL Mandatory Education Coalition, and the NOAA and Army Corps of Engineers' Co Op Charting program.
- Committees oversee and provide squadron support in Marketing and Public Relations, Cooperative Advertising, Vessel Safety, Educational Course Calendar, Law, and Squadron Support.
- District provides boat show booths and banners, fees, supplies, educational calendar, and display items.

DISTRICT MEDIA VENUES

- Publishes a roster annually.
- Maintains a web site with current information and offers squadrons a web site co-op plan.
- Uses an e-mail list for the dissemination of information.
- Produces and publishes newsletters in hard copy and electronically the Trident (twice a year) and the Trident Extra (3 to 4 times a year). These highlight current and future events including boating activities and joint squadron events and encourage and support squadron efforts.

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- All members have an opportunity to hold district leadership positions ranging from a committee member to a bridge member.
 - There are no prerequisites or qualifications, just a desire to serve and the time and dedication to meet the expectations and obligations of the office.
 - The leaders meet and work with members from all squadrons.
 - New leadership skills are acquired that are useful in USPS and in one's life.
 - Holding a district position is helpful in bringing greater insight and assistance to the squadron as well as in preparation for a national committee position.