

District Commander's Report to the Niagara District

April 16, 2011

Again, welcome to the 2011 Niagara District Annual General Meeting.

Since the 2010 AGM last April, Niagara District has held 7 regular meetings and is rounding up the year with today's AGM. Each regular meeting has had a theme and/or a breakout meeting. Since we are a training organization it was appropriate that 3 of the breakout meetings were centered on training. Presentations to Training Officers and Assistant Training Officers were led by our DTO Bruce Holden. Other meeting themes were the Marep program, arranged by David Bull, Public Relations including finding a great deal on pop up banners by Las Armstrong, Building your Volunteer Base & Succession Planning presented by Jim Brown, Membership Retention by Thor Olson, and the most recent one, Squadron and District Financials presented by Karen Conner. Each of our themed meetings was held round table discussion style with plenty of time allotted for questions and answers. The District Council also allotted time in various meetings to discuss the upcoming motions that would be voted on before each and every Governing Board meeting. We also discussed views on Membership Amalgamation on a number of occasions. Squadron participation at the Council meetings was outstanding, with most meeting showing 100% of Squadrons in attendance.

Since the last AGM, all information I have received from OPCOM and Headquarters has been delivered to each Squadron Commander by email, so that each Squadron has had the opportunity to discuss any issues at their Bridge meetings. I also sat on the National Ad Hoc Committee for Membership Amalgamation to study one class of membership vs the many classes of membership we have at the present time. Each of the Niagara Squadrons provided me with a lot of very valuable material to present to the Committee.

I have attended all District Council meetings and Bridge meetings for most of our Squadrons. This has been a great experience because I was able to see the Squadron/District rapport from both directions. It also enabled me to meet and get to know many more people who volunteer their time to make their Squadrons and CPS as a whole, more vibrant and worthwhile organizations. I also attended Squadron Christmas Dinners, Festive evenings, AGM's and Graduations. Thank you very much for the wonderful hospitality shown to Diane & I at every Squadron event. I have also attended every Governing Board meeting and the National Conference in Nanaimo, BC. The Conference was very enlightening and the Port of Nanaimo was scenic and great to see. The best part was that 6 of our 10 Squadrons were represented in Nanaimo, and able to take part in the proceedings and seminars. Well done!

Niagara held a June BBQ Social at Pinegrove Community Centre, Brantford, for all Squadrons Bridge members last year, complete with a travelogue by Janice Fleischmann and Jamie Miller. I want to announce that plans are underway for a similar event this year on June 15th.

Niagara District also covered the cost of placing a booth at the Central Ontario Boat Show and Sale, held in Hamilton last February. I want to thank each and every volunteer who helped, by setting up or staffing the booth, or dismantling it at the end of the Show. Special thanks go to Hamilton Commander Vicky Grimshaw for providing a table on such short notice and all of the show handout material that listed each Squadron's name and contact information. The Show provided a great opportunity to talk with fellow boaters about our training courses and Squadron activities. A motion was recently passed to participate in the same Boating Show next February.

I want to thank each of you who took part in the District Council last year. To those of you who are not returning, I want you to know that I appreciate every effort you have made to help our District run smoothly and efficiently.

Respectfully submitted,
D/C Bill Allan SN