



Midwestern Pilot

Spring 2026

District 30 Celebrating 51 years 1975-2026



Commander's Corner

2026 has arrived, Tracy and I attended the Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC. At Thursday evening awards, Ken & Bettie Danley received their Life Membership Awards, Congrats to Ken and Bettie. Educational Achievement Awards (Education Full Certificates) were presented to Carl Forsberg, SN and Gerald Le Cocq, SN of Boulder Squadron, Terry Elia, SN of Des Moines Sail and Power and Richard Des Camps, SN of Four River Squadron, and Orville Edwards, SN of Grand Lakes Squadron. Congratulations to all. Saturday Grand Lakes Squadron was Dissolved, D30 will miss them. D28's squadrons were transferred to D13 and D28 was dissolved. Many of our National Bylaws were amended, I will not list them all here. To help balance the budget, National dues were raised, you will see the change in your next dues notices. Elections were held, Oh Boy! Some of you may know that David Allen was not nominated by the Nominating Committee, to move up. This did not set well with the membership. A motion was made, discussions were held and by paper ballot the Governing Board voted to leave

the National Executive Officer slot open, as a form of protest. Per USPS Bylaws Section 5.19 at the next BOD meeting the BOD will appoint a Past Chief to hold office until the Fall Governing Board.

Kent Simpson
D30 Commander



Education Department

America's Boating Course Completions — March 1 Report Now Available

The latest monthly America's Boating Course Completions report is now available, showing cumulative enrollment, testing, student completions, and courses offered through the current Educational Year (ending June 30), with comparative data from the prior Educational Year. The EXCEL spreadsheet includes macros to reveal detailed tabs (CTRL u, unhides the detailed tabs, CTRL h hides

them). The PDF file is provided for those who do not have EXCEL. For a detailed explanation of this report, see the “Legend” tab. Click America's Boating Course Completions to access the report.

For those needing calendar year data (for example, to report to state agencies) right clicking any tab of the Excel file and then clicking on unhide will allow one to reveal tabs for making that calculation for either a district or a squadron using the 1 January report for the current calendar year and the 1 January report for the previous calendar year. Detailed instructions are on those tabs.

The report reflects data that have been entered into HQ-800. We thank all Squadrons and Districts for reporting data in HQ-800 in a timely way.

Need HQ-800 help? See the updated tutorial posted on the Basic Public Education Committee downloads page, contact your District Educational Officer, or Contact Us

Vince Comella
D30 Education



**Executive and
Administrative
Departments**

As we work to help the remaining Squadrons in the District make their transitions, I want to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication to the District. The reality is that changes are coming to all organizations, we must accept the challenge and adapt the way we do business. District 30 is not the first District to fold and will not be the last as the organization reorganizes and focuses on moving forward. Thank you for all the hospitality and friendships we have experienced as members of the bridge and leadership for the District. It has been an honor to serve the membership. Please continue to reach out during the transition for help as we complete the District business.

Tracy Simpson
Executive Officer



Call to Conference:

The Spring conference will be April 22, 2026.

The purpose of this meeting will be as follows:

1. Receive and act upon reports of officers and committees.
2. Fill any vacancies in accordance with D30 By-Laws.
3. Consider and/ or act upon properly presented business.
4. Reports are due to



Terry Elia and Commander Kent Simpson 14 days prior to the Meeting on April 08, 2026.

An email with the meeting link for April 22 will be shared as we get closer to the Meeting.



Nautical Trivia:

By 1876, the Thomson Dry Card Compass was in wide use. What material was used to suspend the pairs of magnets from the compass card?



Congratulations to our Newest Life Members:

Ken and Bettie Danley were presented their Life member awards in Myrtle Beach at the Annual meeting.



NOMINATIONS REPORT 2026

In accordance with the Bylaws of District 30, the USPS District 30 Nominating Committee submits the following proposed slate:

BRIDGE OFFICERS

District Commander: Commander Kent Simpson, AP

District Executive Officer: Tracy Simpson, AP

District Educational Officer: D/Lt/C Vincent Comella

District Administrative Officer: OPEN

District Sec/Treasurer: D/Lt/C Terry Elia, JN

GENERAL COMMITTEES

RULES COMMITTEE

3 year – Tracy Simpson, AP

2 year – OPEN

1 year – Marjorie Burgess

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

3 year - Bettie Danley, S

2 year –open

1 year – Rex LeCocq, AP

AUDITING COMMITTEE

3 year - Gus Elia, JN

2 year - Kenneth Danley, P-IN

1 year - OPEN

All nominees have indicated that they are willing and able to serve in the positions noted, if elected.

Respectfully submitted,

Bettie Danley



Trivia Answer:
Silk Threads



Save the date:

April 22, 2026 D30 COW
ZOOM meeting

Sept 20-27 Governing Board
Cary North Carolina

Feb 7-14 Annual Meeting
Tampa Florida

From the Editor:



As I put the issue together I want to thank all the hardworking members who have contributed over the years to

the newsletter. We have won many awards under various editors for presenting news and events to our members in D30. I appreciate the work and effort you give locally and to the District. Thanks to the District Commanders as well for giving me the opportunity to share District news and events with you. Remember as you move to other districts or cyber squadron that communication is a vital part of the health of the organization. Please consider stepping up if asked or volunteering and getting involved. If you are choosing not to renew, we will miss you. We have made many friends over the years and always enjoyed visiting with our local squadrons. The Organization is pivoting to meet new challenges as we endeavor to stay

relevant and advocate safe boating and education for everyone. We look forward to the next chapter. Our Heartfelt thanks to the Past District Commanders and other officers plus all the Squadron officers who have led the District, supported the local Squadrons and been a resource for us over the years.

Tracy Simpson
Editor Midwestern Pilot

