Anchor Watch

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

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Official publication of the Annapolis Sail and Power Squadron
District 5, a unit of United States Power Squadrons®

November 2026 **Annapolis, Maryland** **Volume 85, Number 11**



Commander's Message

Cdr Jeff Short, JN-IN

I don't know about you, but I had a fantastic 2026 boating season. I think *Boat Show Special*, our Ranger Tugs 29, has brought Lorrie and me good luck. Our first boat was a sail boat, and it was too slow. We bought *Getting There*, our Ranger Tug 25, because it would get us there, fast. But we quickly found out that between 16 and 20 mph it was getting on plane. Anything below 16 mph ate up gas. Anything over 20 mph, and we were beaten to death by the pounding in the Chesapeake chop. We would get there alright, but with bruises and sprains. I think during the three years that we owned *Getting There*, the bay was flat on one occasion, part of a day. Every day on the water entailed bashing through the chop. I would look over at Lorrie to see how she enjoyed the new boat and she would be holding on for dear life. She would have an expression that was half anger and half terror. I would say, "Compromises Lor. All boats are compromises." She did not appreciate that.

We needed a slower boat, and just like in the Goldilocks story, this one is just right. *Boat Show Special* is heavier; it goes slower than *Getting There* and faster than the sailboat. But, this year, as luck would have it, we never ran into that Chesapeake Bay chop. Every trip we took, all season long, was on calm, flat water (Except for a few short miles on the way to the Lankford Bay for the D5 Rendezvous between the bridge and the mouth of the Chester River. That was pretty choppy.) I swear that boat brings us good luck! How else can I explain calm bay waters for an entire season?

As we get ready to put the boat away for the winter, we begin to think about working on the ASPS budget and the financial review. Any time we have questions about finances, budgeting or anything to do with money, we always appreciate the advice we get from our friends: Lou Kates, from Patapsco River Power Squadron and our own ASPS member and transfer from the Rockville Squadron, Gene Danko. It really helps to get their expert opinion.

Gene shared with me his very interesting career in boating and particularly in USPS. Gene was bitten by the sailing bug in 1982, when some college friends arranged a captained charter from Miami to Bimini in the Bahamas. Two years later he did the trip again. A fellow sailor approached him about

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giving Chesapeake sailing a try. By 1985, he was not only sailing routinely but was captaining charter boats for a Washington sailing club. Gene was elevated to Commodore of that club about the same time he started graduate school. Club sailing allowed him to maintain his hobby on a grad student's stipend!

He decided he needed to raise his skill level, so he joined the Rockville Power Squadron in 1989. By 1992 the doctorate was finished, allowing him time to earn the grade of Advanced Pilot, and take on the role of Rockville SEO. Fate intervened in 1993: he got married, took an honest job in Tucson and stopped boating. Fate intervened again in 1997: he got divorced and lost his job. Now facing more time on his hands than he could stand, he completed all the available USPS electives and moved back to the DC area.

At one point, he found an error in the USPS Electrical Systems course and wrote to the USPS R/C, who offered him a spot on the committee. By 1999, he had completed ALL of the USPS courses including Navigation, which he took and passed by self-study!

By 2006, he had been promoted through Stf/C to R/C of Electromechanical Systems. Gene became the USPS liaison to the joint FCC-USCG GMDSS Task Force. Gene then wrote the then-new Marine Communications Systems course and The Boat Owner's Guide to GMDSS and Marine Radio for McGraw-Hill.

He stepped aside from most committee work in 2011 due to the requirements of his pesky day job at Pratt & Whitney, but continued boating. He bought *Sundowner*, a Mainship 34, in 2013. He turned the committee over to the late George Hallenbeck, whom he considers one of his dearest friends (RIP George!).

In 2019 Gene took a buyout from P&W, and he and wife Stacey moved back to the Chesapeake region, settling in Delaware, and keeping his boat in Oxford, MD, and now Kent Island. He reengaged with USPS with gusto, taking a three-year stint as Commander of Rockville, Treasurer of D/5, and Stf/C of USPS Boating Systems. Currently, he also manages the national MMSI program, is the Recreational Vessel Task Group lead for the GMDSS Task Force, and the USPS liaison to RTCM, where he serves on five standards committees.

Gene is a very accomplished boater, with over 400 days of sea time, mostly in command, and has operated vessels from 14-foot Prindles to 130-foot Broward yachts. He really likes the Sabre 30 with the big jib, and most other sailing craft around 37 feet LOA – which he calls "the sweet spot."

As you can tell, Gene has a wealth of knowledge, most of it WAY above my head. He is a fantastic resource that we are lucky to have in our squadron. I have personally worked with him regarding any MMSI issues.

One of the most overlooked benefits of being a member of our squadron is the opportunity to attend District and National events. The District 5 Educational Conference is coming up November 13-15 in Lancaster, PA. If you have been to any of these conferences, you know how much fun they are. Initially, I was a bit tentative about attending, believing these District and National events were only for officers. However, once we attended one, we found they were great fun and well worth it. Lorrie and I look forward to meeting with friends that we haven't seen in a while. Make use of these ASPS benefits.

Be safe getting your boat laid up for the winter.





Kathy Burke SN-IN
Administrative Officer

November Boating Club Update: Fall Gatherings and Upcoming Festivities

Ahoy, fellow boaters! As the crisp autumn air settles over the Chesapeake Bay, our club calendar continues to be wonderfully busy. Thank you to everyone who has helped drive such fantastic turnouts at our recent monthly meetings and social gatherings—your enthusiasm keeps our community thriving as the boating season winds down.

Here is a look at what is coming up on our schedule as we head into November and look ahead to December:

Monthly Luncheon Meeting

- **Date & Time:** Sunday, November 8, from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- **Location:** The Lodge in Annapolis
- **Details:** Be sure to check out the detailed flyer included in this newsletter for a look at the delicious menu options we have lined up. We look forward to a great afternoon of good food and club updates!

Monthly Ladies Lunch

- **Date & Time:** Tuesday, November 10 - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- **Location:** Peggy Slattery's pool house
- **Details:** Please see the flyer in this newsletter for all the specific details. We always have a wonderful time crafting, making cards, and enjoying great conversation and catching up with friends.

Mark Your Calendars!

Looking just a bit further ahead, get ready to celebrate the season with us:

Annual Holiday Meeting

- **Date:** Saturday, December 5
- **Location:** Pirates Cove
- **Details:** Keep an eye out for upcoming announcements regarding times and registration for our festive year-end celebration.

See you on the water in the Spring—or sooner at the table!



Boating Links to Browse

Practical Sailor: A video about the design and use for the traditional battery switch

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3q8H4KmK0Q

For more nautical-related links, see the "Links Page" on the ASPS website:

http://aspsmd.org/wrappers/pages.php

From Prop Talk magazine, a nice article on winterizing your boat.

https://issuu.com/spinsheetpublishingcompany/docs/proptalk_magazine_november_2026/34

From the Boat Galley: How NOT to bring bugs aboard in cardboard.

https://theboatgalley.com/rid-cardboard/?ml_recipient=20003652035726643 5&ml_link=20003646762962298 6

From Practical Sailor: sailing mistakes you will make only once.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJBMQutSlWQ

From Practical Sailor: A video on essential sailboat maintenance:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLm8E2F9RQg

Fall is nipping the air. Try this recipe for White Chicken Chile from the Boat Galley:

https://theboatgalley.com/white-chicken-chili/?ml_recipient=20003652035726643 5&ml_link=20003646769673187 4

From Practical Sailor, a video on how to use lithium batteries on your boat.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKtebo90p-I

From Chesapeake Bay Magazine, Somers Cove is getting a major makeover.

https://www.chesapeakebaymagazine.com/major-project-begins-at-marylands-largest-public-marina/

For trip ideas in the Chesapeake Bay area: https://www.visitmaryland.org/unique-experiences/chesapeake-bay-loop This site changes frequently. Bookmark it and return on a regular basis for all sorts of activities in the area.



Jeff and Lorrie Short brave the elements. There is no bad weather - only bad clothing.





Joe Burke and Michael Maszczenski prep for their seminar - attended by about 20 people! Great going, guys!

ASPS Ladies' Pot Luck Luncheon
And Greeting Card Making Session
Tuesday, November 10, 2026 - 10 am - 2 pm

Slattery Pool House
1000 Whitehall Cove
Annapolis, MD 21409

Provided: Chicken Salad, Rolls, Water, Iced Tea, Plates, Plasticware

Bring a dish to share, plus $5.00

RSVP by Friday, November 06, to Georgiana at
gmaszczenski@hotmail.com or 410-739-7799
with what you are contributing to the luncheon.

Materials will be supplied to make greeting cards.
Then, we will share in a pot-luck luncheon.

Please bring any card-making tools you may have:
scissors, tape, glue, ruler, etc. Extra tools will be available.

Save the date for the next luncheon:
Tuesday, December 8, at The Narrows on Kent Island



The Red Distress Button on DSC VHF Radios

Terry Slattery, Lord of the Electrons

Imagine that you have an onboard fire, or that you suddenly discover that your boat is taking on water. Getting off an emergency distress call in a few seconds is critical. But, without details about your location, an emergency response may be delayed.

We occasionally hear the US Coast Guard trying to communicate with a vessel who had activated a DSC (Digital Selective Calling) Distress broadcast. Sometimes the USCG is trying to determine the vessel's location and other times we've heard them calling the vessel by MMSI (Maritime Mobile Service Identities) number. A few times we've heard the boat's captain acknowledge that the distress call was an operational error. More often, the USCG's calls are answered with silence.

DSC, adopted Feb 1, 1999, and required on fixed mount VHF radios made since then, uses digital technology to place calls between radios that are assigned an MMSI number, which uniquely identifies a maritime radio, much like a phone number. An added benefit is that it is possible to perform a distress broadcast call to all DSC radios within reach of the transmitted signal. The broadcast includes the MMSI number and GPS coordinates of the vessel in distress. And that's where distress calling may fail. Two important steps must have been taken in order for a DSC distress call to provide useful information to the USCG (and to all radios that receive the distress call).

First, the vessel owner must register the VHF radio with either the FCC (for international use, which includes Canada, Mexico, Bahamas, and Caribbean), or with a free service provider like BoatUS or US Power Squadrons (for domestic use). The assigned MMSI number must then be programmed into the VHF unit. This programming can only be performed once, primarily to prevent it from being accidentally changed. (Vendors typically have an advanced service mode through which the MMSI number can be reprogrammed.) Part of the registration process is to provide vessel description, its type (recreational, fishing, etc), and phone numbers of emergency contacts. When a boat is bought or sold, part of the process should be to contact the registration entity (FCC or a domestic provider) to transfer the registration and update the emergency contact information.

Second, the radio must have access to GPS location data. For fixed radio installations, this means wiring the on-board GPS receiver to the VHF radio. Many boaters skip this step because it requires hiring a marine electrician. Fortunately, GPS technology has gotten less expensive and many newer radios, including hand-held units, incorporate a GPS receiver, so no additional wiring is needed. But, if you have an older unit, it is worth the time and expense to get the connection done. It saves precious seconds during an emergency.

All DSC VHF radios incorporate a distress calling button, normally protected by a red cover. Open the cover and press and hold the button for several seconds to activate a distress call. The long-press prevents accidental activation, but doesn't prevent a call by someone who is playing with the radio, which we've heard from time to time.

All vessels in the area that receive the distress call will begin sounding a two-tone (high pitch, then low pitch) alert (refer to the Wikipedia article to hear what it sounds like). The size of the announcement area depends on the transmit power, with hand-held units having reduced range when compared with fixed mount units. Details of the distress should then proceed by voice on Channel 16. The important thing is that the USCG and nearby boats will be alerted and your location automatically transmitted. The fastest response may actually be a nearby boat.

I urge you to take a few minutes to look over your electronics configuration to make sure your VHF radio has a valid GPS source, and an MMSI number that it is properly registered. And if your fixed-mount VHF doesn't support DSC, it's an antique. Replace it. Your life may depend on it.

Standard Horizon GX14010W VHF with Distress button highlighted



References:

An excellent article by NVN Marine

https://nvnmarine.com/blogs/news/dsc-vhf-radio-explained

Wikipedia article, including an audible alarm player

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_selective_calling

FCC.gov – Maritime Mobile Service Identities

https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/bureau-divisions/mobility-division/maritime-mobile/ship-radio-stations/maritime-mobile

US Coast Guard – Digital Selective Calling

https://navcen.uscg.gov/digital-selective-calling

ASPS Luncheon Meeting

Sunday, November 8, 2026
1:00 - 3:00 pm
The Lodge - Annapolis
177 Jennifer Road, Annapolis, MD

1:00 - Luncheon
1:45 - Speaker - Terry Slattery
Cruising - i.e., Boat Repair in Exotic Places

Menu

Farm Fresh Egg Station with Made-To-Order Omelets
Veggies: Onions, Bell Peppers, Jalapeño Peppers, Tomato, Mushrooms, Spinach
Meats: Bacon, Ham, Andouille sausage, Shrimp, Lump Crabmeat
Cheese: Cheddar or Mozzarella
Country Fried Chicken and Waffle Station
Fruit, Whipped Cream, Maple Syrup
Southern Shrimp and Grits
Chef's Seasonal Fish
Carving Station
Herb Crusted Prime Rib, Bourbon Glazed Ham
House-made Home Fries
Maple Sausage, Turkey Sausage and Bacon
Pasta Salad & Mixed Field Greens Salad
Peel and Eat Shrimp, Raw Oysters
Breads, Pastries, Toast and Bagels
Jams, Homemade Whipped Butter
Farm Fresh Fruit
Desserts
Cookies, Doughnuts, Assorted Pastries & Pies
Coffee and Tea

RSVP by Wednesday, November 4, 4 PM to
aspsdinnerreservations@gmail.com

$20.00 per person by cash or check at the door.
$25.00 for non-members
$10.00 for children under 12
Make checks payable to ASPS.

Note: All no-show reservations are responsible for the cost of the meal.



The Anchor Watch welcomes our new Chair of Charitable Contributions. Toni Hughes has volunteered to take over managing our donations to nonprofits in our region. Toni's first effort is our annual drive for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank.

This organization works to alleviate food insecurity in Anne Arundel County. Although our county is considered to be one of the wealthiest counties in Maryland, it is estimated that one-third of the residents are below the federal poverty line. This group includes those employed but unable to meet basic needs. Your donation can make a difference. Thank you for supporting Toni as she takes on this task.



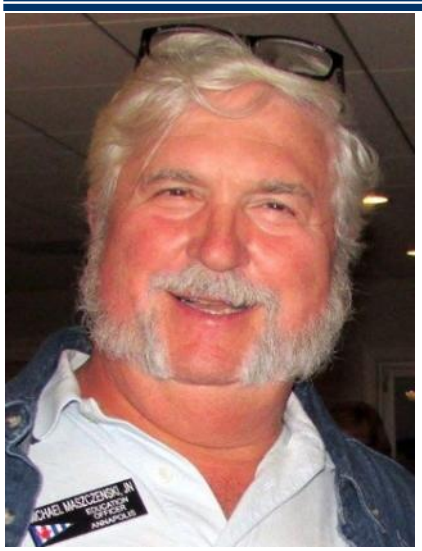
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY FOOD BANK

Autumn marks the beginning of the giving season for ASPS.

Again this year, we will not hold an actual food drive. Instead, we ask that you make a monetary donation. The Food Bank has connections that allow for food purchases from wholesale sources. This allows them to purchase more food than we would be able to donate at the same price point. It also gives the Food Bank flexibility. They can purchase those items that may not be donated to meet all the needs of those using the Food Bank. We ask that you consider bringing a cash or check donation to our meeting. All checks should be made out to the **Anne Arundel County Food Bank**.

Can't attend the November meeting? You can still donate. To help out the Food Bank, just visit https://aafoodbank.org/donate/ to donate online or for the address should you wish to send in a check. If possible, please let us know that you did donate – and (if you don't mind) the amount of your donation. This will allow us to let USPS know about our local efforts.

As always, thanks in advance for GIVING to others in need!



Educational Officer

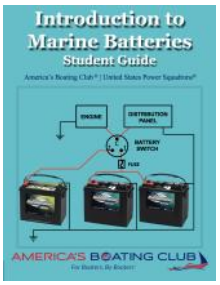
Lt/C Michael Maszczenski, Jr., N

Remember to share information about the courses and seminars ASPS offers. We invest a lot of time and effort in any class we offer, and attendance is important. Please spread the word. Our courses and seminars are open to everyone. Share the Anchor Watch with your friends and acquaintances.

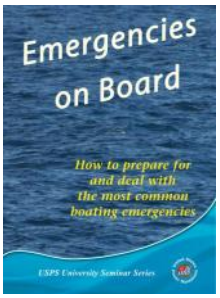
The Education Committee is planning the course and seminar offerings for the year. The listing follows for courses and seminars already scheduled. We will also be offering Boating on Rivers, Locks, and Lakes by Dick Radlinski, looking to March for a date. ABC will also be offered in the spring for those needing the Boating Safety Card.

Please register at least two weeks before so materials can be planned. We also have a minimum attendance to offer the class.

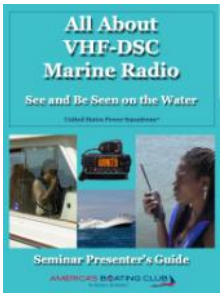
Seminars are 7 to 9 PM EST. Early login 6:45 PM.
Cost is Free to ASPS members, $10.00 all others.
Fee mailed to ASPS, with direction sent after Registration.
Location will be Zoom. Login will be emailed to registrants after registration.
Note: The registration link is different for each course and seminar.



Introduction to Marine Batteries
Date: Thursday, Nov. 19, 7 to 9 PM EST. Early login 6:45 PM.
Instructor: John Locke
Location: Zoom
Click here: go to registration page.
Or Click:
https://www.usps.org/cgi-bin-nat/eddept/800/getregform.cgi?S-10098

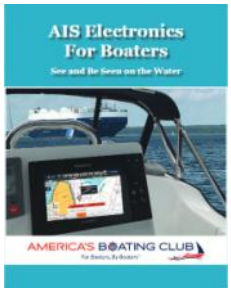


Emergencies On Board
Date: Thursday, Dec 3, 7 to 9 PM EST. Early login 6:45 PM.
Instructor: Michael Maszczenski
Location: Zoom
Click here: go to registration page
or click:
https://www.usps.org/cgi-bin-nat/eddept/800/getregform.cgi?S-10099



All About VHF/DSC Marine Radios
Date: Tuesday, January 27, 7 to 9 PM EST. Early login 6:45 PM.
Instructor: Ron Ricketts
Location: Zoom
Click here: go to registration page.
Or click:
https://www.usps.org/cgi-bin-nat/eddept/800/getregform.cgi?S-1010

AIS Electronics for Boaters
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 7 to 9 PM EST. Early login 6:45 PM.
Instructor: John Locke
Location: Zoom
Click here: go to registration page.
Or click:
https://www.usps.org/cgi-bin-nat/eddept/800/getregform.cgi?S-1010



D/5 Fall Conference
Events: Recertification Seminar offered, Education updates, Business Mtg. More information to come.
For full details, go to: https://Abc-midatlantic.org
Date: November 13/14/15, 2026
Location: Lancaster Doubletree Hotel in Lancaster, Pennsylvania

We are greatly saddened by the passing of P/D/C Jeff Mckinney on Monday, October 12, 2026. Jeff was a 22-year member of USPS, and current member of ASPS. Jeff was also a national Staff Commander for 2026 and Asst Chair of the national Boating Safety Committee for 2026.







Some of us met several days ahead of time at Slattery's pool house to make table decorations for the picnic.

And here we all are at Selby Bay Yacht Club for our picnic, arranged by Tom Campbell, and Linda Sweeting, members of Selby Bay.






ineyard
Vines

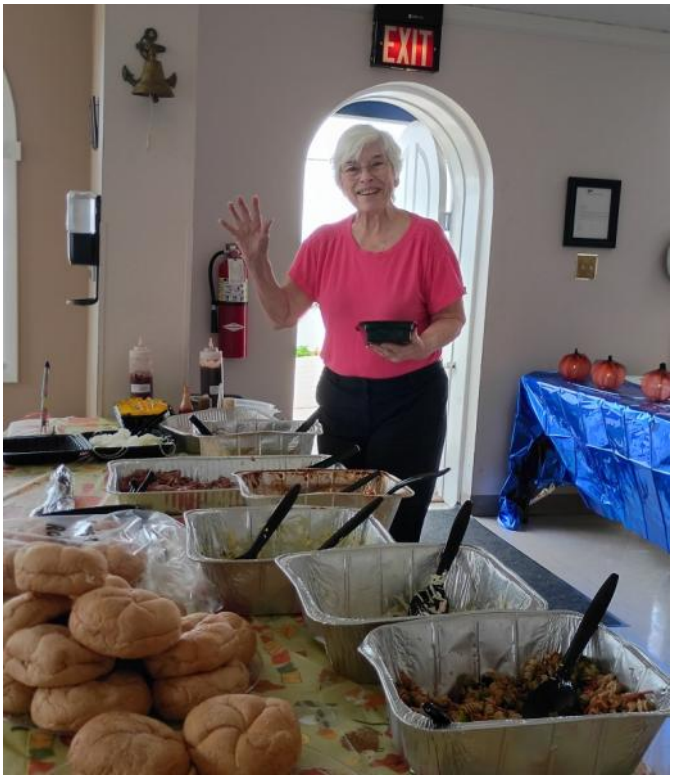














ASPS Logo Apparel

http://asps.qbstores.com





Peggy Slattery takes pictures of Terry Slattery on his foil board. This one showed up recently in Spinsheet.

We always enjoy keeping up with our members. If you have photos of your adventures, please send them to the Anchor Watch.

Changes to your phone number, address, e-mail?
Please contact P/C Kathy Nash, AP-IN
at roster@aspsmd.org or 410-703-9559



Check out our website at http://aspsmd.org/



Follow the ASPS facebook page at www.facebook.com/aspsmd.org.

Forward information and comments to facebook@aspsmd.org.



P/R/C Bill Eldridge, SN

Vessel Safety Check

To arrange for a VSC for your boat, contact Bill at vsc@aspsmd.org.



www.usps.org

www.uspsd5.org

www.aspsmd.org

2025 DISTINCTIVE COMMUNICATOR AWARD NEWSLETTER

2025 DISTINCTIVE COMMUNICATOR AWARD WEBSITE

America's Boating Club/ Baltimore/ Dundalk
Web Page

Calendar of Coming Events

United States Power Squadrons® Events

District 5 Events

13-15 Nov	D5 Fall Conference - Lexington, Pennsylvania

Squadron Events for Annapolis

08 Nov	ASPS Luncheon meeting 1-3, The Lodge in Annapolis
10 Nov	Ladies Lunch - Slattery Pool House
19 Nov	Seminar - Introduction to Marine Batteries - Zoom
03 Dec	Seminar - Emergencies on Board - Zoom
05 Dec	ASPS Holiday Brunch - Pirates Cove - Galesville
08 Dec	Ladies Lunch - The Narrows on Kent Island
27 Jan	Seminar - All About VHF/DSC Marine Radios - Zoom
23 Feb	Seminar - AIS Electronics for Boaters - Zoom
07 Mar	Sunday Brunch - Change of Watch - Carrol's Creek

For a complete list of ASPS Squadron Events, see:
http://www.aspsmd.org/calendar/month.php

Note: The executive board meetings are open to all ASPS members. If you wish to join in, please email seo@aspsmd.org for the login info.

SUNSHINE LADY

If you know of anyone sick or in the hospital, please contact our sunshine lady.

Betty Rouse Wilmot
sunshine@aspsmd.org





ASPS Squadron Leadership 2025 -2026

Bridge

Commander: P/D/C Jeff Short, SN-IN

Chaplain: Phyllis Radlinski, AP

Flag Lieutenant: P/C Stu Myers, AP

Merit Mark Chairman: P/C Lee Myers, AP

Law Officer: P/C Anthony Martin, SN

Executive Officer: Vacant

Vessel Safety Chair: P/R/C Bill Eldridge, SN

Safety Officer: 1st/Lt Terry Slattery

Communications Chair: P/C Anthony Martin, SN

Coop. Charting Chair: P/C Ron Ricketts, AP

Administrative Officer: P/C Kathy Burke, SN-IN

Asst Admin Officer: 1st/Lt Georgiana Maszczenski, S, & P/C Peggy Slattery, S

Membership Chair: Lt/C Susan Vosburgh

Asst Membership Chair: Toni Hughes

Educational Officer: St/C Michael Maszczenski, Jr., SN

Asst Educ Officer: P/C John Locke, SN-ACN

BOC: 1st/Lt John Locke, SN-ACN

Secretary: Lt/C Carol Rechner, SN

Asst Secretary: 1st/Lt Linda Sweeting

Webmaster: P/C John Wesley Nash, SN-IN

Historian: P/C Peggy Slattery, S

Newsletter Editor: P/Lt/C Georgiana Maszczenski, S

Treasurer: Lt/C Lorrie Short

Chair of Charitable Giving: Toni Hughes

Executive Committee:

Susan Gilbert, S

P/Lt/C Diane Leasure

P/C John Locke, SN-ACN

Larry Miller, S

P/C John Wesley Nash, SN-IN

P/C Peggy Slattery, S

Edwin Sunderland, JN

P/C John Wilmot, JN-IN

Immediate Past Commander:

P/D/C Jeff Short, SN-IN

Audit Committee:

William Klepczynski, JN

Homer Sandridge, N

P/C Rich Hughes, SN-IN

Nominating Committee:

P/C Ralph Leasure, AP, Chair

P/C Bruce Arey, JN

Diane Leasure

P/C Peggy Slattery, S

P/C John Wilmot, JN-IN

Rules Committee:

P/C Stu Myers, AP, Chair

P/D/C Jeff Short, SN-IN

P/Lt/C Diane Leasure

Budget Committee:

P/D/C Jeff Short, SN-IN, Chair

Lt/C Lorrie Short

P/C Ralph Leasure, P

Roster Contact:

P/C Kathy Nash, AP-IN

Information Technology Contact:

P/C John Wesley Nash, SN-IN

ASPS Facebook Editors:

P/C Kathy Nash, AP- IN

P/C John Wesley Nash, SN-IN



Deadline for December Newsletter: Monday, November 16, 2026
Direct all material to: Lt/C Georgiana Maszczenski, S
anchorwatch@aspsmd.org