

District 23 Galaxy

August 2012

D/C Abe Cahill, SN



Soon after I started my second term as district commander, I had to participate in a somber event; the disbanding of the Ocala squadron. Although I once again enjoyed the company of many long-time friends, the thought that this would be the last official gathering of these members as a squadron, dampened the party spirit to some extent. There was still good food and games as well as the resurrection of the names of members of long ago, just for the occasion. After all the good times, when the colors were furled and cased for the last time, I could see that many were sporting damp eyelashes.

As I witnessed this event, I remembered that not long ago two other squadrons, Seminole and Orlando, merged to form the Central Florida squadron in an effort to preserve the membership of both. I wondered how two squadrons that I have been associated with through District functions for almost thirty years could wither and disappear. After searching my memory for clues, I took a look at the Squadron rosters and the DB-2000. A possible reason for the demise jumped out at me; **burn-out**.

It seemed clear that the same names kept showing up over and over again. These members who are, or are soon to be, life members, were serving for the third, fourth, and fifth times as Commander or other bridge positions. Others were filling multiple positions during the same year. As dedicated as these long time members may be, they can't keep filling these roles indefinitely. Is the fix going to be easy? No! It will require the stalwarts to continue to give their time and effort as they always have. They should take on a new member or sometimes an involved member as a personal project and groom them for the Bridge, Committee Chair, or any other position that may need to be filled. Many will say, "We are already doing this." Probably so, but there will now be a difference. You will be training your relief. This gives the trainer a point of focus and the trainee has someone with a dedicated interest in his or her accomplishments.

One of the projects coming up at the fall conference in October is the Teaching Aids Competition. All squadrons are encouraged to submit teaching aids for judging. The "Best of Show" will be going to the annual meeting

where the best teaching aids in USPS will be selected. Commanders are also reminded to refer to the D-23 Awards Manual and submit recommendations to P/R/C Mike Scallan SN by the due date.

July 2012

D/Lt/C WILLIAM J. FEHR, N
Administrative Officer

I would like to start by saying "THANKS!" to everyone that helped with the Summer Council and the District 23 Picnic. Since taking office at the end of March, these two events have been keeping me busy. It started about a month before with making reservations at La Cita County Club and getting out cardboard boat race rules. I learned a lot about what goes into putting on the picnic every year. The Titusville Squadron was a wonderful group to work with leading me through the process of setting up the picnic and the cardboard boat race. The addition of the "Wear It Campaign" seemed to be a big hit, checkout the photo of 114 members of District 23 on Facebook at the Ensign's home page.

D/C Cahill may have run one of the quickest council meetings ever! We covered everything that needed to be covered, gave reports, ate breakfast and were out in time to see the cardboard boat race. P/D/C Leatherman still had time to hand out member benefit flyers to all squadrons that were in attendance. If your squadron was not represented at the council please contact P/D/C Leatherman on how to get the flyers. These flyers are great to put into your new membership packets or to show why an existing member should renew their membership. The Daytona Squadron is gearing up for a great fall conference to be held on October 5th, 6th and 7th. I will pass along info as soon as the folks from Daytona finalize the details. Have a safe and wonderful boating season. Hope to see you on the water soon!!