

To: Members of District 5

Date: October 1, 2022

From: D/C Stephanie Ward, AP

Subject: Commander's Report to ABC - MidAtlantic Fall Conference

Greetings everyone! I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable summer. I would like to invite you to the 2022 ABC-MidAtlantic Fall Conference at the very interesting Maritime Institute in Linthicum, MD. Special thanks to District Educational Officer John O'Reilly for organizing this wonderful event and District Assistant Secretary Apryl Bernard for securing the location and handling all of the related responsibilities, along with all of those who have volunteered their time to make this such a success.

This is a particularly important conference as it focuses on one of our key initiatives, education and includes a variety of interesting seminars, including the award winning America's Boating Channel. P/C Marty Lafferty will be showcasing some of the newest videos, including the drone videos of some of the most dangerous inlets in the country. We also will be honoring our members for educational achievement.

We had a wonderful Summer Council and Rendezvous in Rock Hall in July. We were so honored to have two V/C attending – Executive Officer Ralph Bernard and Educational Office Bill McManimen, who also officiated at our Flag Raising Ceremony. 5 people participated in the predicted log contest while others played yard games or lounged in the pool, and a good time was had by all.

I recently attended the Fall Governing Board meeting in Raleigh, NC. One of the main things addressed at the meeting was the approval of the proposed revisions to the National By-Laws, which simplify and streamline how the District and Squadron Bridges are structured. We will need to address this as a District to determine how we want to proceed and I would encourage all Squadrons to do the same.

I know many of you are planning your holiday and Founders Day parties and I would like to remind you to let Joe Gibson know if you would like District representation.

While it seems hard to believe, it's almost time to start planning for the Spring Conference!

As I've asked in the past, please continue to share your social, educational and civic activities so others can participate. We want to ensure that everyone can share in the fun! Also, team up with other area Squadrons for social and educational events – there's strength in numbers.

As I finish this, I ask that all of us keep our neighbors to the South in our thoughts and prayers. As many of you know, I have a residence in Marco Island. While we had significant damage to our complex, when I look at the pictures from just 40 miles north of us, I realize that we got off relatively easy compared to places like Ft. Myers and Sanibel. It's going to most likely be years before they can rebuild and resume normal lives.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Fall and Winter and look forward to seeing you in Linthicum!

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Ward, AP