



America's Boating Club®  
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®



**District 5 Secretary**

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TO: District Commander Robert Blevins AP  
FROM: D/Lt/C Penn Hess, AP  
SUBJECT: 2024 Fall Conference Report

From June of 2022 until July of 2024 every 2 months national would scan emails and send squadron commanders, squadron roster contacts, and district secretaries a tally of missing and invalid emails. The squadron's were then to contact the members and get valid emails. I tracked the numbers and had many communications with various squadron bridges. After a couple of iterations, the number of disconnected members did drop but as you might expect, the improvement soon leveled off. As of July, we had 10 squadrons where all members are connected. The percentage of members with no or invalid email addresses was a little over 8%.

The District Commander recently sent an email to all district members regarding the Fall Conference. National reported to him that it went to 969 members and didn't go to 108 members with no email and 28 with undeliverable email. National made a change almost a year ago and started accepting "None" as a valid email for people who didn't want to be bothered. I don't know if that is counted in the 969 or 108 bin.

There is a little bit of good news. Some of the unreachable members are part of a family unit where the primary member has a valid email so someone in the family gets emails. Also, some undeliverable could be temporary problems. Also, some squadrons keep their own email list that covers those not reachable by National.

The only way to cut down the number of disconnected members is to reach out to each one via other means and ask how they want to be contacted.

Finally a note about meeting paperwork. I know that most of us belong to the power squadron for the education, friendships and boating experience but USPS.ORG is also a business. As a business, there are policies and procedures that the business is required to follow. The attendance sheets and sign up sheets with lists of squadron delegates are part of the permanent record for our meetings. Please inform the secretary department of squadron delegates and ask everyone attending the meeting, delegate or not to at least put their name and squadron on an attendance form.

D/Lt/C Penn Hess, AP  
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