

SUS Board Meeting Minutes
September 14th, 2023
Zoom

Members attending: Janet, Ronnie, Peter, Julie, Marie, Ida, Kathy

Peter called to order 7:04pm

Approval of July '23 – June minutes –TBD

CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES

Ronnie asked for corrections to the July minutes. Kathy will revise.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Julie sent out last 3 months reports. For the year in the red a little bit, mostly from the Klondike. It's ok with the extra cash which paid for the Klondike. There is not a budget for the year, just for each event. It is in line event to event.

COMMODORES REPORT

In Peter's opinion sailaway in Northport over the Labor Day weekend was one of the most successful. The dinner at the Ritz was very good, best food, service and price.

5 boats attended which was very good.

The coming weekend is to Northport again. Centerport Yacht Club is very hospitable. 4 boats going.

For next event Skippers had agreed to bring 3 boats to a location and allow SUS members to play on the boats. However for the weekend planned, the dock space is not available so it will be postponed until next year.

VICE COMMODORES REPORT

Janet reported we need a better system of crew available and skippers participating to have a successful event. In the beginning of the season when we do All Aboard, the notice is put out early and there is a lot of follow up.

Northport had a little bit of that dynamic and that is obviously what we need. We have to advertise and market the events, and have events worth going to. Finding out who is participating because anyone who has to plan an event cant plan with last minute yes/no. She liked what we did at the beginning of the month sending out a notice to the members and the skippers to see if they were participating in any of the events for the month. It seems we need constant reminders that something is coming up.

Skippers say they cannot take people out for an overnight where certain skills are needed such as being able to pick up a mooring, radio operation, picking up a mooring, throwing a line, all kinds of things. Next year we can hopefully have more educational day sails.

Peter: just for input from the Skippers meeting at Gene's house was, in spite of the fact that we have always taken the view that we are not responsible for education, it came across loud and clear that we are going to have to focus on that. One of the things we could focus on next year are Educational Program meetings; how to anchor, throw a line, etc. We could do a lot of things in a hall before we get on a boat. We can also have a boat available to practice on.

MEMBER COMMUNICATION

Number of members at 99 currently. We are strong with membership. We need more skippers. We can do way more if we have more Skippers. Sometimes that comes from

Skippers recruiting Skippers. It's not just about bringing in new members who don't know how to sail.

Two new Skippers are George and Guido. Janet said she's not sure how Guido found us, but he also belongs to America's Boating Club. He was looking to spend more time boating. George is looking for more crew for his boat. Both people are anxious to find crew for their boats.

If we could get the Skippers we already have to be more active, it would accomplish the same point. Peter knows of two skippers who have boats and told him they have no intention of bringing SUS people out on their boats. We have to figure out how to get more Skippers to be more active.

Marie said we have an opportunity in the next six to seven months to get our existing Skippers out and more acclimated with each other, with the board, just to feel that they know more about our club. We could plan something, it doesn't have to be elaborate, it could be several small events.

Maybe some planning this fall and winter. Focus on getting the Skippers acclimated with each other and having conversations. Maybe they will have other friends who are Skippers to come to this, not necessarily just be for SUS skippers.

Ida said one of the things that would go a long way in accomplishing this is having the Skippers meetings face to face. Julie said they could talk about SUS crew members and get a feel for the pool of talent that is available. It could get the Skipper's more comfortable about inviting strangers out.

We need to have people interacting better. Skippers need a location to meet. Everybody is saying the same thing. We need more face to face time.

We also need a better conduit to get people who are not involved with boats or skippers to get more familiar with the Club. Skippers are going to do their fair share. Let's all agree we have to do something unique going into next year.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Annie is going to be taking over Special Events next year. Ronnie is going to talk to her next week about her ideas for the End of Season Party. We have not charged people for End of Season party for the last few years. One year people brought something, one year we had a budget and bought hors d'oeuvres and last year we served food left over from the Klondike cruise and Skippers BBQ.

Discussion about Chili Party with Chicken Chili, Beef Chili, salads, but then do we charge people or take something out of the budget. Ronnie said Stew Leonards Chili is about \$10/person plus side dishes.

We still have money left from the Charlie fund which was for a party. We can charge \$15 for music and food which would not prevent people from coming. Ida moves to approve charging \$15 for the event. All approved.

Ida said Awards are supposed to be given for The Rookie of the Year and the Neptunas. Ronnie suggests Andy for The Rookie of the Year, supported by Ida, Peter, and Janet, approved. Peter will present. Ida will check with Alison to see if she has the award. Neptuna's will be presented by the people who have them.

Peter proposed Bob Lussi for a Lifetime membership. Ida will text Lisa. She thinks he already has a Lifetime membership. Confirmed he is a LT member.

Peter asked if Ronnie would consider having a Holiday Party if we were to get her help. She said no for various reasons. Not enough interest, men bring their girlfriends, Ida said

she would not go. She said our Happy Hour the last few years has been well attended. Marie agrees it is easier and more celebratory and better for the majority of members who are single women.

Marie would vote to provide hors d'oeuvres. When you find a venue that has a separate space, they want to rent it to you. We don't want to get into that. The Crab Shell has a space off to the side. Sedona has a space at the end of the bar. You don't want too much space.

MASTHEAD (NEWSLETTER)

Ida is thankful for all the people contributing to it, and positive feedback. She is a lot of photos and is getting articles from contributors.

Next month she has a beautiful picture from Clionna.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

They have met, and mostly have a slate ready. Oct 6th they will finalize the slate.

One of things that has come to Ida's attention is we need Program Meetings back. It was a very nice social gathering. We are going to try to find a Program Director.

Julie said what should be about the term of completion when someone leaves before the end of term, such as Secretary and Program Director.

Secretary and Special Events begins in an odd number year so they would be one year terms. For Secretary and Special Events it will be a one year term with the hope that they will stay a full two year term.

Ida asked to review the odd/even start of the terms. President and Vice President should be on the same schedule if VP is to become President.

PROGRAM MEETINGS

We are looking for a Program Director.

Ida has a speaker for November. His name is Sam Merrit. He delivers by sail on the Hudson. They made a documentary about him. He delivers lots of things. The ship is The Appalonia. Ida will send the link.

It would be nice if we showed the documentary. Then he will take questions or talk about it. He is a very interesting speaker.

We would be happy to do a donation. He said he is busy in October but is available for November. Ida is very excited to have him.

She was thinking of Ponus YC instead of The Hampton Inn. They have a nice room and it is less expensive. We need to confirm he is coming and get a response to see how many people are coming.

There were 60 people attending in Bethel for the speaker.

Ida will contact Rick to see if Ponus is available. She will coordinate.

Janet could contact Linda Senet about her scuba program meeting. It would be next year. Program Meetings will be on third Thursday of the month.

Peter asked if we could find a speaker for October 19th. Ida suggested watching a movie. If Peter can get a speaker in the next week he will let the board know. Peter would like to have a program meeting every month. Julie will likely not be available on the third Thursday of the month. Program meetings are supposed to be 4 times per year but haven't been because of a lack of a Program Director.

We can't afford the Hampton Inn at \$600 per month. We need another venue.

Peter is pursuing finding a meeting room in a Library for free. Ronnie contacted some libraries and they have to be vacated by 8pm. Would the board go to a face to face meeting at a library in Stamford, Norwalk, or Wilton? The Congregational Church in Westport has a meeting room. Peter has started negotiations with the Stamford Knights of Columbus for a small meeting room twice per month and a large meeting room once per month as a package.

The best deal would be for 10 months. Janet asked if there is a ball park price. The large room 5 times per year. The small room for 10 times per year.

Peter asked for any equipment to be returned. There was a black box that had a speaker and a microphone. Gary has the screen and the projector that Bob Frishman had. Bob may have other equipment but it is unlikely.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Events coming up:

September 15-16 Northport Sail Away

September 23-24 Port Washington Sail Away

September 30-Oct 1st – Vanderbilt Cup

October 6 - Happy Hour, take off Calendar

October 8 - Open

October 15 - End of Season Party

November 3 - Cocktail Party

November 16 – Program Meeting – Sam Merrit Sail delivery on the Hudson

Ida will up-date the calendar

MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS.

Ronnie suggested closing the meeting, seconded by Peter