

District 23 Galaxy

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Treasurer



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D 23 Secretary

At this time of the year we are focused on membership renewals. For those of you that have already paid your dues – THANK YOU. For those of you that have not – IT’S NOT TOO LATE! Dues can be paid by check or on line by credit card.

The number one reason given by members for not paying their dues is that they forgot. That is why it is important that we have the Bridge or a committee call those who have not renewed their membership. What is sad is when no one knows the person that is to be called. That usually means that that member has not attended meetings, has not taken a class or attended social programs.

Why do we allow this to happen? If a member misses two meetings in a row do we have someone who calls that member and invites them to the next meeting? When we have a course setup do we have someone call all the new members and explain what the course is about and encourage them to sign up? When we have a social event, do we have someone call the new members and personally invite them?

When you are at a membership meeting and you see someone new, do you introduce yourself and invite that new person to sit with you, or do you just sit with the members you already know?

If the only time a new member hears from us is when it is time to pay their dues it’s unlikely they will stay members. USPS has great educational programs, our squadrons have social programs, and we have civic programs like Vessel Safety Inspections. There is something for everyone and we need to make sure that we get our new members involved.

National has a program that offers students who pass the ABC3 Public Boating Course a free six month trial membership. This is a good way to bring in new members. Everyone in the squadron should then make an effort to ensure our new members feel welcome.

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The key function in any organization is communicating with its members and in our case it is the responsibility of the Secretary. A number of methods can be employed to disseminate messages such as newsletters, e-mails, telephone calls, texting. But these methods are next to useless.

USPS members are fortunate to have a topnotch database in DB2000. As the name implies it has been around for a dozen years. Like so many other tools at our disposal, it is maintained and regularly updated and improved by USPS volunteers. DB2000 offers access to basic and necessary information to keep the show going.

Getting ready to start a new course and who are the potential students in the squadron? No sweat – it takes less than five minutes, even allowing for frequent sips from your coffee mug. Another couple of minutes and you have a spreadsheet ready for your phone calls or e-mails. Is the newsletter editor wondering who all has birthdays next month? Same procedure; it takes a few minutes. Unfortunately, DB2000 is underutilized and at times avoided. Like all technology, it takes interest and an investment of time to learn to use it and to recognize its potential. After that it is clear sailing.

So, you ask, who should use DB2000? Simple – anyone in a position that deals with the wants and needs of squadron members. Usually it is the Secretary’s function to keep the database current – members are urged to report address, phone and e-mail changes, which are uploaded to USPS and are available in seconds to other members.

Secretaries also spend significant time compiling rosters or directories, mailing them out and which become outdated in short order. A better way is to learn to use DB2000 and have current information at your fingertips. At year’s end the task of submitting the Historian and Merit Mark reports is significantly easier than it was a decade ago.

Talk to your Secretary or any DB2000 user to get you started – you will be surprised by its ease and benefits.