

To: Members of District 5

Date: February 13, 2023

From: D/C Stephanie Ward, AP

Subject: Commander's Report to ABC - MidAtlantic Spring Conference

Greetings everyone! I am pleased and proud to invite you to the 2023 ABC-MidAtlantic Spring Conference and Change-Of-Watch being held at the Princess Royale Hotel in Ocean City, MD. Special thanks to ABC Lehigh Valley Cdr Kathleen Nowroozani for chairing this event along with D/Lt Apryl Bernard handling all of the related administrative responsibilities, along with all of those who have volunteered their time to make this such a success.

We had an outstanding Fall Conference in Linthicum in November. The Henry Sweet Trust graciously contributed to this event making it more affordable than expected. As this is such a popular location, we have already secured it for next year.

At the Fall Governing Board meeting in Raleigh, NC the proposed revisions to the National By-Laws were approved. Sample By-Laws have been posted and many of our Squadrons have started rewriting their own By-Laws to allow for more flexibility in their Squadron structures.

A recent initiative that I am very excited about is a joint venture with the Henry Sweet Trust, who is funding a 12 month marketing campaign in the Chesapeake Bay Magazine. A team created of IT and Marketing experts within D5 had created a website which will track people who "click" into the site and will support the local Squadrons with outreach. If you haven't seen it yet please log onto www.abcmidatlantic.org to see how it works. I'm confident that this will help grow membership. We need to continue to work on member involvement in order to keep these new members engaged and active.

We're working hard to support local efforts and as I've said, please continue to share your social, educational and civic activities so others in the District can participate.

I would like to thank all members of ABC Mid-Atlantic for their support during this past year. I am proud to have served as your Commander and have truly enjoyed every minute! I would also like to wish everyone a safe and happy Spring and Summer and look forward to seeing you in Ocea City!

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Ward, AP