



**Houston Sail and Power Squadron  
Annual Meeting Ballot – January 10, 2018**

**Nominees for Bridge Officers:**

Commander	<b>To Be Determined</b>
Executive Officer	Susie Becvar, P
Squadron Educational Officer	Alan Cross, AP
Administrative Officer	Lt/C George H. Crowl, Jr., AP
Secretary	Lt/C Kyli S. Doucette
Treasurer	1st/Lt Deborah Collings

**Nominees for Squadron First Lieutenants:**

Assistant Squadron Educational Officer	Monica Cross
Assistant Secretary	<b>To Be Determined</b>
Assistant Treasurer	Lt/C Phyllis W. Stendebach, P

**Nominees for At-large Members of the Executive Committee: (nine)**

Kathy Benkenstein	P/1 <sup>st</sup> /Lt Carl A. Stendebach, JN
William E. Blan, S	Lt/C Robert W. Stevenson, JN
P/Lt/C John L. Glaeser, SN	Lt Jana Wesson, AP
Daniel C. Huston, AP	<b>To Be Determined</b>
P/C Chris Leavitt, JN	

**Nominees for the Nominating Committee: (one time election for three year term)**

P/C William S. Haddock, AP (1 year)  
P/C Chris Leavitt, JN (2 years)  
Cdr Scott D. McDonald, SN (3 years)

**Nominees for the Rules & Bylaws Committee: (one time election for three year term)**

P/C S. Dennis Fegan, AP  
P/Lt/C John L. Glaeser, SN  
P/1<sup>st</sup> Lt Carl A. Stendebach, JN

**Nominees for the Auditing Committee: (one time election for three year term)**

P/Lt/C William H. Mize, Jr., SN  
P/Lt/C Robert J. Robbins, JN  
Lt/C Phyllis W. Stendebach, P

Respectfully submitted,  
Nominating Committee

**Poop Sheet December 2017**

December 2  
HSPS General Meeting – Christmas Brunch  
at Mainly Drinks – La Porte

December 6  
Board of Directors Meeting – Home Port

December 25  
Merry Christmas, HSPS!

January 1  
Happy New Year, HSPS!

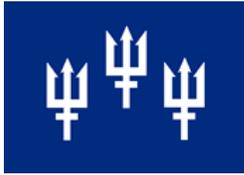
January 3  
Board of Directors Meeting – Home Port

January 10  
HSPS General Meeting – Elections at TBD



## Bay Neigh

Official Monthly Publication of  
United States Power Squadrons  
Houston Sail and Power Squadron  
District 21



December 2017 Bay Neigh  
Cdr Scott McDonald, SN-ACN

Editor  
Lt Jana Wesson, AP

Assistant Editor  
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**Home Port**  
6910 Bellaire Blvd #15  
Houston, Texas 77074  
www.usps-houston.org



### Bridge

Commander.....Cdr Scott. McDonald, SN-ACN  
Executive Officer .....Lt/C R. Luanne Novak, P  
Educational Officer ..... Lt/C Robert W. Stevenson, JN  
Administrative Officer ..... Lt/C George H. Crowl, Jr., AP  
Secretary ..... Lt/C Kyli Doucette, S  
Treasurer..... Lt/C Phyllis Stendebach, P  
Immediate Past Cdr..... P/C Chris Leavitt, JN

### Squadron's 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenants

Asst. Educational Officer ..... TBD  
Asst. Secretary ..... TBD  
Asst. Treasurer ..... 1<sup>st</sup>/Lt Deborah Collings

### Executive Committee

All Bridge Officers...	Cathy Leavitt, P
Kathy Benkenstein	Claire McDonald, SN
William E. Blan, S	Stephanie Shipp
John L. Glaeser, SN	Carl Stendebach, JN
Daniel C. Huston, AP	Jana Wesson, AP

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and publication herein does not imply endorsement by USPS or HSPS.

## PRAYER

O God Almighty, who by the Incarnation of Thy only-begotten Son, Our Lord, has banished the fog and darkness of this world, and who by the leading of a star didst manifest him to the wise men of old: Grant that we may all fix our sights upon the day-spring from on high, rejoice in the light of the sun of righteousness and ever set our course in the Sea of Terrestrial life that we may, in the end, attain to the celestial haven where Thou wouldst have us all anchor forever.

Amen

The holidays are only a couple of weeks away, and the first of our real winter weather is upon us. It's a season of heightened expectations. We want so much to have a special experience with our families and loved ones, and we go out of our way to do things for others. So naturally, the Houston Sail and Power Squadron will be a back seat to other, more important things. And that's a good thing. We can take the opportunity to reflect on the state of our organization and our accomplishments over the past year.

By many measures, we are a successful, thriving organization. We continue to show an upward trend in membership when many of our fellow service organizations are struggling to survive. Financially, we are quite strong. Our revenue stream is consistent, and we were able to absorb the cost of a new air conditioner without breaking a sweat. We continue to have a leading educational program. We increased the number students in our public boating safety courses over the previous year, and we are teaching new programs where we can reach new audiences.

The only distinct criticism I can offer for the organization is not a new one. Most of the work done by the organization falls on about 25% of our members that are active in education and leadership roles. Of the remaining 75%, some have been with us a long time and have done their service in the past. Many others are new to the organization and are primarily focused on taking classes. However, it's essential that we bring new people in to participate in leading the organization. This is not an easy problem to solve. A few years ago, organizations like ours were a primary means for people to socialize and share their interests with others. Today, electronic media has largely replaced this need, particularly among the younger generations. So we must continue to adapt – to find new ways to reach our audience and to engage our members.

On January 10, we will be holding our election meeting. We'll be selecting officers and committee members who will lead us in the coming year. You can find the slate of candidates on the front page of this newsletter. You may notice that one or two positions are still open. We are still looking for candidates, so if you are interested, please give us a call. Serving with USPS is a great way to meet people, develop your own skills, and to serve your community. I highly recommend it.

Next year is going to be a special year in many respects. We've already outlined an educational program that expands on our previous efforts. We're also developing a kayak program, and will be working with Texas Parks and Wildlife to make that happen. And we'll be continuing to expand our on-the-water training programs. On top of that, economic indicators in the US are trending upwards. That typically results in an increase in boating participation, and a resulting increase in our services by the public. To top it all off, we have a few new faces that will be leading our programs.

So my message to you is this: focus on your family and friends this holiday season, but be assured that you are part of a great organization of caring people that are doing amazing things. And the best is yet to come! Merry Christmas!



**Focus on Boating Education**  
**Lt/C Bob Stevenson, JN**  
**832-570-3663**  
**seobobstev@gmail.com**



Are there any professional educators (past or present) out there in our membership? We need your help.

When **P/D/C Karl Fernandes, JN**, passed away earlier this year, he left behind a hole in the Squadron's educational leadership. He had been teaching the USPS Instructor Development course and the USPS Instructor Recertification Seminar for years. That job was a natural for him, since his day job was as a professor at a college in Montgomery County. A replacement is needed.

The next Squadron Educational Officer, who takes over the job on February 4<sup>th</sup>, needs to identify Class Chairs for each of the courses the Squadron will be presenting. Class Chairs work with the Chair of the Local Board for Advanced Courses or the Chair of the Local Board for Elective Courses to arrange when to offer that course and for instructors of "their" course. Normally, the Class Chairs teach their course themselves even if there are others who also teach it. They also set up the dates for their courses to start. The instructors determine the actual schedule of classes and when the exam will be given (if there is an exam).

**So, who will step up to learn from the materials provided by USPS how to teach Instructor Development and the Recertification Seminars? Please contact me if you will help by becoming Class Chair for Instructor Development.**

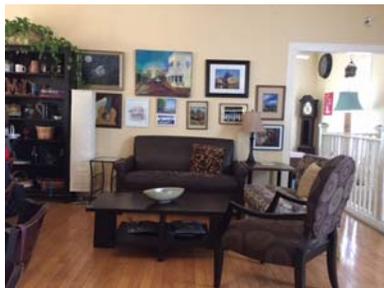
Oh, by the way, you can become a Class Chair and/or instructor of an advanced or elective course, or of a seminar, without first passing Instructor Development. You just need the desire to help your fellow boaters learn something important, willingness to study the material until you can teach it, and you should have passed that course already. Please contact me if you want to help or just learn more about being an instructor or Class Chair.

Something worth celebrating has occurred. For the first time in memory, all of the key leadership positions in the Educational Department have been filled by volunteers for the next watch year. The election slate is published in this edition of the *Bay Neigh*. Those who must be elected just include the Squadron Educational Officer (SEO) and Assistant SEO. Others are appointed based on being qualified volunteers. These include the following:

- Coordinator of North Classes – **Pete Hames, AP**
- Chair, Local Board for Boating/ABC3 Class Chair – **P/C Chris Leavitt, JN**
- Chair, Local Board for Advanced Courses and Chair, Local Board for Elective Courses – **Ed Roland, SN**

**Contact me to join the fun!**

**Christmas Brunch at Mainly Drinks**  
*Photos by Lt Jana Wesson, AP*



## Bay Neigh Articles

If you have a story or experience that would be of interest to our members, please E-Mail pictures and stories to Jana Wesson at [beakboatgirl@me.com](mailto:beakboatgirl@me.com)

Houston Sail and Power Squadron  
6910 Bellaire Blvd #15  
Houston, Texas 77074

### December Birthdays

Phil D. Lester	12/2
Mickie A. Comiskey	12/3
Ray L. Kinkaid	12/7
Frank A. Dawsey	12/9
Regan E. Katz	12/10
Amber J. Steber	12/10
Kenneth W. Campbell	12/11
Claire M. McDonald	12/12
Hayley Huston	12/14
Susan Stevenson	12/16
Kenneth W. Brooks	12/17
Susie Becvar	12/18
Frank M. Pattee	12/19
Carl A. Stendebach Jr.	12/23
Gregory L. Bartels	12/25
Michael Collings	12/27



### For Sale/Trade – \$1200. OBO

*On the beach---Sunset Fishermen's Village in Playa del Carmen, MX: 2 BR Condo, week of 12/16 to 12/23, 2017. Complete kitchen and sleeps 6.*

Contact Carl Stendebach at 281-440-5408.

### Show Your Pride in Your Membership in HSPS!

You can express pride in your membership in Houston Sail and Power Squadron and USPS.

How? Easy. And cheaply, too!

If you have never received your Squadron membership nametag – or you've long-since lost it like another member or two have done -- \$7 is all it takes to get a new one. And it only takes five bucks to get a Squadron burgee embroidered on your favorite pull-over or t-shirt.

Here's how it works:

- At each Squadron Dinner Meeting, our Treasurer will provide a signup sheet for new or replacement nametags and/or getting the Squadron Burgee embroidered on a member's shirt. Before the meeting, you may purchase the shirt from whatever source you prefer.
- Just fill out the sign-up sheet provided.
- Please pay \$7 for the name tag and \$5 for the embroidery – cash please to make life easier for the Treasurer.
- The collected shirts will be tagged with the member's name and be taken to M-R Design, 6611 Bissonnet #110, for processing.

They should be returned in time for the next monthly meeting or soon thereafter in the unlikelihood that there may be a backup in orders.

