

SUS Board Meeting
Minutes – 09 January 2014

Present:

Joe DeFranco, President

Zoran Dacic, Skippers

Peter Luciano, Commodore

Minnie Ingardia, Sailing Events

Janet Steinberg, Vice Commodore

Leisa Bell, Membership

Joan Billows, Secretary

Ashod Kassabian, Public Relations

Dawn Daly, Membership

Tyrone Mitchell, Education

Lucy Martinez, Special Events

Maryann Ramos, Special Events

Melissa Donovan, Newsletter

Rick Takatsch, Website Dev Committee

Tom Zagaroli, Observer

Absent:

Chip Munk, Treasurer

Sequoia Sun, Programs

The meeting was held at the Flotilla 72 Training Center in East Norwalk and called to order by Joe DeFranco, President, at 7:00 p.m.

President's Message: (Communications?)

Joe welcomed in the new board members. Dates and locations of meetings were announced. Member Orientation Package (MOP) will be handed out to new members of SUS at Member Orientation Classes (MOCs). Brief run-through of website development news. MOC for 2014 will be uploaded to website. Rick, as Chair of Website Development Committee, invited all Board members to attend meetings.

Past Minutes:

Partial reading of minutes. Zoran moved to accept minutes. Dawn seconded, all in favor.

Communications:

At this time Mico's request to vary meetings between Tuesday and Thursday was brought up, discussed and voted on to leave Social and Program Meetings as is, on Thursdays.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer not present.

Skippers:

Zoran stated programs were set up for the cruise. Rick was working on Sailaways, Howie on the Cruise. The gift to skippers from the club will be decided and presented at Meet the Skippers Night in April. Skippers will decide who gets gifts. Zoran will get sailing schedule to Joan to type up and handed out at March Meeting.

In regards to Cruise, Peter said there is growing interest in going west and south from the East River. Joe suggested this needs to be brought up at Skippers' Meeting January 23rd.

Dates for 2014 Cruise are July 19 to August 3rd.

Education:

Tyrone would like to add Seamanship Training Corner in Masthead in order to assist members in finding training classes. He will search and find appropriate posts which will promote sailing/seamanship training and education for SUS members.

Tyrone is responsible for scheduling MOCs. He will coordinate MOCs's with Sailing Events Chair. Joe will check into website for number of MOCs from last year.

Sailing Events:

Minnie has nothing to report at this winter meeting.

At this time Joe clarified role of Secretary and Directors. Zoran, Lucy, Maryann, and Sequoia will provide notes and plans of respective meetings to Joan.

Special Events:

Lucy announced that 40-50 people are expected at the upcoming brunch. She and Maryann will use brunch venue to encourage volunteers to help skippers and attend the April "Meet the Skippers Meeting".

February 3rd Thursday, Special Events has planned a restaurant meeting at the Crab Shell in Stamford.

If money is needed for events, Co-Directors need to request it from the Treasurer, Chip. Other future events include Year in Pictures. Sequoia has speaker booked for April and is looking for a place for meetings. Janet (with Terry's assistance) is also looking into alternate meeting places and will be in touch with Sequoia.

Membership:

Work in Progress. Thank you Leisa and Dawn.

Newsletter:

Melissa requests all members to shoot her an email if they have anything for the newsletter. Old cut-off was the 15th. She will be handing work in to printer the last Friday of the month. Please get word documents, not PDF's, to Melissa the Friday before the last Wednesday of the month.

Suggestions for newsletter include pictures of sailing events with new people, any writing, poems, fiction, memoirs. Zoran is expected to send in monthly news from the skippers.

Public Relations:

AK is looking for pictures of younger people. Peter suggested getting a good picture of events with dates of meetings, contact info, fb page, website. Can be on website for people to print out. AK offered that the word "single" is not working in our favor. The bylaws state one must be single to join. "Singles" discussion moved up to New Business.

Committee Reports:

Website -

There is \$2100 left over from contract with developer Heather Claus. New developer is on hold because Rick T. was not sure of money availability. Hopefully, there will be a meeting next week with Norm H.

Joe reported that Heather's websites have been suspended. She hasn't replied to voicemail or email. No further money is owed her.

Norm is experimenting with a new visitor site coded with Word Press in "Norm's Cave".

Rick reported that Norm sent out information to members and by-passed the website committee. He is working on website independently of website committee.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

In regards to membership, ten boats are available for sailing. This information was taken from Twilight Sail Schedule. Zoran proposed getting a charter for longer trips. Peter agreed that it was a good idea. Possibility includes presenting it in the Newsletter if you want such a cruise. Zoran will take the lead and is in charge. Contact him with info or ideas.

AK asked that anyone pass on to him ideas they may have about getting new members. He is open to suggestions.

Joe opened discussion for saving printing costs using different printing/distribution options for the roster. Options included the following: Once a year? Hand out at end of membership year? In June and then again in September? In the spring for work parties? May, before the cruise?

Most of us are not web-oriented so paper should be sent out.

After some discussion it was agreed that new members can be shown how to download a PDF file and an updated PDF file can be sent via email to all members as roster changes.

Joe made a motion to vote on three positions.

1. A postal mailing once a year at end of year. (4 votes)
2. Postal mailings twice a year, in April and during sailing season. (6 votes)
3. No mailing. Instead have a monthly email blast using PDF. (3 votes)

Further discussion brought about two improvements for option #2. Highlighting new members on the roster for the online version and the second mailing. Using two different colors for the two mailings.

On another note, Peter L. questioned, who is really a skipper? Club needs to define the criteria for skipper designation. It will be brought up at the Skippers' Meeting. Another topic for Skippers' Meeting is the fact that not all boat owners in the club want to have people on their boats. Question for meeting. "How can club encourage skippers to take people out on their boats?"

Good and Welfare:

Joan Bothwell member since 1986 and the principal founder of SUS is recovering from a stroke at Laurel Ridge Health Care Center, 642 Danbury Road, Ridgefield CT 08677.

Adjournment:

Maryann made a motion to adjourn at 9:02. Dawn seconded. All in favor.