

2023 DISTRICT 5 SPRING CONFERENCE BANQUET

MARTY: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

I'm Marty Lafferty,
your Master of Ceremonies for this evening's affair...

Welcome to the twenty twenty-three District Five
Spring Conference Banquet and Change of Watch.
It's my pleasure to open tonight's program...

Will the Captains of the Guard,
Past Commander Jim Gorman, Advanced Pilot,
and District Lieutenant Dave Bernard, Advanced Pilot
please assemble the Honor Guard...

Please welcome
United States Power Squadrons National Representative
Vice Commander Chuck Wells, Senior Navigator,
National Educational Officer and District Five Executive Officer...

United State Power Squadrons National Executive Officer,
Ralph Bernard, Advanced Pilot,
and his wife Nance...

District Assistant Secretary and District Assistant Secretary Elect.
District First Lieutenant Apryl Bernard, Pilot...

District Assistant Educational Officer
and District Assistant Educational Officer Elect
District First Lieutenant Mike Maszczenski, Navigator,
and his wife Lieutenant Commander Georgiana, Seaman...

District Assistant Administrative Officer Elect
Past Commander Ralph Leasure, Seaman,
and his wife Diane...

District Treasurer Elect
Commander Gene Danko, Senior Navigator...

District Secretary and District Secretary Elect
District Lieutenant Commander Penn Hess, Advanced Pilot,
and his wife District Lieutenant Linda...

District Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer Elect
District Lieutenant Commander Frank Hudson, Pilot,
and his wife Catherine...

District Assistant Administrative Officer and Administrative Officer Elect
District First Lieutenant Bill Hammett, Junior Navigator...

District Executive Officer Elect
Past Commander Bob Blevins, Advanced Pilot
and his wife, Lenore...

District Educational Officer and District Educational Officer Elect
District Lieutenant Commander John O'Reilly, Junior Navigator Coastal
Navigation...

District Administrative Officer and District Commander Elect
District Lieutenant Commander Joe Gibson, Advanced Pilot
and wife District Lieutenant Rosa, Advanced Pilot...

And now it's my pleasure to present to you our District Commander
Stephanie Ward, Advanced Pilot,
and her husband Paul Merollo...

Captains of the Guard, please dismiss the Honor Guard...

Please rise for the invocation
given by Chaplain District Lieutenant Nancy Gorman, Seaman.

DAVE: Uncover.

NANCY: (Gives invocation).

MARTY: Thank you, Nancy.

Please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance
led by District Flag Lieutenant Dave Bernard, Advanced Pilot.

DAVE: Recover and breast salute. I pledge allegiance... TWO.

MARTY: Please be seated.

I will now introduce the Past District Commanders present.

I ask them to stand in place, and please hold your applause until all have been introduced.

Nineteen eighty-seven Bill Eldridge, Senior Navigator

Nineteen-ninety Warren Stevens, Senior Navigator

Nineteen ninety-two Bill McManimen, Senior Navigator

Two-thousand two Bill Selden, Advanced Pilot

Two-thousand four Drex Bradshaw, Advanced Pilot

Two-thousand five Dick Nitschke, Senior Navigator

Two-thousand six Kay Simkins, Advanced Pilot

Two-thousand eight Brian Becker, Advanced Pilot

Two-thousand nine Ralph Bernard, Advanced Pilot

Twenty-ten Chris Brown, Senior Navigator

Twenty-eleven Doctor Bernie Karpers, Senior Navigator

Twenty-twelve Jeff McKinney, Junior Navigator

Twenty-fourteen Jim Colston, Advanced Pilot

Twenty-sixteen Randy Stow, Advanced Pilot

Twenty-eighteen Brad Humphrey, Junior Navigator

Twenty-nineteen Walter Neese, Senior Navigator

Twenty-twenty Doctor Jeff Short, Junior Navigator

Twenty-twenty-one Michael Payne, Advanced Pilot

And from twenty-thirteen, yours truly, Marty Lafferty, Advanced Pilot...

Dinner will now be served. Please enjoy your meal.

(DINNER IS SERVED)

(2115 RESUME – SOONER IF POSSIBLE)

MARTY: Ladies and gentlemen
we are now ready to present awards
to those who have achieved excellence in the past year.
District Commander Ward and Vice Commander Wells
please come to the floor to present the awards
(without hats)...

Would District Lieutenant Commander Joe Gibson present
the first-place awards for Vessel Safety Checks.

JOE: (Announces Edward Furst of York Sail & Power Squadron, individual
winner with ____ VSCs, and York Sail & Power Squadron squadron winner
with 432 VSCs).

STEPHANIE AND CHUCK: (Present awards).

MARTY: Would District Lieutenant Commander Joe Gibson now present
the membership growth award
to the squadron with greatest percentage of growth in membership.

JOE: Would the commander of America's Boating Club Northern Neck come forward. America's Boating Club Northern Neck excelled in twenty twenty-two by attracting twenty-nine new members. Commander, USPS computed your twenty twenty-two growth at forty-eight percent. You attracted six new single active members and five new active members with families. I understand from our conversations that this growth is primarily due to classroom Virginia Safe Boating classes. I reemphasize – in-person boating safety classes. We thank you!

STEPHANIE AND CHUCK: (Present award).

MARTY: Would District Lieutenant Commander Joe Gibson now present the first place Snyder Award for the best newsletter in District Five.

JOE: (Announces first place Snyder award to Delhighlights America's Boating Club Lehigh Valley).

STEPHANIE AND CHUCK: (Present award).

MARTY: We are honored to have Vice Commander Chuck Wells as the Chief Commander's representative. Would you like to make some remarks.

CHUCK: (Makes brief remarks).

MARTY: Ladies and Gentlemen, I now present District Commander Ward

For her final remarks.

STEPHANIE: (Makes brief farewell address).

MARTY: Now for the main order of business this evening,
the District Five change of watch.

STEPHANIE AND CHUCK: (Wearing covers, proceed to the Change of
Watch area with Chuck at the podium and Stephanie to the side.

DAVE: (Wearing cover, assumes position at yardarm).

CHUCK: I now read from the official orders of the day...

DATE: 1 APRIL 2023

FROM: DISTRICT 5 CONFERENCE USPS

TO: DISTRICT COMMANDER WARD, ADVANCED PILOT

SUBJECT: RELIEF OF COMMAND

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BYLAWS OF DISTRICT FIVE, USPS, YOU
ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT AS OF THIS DATE, YOU ARE TO BE
RELIEVED OF COMMAND OF DISTRICT FIVE, USPS, AND YOU ARE
DIRECTED TO RELIEVE YOUR STAFF.

STEPHANIE: I hereby dismiss, with my most sincere thanks the Bridge and
those Officers and Committee persons appointed by me to serve during my
Watch. District Flag Lieutenant Bernard, please lower the flags of my
Bridge Officers.

DAVE: Aye, aye, ma'am. (Lowers all flags except the National Officer, District Commander, and District Flag Lieutenant).

CHUCK: Commander Ward, you are relieved of command of District Five.

STEPHANIE: District Flag Lieutenant Bernard, lower the district commander's colors and then your own.

DAVE: Aye, aye, ma'am. (Lowers District Commander Flag and District Flag Lieutenant flags).

CHUCK: Past District Commander Ward, you and your Flag Lieutenant may leave the quarter deck.

MARTY: Thank you, Vice Commander Wells.

This is when, traditionally, the Past District Commanders would roast the new junior P/D/C, but in deference to woke and politically correct members whose influence has increased beyond bounds in recent years, instead, we'll offer a brief tribute to Madam Stephanie.

In her own words, getting through the first year of her marriage to Paul was her largest accomplishment, and she couldn't have served as Commander without as strong a Bridge as she was blessed to have.

For Summer Council, John O'Reilly stepped-up and put together a phenomenal weekend

while also performing the duties of Educational Officer. Megan Humphrey and Judy Stow did an amazing job handling the Chief Aides responsibilities and enhancing District Five's reputation for having the best hospitality room at the Annual Meeting. Stephanie worked with the Henry Sweet Trust to subsidize the Fall Educational Conference at the wonderful Maritime Conference Center, where we will return once more in twenty twenty-four. Kathleen Nowroozani excelled as chair of our Spring Conference. Participation in monthly Commanders calls was terrific with lots of input and suggestions, and Stephanie says she's most excited about the new Chesapeake Bay Magazine Marketing Campaign. Finally, she hopes she's leaving the District in good shape for the New Bridge. Please join me in saluting Stephanie for reaching for the stars. (Applause). Which is a good segue to invite District Commander elect Joe Gibson to please come forward.

CHUCK: I now read further from the orders for the day...

DISTRICT COMMANDER ELECT, JOSEPH GIBSON, ADVANCED PILOT, YOU HAVE BEEN SELECTED BY THE DELEGATES OF DISTRICT FIVE TO COMMAND THIS DISTRICT FOR THE COMING YEAR. THIS ELECTION INDICATES YOUR MEMBER-SQUARONS' EXCEPTIONAL FAITH IN YOUR ABILITY AND INTEGRITY, BUT IT ALSO CARRIES WITH IT CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS. I ASK YOU TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING PLEDGE, RAISING YOUR RIGHT HAND AND REPEATING AFTER ME...

I do solemnly promise
To serve loyally and diligently,
As the Commander of District Five;
To conduct the District's affairs
With dignity and impartiality;
To encourage and assist its Squadrons;
And to promote the best interests
Of the United States Power Squadrons;
All in accordance with the Bylaws
Of USPS and District Five.

Congratulations and best wishes, Commander!

I am pleased to present you with your flag of office and your lapel insignia to be worn with civilian attire. May you wear it in good health and to the

furtherance of the aims and ideals of USPS and District Five. Carry on, Commander.

JOE: Thank you, sir. District Flag Lieutenant Linsenmeyer, please raise your colors and then my colors.

JOHN: Aye, aye, sir. (Raises District Flag Lieutenant and then District Commander flags).

CHUCK: Will the newly elected Bridge Officers of District Five approach the Bridge as I call your names so that I may administer your pledge.

Executive Officer: D/Lt/C Robert S. Blevins, AP

Educational Officer: D/Lt/C John O'Reilly, JN-CN

Administrative Officer: D/Lt/C William J. Hammett, JN

Secretary: D/Lt/C Pennington Hess, AP

Treasurer: D/Lt/C Gene A. Danko, SN

Assistant Educational Officer: D/1st/Lt Michael Maszczenski, N

Assistant Administrative Officer: D/1st/Lt Ralph Leasure, S

Assistant Secretary: D/1st/Lt Apryl J. Bernard, P

Assistant Treasurer: D/1st/Lt Frank Hudson. Jr., P...

Will the following members who will serve on the indicated committees stand in place when I call your names...

Planning Committee: Art Walz, AP, Chair

David J. Blades, SN

Edwin V. Gasaway, P

Jim Gorman Jr., AP

John W. O'Reilly, JN-CN...

Rules Committee: D/Lt Paul Mermelstein, SN-IN, Chair

D/Lt Peggy Slattery, S

D/Lt Mary H. Palmer, P...

Auditing Committee: D/Lt Louis M. Kates, AP, Chair

P/D/Lt/C Nick Montalto, SN-IN

Homer Sandridge, N...

Nominating Committee: P/D/C Jeffrey E. Short, JN-IN, Chair

P/D/C Michael Payne, AP

P/D/C Stephanie Ward, AP

D/Lt Lorrie Short...

Ladies and gentlemen, in order that the members be assured of your good faith in accepting this office, I ask that you make the following pledge, raising your right hand and repeating after me...

I do solemnly pledge myself
to perform faithfully and impartially
The duties of the office
Which I am about to assume.
I will abide by the Bylaws
Of United States Power Squadrons and District Five
And I will follow carefully the procedures
Outlined in the Operations Manual.
I will cooperate with all national, district and squadron officers
where our respective duties converge,
to further the objectives of USPS.
I will always remember
that United States Power Squadrons
Is a fellowship organization,
Dedicated to advancement of boating
and the self-education of its members...

Congratulations, ladies and gentlemen.

JOE: District Flag Lieutenant Linsenmeyer, please raise the colors of the
Bridge Officers.

JOHN: Aye, aye sir. (Raises Bridge Officer flags).

CHUCK AND JOE: (Shake hands with new Bridge Officers and pass out

flags).

CHUCK: I request permission to leave the bridge.

JOE: Permission granted, sir.

MARTY: Ladies and gentlemen, I now present
Your new District Commander, Joe Gibson,
for his acceptance speech.

JOE: (Gives brief acceptance speech)...

Will Past District Commander Ward, please come forward...
(Presents her with framed D/C flag, D/C plaque, P/D/C flag, any other gifts,
and makes additional remarks)...

I'd like to give a special thanks to the Spring Conference host squadrons
and the event chairman Kathleen Nowroozani.

MARTY: Would Kathleen please come forward the table decorations.

KATHLEEN: (Awards table decorations).

MARTY: Raffle drawings have already been made
and are posted outside the banquet room.
Please see the raffle committee outside in the corridor
to pick up your prize...

District Lieutenant Georgiana Maszczenski,
will you please come forward
to select the winner of the fifty-fifty raffle.

GIGI: (Draws and announces winning ticket).

MARTY: This concludes the change of watch.
District Commander Gibson and the Rockville Sail and Power Squadron
have asked me to remind everyone
of their reception tomorrow at oh-nine-hundred in the atrium.
Thank you for your attendance and attention.
Please stand for the benediction
by Chaplain District Lieutenant Nancy Gorman.

NANCY: (Gives benediction)

MARTY: Good night!