

Call to Order: Cdr Mary Alice Moore
Secretary: Lt/C Micki Kamrath
Quorum: Verified by Secretary Micki Kamrath

Motions

- Minutes approved as printed by general consent.
- Motion: by Tom Pinkley and seconded by Kevin Kamrath that we purchase the credenza to display the Prince Henry statue at the GLA. Accepted.
- Motion: by Lynda Watson and seconded by Chuck Brandt to accept the proposed bylaw change to Section 4.6. Accepted.
- Motion: by Kevin Kamrath and seconded by Lynda Watson to eliminate Bylaw Section 7.9. Accepted.
- Motion: by Lynda Watson and seconded by Kevin Kamrath to vote against the changes to Sections 21.1 and 21.2.1. Accepted.
- Meeting adjourned at 1110 by general consent.

Bridge and Board Members Present: Cdr Mary Alice Moore, Vicki Fellhauer, Chuck Brandt, Chuck Fellhauer, Micki Kamrath, Lynda Watson, P/C Kevin Kamrath, Stephen Snyder, Tom Pinkley, Sandy Hendrickson, and Mark Lindahl.

Guests present: Pat Janiga, Bob Russell, and Sue Brandt.

Cdr Moore called the meeting to order at 1005 hours.

Minutes approved as printed by general consent.

Commander

Cdr Moore announced that the 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting started Monday, February 15 and runs through Friday, February 26. She will be tuning in for various events and everyone is welcome to do the same.

Rules Committee – No report

Nominating Committee – Cdr Moore reported that we still need another person on the nominating committee to assist P/C Kevin Kamrath. This is a big job and cannot be handled by one person.

Audit Committee – No report

Treasurer – Lynda Watson

- There is \$22364 in the checking account. There are \$11510 unspecified funds with \$10,171 budgeted.
 - Expenses - \$540 for 1 year rental of storage unit
 - Income - \$2049.16
 - Membership Renewals (Nov) - \$42
 - Interest - \$7.16
 - Life Jackets GRDA Sponsorship - \$2000

Executive Officer – Vicki Fellhauer

- Potential Event Participation
 - Toes in the Grand (Chamber) – June 11-13 Awaiting further information.
 - Camp Bandage (GRDA) – June 5 There will be a meeting at end of February or early March.
- Life Jacket Program – Steve Snyder
 - Sports Center can get life jackets within 3-5 days from order from a distributor in Kansas City. Walmart life jackets come on a boat from China and there is no guarantee on how long it will take or if they will come at all. Sports center is a little more expensive than Walmart. It was agreed to purchase the life jackets from Sports Center since their delivery is more reliable.
 - We want to bolt another small sign to the bottom of our current Loaner Station signs to “Use at Your Own Risk.”
 - Steve Snyder will check with GRDA to see if they could make the “Use at Your Own Risk” signs for us.
 - "Sea Tow" has a protocol for disinfecting life jackets, but this is not feasible for us. GRDA has a storage building near Illinois River with UV light where they keep the life jackets at the end of the day. Since our loaner stations are outside, do the life jackets get UV from sunlight to sterilize them?
- Public Relations/Marketing – No report
- Vessel Safety Check – No report

Education Officer – Chuck Fellhauer

- 1/23/21 – ABC National Office requested emergency approval from Oklahoma to have a virtual ABC training class. It usually takes several weeks for the approval.
- Virtual Seamanship Class
 - 1/21/21 – Chuck Fellhauer sent out an email to 33 of our members who have not taken the Seamanship Course inviting them to attend a virtual class and to reply by 2/1/21. One person replied expressing interest. A second email was sent out with request to reply by 2/10/21. A second person replied expressing interest. A final email was sent asking if people received the last email and also asked them to respond if they were interested or not. There were 4 no reply, 7 not interested, and 1 interested (in FL but concerned about time zone difference). Since there were only 3 interested (5 student minimum) the class will be rescheduled to a later date.
- Chuck has been monitoring the Virtual ABC course in CO. Tonight is the final exam so he will monitor this for process ideas if we conduct future online classes.
- National has offered free ABC manuals so squadron can decrease class fees in order to be competitive with other organizations offering this training. Chuck ordered 20 for our future use.

Administrative Officer – Chuck Brandt – No report

- Membership Report - Lynda Watson reported that we still have 99 members. There are no renewals due this month. There are 3 due in March and 6 due in April.

Secretary – Micki Kamrath

- Member Concerns – We are not aware of any at this time.
- Pelican – Lynda Watson will be posting a Treasurer’s Report to the Membership in the Pelican. Send any ideas to Kim Lindahl.
- IT – Kevin Kamrath
 - Bruce Watson has been posting items of interest on our Facebook page.

- Due to the reduction in club events, there is not much new information to post on the webpage.
- There is a new ABC app. Bob Russell reported that he downloaded the app but was unable to log in to it when he tried.

- **Ship Store**

Cdr Moore reported that she called 4 people to see if anyone would be interested in managing the Ship Store, but there was no interest. The inventory is being kept in our storage unit. It was suggested to list the inventory in The Pelican and to ask for a volunteer to manage it. There was also a suggestion to list inventory on the website but managing the payment and distribution process would have to be worked out. Once we start having monthly dinner meetings, this can be managed better.

Unfinished Business:

- Printed Materials and Pull-Up – This agenda item can be removed from the agenda. All our pull-ups are completed and paid for.
- Food Pantry Benefit – Collaboration Between ABC-GL and Knights of Columbus is being managed by Sharon Dennis and Carl Wotowis. Food collection will occur starting March 1 and ending on March 17, St. Patrick’s Day. A Food Box will be placed at Indian Hills Marina. Arrangements are being made to have tables set up at Walmart and Harps, which would be manned by members of ABC-GL and Knights of Columbus. Advertising is being planned.
- Prince Henry Committee Update
 - Lynda Watson reported that the Starkmans found a credenza for displaying the statue at GLA costing \$206.
 - Chuck Fellhauer volunteered to have credenza delivered to his home and then deliver it to GLA. A process to deliver directly to GLA will be discussed with them.
 - Tom Pinkley moved and Kevin Kamrath seconded that we purchase the credenza to display the Prince Henry statue at the GLA. Motion passed.

New Business:

National Bylaws Proposed Changes

- Section 4.6 - Change to: District and Squadron educational officers shall be elected by their representative units in the same manner as the districts and squadron officers.
 - Rational – It should be left to the individual squadrons/clubs to decide who should be the educational officer and not the national organization. This bylaw can be considered a policy but not as a mandatory bylaw. This would also eliminate unnecessary paperwork to be completed by the squadrons.
 - Lynda Watson moved and Chuck Brandt seconded to accept the proposed bylaw change to Section 4.6. Motion passed.
- Section 5.3.4 - Change to: Adopt an annual budget, authorize budget reductions and transfers between budget accounts, and approve supplemental appropriations of not more than \$20,000 after receiving a report from the Finance Committee.
 - Rationale – This change will make appropriations more in line with the expenses of today. \$10,000 is too low a figure in case of emergency.
 - Since this bylaw applies to national finance process, we will abstain.
- Section 5.8.2 – Change to: There shall be a Finance Committee, reporting to the Board of Directors, composed of five members of whom one shall be the chair, and another of whom shall be assistant chair. The Finance Committee shall, before the end of each fiscal year prepare a proposed budget, in conjunction with the Budget Director for the ensuing fiscal year. After the preparation of such a budget, the Finance Committee, in conjunction with the Budget Director will submit the proposed budget to the Board of Directors for consideration before the fall meeting of the Governing Board, or if there is only

one meeting of the Governing Board for the fiscal year, then to that meeting which is last scheduled prior to the fiscal year for which the budget is to be presented. If the Budget Director and the Finance Committee cannot reach an agreement on a budget, the differences will be presented to the national treasurer for submission to the Board of Directors.

- Rationale – The Budget Director has the greater day to day knowledge of the financial requirements of the organization. This process with the knowledge of the Budget Director and the oversight of the Finance Committee would streamline the budget process and combine the knowledge of the Budget Director and the oversight of the Finance Committee.
- Since this bylaw applies to national budget process, we will abstain.
- Section 5.8.2a – Reserved; already covered in Section 5.3.4.
- Section 5.8.2b – The Finance Committee shall annually make a study of the amount of annual dues and fees and make a report with respect thereto to the Board of Directors before the Fall Governing Board meeting, or if there is only one meeting of the Governing Board for the fiscal year, then to the meeting which is last scheduled prior to the fiscal year for which the budget is to be presented.
 - Rationale – It is very important for the Board of Directors to have a “third party” in order to completely understand the direction and the current and future financial aspects of the organization.
 - Since this bylaw applies to national finance process, we will abstain.
- Section 7.9 – By eliminating this bylaw, this would allow squadrons/club to determine who should be in a leadership position instead of requiring members of the Bridge to have at least one advance grade and at least one merit mark.
 - Kevin Kamrath moved and Lynda Watson seconded to eliminate Bylaw Section 7.9. Motion passed.
- Section 21.1 – Change to: In the event of the dissolution and voluntary surrender or revocation of a squadron charter, all assets then belong to the squadron shall be assigned to USPS or to another USPS institution or to the USPS Endowment Fund and the USPS Educational Fund which qualifies for tax exemption under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or such other section of the code by which USPS is exempt. The recipient of such assignment shall be selected by the squadron’s Executive Committee or other comparable body of the squadron. In the absence of such selection, the selection shall be made by the USPS Board of Directors.
- Section 21.2.1 – If there are no squadrons, district assets shall be assigned to USPS or to another USPS Institution or USPS Endowment Fund and the USPS Educational Fund which qualifies for tax exemption under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or such other section of the code by which USPS is exempt. The recipient of such assignment shall be selected by the conference or other comparable body of the district. In the absence of such selection, the selections shall be made by the USPS Board of Directors.
 - Rationale – USPS Squadron members pay dues, donated and/or earned money through fund raising events for USPS or a unit of USPS in good faith with the understanding it would be used to further the objective of the USPS or their squadron.
 - Lynda Watson moved and Kevin Kamrath seconded to vote against the changes to Sections 21.1 and 21.2.1. Motion passed.

Cdr Moore will forward our vote to D/C Tracy Simpson so she can be our proxy at the Annual Meeting.

Adjournment:

Adjournment was approved by general consent at 1110.

Respectfully submitted,
Micki Kamrath, Secretary